



# The Resto Report



Aug. 2016 edition

Drawn by a sense of conservation, patriotism for our National Parks and sheer ingenuity gathered once again in early August for the 2016 Mammoth Cave Resto-Missouri caver Bill Copeland has proven to be an outstanding leader in position as Camp Director, bringing together a multitude of elements and that have made everything run smoothly and efficiently.

Like what?

Bill's ongoing relationship with the National Park Service ensures the restoration group, both in the cave and at the Maple Springs site, with other activities works with Park staff and others to de-prioritize what work objectives must be tackled. He manages all the equipment and for various tasks, ranging from hand tools to tools and re-chargeable batteries.

Bill also manages the budget, making sure expenditures fall within available funds obtained from camp fees. For all these reasons, Bill deserves a lot more credit than he allows.

A large part of the final few weeks need to be purchased.

More thanks go to Mark Hillary Williams, a professional chef from St. Louis, who, along with his caver pal Chuck Schubert, manages the kitchen and prepares three meals a day for hungry caver workers.

Just like last year, Mark and Chuck traveled directly from participating in the Great River Rumble annual week-long canoe and kayak trip along the Missouri River. Thank you guys, both, for your sacrifices!

The first two days of Resto Camp this year ended with a nearby James Cave. The 20-mile-long passage is located at the Park Mammoth Resort, which is adjacent to the Mammoth Cave National Park proper. Our mission was to help the owners continue their efforts to return the cave to a more natural state.

While a small group of resto cavers went to Mammoth Cave for the important annual work of gathering lint from tourist trails, the rest of the bunch stepped through the gate open-

stinct, 30 cavers ration Field Camp. and friend in his considerations

scheduling of the does not conflict the facilities. Bill termine and led and com-tools needed cordless power

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budgeting goes toward food considerations. You never know until the exactly how many cavers will be attending, and how much food will chased for their consumption.

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ing of James Cave and divided into multiple work groups.

Some were charged with gathering old floodlight bulbs, some worked on removing old sections of wood stairway and a few others had the gritty job of demolishing a 50-foot-long small pit.

For the walkway head safety line none-other-than cue Commis- tor Anmar to reside in ers Larry donned clipped-in the decaying

Larry and Brian which carried a putrid and particles.

On Tuesday, the group returned to James Cave, formed a 'bucket brigade' at the bottom of the pit and passed the larger pieces of wood from the demolition toward the rear cave entrance. Following lunch, the group gathered as one at the pit floor and together removed all the smaller shards of wood. Ah, the camaraderie! The jokes! The singing!

On Wednesday, the group descended the elevator into our beloved Mammoth Cave. First on the agenda was an effort to bury and hide electrical wiring that lay along the side of the path from the elevator door to the Snowball Room. We had heard that the ing a short tourists, and placed out of

With typical onto the dirt some trenching rocks and flag-wire was no

Meanwhile, a Archaeologist historic artifact side of the trail Snowball but with the 'eureka mo-

The artifact men needed to of water or perhaps a large rock. A strap or chain (now gone) would hang down from the center of the sized piece of wood.

George laid out some plastic and cleaned the handle with great care, vacuuming it gently and brushing away years of dirt. After photographing and measuring the artifact, it then was placed back where it was found, on a dirt shelf at the side of the trail, for future tour guide interpretation.

Following the mid-week pizza

party dinner, some cavers enjoyed an even-walk to the Cathedral Dome area of Mammoth, others went to the New Discovery section and at least one caver attended a Ranger lecture on the topic of 'Cave Art' (photo at left).

On Thursday and Friday, the resto group traveled to the Hippodrome area of Mammoth and removed old electrical wire.

**Totals:** 110 feet of rotting stairway, 50 feet of an 8-foot-wide platform and 100 old floodlight bulbs were removed from James Cave.

Linda Bundy, Mary Schubert, Paula, Pam, Maggie and Aurora gathered 8 pounds of lint from Mammoth Cave tourist trails.

400 feet of electrical wire was covered, hidden or buried along the path from the Mammoth Cave elevator lower doors to the Snowball Room.



demolition, an over- had been rigged by National Cave Res- sion national coordina- Mirza, who just happens the immediate area. Cav- Bundy and Brian Hunsaker their seat harnesses, their safety lines and attacked structure.

did some truly heroic work to sledgehammer and sawzall most of the boardwalk, odor of wet creosote-soaked wood and saturated the air with some nasty dust



park would soon resume offer- cave tour to wheelchair-bound the ugly wiring needed to be sight.

gusto, the group literally dove berm and dug in! There was as well as repositioning of stones, but before long, the longer in sight.



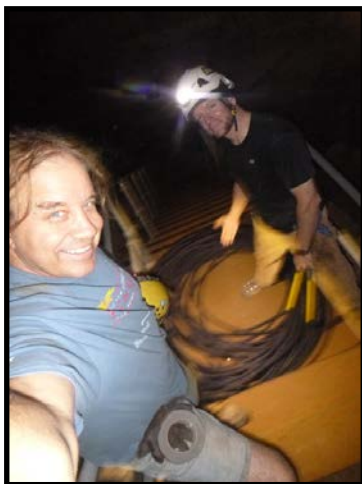
Well done, team!

couple cavers accompanied Park Dr. George Crothers to locate a that had been spotted along the on Cleveland Avenue near the Room. It took a little searching, help of caver Dave Carson, the ment' finally came.

was a handle used when two some heavy object, like a bucket







Cavers assisted George Crothers and Rick Olson with artifacts.

The group cut and transported 450-feet of 3-inch-thick wire, 200-feet of 1-1/2-inch-thick wire and 450-feet of 1-inch-thick wire (*photo at left*) from the Hippodrome area.

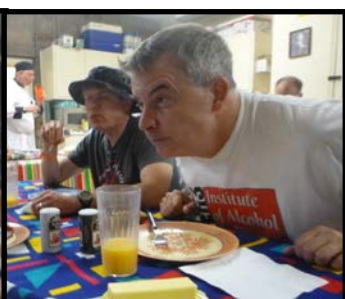
Caver Brian Hunsaker also assisted Rick Olson readjust metal grates at the end of the Echo River bridge and check water flow and levels in the River Styx.

In all, 961 total man-hours of labor were donated to the Park. Nice going, everyone! (At the current national minimum wage of \$7.25, that equates to \$6,967.25!)

Friday evening, at the end-of-week awards ceremony, the coveted Sack Rat Award was presented to Pam Saberton. Ken DeJonge won the Lifetime Achievement Award and a 'Junior Ranger badge' was given to Roy VanHooser in honor of finding the correct path to the Cathedral Domes area.

First-timer Aurora Creamer was honored with a book, and Matthew and Justin Carson also were given 'notable newbies' tokens of thanks.

Thanks to all who participated. For those who usually try to make it, but who could not (Brian, Jonathon, Scott, Karen, the Pittsburgh cavers and several others), we missed you!!!



Joey versus Erik 'staring contest'