

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Open house and  
Annual Meeting

September 14-15,  
2024



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August 2024



Gilley Cave crystals photo by Janet Manning

**Appalachian Cave Conservancy  
Annual Meeting and Perkins Preserve Open House  
September 14-15, 2024**

The Appalachian Cave Conservancy's 2024 Annual Meeting will be held September 15, 2024 in conjunction with the NSS Perkins Cave Preserve Open House.

There will be a cookout Saturday evening (BYOB). Guided cave trips into Perkins Cave will take place Saturday morning/afternoon, according to demand and available trip leaders. There are also other caves in the area which are open to visitation, and the Channels Natural area is just up the road. The ACC Annual members meeting will be held Sunday morning.

Primitive camping is available onsite Friday and Saturday evening. There is no running water, and bathroom facilities consist of a simple outhouse, so plan accordingly. A small finished fieldhouse space has electricity available. Note that the farm lane down to the site may not be suitable for low-clearance vehicles. There is limited parking near the highway for vehicles that can't make the drive down to the cave and fieldhouse area (about a 15 minute walk from the upper parking area).

**Please preregister at: <https://form.jotform.com/242184129850154>**

For more information on the Perkins Cave Preserve, see the September 2021 NSS News [https://cdn.ymaws.com/members.caves.org/resource/collection/9042BF2A-338B-4FD0-9E5D-9BF277847263/September\\_21\\_News.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/members.caves.org/resource/collection/9042BF2A-338B-4FD0-9E5D-9BF277847263/September_21_News.pdf)

The Appalachian Cave Conservancy, Inc. (ACC), is a non-profit organization formed in 1978 as the "Perkins Cave Conservation and Management Society," to apply "best management practices" to the privately owned Perkins Cave.

The ACC mission changed in 2004 from managing Perkins Cave to managing many caves on privately owned lands in the southern Appalachian area.

To achieve this mission, the Conservancy accepts cave and karst land donations and enters into voluntary agreements with landowners to develop and implement effective management plans based on the site-specific characteristics of the cave and surrounding property.

Your memberships and donations make this possible. Thank you.

Visit us online at <http://www.acave.us>  
 Join us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/groups/acave/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/acave/)  
 And Instagram  
[@appalachiancaveconservancy](https://www.instagram.com/appalachiancaveconservancy)

Officers of the Appalachian Cave Conservancy

Chairman of the Board: Janet Manning  
 President - Jason Lachniet  
 Vice President of Cave Management - Terri Brown  
 Vice President of Development & Public Relations - Steve Bailey  
 Vice President of Membership, Finance and Information Systems - Ellen Hofler  
 Legal Officer - Renee Gaskins  
 Treasurer - Janet Manning  
 Secretary - Shannon Zaloz

Appalachian Cave Conservancy Directors and Term

Dan	Henry	2027
John	Wilson	2027
John	Matthews	2027
Bill	Grose	2027
Robert	Hunter	2027
Gary	Fielden	2026
Tia	Bednar	2026
LauraLee	Cascada	2026
Shannon	Zaloz	2026
Renee	Gaskins	2026
Teresa L	Brown	2025
Bill	James	2025
Janet	Manning	2025
Josh	Garrett	2025
Steve	Bowers	2025
Pete	Kirchner	2024*
Steve	Bailey	2024*
Jeannie	Bailey	2024*
Ellen	Hofler	2024*
Jason	Lachniet	2024*



Janet Manning by the waterfall in Gilley Cave  
 Photo by Rebecca Ward

Appalachian Cave Conservancy  
Financial Statement  
December 31, 2023

Cash Flow:	Assets:
Income: \$2272.39	Liquid : \$9,591.71
Expenses: \$3120.39	Fixed: Gilley Cave Preserve
Net: -\$848.00	Liabilities: \$ 00.00

\* Directors standing for re-election Spring 2024

## Gilley Cave's Avalanche Passage Trip Report

ACC has owned Gilley since 2010 and during that time, our focus has been on projects like constructing the gate, cleaning up trash and graffiti along the main passages, building the kiosk, maintaining the parking area and trail, and providing reasonably easy access to the cave for cavers. But there are some parts of the cave that, to our knowledge, have not been visited in many years, or even decades. Thus recently a few of us have made an effort to visit some of the more remote sections.



