



**SOUTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.
15th ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006**

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Brian Krebs

The past year was a good year for the SCCi. We acquired three more preserves and raised \$245,097.83 in gifts, grants, and interest income. Our membership continues to be strong and the Sustaining Contributor Program continues to grow. It is important to mention that the Sustaining Contributor Program is how the SCCi pays most of the bills we have. It is through the Sustaining Contributor Program the SCCi has been able to become the largest Cave Conservancy in the United States, and for that we should all be proud.

In the past year several new committees were appointed. One I would like to highlight is the Stewardship Committee. The duties of this committee include assisting property managers with stewardship of the preserves and helping to define and sustain consistency in the across-the-board management and care of our properties.

For the upcoming year the Board of Directors will help the conservancy to grow in size by bringing on-line more ways for the SCCi to receive money via general donations, grant writing and membership in the Sustaining Contributor Program. At the present time \$26,161.78 of the SCCi's overall income goes to stewardship and maintenance, postage, office expenses, taxes and the general needs of running the business of the SCCi. By finding other sources for some of these expenses the SCCi will be able to drive more money into acquisitions.

I would like to recognize and extend a special thank you to John Hickman for bringing the SCCi to the level it has achieved thus far. Over John's three years as the Chair, and his many years as a member of the board of directors, John has successfully seen the conservancy through many purchase and donation opportunities and many growing pains. It is thanks to John's hard work, as well as many others, that the SCCi is as successful as it is today.

It is important to remember that the SCCi is not only a membership organization but a company whose purpose is the acquisition, management and stewardship of property. Our members are looked at as shareholders who continue to invest in a growing company through continued donations to the sustaining program. Therefore we need to keep finding ways to reward our shareholders. Whereas in the past, the SCCi has given the Sustaining Members a t-shirt or a polo shirt, depending on the level of giving, in the upcoming year that gift will be changed, and the current gift of a shirt replaced with another premium item. We will continue to give the t-shirt for the \$10.00 per month level of giving.

Our newsletter *The Steward* has always been a challenge for the SCCi. It is very hard to send out a quarterly news letter with little input from the membership. I would like to encourage the membership to pass on reports of visitation and use of the SCCi property to our newsletter editor, Scott Parvin, at editor@scci.org.

An annual fund drive will be put in place and brought on line this year as a way of gaining more funds to support the SCCi. The proceeds from the fund drive will go towards the general fund. We need to be able to place more money in the general operating fund to be used in a wide variety of ways: to purchase more property; maintain the property we currently own; pay property taxes; update and maintain the booth for the caving conventions like SERA, TAG and the NSS Convention; sponsor membership events such as the Frick's Cave Open House with its cookout; and to communicate with the membership. This annual fund drive will be sent to the whole NSS membership in hope of attracting money from other parts of the country. It has been said that the SCCi is always asking for money—and that is true. We must maintain a level of income to allow us to protect what we have and increase in size. The flip side of the giving is all the special places which each of the members now have the ability to visit and to use as if they owned the property themselves. It is a great concept. There are other land trusts out there that will ask for your money to purchased property—and then lock the donor out of the property. But not the SCCi. We ask for your

money and then open the door, and say please use the property and enjoy your investment.

The SCCi will continue the buy-a-piece method of fundraising. This manner of donation will always remain important to the overall success of the mission. Through these various programs the SCCi is able to raise funds and also give the buyer a thank you gift for their support. It is very important to recognize this method of giving as many people give large amounts of money in this way. This program and programs like these will continue over the next year.

