

GSS Annual Meeting

The meeting was started ~10:20am at Fricks Cave Property in Georgia.

- I. **Welcome** Dan Barnick thanked everyone attending and ET Davis with the SCCI for allowing the meeting to be held again on the Fricks Property.
- II. **Treasurer Report** by Brent Aulenbach See Attached treasury report. Printing was the biggest expense with two GSS Bulletins included. The next item discussed was the ensuing increase in postage due to mailing out the Bulletin from last year. The expenses for the Fricks Survey project. The SCCI received \$100.00. The checking account cost us \$6.00 per month. Brief discussion on publishing GSS 1980's Book should have \$ for printing with a balance of \$1,689.00
- III. **Secretary Report** by Holly Bunch. See Attached Minutes from both the Business Meeting in January and last years Annual Meeting Minutes. The annual meeting minutes are on the website and in the GSS Bulletin for this year 2001. The group was asked to review these so they could make suggestions, comments, and additions.
- IV. **GSS Bulletin** Editor by Brian Williamson. Brian discussed frustration with printing and trying to increase quality without exorbitant cost. He apologized for the inserts. Please donate pictures, maps, articles for next years bulletin now it is not too early to send him information.
- V. **Vice-Chairman** by Tom Moltz. Please document what you find. He reviewed several trips spent tracking down caves only to find they were never turned in and nearby caves/karst features confuse what is documented or not.
- VI. **Data** by Carl Anderson. Caves for Georgia #540. 2002 CD has +8-9 new maps a few of which are historical but most are new. The first purchase of a CD is \$10.00 but the second version is \$5.00. This was discussed in January at the Business Meeting.
- VII. **Projects:**
 - A. **1980's GSS Bulletin Book** by Holly Bunch. Editors are needed with recent addition of Tom Moltz another was requested which was Kathy MacKay volunteered. Also, due to poor response from publishers with figures for cost the group as asked for suggestions. Carl Anderson reported they used a Binder Company out of state but hand copied at Kinko's with multiple editors for index. Carl also asked what was involved in editing, which was basic grammar and spelling for the data currently entered into computer. Tom Moltz suggested a small LaFayette printer Darla Smally could be used. Jim Youmans suggested Jim Whidby of Knoxville, TN, and Jerry Wallace recommended Tim White of AL for printing assistance. No deadline is firm at this time.
 - B. **Fricks Cave Survey** by Brent Aulenbach. Reviewed unique habitat found Tennessee Cave Salamander and Grey Bat. Open house is annually held for cavers to enter now. The last map from the 1970's reveals 7,777 feet of passage with the SCCI requesting a revision of the map. The project has concentrated on teaching other cavers how to survey and Brent thanked

people for bowing out of trips to allow newer folks to survey. Started 12/01 with five survey days to date over four weekends. Thus far, 35 different people have surveyed 9,500 feet of cave. The vertical extent of the cave is 131 feet. The trip reports are in the Bulletin with reports going to the GSS officers and the SCCI along with the website. Initially a mail out was done to GSS members to include and encourage participation. The maximum allowed on a survey trip is 12. The next trip is scheduled for November, which should be low wet sections of the cave. Brent plans to draft map in Adobe Illustrator electronically and hopes to include multiple sketchers.

VIII. **New Business**

A. Kingston Saltpeter Book by Joel Sneed and Larry Blair reported by Holly Bunch. The book is nearing completion but is on hold until a date of a tooth is finished currently under testing at Oak Ridge Tennessee. The book should contain mostly paleontological data by several experts. The oldest artifact is dated ~12,000 years old. Larry would be happy to display and sale book when published.

B. Development Pressure continues in Northwest Georgia by Brian Williamson. Finding caves would prevent further development v. waiting until development is in effect. Dean Clemmer works in land use control and reiterated Brian's comments. Dean reported that a billion dollar project is slotted for NW Georgia currently. Carl Anderson reported it is best to find important caves/species prior to interest in development.

