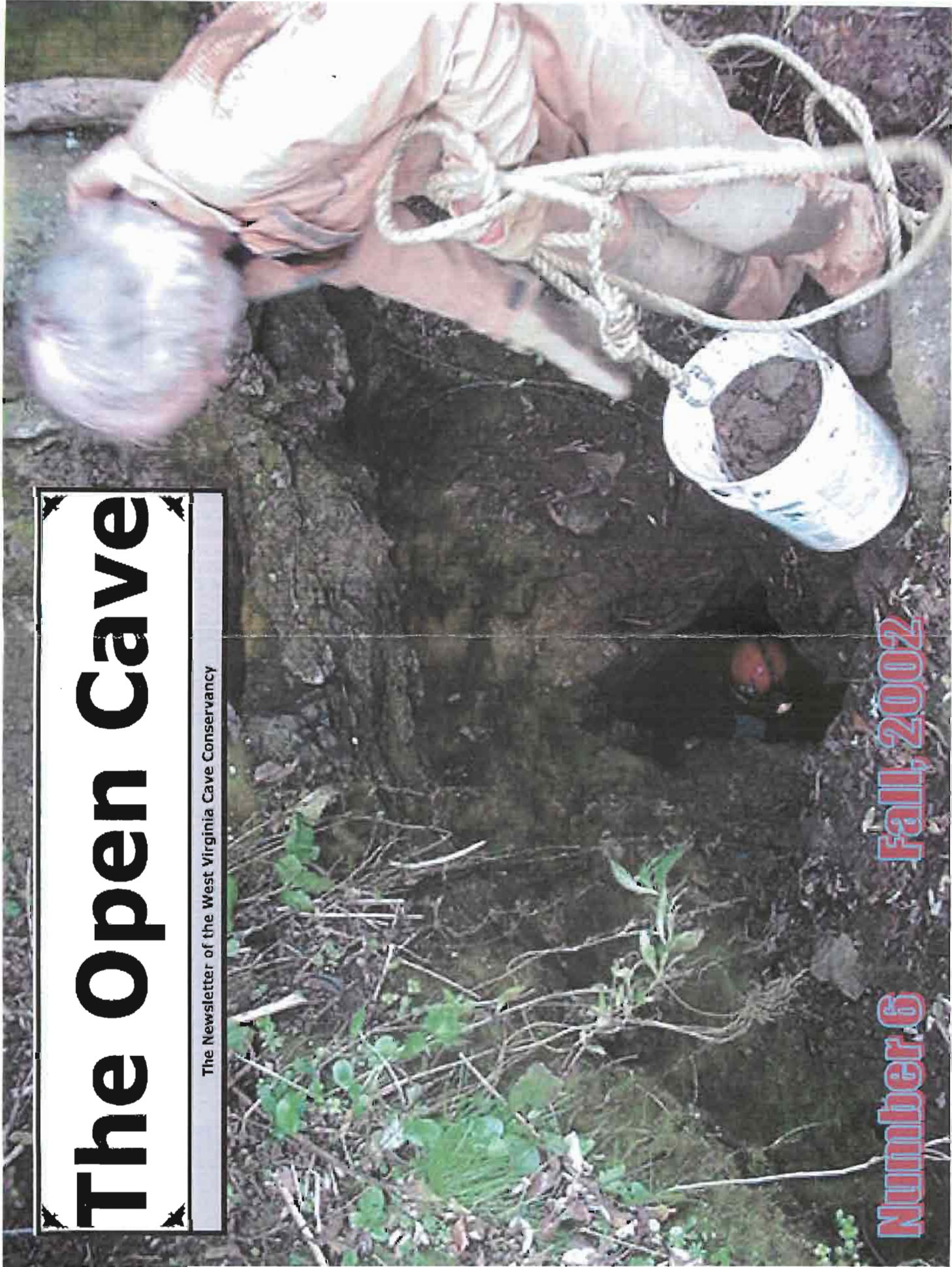


The Open Cave

The Newsletter of the West Virginia Cave Conservancy

Number 6
Fall, 2002



WEST VIRGINIA CAVE CONSERVANCY

"Preserving the cave and karst resources of West Virginia for future generations"

Number 6

Fall, 2002

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Note to Members: Annual memberships expire on anniversary date of initial membership. Be sure to check your address label for anniversary date. To renew, use membership application at back of newsletter.

