

# John Guilday Cave Preserve

S628

By the Guilday Cave Preserver Management Committee

## Script

1. Title Slide (NSS)
2. Title Slide (Show)
3. The NSS John Guilday Cave Preserve is located along U.S. Highway 220 a few miles south of Franklin, West Virginia. It's named for John Guilday, a caver and paleontologist who died in 1982.
4. Visitors are welcomed by a visitor booth with information about the property, the caves, and the NSS.
5. New Trout is the first cave most people see when entering the property.
6. It's entrance is in the flank of an anticline.
7. This portion of the New Trout map shows approximately one half of the cave.
8. Looking back to the entrance one views a typical cross section of New Trout.
9. Ray Garton and others have been studying several significant bone sites in New Trout since the 1970's.
10. Here are Fred Grady, Jia Gyorko, and Ray Gart on with a load of bone matrix.
11. New Trout was mined for saltpeter in the 1800's. These are some of the paddles found in the cave in the late 1980's. They are now located in the NSS museum.
12. The back of New Trout is very dusty . . .
13. and in some places small.
14. New Trout has a breakdown maze. In 1990 a group of cavers became lost in the maze and had to be rescued. Their story was told in *Reader's Digest*.
15. In the back of the Historic Section the passage continues as a crack between bedding planes.

16. In 1987 a way beyond the bedding plane crack was found which ultimately led to doubling the known extent of the cave.
17. The way was dug under the lower of the two bedding planes.
18. Dust masks are required in this section because of the loose fine dirt.
19. One of the rooms beyond the dig, Thrush Hall, was named for a fungal infection contracted by Gordon Brace, the first person in the area without a dust mask.
20. Beyond Thrush Hall the bedding plane crack is followed again to more rooms.
21. The Respite Room is one of the larger rooms in the new section.
22. Snow Flake Palace can only be reached by very small people.
23. Not all of the passage in the new section is large.
24. Relaxing after the breakdown crawl.
25. Repeated digs were required for further exploration.
26. A small window between parallel passages led to . . .
27. Union Station is the largest room in the cave.
28. Some of the bedding plane cracks did not go far.
29. Toward the rear of the cave the digs became more and more grim.
30. Fossil shells on the wall of New Trout.
31. Chert layers such as this are seen in all three of the major caves on the preserve.
32. Camp Misery in the back of New Trout.
33. In 1983 NSS cavers established a trail to direct traffic on the property.
34. Fencing was installed to control erosion on the Steep hill side.
35. Many volunteers assisted in the trail work.
36. The next cave most visitors are likely to see is Trout.
37. Its parallel entrances are easily seen from the highway.

38. Dave West and Tom Kaye were responsible for much of the mapping of the caves on the preserve.
39. The entrance to Trout provides an excellent view of the valley below.
40. Unused faggot torches from salt pet.re mining days.
41. Ice formations near the Trout entrance.
42. More ice formations
43. Much of Trout is floored with large breakdown.
44. Many of the passages are of ample dimensions.
45. Trout has been used for a NCRC rescue simulation.
46. There are several apparent small caves on the cliffs of the property. This is Kathy's Crack ...
47. and Root Hole.
48. In Trammelton a fifty-foot through trip is possible.
49. The last cave most visitors to the property see is Hamilton.
50. Its entrance is smaller than the entrances for the other two caves.
51. Hamilton Cave is the largest cave on the property with over 4.5 miles of surveyed passage.
52. Fred Grady discovered significant bone deposits in the cave during the 1970s.
53. Buck Keller assisted Fred and also made several important discoveries.
54. Many of the passages near the bone sites are narrow.
55. Among the bones they found was a nearly complete skull of a large Jaguar,
56. the upper and lower jaws of an extinct cheetah-like cat,
57. the canine of a sabertoothed cat,
58. the upper and lower teeth of another saber-toothed cat, and
59. the teeth and jaw parts of an extinct peccary related to present day javalinas.
60. Some of the early signatures found in Hamilton Cave date back to the middle 1800's.

61. One of the signatures is that of William McCoy, a former owner of the property.
62. The NSS management committee has photographed the signatures.
63. Hamilton has a few formation areas.
64. Some more formations.
65. but most of the passage is stoop way.
66. In the back of Historic Section of Hamilton is the notorious Air-Blower passage.
67. The Air-Blower is not a passage for large people.
68. Many cavers elect not to try it.
69. Beyond the Air-Blower is the Star Chamber.
70. Followed by the Bowl Room, the largest room in the cave.
71. It's covered by large breakdown.
72. The bottom of the Bowl Room is the deepest point in Hamilton cave.
73. This historic marker was posted along the highway in front of the property for many years, but it was washed away by a major flood in November 1985.
74. The flood also uncovered NSS Flood Cave.
75. Its entrance is in a stream bank.
76. and is extremely tight.
77. The cave is the most decorated one on the property.
78. However, it has very little walking passage.
79. Some of its passages have never been entered to avoid damaging the formations.
80. Recreational trips to NSS Flood Cave are discouraged to protect its many delicate features.
81. The preceding program was produced by the NSS John Guilday Cave Preserve Management Committee using slides provided by Barry Chute, Don Glasko, Fred Grady, Tom Kaye, Steve Swanson, and Dave West.