

The Hollow Earth News

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July 2017



Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa, Iowa, the site of caving activities for the 55th Annual WSS Hodag Hunt Festival, August 9-11, 2019.



The Wisconsin Speleological Society

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The Hollow Earth News is the official monthly newsletter of the Wisconsin Speleological Society, a grotto of the National Speleological Society. Exchanges and inquiries, as well as articles for publication, should be sent to the editor's address listed above.

Membership Info

Annual membership in the WSS is now based on how you would like to receive this newsletter. The fees are: Electronic version **emailed to you** is \$15 per individual and \$18 per family. The **mailed version** is \$20 per individual and \$25 per family. The WSS Membership Year begins on June 1st and ends on May 31st of the following year. If you join other than in June, please prorate, divide total by number of months left until May and pay accordingly so that your membership ends in May. Include your email address, your NSS number and any information that you want in the WSS database and printed in the annual Membership List.

Send remittance (payable to: WSS) and changes of address to: **Karen Fiske**
S9740 Exchange Rd.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578

The WSS monthly meeting is usually scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of every month, either at the Ledge View Nature Center at W2348 Short Road, Chilton, Wisconsin, 53014 (October thru May) or at Cherney Maribel Caves County Park in Manitowoc County (June thru September). This schedule sometimes changes and WSS meetings are held at other locations. Please refer to the latest issue of *The Hollow Earth News* or see the calendar of events at www.wisconsincaves.org for updated information, as well as maps and directions to the caves. All are welcome to attend. Cave restoration opportunities usually follow the meeting.

The WSS strongly advocates safe caving and caving related activities. However, neither the WSS nor its members can guarantee the safety of anyone participating in these activities and are not responsible for injuries, illnesses, deaths or financial losses during such participation.

The WSS and its members do not necessarily endorse or agree with the opinions and articles in *The Hollow Earth News* and the *Wisconsin Speleologist*, or with opinions and articles presented in any other WSS publications and cannot guarantee the accuracy or validity of them.

<http://www.wisconsincaves.org>



Caving Calendar

A great selection of upcoming caving activities is in the works! All are welcome in any of our caving activities. Please come and be a part of the exciting world of caving. These outings may include caving trips, educational opportunities, survey opportunities, and cave excavation activities. I hope you can join us on one of these great offerings and become a part of the wonderful world of underground adventures. One huge issue everyone needs to be aware of in any of our caving activities is the potential devastation of our bat populations that will occur from the White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Check out the Wisconsin Speleological Society (WSS) website at (<http://www.wisconsincaves.org/WNS>) for more information on WNS. WNS has now been confirmed in 14 different sites in Wisconsin. The link provided gives you information about the problem and what to do about it. If you have been caving out of the State of Wisconsin, you cannot use the same gear here in Wisconsin caves, per Wisconsin-DNR policies. There are also decontamination protocols that must be adhered to on any caving activities in Wisconsin and any trips to our nearby sister states. PLEASE CLEAN AND DISINFECT YOUR CAVING GEAR, INCLUDING ALL CLOTHING, BEFORE ENTERING AND AFTER LEAVING ALL CAVES!!!! Also new to note, the United State Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the Northern Long-eared Bat as a threaten species as of April 2015. Within their 4(d) rule, it states a cave is considered to be a hibernacula if a Northern Long-eared Bat has been documented in them at least once and hibernaculum areas can't be disturbed. With these news rules in place, WINTER CAVING IS NO LONGER ALLOWED IN CAVES KNOWN TO BE A WINTER HIBERNACULUM FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BATS. If you have any questions about the Ledge View or Maribel activities, please feel free to contact me at home in the evenings at [608-544-2212](tel:608-544-2212) or on the days of the cave activities by cellphone at [608-370-1883](tel:608-370-1883). You can also reach me via e-mail until 4:00 on the day before each activity. On the day of the Maribel outings, you can also contact Al Schema by cell phone at [920-242-5892](tel:920-242-5892) or Mike Sobush at [920-860-6123](tel:920-860-6123).

New Posting **8/9-11** – Friday, Saturday and Sunday - The **WSS HODAG Hunt Festival** location this year is at Riverview Ridge Campground, in Cascade, Iowa. For directions to and more information on the Campground see (<https://riverviewridgecampgrounds.com/>). We picked that location as it's in close proximity to Maquoketa Caves State Park, which is our main caving interest. Maquoketa Cave State Park covers 370 acres nestled among hardwood trees and high bluffs. The park contains more caves than any other state park in Iowa. A beautiful trail system links the caves, formations, and overlooks while providing an exciting hiking experience. The Park features approximately thirteen public caves to visit and a combined 6 miles of hiking trails. Most of the caves may be entered by persons of average physical ability, but some are more advanced and will require lights and full caving gear. Caves vary from the 1,100' Dancehall Cave with walkways and lighting system to Dugout Cave an advanced caving opportunity. The remaining caves are all different sizes and shapes. Some can be explored by walking while others can best be seen by crawling. A great experience awaits everyone at this unique state park! For more information on Maquoketa Caves State Park see (<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/ParkDetails/ParkID/610127>). This will be our 55th Hodag annual outing. We are extremely pleased to have a totally new location for our 2019 Hodag Festival. Hodag outings are a great

