

SOUTHEASTERN
CAVE
CONSERVANCY

Management · Conservation · Education

ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 1997

Report date May 16, 1998

Our Message to you

The first thing I would like to say is: Thank You All! In the last 12 months your support has boosted the Southeastern Cave Conservancy into the stratosphere of cave conservation. As I write this, we own or lease 25 caves in five states on 13 preserves totaling 672 acres. With the acquisition of 30 acres containing West Virginia's Lobelia Saltpeter Cave next month we will increase those numbers. Several other acquisition projects are under way, and we may well see more additions before the end of 1998. All this would not be possible without your generous donations of time, energy, and money.

Since the last Annual Meeting we have added six new preserves to SCCI's holdings. Last June we bought Fricks Cave and 34 acres in Walker County, Georgia. Fricks is home to an estimated 10,000 endangered Gray Bats, as well as the rare and threatened Tennessee Cave Salamander. It is one of only two known sites in Georgia for the Gray Bat, and the only known Georgia location for the Tennessee Cave Salamander. Access to Fricks is restricted to protect the bats and salamanders, and we had some concern that cavers might not be as willing to help pay for the cave. Fortunately, this concern appears to

be unfounded - many cavers are supporting the purchase through the Fricks Cave Adopt-a-Bat program. A \$10 donation lets you adopt one Gray Bat from Fricks Cave, complete with adoption certificate and sticker - \$20 with magnetic bat for your vehicle or refrigerator. They're cute, furry, and endangered - adopt some today!

In August, we leased Kentucky's Logsdon Cave from the Nashville Grotto, forming a partnership which allows the grotto to manage their cave as a part of the SCCI and participate in our insurance and fundraising programs. The partnership demonstrates the SCCI's close ties with the NSS and its grottos in the southeast. The SCCI also became an institutional member of the NSS in 1997.

In September, we made a dream come true for several of the SCCI's founders by completing the purchase of the Fox Mountain Cave Preserve in Dade County, Georgia. The preserve is the conservancy's largest, containing 10 caves on 332 acres. Caves on the preserve include Cemetery Pit, Rustys Cave, and Hurricane Cave - three of the longest and deepest caves in Georgia. You can support the purchase and help secure permanent ownership by buying a piece of one of the caves (\$50 donation for 50 feet of cave in Rustys, Hurricane, or Cemetery Pit) or by adopting an acre of the preserve for \$270 (our cost).

Each donation is recognized with a certificate of honorary ownership and a Fox Mountain T-shirt.

In December, we closed on the purchase of the Horse Skull Cave Preserve in Jackson County, Alabama. This 40-acre preserve near Bridgeport contains Horse Skull Cave, a 3,000-foot long cave which houses a summer population of bats, and Jacks Hole, a 64-foot pit with 300 feet of passage at the bottom.

After the first of the year we took a brief break from cave acquisition to pay off some debts. As a result of several large donations by individual and corporate sponsors, we had enough money in the bank by February to pay off the balance of our Kennamer Cave mortgage. We sent \$16,000 to Virginia Karstlands, an affiliate of the Richmond Area Speleological Society, along with our deepest thanks. RASS has been a long-time supporter of SCCI, and we appreciate their confidence in us. We also made an early payments of \$24,000 on our Fricks Cave mortgage, which is held by The Nature Conservancy, reducing the balance from \$93,000 to \$69,000. We still have a long way to go on that one, however, so keep adopting those bats.

In April we signed a lease on Swirl Canyon Cave near Nashville, Tennessee. This cave is located in a metropolitan area, and has begun to suffer from vandalism and abuse. The Nashville Grotto is managing the cave for SCCI, and is taking steps to curb the abuse and protect the cave. We are

nearing completion of a lease on Junkyard Cave, also near Nashville, which has suffered greatly and is under increased pressure from the

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construction of a nearby highway. We hope to gain control of the situation, clean up the cave, and protect it from future abuse.

This past spring we acquired our first cave in Florida - Jennings Cave, or Confederate Cave as it is known to some. The Florida Speleological Society provided funding and made all the arrangements for the acquisition of the cave. Management will be handled by the FSS, and we hope that we can clean and protect the cave, and encourage the return of the large numbers of bats which once roosted there.

