



The River City Caver

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

May, 2019

www.rivercitygrotto.com/

Updates from the latest Grotto Meeting and Events –
NEXT MEETING: **WEDNESDAY** June 19th 2019, at R.E.I. in the St. John's Town Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a few possible cave trips that we are working on setting up for the summer. Once these trips are officially set up, we'll send information to the RCG email and the RCG Facebook page.

TRIP REPORTS

Ocala Caverns: Joe, Phil, and Carrie led five boy scouts and their three leaders through Ocala Caverns. The water levels were high and the group was only able to explore part of the cave. Three bats were seen during the trip. The scouts seemed to have a great time.



MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We have a new member! Membership dues are due this month. You can pay online [here](#).

FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are solid financially.

CAVING IN THE NEWS

New Study Reveals that Stone Age Families Crawled Through Caves for Fun: Researchers from Italy, Argentina, and South Africa have found that families from the stone age explored caves for fun, crawling on their hands and feet with wooden torches. [\(article\)](#)

Cavers Rescued in Virginia After Being Trapped for More Than 47 Hours: Six men went into Cyclops Cave in Virginia's Russell County with the intention of spending the night. However, five of the men ended up being trapped in the cave for 47 hours. During the trip, a heavy rain set in; one of the men climbed out and called 911. On 4/28/19 it was announced that the rest of the cavers were rescued. [\(article\)](#)

NSS CORNER

2019 NSS Convention in Cookeville, TN June 17 - 21, 2019: Tennessee cavers are proud to be hosting the 2019 NSS Convention which will be held in Cookeville, Tennessee on June 17-21, 2019. Cookeville is the near centroid of Tennessee's 10,000+ cave locations. There are literally thousands of caves within a 50 mile radius of Cookeville and many of them are showcase caves. You can find more information [here](#).

NSS Luminary Talks - The History and Exploration of Wonder Cave, Presented by Kelly Smallwood: Wonder Cave is located in the Pelham Valley in Grundy County, Tennessee and is one of the oldest commercial caves in the state. It was discovered in 1897 by three Vanderbilt Students, and a few years later was commercialized by Robert M. Payne. Members of the Payne family continued to manage the cave until the 1980's when Robert's great grandson passed away. The cave was then sold to a local Chattanooga businessman, who operated the cave until the year 2000 when the cave was closed to the public and cavers. Even though Wonder Cave operated as a commercial cave for nearly 100 years, a complete and accurate map of the cave was never completed. In 2014, Jason Hardy and Kelly Smallwood began the survey of Wonder Cave and have surveyed nearly 3 miles of cave passage. Please join us for a journey through the history of Tennessee's Wonder Cave.