way to socialize and make lasting connections with cavers from all parts of Wisconsin and other states. The Hodag Festival registration is at Riverview Ridge Campground on Friday evening and Saturday morning. You can save money by preregistering for the event. Preregistration is \$10.00/person. Hodag Onsite Registration is \$11.00/person. For youth under 15, there is no Hodag Registration fee requirement. Five full-service adjoining sites with full electricity and water have been reserved at the Riverview Ridge Campground with lots of room for everyone. Costs for the group site camping is \$8.00 per night per person. Single sites can still be obtained for more privacy by reservation by visiting the Campground website. Saturday will be a full day of caving fun at Maquoketa Caves State Park. Saturday night we will have a banquet meal at Kalmes' Club 528 in Cascade, just a 5-minute ride from Riverview Ridge Campground. The buffet dinner will be \$11:50 per person, which includes the tax and a tip. Children 4-10 are \$4.75. The meal is followed by our WSS fund raising auction right at the Kalmes' Club 528. Please do bring some items for the auction and some extra cash. You will get some great deals and fantastic caving works of art at our auction. Friday and Saturday evenings are always a great time also to socialize with old and new caving acquaintances, so join us at the group campfire site. Other caving and non-caving venues will be offered for the entire weekend. For more detailed information on the 55th Annual WSS Hodag Festival and to obtain a preregistration form, see the WSS website at (<http://www.wisconsincaves.org/wss-annual-hodag-hunt>). For additional information on the 2019 Hodag Festival, you can also contact Kasey Fiske at (kasey.fiske@wisc.edu).

New Posting **8/17-18** – Saturday and Sunday **Free Public Tours** in Maribel New Hope Cave at *****Cherney Maribel Caves County Park**. NOTE: This will be a special Saturday addition to our regular third-weekend Sunday tours. Tours will be led by experienced tour guides that start from around 9:00 and conclude at 3:00. The tours are free and open to the public. In addition, cave tour opportunities have been added for the weekend in the Tartarus Cave System from 1:00 until 3:00.

***Cherney Maribel Caves County Park is just off of I-43 half way between Manitowoc and Green Bay. Take the Maribel exit off of I-43 onto Hwy 147 east. Next drive less than a 1/4 mile onto Hwy 147 and then turn north onto County Hwy R. The park is one mile north on County Hwy R on the right hand side. Just follow the signs for the park once you exit I-43. More information on the caves at Cherney Maribel Caves County Park can be found at (<http://www.maribelcaves.com/>).



Minutes for WSS June Meeting – June 17, 2017

Cherney Maribel Caves County Park

Submitted by Kasey Fiske

WSS Meeting called to order at 10:10 am

WSS Board present: Kasey Fiske, Mike Sobush, Gary K. Soule, Bryan Kleist, Robert “Nuke” Thompson, Allan Schema, and Brock Miller was proxy for Brad Graf.

Kasey read the treasury report for Brad: General WSS Fund: \$6,026.53; Maribel WSS Fund: \$6,810.16. No changes since last meeting. Deposits are current as of 2/28 email notification from Brad. The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a correction on the name of the publication that Blaze and Jean Cunningham's picture was found in. Kasey re

WSS June Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

mindful Board members to send him an email if anyone sees a needed correction. The May minutes will be published in the June 2017 *HEN* issue.

Kasey gave a public thank you to Bryan Kleist, Bob Moore, Nick Moore, Joe Burke, and Vern Diegel for their work effort in the Sinkhole Cave restoration project at Cherney Maribel Caves County Park on Wednesday 6/7. They worked on cleaning the floor in the sink, which is a flat stone floor. There was no standing water in the cave. They got out 34 tubs of wet cave sediment. Kasey gave a thank you to Mike Sobush and Vern Diegel for their extensive skid steer work from Tuesday 6/6 until Monday 6/12 on the parking lot expansion project. Monday was gravel delivery and overlay of the new parking lot areas. Nine 16-cubic yard loads of gravel were delivered to fill in the new parking lot expanded areas. A thank you went out next to Gary K. Soule for bringing in the "Welcome Cavers" sign for our 4/30 "Cave Discovery Day". It was prominently displayed in the Halloween Room elevated area to welcome cavers as they entered Maribel New Hope Cave. Michelle Kleist received next a large thank you for the modifications and upgrades she did on the Cherney Maribel Caves County Park map that is printable on the Maribel website. Mike received another thank you for taking the lead on the new Cherney Maribel Caves County Park trifold advertising brochure that will be handed out to the general public. Also thanked on this project were Bryan Kleist and Gary K. Soule for their keen editing eyes for the wording on the finished brochure. Allan Schema was thanked for his continual maintenance watch and functional fixes to the WSS website. One of the newest things Allan has on the website is the beginnings of a cave rescue callout list.

First on the agenda items, Mike was asked to give a report on the new Cherney Maribel Caves County Park trifold advertising brochure. A total of 1000 are being printed to start. Mike brought in the first run of the brochures that he received that are completed. The printer ran out of the colored ink so the balance of the ordered brochures had not been received yet. We used part of our meeting time to fold the ones that Mike had brought to the meeting. The brochures are sponsored by both Denmark State Bank and Shuster's Arcade family restaurant and bar, also of Denmark, WI. The two sponsors paid for the printing of the brochures. The brochure advertises our free Sunday tour weekends. The brochure also includes the newly revised Cherney Maribel Caves County Park map, general information on the park and caves, and some info on the WSS. Shuster's Arcade also has a 10% discount on their meals if a brochure is presented to them on one of our tour dates. Mike mentioned the only thing that stood out that was missing from the brochures was a print date. He added on any future reprinting of the brochures, he hoped to have it added.

