

Help Us Buy Access to Berome Moore Cave, Perry County, Missouri

On Oct. 29, 1961, a trip led by two cavers, Gregory "Tex" Yokum and Stan D. Sides, found an opening at the bottom of a Perry County landowner's sinkhole. They enlarged the sinkhole, and entered. The cave stretched dark and vast inside, so vast their car-bide lights could not penetrate the darkness.



Thus began the adventure at Berome Moore Cave...an adventure which has continued over half a century and tens of thousands of wild caving visitors and grotto members.

In that time, 18 miles of the cave have been mapped in detail, with leads still going on the map. The Moore Cave system is the 2nd longest cave in Missouri, and the 31st longest in the United States.



A fish and a flatworm, the pink planaria and the grotto sculpin, live here. These creatures are unique to Perry County.

The cave contains irreplaceable footprints of an extinct Pleistocene jaguar impressed into mud still as soft as when the big cat walked there. It has hosted thousands of young people over time, introducing them safely to the underground world. All of this has been done on a volunteer basis.

From the very beginning, Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto of St. Louis has leased cave access on a short term basis from willing landowners and their descendants. When lease renewal time came in 2010, Jim Sherrell and Don Dunham of MMV approached brothers Gary and Dale Hoff about a more permanent arrangement. The brothers said yes, then named a price and a few conditions:

- Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy will hold title, with MMV as Cave Manager.
- MMV will name the property the Lloyd and Ethel Hoff Underground Nature Preserve.
- The Hoff's will sell the entrance plus one acre for \$40,000: \$20,000 cash plus a \$20,000 tax-deductible donation. Included in the deed are permanent road and underground passage easements.
- MMV will be responsible for fencing, gates and cattle guards along the property access, and all survey and legal fees connected with the transaction.
- The cave will never become a commercial show cave open to the general public.
- The deal has to be finalized before December 31, 2010.

We Need Caver Help to Accomplish This.

The Missouri Caves and Karst Conservancy has guaranteed \$10,000 of the purchase price and additional help so that this opportunity becomes reality. Thanks MCKC! MMV still needs to raise an additional \$5000 to \$10,000 to cover surface improvements as a condition of sale, and other miscellaneous acquisition expenses, as well as ongoing management expenses.

We're calling on almost 50 years of friends of Berome Moore Cave to help.

No donation is too large, or too small.

WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL SUCCEED. PLEASE HELP WITH A DONATION.

Donations marked to Berome Moore Cave Fund should be sent to:

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

HELP THE EFFORT



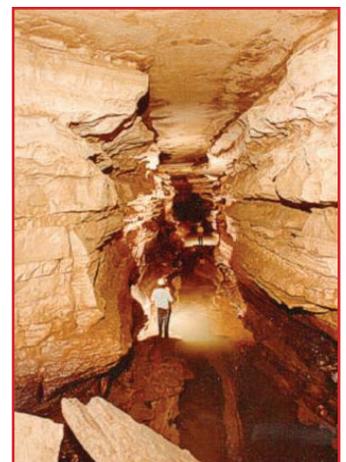
Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy
P. O. Box 190456
St. Louis, MO 63119

Middle Mississippi Valley
Grotto, Inc.

c/o Jim Donley, Treasurer

28693 Meadowbrook Est
Warrenton, MO 63383-4737

(MMV cannot give tax-deductions.)



THANK YOU!