

SERA Newsletter

Southeastern Regional Association of Grottos

Volume 7

April 1999

In This Issue:

- * *1998 Winter Business Meeting, Huntsville, AL*
- * *Larry Blair's Historical Background of the Francis McKinney Award*
- * *The Work at Hubbards Cave Continues, 1998*
- * *Spotlight's on: CACA, Caving beneath the sinkhole plain, Campaign, Tennessee*
- * *Updated list of SERA organization contacts*
- * *Yell Cave Fencing*

The SERA Newsletter is published twice a year by the Southeastern Regional Association of Grottos of the National Speleological Society and is distributed freely to member organizations. Subscriptions for individuals or organizations not within the recognized SERA geographic area (unless swapped) are \$3.00/yr. Material submitted for publication and request for subscriptions (please send a check or money order) should be submitted to:

Editor, SERA Newsletter
c/o Don Hunter
157 Madison Oaks Drive
Colbert, GA 30628

Comments or opinions expressed within the newsletter are not necessarily those of the NSS or SERA but are those of the author.

WELCOME

Welcome to this edition of the SERA Newsletter. Special thanks go out to Larry O. Blair for contributing, as a reprint from the Journal of Spelean History, his "Historical Background of the Francis McKinney Award." This article provides a look into the life and death of Francis, well known to many of SERA's old-timers, but a relative unknown to many of the newer generation. The award is considered SERA's highest honor and is cherished by those who receive it.

This issue also contains a summary of the 1998 Winter Business Meeting, held last March in Huntsville, Alabama, as well as features on the continuing clean-up efforts at Hubbards Cave, TN, the gating of Yell Cave, TN and a spotlight on the Campaign Area Caving Association (CACA).

In addition to these features, you will also find the updated list of SERA organizations, surveys and project groups, with contacts, as well as nomination forms for the four SERA awards. Please provide me with any changes in the organization contact list.

I would also like to renew my request for material for the newsletter. It is difficult to produce one without content. If your grotto or group has any accomplishment that you would like to share, such as a successful conservation project or just a plain old good discovery/exploration story, please submit it for publication. The newsletter is not just a place to document minutes of meetings but should reflect what is going in our region on all fronts.

Thanks and see you next issue,

Don Hunter

CONTENTS

Welcome.	Inside Front Cover
1998 SERA Winter Business Meeting, Huntsville, Alabama	p. 1
SERA Officers	p. 2
Historical Background of the Francis McKinney Award, by Larry O. Blair.	p. 3
Grotto Highlight, Southport Chronic Cavers, The Work at Hubbards Cave Continues	p. 5
Spotlight On: CACA, Caving Beneath the Sinkhole Plain, Campaign, Tennessee	p. 6
Yell Cave Gating, by Rob Robbins.	p. 7
SERA Contacts	p. 8
SERA Award Nomination Forms.	p. 10

Cover: Photograph of "Hazel's Pretty Place",
Hazel Ward Cave, Warren County, TN.
Photograph by Don Hunter

1998 SERA WINTER BUSINESS MEETING

The 1998 SERA Winter Business Meeting was held in Huntsville, Alabama, March 21, 1998 and was hosted by the Huntsville Grotto. The meeting was held in conjunction with the NSS Board of Governors meeting.

Morning Session:

The morning session was called to order by Chair Brent Aulenbach. Thirty cavers, representing over 20 organizations within SERA were present and briefed everyone on their activities for the past year. Following the introductions, Butch Feldhaus, Chattanooga Grotto, presented a slide presentation on the NCRC training program.

Afternoon Business Meeting:

After calling the meeting to order, Chair Brent Aulenbach did a roll call of all grottos and organizations present. Twenty-three organizations, representing grottos, surveys and project groups, answered the call.

The minutes to last years meeting were approved without any changes.

Next, Michael Gilbert, Chair of the Central Alabama Grotto, presented a summary of the 1997 SERA Summer Cave Carnival. Among the facts presented were: 742 t-shirts were printed, including 642 for attendees; the SpeleoSpa, rented from the TAG Spa Association, was worth the rental; the band played on into the night, despite the rain; the fireworks were a big hit; and thanks to Raccoon Mtn. Caverns for keeping the campgorund open for those involved in the McBrides rescue.

1998 SERA Summer Cave Carnival Chair John Hoffelt then gave a presentation on the upcoming 47th Annual SERA Summer Cave Carnival, to be held at Cordell Hull Lake, near Smithfield, TN. There will be a guidebook with directions and a number of led trips; the Spa Association will be providing the Spa again; there will be a vertical contest, a munchie stand and a continuous slide show after dusk. Gerald Moni is in charge of registration. Chuck Manglesdorf took the floor and said there would be a equipment and techniques seminar on Saturday morning where distributors, manufacturere and vendors could

demonstrate their products.

Following these presentations, Chair Aulenbach visited the order of first refusal for the next WBM and the Lost Mountain Cavers, next on the list, indicated that they would be hosting the 1999 WBM in the Atlanta, GA area, date to be announced.

Executive Reports:

Chair Aulenbach welcomed everyone and presented the treasurers report for last year. Vice-Chair Hunter spoke as the editor of the SERA Newsletter. He expressed appreciation to those that responded to his earlier request on TagNet for material and told everyone to be looking for more request this summer. Chair Aulenbach indicated that he was glad we were back on track with the newsletter and that he had little more to say.