Mike next was asked to report on any more communications he may have had with Leeann Allen for the 6 church groups' gathering and picnic planning at the park. Leeann had addressed the WSS board at our March meeting for a possible Sunday weekend date that the church groups could gather for an after church social gathering at the park for a picnic meal and offered cave tours afterwards. We gave her two park date possibilities: one is the second Sunday in August and the other was the fourth Sunday in September. Leeann said she would take the dates and information we gave her on the tours back to her church groups and get back to us on what date would be better for them. Mike reported that he has not heard anything back yet from Leeann on a confirmed date.

Mike gave more details on the recent parking lot expansion project. Vern and he were in the park for seven straight all-day

activities from Tuesday 6/6 until Monday 6/12. The first six days were all prep work in removing topsoil from two new areas of parking lot expansion. One area was by the large cedar tree on the east middle of the parking lot and the other was south of the circle drive. Low spots next to the cedar tree were filled in with tons of rock transported from the Sink Hole Cave restoration work activities discard pile. A new diversion waterway was also created south of the circle drive. It will run along the extreme south side of the expanded parking lot. The expanded parking lot to the south will add new parking from the old campground roadway all the way across to the entrance roadway. The waterway diversion will redirect the water that is running down the entrance roadway, so it should no longer wash out the Cave Trail that starts by the park interpretive sign. Mike also did some minimal work on pushing back some of the topsoil and plant debris in the last parking lot expansion area west of the circle drive. He relocated the large rocks that were being used there for car barriers and repositioned them along new sections of the parking lot that has already been completed. Mike is waiting on the Parks Department to come in with a backhoe to remove two large hardwood tree stumps in this area before any more work can be done to complete the parking lot expansion. Monday 6/12 was gravel delivery and overlay. Nine 16-cubic loads of gravel were delivered. One was a load of breaker rock and the balance was eight loads of gravel. The cost for the truck delivery and gravel materials was \$1,935. Mike paid \$1000 to the gravel and trucking company and still owes them \$935. Payments for the gravel and trucking will come out of our Maribel WSS account. Mike paid the \$1000 from cash he had on hand from the previous free Sunday cave donations. The balance of what is owed will be paid from our donations received from our June 18th tours. The new Manitowoc Park's Director, Tim Ryan, sat in on our meeting. He mentioned that there is a possibility of a separate funding source in the County outside of the park's budget that could pay for all the expenses that WSS has paid out for the gravel so far. He will look into it to see if we can be reimbursed for our expenses.

Gary next reported on some interesting caving accident facts from 1967 to 2017. The information was gathered from the 50th Anniversary Edition of the *NSS American Caving Accidents*. It was a summary of 50 years of American cave accidents. A total of 150 people have died in caving accidents since 1967. Of the 150 deaths, 35 were from drowning in caves. In this time frame, there has also been 966 injuries where aid was required in getting people out of the caves.

Gary presented to the WSS library his 25th caving booklet. This new one featured Battlefield Crystal Caverns, Strasburg, Shenandoah County, Virginia.

Gary gave a summation of his cave research trip to Kentucky. He stopped to see 30 different commercial cave locations on this trip. It was a long trip and he did collect a lot of information for some of his future cave writing needs. He was happy to be back home. Gary handed out various cave brochures he had collected on his trip to anyone that wanted them.

Gary gave a summation of our next Maribel caving patch design. The photo orientation for the new patch, to keep the series of new patches in a historic sequence, is vertical. The WSS Board has decided the next person to be featured on the next patch is Mike Sobush. Gary has obtained the photos that Larry had taken of Mike by the second pillar in the Formation Room Passage. He printed some of the better photographs and brought them in to show at the meeting. Yes, they might work, but they did not look natural enough. Gary is asking others to take more pictures of Mike until we can get one that will work for a new patch series.

Gary brought up for discussion the missing Maribel New

Hope Cave tour date stickers on both the bathroom doors. They are stickers that Bryan had created for the doors. They are identical to the current sticker that is on the outside of the Maribel New Hope Cave entrance door. The stickers show all the dates for the free public Sunday cave tours. The stickers used to be on the bathroom doors, but we had to remove them because they were partially peeling and bubbling off the door. The problem is the paint on the new doors is a type of acrylic paint and the stickers can't properly bind to the metal underneath the paint. According to Mike, to solve the problem, the doors will probably have to be totally removed, sanded down, and repainted. We would also have to reprint the stickers, as they can't be reused. It is just one of those many jobs we need to get to. Right now, the priority has been the parking lot expansion project.

Kasey had added an agenda item for Gary to discuss with the WSS Board his possible suggestions for improvements and feedback on how the traffic control signs and cones worked for him in the parking lot for directing traffic to him on our free Sunday tour day. Gary said the traffic flow worked well, but there were a few folks that got impatient when cars got backed up waiting to get into the park. For the most part, people were ok with the delay and it worked to direct folks to Gary so he did not have to chase cars all over the parking lot. Suggestions for improvement would be to have some reliable person to assist. That way two cars could be handled at once and traffic would not be backed up. Also, it would allow for a bathroom and lunch break. A person directing parking would be beneficial, as well.

Allan gave an update on his work on the callout list for the WSS webpage. The callout list site is identified on the website menu bar. By clicking on the menu bar, it will take you to a site that says it is still under construction. There you will see a regional map of Wisconsin by counties that is broken up into five regions. To be worked on yet is the added feature of clicking on each individual region, to pull up the list of cavers on the callout list for those regions. Information on each person on the call out list will be a current phone number and a quick summation of their expertise, specialties, and or medical training. For example, Nuke would be identified for his proficiency in vertical and rescue rope work and Rick Johnson for his former paramedic ambulance background.

