



Sept. 22, 2021  
Welcome to the Monthly  
Meeting of the  
Dogwood City Grotto

Announcements

- ❖ Don't forget to register for the TAG Fall Cave-In - October 7-10 - Register [HERE](#)
- ❖ **2020 Fall TAG Cave-in T-shirts on sale now:** "The One That Didn't Go". All proceeds go to benefit the caving community. Here is the link to order: <https://www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/2020-tshirt>. ORDER YOURS TODAY!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

1. **NSS Work Weekends**  
October 16-17  
November 13-14  
December 11-12
2. **October 5** - Regular Meeting - Register [HERE](#)
3. **October 7-10:** 2021 Fall TAG CaveIn (Let's Go Caving!)
4. **October 23** - Beginner Horizontal Trip Led by Anna Pearce - Register [HERE](#)
5. **November 1** - 24th National Cave & Karst Management Symposium
6. **November 5** - Campout Meeting @ Blue Springs, TN - Register [HERE](#)
- 7.
8. **December 7** - Regular Meeting - Register [HERE](#)

VITAL INFORMATION

- ❖ **Trip Leaders Needed:** Trip Leaders organize caving adventures while keeping fun, safety, and conservation in mind. Everyone is qualified. If you have a trip in mind, contact the EC and we will help you with the needed information to get your trip on DCG's website. See contact information under **DCG Contacts**.
- ❖ **Training Program:** DCG offers a vertical training program at the discretion of the Program Coordinator, Darien Dopp, classes are held tentatively every two months. Upon completion, you will be able to experience a training trip to a nearby cliff. **NO Walk-Ins:** You must sign up to attend, and there is a cost of \$50 to participate. Please

contact Darien Dopp to “learn the ropes” of this exciting program.

- ❖ **Inner Mountain Outfitters:** Need quality caving gear? Seeking help on where to start? What to get? Inner Mountain Outfitters (IMO) is offering 5% off your first order as new grotto members. For more information, check out their website: [www.innermountainoutfitters.com](http://www.innermountainoutfitters.com), make an appointment to visit them at their store in Chattanooga, TN or see them at fun caving festivals. Give them a call at (423) 406-2255 or email [mike@elevatedclimbing.com](mailto:mike@elevatedclimbing.com). Mention that you saw this announcement in the Hole Story.
- ❖ **DCG Library:** We have numerous publications from around the world including guidebooks, maps, and cave descriptions available to our members. The Library is near the heart of TAG on route to many popular caves at the house of Andy Zellner (2859 County Road 98, Bridgeport, AL). Anytime you would like to visit, contact Andy at [library@dogwoodcitygrotto.org](mailto:library@dogwoodcitygrotto.org).
- ❖ **On Rope 1:** Have questions about what to buy to get On Rope? Or need kneepads, elbow pads, a helmet, lights and/or a backpack to get started in caving? Call On Rope 1 today at (423) 344-4716 or email them at [sales@onrope1.com](mailto:sales@onrope1.com). New NSS Members get 10 percent off.
- ❖ **Rental Gear:** The DCG has rental gear available for Current Members on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are \$5.00 per helmet/light combination per weekend. The rental business is continually active, so please reserve them well in advance of your needed date. Contact Nancy Aulenbach or Jon Zetterberg.
- ❖ **Call for Presentations:** Have you done something cool you would like to talk about? Done something not-so-cool worth talking about? Know something about bats that we might not know about? Have you invented some new caving equipment? If this sounds like you, get in touch!
- ❖ **SCCi:** The SCCi’s mission is to conserve caves to preserve areas of scenic beauty, provide recreational access and opportunities, protect cultural and biological resources, and support scientific research. If you are not an SCCi member, you should join—regular membership costs just \$35 annually, and if you are already an SCCi member, please consider increasing your donation level. Please see the website for more information at [www.scci.org](http://www.scci.org), contact: [info@scci.org](mailto:info@scci.org).
- ❖ **National Speleological Society (NSS):** With 9,000 members and 250 grottos, the National Speleological Society is the largest organization in the world working every day to further the exploration, study, and protection of caves and their environments, and foster fellowship among cavers. For over 70 years, the NSS has promoted safe and responsible caving practices, effective cave and karst management, speleology, and conservation. Members are bound together by their love of caves and caving and their desire to learn about the underground wilderness and protect it for future generations. NSS membership offers worldwide caver camaraderie, networking opportunities, and access to information about discoveries and developments in all things caving. Become a member for as low as \$40 a year or become a lifetime member for a one-time payment of \$1000. <https://caves.org/>
- ❖ **Georgia Speleological Survey:** The Georgia Speleological Survey (GSS) is an archival organization for the exploration, documentation, and study of caves in Georgia. The GSS is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS). It maintains a record of caves and karst features in Georgia, and there are currently over 650 caves documented in Georgia by the GSS. You can become a member of the GSS for \$15 per year. This includes an annual publication the GSS Bulletin along with a data listing of Georgia caves. The GSS also publishes a book of maps of caves in Georgia, available on CD, \$10. See their website at [www.caves.org/survey/gss](http://www.caves.org/survey/gss).
- ❖ **Alabama Cave Survey:** Interested in joining the Alabama Cave Survey (ACS)? We are serious about our stewardship of the delicate underground environment and therefore the cave/location resources are proprietary and