This month's cover is a photo taken by Cliff Lindsay of Carl Droms working the bucket while Thom Harris digs inside the Persinger Entrance to Benedict's Cave.

Chairman's Column

First I want to take a moment to thank the outgoing president of the WVCC, Ed Swepston. He has done a great job since the beginning of this organization. His efforts and his vision have not gone unnoticed, and I want to thank him for all his work so far. It takes a lot of work to start an organization, and Ed, along with the other founders, has started something that I expect to see last as long as there are cavers in the Virginias.

For this first column, I just want to catch everyone up on what has been an exciting time for your West Virginia Cave Conservancy. First, we have a new board member since our last issue: Alex Sproul. We also have been quite active on the cave acquisition front. First, at the time of printing, we are about to gain ownership of our third property, the Persinger Entrance to Benedict's Cave. This cave is highlighted in two articles later in this newsletter, but we're all excited about this purchase.

We have also completely paid off the balance of our first purchase, the Lightner Entrance to McClung's Cave! Timing is good since we'll have this new project to work on, but it is exciting to have completed the fundraising for our first cave purchase.

Finally, and maybe the most exciting at

least for me, is that we have negotiated a lease of the new entrance to Maxwellton Sink Cave. Although this cave will not be open to everyone until we have an entrance constructed, it is exciting to think that we will once again have access to this gem. Special thanks to Dave Scott and his family and partners for working with us, and providing the project to make entry to this cave possible once again.

As the new year approaches, I anticipate some more projects to come our way. Of course this only happens with your help, so please keep your eyes and ears open for us, and keep us posted on possible projects or cave properties that come available in your caving area. We also need volunteers in committees, which you can read more about in this issue. And, of course we need your help through donations and membership. With a new cave property comes the need for funds. In response to the many requests, we have added credit card payment options to our membership options. Please check those to see if they are more convenient.

Finally, enjoy this issue of *The Open Cave!*

Jeff Bray - New President of WVCC *Bob Handley (Photo by Dave Scott)*

NSS# 31706RE/FE

Member of: Monroe County Cave Survey, WVACS, WVCC (Director), Editor of *The Mudslide*, newsletter of the Monroe County Cave Survey.

Previously a member of: Central Indiana Grotto, WVU Student Grotto - Chairman 4 yrs., Monroe County Cavers - Chairman 1 yr.

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Jeff's been caving for 16 years. He grew up in Indiana and started caving there when he was 13. He went to WVU and earned a BA Degree in Stage Management in Theatre and caved in West Virginia and a little in Virginia. After a few years in Blacksburg (and some time at Radford University), he returned to Morgantown to work on a Master's Degree in Geology. He plans to defend his karst-related thesis early this coming summer.

As a member and a Director of WVCC, he has been very active in fund raising and in running down leads on cave properties. He's been specially active at OTR, VAR, and at NSS Conventions setting up and manning WVCC booths and info tables.

He also has been the editor of most of our newsletters. He was the only WVCC director to attend the National Cave Management Symposium in Tucson, AZ in the Fall of 2001.

He has maintained contact with other cave conservancies and worked with landowners (both individuals and WV DNR) on potential cave property acquisitions.

Jeff was voted in to replace our retiring president, Ed Swepston, at the November 10, 2002 meeting.

Patience and Persistence

Bob Handley

Nobody told us buying cave properties would be easy – and it hasn't been. To this point anyway. It is getting better though – maybe experience is moderating our expectations. A positive, optimistic attitude sure helps. Optimism generally opens doors.

The WVCC BOD has been working on a number of properties, but until now we've said little about what's going on behind the scenes for fear we would queer a good deal. Now though we've decided to be more open and confide in our members so they have more of a chance to help. Please work with us though and not on your own. There are still some properties that are too sensitive to talk about.

