

# Carbide Dump



January 2024  
Vol 59, No 01



The *Carbide Dump* is published monthly by the Blue Ridge Grotto of the National Speleological Society in Roanoke, Virginia. Distribution date is approximately the second week of each month. An issue may be skipped if insufficient material is received. Contributions of articles and artwork are invited and will be gratefully acknowledged. Art work originals will be returned. Contributions should be sent to the editor. Regular and associate grotto membership (\$10) includes a *Carbide Dump* subscription. Subscriber rate is \$10.00. Exchanges with other grotto and caving organizations are invited. Direct exchange mail to Mary Sue Socky.

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The Blue Ridge Grotto holds its monthly meetings every third Friday of the month at 6:30p at Jersey Lily's Roadhouse, 1650 Braeburn Dr. Salem, VA 24153. See the Grotto meeting announcement in this issue.

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You can access the *Carbide Dump* electronically at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org/carbidedump.htm>

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**Contributors:** David & Mary Sue Socky, Marian McConnell, Susan Burr, Nick Schmalenberger, Bob Denton, and Jerry Fuller.

**Cover:** Rick Royer in Hoover Cave, VA - "He got in, but can he get back out?". Photo by Dave Socky

# CAVERS CALENDAR

**Jan. 19:** BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

**Jan 25-28:** Carter Caves Adventure Weekend, Olive Hill, KY <https://www.winteradventureweekend.com/>

**Feb. 16:** BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

**Mar 9:** Tales From Dark Places will take place on Saturday, March 9th, 2024 at the New York City *Explorer's Club*.

**March 15:** BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

**Apr 19:** BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

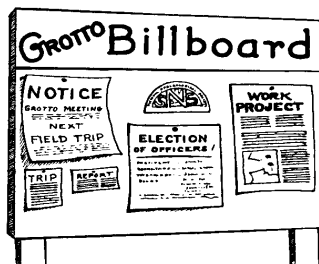
**May 17:** BRG meeting, 6:30p, Jersey Lily's-Salem, VA.

**July 1-5, 2024:** NSS Convention, Sewanee, TN. Details at [this site](#)

**Fall 2024:** *Fall VAR*, held Oct. 11-13 or Oct. 18-20. Hosted by Eric Landgraf, John King and friends in SW VA.

**Fall 2024:** TAG will be held at the Lazy G Ranch, Union Grove, AL. Date and details TBD.

**Nov 7-10, 2024:** Karst Waters Institute 4th Appalachian Karst Symposium, Lewisburg, WV. Save the date! 🦋



## Long Cave Lists

A legacy of Bob Gulden, now maintained by Paul Berger

<https://cave-exploring.com/index.php/long-and-deep-caves-of-the-world/>

## Membership

BRG has 41 members and 5 subscribers for 2024.

Attention former BRG members in good standing – to rejoin BRG, you only need to sign a membership agreement and pay your \$10.

Know of a potential caver? Bring them to a BRG meeting, sponsor them on a BRG activity, do lots of fun things with the best cavers around ~

*Cave Softly* 🦋

## Treasurer's Report 01/11/2024

Cave Bucks	\$ 110.96
Conservation	\$ 2.00
Equipment	\$ 144.12
General	\$6,516.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,773.91</b>

## BRG Meeting & Trip Notice

The **January 19, 2024** meeting of the Blue Ridge Grotto will be held at **Jersey Lily's Roadhouse 1650 Braeburn Dr, Salem, VA 24153**. Dinner, appetizers with socializing starts at 6:00pm with the meeting starting around 6:30p.

This month's program will be a slide presentation by Kelly Perkins about her Rio Grande canoe trip from last year.

**Grotto Trip**  
To Be Determined

## Volunteer with Eastern Region NCRC


Want to help with cave rescue?

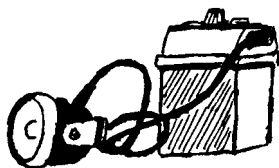
Once a cave rescue is initiated, Eastern Region NCRC will contact you by text & email and ask if you can help.

To get on the Emergent Volunteer contact list (TexCom) they will need the following information:

- Your name
- Email address/s.
- Cell phone number and carrier (AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon, etc.).
- Special skills and training you have.
- Geographical area you cave in, and or live in.
- Caves you know well. And any other information you feel is relevant.

