



BREAKDOWN

Volume 32, Number 2, August 2017

The *MAR Breakdown* is the journal of the Mid Appalachian Region of the National Speleological Society. It is published three times a year; prior to the annual business meeting and prior to the Spring and Fall field meets.

Subscriptions-

Event notices and MAR Breakdown newsletters are distributed electronically. When you attend a field meet, the email address provided on your registration form is added to the distribution list. You may also add yourself to distribution by going to <http://eepurl.com/P2f5j> and completing a short registration form.

Meetings and Meets-

The annual business meeting is held the last Saturday in February. Each spring and fall there is a field meet. Watch for dates.

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Pending No Host for the 2017 Fall MAR Field Meet

**The next PCC Meeting
will be held on**

**Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 10:00 am
81 Appalachian Drive, Carlisle, PA**



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Spring 2017 NRO/MAR Field Meet - Cobbleskill, NY

June 2-4, 2017 by Amos Mincin (representative for Philadelphia Grotto)

The 2017 Spring NRO-MAR was attended by 132 from NRO, 30 from MAR and 11 from neither region, for a total of 173 people in attendance.

The weather was mild during the day but very windy during tent setting up on Friday. The campground was flat and spacious but did not provide much shade due to a lack of trees in the tent camping areas.

Two caving vendors were available from 1:00 pm on Friday through Sunday morning. Speleobooks was the main cave gear and caving literature vendor. The other vendor on site, Gneiss Art, sold hand crafted caving related art and sculptures.

The main room in a large barn was used for on-site prepared breakfasts and Saturday dinner. Meals were prepared by various grottos for the most part. Camping fee (\$8 per night), meals (\$5 to \$10) were sold separately during registration. Philadelphia Grotto provided delicious sheet cakes to celebrate the 70th year in the NSS.

The barn was also used for two presentations (one on bats by Emily Davis and Mike Warner). Also open mic was held Friday night and Saturday night.

A large campfire was enjoyed by many on Friday and Saturday nights.

Led cave trips took place Saturday and Sunday. There was no shortage of available caves. At least two groups went to Knox Cave. There were a half dozen other popular caves available for trip (such as Clarksville).

On Sunday, the NRO meeting was held. Philadelphia Grotto, Central New Jersey Grotto, and Bald Eagle Grotto were represented at the meeting. These are currently the only MAR Grottos jointly in the NRO.

Philadelphia Grotto thanked Central Connecticut Grotto for cohosting the regional field meet, and also thanked the many NRO members who helped out to make the event a success.

*(** The following 2017 NRO/MAR Spring Field Meet information has been reprinted, with permission, from the June 2017 issue of **The Underground Movement**. **)*

Thanks to all for attending and to everyone who contributed to making this NRO/MAR a success, especially the following.

- Norm Berg for producing registration materials
- Norm Berg, Veronica Sassu Laviero, Diane Lucas, Danny Brass, and Jon Williams (CCG) for running the registration desk
- Danny Brass for editing and formatting the guidebook
- Ashley Pospisil and Steve Millett (CCG) for printing the guidebook
- Alisa Werst (CCG) for coordinating so many awesome caving adventures, as well as all those who led trips
- Richard Patenaude and CASQUE for Saturday breakfast
- Kay Rising and Dan Webb for Saturday dinner
- The Vermont Cavers Association for Sunday breakfast
- Emily Davis and Mike Warner for a wonderful presentation on Fijian free-tailed bats
- Francois Errandonea and the Northern New Jersey Grotto for providing a much-appreciated post-caving hot tub
- Peter Haberland for providing truckloads of local firewood
- Steve Janesky for providing his grill for meals and helping with the bonfire on Saturday night
- Amos Mincin (PG) for lots of pre-event planning and coordinating the open-mic entertainment and Doug Truitt (CCG) for providing sound equipment
- Amos Mincin and the Philadelphia Grotto for providing the Philadelphia Grotto's mouthwatering, 70th anniversary cake
- The Northeastern Cave Conservancy for organizing the NCC Auction
- The National Speleological Society, Northeastern Cave Conservancy, and private cave owners for allowing access to their caves for the weekend
- Our event speleovendors: Gneiss Art and Speleobooks
- Ashley Pospisil (CCG) for coordinating and planning this entire event, managing volunteer efforts, and overseeing the myriad details necessary to ensure that everything ran smoothly