We've had a signed sales contract on the five-acre Persinger lot for over a year now. It has been a long three years in the making but we hope to bag this one before years end (2002). This will give cavers access to almost 15 miles of great cave. Access into the cave through Persinger's is much, much better than through Benedicts Entrance which is a long, low water crawl.

The new entrance to Maxwellton Sink Cave is still shaky, but stabilization efforts will fix that (this time it's the breakdown that's shaky, not the deal). There are over ten miles of surveyed passage, but most of us believe there's a lot of virgin cave left in this one. There has been some talk of going back and trying to buy the sink again (the original cliff property). We're in a much stronger position to bargain now.

Bone Cave (Bone/Norman) 14.12 miles is still another purchase that's required patience – 4 years now. The property is still tied up in heirship litigation. This may be settled any day now – or in the next year or so? We made an offer on approximately 22 acres (deed is not clear as to number of acres) and agreed to pay for a survey. The property includes all of the quarry but no river front. It fronts on the Greenbrier River Trail.

Two other caves we're still working on are Cass and Bowden. A small cave in the Eastern Panhandle may be donated to us. We're working on several other Greenbrier County caves as possible conservation easements. Wish I could say more here – but these are too new.

All of our WVCC members are encouraged to keep BOD members up to date on your local possibilities. Please help us find potential caves that we can in some way acquire. Buy - lease - as a donation - as a conservation easement. Help save our caves.

Persinger's Entrance to Benedict's Cave (14.746 Miles of Passage/ 254 Feet Deep)

Bob Handley

Several years ago (1999 or 2000) a neighboring farmer (Varge Long) happened to mention that he and several others had purchased the Persinger property that lies to the east of the Greenbrier Valley Airport near Maxwelton, WV. I checked that out in the County Courthouse in Lewisburg and got the particulars (acreage, cost, restrictions, etc.). In talking with other local WVCC people, we concluded that the land was where the Persinger's Entrance was located. No one seemed entirely sure since the cave has been virtually forgotten since Bill Douty finished his Benedict's map many years ago. Bill Balfour, Charlie Maus, and others were called in to verify that the entrance was for sure Persinger's.

In 2001 sales efforts started to heat up and Varge wanted action on WVCC's part - to buy or not to buy. The BOD decided to buy 5 acres for \$40,000 (\$8,000/Ac. - other lots were \$10,000/Ac. In 2001 & \$12,000/Ac. In 2002). Varge and I staked out what we thought would be 5 acres and then Mike Corbit helped me run a suunto/tape survey of the staked area (the area turned out to be very close to 5 acres). The cave entrance was partially filled in and Varge didn't want us to open it up. It didn't belong to us yet.

I got a signed sales contract for the lot and then on the advice of our lawyer we have waited until we were sure of a clear title to proceed with the purchase.

Note: Persinger had sued in an attempt to regain title to his property. The Greenbrier County Circuit Judge ruled in favor of Long et al and then Persinger appealed to the WV Supreme Court of Appeals for a reversal. The Supreme Court refused to hear the case. Finally, the Circuit Judge's ruling now allows Long to sell the property with clear title. One of these days WVCC will get a cave property without so much hassle and delays - hope, hope.

Searching for Maxwelton Sink Cave—2002 Style

Jeff Bray

(NOTE: This article was written in, let's say, "real time." As the project progressed, so did this article, with portions being written both before and after the actual events. Please keep this in mind when reading this article, one year in the making! Contributing photographers: Jeff Bray, Bill Liebman, Dave Scott, and Vonny Droms.)

Maxwelton Sink Cave has eluded many since its closure in the early 1970s. Since the WVCC-attempted purchase had failed, the next attempts to get into the cave had to take place away from the original Cove Creek Entrance. Dave Scott has land that overlies the cave further to the south of the original entrance, so his property was targeted for the next attempts. Many digs were conducted from 2000 till 2002 at various locations on this property. One, costing over 1000 dollars that made use of a trackhoe from Union Concrete, still provided no cave, although it did have some airflow at one time.

