

2011 Annual meeting of the Georgia Speleological Survey

Saturday, 19 March 2011

Meeting location:

Bank of La Fayette Community Center, La Fayette, GA

Nancy Aulenbauch (Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:25 pm

The following attended the meeting:

Marty Abercrombie
Carl Anderson
Nancy Aulenbach
Brent Aulenbach
Jody Bailey
Tom Bates
Maury Benamy
Larry O. Blair
Stephen Brewer
Sharon Brewer
Daniel Briedis
Lynn Buffkin
Diane Cousineau
Jenny Crisp
ET Davis
Michael Doughty
Bambi Dunlap
Minter Goodson
Kris Green
Anne Grindle
Jason Hardy
Don Harter
Steve Hudson
Dave Hughes
John Klayer
Shari Lydy
Tom Moltz
Carol Moltz
Gerald Moni
Avis Moni
Allen Padgett
Bill Putnam
Chrissy Richards
Varie Rustin
Kelly Smallwood
Bill Stringfellow
Brian Williamson

Introduction of officers:

Marty Abercrombie: Vice-Chairman

Brent Aulenbauch: Treasurer

Brian Williams: GSS Bulletin Editor

Carl Anderson: Electronic Archives

Jerry Wallace: Landowner relations

Ed Pratt: Secretary (Tom Moltz filling in Ed during this meeting)

Tom Moltz: Activity Coordinator (it was later determined it is Mary Abercrombie)

Nancy reported that Brent was taking on the 80's Bulletin Compilation.

Nancy thanked all the GSS members that pulled together during the TAG Fall Cave-In to man the GSS booth. Brent had come down with his first migraine headache. Their daughter Scout had gotten a hot ember in her eye.

Old Business:

Vice Chair:

Marty had nothing to report.

Treasurer Report by Brent Aulenbauch:

A few highlights:

The bulletin cost \$1,251.86. Last years were \$750 for the same number of pages as this year. \$200 of the increased cost was the adoption of printing the center pages in color.

Last year we donated:

\$200 SCCi

\$200 SERA Karst Task Force

\$100 White Nose Syndrome

There is now a charge for free checking. Brent changed from Wachovia to Sun Trust.

For more details see the financial report.

Editors Report by Brian Williamson:

Brian thanked contributors to the bulletin. He had to reach into his reserves for articles to fill out the bulletin. Brian asked that members send articles, pictures, and trip report to the editor for next years bulletin.

Paper Archives report by Brent:

Brent and Nancy have the archives. No one visited the archives last year but that is what they are for. Brent is saving Georgia cave articles and news, in

the archives. Send anything appropriate along that line to Brent and he will save it to the archives.

Electronic Archives report by Carl Anderson:

Carl is looking for volunteers to help with putting the archives in an indexed electronic format. Marty Abercrombie and Steve Brewer volunteered.

80's Bulletin by Brent:

Brent has the first bulletin cleaned up. We need someone to take on editing. Hopefully we can draw on previous editors; Tom Moltz, Brian Williamson, Jerry Wallace, may be able to spearhead the editing.

Brent will be able to get the first one done after the WBM. Then he may be able to get one a month. He has some optical character recognition software (OCR) so it is not typing in text from scratch. We need more volunteers.

Web Site and Cyber stuff: E. T. Davis

E. T. needs to know just what we want. E. T. uses software that is different from what the ACS uses. A discussion was started on servers, browsers, and software in general. Brent brought up a Wiki like system similar to what the ACS did. You can log in, look at maps, and edit data, and submit data and maps. A moderator would approve it for use on the system. Do we want something like ACS did, or have E. T. fix us up with the software he knows.

No motions or decisions were made.

New Business:

Nancy stated the GSS is hosting the banquet this evening. We can use some more help.

Donations:

Brent gave an idea of funds available and some suggested guidelines for giving. Printing the bulletin cost a lot more this year. It would be nice to be able to print the 80's bulletin. In order to do that, we don't want to get too low on funds. Brent suggested we keep donations to \$200. Brent made it clear this was just a suggestion.

