

# **TRIP REPORT FORM**

## **AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**DATE:** October 8, 2023

**CAVE:** Cascade Caverns

**STATE:** Texas

**COUNTY:** Kendall County

**SPECIFIC AREA:** Entrance Chamber

**TEAM LEADER:** Russell Oplinger

**TEAM MEMBERS:** Alasdair Marlow and Chance Slaughter

**TIME ENTERED:** 8:50 AM

**EXIT TIME:** 11:45 AM

### **PURPOSE OF THE TRIP**

The Aggie Grotto assisted in the removal of sediment and debris that had washed into the show cave from floods in years past.

### **BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR TRIP AND ANY SPECIAL OBSERVATION**

Alasdair, Chance, and Russell linked up in the Walmart parking lot at the early time of 5:20 AM. Despite the early meetup time, nobody showed up late, which allowed the group to get off to an earlier start than anticipated. The group piled into Russell's SUV and began the journey over to Cascade Caverns. The group made good time traveling to the cave arriving early at Cascade Caverns by 8:40 AM.

The group met with the staff for the show cave, and quickly found out they had grossly overprepared for the job at hand. As it turned out, the bulk of the digging was already performed, and the debris to be removed that day was already loaded into buckets. All that was needed was to remove the buckets clustered in the entrance chamber from the cave and deposit them into a trailer for disposal. It sounded simple enough, but the catch was the path to the trailer was a solid 65-foot change in elevation across winding stairs up a hill face. The work was organized, and the buckets were slowly daisy chained out of the cave, up the stairs, and into the trailer. Over the span of roughly 2 and a half hours, a total of 80 buckets of sediment, rocks, and other miscellaneous debris were hauled out of the cave entrance. The group, weary from the strenuous task, took a break with the cave staff.

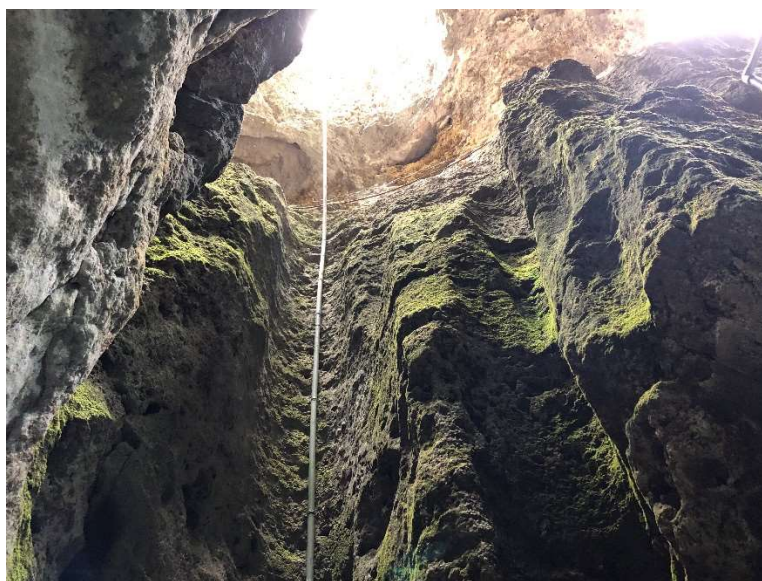
The staff at Cascade Caverns gave the group a tour of the cave. The group was shown the rich history of the cave from its discovery to the present day on the trek back down to the cave. Inside the cave, they were shown the cave's beauty and its wildlife. There were a couple bats and a frog keeping the group company as well as several salamanders unique to Cascade Caverns. The cave had a variety of beautiful formations scattered about the entrance chamber, hall of

imagination, and its main chambers deeper in the cave. It was in the final chamber of the cave that the group saw the area where the primary digging efforts took place, and where future hauling efforts were to take place.

Once back on the surface, the group had lunch provided by the cave staff. The owner of the cave as well as the staff that managed it thanked and commended the group for their labor and efforts. Shortly after, the group bid their farewell, and left to return to College Station arriving back at 5:15 PM.



No one thought to take a before photo, so here's the after photo of all the buckets hauled out of the cave.

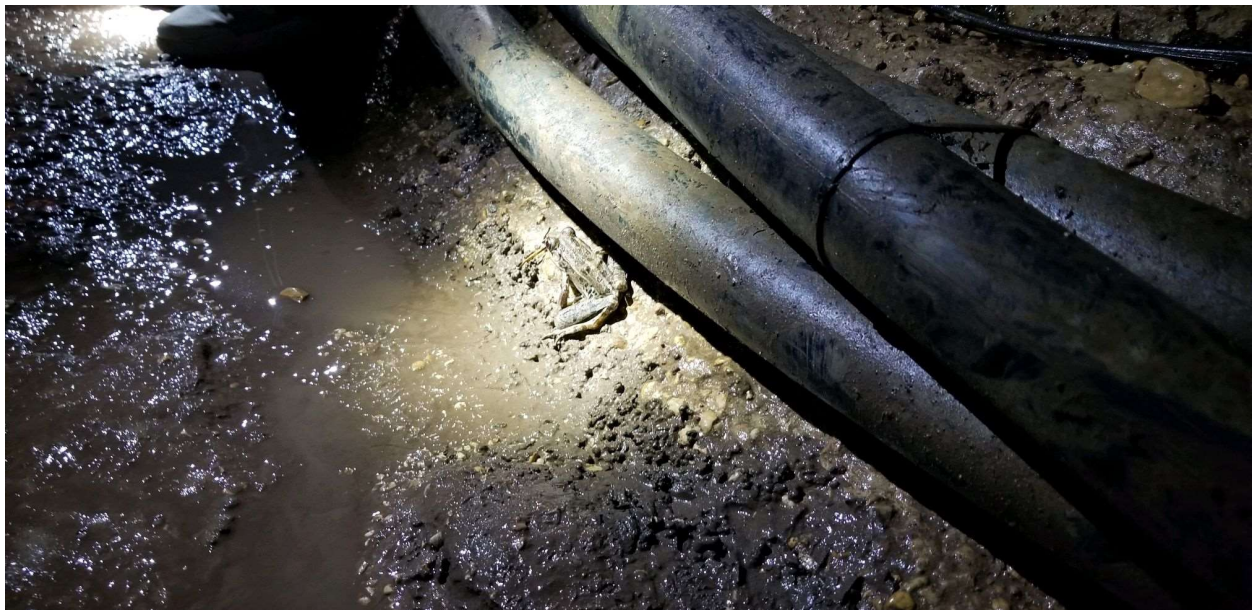


The old skylight entrance to the cave.





One of the two tricolor bats that greeted the tour group. Its friend was quite chatty, but never revealed itself.



A Rio Grande leopard frog that was washed into the cave during the last flood. He wasn't exactly a fan of being in the spotlight.



Russell O., Chance S., and Alasdair M. in the final chamber of the cave.