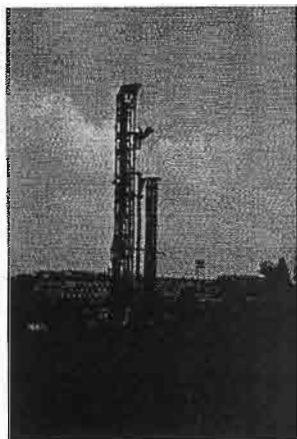
During the winter and spring of 2002, myself along with Dave Scott, Tom Malabad, Bill Liebman, and Ed Swepston conducted a series of three microgravity traverses (a geophysical



method that can identify minute changes in density) on a part of the property that, after being surveyed by Dave Scott from the Cove Creek Entrance to his property, seemed to overlie a section of cave called Heaven. This section of cave ended in breakdown, and by our best guesses and the help of some of the folks that had been in the cave for the original survey, was a passage with dimensions of about 10 feet by 10 feet. The three microgravity traverses each produced a 30- to 40- microgal anomaly (microgal is a unit of

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measurement of the earth's gravitational force) that could be correlated to each other. Bearings were also taken between the anomalies that seemed to match at a few points on the map along that passage. The decision was made to drill an exploratory well at a site along those anomalies to see if we would in fact intersect cave passage.



On July 24, 2002, Tuckwiller Drilling came out and performed the drilling. We expected to hit the cave between 60-100 feet, based on the anomaly and drill hole data from another nearby project. Good bedrock was hit at a depth of 15 feet, and a small void was hit at 30 feet. Then nothing. At 100 feet, we decided to go 20 more feet. At 105 feet, we hit a void that appeared small, then we stopped at 125 feet. We then sent a camera down the hole to see what we had. The void at 30 feet appeared to possibly be a small window to a cave passage. We continued down, and at 105 feet, we hit the larger void. But instead of going back into limestone like we originally thought, we actually drilled down a wall, with rock on one side of the borehole, and void on another, for most of the next 20 feet. It appeared we had found good cave passage, with airflow traveling down the hole, and flowing water, about an inch deep and clear at the bottom. Also, the rock dust appeared to have been sucked into the cave.

A video camera was sent down the hole the following day to attempt to figure out the direction of water flow and get some scale, as well as to see if there was some passage down there. The scale ideas didn't work, but I believe I was able to make out a rock that appeared to be a 3-foot-tall piece of breakdown. Using this, I estimate the passage to be about 10 feet in height, where it is traversable, and about 6 feet in width. Water was found to be flowing north, into the hillside. We appeared to have drilled in the eastern wall. Carroll Bassett and Dave Cowan helped with the video shoot, and we came away with a nice video.



Dave Scott, Bill Liebman, and myself continued the microgravity traverses on August 12 and 13, 2002. We conducted two more—both down in the sinkhole below the well. Both of these lines produced anomalies as well, with the line higher on the hill producing roughly a 10-microgal anomaly, and the lower line producing about a 15-microgal anomaly. I believe this is the lower passage seen in the well, and the higher passage has ended in breakdown in the hill. I also think the sinkhole we ran the lines through is filled with breakdown—I don't suspect much solid rock. The test for these lines will be conducted on August 14, 2002 when we bring back the trackhoe from Union Concrete to dig us another hole, about 200 feet north of the first one from the Spring of 2001.

The trackhoe dug for one and a half days, leaving behind a deep hole (about 20 feet deep and 20 feet in diameter), with two good blowholes at the bottom. One blowhole was surrounded on three



sides by very solid rock, but the other blowhole, on the north side of the pit, was all breakdown, with cave formations, and moist and sometimes wet rocks. The rock was dipping more



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this direction also. It is now thought (at least by me) that the cave lies about 10 feet down and maybe about 5 feet over (south) from this blowhole. After a meeting between myself, Dave Scott, and Bill Liebman, we decided to commence digging on site Thursday, August 22, 2002 and Friday the 23rd. We'll be using a D-8 bulldozer and the excavator, and I think if we move the pit over 5 feet, terrace it, and dig down 10 feet, we'll be in something. The hole was now 40 feet deep, and roughly 30 feet in diameter.