Next was a brief discussion and status check on the final caving brochure proof. Kasey confirmed that Bryan had sent him the final corrected version of the WSS caving brochure. Kasey just has not had time to get to it for printing. Kasey wants his wife, Karen, to make a final proof read of the brochure before it goes to the printer.

Kasey handed out for review the second corrected revision of the 2017 Cherney Maribel County Park Activity Plan. The revised plan was reviewed in its entirety. Only one additional item was suggested to be added and that was our desire and plans for a new storage shed. Kasey stated he would make the third revision change and forward it on to Manitowoc County Parks Director, Tim Ryan. Tim took one of the handed-out revisions and gave his thanks on the work we have put in so far on the plan. The next step is for Tim to look at the plan and make any suggested changes or additions he feels that should be made. Those changes and additions, if any, then need to be approved by the WSS Board before Tim signs the agreement. The signed plan then would then signify Manitowoc County's approval of the plan.

Kasey brought up for discussion the need for a decision on the 2017 Hodag site and date. Kasey relayed to everyone that at the Crystal Cave Sleepunder that he had a chance to talk with Crystal Cave owner, Eric McMaster, about having the Hodag there. The last time we had a Hodag at Crystal Cave was in 2010. Eric

was favorable to having it at Crystal Cave this year. The WSS Board agreed on trying to have it at Crystal Cave and asked Kasey to follow-up with Eric on a confirmed Hodag date. Gary suggested we should have it earlier and think about having it on the last weekend in August, when the weather would be warmer. Others thought the historic second weekend date in September would be fine too. Kasey said he would check with Eric to confirm a date that would work for him and his staff and bring the information back for the July meeting.

There was a brief discussion on some recent requests for cave maps from our WSS library for a book that is being worked on about Midwest caves. The author would not release the exact location of the caves, but intended to identify the county the cave was in and identify the cartographer of the map. As a reminder to all and as listed on our website, Kasey reminded to everyone that we are not in the business of giving out cave locations and such requests should be turned down. If we did not do so, the caves would quickly be trashed and vandalized. The Board agreed on the denial for giving out our maps for the new publication.

Kasey concluded the agenda items with two additional short announcements and one request. Kasey let everyone know the WSS Summer picnic has been rescheduled for the July meeting. Similarly, the WSS officer elections have been moved to the July meeting. Kasey asked for any additional WSS officer nominations. No new nominations were made.

Horseshoe Bay Cave updates: Gary reported that Sevastopol High School from Institute Wisconsin, a school in Door County, did tour the cave in late May. **Crystal Cave updates:** There was a breakthrough in South Portal into virgin cave during the Sleepunder weekend. Kasey reported on the last day of the Sleepunder that 75 to 100 feet of crawling to standing passage was discovered. Substantial formations were present and there is lots of potential now for additional new cave passage finds. **Ledge View updates:** We must do something with Defiance Sink or it will have to be filled in. **Maribel updates:** Parking lot expansion is discussed above. Lost Hammer Passage is now cleared of all debris, with the exception of just a few possible small side leads. New conduit electrical wiring and three separate lines of sump pump hoses have been installed through the Lost Hammer Passage.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.



NEWS AND NOTES

Online Caving Newsletters Available

The July, 2017 issue of the CCG newsletter, *The Underground Movement*, is now available online at: http://www.caves.org/grotto/ccg/um/2017_06_um.pdf.





Moments in Spelean History

by Gary K. Soule, Grotto Historian

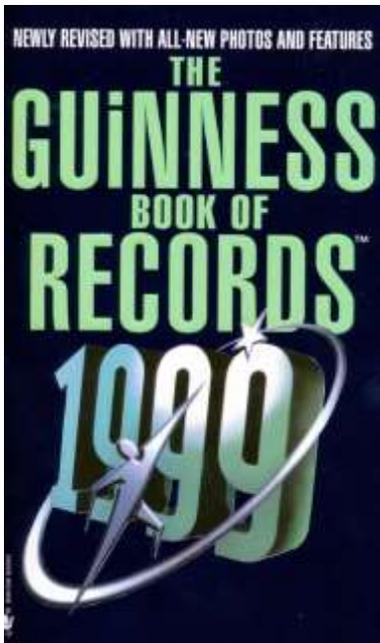
was exploring a cave in Wisconsin when he fell into an underground river and was sucked down a water siphon into a cavern. Rescuers abandoned their search after four days, but Du Prisne was alive, surviving on fish and algae scraped from the walls. Determined to escape, he unraveled orange yarn from his sweater and tied it to the legs of a dozen bats. Residents of a nearby town saw the bats, and he was saved 13 days later.”



World's Greatest Cave Hoax

While cave research based upon facts is what I like to focus on, sometimes the “facts” are so remarkable, that they cannot be ignored. Such is the case with what I consider “Wisconsin’s Greatest Cave Hoax.”

Such is the case of *THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS*, that came out in May of 1999. It is put out by Bantam Books, and is published by arrangement with Guinness Publishing, LTD. Like their similar *Guinness Book of World Records*, certain strict guidelines must be followed for each record entry. For example, part of just the documentation category alone reads: “Each and every record claim must be accompanied by detailed documentation. Two independent witness statements are the minimum requirement, and your witnesses should be people of some standing in the local community: a doctor, lawyer, elected official, police officer, or official of a professional or athletic organization, for example. Certain records may also require the judgement of an expert, such as a surveyor or a public health official. Neither witness may be related to you. Witnesses should not only be able to confirm that they have seen the successful progress or completion of the record attempt, but also the guidelines have been followed.”



