

Mammoth Cave Restoration Camp

August 2014

The 2014 August Restoration Camp started with the usual kick off dinner on Sunday evening. This year our friends from the Mammoth Cave Association were gracious enough to provide dinner with Lyman Cudiff and his friends doing the cooking. For those of you that don't know, the Mammoth Cave Association was the group that did most of the land procurement leading up to the formation of Mammoth Cave National Park. They also ran Mammoth Cave operations the last few years before giving it to the National Park Service.

Monday August 4th.

We met at the Historic Entrance at 8:30 am and were in the cave by 9. We split into 4 groups. Linda Bundy took her Lint Bunnies to the Rotunda to begin the lint roundup, Roy led a small group to Black Snake Ave to cut some wire he knew about that we missed in earlier camps, Rick Olson took Ken Alwin, Gary Gibula, and a couple of others to Washington Pit to take some wood samples, and have Ken reevaluate methods to remove the old bridge that spans the 60 foot deep pit. Gary photo documented the venture. Steve Gentry led a small group of River Rats to remove wood and foam pieces from Echo River. We exited the cave for the day at 3:30pm.

Tuesday August 5th.

We met once again at the Historic Entrance at 8:30am. Linda once again led her Lint Bunnies to where they left off on Monday, and Steve Gentry took his River Rats back down to Echo River. The Sower brothers took a crew to dismantle and carry out a small wall and old light switch that was at the bottom of Mammoth Dome. Roy and his Cutters finished up his wire project. After lunch, the Sower Brothers led a group to fill some holes with chat in some toe knocking holes in Little Bat Ave and around the outside decon mats.. We exited the cave at 4:00pm.

Wednesday August 6th.

Today we went to the L & N Cave (owned by Cave City) to help do some much needed cleanup. We were joined by a group of about 15 cavers and students from South Korea. Matt McClintock's dad led the tree cutting and trimming crew, while Brian, Gary, and Phil Goldman led the crew that hauled a bunch of decaying wood out of the bottom of the sinkhole/cave. The city of Cave City provided the wood chipper and haul truck. Les Carney provided refreshments. This is an ongoing project headed by the Twin Lakes Taskforce. The South Koreans were excellent workers and fun to be around. Linda Bundy and her Lint Bunnies went back in the Historic Entrance to continue the lint project. We had our usual Wednesday Night Pizza at the enclosed pavilion, and then most of us headed to the Carmichael Entrance where Rick Olson led a trip down Marion Ave to go to Kens Ave. When the group got to the Elevator, we found a

white substance covering the walkway from the elevator to the Mole Hole. A contractor was in the process of refurbishing the elevator, so this material obviously came from their work. After Rick made some phone calls, the trip continued.

Thursday August 7th.

We went back to the Historic Entrance where Linda and her crew finished up the lint project. Roy and his happy crew of cutters, finished up there wire project, and hauled the accumulated wire out of the cave. Gary and Brian went back to Washington Pit to cover the bridge with tarps to further protect it from decay, and then joined the rest of us down at the river to help bag up the wood that Steve's River Rats took out of the river. We were out of the cave by 3:00pm

Friday August 8th.

We only worked a half day today. We went in at 9:00am and were out by noon. Linda and crew did a final walkthrough of the Historic Route. The rest of us went down to move the resto the accumulated bags of wood and debris to our storage area at Vanderbilt Hall. We then had another fine meal by Chef Mark and his sidekick Chuck. They did great work all week in keeping us fed and happy.

Awards:

Everett Pulliam was given the prestigious Lint King award, even though he was not required to wear "bunny ears" like the rest of Linda's Lint Bunnies did.

Sackrat award was given to Gary Gibula

Git'er Done Award to Brian Hunsacker

Food Kings Mark and Chuck

Saturday August 9th.

Roy led a trip to the Boiled Egg Passage off the Main Cave

Rick led a trip to Big and Little Paradise in New Discovery.

Submitted by Bill Copeland (with the help of Gary Gibula)