



Announcements

- ❖ **2020 Fall TAG Cave-in T-shirts on sale now:** “The One That Didn’t Go”. All proceeds go to benefit the caving community. Here is the link to order: <https://www.dogwoodcitygrotto.org/2020-tshirt>. Approximately 20 shirts are left, are disappearing fast, and only a few left of each size. ORDER YOURS TODAY!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ❖ **June 11-19: NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar** – This is a *regional* level 1 seminar at Camp Pinnacle, Voorheesville, NY. For more information see: ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2021-level-1-regional-upstate-ny.
- ❖ **July 24-30: NSS Convention** – Virtual Event see nss2021.caves.org for the latest information.
- ❖ **July 9-11: Camp out at the SCCi’s Sinking Cove Cave Preserve** - For more information, [see DCG’s calendar](#).
- ❖ **July 17-18: NSS Work Weekend**
- ❖ **August 3: DCG Regular Meeting - Auction!**
- ❖ **August 8: DCG Caving Trip: [Intermediate Horizontal Trip to Ulla](#)**.
- ❖ **August 13: [Karst-O-Rama 2021](#)**
- ❖ **August 21-22: NSS Work Weekend**
- ❖ **August 27th-Sept 4th: NCRC Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar** – This is a national level seminar at Camp Pinnacle, Voorheesville, NY. For more information see: ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2021-national-seminar.
- ❖ **September 18-19: NSS Work Weekend**
- ❖ **October 7-10: 2021 Fall TAG CaveIn (Let’s Go Caving!)**
- ❖ **October 16-17: NSS Work Weekend**
- ❖ **November 13-14: NSS Work Weekend**
- ❖ **December 11-12: NSS Work Weekend**

VITAL INFORMATION

- ❖ **Trip Leaders Needed:** Trip Leaders organize caving adventures while keeping fun, safety, and conservation in mind. Everyone is qualified. If you have a trip in mind, contact the EC and we will help you with the needed information to get your trip on DCG's website. See contact information under **DCG Contacts**.
- ❖ **Training Program:** DCG offers a vertical training program at the discretion of the Program Coordinator, Darien Dopp, classes are held tentatively every two months. Upon completion, you will be able to experience a training trip to a nearby cliff. **NO Walk-Ins:** You must sign up to attend, and there is a cost of \$50 to participate. Please contact Darien Dopp to "learn the ropes" of this exciting program.
- ❖ **Inner Mountain Outfitters:** Need quality caving gear? Seeking help on where to start? What to get? Inner Mountain Outfitters (IMO) is offering 5% off your first order as new grotto members. For more information, check out their website: www.innermountainoutfitters.com, make an appointment to visit them at their store in Chattanooga, TN or see them at fun caving festivals. Give them a call at (423) 406-2255 or email mike@elevatedclimbing.com. Mention that you saw this announcement in the Hole Story.
- ❖ **DCG Library:** We have numerous publications from around the world including guidebooks, maps, and cave descriptions available to our members. The Library is near the heart of TAG on route to many popular caves at the house of Andy Zellner (2859 County Road 98, Bridgeport, AL). Anytime you would like to visit, contact Andy at library@dogwoodcitygrotto.org.
- ❖ **On Rope 1:** Have questions about what to buy to get On Rope? Or need kneepads, elbow pads, a helmet, lights and/or a backpack to get started in caving? Call On Rope 1 today at (423) 344-4716 or email them at sales@onrope1.com. New NSS Members get 10 percent off.
- ❖ **Rental Gear:** The DCG has rental gear available for Current Members on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are \$5.00 per helmet/light combination per weekend. The rental business is continually active, so please reserve them well in advance of your needed date. Contact Nancy Aulenbach or Jon Zetterberg.
- ❖ **Call for Presentations:** Have you done something cool you would like to talk about? Done something not-so-cool worth talking about? Know something about bats that we might not know about? Have you invented some new caving equipment? If this sounds like you, get in touch!
- ❖ **SCCi:** The SCCi's mission is to conserve caves to preserve areas of scenic beauty, provide recreational access and opportunities, protect cultural and biological resources, and support scientific research. If you are not an SCCi member, you should join—regular membership costs just \$35 annually, and if you are already an SCCi member, please consider increasing your donation level. Please see the website for more information at www.scci.org, contact: info@scci.org.
- ❖ **National Speleological Society (NSS):** With 9,000 members and 250 grottos, the National Speleological Society is the largest organization in the world working every day to further the exploration, study, and protection of caves and their environments, and foster fellowship among cavers. For over 70 years, the NSS has promoted safe and responsible caving practices, effective cave and karst management, speleology, and conservation. Members are bound together by their love of caves and caving and their desire to learn about the underground wilderness and protect it for future generations. NSS membership offers worldwide caver camaraderie, networking opportunities, and access to information about discoveries and developments in all things caving. Become a member for as low as \$40 a year or become a lifetime member for a one-time payment of \$1000. <https://caves.org/>
- ❖ **Georgia Speleological Survey:** The Georgia Speleological Survey (GSS) is an archival organization for the exploration, documentation, and study of caves in Georgia. The GSS is an internal organization