With this in mind, I was very surprised to see a photo on page 146 of a person holding a large bat. In the credits at the back of the book the photo is evidently distributed by Corbis, which is similar to our Associated Press. A Wolfgang Kaehler is given credit for the photo. But the text under the photo is what has to be “WISCONSIN’S GREATEST CAVE HOAX!” On page 146 under a category titled “GREAT ESCAPES” it reads exactly as follows:

“LONGEST PERIOD SURVIVED IN AN UNDERGROUND CAVERN Bats are generally seen as sinister creatures, but speleologist George Du Prisne owes his life to them. In 1983, he

As an active member of our Wisconsin Speleological Society, our members would have certainly been contacted, or heard of this right away. But all the things wrong with this story are truly remarkable. We have no fruit bats or anything even close to the size of the bat shown. The cave water here is about 46 degrees to 48 degrees in temperature, and hypothermia would have been a major problem for survival. Also, no fish exist in Wisconsin caves. How you would carefully tie yarn to a dozen of our much smaller species of bats would be remarkable. I could go on, but no science fiction writer could have done a better job than this! In short, it is remarkable that an outrageous hoax like this could even be pulled off. Anyway, it just goes to show you that the book, despite evidently having strict verification procedures, is not immune to outrageous pranks!



55th Annual WSS Hodag Festival August 9-11, 2019

We are happy to announce the 55th annual Wisconsin Speleological Society (WSS) Hodag Hunt Festival is scheduled and we are set for yet another fun and adventurous caving celebration weekend. This year’s event will be held near Maquoketa Caves



State Park in Iowa. We will be based at Riverview Ridge Campground, in Cascade, Iowa, about 25 minutes northwest of the State Park.

Maquoketa Caves State Park is located 7 miles northwest of the Iowa city of Maquoketa. The park is in the driftless area of Iowa. This region escaped being glaciated in the last ice age, while regions to the east and west of the park were not spared. The park has been subjected to hundreds of thousands of years of natural non-glacial erosion. Maquoketa Caves is probably Iowa's most unique state park. Its caves, limestone formations and rugged bluffs provide visitors a chance to "step back" into geological time thousands of years into the past. Keeping with the tradition of trying something new, this is the first time a WSS Hodag Hunt Festival has ever been held at Maquoketa Cave State Park.

Maquoketa Cave State Park covers 370 acres nestled among hardwood trees and high bluffs. The park contains more caves than any other state park in Iowa. A beautiful trail system links



the caves, formations, and overlooks while providing an exciting hiking experience. The Park features approximately thirteen public caves to visit and a combined 6 miles of hiking trails. Most of the caves may be entered by persons of average physical ability, but some are more advanced and will require lights and full caving gear. Caves vary from the 1,100' Dancehall



Cave with walkways and lighting system to Dugout Cave an advanced caving opportunity. The remaining caves are all different sizes and shapes. Some can be explored by walking while others can best be seen by crawling. A great experience awaits everyone at this unique state park!

The Maquoketa Cave State Park was chosen as this year's 2019 Hodag Hunt Festival destination, because of last year's site visit during the 2018 Hodag Hunt Festival that was at Yellowstone Lake State Park in Wisconsin. Many WSS Board members and Hodag attendees made the hour and a half trip



from Yellowstone Lake State Park to Maquoketa Cave State Park, after hearing nothing but praise for the park from many WSS members who have visited the park in the past and had suggested that it would make a great Hodag Hunt Festival location. The WSS Board members and other cavers on the 2018 Hodag trip were blown away on what they saw and fell in love with the park. The only drawback from that trip was the lack of time to see everything and explore all the caves and other unique offerings in the park. With an enthusiastic vote of approval, the following morning after the site visit trip and during WSS September monthly meeting, the WSS Board approved the 2019 Hodag Hunt Festival location to be at Maquoketa Cave State Park. Note, no park sticker or fee is required in any Iowa State Parks, so entry and visitation to Maquoketa Caves State Park is free. More information can be found about Maquoketa Cave State Park at their official website (<https://www.iowadnr.gov/Places-to-Go/State-Parks/Iowa-State-Parks/ParkDetails/parkid/610127>).

Hodag Fun: The WSS Hodag Hunt Festival is a yearly weekend caving jubilee for cavers from Wisconsin and the surrounding states. It is a great time to get together for exploring caves during the day, later reconnecting and relaxing with fellow cavers, and above all, having lots of social fun and camaraderie. You do not have to be a WSS member or be affiliated with any other caving grotto to attend. Everyone is welcome! We do encourage new attendees to join the WSS if they are interested.

The WSS uses the Hodag Hunt Festival weekend as a caving social gathering and uses the funds raised at the Hodag auction to support its various caving activities throughout the year. Please do bring items for the auction and some extra money for the great buys and interesting finds you will see at the auction.



Caving Requirements: Please note we do have two very important **equipment requirements** for everyone who is going into any caves during the Hodag Hunt: 1) **Everyone needs to have clean caving equipment** to protect against the spread of the devastating White-Nose Syndrome (WNS). See the WSS website information at (<http://www.wisconsinincaves.org/WNS>) for the latest updates on WNS. The link also provides the latest decontamination protocols from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for your caving gear; and 2) Maquoketa Caves State Park now **requires a permit to enter any of the park's caves**. The permit is free and requires anyone who wants to visit the caves to attend very brief White Nose Syndrome (WNS) Awareness Program. You will be asked to disinfect your shoes and not wear gear or clothes that have been in contaminated areas. After the short presentation you will be given a green wrist band that is the proof you went through the presentation. The green wrist band is the permit to enter the caves.