Old Business:

The floor was opened to discuss old business. The only old business discussed was April Oberling's Scotts Gulf project. April was not in attendance but she did send a message to be read to the group. Basically, the project is on hold at this time while sensitive negotiations continue among all parties involved. She asked that all refrain from public criticism of Bridgestone at this time while issues remain to be resolved.

New Business:

Roger Haley, Huntsville Grotto, thanked everyone for coming and provided details for the pre-Convention camp that the Huntsville Grotto is sponsoring. It will be limited to 80 people and all proceeds will go to the SCCI. Volunteer trip leaders will get in free.

Bill Stringfellow, representing the DCG Fall Tag Cave-In Advisory Board, briefed everyone on new rules for this years Cave-In. These include: absolutely no dogs; no ATVs, no open fires in the field camping areas; and primary registrants must be NSS members and can have up to four guest per primary registrant.

Brent Aulenbach pointed out that there was no photo salon this year, mainly because last years organizer,

(continued on next page)

1998 Winter Business Meeting (cont.)

Marion Ziemons, was not around this year to do it. He asked for a volunteer to take over the task for next year and Dan Barnick agreed to either find someone or do it himself.

Jim Wilbanks, Chattanooga Grotto, discussed the property boundary survey for the SCCI Fox Mountain Preserve and asked for volunteers to help on upcoming weekends.

Roger Haley, Huntsville Grotto, took the floor and brought up the subject of the upcoming CaveStock event at Smokey Caldwell's farm in Lafayette, GA. After much discussion, with input from Brent Aulenbach, Gerald Moni, William Shrewsbury, Jim Wilbanks, Richard Blackburn (who stated unequivocally that the Lost Mountain Cavers did not endorse the event), Scott Fee, Bill Stringfellow, Helen Galloway, Cecile James, Mike ??, Kenneth Huffines, Dan Barnick and Marie (Clair?), it was decided, by a near unanimous vote (all in favor except for one against and one abstaining) that SERA issue an official statement regarding the event. After discussion on the wording the following statement was approved:

"The Southeastern Regional Association does not endorse the event to be held in April known as Cave Stock."

Don Hunter agreed to disseminate this statement via TagNet and Caver's Digest.

Jim Wilbanks, Chattanooga Grotto, made a motion that SERA purchase an acre of the Fox Mountain Preserve. This motion was passed.

Scott Fee took the floor to bring up the issue of the starter for Roy White's car. It was indicated by several in attendance that enough money had been collected to buy the starter and have extra money and that the starter was on its way and would be installed by the end of the weekend. The motion was tabled.

Bill Bussey took the floor and asked if it would be appropriate to establish a discretionary fund to handle issues such as Roy White's starter in the future. John Hoffelt took the floor and suggested that these kinds of things should be handled locally. The matter was tabled.

Elections:

John Hoffelt nominated Dan Barnick for Vice-Chair. Gerald Moni nominated Rob Robbins, who declined. Dan Barnick was elected as the Vice-Chair for next year.

Bill Bussey was once again elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

Last Minute Statements:

Bill Putnam thanked everyone for their support of SCCI and Bill Bussey reminded everyone to get copies of the "Guide To Responsible Caving" before leaving.

Awards:

After the meeting adjourned, the committees for the four SERA awards met and selected this year's winners. They were:

Conservation Award: Southport Chronic Cavers and Rob Robbins for Hubbards Cave Clean-up and Cavers Resource Workshop

Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award: Arista Gainous, Gracious Host at Glory Hole Cave, GA

Richard Schrieber Award: Brian Roebuck

Francis McKinney Award: Joel Buckner

SERA STUFF

1998-99 SERA Officers:

Chairman: Don Hunter
caver@negia.net

Vice-Chair: Dan Barnick (Chair 99/00)
bunchnick@mindspring.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Bussey
billbus@gte.net

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE FRANCIS MCKINNEY AWARD OF THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

by Larry O. Blair

(Editors Note: This article is reprinted, with the author's permission, from *The Journal of Spelean History*, Vol. 31, No. 4, October - December, 1997.)

Although this award has been presented for only 21 years as of the writing of this article, the spelean historian can appreciate the fact that it is necessary to document the events and background for the formation of this solemn and prestigious award as part of our caving history. The purpose of this short article is to document for posterity the formation of this event. It is not my intent to present the criterion for the award. That information can be obtained from the current elected officers of the Southeastern Regional Association.

Some Background on Francis E. McKinney - The Person

As recorded in Francis' obituary, he was "an ebullient and hard-working caver. Francis joined the Society (National Speleological) in 1958 and was made Fellow in 1971. While attending Auburn (University), and working in Huntsville (Alabama), he caved extensively in Alabama, being the second person down Fern (July 9, 1961). In recent years he caved primarily in East Tennessee and Puerto Rico. As an active caver over a long period of time Francis held numerous grotto and regional offices and served as an editor for the *Bulletin*."

Francis was very active in the Oakridge Community Playhouse. He had received the Gold Pin honor from the Auburn Players. He wrote and directed plays. In September, 1962 he opened the regular season at the Rocket City, Huntsville Little Theatre with "Desk Set" directed by himself. He also served on the playhouse board of directors.