Send everything to:  
Earl Suitor [wvcaver216@gmail.com](mailto:wvcaver216@gmail.com)

Thank you for volunteering. 



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BRG Meeting Minutes** – can be read on the BRG webpage at: <https://blueridgegrotto.org> under the 'BRG Organization' button.

### NSS Membership:

Would you like to join or renew with the NSS? See this [link](#) for details.



**Cave Bucks** are voluntary donations from cavers who have recently been caving. Most people donate a few dollars for each cave trip they have been on. Then send the money where it will do some good and buy some caves!

**Generic Cave Waiver:** Marian created a draft of a cave waiver that will work for any state. Note that these waivers are recommended for any non-BRG caving trips. It's up to the trip leader to determine if he/she wants to use them. The draft will be sent out by email for members to provide their feedback.

Again, this is just a tool and since it's available for use by trip leaders on NON-BRG trips, it's not required by BRG. It is highly recommended to "CYA" in case of an accident.

**VAR Closed Cave List** can be found at this [link](#). Please send changes and updates to Brad Blase at [blase@virginiacaves.org](mailto:blase@virginiacaves.org).

### Bat Cave Closures -

Some WV and VA caves have closed for the **winter** hibernating period for bats. Other caves may be open for the winter. The winter closure does not affect all caves. Check the closed list, and please go elsewhere if your intended cave is closed. *There are thousands of caves in the Virginias.*

**Virginia - Closed Oct. 15 - Apr. 15 for bat hibernacula.** (Winter Closure in effect.)

**West Virginia – Closed Sept. 1 - May 15 for bat hibernacula.** (Winter Closure in effect.)

See [this link](#) for more WV closed cave information.

*Please respect all cave closures.* 



## Catawba Murder Hole

**Catawba Murder Hole** Cave has been attracting lots of attention lately.

Marian McConnell was contacted by two **PBS Appalachia Virginia** journalists/videographers from New Castle - Jacob Dellinger and Joshua Deel - who are doing a segment on "Storytellers of Appalachia." Josh visited Marian at the Murder Hole on December 8th and brought along his drone to get some footage, then interviewed her about Murder Hole stories. It's posted on Facebook (check out the Murder Hole Cave page) and on YouTube at this [link](#) (28:37 minutes).

Botetourt County Libraries are hosting Murder Hole Cave movie showings and cave talks in January and February. The January 6th event at the Buchanan Li-

brary will be rescheduled for a later date due to the threat of inclement weather. There will also be one at the Glebe Retirement Center. If you want to assist/attend any of these, please contact Marian.

- Thursday, January 11 at 3p at The Glebe Asst. Living (Daleville)
- Tuesday, January 30 at 6p at Blue Ridge Library
- Saturday, February 10 at 11a at Eagle Rock Library
- Friday February 16 at 4p at Fincastle Library

Marian McConnell 

## BRG Cave Trip - James Cave, VA

By *Susan Burr*

Saturday, 12/16/2023

**Participants:** Susan Burr, Jeff Huffman, Nick Schmalenberger, Lauren Appel, Lisa Graves, Abby Arbeiter, and Isaiah Hall

We originally had a really large group going, but unfortunately, we had 3 people who ended up sick. They were smart & stayed home to get well & NOT infect the rest of us!



Jeff, Isaiah, Lauren and I in the passage through the formations. Photo by Nick Schmalenberger.

Our grotto trip was fun & tiring to the point we did not go out the other entrance that goes under the road. We also used my etrier for one of the drops. Didn't really need it so much for the drop, but some of us used it to get back up the climb on the way out.

We sort of followed the route we normally use. I think we peeled off the trail to the stream to see the rim pools and then went upstream to the waterfall.

Once everyone got pictures there, we just headed out back downstream.

There are a LOT of really nice formations in this cave. The stream passage was fun. I really like the way the passages are cut. They are cool looking. We even saw a couple more tiny waterfalls.

The negative to this cave is all the crawling & stoop walking you must do. We all decided it was worth it though!



Abby sitting amongst the formations. Jeff helped with the lower lighting. Photo by Susan Burr.



