



# The River City Cover

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

MAY, 2015

[www.rivercitygrotto.com/](http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/)

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –

**NEXT MEETING:** Is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY** June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015, but there are issues... we'll keep you posted.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

[Kentucky Speleofest](#): May 22-25, 2015

**Tucks and Lundy's**: May 23, FSS may be in too, vertical if you want, and we'll do a little tidying.

[Karst-O-Rama](#): June 25-28, 2015

**Jennings Cave Trip**: June 27th.

**TAG, Jack, Byers IS OFF** for July 4th weekend, plans are afoot possibly for Labor Day weekend.

[2015 NSS Convention](#): July 13-17, 2015 in Missouri!

## GROTTO ELECTIONS



It was a Slam Dunk! The Secretary is still Matt, and The President is still David. Please welcome Teresa Fischer as our new Secretary. Teresa has lived in Florida for most of her life, and has been caving since the '80s with Matt. Another UF Geologist, she currently works as an Environmental Geologist.

She had been out of caving for a while (marriage, kids, work, etc.) but has been brought back to the Dark Side.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid, and the Board purchased 32 rechargeable batteries and a 16-bay charger for the current lights. The Board also authorized

- 1) To set aside about \$3,000 as seed money for the 2019 Cavort.
- 2) \$200 for Cave Sym to go to the NSS Convention.

Some other ideas to spend this new found grotto wealth on include:

Cave Cleanups	Cave Gatings
Educational ventures and/or materials	
Cave digs	Expeditions Gear!

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

No new Members, but renewal ON!! This year we are able to accommodate online registration and payment. Surf on over to <http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/membership.html> and re-up!!

## AMAZON SMILE

If you Amazon shop via "Amazon Smile", 0.5% of the sales will go to your listed charity, which can be the River

City Grotto. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/> and search for and select "River City Grotto". Easy-peasy!

## CLIMBING PRACTICE – MAY 2<sup>nd</sup>

May 2nd, 9AM to 1PM at Obiville. Went well. New gear broken in, tree roping learned, change-overs practiced, but the 200 foot timed climbed for experienced members was not gotten to. Another practice or two will definitely be in the works before TAG.



## TRIP REPORTS

Only one to report is **Jennings Cave**, Saturday April 25th, run by Florida Caving Club. No RCG members went, but their FB page showed a real good time!





# The River City Cover

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

MAY, 2015

[www.rivercitygrotto.com/](http://www.rivercitygrotto.com/)

## NEW BUSINESS

There is a Walmart planned for Alachua that may impact an aquifer window, and the NSS and FSS have a pro bono lawyer working it. There is a zoning hearing soon is pending and stink needs to be raised. We'll keep you posted.

Jerry's Farm (the Cavort Site) may get a climbing tower. Some off-spec power poles became available, and donated installation may be in the offing.

## TAG Fall Cave-In

Is not too far away to plan! October 8th-11th, 2015  
<http://www.tagfallcavein.org/> Start thinking about it!! Some folks may just be campers, and some caves to do were discussed.

- Iron Hoop: Horizontal and Wet (a Glenn special!)
  - Cedar Ridge Crystal Cave: Not extensive but pretty
- We'll be Vertical, Horizontal, just chillin'... GO!!

## SCCI NEWS AND UPDATES

The SCCI has announced their [2015 Photo Competition Winners](#). Photographers were encouraged to submit photographs and/or videos taken on preserves owned by the SCCI in four categories - Secret Beauty, Secret Adventure, Secret Life, and Secret Water. Some really good stuff was submitted!

## Secret Adventure

Photographer: Dave Bunnell

Neversink Cave



## CAVING IN THE NEWS

National Geographic has "[Son Doong 360](#)", which lets you cave in unbelievable 360° panoramas. Did early man [communicate with cave signs](#)?

[Bats treated for white-nose syndrome released](#), signaling a potential breakthrough in the fight against WNS. Wind Cave National Park [bounces back](#) from wildfire

## NSS CORNER

Speaking of renewing, don't forget to renew (or join) you NSS membership. Benefits of NSS Membership include receiving the monthly caving magazine, the NSS News; the scientific Journal of Cave and Karst Studies (electronic) three times a year; the annual membership directory; and American Caving Accidents. Membership also entitles you to audiovisual and printed library privileges and NSS Bookstore discounts.  
<http://caves.org/info/membertypes.shtml>