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Early arrivals to the Spring 2017 NRO/MAR on Friday morning helped to set out road signs, hang flyers, put the grills in place, purchase food, and get the registration desk ready for the throng of cavers that would soon begin arriving. Veronica Sassu Laviero, Jon Williams, Diane Lucas, Danny Brass, and Norm Berg kept registration running smoothly, while Ashley Pospisil dealt with a variety of last-minute logistical issues. All photos on this page by Norm Berg.



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Amos Mincin and Doug Truitt set up the sound system for the open mic. Photo by Norm Berg.



Organization banners of the NRO, MAR, Central Connecticut Grotto, and Philadelphia Grotto are proudly displayed throughout the venue. Irina Tabarana helps set up an outdoor tent pavilion at the NRO/MAR campsite. Photo by Brian Mayfield.



Bob Simmons gets the Northeastern Cave Conservancy (NCC) booth ready for visitors. Photo by Norm Berg.



Alisa Werst and Steve Millett provide information on cave access and trip sign-ups. Photo by Norm Berg.

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Saturday morning breakfast by CASQUE - Canadian style. Photos by Norm Berg.



Sunday morning breakfast by VCA - Vermont style. Photos by Norm Berg.

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The NRO/MAR feedbag. Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings (CASQUE and VCA, respectively) and a Mexican-style buffet dinner on Saturday evening by Kay Rising and Dan Webb were eaten in the campground "barn." Evening entertainment, including music, lecture/slideshow, and the NCC auction were also held here. Photos by Norm Berg (top row and bottom right) and Bonnie Pease (bottom left).



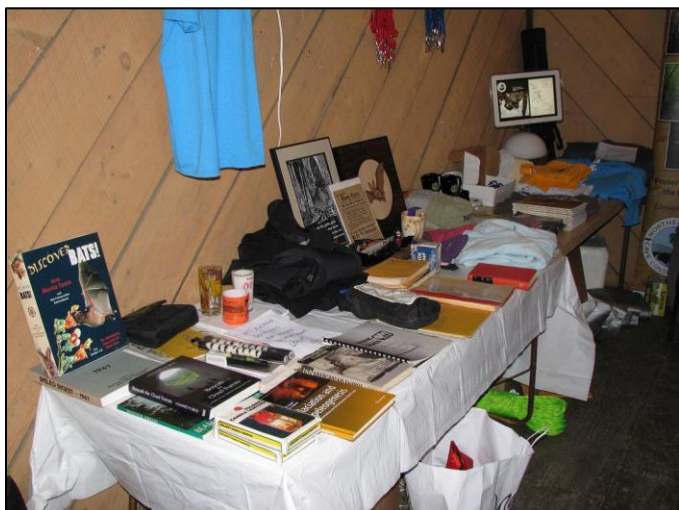
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Following dinner on Saturday night, everyone was treated to delicious cake, courtesy of the Philadelphia Grotto in honor of the 70th anniversary of their founding. Four huge, calorie-packed cakes (two chocolate and two lemon) were available to hungry cavers. Most people had seconds, and many went back for thirds. Thanks to Philly Grotto for this unexpected surprise. Photos by Brian Mayfield (top row) and Bonnie Pease (bottom right).



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The always-popular NCC auction was a great success. An eclectic mix of equipment, artwork, and assorted cave-related odd-and-ends was available for people to bid on. Jose Martinez served as auctioneer, and was ably assisted by Bob Simmons, Vince Kappler, Emily Davis, Bill Folsom, Jacob Morris-Siegel, Mitch Berger, and Michael Chu. Considerable funds were raised to help support the Northeastern Cave Conservancy as it continues its important mission of cave and karst conservation.