Group Camping Site: The WSS has reserved 5 adjoining full service water/electric sites at [Riverview Ridge Campground](#) just a short 25-minute drive and easy driving directions from

Maquoketa Caves State Park. The sites are near full-service bathrooms and a picnic shelter. Riverview Ridge is a full hook-up service campground equipped with RV and tent sites. It is



ranked in the top five of the “Best Campgrounds in Iowa”. It is located along the cliffs and lush riverbanks on the [North Fork of the Maquoketa River](#), just a mile or so from the cozy town of Cascade, Iowa. They offer tube & kayak rentals with pick up and have 10 miles of combined hiking/walking trails through an additional 80 acres of campground terrain. Other amenities include clean bathrooms and showers, free use of board games from the clubhouse next to the picnic shelter, scheduled weekend movie nights on the big screen in the picnic shelter, a horseshoe pit area, sand volleyball court, nice new children’s playground area, picnic tables and pits at each campsite, beach areas along the river for shallow water fun, fishing, full firewood service with delivery to your site, and pets are allowed on a leash. For more information on the campground visit their web site at (<https://riverviewridgecampgrounds.com>). Note, Hodag registration will be at the campground and our meal and auction will be a five-minute drive to the nearby town of Cascade.



Individual Campsites: There is an abundance of individual campsites available in at Riverview Ridge. Folks with large or small campers, or even a person with a tent that wants more privacy, can pick between having full, just partial hookups, or no hookups for their camp sites. Reservations for individual sites can still be obtained by contacting the campground through their website.

Firewood: Bringing your own firewood is **not allowed** at Riverview Ridge Campground. They sell firewood at the campground office for a nominal fee and will deliver the firewood right to camping site.

Meals: You will be on your own for all meals on Friday and Sunday, and also breakfast and lunch on Saturday. Cascade has a number of options in the Bar/Restaurant area. The Cascade Café (open at 6 am), The Narrow Gauge, and the Corner Tap are all conveniently located in downtown Cascade while the Bent Rim is located 1 large block South of 1st Ave on the East side of town. Pizza/Italian meal options can be found at Happy Joe's, a sit-down/carry-out/delivery restaurant attached to the Cascade Bowling Center on the East end of town. There is Godfather's Pizza/Italian and Casey's Pizza Carry-Out located at Casey's Convenience Store. Cascade has some great and healthy options in the fast food/deli area. They have a Subway located downtown and a new deli located within Brother's Market for a healthier sandwich alternative. We are happy to announce this year we are once again going to have a buffet dinner before our WSS Hodag auction on Saturday evening. The dinner this year will be in the large lower level banquet room at Kalmes' Club 528 in Cascade, just a 5-minute drive from Riverview Ridge Campground. The meal includes beef and chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, roll and butter, coffee, and milk. A full-service bar upstairs is also available for alternative beverages. The WSS auction will follow in the same room.

Registration and Orientation Meeting: Registration starts Friday evening at our group campsite at 7pm and will continue on Saturday morning from 8-9:30 a.m. **A 9:30 welcome and trip briefing on Saturday is required** for everyone to attend.

Trips: Saturday trips will be offered from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Sign-up sheets will be available after Saturday breakfast, if you are participating in any planned WSS trip activities. For caving trips, everyone needs to be aware of White Nose Syndrome decontamination protocol in order to participate. Decontamination info will be provided at Registration and in the Hodag Festival Guidebook.

Alternative Caving Activities: There will be plenty of alternative activities other than caving. While driving through Dubuque either going to the Hodag or returning home, you can check out two landmark attractions: The National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium is in Dubuque and the show cave of Crystal Lake Cave is just a few miles outside of Dubuque. For baseball fans and movie buffs there is a short ride to the movie set of the 1989 movie Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa. For TV "American Pickers" fans see the resale shop Antique Archeology store at LeClaire, Iowa. For a cool off in the hot weather, take in a 2- to 4-hour tube or kayak trip down the North Fork of the Maquoketa River starting right at the Riverview Ridge Campground and catch a wagon ride thru the scenic bluffs right back to the campground.

Cost: Pre-Registration is \$10 per person. On-site registration is \$11 per person. There is no registration charge for children 15 and under. Camping fees are \$8 per person per night. The buffet dinner will be \$11:50 per person, including tax and tip. Children 4-10 are \$4.75. See separate registration form for more info.

Driving Directions: To get to the Riverview Ridge Campground in Cascade, Iowa from Dubuque, take a 25-mile ride on U.S. Highway 151 South all the way to Cascade Iowa's first exit onto Industrial Park Road and drive into town. Take a right on 1st Avenue all the way through town and over the only bridge across the North Fork of the Maquoketa River. Go two blocks and turn left on Buchanan Street. Take Buchanan Street for six blocks and take a left on Riverview Road. Stay on Riverview Road following blue campground signs on the paved road all the way to the campground.

Schedule at a glance:

Friday Main Arrival/Setup: Feel free to arrive any time after 1:00 pm on Friday to set up your campsite for the weekend and take in the great amenities of River View Ridge Campground and the surrounding area.

Friday Registration: Registration starts at 7:00 in evening in the River View Ridge Campground at our campsite.

Friday Lunch & Dinner: Cavers are on their own for Friday meals.

Saturday Registration/Breakfast: Registration continues. Cavers are on their own for breakfast. Great breakfast selections can be had at nearby Cascade, Iowa. The Cascade Café town opens at 6:00 am.

WSS Welcome and Activity Briefing: Quick orientation and information meeting at 9:30 is mandatory for all day-trip participants. Maps for local attractions will be available and sign-up sheets for caving.