The SCCI has been active in other areas besides cave acquisition. We participated in the first Cavers Resource Workshop, which was organized by Rob Robbins and the Southport Chronic Cavers. Rob and the "other" SCC have been very strong supporters of SCCI, and we were glad to be involved and to see the Workshop be such a rousing success. We are hosting our own little gathering at the 1998 NSS convention in Seawee this August, where SCCI is organizing and sponsoring a gathering and seminar for cave conservancies. We believe that the seminar, to be held on Tuesday evening during Convention week, will give all the various cave conservancies an opportunity to meet, exchange information, and share techniques and strategies for cave conservation and protection.

We are also proud to be the hosts for the 1999 National Cave Management Symposium, to be held in late October of 1999. This multi-day conference will bring together

cave and karst land managers and conservationists from all over North America. SCCI has become a leader in cave acquisition and protection, and we look forward to learning from and sharing with the many people and organizations in the field. We will be looking for many volunteers to help organize and host this important event.

**The SCCI has
become a leader in
cave acquisition
and protection.**

Naturally, we are working hard on a number of new acquisitions. Later this summer we expect to complete the acquisition of Lobelia Saltpeter

Cave in West Virginia. We are still working on Anderson Cave, Tiftonia Pit, Airplane Cave, and Anvil Cave, though progress is slow. There are several other projects in the early stages, as well as a cooperative agreement and partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Tennessee. We are actively negotiating on two new projects: Canon County Blowhole and Limrock Blowing Cave. Blowhole is a formation cave in Tennessee with several miles of mapped passage. Limrock Blowing Cave is a classic Alabama stream cave, and has been popular with cavers of all experience levels for many, many years.

There are some serious issues we must face before we can make any more purchases, however. As I write this, we are strained to our limit to make the payments on our existing mortgages. These payments average out to over \$4,000 per month. We receive about \$2,600 per month in contributions from the 155 sustaining members on the credit card program. The 360 regular members contribute another \$5,400

per year, or \$450 per month in dues. We make up the difference with our fundraising booth at SERA and TAG each year. Many volunteers spend most of their weekend at these events working to raise money for the SCCI. Without their efforts, we can not make our payments.

There are limits, though, to what we can raise at two or three caving events each year. What we really need are more members, and especially more sustaining members. If you are a regular member, please consider becoming a sustaining member for \$5 per month or more. All we need is your authorization and credit card number. You will be helping to meet the monthly payments on more than two dozen fine caves, for less than the price of one fast-food lunch each month. And it's tax-deductible!

We also need you to help recruit more members. Every caver in the southeast is benefiting from the Conservancy's work. While we have doubled our membership in the last year from 250 to 515 members, more than a third of those members live outside the southeastern US. I am sure that there are far more than 350 active cavers in the southeast. Why are the others not members of SCCI? Perhaps they just need a little encouragement. You must be our recruiters in the field. Can we each sign up one or two new members in 1998? For just \$15 per year or \$5 per month they can become part-owners of 25 caves!

In closing, I would like you all to know how proud I am to be Chairman of the Southeastern Cave Conservancy. It is a privilege to be a part of this magnificent Enterprise - to boldly go where no conservancy has gone before. Thank you for sharing the journey and for making it possible.

Bill Putnam,
Chairman

**From
The
Treasurer**

Fiscal Year 1997 proved to be a year of great success for the SCCI. Memberships are up to an all time record of 515. We have 155 of the 515 members enrolled in our very successful sustaining contributor program. And a greater number of our members are joining from a broader region of the country. All the while, cave acquisition has continued at an "amazing" rate.

Our financial position is one to be proud of. We had financial support through donations and memberships totaling \$118,470.11, an increase of \$88,043.95 from FY96. Expenses were \$30,354.10, an increase of 22,948.07 from FY 96. Total assets climbed to \$327,556.96, an increase of \$227,002.49. Our net worth is \$172,670.48, an increase of \$88,116.01. At this time our debt load is \$154,886.48 in mortgages on new acquisitions. This is an increase from FY96 of \$136,886.48 from the purchase of the Frick's, Fox Mountain, and Horse Skull Cave Preserves. We have made several large principal payments on these loans, which are reflected in the Statement of Financial Position.