### Just Letting You Know What the Virginia Cave Board Has Been Doing

By Virginia Cave Board Chair  
Bob Denton

In case you didn't know, Virginia is the only state in the country with an advisory board to the governor and legislature on caves and karst. This is a big deal. I know that the Virginia Cave Board gives a report at every Virginia Region meeting, but I wanted to just let you know how truly important the Cave Board is.

2023 was a banner year for the Cave Board. We hosted Virginia Cave Week in June, with several events throughout the Commonwealth; published the *Virginia Cave Owners' Newsletter*, which is sent to every one of the more than 1,600 cave landowners for free; continued growth and expansion of the Virginia Cave and Karst

Trail, a driving trail throughout Virginia with some hiking trails included; and we had displays at the NSS Convention in June AND the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium in November.

Finally, and maybe most importantly, the Cave Board's monumental collaboration with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) helped to develop "Site Assessment and Design Guidelines for Stormwater Management in Karst, Virginia," as part of VDEQ's new *Stormwater Management Handbook* to be released July 1, 2024. This publication has not been updated since VDEQ took over stormwater permitting from DCR in 2013 and will go far to help protect the valuable cave and karst resources of Virginia.

The Cave Board is an advisory board. We continually help developers, land managers, regulators, and local jurisdictions learn

the characteristics of the karst landscape, and how to develop on it safely while simultaneously protecting the integrity of the karst environment. Because the majority of municipalities and private landowners west of the Blue Ridge depend on the karst aquifer to supply drinking water, protecting the karst environment also helps to safeguard human health.

The Virginia Cave Board is a great public-private partnership. All members are volunteers appointed by the governor and serve a 4-year term. I just wanted folks to be reminded of the good work the Cave Board does.

The Cave Board website is <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/cavehome>.

The next Cave Board meeting is **Saturday, February 3, at 11 a.m.** at the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, 900 Natural Resources Road, Charlottesville, VA. Meetings are open to the public.





## McClung Cave (WV) Survey

December 2, 2023 - Article and Photos by *Dave Socky*

We were supposed to survey leads in the Twisted Sister area of Sweetwater (Maxwelton) this weekend, but the trip was cancelled for various reasons. Instead, I ended up surveying in McClung Cave (of course!). So, on Saturday, I met up with Nikki Fox and Andrew Fagan at 10am for a trip to the Meatgrinder to work on leads in the Wafflefoot area.

The route to our survey consisted of traversing the Entrance Canyon, climbing up First Breakdown, making our way down the Breezeway, turning left at the Liberty Bell area to go through Minilithia and then to the end of Megalithia. From there, turn left down the old G Survey toward the Meatgrinder. Finally, we turned left into the eastern end of Wafflefoot. It took about 2.5 hours to get there – a most enjoyable trip since Andrew had never been in McClung Cave before.

The leads back there turned out to be small and gnarly. They either ended or tied back into the main Wafflefoot passage. The first lead simply went underneath the main passage and reconnected



Andrew Fagan squirming through the final tight spot

after 4 shots through little cracks and holes. But it was passage that had not been surveyed before. On the second lead, we got to a place where a sharp turn in a small passage was required with blades of sharp limestone sticking out. I tried going through but kept getting jammed or caught on projections. I probably could have fit, but felt really uncomfortable, so I chickened out. Luckily the passage soon ended in a mud plug, so it wasn't necessary for me to go through. But that lead was a bit longer, requiring 14 shots.

On our third lead, the same thing happened as on the second lead. But in this case, I was able to go around and meet up with Nikki and Andrew from the other side where the lead met back up with the main Wafflefoot passage. However, there was another crawl I couldn't fit through. Ugh. It made me feel a little better to see Andrew really struggle to get through the crawl. Of course, Nikki just breezed through. This lead was a whopping 18 shots long.

The whole survey trip was fourteen hours long and we only got 259 feet of survey. Just to give you an idea of the kind of passage we were surveying, our average shot was around a whopping 7 feet with 34 stations. At least it was dry. But 75 feet of this survey was new stuff, making McClungs and Great Savannah Cave System a little longer.

