

Join the WVCC Today!

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Caving Affiliations: _____

Dues

Regular Membership (\$15/year)

Family Membership (\$25/year)

Institutional Membership (\$50/year)

Lifetime Membership (\$250)

Sustaining Membership (\$65/year for 5 years. After 5 years, you are a Lifetime Member.)

I would like to make a donation to support the work of WVCC:

\$20 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail membership application and check or money order (**payable to WVCC**) to:



**West Virginia Cave
Conservancy
PO Box 243
Frankford WV 24938**

www.wvcc.net

We Need Your Help!

Threats are real

West Virginia and Virginia are famous for caves, karst, and plentiful springs. But these are threatened daily by pollution, land development, and careless acts.

Once destroyed, cave formations and environments cannot be replaced. When ground water is polluted, we all suffer.

The success of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy can be possible only with the support of cavers, landowners, land use planners, and others who understand the importance of caves and karst.

Success is up to YOU!

Your membership and donations allow us to purchase caves for protection, and manage them well. In addition, you support our education and conservation activities.

Join the WVCC or make a donation.

Help protect the quality of our water and our cave resources.



The West Virginia Cave Conservancy, Inc. is a volunteer, nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation, chartered in West Virginia. Donations are tax-deductible.

To learn more, visit us at www.wvcc.net.



WEST VIRGINIA CAVE CONSERVANCY

The West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and protecting important cave and karst resources of the Virginias for future generations.



Photo: William Storage

Caves contain a fragile beauty only found underground. In addition, their streams and passages provide irreplaceable environments for specially adapted, and often rare, species of animals, most of which could not survive elsewhere.

Protecting karst (limestone) landscapes is critical to our supply of clean drinking water. Rural areas of West Virginia and Virginia rely heavily on water from springs and wells in limestone.

What We Do:

- Manage caves to protect sensitive cave resources and environments;
- Educate landowners, developers, local governments, and the public on the value of cave and karst resources;
- Organize cave and karst conservation projects including sinkhole cleanups and livestock barrier fences;
- Preserve access to significant caves in the region through ownership as well as management agreements;
- Work with and advise landowners on their karst management issues;
- Provide expertise on karst and aquifer issues to city and county governments;
- Work with planning commissions;
- Sponsor and encourage research and surveying projects in WVCC caves;
- Sponsor and co-host the National Cave and Karst Conservancies Forum.



Photo: Ed McCarthy

Managing Caves

To protect significant caves and access to them, the WVCC may own cave property or develop management agreements with cave owners. We are pleased to protect several important caves in this way.



Photo: Rick Shortt

Conservancy-Owned Caves

- **Donaldson Cave** (*Berkeley County, WV*) Saved from destruction by a housing development. The cave is a winter home for bats, and is protected by a gate.
- **Island Ford Cave** (*Alleghany County, VA*). WVCC cleaned decades of graffiti and trash from this popular cave. Now it is used as an educational opportunity.
- **Lightner Entrance to McClung Cave** (*Greenbrier County, WV*) A vertical entrance to a 17+ mile cave system under land that is subject to development.
- **Maxwelton Sink Cave** (*Greenbrier County, WV*) 10+ miles of cave containing delicate, rare formations. Protection is critical due to a nearby industrial park and hydrologic connections to major caves and springs. The entrance is gated.

- **Persinger Entrance to Benedict Cave** (*Greenbrier County, WV*) A 15+ mile cave system that lies under a rapidly developing area, and contains a diverse collection of cave formations and biota.

Conservancy-Managed Caves

- **Haynes Cave** (*Monroe County, WV*) A small but historically significant cave containing Civil War saltpeter workings.
- **Lobelia Saltpeter Cave** (*Pocahontas County, WV*. *Managed for Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.*) A significant cave containing 150-year-old saltpeter workings, important paleontological findings, and an endangered bat species.
- **Rapps Cave** (*Greenbrier County, WV*) A major archeological site protected by a gated entrance.

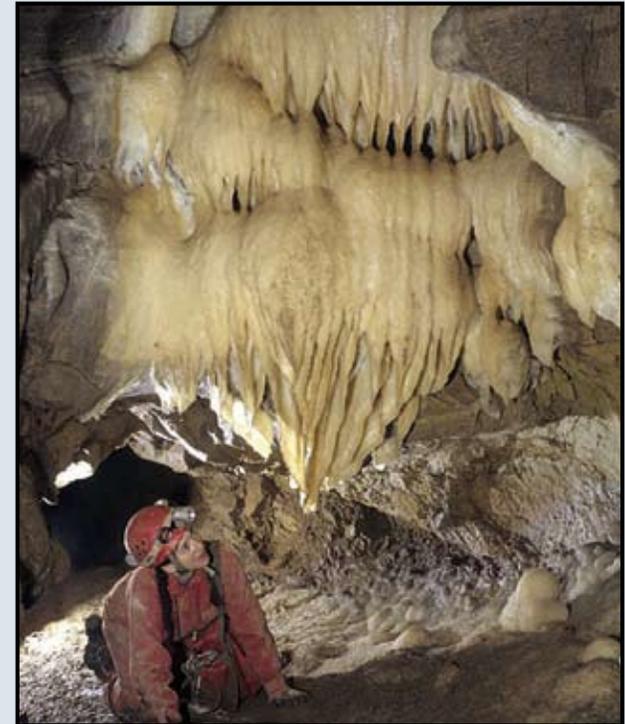


Photo: Ed McCarthy