provided to members only. You must be an NSS member for at least two years prior and submit references from two current ACS members OR you must be an NSS member for at least one year and submit references from three current ACS members. ACS members must maintain their NSS membership to remain active and accounts are personal and NOT to be shared with any other individual. Dues are \$10/year and are renewable every April, regardless of when you join. For more information, please contact us at [membership@alabamacavesurvey.org](mailto:membership@alabamacavesurvey.org)

- ❖ **Tennessee Cave Survey:** The Tennessee Cave Survey (TCS) is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS) committed to the discovery, exploration, survey, and mapping of the caves of Tennessee and to systematically collect, organize, maintain both information and cave maps of these caves. TCS relies almost exclusively on the volunteer participation of its caver members to generate these data and cave maps. Consequently, TCS will only share this information with approved members. Visit [www.subworks.com/tcs/](http://www.subworks.com/tcs/) to find out how you can join.
- ❖ **Georgia Underground:** The Georgia Underground is the Dogwood City Grotto's flagship publication. This magazine features full color covers on high-grade coated paper. The Georgia Underground is the proud winner of many prestigious awards for caving publications. Expect to see unusual art photography, caving stories including fiction and non-fiction, poetry, drawings, premier cave maps, and exploration tales from around the globe. Please contact the EC for more information (see contact info in section **DCG Contacts**).
- ❖ **Closed Cave List & Access Information:** Many classic TAG caves have closed recently. Visiting a closed cave could lead to prosecution and heavy fines. Andy Zellner publishes the latest access information at our website, [dogwoodcitygrotto.org/ClosedCaveList](http://dogwoodcitygrotto.org/ClosedCaveList)
- ❖ **Georgia WRD License:** The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) now requires at least a WRD license (other licenses are available to this same effect) to visit Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) where there are many wonderful caves (Petty John's, Ellison's, Ulla, etc.). Please see prices listed at [license.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com](http://license.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com) after you create an account.

## **Carlsbad Caverns (In Lieu of member trips)**

Excerpt from *Visions Underground Carlsbad Caverns Through the Artist's Eye* by Lois Manno

Around 1900, life in southeastern New Mexico was hardscrabble at best. Residents had to be resourceful in order to survive. One such individual was Abijah Long, a jack-of-all-trades who arrived in the area via covered wagon with his family in 1901. One day in 1903, while he and some friends explored the area “in search of something that might turn out to be valuable, “ he encountered a small cave entrance, then a much larger one nearby. They dropped a rope ladder into the pit and began exploring with torches. Eventually they wandered into a chamber filled nearly to the ceiling with bat guano, some deposits nearly one hundred feet thick. Long returned to Carlsbad and immediately filed a mining claim on the cave.

