

For Immediate Release

No Open House at Great Saltpetre Cave

Mt. Vernon, Kentucky April 18, 2020

As much as we hate to do so, Open House is being cancelled at Great Saltpetre Cave for 2020. May 16th & 17th, 2020 would have been our 30th annual event. But the governors of Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky have issued stay at home orders so that we can all flatten the curve of this COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our volunteers live quite a distance from the Cave in areas with many more cases of this disease. We don't want to take a chance of bringing it to you, our friends in Kentucky, or picking it up from another visitor and bringing it back home. If you've been to an Open House, you know full well that there is no way to maintain the necessary social distancing while standing in line or touring the Cave. And trying to keep the numbers less than ten people? That's a joke - last year there were 2,000 visitors each day!

Our volunteers look forward seeing you each year. We thoroughly enjoy sharing the Cave and the Preserve grounds with you. We know many of you relish chatting with your friends and relatives while eating soup beans and cornbread. So many stories are shared from when people first visited the Cave. I also enjoy getting a hotdog from the Livingston Fire Department. Operating the grille has been the Fire Department's largest annual fundraising event, so please find a way to support them. They do so much for the community.

Next year the Cave will still be here. Hopefully by next spring we will be able to have large groups together again and we will be glad to welcome everyone back to the Cave for tours. In the meantime, we hope you all stay healthy.

The Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve (GSP) is owned by Rockcastle Karst Conservancy, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, and managed by a Committee comprised of representatives from the Greater Cincinnati Grotto, Dayton Underground Grotto, Blue Grass Grotto and Central Ohio Grotto. More information about the Preserve is available at www.caves.org/conservancy/gsp and www.rkci.org. If you want to become a "Friend of Great Saltpetre Preserve", check us out at: www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofgsp.

--

N. Jud