

2011 August Summer Camp Accomplishment

July 29-31st 2011

After picking up the keys to Maple Springs, I met John Kirk, Ken DeJong, Larry Matiz, and Linda Bundy at Maple Springs, and we began cleaning the bathrooms, bunkhouse, and kitchen. My project I wanted to do was to pull out all our tools in the barn, inventory them, and organize them. This was accomplished, and Steve Gentry and I installed some shelving to make better use of our space.

Monday August 1st

We met at the Historic Entrance at 8:30am. After breaking into 2 groups we entered the cave. The Corkscrew (smaller) group began removing high voltage wire from the top of the Corkscrew and worked their way down. They removed about 100 feet from the top, and about 50 feet from the bottom. The top part of the wire was stored along the boardwalk along the Main Cave, and the bottom wire was stored at Vanderbilt Hall (total of about 500 lbs). The rest of the group headed for the Echo River, where 3 people joined Rick Olson in the water. The river crew removed about 200 lbs of insulated wire, about 10 large and several small boards (100 lbs) and a 15ft coil of bare copper wire Rick found. These items were stored in Vanderbilt Hall.

Tuesday August 2nd

We again met at the Historic Entrance at 8:30am. A small crew went to Vanderbilt Hall to cut and bag wood, and remove 90% of the bags and rolls of wire to our storage area near the base of the Mammoth Dome tower (about 500lbs). A small lint crew removed 3 gallon sized plastic bags of lint from the Saltpeter Works to the Methodist Church. The rest of us removed the stored bags of concrete from Washington Pit to the base of the entrance stairs. We also moved all of the stored high voltage wire along the Boardwalk to the base of the stairs (about 2000lbs). After lunch we hauled up all the bags and wire to Ricks pickup where it was hauled off.

Wednesday August 3rd

We meet at the Elevator Entrance at 8:30am. A small crew went to work on a latrine dump just off Boone Ave. They collected about 100lbs of material. The rest of us went to Cascade Hall to tackle the concrete boat storage pad. I used my rotary hammer to drill holes while Harry and Larry Sowers used feather wedges and punches to sledge the concrete into smaller pieces. The rest bagged up the remains and carried those bags to the base of the tall sand dune. We got about a 2 foot by 20 foot section of concrete removed.

Thursday August 4th

We meet at the Elevator again and all of us went to Cascade Hall to continue work on the concrete slab. Rick Olson lead a group of about 5 people in wetsuits to scour the river of wood and wire. We removed

another 2 x 20 foot section of concrete, and got all the bags, wood, and wire to the top of the sand dune and a 3rd of that moved to Valley Way Sidecut.

Friday August 5th.

We meet at the Elevator, and all of us went to Sillman Ave and completed the task of moving all of the concrete and wire to the Valley Way Sidecut . In all, based on an estimate of concrete weighing 148lbs/ square foot, we moved about 8800lbs of concrete and about 150lbs of wood and wire from Cascade Hall to Valley Way Sidecut (a distance of about 3500 feet.)

Submitted by Bill Copeland
Mammoth Cave Restoration Project Leader