Also worth noting, when we got these two blowholes in our new pit, all the air that was blowing in the old trackhoe dig and the well stopped blowing. Also, an air trace was done from the well to the pit and it took eight minutes for the positive result.



The dig continued by hand after the trackhoe and dozer left. Work was started before OTR with various high points along the way. A number of people, mostly the Monroe County Cave Survey crowd along with Carroll Bassett, Dave Scott, Dave Cowan, and others, also helped out during this time. We began to use the straw-poppers to blast the tighter spots, with the intention of making the passage big enough for the larger folks in the group to fit. A pit was found near the hole at the base of the open pit



(now the entrance since there actually is some cave there). This pit went down about 15 to 20 feet, but while more work was being done on this, a slot leading to more cave was found by Chris Printz, and opened (found on September 14-15, 2002). This continued, so the slot (now called the Printz Pinch) was enlarged so everyone could fit (September 21).

On September 21 and 22, a great deal of rain came through the area and caused a major rock/mud collapse in the open pit. The group came out of the cave on the 22nd just before a great deal of mud collapsed near the entrance. This ended work for a few days.

Carroll Bassett along with Dave Scott cleared out the mess that had fallen on September 29, and the two, along with myself, finished cleaning the open pit on the 30th, intending to also construct a lean-to which would help keep more debris from scaring diggers. We went into the cave, and once inside, noticed that things were not too bad. We brought the drill in the cave to the last spot we had left the week prior, and set off 3 straw-poppers, later dubbed "the money shot." This was very productive, and opened this slot large enough for all of us to fit. Carroll dropped down, and found a hole that continued down. He slithered down it, noticed a formation. I followed and soon the two of us were in a comfortable room (only comfy due to size, not lack of breakdown). We heard a stream flowing in the distance, and looked over a mud mound and saw a large passage (possibly 15 feet tall, 7 feet wide) below us! We had intersected a passageway with large breakdown and a stream, via the passage's ceiling! My light was going out, and we needed some vertical gear, so we left. We called Dave Scott (who had to leave for a while) and told him to plan to cave the next night after work.



So on the evening of October 1, 2002, Dave Scott, Carroll Bassett, and myself entered the cave around 7:30 pm to rig a cable ladder and descend into the large passage below. At about 8 pm, while Carroll was climbing down through the money shot, a large rock (about 1000 lbs.) came down on his arm, pinning his right side, and cutting off circulation to his arm. A rescue then commenced. Dave stayed with

Carroll and I went out to get help and coordinate. Bill Balfour, Daryl Trusty, and others helped use two car jacks, under Carroll's direction, to hoist the rock enough to free Carroll's arm, and he was able to come out on his own. But this incident did end the exploration for the day; still no one had made it into the large passage below.

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Digging then continued to enlarge the entrance, and then to take out any rocks that may be a danger, even if it was questionable. On one of these days, Saturday, October 12, 2002, a large group was digging. Carroll Bassett was outside with Tim Bleech, Pam Tegelman, and Vonny Droms. Dave Cowan and myself were digging inside the entrance, making it a hands-and-knees crawl. Dave Scott, Tom Malabad, and John Kerr were inside digging and securing. The latter three decided to attempt to drop into the larger passage. Being a smaller team, they were able to squeeze through the spot that was thought to require a cable ladder. It was tough to get back up, but they made it back up. But before coming up at around 2 pm, they were able to confirm that this was in fact the Heaven Passage in Maxwellton Sink Cave. They spotted footprints, survey stations (S167 and S180), and the well that we had dug! Everyone was excited, and we stabilized the entrance after they had come out and celebrated.

A meeting took place on the night of the 13th to figure out what was next. We decided that a project would be set up, a lease with the WVCC would be written, and that we would assess our current entrance, stabilize, and construct the culvert entrance. While we were talking about these, the following day on the 14th, we decided to try to learn more about the void in the well at 30 feet down. We got more video, much better video, and have decided to send the small group back into the cave once more to see if they see the well in any upper leads in the cave, and maybe survey any upper leads, tying into the well inside the cave. This is to happen on Monday, October 21, 2002.



