



The River City Grotto Cover

Newsletter of the *River City Grotto* – Jacksonville, FL
An [NSS](#) Affiliated Grotto

OCTOBER, 2015

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –

NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** November 18th, 2015, at our Richard Street Branch.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Lubee Bat Festival: Saturday, October 24th, 10AM-4PM, north of Gainesville. [Details, you say?](#)

Bat Cave, November 5th, a Thursday: An underwater mining conference will be having a trip there, FSS is heading it up.

Climbing Practice: Sunday, November 8th, Obiville or some other venue TBA.

November Down South with FCC: Brandon Johnson Facebooked a desire for a trip then, and is taking suggestions.

Climax Cave: David S. is up for a trip in December.

Florida Cave Cavort 2016: Flint River Grotto has set the date for March 18-20, 2016. Venue is Tim's Hide-a-way in Havana, and we are doing Friday Night Bad Caving Movie(s) and Sunday Fundraiser breakfast. *Firewater Tent Revival* is booked and stoked.

TRIP REPORTS

TAG Fall Cave-In: October 8th-11th, 2015, <http://www.tagfallcavein.org/> We had a big group, 15+, and a good time was had by all. David cooked up a big batch of Chicken & Veg Fajitas, and \$10 each to eat raised some good proceeds for the Grotto (\$210! Thanks to cooks and eaters!).

Obis did not cave, played Happy Parents and Camp Hosts. Trips included Gourdneck, Rusty's, Iron Hoop, and many more. If you went, please send any pictures to Matt for the website.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid, and will be setting aside "seed money" for the 2019 Florida Cave Cavort in some High-Interest vehicle. Remember to PayPal your membership fees if you have sent in your application.

With the Fischer's moving to Knoxville, half the Grotto Board (Secretary and Treasurer) need replacement. Teresa needs to bow out sooner due to corporate concerns (they expect her to work!). We are working (over) a new Treasurer candidate, but if you need to be involved, positions are opening up!! Better than Assistant Manager at McDonalds, not quite Emperor of Time, Space, and the Universe.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have some old friends re-up, and have an old friend show up. We now have 26 Paid members, so if you have not re-upped, do it now!

Get in at <http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/membership.html>
If you have re-applied, but not paid, remember to PAY UP!
If you have not re-applied or paid, GET ON IT!!
Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts...

TONY'S PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION

It was a long time coming, an undertaking in the process, and is a small token of The Grotto's appreciation for all Tony did for the 2015 Cave Cavort. David presented it to Tony at TAG with a crowd in attendance, and it was well received and well earned. Thanks again, Tony!





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SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust announced a partnership with the Southeastern Cave Conservancy earlier this month that will create the Charles B. Henson Cave Preserve at Rising Fawn ([details](#)). Though there is no single cave that stands out in the preserve, there are 34 caves in the area where "you can have a great day".



The land is about 35 minutes from downtown Chattanooga along Newsome Gap Road in an area known as Johnson's Crook, where remnants of the would-be real estate development are still standing in the bluffs of the Lookout Mountain Ridge.

For the past 24 years, SCCi has worked to ensure the preservation of caves throughout the Southeast and currently manages more than 140 caves on 30 preserves.

NSS CORNER

White Nose Syndrome

Since many of us are returning from a White Nose Syndrome (WNS) infected area, we need to be aware that we may be carrying the WNS fungus on our gear and cave clothes. White-nose syndrome is a disease caused by the fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, that affects hibernating bats. The disease is currently in 26 states and the fungus has been found in three more. Seven bat species have been confirmed with WNS, and the fungus has been found on five more.



We should decon our gear before and between caves, as bats are very important to our crops and help control insect populations. Here is [good basic guide](#) to gear decon.

Want more? Check [out their webpage](#).

CAVING IN THE NEWS

Danger Cave To Open For Rare Tour ([article](#))

Utah state parks officials are preparing to host a rare tour of a remote west desert cave that holds evidence of human habitation dating back more than 11,000 years.

Archaeology in a Neolithic Cave in Flintshire ([article](#))

Archaeologists are excavating a cave where 5,000-year-old human bones were discovered in the 1970s.

Chinese Cave Details Human Migration ([article](#))

Forty-seven smooth teeth dug out of a cave in southern China reveal that *Homo sapiens* may have arrived there 80,000 years ago — long before humans were able to leave their mark on northern China or Europe.

Divers discover unseen world in Lewis Cave ([article](#))

Tight underwater passageways don't deter expert cave divers, as scuba divers Ben Perkins and Dirk Bennett lugged their gear as far as anyone had ever gone into the farthest reaches of ancient Lewis Cave, Missouri.