C. Quarry at Pigeon Mountain a permit is still up for approval to expand current operations. Diane Cousineau has website to provide current progress on Quarry Expansion at <http://www.pigeonmountain.org>. Green Salamander on the North end of property was located and should help in addition to the Flowing Stone pit. The money to buy out Vulcan could be around \$5-15 million. Vulcan may want expansion due to proposal to re-route Hwy 27 to become a 4-lane Interstate and rock will be in demand. A spoil area is the only requirement for the Quarry as far as environmental restrictions are concerned. The GSS and members thanked Pigeon Mountain Grotto for the Karst Inventory.

D. Johnson's Crook the crook is closed as reported by Kathy MacKay. Jerry Wallace reported rearrangement of Sawmill at the foot of the mountain was being done. The new caretaker evidently travels the Newsome Gap Road on the lookout for offenders. The dtr, of Jack Wallen the current landowner, reported to local cavers that he feels cavers have spoiled the sale of this property.

E. EPD-Environmental Protection Department Dean Clemmer reported that delegates enforcement authority sometimes to local people to assist with management especially in rural areas thus this might be an avenue to pursue assistance for the caves in Georgia.

F. John's Mountain off Hwy 136 a discussion ensued about limestone within this mountain. Carl Anderson reported little is known about these mountains, which there are few known caves currently. Jim Youmans reported in 1965

Wallace Colley received a letter stating there was a “toilet effect” drainage hole in the ground on John’s Mountain from a person in the area.

- IX. **Survey Equipment** Tom Moltz at the Winter business meeting made recommendation for GSS to purchase gear. Dan Barnick suggested rental fee for one month by members for \$10, which would include compass, inclinometer, tape, box, and book. The Chairman to keep track of gear. Motion was suggested to this effect by Kathy Mackay and seconded by Jerry Wallace. All members in attendance voted yes. Brent will post on email listing about availability of gear and new policy.
- X. **Archives** Brent reported now located at his home. Brent Aulenbach will have a copy of the original with Carl Anderson and Tom Moltz having backup copies of data. Foxy Ferguson has material from GSS at its inception beginning with Brent reviewing they are working toward possibly obtaining material via Jim Wilbanks.
- XI. **Donation** Brent Aulenbach suggested \$200.00 donation be made to Fox Mountain Preserve for the SCCI. Motion as presented initiated by Brent Aulenbach and seconded by Ed Pratt. All members in attendance voted yes.
- XII. **Chattanooga Article** Kathy MacKay inquired about article in Chattanooga newspaper article in the end of March 2002. This made reference to a cave in Catoosa County during the Civil War Battle this cave was located and used for refuge while marching eastward.
- XIII. **ALGA** Brent Aulenbach access is dubious with landowner relations being rather cool towards the cavers. They continue to access via Moses Tomb on Fox Mountain, which makes for a lengthy hike. Mr. Brandon one of the local landowners does not like seeing cavers pass near or on his property.
- XIV. **Elections:** Treasurer Nomination for Brent Aulenbach by Jerry Wallace then seconded by Tom Moltz. Brent resumed as treasurer via acclimation. Secretary Nomination for Holly Bunch by Brent Aulenbach and seconded by Ed Pratt. Holly resumed secretary duties via acclimation. Vice-Chairman Nomination for John Klayer by Holly Bunch and seconded by Tom Moltz. All members in attendance voted yes. Chairman Nomination for Tom Moltz by Jerry Wallace and seconded by Dan Barnick. All members in attendance voted yes. Bulletin Editor Nomination by Jerry Wallace and seconded by Dan Barnick for Tom Moltz. Field Chairman –Ridgewalking appointed Jerry Wallace. Coordinator of Cave Information Jerry Wallace who is supposed to contact landowner and coordinate with DCG and their closed cave list and report new information.
- XV. **Adjournment** 12:10pm to Ridgewalk or Dig in the surrounding area.
Attendance Roster: Marty Abercrombe, Carl Anderson, Brent Aulenbach, Dan Barnick, Sharon Brewer, Stephen Brewer, Obadiah Brooks, Ken Brown, Holly Bunch, Dean Clemmer, Eric Crisp, ET Davis, John Klayer, Kathy Mackay, Jessica Maddox, Tom Moltz, Ed Pratt, Jerry Wallace, Brian Williamson, and Jim Youmans.
By Holly A. Bunch, Secretary for GSS