This actually didn't happen until Saturday, November 25, 2002 due to some technical delays. Tom Malabad, Tim Bleech, and Dave Scott entered the cave with Carroll Bassett, Dave Cowan, Pam Tegelman, Kristen Matak, Bill Balfour, and Jeff Bray on the surface. Thanks to a mud plug at the 42-foot mark in the well, we could not drop a phone line all the way to the bottom passage as planned. But we did drop it into the 30-foot void, along with a strobe light built by Carroll, and a loud and annoying device we borrowed from Ed Swepston that we called the mine screamer. The group ended up surveying 500 feet, starting at the end of a higher gypsum passage and surveying all the way out. No connection was made to the well in a higher void, but good data was collected and correlated with the microgravity lines and surface survey to give us definite locations for all the various surveys done with this project. They also took pictures of the scary rocks in the breakdown section. One section of the passage on the way in to the main cave had filled with some smaller rocks, but no catastrophic collapse had taken place, despite some

colder temperatures that had taken over the area recently. The headwall still looked good too.

The next day Dave Cowan brought his backhoe over so that we would have it ready to possibly dig down the well to the 30-foot void during the winter. We are considering the lower void and pit entrance closed for now, except for one trip into the upper room that was found before the Printz Pinch to see how close it is to the upper gypsum passage.

The group took Thanksgiving off, and digging with Dave's backhoe commenced on Monday, December 2 and lasted pretty much 3 days. We dug down and exposed pinnacles of limestone with deeper pits of dirt and clay. The well, now plugged by a contraption

constructed by Dave (which later proceeded to find its way down the well when the rope broke, joining a long metal rod which was used to unplug the mud plug at the 42-foot depth which had fallen the day before), was found to have actually intersected bedrock in one of the pinnacles, at about 5-6 feet in depth. There is a deeper pit of clay about 7-10 feet below the surface. Digging will now continue during the winter here. I'm sure the folks working up in the airport's control tower will be glad to hear this news, since I'm sure we've provided many minutes of entertainment for them since we started.



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It's now been almost a year since that very frozen day that Tom Malabad and myself stayed on the property freezing our, well, you know, off until midnight, collecting microgravity data. But it seems as if that late evening, and all the other long days and nights put in by many will finally pay off. Special thanks go out to the following for all their help: Tom Malabad, Dave Scott, Tim Bleech, Chris Printz, Carroll Bassett, Dave Cowan, John Kerr, Bill Balfour, Bill Liebman, Pam Tegelman, Pat Smith and many others, including others from the Monroe County Cave Survey who have taken time from our normal projects in Monroe County to work on this. Stay tuned for updates as the crew continues to make this cave accessible for everyone again.

More "Old-But-New" Cave in the Greenbrier Valley
Jeff Bray (Photos by Cliff Lindsay)



It has been quite a fall season for the large contact caves in the savanna of Greenbrier County. First, the many years of activity involving Maxwellton Sink Cave came to a culminating point in October with the verification of our dig joining known passage in the cave. This gives cavers a new entrance to this system, which will undoubtedly grow as soon as exploration resumes.

Not more than a month later, the West Virginia Cave Conservancy (WVCC) got word that our possible deal involving the Persinger Entrance to Benedict's Cave was able to commence. Benedict's Cave is another of the great contact caves and is located adjacent to Maxwellton Sink Cave. Although it is unclear, depending on who you talk to, as to whether this two-entrance cave has seen traffic lately, it is clear that there has not been much, if any, traffic since the very early 80s. The cave was mapped to a length of around 14 miles. The Benedict Entrance is a nasty crawlway that, according to those that have suffered through it, is about 1000 feet long. The Persinger Entrance, which is the entrance the WVCC has the contract on, was supposedly kind of tight, but quickly opened up into large trunk passage. We've all heard that before, but was it to be true this time?

Once the WVCC received word that our dealings could commence on the five-acre property containing the Persinger Entrance, it was in the best interest of the conservancy to find out that we could still get into the cave we were buying. So a dig consisting of Ed Swepston, Bill Balfour, and the Lindsays started over the first weekend of November, 2002. The digging was not only happening on the sink containing the entrance, but also on a second sink that had a blowhole. They worked, but were unable to enter at the end of the day, thinking that maybe one more day of digging would open up one of the holes. So the following weekend, Bill Balfour and the Lindsays returned with myself, Kristen Matak, Tim Bleech, Thom Harris, Carl Droms, and Bill Jones to continue the digging efforts. The group split to work on both holes.