As is the case with many grand tales of the West, there exist multiple accounts as to who was the first to officially “discover” what was, at the time, simply known as The Bat Cave, James Larkin White figured prominently in the early development of the cave and in his dictated autobiography, claimed to be the discoverer of Carlsbad Caverns in June of 1901. However, a signature scratched into a boulder far into the “dark zone” of the cave reads “J White, 1898” and is believed to be authentic. According to his account, the sixteen-year-old White was riding across the range and was drawn to the entrance by the sight of a black cloud that rose from the ground in a tall column. This cloud turned out to be the evening flight of millions of bats that roosted in the cavern by day... Carlsbad Cave National Monument was created by President Calvin Coolidge on October 25, 1923.

### **Series: Safe Caving**

By Joe Brown

The excerpt below is taken from the [guide released by the NSS](#), “A Guide to Responsible Caving.”

## **NSS Policy for Cave Conservation**

### **Conservation creed**

The National Speleological Society believes: that caves have unique scientific, recreational, and scenic values; that these values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism; that these values, once gone, cannot be recovered; and that the responsibility for protecting caves must be assumed by those who study and enjoy them.

### **Cave preservation**

Accordingly, the Society works for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for: the encouragement of selfdiscipline among cavers; education and research concerning the cause and prevention of cave damage; and special projects, including cooperation with other groups similarly dedicated to the conservation of natural areas. Specifically: all contents of a cave — formations, life, and loose deposits — are significant for their enjoyment and interpretation. Therefore, caving parties leave a cave as they find it. They provide means for the removal of waste, limit markings to a few small and removable signs as are needed for surveys, and especially, exercise extreme care not to accidentally break or soil formations, disturb life forms, or unnecessarily increase the number of disfiguring paths through an area.

### **Collecting in caves**

Scientific collection is professional, selective, and minimal. Collecting mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead specimens, is never justified, because it encourages others to collect and destroys the interest of the cave.

### **Appropriate conservation projects**

The Society encourages projects such as: establishing cave preserves, placing entrance gates where appropriate, opposing the sale of speleothems, supporting effective protective measures, cleaning and restoring over-used caves, cooperating

with private cave owners by supplying them with knowledge about their cave and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits, and encouraging commercial cave owners to make use of their opportunity to aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

### **Publication of cave locations**

Where there is reason to believe that publication of cave locations will lead to vandalism before adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose such publication.

### **Society member duties**

It is the duty of every Society member to take personal responsibility for spreading a consciousness of the cave conservation problem to each potential user of caves. Without this, the beauty and value of our caves will not long remain with us.

### **DCG CONTACTS, 2021**

<b>Dogwood City Grotto Board 2021</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Email</b>
Chair	Joe Brown	404-903-8484	chair@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Vice-Chair	Lisa Whitlaw	404-216-3050	vice@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Treasurer	Roger Olmsted	678-984-7010	treasurer@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Recording Secretary	Alex Lambie	470-244-4732	recording@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Corresponding Secretary	Miki Manning	863-602-0869	corresponding@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Public Relations	Anna Pearce	815-200-5129	public@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
GU Editor			gueditor@dogwoodcitygrotto.org

<b>Appointed Positions 2021</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Cell</b>	<b>Email</b>
2021 Cave-In Chair	Lisa Andrews	770-235-3474	cavein@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
HS Editor	Chair		holestory@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Librarian	Andy Zellner	678-315-8490	
Training Coordinator	Darien Dopp	770-301-8228	kvcrawler@yahoo.com
Trip Coordinator	Chair		ec@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Webmaster/Technology	Brad Long	404-372-9712	webmaster@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Rental Gear (NE)	Nancy Aulenbach	770-279-7674	flittermice@bellsouth.net
Rental Gear (NW)	Joe Brown	404-903-8484	chair@dogwoodcitygrotto.org

<b>Cave-In Advisory Board 2021</b>			caveinboard@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
2021 Cave-In Chair	Lisa Andrews	770-235-3474	cavein@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Expires 2022	Matt Blake	770-861-3412	aptechmatt@yahoo.com
Expires 2021	Julie Schenck-Brown	256-599-2211	jeschenck@hotmail.com
Expires 2023	Jeff Martin	770-653-4435	imogearguy@gmail.com
Expires 2021	Tamara Lesage	423-605-9324	tamaralesage@epbfi.com

For any inclusions, omissions or errors, please e-mail the editor at [holestory@dogwoodcitygrotto.org](mailto:holestory@dogwoodcitygrotto.org)

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