Thank you to all of the membership no matter what your level of investing, for without you, and people like you, the Southeastern Cave Conservancy Inc. could not exist. The overall success of the SCCi is because of you, our valued membership. I look forward to seeing you at the next caving event and I invite you to stop in the SCCi booth to check out our latest purchase or just to say hello.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Acquisitions and Access: Acquisitions Chair--Bill Putnam

We have once again enjoyed a very busy and successful year in the area of cave acquisitions. Two major cave donations were completed, along with one cave purchase. In addition, we renewed our caving lease at Sinking Cove with expanded access for cavers. Cave acquisition is our primary activity, and also our greatest expense. We appreciate the support of all the members and donors who make these acquisitions possible. We have several exciting projects in progress, and expect to continue acquiring caves and cave lands at the current pace for the foreseeable future.

Hollow Ridge Cave

Hollow Ridge Cave, Jackson County, Florida, was donated to the SCCi on January 27, 2006. The Hollow Ridge Cave Preserve includes the cave entrances and approximately 5 acres of land overlying the cave. This donation is the culmination of more than three years of work by former owner Allen Mosler and SCCi Director Mark Wolinsky. This acquisition is the SCCi's 23rd preserve and its 53rd cave.

Hollow Ridge Cave is located a few miles northeast of Marianna, Florida, in a small hill that rises about 40 feet above the Chipola River flood plain. The cave has four entrances and a surveyed length of 3,440 feet, making it one of the larger caves in the area. It is formed at the contact between the Marianna Limestone and the Bumpnose member of the underlying Crystal River Limestone. The cave's passages are a mixture of narrow fissures and muddy bedding plane crawls connecting several rooms. Many formations are found throughout the cave. The lower levels are subject to frequent flooding.

When the property containing Hollow Ridge Cave was subdivided some years ago, SCCi member Allen Mosler decided to buy the cave. He did so by purchasing three lots overlying its passages. Since that time, Mosler has acted as steward and protector of the cave - a role which he will continue as manager of the SCCi Hollow Ridge Cave Preserve.

The surface areas of the preserve are wooded, with abundant growth of pine, cedar, hickory, and other trees typical to the region. A small, grassy clearing at the top of the hill serves as a parking area for visitors. Near the back of the preserve there is a small quarry, long abandoned and now overgrown with cedars, ferns, and oak-leaf hydrangeas. The Chipola river lies about 1,500 feet to the west and is fed by many springs in the area. The parking area is reached by a short dirt road and driveway.

Byers Cave

The final paperwork associated with the donation to SCCi of a tract of land on Fox Mountain including the Byers Cave entrances has been completed. The donation added 5.96 acres to the Fox Mountain Cave Preserve and gives the SCCi ownership and control of all known entrances to the cave. Visitors must park at the SCCi Fox Mountain parking area behind Sue's Market in Rising Fawn and access the cave only by means of the designated trail across the SCCi property. Access from Fox Mountain Road is not permitted,

as the SCCi does not own that route. Byers Cave is open to all qualified and responsible cavers under the terms of the SCCi Fox Mountain Cave Preserve Management Plan. As part of our agreement with the donor, the SCCi has committed to continue its policy of not allowing hunting on the Fox Mountain Cave Preserve. Questions about the cave or preserve may be directed to SCCi Fox Mountain property managers Jim Wilbanks, Jerry Wallace, and Marty Abercrombie at fox@scci.org.

South Pittsburg

The Conservancy now owns 20 acres of land surrounding South Pittsburg Pit. This includes the cave entrance, all land overlying its passages, and additional acreage to serve as a buffer zone between the cave and neighboring properties. The first 10 acres, which included the entrance and cave, were purchased September 2005. The buffer zone, of 10 acres, was donated to the SCCi in February 2006 by the seller. The deed includes easements guaranteeing rights of access along the foot trail from Lloyd Park and vehicular access along the road from 12th Street.

A gate has been installed at the beginning of the road easement route. The gate is secured with a combination lock, and access is managed by the property manager, David Crisp, in the same manner used for the Valhalla and Snail Shell preserves. At the present time, the road is drivable by four-wheel-drive vehicles, but a large mud hole just before the preserve boundary will need to be drained and repaired. In addition, a suitable parking and turn-around area on the preserve property will need to be constructed before the road route can be recommended for regular use. The preferred access route is still the foot trail beginning behind the water tank above Lloyd Park.