Immediately following the auction, Emily Davis and Mike Warner gave an interesting and well-received lecture/slide show on their adventures mapping caves and studying bats in Fiji.

All photos on this page by Norm Berg.



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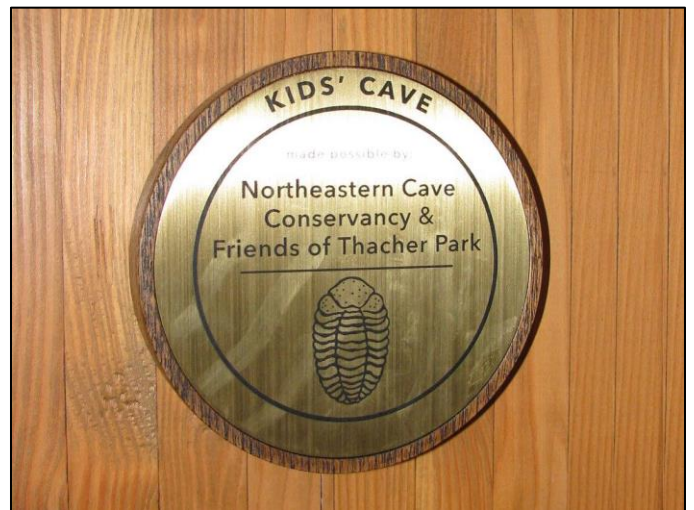


Vendors at this year's NRO/MAR included Speleobooks and Gneiss Art. Speleobooks features a broad selection of cave-related books, clothing, gifts, and assorted ephemera. Gneiss Art features a wide array of cave-related jewelry, sculptures, and fine art.

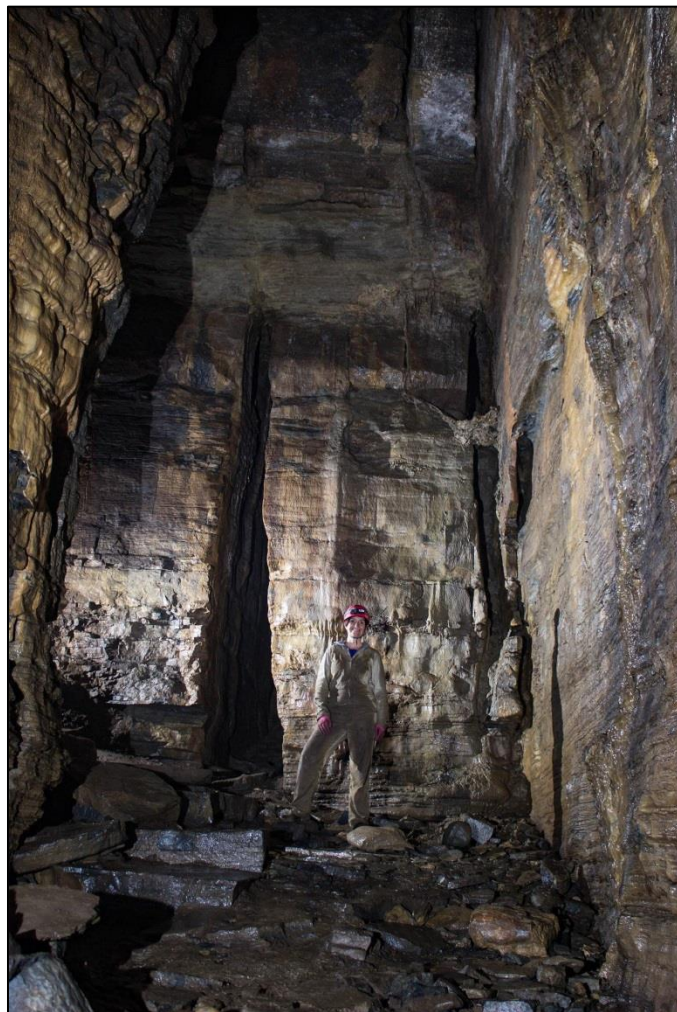
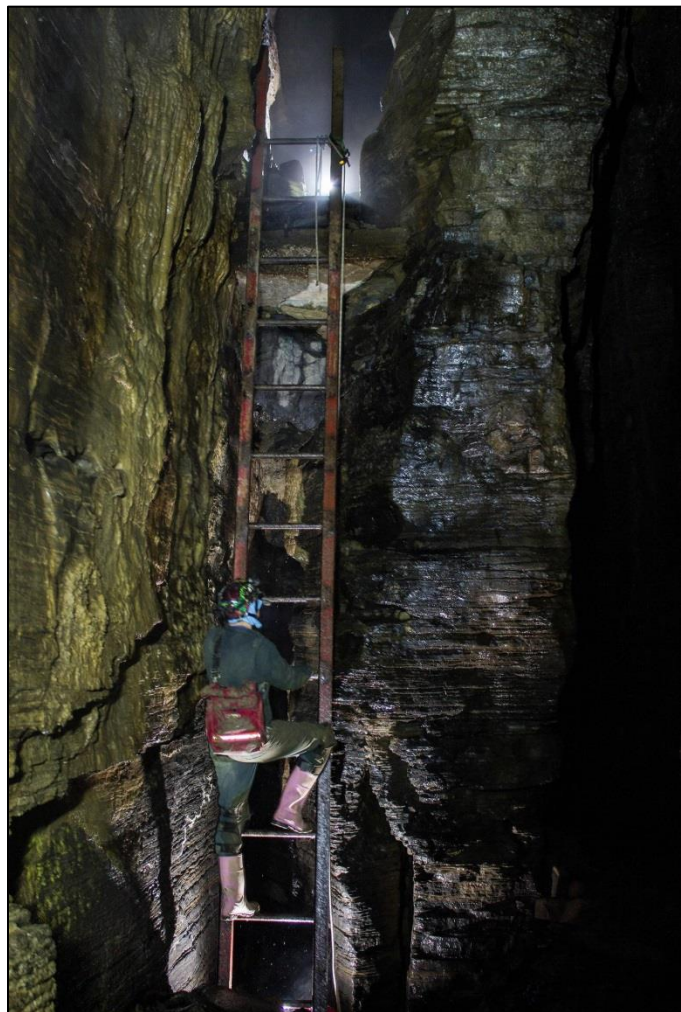
Emily Davis and Mike Warner during their talk, *Study of the Endangered Fijian Free-Tailed Bat on Vanua Levu*.