Jason, Janet and Zac photo by Janet Manning

On June 8, 2024, Janet Manning, Zac Lynn, and Jason Lachniet took a trip out to the Avalanche Passage prior to the June 9th ACC summer board meeting in Stickleyville. On previous trips, we found the route from the stream passage up to Anticline Alley, which requires a rather strenuous low crawl up a steep and slick bedding plane. The crawl deposits you at the base of a narrow, sinuous canyon about 20 feet in height. At its top, another belly crawl into a perpendicular side passage leads to Anticline Alley. The namesake geologic structure is immediately obvious. On our previous trip, time constraints prevented going much further. On this trip, we had plenty of time and decided to focus our attention on the Avalanche Passage, the furthest section of the cave, beyond Anticline Alley. We proceeded via what seemed to be the easiest route to the Anticline Room, passing through a complex multilevel section of parallel passages.

At the Anticline Room, we slowed down and attempted to carefully examine everything from there to end of the Avalanche Passage, to the point labeled "Stream Sinks" on the old map, stopping frequently to orient ourselves. The 1968 map (drawn by Roger Baroody, I believe), published in Holsinger's *Descriptions of Virginia Caves*, is excellent, and quite detailed by standards of that era, including vertical control, cross sections, and interior passage detail. We wanted to find out if there are any leads in this area worth pushing more than 50 years later. There are. First, immediately north of the Anticline Room a large passage breaks off to the left, not shown on the map. This passage is so obvious that it seems impossible that the surveyors missed it in the 1960s, so I presume this omission is a cartographic error due to a lost survey book or something similar. We noted a good 30-ft aid-climbing lead at the end of this passage. A bit further down, a perpendicular vadose canyon cuts across the main Avalanche Passage. This appears to go high to the north. Next, we encountered what almost appeared to be a dead end. A closer inspection revealed that the UVA survey crew had evidently completed a bold climb up a blank clay wall by digging steps. This is reminiscent of King's Climb (AKA the Screaming Wall of Death) in Smyth County's Buchanan Saltpeter. It is sufficiently steep and exposed to warrant a rope (and grooves at the top show that a rope was once rigged here). A short distance beyond,

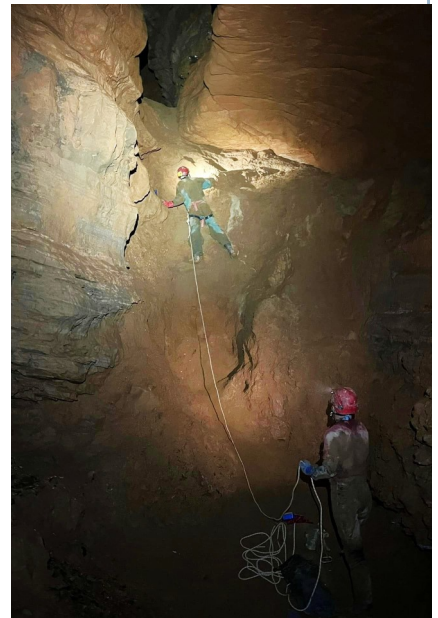


photo by Janet Manning

(Continued on page 4)

a similar, but shorter and easier climb, likewise could use a handline. Unfortunately, both climbs lack natural rigging options near their tops. We managed with a mix of free-climbing ropeless for the first person up and a human anchor for the followers. Upon our exit, we were forced to leave our 80-ft push rope and 50-ft or more of webbing (basically using everything we brought along) to get down. On our next trip, we will bring a hammer drill and permanently rig these two climb-ups with bolts and fixed rope.