Francis graduated from Auburn on June 1, 1962 with a BS in math and went to work for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center working in the aeroballistic laboratory in the aerodynamics analysis branch. While



F. E. MCKINNEY

Class photo of Francis E. McKinney
from the 1958 Auburn *Gleaner*

at Auburn he belonged to a friendship type of club called the "First Hundred." In this organization Francis and other members kept in touch with a series of letters circulating among themselves.

By the summer of 1962 Francis had completed five years of caving. He had just participated in two expeditions to Fern Cave, Alabama. Fern's 426-foot measured depth was the nation's deepest shaft at that time. He acted as the leader of the second trip to the cave.

Francis made four trips to cave the Rio Camuy System of Puerto Rico to map and explore. On March 26, 1975 Francis fell about 75 feet to his death while exiting the Ventosa entrance passageway located near Bayaney. He died at about 9:35 PM from a rupture of the aorta. His accident was caused, it is thought, from the failure of an upper Jumar sling made of low abrasion resistant polypropylene ski rope.

Thus one of SERA's and TAG's most active and enthusiastic cavers passed into history.

Idea for an Award and its Formation

After the death of Francis there was a series of letters sent back and forth among the various grottos of SERA and the SERA officers as well. It had been suggested at the 1975 SERA Cave Carnival in Monterey, Tennessee, that the region memorialize Francis by (continued on next page)

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE FRANCIS MCKINNEY AWARD (CONT.)

presenting the "SERA Francis McKinney Award." During the SERA Winter Business Meeting, held in Huntsville on February 7, 1976, this suggestion was voted on and passed by a vote of the attending grottos. In SERA each attending internal organization has an equal vote in all business no matter how large or how small their membership may be.

The Award was to be similar in spirit to the Lew Bicking Award and was to be given at the Summer Cave Carnival. However, the presentation location was quickly changed to the banquet held yearly during the Winter Business Meeting. This meeting is hosted by a different internal organization and is held in a different area in the southeast each winter, usually in February. It was felt that it would be a more befitting occasion to present the award in such a surrounding as opposed to a more "party type" atmosphere.

The award was the first merit award presented by the Region. There is a plaque located in the NSS headquarters in Huntsville, upon which the name of each recipient is engraved.

Recipients of the Francis E. McKinney Award

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recipient</u>
1977	Gerald Moni
1978	Lin Guy
1979	Cato Holler
1980	Steve Hudson
1981	Marion Smith
1982	Joel Sneed
1983	Buddy Lane
1984	William W. Varnadoe, Jr.
1985	David Parr
1986	Jim R. Whidby
1987	Allen Padgett
1988	Frank L. Hutchinson
1989	Bill Torode
1990	Richard Schreiber (posthumously)
1991	Larry E. Matthews
1992	Larry O. Blair
1993	Ed Strauser
1994	Mike Doughty
1995	Jack Thomison
1996	Laurie Adams
1997	Bill Walter

(Editors Note: The 1998 recipient was Joel Buckner)

Sources

Letter to the "First Hundred," June 15, 1962.

National Geographic, June 1964, pp. 810-812.

NSS News, Vol. 33, No. 8, August 1975, pp. 132-133 and various other issues in Vol. 33

Personal collection of letters between grottos and officers of the Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) of the National Speleological Society.

Speleotype (newsletter of the East Tennessee, Holston Valley, and the Smoky Mountain Grottos), Vol. 10, No. 3 (special Francis McKinney issue)

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Jim Widby of Knoxville, Tennessee and Robert E. Tanner of Marietta, Georgia for certain source materials used in this article. Also, thanks to Robert Tanner for furnishing the photograph of his college classmate.

Note: The author was Vice President and then President of SERA from 1976 to 1978, the first two years of the formation and presentation of the Award. I was also on the Award Committee in 1981, 1982, and 1983, and was asked to sit in on the Committee during 1984 and 1986. During those years I acquired the letters and other papers referred to above. The original documents have been turned over to the officers of SERA while photocopies were retained by myself.

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this article to the memory of my father, Webster Waddell Blair, who was stricken by a series of illnesses as this work was being written. He was taken from our home in October 1997 and went through a series of stays in the hospital and nursing home. He was never to return again. He passed away on December 2 at the age of 88. A finer father no one has every known.



GROTTO HIGHLIGHT

Southport Chronic Cavers, The Work at Hubbards Cave Continues - 1998

by *Rob Robbins,*
Southport Chronic Cavers

(Editors Note: In 1997, the Southport Chronic Cavers organized a tremendously successful clean-up of Hubbards Cave, Warren County, Tennessee. The cave is a historically significant cave, with old saltpeter works and remnant artifacts and many old signatures. It was obvious during the 1997 clean-up that the cave was the victim of ongoing vandalism and that something needed to be done to both repair this vandalism and curtail it in the future. The following describes the work that continued, during 1998, in the cave.)

There were four major preservation trips into Hubbards Cave in 1998. Participating on these memorable and enlightening trips were: Bob Currie (USFWS), Jim Kennedy (BCI), Dr. Jan Simek (UTK), Gabby Call, David Campbell and Beth Guidera (TNC), Joe Douglas and Thany Mann (Nashville Grotto), Brian and Lynn Roebuck, Marbry Hardin and Daniel Wright (Tennessee Central Basin Grotto), April and Anthony Olberding (Upper Cumberland Grotto), Kris Beckwith, Keaton Kell, Tim Curtis, Dallas Sullivan, Steve and Rosemarie MacDonell (Spencer Mountain Grotto), Jim Hodson (Caretaker of Blowhole Cave), Buddy Baldwin, Mark Dunnivant and Rob Robbins (Southport Chronic Cavers), Paul Bowen, Dawn and Benjy Von Cramon, Alan Cressler, Joanne Bennett and a host of others.