A cluster of bats on the ceiling of the Kids' Cave at the new visitor center in nearby John Boyd Thacher State Park. The exhibit includes interesting displays of history, geology, and biology of the local Helderberg Escarpment. All photos by Norm Berg.

Below - Rubbings produced at the Thacher Visitor Center.



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A visit to Knox Cave during the NRO/MAR. Photos by Brian Mayfield.



Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy, Inc.

P.O. Box 373, Neffs, PA 18065

Minutes of Regular Meeting - May 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by President David Briggs at the Lost Creek Park, McAlisterville, PA on Saturday, May 20, 2017.

The following officers were present: **President** D. Briggs **Treasurer** J. Boswell
Secretary G. Schock

Representation was as follows:

Bald Eagle Grotto	J.D. Lewis	Greater Allentown Grotto	---
Baltimore Grotto	Craig Hindman	Huntingdon Co. Cave Hunters	---
Bucks County Grotto	---	Nittany Grotto	Paul Winter
Central New Jersey Grotto	Amos Mincin	Philadelphia Grotto	Amos Mincin
Commander Cody Caving Club	Dave Fricke	Seven Valleys Grotto	Joe Schock
Franklin County Grotto	Pat Minnick	York Grotto	Randy Hurst

Secretary Report: Paul Winter moved and Randy Hurst seconded to accept the minutes from the February 25, 2017 meeting as published in the April 2017 MAR Breakdown. The motion passed.