Another accomplishment was retiring our debt of \$16,000, to Virginia Karstlands, Inc., from the purchase of Kennamer Cave. The

early payoff of this loan was due in part to the buildup of our monthly sustaining contribution program. This is our best base to make payments on loans and continue to acquire additional properties. Several large donations from individual and corporate sponsors were also critical in meeting required principal payments on Fricks Cave and Kennamer Cave as well as other loans.

Looking ahead there is a greater demand than ever for the SCCI to purchase additional properties. We must, however, increase our monthly sustaining contribution base or we will have to postpone future acquisitions until our debt is paid down. As of this report we have a monthly sustaining income about \$2,600. We need to see this number increase to \$5,000. If our 360 regular members would sign up at just \$5.00 per month, we would be very close to the \$5,000 per month goal. Recruit a few more new members and we'll be there. We have many great projects in the works, most requiring thousands of dollars. Please take a hard look at what you can do to support cave access and conservation.

Buddy Lane,
Treasurer

**Attendance
Record
For The
Directors**

The Board of Directors are elected by SCCI members to carry out the business and affairs of the SCCI. One measure of how well the nine directors serve is their attendance at SCCI Board meetings. The SCCI believes this information to be so important it has been made a required part of the annual report.

Each year three positions become open for election and each Board member serves a 3-year term. However, some Directors have shorter terms as they have been elected to seats opened by resignation. This year the seats held by Greg Eck, Geary Schindel, and John Van Swearingen expire.

During the last fiscal year there were four meetings. Director's attendance was:

Richard Blackburn	4
Greg Eck	3
Scott Fee	4
Kenneth Huffines	4
Buddy Lane	4
Bill Putnam	4
Geary Schindel	4
John Van Swearingen	4
Mark Wolinsky	4

