



The  
**River City  
Caver**

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

March, 2019

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

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –  
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** April 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Boy Scout Cave Trips:** RCG will lead caving trips for two Boy Scout troops. The first trip will be April 20th to Ocala Caverns and the second will be on May 4th, the cave is TBD. Please let us know if you want to help lead one of these trips.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially. RCG made a lot of money from the cavort and all the proceeds will be donated to Jerry Johnson so that a cabin can be built for future caving events.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have no new members.

### EVENT REPORTS

**2019 Florida Cavort:** The 2019 Florida Cave Cavort was a big success and everyone had a great time. Despite the high water levels in some of the caves, there was plenty of caving that took place. There was an amazing Saturday night celebration with great BBQ and lots of great music thanks to The Firewater Tent Revival.





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## CAVING IN THE NEWS

**NASA Considers a Rover Mission to Go Cave Diving on the Moon:** An extreme-terrain rover concept called Moon Diver, will launch in the mid-2020s, if it's approved by NASA. It is supposed to descend into one of the enormous pits dotting the surface of the moon. These pits could hold clues to the moon's history and perhaps provide shelter for future human exploration. ([article](#))

**Cave in Southeast Minnesota Sees Another Dramatic Decline in Bat Population:** A few years ago, Bat River Cave, was the biggest bat hibernaculum in southeastern Minnesota. As of this winter, its bat population has declined by 98 percent. In 33 states and 7 Canadian provinces, bats are dying from white-nose syndrome. ([article](#))

**India's Deepest Shaft Cave Discovered in Meghalaya:** Krem Um Ladaw, India's deepest cave shaft was discovered during the 28th edition of the annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition' that took place between February 3rd and 28th of this year. ([article](#))

## NSS CORNER

**The NSS Webinar Series: Grand Canyon's Double Bopper Cave Reaches 40 Miles Long, Presented by: Beth Cortright-** In the fall of 2018, two expedition teams returned to Double Bopper Cave in Grand Canyon National Park to continue survey and exploration of the extensive system. Through their efforts, the cave is now 40.6 miles long and has climbed into the top ten longest caves in the United States. The newest discoveries include many mummified mammals, an entire wall of gypsum hair, and more iron foam and gypsum flowers than anyone could imagine. Survey teams documented incredible boreholes and unique formations in the caves, while avoiding bark scorpions and flash floods on the surface. This presentation shows highlights of the October 2018 expedition and provides an update on the Double Bopper Cave system. You can view the webinar [here](#).

**Leave No Trace Symposium:** The NSS is hosting the Leave No Trace Symposium. This event will take place from December 28th, 2019 to January 1st, 2020. It will bring together like-minded groups and individuals to share their missions, ideas, merchandise, opportunities, and vision for the future of Leave No Trace. Each day will be 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and filled with presentations from local universities, academia professors, environmental organizations, adventure groups and related companies. You can find more information [here](#).

## SCCi CORNER

**SCCi Is Hiring:** SCCi was recently awarded a capacity building grant from the Lyndhurst Foundation. This grant funds 2 positions. The first position is a Director of Outreach and Education. This person will be responsible for developing a robust education program that primarily targets K-12 classrooms. The second position is a Land Manager. This position is responsible for managing various aspects of preserve operations ranging from working with preserve visitors to managing small projects such as trail maintenance, kiosk building, signage, etc. ([article](#))