At this point, **McClung Cave** is now 25.04 miles long and the **Great Savannah Cave System** is 53.15 miles.



Andrew in the east end of Wafflefoot



Nikki getting a DistoX2 shot



## Hoover Cave, VA

Article & photos by *Dave Socky*

This trip was part of the **Warm Springs Anticline Cave Survey & Karst Assessment Project**. Anyone interested in participating in this project, contact Dave Socky at [sockydr@cox.net](mailto:sockydr@cox.net).

On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, Joe Zokaites and I met at Keith Sweeney's house. Keith, Rick Lambert, and Rick Royer were working on old oil tanks turned into cave entrance covers. The goal for this day was two-fold. Rick Royer, Joe Zokaites, and I would go to **Hoover Cave** and dig open the one remaining lead and survey it if it went. Rick Lambert and Keith Sweeney would continue to prepare cave entrance covers for caves that had been opened up in the area, including **Hoover Cave**.

Keith drove us to the entrances while Rick Lambert stayed back to work on the entrance covers. I wasn't sure of the location, so Keith showed us where the entrances for Hoover's and JH004 were. Keith went back home while Rick, Joe, and I got ready to go into Hoover's to check the last lead at the bottom of the entrance drop - which was A5.

The surface temps were in the low 40s with a chilly breeze, but it was sunny. I decided not to wear my knee pads because the lead probably wasn't going to go. We got in around 11am & Rick got through the dig with little problem (a little hammering to make it easier). He said we would need to survey. Joe & I left our packs to make sure the lead went.

The tight spot opened into a 4- to 5-foot-wide army crawl with a mud floor. It went east for 35 feet and then, surprise,



Popcorn like this was all over the place.

opened into a big room with leads going both left and right. Wow! The exit out of the crawl into the big room required crawling around on the right because of a 15 foot drop off.

A large room sloped down to the left (north) with a V shaped ceiling. A low wide passage with formations went off to the right (south). We decided to survey to the left first. At the bottom of the room, on the right was a narrow pit along the right wall (HL4). The pit was about 20 feet deep and would require a rope and vertical gear to be safe. The survey continued into the room which turned a little to the west. Almost immediately, we were met with increasing piles of breakdown which rose up towards the ceiling. There were many holes and short passages in and among the breakdown. We surveyed them all –

but they all ended in breakdown or too tight crevices. To the north, the room rose up a steep mud slope, meeting the ceiling after 20 to 30 feet, at HL10.

Having completed everything in the room to the north, we turned our sights to the low wide passage to the south from HL2.

After getting past a ceiling height change with many very nice formations, the passage opened up. There was a muddy passage to the left that went up a steep mud slope to a small upper room with a crack to the right. The trend of this passage was north-northeast.

Back in the main passage at HL25, the main way got larger, continuing in a southerly direction.

This was exciting as it looked like the cave was getting bigger and continuing as more than just a large room. However, as we continued south, the dimensions got smaller until after 60 feet, we were on our hands and knees. Also, there was lot of racoon

*(Continued on page 8)*



The passage continuing to the south. Joe is at HL26.



Rick Royer next to formation at HL25.

### Symbol Legend

▲ Datum	~ Ledge	☐ Dirt/Mud floor
⊗ Breakdown	--- Undercut	○ PIT
/ \ Slope (down)	💧 Water	↗ Strike & Dip
⓪ Ceiling Height	T2 Depth from datum	☁ Flowstone
Y A Formations	X Column	⌈⌋ Soda Straws

## Hoover Cave Alleghany County, VA

January 06, 2024

Cartography: David Socky

VSS #4933 - Covington Quad

Laser range finder (DistoX2) survey by the Warm Springs Anticline Cave Survey & Karst Assessment Project (WSP) and the Virginia Speleological Survey (VSS) on December 6, 13 and 16, 2023.

Hoover Cave was dug open on December 6, 2023. It is in the Nealmont-Moccasin Limestone. Strike and dips were taken on the McGraw Gap measured section and they were: Benbolt-McGone contact 45 28S, McGraw-Nealmont Moccasin contact 42 22E, and approximate Nealmont Moccasin-Walker Mountain sandstone contact 42 25E.