of the National Speleological Society (NSS). It maintains a record of caves and karst features in Georgia, and there are currently over 650 caves documented in Georgia by the GSS. You can become a member of the GSS for \$15 per year. This includes an annual publication the GSS Bulletin along with a data listing of Georgia caves. The GSS also publishes a book of maps of caves in Georgia, available on CD, \$10. See their website at www.caves.org/survey/gss.

- ❖ **Alabama Cave Survey:** Interested in joining the Alabama Cave Survey (ACS)? We are serious about our stewardship of the delicate underground environment and therefore the cave/location resources are proprietary and provided to members only. You must be an NSS member for at least two years prior and submit references from two current ACS members OR you must be an NSS member for at least one year and submit references from three current ACS members. ACS members must maintain their NSS membership to remain active and accounts are personal and NOT to be shared with any other individual. Dues are \$10/year and are renewable every April, regardless of when you join. For more information, please contact us at membership@alabamacavesurvey.org
- ❖ **Tennessee Cave Survey:** The Tennessee Cave Survey (TCS) is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS) committed to the discovery, exploration, survey, and mapping of the caves of Tennessee and to systematically collect, organize, maintain both information and cave maps of these caves. TCS relies almost exclusively on the volunteer participation of its caver members to generate these data and cave maps. Consequently, TCS will only share this information with approved members. Visit www.subworks.com/tcs/ to find out how you can join.
- ❖ **Georgia Underground:** The Georgia Underground is the Dogwood City Grotto's flagship publication. This magazine features full color covers on high-grade coated paper. The Georgia Underground is the proud winner of many prestigious awards for caving publications. Expect to see unusual art photography, caving stories including fiction and non-fiction, poetry, drawings, premier cave maps, and exploration tales from around the globe. Please contact the EC for more information (see contact info in section **DCG Contacts**).
- ❖ **Closed Cave List & Access Information:** Many classic TAG caves have closed recently. Visiting a closed cave could lead to prosecution and heavy fines. Andy Zellner publishes the latest access information at our website, dogwoodcitygrotto.org/ClosedCaveList
- ❖ **Georgia WRD License:** The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR) now requires at least a WRD license (other licenses are available to this same effect) to visit Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA) where there are many wonderful caves (Petty John's, Ellison's, Ulla, etc.). Please see prices listed at license.gooutdoorsgeorgia.com after you create an account.

Bluff River Cave Excursion

By Joe Brown

I'd never been to Bluff River Cave, but I'd heard it's an easy beginner cave. I led a trip of 11 there, after getting some parking & route-finding instructions from Andy Zellner. We found the parking spot easily enough, but overshot the entrance by 1/3 mile after two different GPS units disagreed on the coordinates. After taking a snack & picture break, we 11 intrepid souls braved one of the most treacherous muddy climb-downs I've EVER encountered, and the cave was basically an instant hit with everyone! We made good time to the back of the cave, even with all the pictures that were taken. We found the formation room at the back, and we were all...awestruck. Such a gift from Mother Nature! We headed back out, and some of us even avoided the muddy slope at the entrance! We found an easy hike back down to the river bed, back to the cars, and ultimately had dinner in Scottsboro. Thanks everyone for a fun trip!