Kenneth Huffines,
Secretary

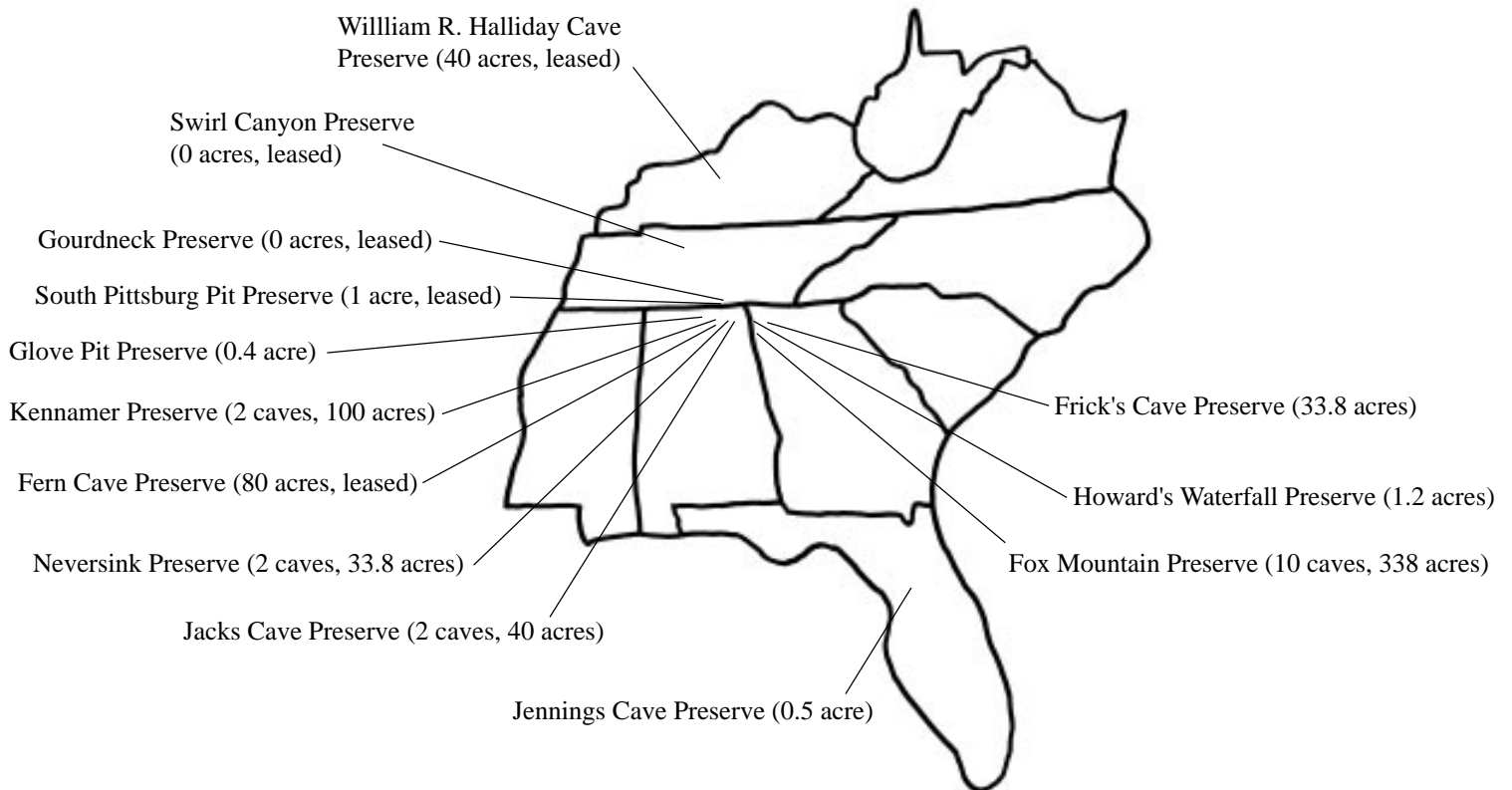
Cave and Karst Preserves of the SCCI

13 Preserves

25 Caves

661.8 Acres

5 States



Preserve Management

Preserve	State	County	Manager	Telephone
Fern Cave & Surprise Pit ...	Ala.	Jackson	J.V. Swearingen	256 536 6365
Fox Mountain Preserve	Ga.	Dade	Andy Porter	404 248-9538
Frick's Cave	Ga.	Walker	E.T. Davis	404 377-1135
Glove Pit	Ala.	Madison	Jim Hall	256 772-9829
Gourdneck Cave	Tenn. ...	Marion	Wm Shrewsbury	423 886-3296
Horse Skull Cave	Ala.	Jackson	Alan Cressler	404 248-9538
Howard's Waterfall Cave ...	Ga.	Dade	Jerry Parker	706 657-7497
Jennings Cave	Fla.	Marion	Ken Peakman	352 620-9854
Kennamer Cave	Ala.	Jackson	Chris Hudson	256 536-3096
Halliday Cave Preserve	Ky.	Hart	Geary Schindel	615 781-6829
Neversink Pit	Ala.	Jackson	Jim Hall	256 772-9829
South Pittsburg Pit	Tenn. ...	Marion	Dennis Holton	423 837-6381
Swirl Canyon Cave	Tenn. ...	Davidson	Geary Schindel	615 781-6829

Statement of Activity
Fiscal Year 1997, Ending April 30, 1998

Support	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 96</u>
Memberships	6,525.00	3,675.00
<u>Donations</u>	<u>111,945.11</u>	<u>26,751.16</u>
Total Support	118,470.11	30,426.16
 Applications		
Bank Charges (Master Card / Visa)	1,671.00	422.78
Equipment Purchases	604.13	
Indiana Karst Conservancy (Sullivan Cave)	500.00	
Insurance	600.00	650.00
Interest Payments (Fox Mountain)	2,612.03	
Interest Payments (Frick's Cave)	5,063.14	
Interest Payments (Horse Skull and Jack's Cave)	605.31	
Interest Payments (Kennamer Cave)	800.00	160.00
Interest Payments (Neversink Pit)	175.00	
Land Survey (Howards Waterfall)	636.50	
Lease Payment (Logsdon Cave)	1.00	
Legal Services, Fees, & Closing Costs	5,225.27	487.45
Licenses, Fees and Dues	525.00	689.75
Meetings & Conferences	826.42	685.00
Miscellaneous	132.93	619.99
Phones & Office Expenses	1,598.99	
Postage & Shipping	783.39	528.59
Printing & Mailing Supplies	1,598.15	429.77
Supplies	563.47	449.66
T-Shirts and Promotional Materials	6,249.55	844.38
<u>Taxes</u>	<u>998.45</u>	<u>23.03</u>
Total Applications	30,354.10	7,406.03
 Revenue & Support Less Applications	 88,116.01	 23,020.13