Awards

The John Van Swearingen IV Stewardship Award,

Steve Pitts was the 2005 recipient of the John Van Swearingen Award. This award was conceived by the Huntsville Grotto in honor of long-time member, conservationist, cave steward, and SCCi Director John Van Swearingen IV, who passed away in 2001. JV served for many years as the Fern Cave Access Coordinator, providing stewardship of the Fern Cave system and preserve for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southeastern Cave Conservancy.

The purpose of the award is to recognize the successful stewardship efforts of an individual, a group of individuals, or an organization that has provided significant stewardship activities for one or more caves, cave preserves, or karst properties, personally conducted over an extended time period. The award, sponsored by the Huntsville Grotto and the SCCi, is also intended to promote long-term cave conservation and stewardship activities and to encourage and thank those individuals and organizations who perform them.

The award consists of:

- A certificate with one of John Van Swearingen's photographic images forming the background
- A donation of \$250 or more made to the SCCi in the award-winner's name
- The winner's name on an SCCi preserve plot valued at \$250 or more.

Continued Commitment to Excellence in Ethical and Technical Management

Many years ago the SCCi adopted the Land Trust Alliances standards and practices. This year the SCCi renewed its commitment to these ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust by adopting the new version of these standards and practices as guidelines for the organization's operations.

Fricks Cave Preserve

The Frick's Cave Preserve continues to be a popular site for caving related activities—from meetings, to bat studies, to camping by the SCCi membership.

The annual Frick's Cave Open House was held on the 11th of February 2006. There were approximately 79 visitors, about 25 who remained for the cookout. An enjoyable day was had by all, and the evening ended with about 10 mm of new snowfall.

The Georgia Speleological Survey (GSS) has held five survey trips into the cave. The survey is complete, but they may do another "mop up" trip to be sure. Brent Aulenbach has a great amount of the cave drafted up as of this report.

Frick's has been the site for a number of bat and other wildlife studies. Currently, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), through a contract with Southern Wildlife Consultants, LLC, has undertaken a study to "begin monitoring and assessing colonial bat populations in Georgia." The report of the initial findings of the August 27, 2005 study were presented at the November 19, 2005 Board meeting. The cave was entered by the researchers on February 4, 2006 to measure the guano piles in the bat room. Proposed dates for a summer visit to count and monitor bats has been set for June.

Attendance at Caving Events

In addition to the Frick's Cave Open House the SCCi maintained:

- a booth at the 2005 and 2006 SERA
- a booth at the 2005 NSS Convention in Huntsville, Alabama, and
- a booth at the 2006 TAG Fall Cave-In.

APPOINTMENTS DURING THE YEAR

In the last 12 months Chairs Hickman and Krebs made the following appointments:

- Allen Mosler, Property Manager, Hollow Ridge Cave Preserve, Florida
- Mike Gordon, Property Manager, Jennings Cave Preserve, Florida
- David Crisp, Property Manager, South Pittsburgh Pit
- Mark Joop, Chair, Grant Writing Committee
- Bill Stringfellow, Nominations and Elections Committee 2006