Three of the four major trips were documentation trips, conducted in an attempt to document every signature in the cave and to search out possible evidence of early mining. During one of the early trips in 1998, exposed wooden water troughs in the entrance hole were

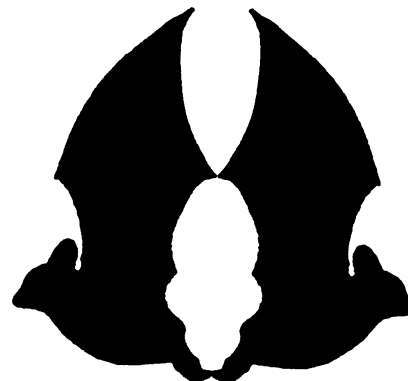
reburied to help preserve them from exposure. To date, we are far from finished and much work remains to be done. We expect to make many additional trips into the cave to complete this part of the survey in the months to come, as soon as the cave is re-opened after the bats have left.

The June trips were for the purpose of gating the west entrance. The project was completed in the record time of two days. Much muscle was provided by many of the above named and their time and support was certainly appreciated. The gate was necessitated by the constant destruction of artifacts by vandals.

Joe Douglas is keeping the records of all the signatures and is compiling quite a list. Dr. Simek is studying the cave for evidence of early (Middle Woodland period) gypsum mining. Several cane torches have been removed for further scientific study. Findings and reports of these activities will be made available at a later date.

1999 will prove to be another busy year at Hubbards Cave. Upcoming is another gating project, which will be announced at a later date. Of course, your help in this project will be appreciated. We also hope to re-map the cave, identifying the exact locations of several important features not listed on the current map. Hopefully this will be a combined effort of many grottos.

As is my belief, the joint efforts of all the various involved grottos only serves to make us a much stronger organization, all working together for a common goal. How else are we going to preserve what we have? We all can learn from each other.



Spotlight On:

There are several groups, associations or organizations within the geographic bounds of SERA, which, although not NSS Internal Organizations, are comprised either wholly or primarily of NSS members who belong to SERA grottos within the area. These groups generally represent caving at its best, with respect to brotherhood and fellowship, as well as the desire to explore, map and study the caves that bring them together. This issue of the SERA Newsletter spotlights CACA, the Campaign Area Caving Association.

CACA

Campaign Area Caving Association

"Twixt the Collins and Rocky Rivers... 'neath the pocked plain... the Campaign underground beckons."

By Don Hunter

CACA, the Campaign Area Caving Association, is a group of cavers dedicated to the mapping and exploration of the caves of the Campaign, Tennessee area. The group, founded by Don Hunter, is comprised of a number of people who have, for the past four years, have been involved in mapping the caves found beneath the Campaign sinkhole plains.

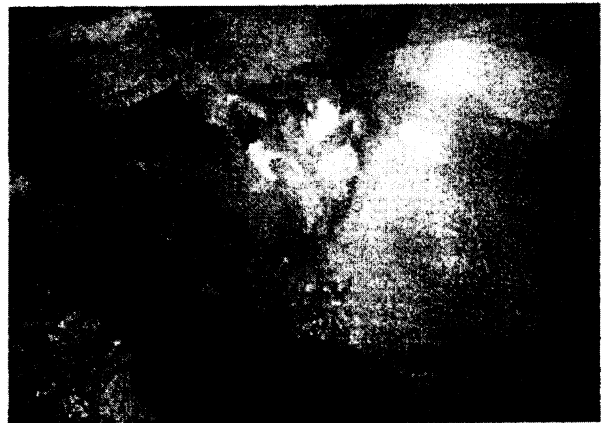
The inception for this project group began in the summer of 1995 following a dye trace conducted by Don Hunter and Jim Smith in the Campaign area. After the dye trace, it became evident that the many caves in the area, though turned in to the TCS, were not mapped. Thus began the slow and methodical surveying and mapping of the caves. The summer of 1995 found CACA cavers in Miller's Cave, on the farm of Bill Walter, beginning the first survey. In the years following, they gradually moved on to Invisible Cave, York Cave, Cable Cave, Turkey Scratch Cave, Hazel

Ward Cave, Jaco Springs Cave, Larkin Slough Cave and Glow Worm Cave.

At this time, approximately 3.5 miles have been mapped in these caves. Jaco Springs, at over 4,000 feet, is the longest. Several are in the 2,000 to 3,000 foot range. Although the surveys have added much length to the reported lengths of several of the caves, it is Glow Worm Cave that has grown the most. Turned in at about 150 feet, Glow Worm now stands at over a half a mile.

Glow Worm has also provided the most excitement for CACA participants. In May of 1997, five members found themselves trapped for almost 19 hours due to rising waters following an intense and prolonged line of showers, which passed over the area immediately after they entered the cave.