Treasurer Report: John Boswell provided the PCC account activity since the last meeting:

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy

Financial Summary 2-25-17 Thru 5-20-17

Interest Checking Account

Checking Balance 2/25/17	F&M Trust Bank checking	2/25/2017	\$8,223.31
Deposit	Interest Credit	2/28/2017	\$0.32
Check #1002	NSS Webspace	3/24/2017	(\$12.00)
Deposit	Interest Credit	3/31/2017	\$0.35
Deposit	Interest Credit	4/30/2017	\$0.33
Check #1003	Fayette Township Pavilion Rental	5/1/2017	(\$45.00)
Deposit	Amazon Smile		5.00
Ending Balance :			\$8,172.31

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (CDs):

Maturity Date

Certificate of Deposit *75	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,117.71
Certificate of Deposit *29	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,117.71
Certificate of Deposit *65	F&M Trust Bank CD	7/27/2017	\$1,117.71

* \$1.41 Interest credit applied to each 1/26/2017

COMBINED TOTAL : **\$11,525.44**

Web Page: The new PCC web site should be available soon.

PCC Breakfast: The PCC does **not** plan to host a pancake breakfast at the upcoming 2017 Spring MAR/NRO field meet. The breakfast equipment is being stored at Dave Briggs's home. Joe Schock plans to make some modifications to the equipment.

PCC Brochure: George Bange and Dave Briggs have a supply of brochures available. Anyone interested in obtaining brochures should contact George or Dave.

Mail: No report.

Christmas Cards: Karen continues to manage the yearly distribution of Christmas cards to cave landowners. Please contact Karen if you know of a landowner you would like added to the PCC Christmas card list. Dave Briggs stated he may have an address to add to the list.

T-shirts: The PCC t-shirts are available for purchase on the PCC web site for \$15, which includes shipping and handling. Dave Briggs announced he has some thoughts for a new, future t-shirt design that could be made and sold on demand to avoid accumulating unsold inventory.

PA Cave Database: Paul Winter stated there was nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Project and Caves of Interest List:

McAlisterville Cave (Juniata County) – The hillside cleanup event at the McAlisterville cave property on May 20, 2017 was a great success! Thank you very much for all the volunteers that braved the cold, rainy weather to make such an impressive difference! Also, thank you to all those that helped to coordinate this event and make it happen. Over 4100 pounds of trash was collected and hauled away thanks to the hard work of so many cavers. Dave Briggs announced that the local trash collection company had donated the disposal of the first 500 pounds of trash free of charge and applied a reduced rate for the disposal of remainder of the trash collected. The land owners were able to stop by during the cleanup event and chatted with Keith Wheeland for a while. The cave owners expressed their surprise and gratitude to all the people who were working so hard. Great job everyone! Dave Briggs plans to revisit the property in the future to assess if we need to return for more work at a later date. Jeff Herman has also offered to monitor the area from time to time and report on any noticeable changes.

McClure Cave (Snyder County) – Paul Winter reported that the weather had delayed the start of work at the cave. Work is now being planned for the June timeframe.

Red Church Cave (Schuylkill County, PA) – Dave Briggs and Amos Mincin plan to visit the cave site to assess the condition of the cave entrance and what repair work may be required.

New PCC Logo: Dave Briggs is continuing to explore different options for developing the new PCC logo.

NEW BUSINESS:

PCC Presence: Dave Briggs expressed an interest in the PCC having more of a presence at caving events. He suggested selling bat boxes as a possible fund raising effort and encouraged others to keep other potential fund raisers in mind.

PCC County Stewards: Todd Karschner has volunteered to serve as the Mifflin County Steward.

Huntingdon County Cave: Dave Briggs announced that a missing cave in Huntingdon County has been rediscovered. The cave name is being withheld at the landowner's request. Don Arrowood has been in active discussions with the land owners. The owners have requested that a retaining wall be installed. Dave also noted that there is currently an existing old, deteriorating gate on the cave that may require some attention. A small group has been requested to survey the cave prior to opening it for recreational trips. Paul Winter moved and Randy Hurst seconded to authorize the use of up to \$1000 to fund the project. The motion passed.