#### Surveyed by:

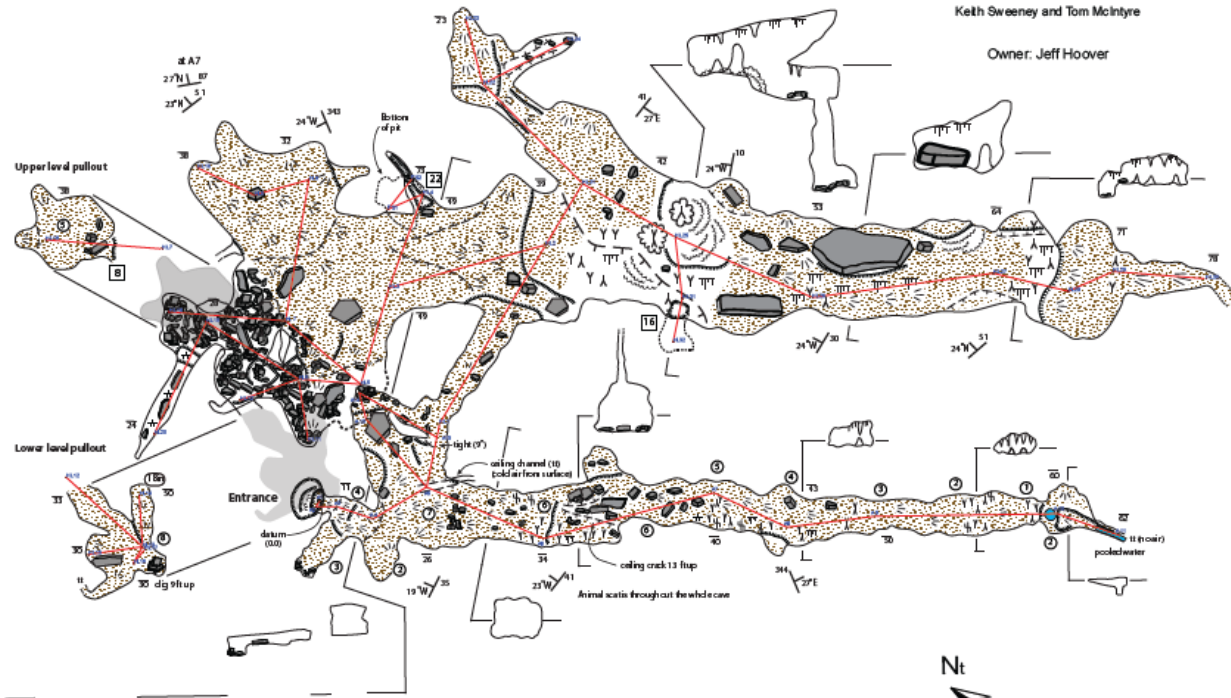
David Socky, Rick Lambert, Rick Royer, Joe Zokailes, and Bill Pickett

#### Digging and support by:

Keith Sweeney and Tom McIntyre

Owner: Jeff Hoover

### Plan View





*(Hoover Cave continued from page 6)*

poop all over this passage. Joe did see a small white millipede near HL27.

After HL27, we had to crawl through a curtain of formations, after which the floor dropped down about 3 feet and the passage widened to about 20 feet. A small low room with a tight crawl sloping down at the southern end. It was a dig. Even Rick couldn't fit through. At first it looked like it might open up after the tight spot, so Rick took a hammer and prybar and dug at the floor. He made some progress, pushing large amounts of dirt further down. But after digging for a half hour or so, it became obvious that it was still pretty small down below. Not such a good lead after all. We decided that this would be a long-term dig if it was to be pursued further. Spoils would have to be removed instead of being pushed ahead. The lead was a down slope of about 10%, making it hard to back out. Joe had to help pull Rick out of the lead after one dig session.

So, we gave up. Back in the main passage at HL25, there was a small hole in the floor against the right hand (west) wall. It looked like there was a lower level about 15 feet down. Rick was elected to try and go down, since he was the only one who would fit. He got down about 6 feet and then found that the next step was another 10 feet or so, with no footholds. But he managed to climb down without breaking a leg. Going cave? Nope, just a small room with a gravel drain and no way to continue. We surveyed the hole and then Rick struggled back out.