Nancy asked how the SERA Karst Task Force (KTF) was doing. Kelly Smallwood of the Sewanee Mountain Grotto said that they're doing fine right now. They always need dog food bags and sturdy bags for trash. So folk can save them and get them to the KTF at caving events or cleanups.

Brent mentioned that we often gave the SCCi \$200. They let us use the Fricks Preserve for meetings free of charge. They also let us set up a booth at their booth during the TAG Fall Cave-in.

Chris Green made a move to donate \$125 to the SCCi. Sharon Brewer seconded the motion. The motion was voted in.

Instruments:

Brent stated that years back the GSS bought some survey instruments on the cheap (about \$50 ea). These were for members to use on projects. The instruments need repair at a cost of about \$60. Do we need to continue this practice and spend money to repair instruments that are seven years old? It was Nancy's opinion that we did not. Steve Hudson asked if there were members that would be able to survey, only if these instruments were available.

The consensus was that there were enough members with instruments that would be willing to loan them if the need arose. No motion or vote was made.

Web Site by Brent:

Brent updated the GSS website. He has received good comments. He will probably be doing one more page with surveying resources.

Brent hopes to set up a Flickr site soon for pictures. If you have a Flickr site with pictures of Georgia caves you could link them to the GSS Flickr site.

Next was a discussion about starting a Facebook page. A small number of members do not like Facebook and do not want to get on it. The idea was brought up to use Facebook as a way to disseminate information about the GSS to others. No member names or data would be on the page.

Kelly stated she was a moderator on several sites and there was very little junk put on it that had to be removed.

Mary Johnson made a motion to open a page and see what happens. It could be a basic page with basic information. Bill Stringfellow seconded and the motion was voted in.

Brent had more comments on the Web page:

Brent gets a couple of contacts a month through the web page. Some want just a data listing. Most want some information without joining the GSS. It was stated that the GSS does require members to be NSS members in order to get the data listing.

Brent also reported there is a new cave report form on the web site. He asked that it be utilized if possible. It has pull down menus to facilitate data entry.

Brent also mentioned there are other tools on the web page. There is an excel spread sheet that you can enter latitude and longitude into and it will give you the topo name.

T-Shirts:

Daniel Brides asked about T-Shirts. His apparently has shrunk, and he for one would like a new one. Nancy suggested that maybe we need a T-Shirt with a different color than the purple one we last had made. Allen Padgett said he likes the one we have and wants another one. It was decided we would want a 150 made. It was also decided we wanted them in time for the TAG Fall Cave-In.

Sharon Brewer made a motion to get them made. Marty suggested getting half of them purple and half of them another color if possible. Daniel seconded the motion and it was approved by vote.

Trip Reports:

Steve Brewer went into the one remaining entrance of Richards Cave. One entrance was sealed shut during the flood. He said that it was a real mess inside as a result of the flood.

Carl said that he has been putting entrance pictures of caves in the map book. Send them in if you like.

Allen Padgett gave directions on the new route to take to Flowing Stone. Part of the old route included walking through quarry property that is now off limits. Drive straight, instead of turning left to Blue Hole. Park before the gate and off the road. Walk around gate and follow the fence around. Do not go into the quarry. Do not park on the road or in the lot on the right.

Larry Blair and Kingston Saltpeter Cave:

An executive with the Kingston Foundation came to visit for the first time in 26 years. He was very happy with what he saw.

Larry is very interested in the archeology at the cave site. All studies are visual without any digging. They know Kingston Saltpeter Cave was a ceremonial cave. He is trying to determine if it was a visitation cave or an occupational cave. Remains of two humans have been found.

A 1999 Journal of Karst Studies reports a true cave spider from the cave. Evidence of one hundred species of animals has been discovered. Eight of them are extinct. Many do not live in the area any more.

Elections:

After a brief a discussion Steve Hudson nominated the existing slate of officers.

The motion was seconded and voted in.

Chairman: Nancy Aulenbauch

Vice Chairman: Marty Abercrombie

Treasurer: Brent Aulenbauch
Secretary: Ed Pratt

The minutes from previous year were voted approved