1999 should find all of the currently known caves in the Campaign area mapped, completing what could be considered the first phase of a multi-phase project. An article for the Tennessee Cave Survey is anticipated, documenting the past four years efforts. Next, an effort to turn up more caves in the area. Several leads have already developed that show much promise. For example, the upstream drainage of the Hazel Ward/Jaco Springs "system". A possible cave has already been reported for this area, which should, by all reason, yield a significant extension. There should be much to keep us coming back to the area for years, providing many more opportunities to terrorize the waiters in the local Mexican restuarants with our very special "CACA" t-shirts.



Lofton Carr perched above "Water World" in Hazel Ward Cave in CACA Country.

YELL CAVE FENCING

By Rob Robbins

On March 23, 1997, while in Bedford County effecting a normal survey of Yell Cave (if there is such a thing), members of HR3 (pronounced HR cubed), a survey faction of the Tennessee Central Basin Grotto based out of Murfreesboro, TN, made a startling discovery. During the course of the survey on that day, they discovered what they believed were gray bats, a species on the Federal Endangered Species list.

Contact was immediately made with TDEC, INC, USEWS, TWRA and TVA to get some assistance in identifying these bats. In June of 1997, David Withers (TDEC), T. Hill Henry (TVA), Bob Currie (USEWS), Beth Guidera (TNC), John Lamb and Brian and Lynn Roebuck (HR3) met at Yell Cave for the purpose of a preliminary bat emergence count and further study. The results were startling. Yell Cave was a maternity colony cave with a significant population of gray bats (*myotis grisescens*) and it was obvious that something should be done to further protect them.

The owners of Yell Cave, who had always been very cooperative with the members of the Tennessee Central Basin Grotto, were contacted by representatives of The Nature Conservancy and HR3. A management plan was developed and signed by all parties involved. Steps were taken to begin planning for a gate to be installed to prevent entry during the crucial time when the cave was occupied by the maternity colony. Next, a study was conducted to determine the best way to protect this cave. After observing the entering and exiting patterns of the bats, it was decided that a fence around the perimeter of the cave entrance would probably serve the purpose much better than an actual gate, as the bats, especially maternity colonies, do not like gates.

So, on three consecutive Saturdays beginning on September 21st, 1998, the following people had a part in the erection of the fence at Yell Cave:

Gabby Call, Beth Guidera, Tara Thompson, and Chris Roberts (all of The Nature Conservancy), Brian and Lynn Roebuck, Karen Karr, Drew Irwin, David Yoest, Marbry Hardin, Don Cole, David Cole, Ray Pope, Ray Pope Sr., Jeremy "Bat Bubba" Hill, Daniel Wright,



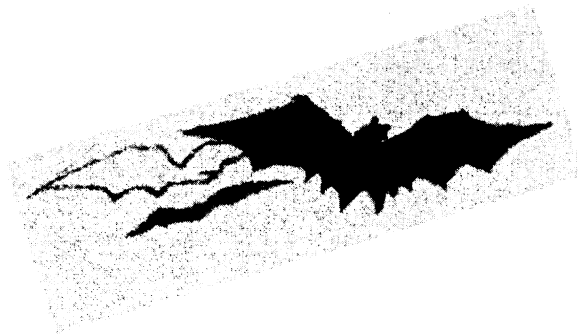
"It takes everyone to move materials"

Front row, left to right: Brian and Lynn Roebuck, Denver Cole, and Ray Pope, Sr.
Back row, left to right: Don Cole, Beth Guidera, Gabby Call and Ray Pope

Robert Brazier, James Taylor, John and Debbie Hettish, Connie Ramsey and Rob Robbins.

Materials had to be carried in on the back of the peopules (people acting as mules), often requiring teamwork with the large bulky items. Many people got to try the jack-hammer out making the post holes. Brian Roebuck's Bronco suffered the most damage, bottoming out on a rock and destroying the bottom of the transfer case. There goes our \$500 damage rule.

The owners were so thankful for the effort that on each construction day, not only did they bring liquid refreshment to the workers, they also had a nice barbecue for them afterwards. It is only through these cooperative efforts, with all agencies involved, can we even begin to conserve what we have. Another job WELL DONE!!



SERA GROTTOS, SURVEY AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

GROTTOS

ALABAMA	
Birmingham Grotto P.O.Box 55102 Birmingham, AL 35255-0102	David Caudle H 205-647-2221
Central Alabama Grotto c/o Michael Gilbert 1175 Fulton Gap Sylacauga, AL 35150-78777	Michael Gilbert H 205-249-8341 W 205-985-3047
Cullman Grotto c/o Patrick O'Diam 700 Sandra Ln N.E. Cullman, AL 35055-6018	Patrick O'Diam H 256-739-0327 W 256-737-9811
Huntsville Grotto P.O.Box 1702 W Sta Huntsville, AL 35807	John French H 256-881-0419
Montgomery Grotto c/o Stan Tew 8853 Oak Meadow Ct Montgomery, AL 36116-6607	Stan Tew H 334-272-0012 W 334-242-8521
FLORIDA	
Central Florida Cavers c/o Avra Thomas 8 Orange Blossom Trail Yalaha, FL 34797	Avra Thomas H 352-324-3166
Flint River Grotto P.O. Box 10703 Tallahassee, FL 32303	Tim Lewis H 850-539-7467
Florida Speleological Society P.O. Box 12581, Univ. Station Gainesville, FL 32604-0581	Jerry Johnson H 352-332-6576 W 352-395-0405
Tampa Bay Area Grotto c/o Mike Kettles 9197 79th Ave N Largo, FL 33777	Mike Kettles H 813-391-5449 W 813-541-0752
GEORGIA	
Athens Speleological Society c/o Don Hunter 157 Madison Oaks Dr Colbert, GA 30628	Don Hunter H 706-788-2051 W 706-355-8605
Augusta Cave Masters c/o William N. Jackson 4784 Silver Lake Dr. Evans, GA 40809-5404	Bill Jackson H 706-863-7019