The new extension to Hoover Cave had been surveyed, with a pit still left to be pushed and an ugly dig lead left to the south. We exited the cave at 4:30pm to find Rich Lambert, Keith, and Jeff Hoo-



Pulling Rick Royer out of the southern dig

ver waiting for us to come out. We made plans to come back and push the pit next Saturday on December 16. We had surveyed 516 feet in 5.5 hours, making Hoover cave a total of 721 feet long.

*(We did return on December 16, 2023 and dropped the pit. It was a dead bottom pit at 22 feet deep. Strike and dips where measured and profile sketches where done on this trip. Hoover Cave is now done).* 🐾

## Grotto Trip Log

**12/6/2023: Hoover Cave, VA.** Participants included David Socky, Rick Lambert, Keith Sweeney, Billy Pickett, and Tom McIntyre. This was our first trip where we dug open Hoover Cave. We moved large rocks by hand, with straps, and with a electric winch. I was the first one in and determined that there was more than enough cave to survey. We ended up surveying 205 feet and left one lead which I didn't think would do anything.

**12/13/2023: Hoover Cave, VA.** Participants included David Socky, Rick Royer, and Joe Zokaites. Rick Lambert and Keith Sweeney supported us from the surface. This was supposed to be a short trip to check the remaining lead on Hoover Cave. The short story is that the lead went! Yeah – virgin cave!! See the article on Hoover Cave in this issue of the Dump. We surveyed 516 feet for a 5.5-hour day.

**12/16/2023: BRG trip to James Cave, VA.** See write-up on p.4.

**12/16/2023:** Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Rick Lambert, and Keith Sweeney

**Hoover Cave, VA.** Our goal for this trip was to check the pit at HL4, while Rick and Keith did geology and biology. Joe dropped the pit with the 50-foot rope tied off to a large piece of breakdown. Once down, it didn't take him long to determine that it was dead bottom. We did two shots with a depth of 22 feet.

**Hoover Pit, VA.** We drove over to this blow hole and pulled some rocks out with webbing and then used technical digging to open up the top so we could get in. It was vertical. We rigged a rope and Joe went down to discover it was dead bottom. We surveyed it to 55 feet deep.

**12/20/2023: Collins Cave, VA.** Participants included David Socky, Joe Zokaites, Rick Royer, Bill Koerschner, Rick Lambert, and Keith Sweeney. Another blow hole in the Warm Springs Project area. We were able to move enough rocks out of the way by hand.

Rick Royer was first in – it was a 15-foot vertical climb down and had enough passage to survey. Joe and I went in and we surveyed a total of 129 feet in two levels. After finishing this cave, we moved to the south a little and worked on another blow-hole. This one took some technical digging. After a few hours of work, Rick Royer was able to get in, but it was still too small to see if it went. Joe and I had to pull Rick out since he had no footholds. We left this dig for another day.

**01/04: No Thanks Brad Pit, KY.** Participants included David Socky and Stephanie Petri. This cave was on Tom Woods property in KY. Steph and Tom were looking for help to survey this cave. I was able to help out since Olive Hill was right on the way back from my visit to Colorado Springs. We surveyed the whole cave except for a lower-level low loop around that goes under the entrance. It will add another 50 or 60 feet to the length of the cave. The survey length for the day was 397 feet.





## PAY YER 2024 DUES!!

It's that time. Dues are past due!

- 2024 BRG dues are \$10.00 for regular or associate members, \$5.00 for additional family members. Discount for members under 18. Subscriber fee is \$10.00 per person.
- Make checks to *Blue Ridge Grotto*.
- Families, additional dues payers – there will be printed info on your family rate at the BRG meeting.
- If you mail in your dues, please include a piece of paper with your current address, phones, email, NSS number (and NSS expiration month), and primary grotto affiliation.
- You can pay for multiple years.