Submitted By:
Buddy Lane, Treasurer, Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
12-May-98

Statement of Financial Position
Fiscal Year 1997, Ending April 30, 1998

<u>Assets</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 96</u>
Liquid Assets		
General Fund	7,440.42	3,973.91
Operating Reserve Fund	3,000.00	
Quarterly Payments Restricted Fund	4,016.76	
Stewardship Fund	2,035.10	
Blowhole Cave Fund	2,365.14	
Inventory:		
Bookends	1,560.00	
T-Shirts and Promotional Materials	2,500.00	400.00
<u>PMI / Petzl Grant Balance</u>	<u>489.83</u>	<u>1,512.22</u>
Total Liquid Assets	21,847.25	7,446.13
Fixed Assets		
Property:		
Howard's Cave	4,000.00	4,000.00
Glove Pit	7,200.00	7,200.00
Neversink Pit	44,374.50	44,374.50
Kenamer Cave	36,500.00	36,500.00
Frick's Cave	104,780.00	
Fox Mountain	89,640.00	
Horse Skull, Jack's Cave	16,750.00	
<u>Equipment & Supplies</u>	<u>2,465.21</u>	<u>1,033.84</u>
Total Fixed Assets	305,709.71	93,108.34
 Total Assets	 327,556.96	 100,554.47
Liabilities And Net Assets		
Property Mortgages		
Kenamer Cave	16,000.00	
Fricks Cave	69,000.00	
Fox Mountain	74,056.37	
<u>Horse Skull Cave</u>	<u>11,830.11</u>	
Total Liabilities	154,886.48	16,000.00
 Net Assets	 172,670.48	 84,554.47
 Total Liabilities and Net Assets	 327,556.96	 100,554.47

Based on information contained in the unaudited Statement of Support and Applications.

CONTACTING THE SCCI

OFFICIAL ADDRESS

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OFFICERS

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Treasurer Buddy Lane 423 866-6219 blane@scci.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Blackburn 770 427-1890 6040 Sand Wedge Circle, Kennesaw, Ga. 30144 rblackburn@scci.org
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John Van Swearingen ... 256-536-6365 709 Stevens Drive, Huntsville, Ala. 35801 jvs@scci.org

COMMITTEES & PROJECTS

Acquisitions Mark Wolinsky 423 899-2283
Fund Raising J.V. Swearingen 256 536-6365
Land Owner Relations J.V. Swearingen 256 536-6365
Newsletter Editor Mary Foster 770 396-7483
Nominations & Elections Richard Blackburn 770 427-1890
Sustaining Contributions and Credit Card Processing Scott Fee 205 854-7487

INTERNET & E-MAIL

Internet address:

<http://www.scci.org> Visit this internet web site for the latest SCCI news on acquisitions, projects, fundraising, and more. Also posted are newsletters and minutes from recent Board Meetings.

E-mail addresses:

info@scci.org The official e-mail address. Mail is received by Chair Bill Putnam.
sustaining@scci.org Directs your message to the SCCI Sustaining Contributions Coordinator.
directors@scci.org This address rebroadcasts your message to all nine directors.
board@scci.org Rebroadcasts your message to all Directors and Committee Chairs who have an e-mail address.
officers@scci.org Remail your message to the executive committee (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).
property@scci.org Rebroadcasts your message to all SCCI property managers, the SCCI Chair and the Property Acquisitions Committee Chair.
ncms99@scci.org Sends your message to all those working on the 1999 National Cave Management Symposium.