

CONTRIBUTIONS

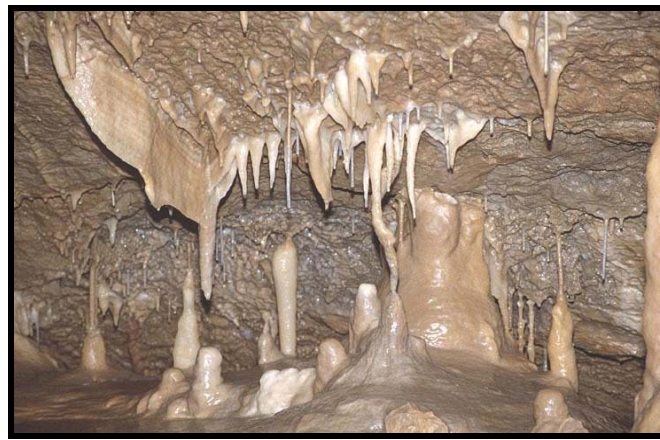
Your contributions to the PCC will be used to protect caves through-out the MAR region. The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Donations of money and / or property to the PCC are normally tax deductible up to the limits allowed by law.

The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy is a Conservancy of the National Speleological Society (NSS). More information can be found on the internet at: <http://www.caves.org/> or by contacting the NSS at: 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville, Alabama 35810-4413.



Photographs by Rafi Reyes

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy
<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc>



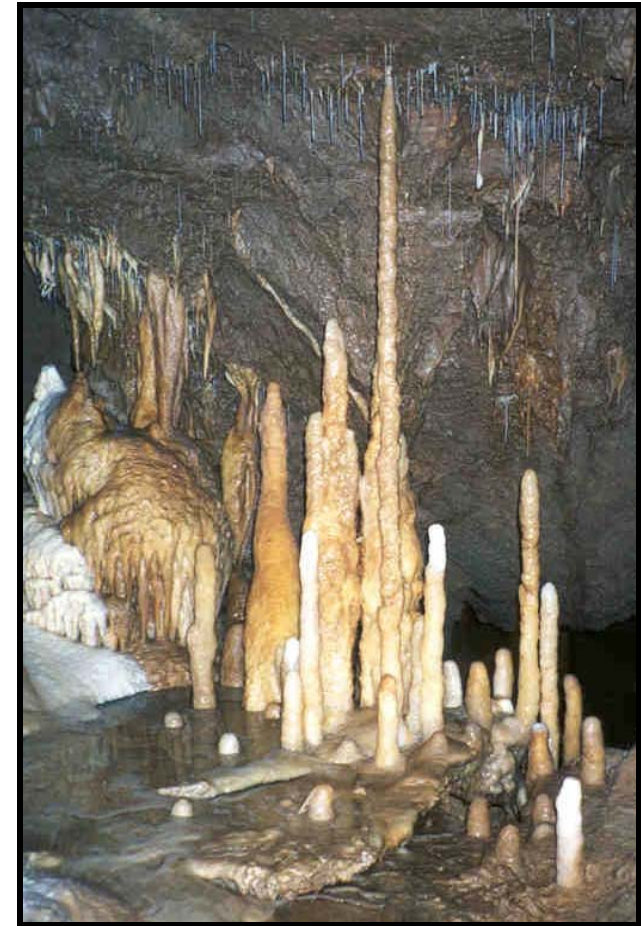
WHY IS CAVE CONSERVATION IMPORTANT ?

- Protection of caves helps to protect the region's ground water from pollution.
- Caves provide a habitat for a variety of wildlife, some of which are endangered.
- Many caves contain artifacts of significant historical and archaeological value.
- Nearly all caves contain mineral and geologic formations of rare natural beauty.

The effects of weather will allow most surface wilderness to recover from recreational scars in a relatively short period of time. Many caves however are dry, fragile, and easily damaged. Once destroyed, many underground splendors and species cannot recover, or recovery may take tens of thousands of years. It is critical that protective measures be put in place before any damage occurs. You can help to ensure that the region's underground wilderness is available for our children's children to enjoy.