Those present included:

Joe Brown William	Andrew Davidson Terre Davidson	Joseph Chapman
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Carnright Nik Gardner	Elek Kosma	Lauren Breck Eric Morrisey
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Memorial Day Weekend at Sinking Cove

From Marion Akers

This trip report is too large to include verbatim in the Hole Story, but may be accessed [here](#).

Series: Safe Caving

By Joe Brown

The excerpt below is taken from the [guide released by the NSS](#), “A Guide to Responsible Caving.” It answers the question, “What should you bring when you go caving?”

Lights

Each person should carry at least three independent sources of light, and more batteries than you think you’ll need. Mount the primary light on your helmet, so that you automatically have light wherever you face, leaving your hands free to climb, or to catch a slip or stumble. The second and third light sources must also ride on your helmet when needed and be suitable as primary sources. Because of their energy efficiency and reliable bulbs, choose headlamps that use LEDs. Candles and glow sticks have never been reliable or even adequate sources of light.

When you stop to rest or eat, conserve batteries by only using a small ancillary light or minimizing the beam on your main light.



Helmet

Your helmet provides critical protection for your head and a mount for your lights. Wear a helmet designed for rock climbing or caving, and look for the sticker that indicates it meets standards of the UIAA (Union Internationale des Associations d’Alpinisme) or of the European Committee for Standardization (“CE”) equivalent. Other types of helmets will not provide adequate and continuing impact protection from falls and falling objects typical of caving. Adjust the fit and buckle the chin strap to keep it firmly in place.

Other equipment

Cavers also carry or use these items underground:

- Gloves to keep hands warm and minimize cuts and scrapes. Gardening or thick rubber gloves are generally adequate.
- A large, plastic trash or leaf bag, carried for quick retrieval. Wearing it (make a hole for your head or face) can help prevent hypothermia, or keep you dry.
- Knee pads and elbow pads.
- Food sufficient for the length of the trip, and an extra amount in case the trip takes longer than expected.
- Drinking water.
- An extra layer of clothing, such as a long underwear top or sweater, for long periods of inactivity.
- A durable container for human wastes. Pack it out!
- Pencil and (waterproof) paper, protected from water.
- A small, strong, lightweight pack, made from a durable synthetic fabric. Using waterproof containers in the pack will help keep items dry.

Position	Name	Cell	Email
Chair	Joe Brown	404-903-8484	chair@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Vice-Chair	Lisa Whitlaw	404-216-3050	vice@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Treasurer	Roger Olmsted	678-984-7010	treasurer@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Recording Secretary	Alex Lambie	470-244-4732	recording@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Corresponding Secretary	Miki Manning	863-602-0869	corresponding@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Public Relations	Anna Pearce	815-200-5129	public@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
GU Editor			gueditor@dogwoodcitygrotto.org

Appointed Positions 2021			
Position	Name	Cell	Email
2021 Cave-In Chair	Lisa Andrews	770-235-3474	tagfallcavein@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
HS Editor	Chair		holestory@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Librarian	Andy Zellner	678-315-8490	
Training Coordinator	Darien Dopp	770-301-8228	kvcrawler@yahoo.com
Trip Coordinator	Chair		ec@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Webmaster/Technology	Brad Long	404-372-9712	webmaster@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Rental Gear (NE)	Nancy Aulenbach	770-279-7674	flittermice@bellsouth.net
Rental Gear (NW)	Joe Brown	404-903-8484	chair@dogwoodcitygrotto.org

Cave-In Advisory Board 2021		caveinboard@dogwoodcitygrotto.org	
2021 Cave-In Chair	Lisa Andrews	770-235-3474	cavein@dogwoodcitygrotto.org
Expires 2022	Matt Blake	770-861-3412	aptechmatt@yahoo.com
Expires 2023	Julie Schenck-Brown	256-599-2211	jeschenck@hotmail.com
Expires 2023	Jeff Martin	770-653-4435	imogearguy@gmail.com
Expires 2021	Tamara Lesage	423-605-9324	tamaralesage@epbfi.com

For any inclusions, omissions or errors, please e-mail the editor at holestory@dogwoodcitygrotto.org

Dogwood City Grotto, Inc. PO Box 417, Decatur, GA 30031-0417