Clayton County Cavers Grotto c/o Ken and Nancy Brown 4962 College St Union City, GA 30291-1912	Jeff Sorensen H 770-425-3925 W 770-941-9600
Clock Tower Grotto c/o Ginger Noble 421 Cunningham Rd S.W. Rome, GA 30161	Rick Buice H 706-235-5695
Dogwood City Grotto, Inc. Suite 264, 3232 Cobb Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339-3496	Andy Zellner H 770-977-7136 W 770-612-8008
Lost Mountain Cavers c/o Genie McDonald 3138 Dunn St SE Smyrna, GA 30080-4479	Richard Blackburn H 770-427-1890
Middle Georgia Grotto c/o Tom Moltz 101 Old Hickory Rd Byron, GA 31008	John Klayer H 912-923-8836 W 912-926-3238
Pigeon Mountain Grotto c/o Chris Nave 1956 Peavine Rd Rock Springs, GA 30739-2027	Rufus Mullinix H 706-638-0210
MISSISSIPPI	
JUST Cavers c/o T. John Schliesser 157 Dogwood Cir. Brandon, MS 39042	T. John Schliesser H 601-992-0141
Northeast MS Underground Soc c/o Dennis Selby 1314 W. Clover Ln Corinth, MS 38834-4343	Dennis Selby H 601-286-5270 W 601-286-5523
NORTH CAROLINA	
Flittermouse Grotto c/o Cato Holler Box 100 Old Fort, NC 28762	Scott McCrae H 828-665-7291
Triangle Troglodytes P.O.Box 13141 Durham, NC 27709-3141	Tanya McLaughlin H 919-383-5187 W 919-684-6001
SOUTH CAROLINA	
South Carolina Interstate Grotto c/o Jeffrey G. Brown 2416 Cedar Springs Dr. Elgin, SC 29045-9015	Jeffrey Brown H 803-408-1033 W 803-438-9308

TENNESSEE	
Appalachian Grotto c/o Curtis Ellison 1410 Monroe St Morristown, TN 37814-3033	Curtis Ellison H 423-586-0190 W 423-587-2290
Bon Aqua Cave Rats P.O.Box 194 Bon Aqua, TN 37025	Jim Minor H 615-670-6089
Chattanooga Grotto of the NSS, Inc. P.O.Box 11506 Chattanooga, TN 37401-2506	Elizabeth Shrewsbury H 423-886-3296 W 423-785-1285
Cumberland Valley Grotto c/o Michael Bose 5177 Little Marrowbone Rd Ashland City, TN 37015-9451	John Gibson H 613-865-1293
East Tennessee Grotto c/o Linda Doughty 320 Wardley Rd Knoxville, TN 37922-1829	Linda Doughty H 423-966-0961
Mountain Empire Grotto c/o Tony McGee Box 176 Blountville, TN 37617	Tony McGee H 423-538-4253
Nashville Grotto P.O.Box 23114 Nashville, TN 37202	Chuck Manglesdorf H 615-790-0040 W 615-255-7722
Sewanee Mountain Grotto c/o Dr. Douglas Durig 735 University Ave. SPO 1165 Sewanee, TN 37383	Dr. Douglas Durig H 615-598-5627 W 615-598-1570
Smoky Mountain Grotto Box 8297 UT Station Knoxville, TN 37996	Doug Luther H 423-673-8550
Southport Chronic Cavers c/o Rob Robbins 1645-A Williamson Dr Columbia, TN 38401-4404	Rob Robbins H 931-381-2970 W 931-486-6524
Spencer Mountain Grotto c/o Steve Macdonell HC 69 Box 42 Spencer, TN 38585	Steve Macdonell H 931-946-7438 Tim Curtis H 931-668-2276
Tennessee Central Basin Grotto c/o Brian Roebuck P.O. Box 2458 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2458	Brian Roebuck H 931-455-8658 W 931-454-7106
Upper Cumberland Grotto c/o Dr. Richard Finch TTU P.O.Box 5062 Cookeville, TN 38505	Dr. Richard Finch H 615-372-3751

West Tennessee Grotto c/o Lane Purser 2844 Ole Pike Dr. Germantown, TN 38138	Reid Hampton H 901-726-
---	----------------------------

STATE CAVE SURVEYS

Alabama Cave Survey P.O.Box 7328 Huntsville, AL 35807	Tom Moss, Dir. 205-837-0899 Greg McGill, Dir. 205-822-7285
Georgia Speleological Srvy. c/o Carl Anderson 2465 Drew Valley Rd Atlanta, GA 30319	Richard Blackburn, Chair 770-427-1890
Tennessee Cave Survey c/o Annette Oeser 111 Orchard Valley Circle Hendersonville, TN 37075	Gerald Moni, West 615-833-6054 Jack Thomison, East 615-690-3098