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy
P.O. Box 373
Neffs, PA 18065
<http://www.caves.org/conservancy/pcc>

Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy



The PCC is an organization dedicated to the management, conservation and protection of caves throughout the Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey region. The conservancy's goal is to ensure that these non-renewable resources are available for future generations to enjoy, explore and study.



Objectives of the PCC

The Pennsylvania Cave Conservancy believes caves are a significant, non-renewable resource in need of protection and that entering caves is a privilege, not a right. Because of this belief, the PCC is prepared to use all legal means to protect caves and their environments. The PCC believes that, in many cases, recreation can be balanced with protection.

Protective measures may include buying caves, leasing caves, having access agreements with landowners or establishing a conservation easement. Gating caves could be used as a means of restricting access or protecting the cave.

The PCC recognizes that some caves will need to be given extra protection to protect endangered or threatened species, summer maternity bat colonies, winter hibernating bats and / or protection of geological features within in the cave. The PCC believes in providing education to landowners, local governments, developers and the general public about the value of cave and karst resources.

Each cave throughout the Mid Appalachian Region is unique and mandates a specific cave management plan and policy. Accordingly, PCC will work with landowners to develop a cave management plan and policy that best protects a particular cave and its natural resources.

What Can You Do ?

If you own, manage or visit lands which contain caves, you have the potential to significantly impact them in a positive or negative way. Here are a few techniques that may help to minimize the impact on these non-renewable resources.

- While visiting a cave abide by the philosophy of "Leave No Trace". Be particularly careful not to break or damage formations. What nature has taken thousands of years to create can be destroyed in seconds. Just touching a formation can transfer mud or oil onto it, which will effect its natural beauty and alter its growth.
- Never throw anything in a cave or sinkhole that you don't want to show up in your drinking water. Caves provide a direct path to the region's ground water. Trash should be taken to an approved landfill. If you know of sinkholes or caves with trash, contact the PCC to get help cleaning them up.
- Caves are generally located on private property and therefore belong to real people. Respect caves as you would anyone's private property. If you want to visit always obtain permission from the landowner first.
- Wild (non-commercial) caves are not places to visit without proper training. Contact the PCC or the NSS to find out about organized caving groups in your area. They can teach you proper caving techniques, conservation ethics, and caving etiquette. This will greatly enhance your caving experience.

The PCC will work cooperatively with landowners / managers and the caving community to increase conservation awareness. We stand ready to assist with the development of access policies or to help with existing cave management problems. If you become aware of cave related problems that we may help with, please notify us. We encourage your participation.

PCC Meeting Information

PCC meetings are held three times a year; at the annual Mid Appalachian Region (MAR) business meeting held the last Saturday in February, at the spring MAR meet, and at the fall MAR meet. Anyone interested in cave conservation is invited to attend. Write to the PCC or check our web site for locations and dates.

Caving Clubs of the PCC

Bald Eagle Grotto (Williamsport, PA)

<http://www.kbsb.com/beg/>

Baltimore Grotto

<http://www.pipeline.com/~caverbob/baltgrot.htm>

Bucks County Grotto

Central New Jersey Grotto

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/cnjg/>

Commander Cody Caving Club (Delaware)

<http://www.caves.org/grotto/cccc/>

Franklin County Grotto

<http://users.supernet.com/fcg/>

Greater Allentown Grotto

<http://packratscat.tripod.com/>

Huntingdon County Cave Hunters

<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/3766/>

Nittany Grotto (State College, PA)

<http://www.clubs.psu.edu/NittanyGrotto/>

Philadelphia Grotto

<http://cedcc.psu.edu/phillygrotto/>

Pittsburgh Grotto

<http://www.karst.org/pgrotto>

Seven Valleys Grotto (Mifflin County, PA)

South Jersey Grotto

York Grotto

<http://www.yorkgrotto.org/default.asp>