Saturday Caving: Hodag trip activities start at 10:00. Everyone should be back from their daily trips no later than 5:00 to get ready for the Saturday evening activities.

Saturday Lunch: Cavers are on their own for lunch on Saturday.

Saturday Meal: The Saturday supper will be a 6:00 pm buffet dinner at Kalmes' Club 528 in Cascade, just 5 minutes from the campground.

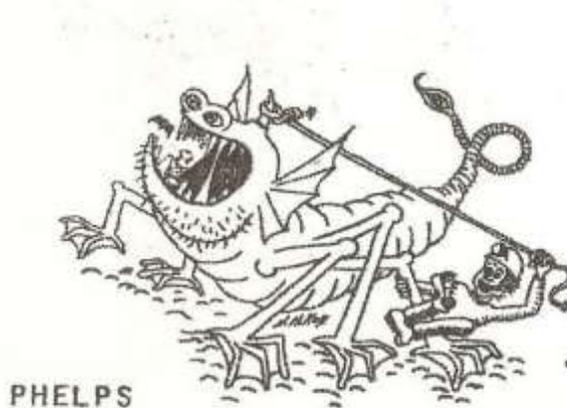
Saturday WSS Auction: The WSS auction fund raiser will start around 7:00 in the dining hall at Kalmes' Club 528, after the Saturday meal. Door prizes will also be given out during the auction.

Sunday Breakfast: Cavers are on their own for breakfast. Great breakfast selections can be had at nearby Cascade.

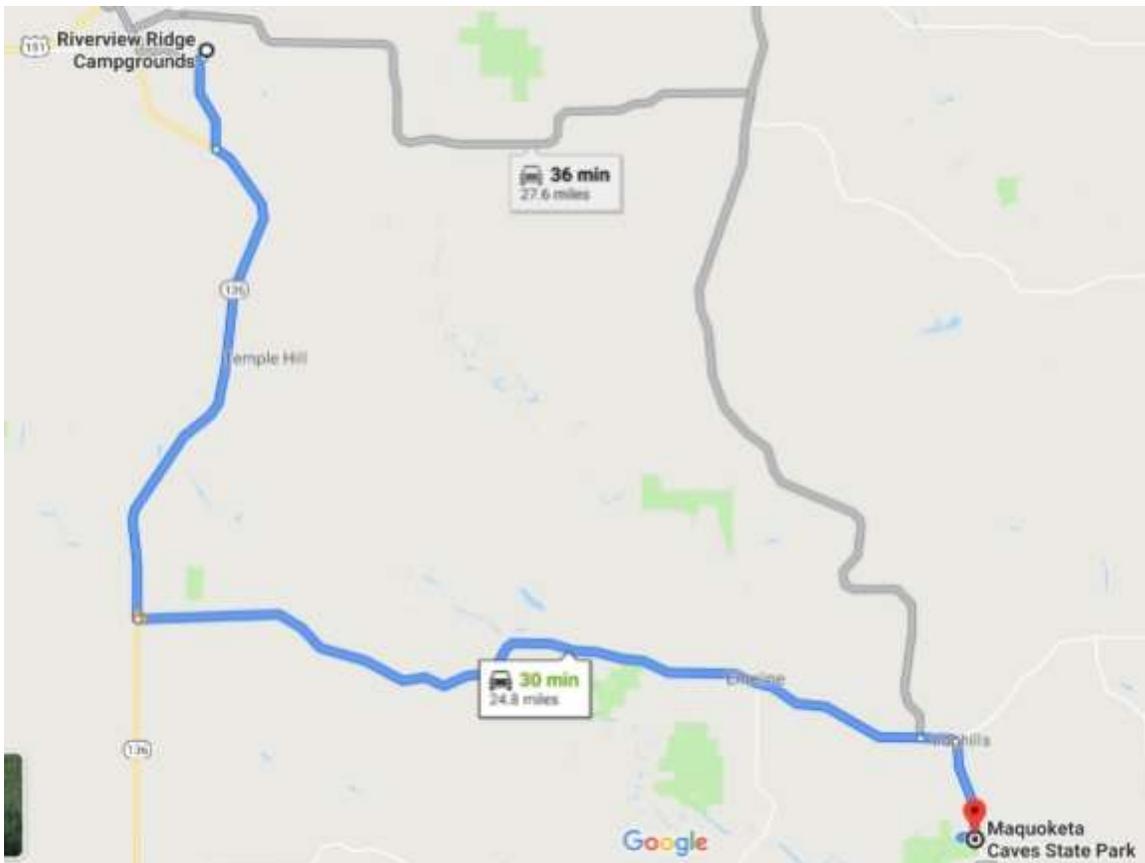
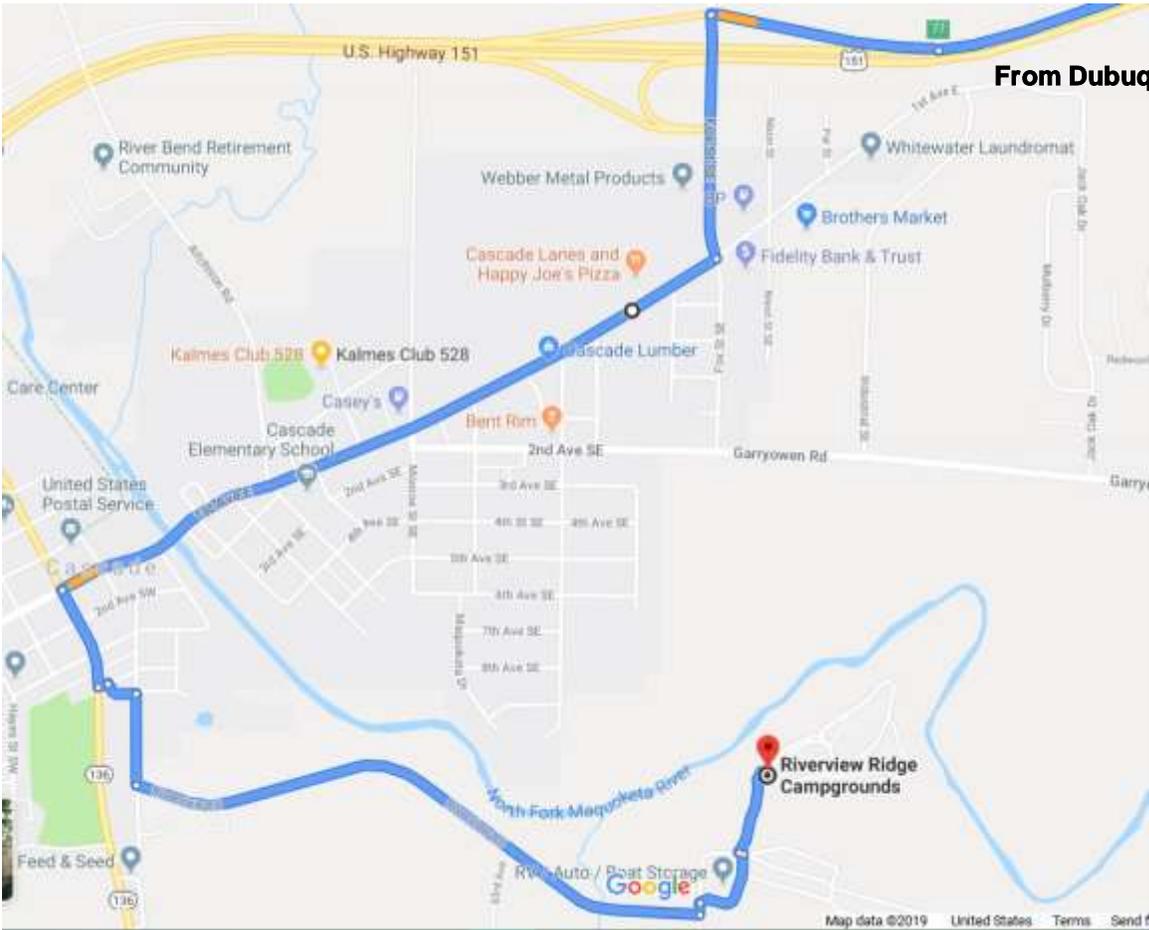
Sunday WSS Board/General Meeting: A combined WSS General and Board Meeting will be held from 9:00 - 10:00 Sunday morning at the group campsite. All are welcome to attend.

