

West Virginia Cave Conservancy

PO Box 243
Frankford, WV 24938
December, 2020



Dear Members,

It's been a rough year for most of us but I have mostly good news on the state of WVCC. I will start with the acquisitions we have made this year.

Lost Cave with over 3,700 ft. of passage for \$5,000 + closing costs. Much more info can be found on our website, wvcc.net.

Burnholt Cave (aka Fullen Cave) with 3,700 ft. of passage in Greenbrier County. This is strictly a management situation given that the owners have agreed to allow access in return for the gating of the cave which we have done. Had we not gated the cave the owner was about to bulldoze the entrance shut. The Board felt it was worth the effort and expense, approximately \$600, to save the cave. If the property sells hopefully the new owners will respect this agreement. More info will be on the website soon.

Harr #2 in Tucker County, WV with approximately 1,000 ft. of pristine highly decorated walking passage. This is a gift from the owner, R. Coleman, who will also serve as Manager. I expect the closing to be before year end. More info will be posted on the WVCC site soon.

Patton Cave located in Monroe County. We are in the process of drawing up a management agreement with the owners who have just put the majority of their historic farm in permanent conservation including the cave. As details are worked out we will post to our website the requirements for visitation to the cave. Patton is a very significant cave and we are fortunate to have been given the opportunity of management.

Norman Cave Management. We have entered into an agreement with the owners to manage the cave indefinitely. This portends well for us in that we may eventually own the entrance. Info will be posted on the website soon.

Preserve Kiosks: We have also started to replace some of our deteriorating kiosks with aluminum signs which will be more durable weather wise and less vulnerable to vandalism. Kiosks that are still in good shape will have the new signs attached. The cost of this project was approximately \$2,000 and most of the signs have been installed, the rest will be done soon.

WVCC Website. Given that our website was sadly lacking in many ways, a major effort has been made to bring it up to modern standards as well presenting more complete information on our preserves etc. Nikki Fox volunteered to take on this upgrade project for which we owe her a very big thanks. If she asks you for material, please lend a hand so that this important upgrade can be completed in a timely fashion. Besides posting the information I mentioned above, we will be adding a "History of WVCC" in the near future. If you have material that you think should be published, please let us know.

Finances: WVCC is in very good financial shape, with no outstanding debt and adequate funds to be able to make a down payment on new preserves while more robust fundraising efforts are made to avoid "the one that got away" syndrome. Thanks to those who have supported us in response to some of the recent acquisitions.

Donors: The Conservancy continues to receive donations to support its acquisition program. Following this letter is a list of donors in 2019 and through November 2020. All donations not designated for a specific purpose are placed in the Conservancy's Cave Acquisition Fund.

Election: 2021 will be an election year for board members so I ask that those willing to help with this work step up to the plate. Our board is aging, and the future of this organization will be guaranteed by an infusion of new blood.

In closing I'd like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a safe New Year!

Best,

Carroll Bassett

WVCC President

Here are WVCC donors during 2019 and thorough November 2020:

2019 Donors

Amazon Smile
Robert Ashbrook
Paul and Tamara Atkinson
William Balfour
Baltimore Grotto
Bassett Foundation
Mitchell Berger
Christopher Boyer
Cave Conservancy Foundation
Cave Conservancy of the Virginias
Central NJ Grotto
Mike Crockett
George Dasher
June and Delbert Dawson
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Daniel Doctor
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Nikki Fox
William & Peri Frantz
William & Michele Good
Elizabeth Gould
Greater Cincinnati Grotto
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Kimberly Lucero
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William Rudderow
Edward Saugstad
Sligo Grotto of the NSS'
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2020 Donors

Amazon Smile
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Edgard Bertaut
Blue Ridge Grotto
Kristin Brace
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Larry & Klave Lilly
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David J. Newson
Northern New Jersey
Grotto of the NSS
Peter Penczer
William C. Rudderow
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