FINANCIAL STATUS

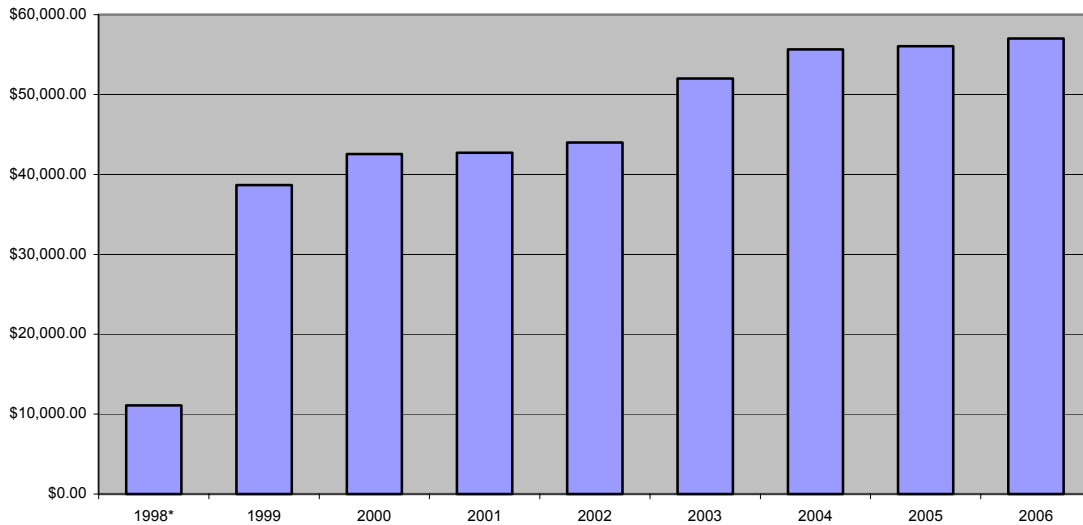
Sustaining Contribution Program: Sustaining Program Chair—Bill Stringfellow

Of the many activities undertaken by the SCCi over the years to raise money for cave purchases, the Sustaining Contributor Program is by far the single most successful fund raising program. Better yet, it is an ongoing program raising nearly \$5,000 every month. Every donation is important of course and we appreciate them all. But without the steady cash flow made possible by Sustaining Contributors the SCCi would not own nearly as many caves and cave preserves.

Today there are nearly 300 Sustaining Contributors; won't you join them? At just \$10 per month your donations add up quickly. Contribute \$10 a month and you will receive a special T-shirt. Contribute \$25 or more each month and you will receive a great polo shirt that shows how proud you are to be a Sustaining Contributor. To sign-up just go to www.scci.org, print the form and mail it in.

To wrap-up, thanks again for all your support and be sure to let us know should your credit card number change so there will be no pause in your donations.

**Fiscal Year
Credit Card Sustaining Donation Totals
1998 - 2006**



Treasurer’s Report, May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006: Treasurer—Buddy Lane

The SCCi’s financial year begins on May 1 and ends on April 30. During the period from 1 May 2005 through 30 April 2006 we received gifts, grants, and interest totaling \$245,097.83.

The following highlights took place during FY2006:

In May of 2005 we attended SERA and raised a total of \$3,037.00 at the event.

On the 20th of September 2005 we closed on the purchase of South Pittsburg Pit. The purchase included ten acres of land. An additional ten acres were donated in February 2006. The total cost of acquisition, including closing and survey expenses, came to \$56,853.15. A mortgage loan of \$40,000.00 was obtained from the Peoples Bank of Scottsboro, Alabama. The balance was paid from cash on hand.

At the October 2005 TAG Fall Cave-In the SCCi raised a total of \$26,437.00—which includes the value of the projected revenue from new one-year memberships in the sustaining contributor program.

Over the Thanksgiving holidays a golf tournament was held by members of the Thurber family to raise funds in memory of Mike Thurber. The SCCi received a donation of \$3,350.00 from the event. This was applied towards their goal of “purchasing” the bottom of Neversink Pit.

On the 30th of December 2005, our Fox Mountain neighbors, Steven and Evanne Brock, donated a tract of land containing all three entrances to Byers Cave, Dade County, Georgia. This strategic donation of 5.95 acres adjoining the Fox Mountain Preserve brings the total preserve acreage to 453.38 acres and secures permanent protection for, and access to, one of the longest and most significant caves in Georgia. A valuation of \$104,125 was recorded based on the donor’s appraisal.

During the month of December we received a grant from the Dogwood City Grotto in the amount of \$2,000.00, for the purchase of South Pittsburg Pit. This amount was paid as an additional principal payment on the 22nd of December 2005.