At the far end of the Avalanche Passage, we decided to check out the place where the incipient stream sinks. It trickles down through rubble blocking a low parting at the base of the south wall of the passage. It seemed worth a little digging effort, and within a short time, we were able to crawl through into a small, going canyon passage. While not terribly enticing, it is mostly walking size and we enjoyed more than 100 feet of virgin cave, ending at another dig that looks worth attempting. We also spent a good deal of time making sense of the complex junction in the Rest Pit area. We noted one lead there, and would also like to drop Rest Pit itself, which looks like it will require a rope and full vertical gear.

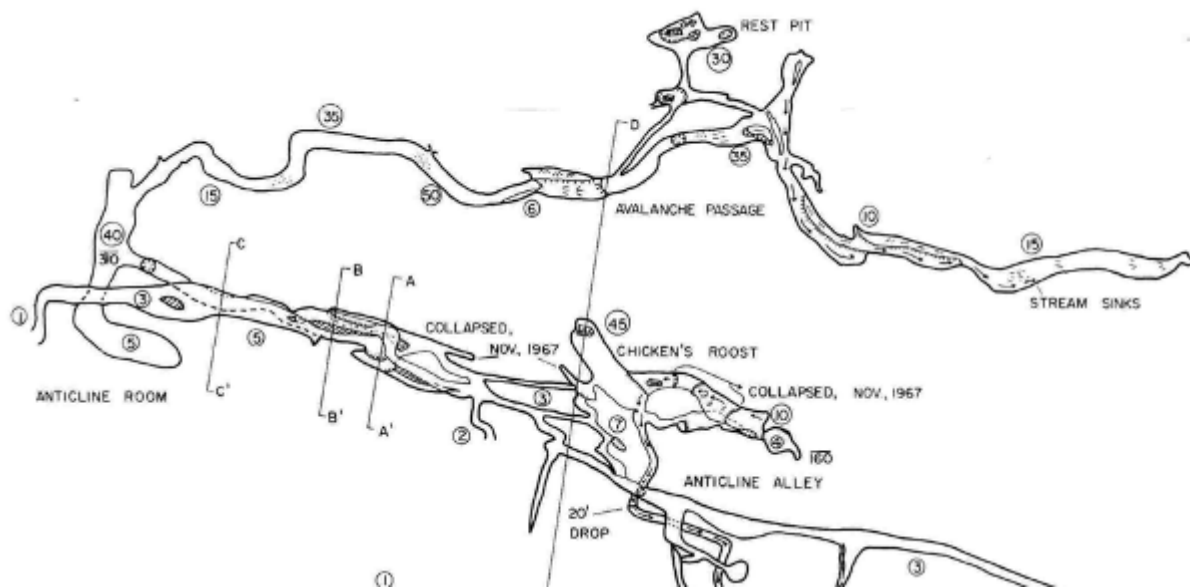


photo by Janet Manning

On the way out, we located an alternate route from Anticline Alley back to the Big Room, bypassing the stream via Marciano Crawl. This seems to be a shorter, slightly easier route than the crawl up from stream level. All in all, it was a very productive and enjoyable trip, lasting about nine hours

(without much loafing). In light of the leads found and passages omitted from the map, we are considering returning to push and survey, in the hopes of updating (not replacing) the Baroody map. The Anticline Alley/Chicken's Roost area is also very complex and worthy of a careful look on future trips in this part of the cave.

-Jason Lachniet



Portion of 1968 map showing the Avalanche Passage

Some photos from a fun and productive cave trip to Daniel Boone Cave  
On February 11, 2024, led by Bill James, we worked on replacing and adding some hand lines to improve safety while exploring. Other participants included Janet Manning, Rebecca Ward and Brett Haas, Holly Baumgartner, and Ellen Hofler, Rope was donated by Bill James.



