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Six Acres of Land Acquired by Carroll Cave Conservancy

Cave Conservationists Receive Generous Donations

Camdenton, Missouri, (February 7, 2019) - With more than 20 miles of passage, Carroll Cave, located near Montreal, MO in Camden County, is the third longest cave in Missouri. The cave is managed by the Carroll Cave Conservancy (CCC), a regional non-profit with a mission to preserve, protect and study the Carroll Cave watershed. The known biodiversity of the cave includes salamanders, numerous species of bats, the world's largest known population of Southern blind cave fish and many other life forms.

The CCC is governed by an elected Board of Directors and has a current membership of 40 people from all walks of life, also known as cavers. For the past 20 years, the CCC has leased property around a shaft entrance to Carroll Cave and has assisted owners of land above Carroll Cave in the conservation of the cave and their karst resources. Land owners are encouraged to learn how surface activity has an impact on the ecology of the cave.

Recently, a generous landowner donated the three acres of land at the shaft, plus the cave rights under all 479 acres of his land that overlies the cave. Since the CCC is a 501c(3) nonprofit, these valuable donations gave the landowner a significant qualified tax deduction. Funds were also donated by a CCC member to purchase an additional three acres.

Every year landowners are given the opportunity to explore the cave via access through the shaft entrance. This "back door" entrance was constructed by the CCC with the help of Dr. Paul Worsey of Missouri University for Science and Technology (Rolla), and Jim Stanford, a local well driller. After a nine-inch pilot hole was drilled into the cave, Dr. Worsey, a mining and explosives expert, assisted the CCC in carefully creating the three-foot-in-diameter vertical shaft 120 feet straight down into the cave. Sixty-three blasts of dynamite and an explosive called

“Senetal Powersplit” over the course of nine months, were required to reach the depth needed to access the cave. A structure was built over this shaft and a ladder was installed for easy ingress.

The CCC can also provide information to land owners who wish to donate cave rights to the CCC for a tax deduction. For more information and contact information, visit <http://carrollcave.org>.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Rick Hines at 913-710-1063, or email rickhines@aol.com.