OTHER

Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (SCCI) 40 Hidden Brook Lane Signal Mountain, TN 37377	Bill Putnam, Chair 770-822-0003 Scott Fee, Director 205-854-7487
Campaign Area Caving Association (CACA) c/o Don Hunter 157 Madison Oaks Dr Colbert, GA 30628	Don Hunter 706-788-2051
Cumberland Spelean Association (CSA)	Hellen Galloway (423) 588-3617
HR ³ (HR Cubed) c/o Don Lance 2563 Thompson Road Murfreesboro, TN 37128	Don Lance (615) 896-0752 Brian/Lynn Roebuck (913) 455-8658
Carolina Cave Survey c/o Cato Holler Box 100 Old Fort, NC 28762	Cato Holler H 704-724-9651

Richard Schreiber Award Nomination Form

The Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) Richard Schreiber Award is named in honor of Richard W. Schreiber, who made many contributions to caving in the Southeast from the 1960's through the 1980's. Richard was a natural and enthusiastic teacher, as well as a project leader and mapper, who encouraged many to take a more active role in caving. This award recognizes those SERA cavers of less than ten years experience who have been openly involved with cave projects or studies in the Southeastern United States. This award intends not only to recognize previous accomplishment but also to encourage future accomplishment and contribution.

Criteria

The criteria for the SERA Richard Schreiber Award is as follows:

1. The Richard Schreiber Award will be given to a caver with less than 10 years caving experience.
2. The nominee will be a caver who is or has taken on, participated in, or supported a project or study on at least one cave or cave system in the Southeastern Region.
3. The nominee will be one who has openly made their work available to the general caving population via published material. Examples of that material include grotto, regional, or section publications, and other publications.
4. The nominee will be an NSS member in good standing.
5. The nominee will be a SERA caver.

Award

The Richard Schreiber Award may be awarded on a merit basis at the annual SERA Winter Business meeting. The Richard Schreiber Award will consist of:

1. A \$50.00 cash award to the recipient. Funds for this award will come from SERA general funds or an account specifically set up for this award.
2. A framed certificate which constitutes the Award itself.
3. A Plaque bearing the recipient's name shall be displayed in the NSS office.
4. The recipient's name will be announced in the NSS News, and made available to regional, grotto and any other appropriate publications.

Name of nominee: _____

NSS number of nominee: _____

Caving since: _____

Address (if not known, leave blank): _____

(city) (state) (zip code)

Grotto membership: _____

Offices held: _____

Publications written for: _____

Caves explored or frequented: _____

Maps drafted or published: _____

Projects led or assisted with: _____

Other caving accomplishments: _____

Please use the back of this page or a separate page(s) to answer the above questions.

Past Richard Schreiber Award Recipients: Rick O'Hara, Alan Cressler, John Stembel, Hal Love, Mike Rogers, Brent Aulenback, Paul Aughey, Brian Roebuck.

Mail or give completed form to: Dan Barnick, SERA Chair, 1005 Towne Manor Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30144-2992, 770-514-8862, bunchnick@mindspring.com

Francis McKinney Award Nomination Form

The Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) Francis McKinney Award is named in honor of Francis E. McKinney, whose enthusiasm for all aspects of caving was an inspiration for all who knew him. This award recognizes those SERA cavers who have made meritorious contributions to caving in the Southeast. The nominee will have been actively involved in several types of caving; be it mapping, horizontal, vertical, etc., for more than ten years and will have contributed to organized caving by holding grotto or regional office. It is hoped that this award will encourage the recipient toward further accomplishment and contribution.

Criteria:

The criteria for the SERA Francis McKinney Award is as follows:

1. The Francis McKinney Award will be given to a caver with more than 10 years caving experience.
2. The nominee will be a sport caver, that is, caving is not a part of his or her professional life.
3. The nominee will be one who has contributed to organized caving by holding grotto or regional offices, giving talks, leading trips for scouts, etc.
4. The recipient will have been active in several types of caving including but not limited to: Mapping, horizontal, vertical, history, conservation, photography, etc.
5. The nominee will be one who has openly made his or her work available to the general caving population via published material. Examples of that material include grotto, regional, section or national publications, as well as other publications.
6. The nominee will be an NSS member in good standing.
7. The nominee will be a SERA caver.

Award

The Francis McKinney Award may be awarded on a merit basis at the annual SERA Winter Business meeting. It will consist of:

1. A \$50.00 Cash award to the recipient. Funds for this award will come from SERA general funds or an account specifically set up for this award.

2. A framed certificate which constitutes the Award itself.

3. A plaque bearing the recipient's name shall be displayed in the NSS office.

4. The recipient's name will be announced in the NSS News and made available to regional, grotto and any other appropriate publications.

Name of nominee: _____

Nominee's NSS number: _____

Caving since: _____

Address (if not known, leave blank): _____

(city) (state) (zip code)

Grotto membership: _____

Offices held: _____

Publications written for: _____

Maps of caves: _____

Caves explored or frequented: _____

Maps drafted or published: _____

Projects led or assisted with: _____

Other caving accomplishments: _____

Please use the back of this page or a separate page(s) to answer the above questions.