Spring MAR/NRO 2017: Philadelphia Grotto is planning to host the upcoming Spring MAR on June 2-4, 2017 at Indian Lookout County Club in celebration of the grotto's 70th Anniversary. Philadelphia Grotto will be teaming with Central Connecticut Grotto to host a joint MAR/NRO field meet in the Cobbleskill, NY area near Albany. Amos Mincin encourages those who have not caved in that area to attend and enjoy the opportunity to explore some new and different caves! NRO led trips as well as self-led caving options will be available. Caving related presentations are planned for the evenings. There will be at least one vendor on site. There is plenty of space for camping, warm showers will be available, and there will be a central bon fire at the site. No pets are permitted at the event. Amos invited both PCC and MAKC to set up informational booths during the event.

Fall MAR 2017: There is not currently a host for the 2017 fall field meet.

Next meeting: At the time of the Spring PCC meeting, no volunteers have stepped forward to host the Fall MAR 2017. The next meeting of the PCC is to be determined. Additional information will be distributed via the PCC grotto representatives email list as it becomes available.

Pat Minnick moved and Dave Fricke seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen (Red) Schock, Recording Secretary

Upcoming Events

<i>Aug 31-Sept 4, 2017</i>	Old Timers Reunion (OTR) in Dailey, WV
<i>Sept 22-24, 2017</i>	2017 Fall VAR - The Mountain Institute on Spruce Knob, Pendleton County, WV hosted by the Pine Mountain Grotto (http://var.caves.org/).
<i>Oct 5-9, 2017</i>	2017 40 th Annual TAG Fall Cave-In - TAG Site (Little River), Lookout Mountain near Trenton, GA (Walker County)
<i>Oct 1, 2017</i>	2017 PCC Fall Meeting 10:00 am– 81 Appalachian Drive, Carlisle, PA
<i>Oct 21, 2017</i>	Bridge Day – New River Gorge Bridge, Fayetteville, WV
<i>Feb 24, 2018</i>	MAR Annual Business Meeting - Mt. Laurel Church of God, 1295 Piketown Rd, Linglestown, PA
<i>July 28-Aug 3, 2018</i>	2018 NSS Convention: Helena, Montana

Host Needed For the 2017 Fall MAR and 2018 Spring MAR

As of August 2017 there is no grotto, or individual, slated to host the 2017 Fall MAR or 2018 Spring MAR. If you are interested in hosting this event, a helpful guide to hosting a MAR field meet can be found on the MAR website. Think about it - can you or your grotto host the event? If there are no volunteers there will be no field meet. If you're interested in hosting the event, please contact a MAR officer.

PCC McAlisterville Cleanup Event

May 20, 2017

The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy (PCC) hosted a cleanup at the site of McAlisterville Cave. We met at Lost Creek Park Pavilion #3 at 9:00am on Saturday May 20th. The PCC Board would like to extend our sincere gratitude for all those that assisted in making this event such a success! Thank you to everyone who assisted in the preparations as well as all those that came out on a chilly, rainy morning and helped with the cleanup of the McAlisterville Cave property. We removed over 4,100 pounds of trash in less than 3 hours!

The landowners were able to stop by while the cleanup event was taking place and chatted with Keith Wheeland for a few minutes. They were amazed and thankful by the outpouring of help and hard work by the cavers. Most of the cleanup crew stuck around after the cleanup for a pizza party and light refreshments back at the pavilion. A few volunteers even took advantage of the day to enjoy a trip into McAlisterville cave afterward. The PCC thanks everyone for your participation!