Sunday Activities: There will be caving and alternative trips offered on Sunday. **All campsites need to be vacated by 12:00 noon**, ending the WSS 55th annual Hodag Hunt Festival activities.

From the WSS Cartoon Archives



Don't forget to capture the Hodag in 2019!





The Wisconsin Speleological Society's
55th Annual Hodag Hunt Festival
August 9-11, 2019
Riverview Ridge Campground
Cascade, Iowa

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s): _____

Grotto: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Friday, August 9: (camps may be set up after 1 p.m. at River Ridge Campground)
 7:00 p.m. Registration (at our campsite)

Saturday, August 10:
 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. Registration continues
 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast (**on your own**)
 9:30 a.m. Hodag activities briefing (**all attendees asked to attend**)
 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Day trip options
 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Buffet dinner at Kalmes' Club 528, Cascade IA
 7:30 p.m. Fundraising auction and door prizes

Sunday, August 11:
 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast (**on your own**)
 9:00 – WSS Monthly meeting (all are invited)
 10:30 – Day trip options
 12:00 noon—campsites must be vacated

Fees:	Pre-registration	On-site	Number	Total
Registration/adult (incl. guidebook) <i>No reg fee for youth 15 and under</i>	\$10.00	\$11.00	_____	_____
Camping Fee Per Night (per site per person):	\$8.00	\$8.00	_____	_____
Buffet Dinner (includes tax and tip)	Adults \$11.50		_____	_____
	Children 4-10	\$4.00	_____	_____
	Under 4	free	_____	_____
Tartarus Patches		\$8.00	_____	_____
Ledge View & Maribel Patches		\$5.00	_____	_____
Hodag Patches		\$5.00	_____	_____
Hodag Hunt Commemorative T-shirt (previous years/broken sizes)		\$5.00	_____	_____
Extra Guide Books		\$3.00	_____	_____
		Total Paid to WSS	\$ _____	_____

Make checks payable to: WSS

Pre-registration (due **no later than Friday, August 2, 2019**)
 Questions? email: kasey.fiske@wisc.edu or
7fiskes@gmail.com

Mail to:
 Kasey Fiske
 S9740 Exchange Rd.
 Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



The Hollow Earth News

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The **August, 2019 WSS monthly meeting** will be held on Sunday, August 10, 2019, at 9:00 am at the groupsite at Riverview Ridge Campground, Cascade, Iowa in conjunction with the **55th Annual WSS Hodag Hunt Festival**.

The Hollow Earth News

Karen Fiske
S9740 Exchange Rd.
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578



Walkways, beautiful vistas, and many caves await at Maquoketa Caves State Park, Maquoketa, Iowa, the focus of the caving activities for the 55th Annual WSS Hodag Hunt Festival, August 9-11, 2019.