Past Francis McKinney Award Recipients: Gerald Moni, Lin Guy, Dr. Cato Holler, Steve Hudson, Marion O. Smith, Joel Sneed, Buddy Lane, Bill Varnadoe, David Parr, Jim Whiddy, Allen Padgett, Frank Hutchinson, Bill Torode, Richard Schrieber, Larry Matthews, Larry Blair, Edward Strausser, Mike Doughly, Jack Thomison, Laurie Adams, Bill Walter, Joel Buckner.

Mail or give completed form to: Dan Barnick, SERA Chair, 1005 Towne Manor Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30144-2992, 770-514-8862, bunchnick@mindspring.com

Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award Nomination Form

The Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) Larry S. Adams Landowner

Appreciation Award is named in honor of Larry Adams, who provided leadership and served in various capacities for SERA and local grottos. Larry organized and helped host several SERA Summer Cave Carnivals and Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) Winter Business Meetings, assisted with planning and organizing the 1989 NSS Convention, and served as Nashville Grotto Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Safety and Rescue Committee Chair. Larry was a caver role model for good cave landowner relations. His ability to communicate and establish relationships with landowners provided cavers access to caves with sensitive owner relations. He helped other cavers develop their own landowner relation skills. This award recognizes individuals or groups who are landowners or land managers in the southeastern United States whose efforts have been in the interest of SERA cavers. These people have demonstrated that they care not only about their caves and their property but about cavers as well, and reflected in their nominations, cavers obviously care about them. The award intends not only to recognize previous contributions but also to encourage future cooperation and contributions.

Criteria:

The criteria for the SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award is as follows:

1. The Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award will be given to an individual or group who owns land or manages land in the southeastern United States or whose efforts are in the interests of SERA.
2. The recipient has been friendly to cavers.
3. The recipient will be protective of caves, karst, and all resources therein.
4. The recipient will have made contributions to caving through continuing good relations and cooperation with the caving community.

Award

The SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award may be awarded on a merit basis at the annual SERA Winter Business meeting. The SERA Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award will consist of:

1. A \$50.00 Cash award to the recipient.
2. A framed certificate which constitutes the Award itself.

3. A plaque bearing the recipient's name shall be displayed in the NSS office.

4. The recipient's name will be announced in the NSS News and made available to regional, grotto and any other appropriate publications.

Name of individual or group being nominated: _____

Address of nominee(s) [If not known, leave blank]: _____

(city) (state) (zip code)

Cave, caves, or caving geographic area of concentration: _____

Why are you nominating this person or group for the Award (please be sure to list caves involved)? _____

How has the nominee or group particularly helped SERA cavers (if not already discussed)? _____

Anything further that would demonstrate why this person or group is deserving of recognition? If so, please tell it here: _____

Your name and organization? _____

Your address and phone number (please include area code): _____

(city) (state) (zip code) (phone #)

Please use the back of this page or a separate page(s) to answer the above questions.

Past Larry S. Adams Landowner Appreciation Award Recipients: Lonnie Carr, Dr. Ralph M. Sheppard, Martha Eblen Brashears, Charlie Smith, Arista Gainous.

Mail or give completed form to: Dan Barnick, SERA Chair, 1005 Towne Manor Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30144-2992, 770-514-8862, bunchnick@mindspring.com

SERA Conservation Recognition Award Nomination Form

The Southeastern Regional Association (SERA) Conservation Recognition award recognizes individuals or groups who have achieved effective cave and karst protection or preservation while allowing for caver access in the southeastern United States. They might have also protected karst biological resources, historical, or archeological sites associated with caves. This individual or group should be from the southeastern United States or their efforts should have been in the interest of cavers in the southeast. The award intends not only to recognize previous contributions but also to encourage future cooperation and contributions.

Criteria

The criteria for the SERA Conservation Recognition Award is as follows:

1. The SERA Conservation Recognition Award will be given to an individual or group from the southeastern United States or a group whose efforts are in the interest of cavers in the southeast.
2. The recipient will have achieved effective cave or karst protection while allowing for caver access; or
3. The recipient will have protected karst biological resources; or
4. The recipient will have protected historical or archeological sites or artifacts associated with caves.

Award

The SERA Conservation Recognition Award may be awarded on a merit basis at the annual SERA Winter Business meeting. The SERA Conservation Recognition Award will consist of the following:

1. A \$50.00 cash award to the recipient.
2. A framed certificate which constitutes the Award itself.
3. A plaque bearing the recipient's name shall be displayed in the NSS office.
4. The recipient's name will be announced in the NSS News, and made available to regional, grotto and any other appropriate publications.

Name of individual or group being nominated: _____

Nominee's address (if not known, leave blank): _____

(city) (state) (zip code)

Cave, caves, or caving geographic area of concentration: _____

Your name and organization: _____

Your address and phone number (please include area code): _____

(city) (state) (zip code) (phone)

Why are you nominating this individual or the Award (be sure to list caves involved)?

How has the nominee or group particularly helped SERA cavers (if not already discussed)?

Anything further that would demonstrate why this person or group is deserving of recognition? If so, please explain here: _____

Please use the back of this page or a separate page(s) to answer the above questions.

Past SERA Conservation Recognition Award Recipients: Southeastern Cave Conservancy, John Hoffel, Chattanooga Grotto, April Oberling, Rob Robbins/Southport Chronic Cavers.

Mail or give completed form to: Dan Barnick, SERA Chair, 1005 Towne Manor Ct., Kennesaw, GA 30144-2992, 770-514-8862, bunchnick@mindspring.com