Pay your dues at the January 19 BRG meeting or mail them to:

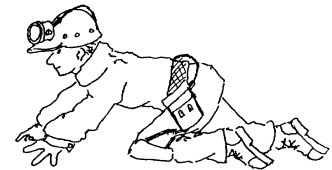
**Kelly Perkins**  
**BRG Treasurer**  
**3117 Corbieshaw Road SW**  
**Roanoke, VA 24015**

Can't remember if you've already paid? We do! Check the **Paid List** :

Bob Alderson - 2024  
 Lauren Appel - 2025  
 Joe Banks - 2025  
 Tom Beaman - 2024  
 Sharon Bruce - 2024  
 Susan Burr - 2024  
 Joseph Caldwell - 2026  
 Carl Cornett - 2024  
 Miriam Cuddington - 2032  
 Martin DiLeggi - 2026  
 Carrie Douplik - 2029  
 Joey Fagan - Life  
 Cheryl Feller - 2025  
 Doug Feller - 2025  
 Barry Ferguson - 2024S  
 Helene Ferguson - 2024  
 Cole Frantz - 2028  
 Trish Geiger - 2024  
 Keith Goggin - 2024  
 Lisa Goggin - 2024  
 Gene Harrison - 2032S  
 Jeff Huffman - 2030  
 Cyndi Hutchison - 2024  
 Ben Johnson - 2024  
 Kevin Johnson - 2029  
 Dan McConnell—2024  
 Marian McConnell - 2024

Randy Michael— 2024  
 Sharon Mohney— 2026  
 Lynn Ott - 2032S  
 John Pearson - 2025  
 Jen Perdue— 2024  
 Kelly Perkins - 2024  
 David Rose - 2024  
 Suzanne Rose - 2024  
 Ed Saugstad - 2024  
 Marianne Saugstad - 2024  
 Nick Schmalenberger - 2024  
 Gordon Smith - 2028S  
 David Socky - 2024  
 Mary Sue Socky - 2024  
 Nick Socky - 2024  
 Alex Sproul - 2024  
 Jennifer Suggs - 2028S  
 John Taylor - 2026  
 Brian Williams - 2025

*Not a BRG member? Ask any officer how to begin the membership process.*



## BRG 2023 Christmas/Holiday Party

Sunday 12/17/2023: The day was cold and rainy, but the Blue Ridge Grotto Party at Dave & Mary Socky's place was well attended.

From noon to 5p, people dropped by and had a good time. The snacks were wonderful! Festive veggie wraps, cured meats, nuts, candy, deviled eggs, cookies, banana bread, apple betty, sausage bread, monkey balls, potato salad; crock pots full of soups, stews, and 'Lil smokies. Nick Schmalenberger made Mexican hot chocolate, too!

Thanks to everyone who dropped by! We missed the rest of you! The next BRG meeting will be **January 19, 2024**. Let's go caving more in 2024!

Here's who attended:

Nick Schmalenberger  
 Dave Socky  
 Mary Sue Socky

Nick Socky  
 Jen Suggs  
 Lynn Ott  
 Barry Ferguson  
 Helene Ferguson  
 Joey Fagan  
 Cheryl Feller  
 Doug Feller  
 Jenny Feller  
 Susan Burr  
 Bob Alderson  
 Tom Beaman  
 Mary Lou Holland  
 Keith Goggin  
 Lisa Goggin  
 Cyndi Hutchison  
 Marian McConnell  
 John Pearson  
 Lyn Pearson  
 Carol Zokaites  
 Joe Zokaites

## Greenville Saltpeter Cave

2024: Greenville Saltpeter Cave, Monroe Co. WV has new owners. Currently there is no access.

298 acres of land containing Greenville Saltpeter Cave has been transferred to the **WV Land Trust (WVLT)** for preservation and management. In addition to its historical significance, Greenville Saltpeter Cave is significant habitat for Indiana and long-eared bats, both federally protected species, as well as other threatened bat species.

Upcoming projects – the WV DNR will be implementing a new, experimental treatment for WNS in the Greenville Saltpeter Cave. It will be used as an UV-C light treatment laboratory to see if areas of UV-C light can safely kill Pd spores (WNS) in the cave environment and on bats.

After completion of WV DNR's research project, the West Virginia Land Trust plans to work with WV DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as local partners, to safely open the property to the public.

WVLT will manage the property as the future **Greenville Saltpeter Cave Preserve**.

For the original article, see this [link](#).

*(Original article link and notes submitted by Mark Minton and Mary Swepston – Thanks!)*