
Summary of the 2018 GSS Annual Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were misplaced, so this summary has been reconstructed from the memories of Chair Clint Garner, Vice Chair Jon Zetterberg, and Treasurer Brent Aulenbach. Attendance was determined from sales receipts. Hopefully members who attended the meeting can provide further clarifications and corrections that can be published in next year's Bulletin. Apologies in advance for any errors.

The 2018 Georgia Speleological Survey Annual Meeting was called to order by Chair Clint Garner at 10:22 am on May 19th 2018. The meeting was held at the SCCi Fricks Cave Preserve, Walker County Ga. 20 people were in attendance:

Attendees

Sarah Arpin	ET Davis
Paul Aughey	Clint Garner
Brent Aulenbach	Jeff Harris
Nancy Aulenbach	Mark Medlen
Scout Aulenbach	Preston Moeller
David Bechler	Tom Moltz
Josh Brewer	Charles Neiswenter
Alan Cressler	Shanon Neiswenter
Eric Crisp	Doug Strait
Jenny Crisp	Jon Zetterberg

Clint welcomed all attendees and thanked the preserve manager and the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. for the use of the preserve.

Recap of 2017 Activities

- Jon Zetterberg made extensive improvements to the data listing locations. Locations of 86 cave entrances in Dade and Walker Counties were updated. These entrances were known to be in small surface features and were visible in a

0.5-meter digital elevation model (DEM) derived from LiDAR data.

- The 2017 GSS Mapbook, which was updated in October 2017 in time for the TAG Fall Cave-in, were distributed for the first time on USB flash-drives instead of CDs. This was a much more popular format.
- The 2018 GSS data listing is being distributed on USB flash-drives for the first time. The flash-drive also contains DEMs for Dade and Walker Counties generated by Jon Zetterberg. These are provided as 54 quarter-quad images corresponding with the USGS 7.5-minute topographic series quadrangles and are very detailed such that they can be zoomed in to identify very small surface features.
- There were 90 members in 2017. This was the highest in many years.
- One new cave was turned in this year.
- The GSS still has many T-shirts left that we would like to sell and recoup our investment.

2017 Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes were read out loud and were approved by the membership.

Officers' Reports

Treasurer – Brent Aulenbach: Income was \$1,865 (\$1,260 memberships, \$580 sales; \$25 donations). Expenses were \$1,061.91 (including donations of \$200 to the SCCi and \$50 to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in the name of Brian Williamson; \$123.99 in postage; and \$540.03 for supplies, the bulk of which were for 150 USB flash drives for mapbooks and data listings). This did not include the cost of printing of this year's GSS Bulletin. The

GSS currently has \$3,146.82 in checking and cash.

GSS Bulletin Editors – Brent Aulenbach & Tom Moltz: GSS Bulletin is dedicated in memory of Elizabeth Ann "Foxy" Stafford Ferguson who passed away in May 2017 and was a cofounder of the GSS. Bulletin highlights included an article about Foxy written by Jeff Harris, an article commemorating exploration and survey in Ellison's Cave 50 years ago (also written by Jeff Harris), and an interview with Della McGuffin (Bridenburg) regarding the discovery and descent of Fantastic Pit 50 years ago.

Old Business

- *Facebook:* Reminder to join the GSS Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151792554884175/>. It is a closed group and GSS administrators will approve you to join.
- *GSS Frick's Cave Resurvey Project:* Brent Aulenbach reported that there is still some survey to complete in Frick's Cave but it was too wet this past winter to get a trip in.
- *GSS Data Requests:* At previous meeting the membership approved a motion that the GSS officers will appoint a representative that would be a liaison between the GSS and any outside entities requesting GSS cave data. The representative would be responsible for determining if it is appropriate to allow them to use GSS cave data, what cave data is appropriate to share, and insure that the entity has appropriate safeguards to prevent dissemination of the data. The officers had not yet appointed a representative, but appointed Jon Zetterberg at the meeting. Jon said he would set up an email address that could be used for requests. Jon has since set up the address

gss.data.ga@gmail.com for this purpose.

New Business

- *GSS Membership Requirements:* There was a discussion regarding whether membership requirements sufficiently protected the GSS cave location information. The current membership requirements were that anyone could join the GSS, but only active NSS members would receive the data listing. (As an NSS internal organization, only NSS members are allowed to be full voting members of the GSS.) This has been the requirement used for the past 20+ years. Other nearby state cave surveys requires their new members to be a member of the NSS (or grotto?) for at least a year and/or have two members sponsor them (that is, vouch that they are responsible cavers). There is nothing in the GSS Constitution regarding membership requirements, and there is no record of GSS by-laws. After considering a 1-year NSS membership requirement and sponsorship, a motion was put forward to require new members to have two current GSS members recommend them in order to receive the data listing. This motion would not be part of the GSS constitution, as this requires a 30-day prior-notification to membership for amendments. The motion was approved.
- *SCCi Donation:* A motion was made to donate \$200[?] to the SCCi to support their good work and as a thank you for allowing the GSS to hold our meeting and campout at the Frick's Cave Preserve.

Election Results

- Chair – Clint Garner
- Vice Chair – Jon Zetterberg
- Secretary – Shannon Neiswenter
- Treasurer – Brent Aulenbach

After the Meeting

After the meeting several members helped ET Davis remove a large tree that fell

across the entrance area to Frick's Cave. Several cave trips also went out, including a trip to the Zahnd Wildlife Management Area to check out several sandstone caves and a trip to Allen Springs Gap. Both trips resulted in caves being surveyed and trip reports are included in the 2019 GSS Bulletin. A campout was then held at the Frick's Cave Preserve.