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The sinkhole containing the original Persinger Entrance was mostly just filled with loose material: rock, cobbles, bones, sticks, and anything else the small stream could take in with it. This dig was mostly a bucket brigade of sorts, with someone digging in cave, while the others took turns pulling the bucket from the hole and dumping it. Eventually, this entrance was lowered considerably and work continued ahead, where the passage became extremely tight (must have been that tight spot mentioned earlier). I was off at the other dig at this time, but was happy to hear that Thom was at the head of the dig some. This meant that if he was able to get the passage opened, that I would be able to join them in the cave as well since we are of the similar "chesty" build.

The other dig started off looking like it would be the first to go. It was a slot that dropped down and got tighter as it dropped. The thought was that if we could dig the floor down, we could slip in. As the digging continued, this thought did not turn to a realization, and the need for microblasting reared its head. It'll be an entrance, just not that day.

Back at the true entrance, digging continued. Tim, the smallest of the group, was able to squeeze through the pinch and get to the other side. He reported that the passage got larger and that there was a stream and at least hands-and-knees crawl ahead. So this appeared to be the tight spot, as reported. Tim dug from the inside, and the others continued work on the outside.



Kristen and Carl spent a great deal of time filling buckets with the material that Tim would pass up to them. This continued until finally it was getting to be later in the day. We were all going to the WVCC banquet later that evening, so we wanted to try one push through with all of us to see if we could see the cave beyond. We knew Tim could do it, and thought that the rest of us probably could. I went first, and was able to squeeze through without much trouble at all. Just had to get the correct orientation. Kristen followed, then came Carl, Thom, and Tim (the rest that had been digging had left earlier in the day). We then crawled ahead and surprise, less than five minutes from the entrance was large trunk passage, just as reported! We explored for about 20 minutes, enjoying the easy passage that was near what had been called the Waiting Room on the original map. We then turned toward the entrance to get back to the banquet on time. The way out was a little tougher since the floor was sloping up slightly at the tight spot, but still was not too much trouble.

So probably for the first time I was able to say that a description of a cave given by a caver actually fit what was there! Good job Balfour! One can get from the entrance to big trunk passage in about 5 minutes. Plus, we were hoping to be in cave by day's end, and we were. The most exciting part of this is that roughly 24 miles of cave that has been closed or at least not easily accessed, has been reopened in one month's time! That's a pretty good start to a great caving season ahead!

**New Board Member: Alex Sproul
NSS 8086RL/FE**



E-mail: imo@caves.org
Tel. 540-377-6364

My first caving experience was with my Explorer Scout post in Staunton, VA in the late '50's. We went to Breathing Cave (Bath Co, VA), and the bug really bit me right away. My friends and I spent a lot of time in Bath and Highland Counties, and did a lot of exploring in Butler cave (before it became a BCCS exclusive). Some time later, I discovered the NSS, but didn't join until I was in college and could afford it (1964).

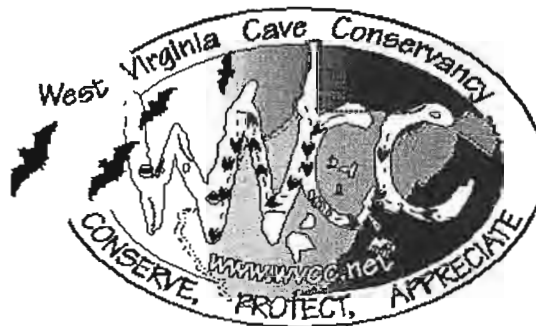
A 27-year career with the U.S. Army afforded me the opportunity to cave all over the U.S. and the world. I have been underground in Mexico, South America, Europe, and the Far East. In the early '70's, I participated in a lot of the early TAG caving, exploring and mapping Fern Cave, Long Island Saltpetre, and many others.