Bill adding a bolt for the handline at the top of the first ladder: photo by Janet Manning



Above: the group relaxing after a day well spent. Photo by Janet Manning

Left: Coming back up the ladders on the way out. Photo by Ellen Hofler

# Appalachian Cave Conservancy

## Caves Owned, Managed, and/or Leased

Cave Name	Virginia County	Manager	Cave Property Owned by	Gate	Access permission	Access
Gilley Cave	Lee	Terri Brown	ACC	Yes	Yes	1
Daniel Boone Caverns aka Ellington and Gillenwater Caves	Scott	Terri Brown	ACC member	Yes	Closed temporarily	3
Winding Stair	Scott	Terri Brown	Friend of ACC	No	Suggested	2
Dungeon aka Brickey's Pit	Scott	Terri Brown	Friend of ACC	No	Suggested	2
Funnel	Scott	Terri Brown	Friend of ACC	No	Closed temporarily - unstable passage	
Coley Cave # 1	Scott	Bill James	Friend of ACC	No	Yes	2
Coley Cave # 2	Scott	Bill James	Friend of ACC	No	Yes	2
Cox Ridge Cave	Scott	Bill James	Friend of ACC	Yes	Yes	1
Perkins Cave Preserve	Washington	Jason Lachniet – cave  Steve and Jeannie Bailey - property	National Speleological Society	Yes	Yes	3

**The ACC recommends that cave clothing and equipment be cleaned before entering any ACC managed cave.**

Manager	Email or text contact	Cell Phone	City	State
Terri Brown	tlb9fd@uvawise.edu	276-220-3182	Wise	VA
Bill James	2dark2c1@gmail.com	423-534-9354	Gray	TN
Jason Lachniet	jason.lachniet@gmail.com	276-492-4376	Glade Spring	VA
Steve and Jeannie Bailey	steveandjbailey@aol.com	704-740-9290	Vale	NC

### Access summary:

1. Cave is open to all responsible cavers. Please refer to the management plan for details. The lock combination or key is available from the manager.
2. Cave is open to all responsible cavers. A permission request must be made to the manger.
3. At the request of the property owner, the cave is not available for unsupervised recreational caving. All access to this cave will have a leader and supervisor from the management committee. Generally most trips into this cave are for conservation, science or other important management purposes.

## Appalachian Cave Conservancy Membership

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Family member information (no dues included) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country, if not USA: \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone : \_\_\_\_\_

NSS member? \_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish, list participation in any land trusts, cave conservancies, or cave related organizations:

<p><b>Individual ACC Membership</b></p> <p>___ \$10 Regular Member</p> <p>___ \$25 Contributing Member</p> <p>___ \$50 Sustaining Member</p> <p>___ \$100 Benefactor Member</p> <p>___ \$ 250 Life Member</p> <p>___ Other Amount _____</p>	<p><b>Organizational ACC Membership</b></p> <p>___ \$10 Regular Organization Member</p> <p>___ \$25 Contributing Organizational Member</p> <p>___ \$50 Sustaining Organizational Member</p> <p>___ \$100 Benefactor Organizational Member</p> <p>___ Other Amount _____</p>
<p><b>Family ACC Membership</b></p> <p>___ \$ 18 Family Membership - Use a separate form for personal information for each family member.</p> <p><i>Two or more people living at the same address</i></p>	
<p><b>Cave Acquisition Fund</b></p> <p>_____ Pledge for the ACC Cave Acquisition Fund</p> <p>_____ Attached contribution to the ACC Cave Acquisition Fund</p>	

Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ACC is a 501(c)(3) Tax exempt Organization Your contribution is tax deductible.

Send to:  
 Appalachian Cave Conservancy, Inc.  
 c/o Janet Manning  
 36 Hounds Run  
 Alexander, NC 28701

Join online at : <http://www.acave.us/accmembership.htm>