Gathering on a cool, damp morning
(photo by Karen Bange)



Getting a run down before heading up to the cave
(photo by Karen Bange)



Picking up trash on the hillside near the cave
(photo by Karen Bange)



Many hands make light work (photo by Karen Bange)



First trailer of trash (photo by Karen Bange)



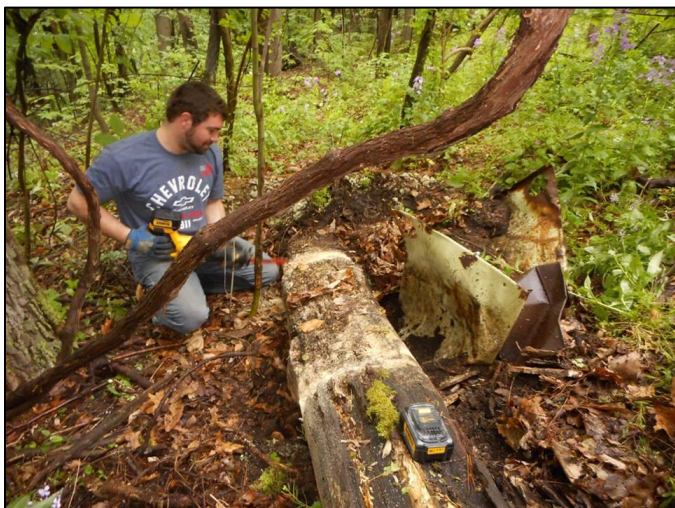
Trash bag management was wonderful, thanks Carol!
(photo by Karen Bange)



Carrying a large piece of metal to the trash trailer
(photo by Kelly Auker)



The irony of what was pulled out of the mud on the hillside
(photo by Jesse Young)



A tree fell on this freezer (photo by Karen Bange)



Crew hard at work (photo by Jesse Young)



Gathering for the group photo (photo by Jesse Young)



Our incredible cleanup crew!!
(photo by Karen Bange)



Another fashion statement. Cool idea to make the nose and mouth netting. (photo by Karen Bange)



Quite the fashion statement (photo by Karen Bange)



The crew was treated to pizza after the cleanup
(photo by Karen Bange)

NSS MEMBER PRICE LIST

(Effective February 2016)

MID-APPALACHIAN REGION BULLETINS (including reprinted Bulletins)

1-4	Bulletins Caves of Shippensburg Area #1-4	REPRINT	7.00 + postage A
5	Caves of Western PA:	REPRINT 29 caves, 19 maps	8.00 + postage A
6	Caves of S. Cumberland Valley	REPRINT 93 caves 69 maps+6 large maps	17.00 + postage B
7	Caves of Fulton Co, PA	<u>Revised/Corrected</u> 4 caves, 4 maps	5.00 + postage A
8	Caves of Blair Co., PA	REPRINT 89 caves, 40 maps	7.00 + postage A
9	Caves of Huntingdon Co., PA	REPRINT 94 caves, 36 maps	10.00 + postage B
10	Caves of Snyder Co., PA	20 caves, 14 maps	5.00 + postage A
11	Caves of Centre Co., PA	71 caves, 56 maps+1 large map	10.00 + postage B
12	Caves of Mifflin Co., PA	47 caves, 31 maps+5 large maps	10.00 + postage B
13	Caves of Perry Co., PA	13 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
14	Caves of Bucks Co., PA	REPRINT 24 caves, 6 maps	5.00 + postage A
15	Caves of Lehigh Co., PA	REPRINT 25 caves, 13 maps	6.00 + postage A
16	Caves of Northampton Co., PA	24 caves, 13 maps+1 large map	6.00 + postage A
17	Caves of Northumberland Co., PA	20 caves, 10 maps	5.00 + postage A
18	Caves of Berks Co., PA	64 caves, 32 maps	10.00 + postage B
19	Caves of Bedford Co., PA	54 caves, 33 maps	7.00 + postage A
20	Caves of Westmoreland Co., PA	337 caves, 187 maps/10 large maps	29.50 + postage C
21	Karst of Sinking Valley and Kookan Cave Huntingdon and Blair Counties	103 pages with color photos , 4 fold-out maps, 2 large maps	27.50 + postage B
22	Caves of Middle Susquehanna Valley	140 pages with color photos	16.00 + postage D

U.S. Postage:

A \$2.00 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

B \$2.50 postage first copy; \$0.50 each additional to same address.

C \$3.00 postage for each bulletin #20.

D \$3.50 postage for each bulletin #22

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NOTE: All checks must be payable in U.S. dollars on U.S. bank or U.S. money order

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