



The
**River City
Caver**

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

April, 2024

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: May 2nd, Location is TBD

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jennings Cave: We are planning a trip to Jennings Cave for May 18th. This a great cave if you're new to vertical caving. If you plan to come, please email board@rivercitygrotto.com

PAST TRIPS AND EVENTS

2024 Florida Cavort: The 2024 Cave Cavort was a success! It started off with some movie watching and comradery on Friday night, followed by a great day of caving on Saturday. We had a wonderful end to our time together on Saturday night with music by Grandpa's Cough Medicine and a bonfire. Thanks to everyone who helped with planning and running the cavort and a big thanks to all who came out for it; it wouldn't have been fun without y'all.



Bat Cave: A few of us led a Boy Scout troop into Bat Cave on March 30th. We had a great time exploring; we visited awful earful, freakout fractures and many more areas of the cave. We even saw a few new things including a frog and fungi.



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FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial State: We are solid financially.

MEMBER SECTION

If you're interested in joining RCG, you can find out more information on membership and sign-up [here](#).

SCCi CORNER

Volunteer Efforts Remove Litter and Invasives from Charles B Henson Preserve: Over 40 volunteers joined together to clean Charles B Henson Preserve in Georgia. Volunteers gathered trash, cleared out invasive plants, and redirected water in a drainage ditch. Over 500 hours of work, valued at \$10,000 of labor, was put into cleaning the preserve. You can read more about SCCi's cleaning efforts [here](#).

NSS CORNER

2024 NSS Convention: This year's convention will be held in Sewanee, TN July, 1st-July 5th. You can find more information on this year's convention [here](#).

Meet the Northern Cavefish: 2024 USA Cave Animal of the Year:

The Northern Cavefish belongs to the family Amblyopsidae, which includes five other cavefish species endemic to the Ozarks and Interior Low Plateau karst regions in the central and eastern United States. The Amblyopsidae has long intrigued biologists and they are an important model system for studies of cave adaptation. Northern Cavefish live in subterranean aquatic habitats including deep pools and shoals in cave streams, smaller tributaries, and rimstone pools. Cavefishes act as top predators in many cave systems. Protecting cavefishes and their groundwater habitats is crucial for not only preserving subterranean biodiversity but for safeguarding an important resource that we, as humans, are becoming increasingly reliant upon. You can read more about the northern cavefish [here](#).