A review level audit was conducted and completed by Hazlett, Lewis & Bieter, PLLC, on the 15th of December 2005. A copy of the report was presented and discussed at the February board meeting. Larry Eddlemon, CPA, was present at the meeting to report on the audit and take questions. The cost of the audit was \$1,500.00.

On the 27th of January 2006, we received the donation of Hollow Ridge Cave, Jackson County, Florida, from SCCi member Allen Mosler. This is one of the longest caves in the Marianna area. A valuation of \$26,500.00 was assigned based on the donor's appraisal.

On the 1st of February we applied for a grant from The Robertson Association (TRA) to be applied toward the South Pittsburg Pit mortgage. The TRA grants committee was scheduled to meet in March, but as of this report we haven't been informed as to the outcome of our request.

Our monthly mortgage payments now total \$5,561.29 per month. This is an increase of \$500.00 due to the addition of the mortgage on South Pittsburg Pit. In addition we have substantial ownership and maintenance expenses for our 23 cave preserves. Taxes and insurance costs are now well over \$5,000 per year, and property maintenance expenses are over \$1,100. We appreciate the continuing support of all SCCi members, and especially appreciate the sustaining members, whose regular contributions allow us to make monthly mortgage payments and maintain sufficient operating cash to cover expenses throughout the year.

As of the 30th of April 2006, we have \$7,908.18 in non-restricted funds on hand.

Our restricted fund balances are:

Operating Reserve Fund	\$	5,000.00
Mortgage Payment Fund	\$	16,683.87
Stewardship Fund	\$	13,239.65
Blowhole Cave Fund	\$	440.14
Big Bat Cave Fund	\$	600.00
Frick's Cave Restricted	\$	0.00
Huntsville Grotto JV Fund	\$	2,995.00
Total Reserve Funds	\$	38,958.66

Our total liabilities are \$99,022.97. At the end of FY 2005 we were at \$133,842.70. Total net assets are \$881,737.18, an increase of \$204,383.83 from FY 2005. Our liabilities and net assets total \$980,760.15.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS 2005 TO 2006

In the summer of 2005 long-time board member Mark Wolinsky (GA) decided not to run for the board again. His position was filled in the 2005 summer election by Bill Stringfellow, also of Georgia. Stringfellow took up his duties as director at the November 2005 meeting.

Other directors during this period of time were Kris Green, Roger Haley, John Hickman, Brian Krebs, Buddy Lane, Bill Overton, and Bill Putnam.

Officers during this period were: John Hickman, Chair, (until his resignation in 2006); Brian Krebs, elected Chair in 2006; Buddy Lane, Treasurer; and Diane Cousineau, Secretary.

As required by Act 15-038, the attendance record of the Board members during the meetings of the last year is to be reported at the Annual Meeting.

There have been four board meetings since the last secretary's attendance report in May 2005. On each meeting date the board meets in closed session to discuss personnel, legal, and acquisition issues. The board then meets in open session. Directors are expected to attend both the closed and open portion of the meetings. In addition to the closed and open meetings, there is also the annual member's meeting.

DIRECTORS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS											
Report as required by Act 15-038											
Month of meeting and type	Cousineau	Green	Haley	Hickman	Joop	Krebs	Lane	Overton	Putnam	Stringfellow	Wolinsky
May 05											
Closed	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Open	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Annual	X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Aug. 05											
Closed	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X
Open	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X
Nov. 05											
Closed	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		
Open	X	X	X	X		X	X		X		
Feb. 06											
Closed	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	
Open	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	

Notes:



Not serving as director.
 Wolinsky's term ended with August 05 meeting;
 Stringfellow's term began with the November 05 meeting