I have been a member and officer in the Baltimore, Huntsville, and Cascade Grottos. A member of the Richmond Area Speleological Society (RASS) since 1976, I have served as its Chairman, President, and Grants Chair for many years, and am currently an honorary life member. I am a founding member and current president of Virginia Karstlands, Inc., a caving endowment.

I am a Life Member and Fellow of the NSS. I founded the Video Section in 1988 and have since then served as a member of the NSS Audio-Visual Committee and Chair of the NSS Video Salon.

When I returned from Europe in the early '80's with lots of exotic caving gear, the result was the formation of Inner Mountain Outfitters, probably the largest vendor of caving equipment in the U.S. and my second career.

I am a charter and life member of the WVCC. Now that I have returned to Appalachia, I look forward to helping preserve and conserve the caving environment for future generations.



Committee Announcements and a Call for Volunteers

There are a number of committees that have been in existence that you may not be aware of. The Advisory Board is a group that is formed to provide insight and advice on a range of topics that could possibly arise when dealing with our properties, or prospective properties. We hope that this board will be made up of not just cavers with expertise in particular areas and topics, but also of representatives from a variety of agencies that we work with, or may work with in the future. Right now, Bill Balfour, JC Fisher, and Tina Hall are on this board.

An Acquisitions Committee was recently formed to help solicit properties in other caving regions in the Virginias that we may not be able to find. Frank Abbato and Doug Medville make up this committee at the moment. The hope is to find folks that have an interest in hunting for properties that may come available, and have an interest in representing the conservancy in areas where representation may not be as strong. If you have some time and some interest in this committee, please contact us.

Of course, we're always looking for folks to help out at the WVCC booth at the various events throughout the year. Check the website for details on which events we will be attending and feel free to help out!

Check Your Mailing Label! *Ruth Williams*

Take a minute and look at your mailing label. Printed on it is your class of membership along with an expiration date. The asterisk on your label designates that you are a Charter Member. At the November Board of Directors meeting, it was approved to change the membership dues renewal from the June expiration date to a renewal date of when you joined and / or last paid your dues. WVCC is involved in some exciting projects right now and, if you would, fill out the Membership form enclosed in this newsletter and renew your membership. You can also upgrade to a Lifetime Member and forget about all these expiration dates.

WVCC Interactive Web Site *Charlie Williams*

For the latest information about WVCC take a look at the revised interactive WVCC web site (www.wvcc.net). This site will provide the latest news, related links, articles and photos for WVCC events. If you are planning on attending one of our events, be sure to check the calendar for the latest times and location. A discussion forum has been recently added to allow members a way to exchange ideas, it's easy to sign up and use. Exciting future enhancements are planned. Every registered WVCC member will be able to access a members-only area where slightly more sensitive organization information may be exchanged. A document repository will allow members to upload and view organization information, works in progress, detailed information about current cave projects. Soon you will even be able to check your membership status and make donations or renewals online. The WVCC web site is changing every day, so check back often for information updates and new features.



P.O. Box 243
Frankford, WV 24938

Membership Application

New Membership Renewal

- Regular Membership (\$15.00 per year)
- Family Membership (\$25.00 per year)
- Institutional Membership (\$50.00 per year)
- Lifetime Membership (\$250.00 one time fee)
- Benefactor Membership (\$1000 minimum)
- Sustaining Membership (See below**)

***Sustaining Membership is \$65 per year for 5 years. Upon completing this, you will be a Lifetime Member. Authorizing a recurring credit card transaction below can facilitate payment.*

In addition to dues, I would like to make the following donation to support the work of WVCC.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <u>Amount</u> | <u>Frequency</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single donation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Annually |

Method of Payment

- Cash Check Visa MasterCard

Make check payable to **WVCC** and return this form to:
WVCC
PO Box 243
Frankford, WV 24938

Credit Card Authorization

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Signature: _____

(By signing, you authorize the West Virginia Cave Conservancy to charge your account for the amount, frequency, and duration indicated above.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone No: _____

Email Address: _____

Caving Affiliations: _____

NSS Number if member: _____

WVCC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, and all donations are tax deductible.