LIST OF SCCi PROPERTIES—OWNED AND LEASED

SCCi PROPERTIES 2006 Leased and Owned				
LEASED				
Property	Location	Access Policy	Property Manager	Acres
Fern Cave (Surprise Pit Entrance)	Jackson County, Alabama	Permit required, contact the property manager two weeks in advance.	Steve Pitts	80.0
Gourdneck Cave	Marion County, Tennessee	Open, 8 person limit on group size, do not block road.	Wm Shrewsbury	0
William R. Halliday Cave Preserve -- Logsdon Cave	Hart County, Kentucky	Permit required, contact the management committee for access.	Bill Overton and The Nashville Grotto Cave Management Committee	40.0
Hardins Cave	Davidson County, Tennessee	Permit and key required, contact the management committee for access.	Bill Overton and The Nashville Grotto Cave Management Committee	0
Rattling Cave Preserve	Cocke County, Tennessee	On-site registration required. Closed from September 15 to April 15 for bat conservation. See the management plan for details.	Curtis Ellison	0
Sinking Cove Cave Preserve (5 major caves and 5 smaller ones)	Franklin County, Tennessee	SCCi membership card and advance notification required. 16 person group size limit. Closed during deer and turkey seasons. See the management plan for details.	Buddy Lane	30
Swirl Canyon Cave	Davidson County, Tennessee	Permit and key required, contact the management committee for access.	Bill Overton and The Nashville Grotto Cave Management Committee	.0

OWNED

Property	Location	Access Policy	Property Manager	Acres
Glove Pit	Madison County, Alabama	Open, very limited parking area, do not block road or impede traffic.	Jim Hall	0.4
Fox Mountain Cave Preserve (11 caves)	Dade County, Georgia	Open, 12 person limit on group size, do not park on the Interstate. Contact the property managers for instructions.	Jim Wilbanks, Jerry Wallace and Marty Abercrombie	453.38
Fricks Cave	Walker County, Georgia	Access by special arrangement only due to endangered cave life.	Fricks Cave Management Committee	33.8
Holly Creek Cave Preserve (3 caves)	Wayne County, Tennessee	Closed April 1 to September 15 for bat conservation, otherwise Open. 6 person group size limit. See the management plan for details.	Shane Stacy	12
Hollow Ridge Cave Preserve	Jackson County, Florida	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	Allen Mosler	4.97
Horse Skull/Jack's Hole (3 caves)	Jackson County, Alabama	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	Andy Zellner	40.0
Howards Waterfall Cave	Dade County, Georgia	Open - use Main Entrance only, others are not owned by SCCI.	David Bain	1.25
Jennings Cave	Marion County, Florida	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	Sullivan Beck, Bill Birdsall, and the Florida Speleological Society	0.5
Kenamer Cave (2 caves)	Jackson County, Alabama	Open, 12 person limit on group size, do not block road.	Bill Torode	101.0
Limrock Cave Preserve	Jackson County, Alabama	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	<u>Tommy Royston</u>	48.34
Lobeila Saltpeter Cave_ (3 caves)	Pocahontas County , West Virginia	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	Dave Cowan and the West Virginia Cave Conservancy	29.5

Neversink (2 caves)	Jackson County, Alabama	Open, 12 person limit on group size, 6 vehicle limit in parking area, do not park on road.	Jim Hall	32.87
Snail Shell Cave Preserve	Rutherford County, Tennessee	SCCi or NSS membership and advance notification required. 12 person group size limit. See the management plan for details.	Bob Biddix	88.21
South Pittsburg Pit Preserve	Marion County, Tennessee	Open, 12 person limit on group size.	David Crisp	20.76
Valhalla Cave Preserve (1 major cave and 3 smaller ones)	Jackson County, Alabama	SCCi or NSS membership and advance notification required. 12 person group size limit. Closed during deer and turkey seasons. See the management plan for details.	Buddy Lane	125
Wolf River Cave Preserve	Fentress County , Tennessee	Permit and key required.. Closed from September through April for bat conservation. See the management plan for details.	Kristin Bobo	32.86

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