

groups and cavers who work with them. Note that the goals listed above do not require any direct contact with youth. The NSS Youth Groups Liaison Committee is a national clearinghouse for all people who want to

contribute to helping youth groups develop the appropriate skills, ethics, and attitudes needed to cave softly. You can contribute once, or you can contribute for the next 50 years. It's up to you. But if you choose not

to contribute at all, I don't want to hear any complaints about youth groups!

Contact nssyouth@caves.org for more information.

Western Cave Conservancy Makes First Cave Purchase

The Western Cave Conservancy has closed escrow on the 15-acre Rippled Cave property, in Amador County, California. Rippled Cave has long been one of the most widely used recreational and training caves in California, and had been threatened with closure in recent years. It is WCC's first acquisition.

The NSS and its National Speleological Foundation played critical roles in this purchase by administering the Pacific Slope Cave Acquisition Fund, which supplied most of the \$150,000 purchase price. Consisting entirely of a California caver's 2001 donation and the interest accrued on it, the fund had been established to seed a cave conservancy in the North American states west of the Rockies. Thanks to the wise management of the fund by the NSF, the \$70,000 principal accrued nearly \$20,000 in just four years!

WCC's most pressing tasks now are to complete and implement a management plan for Rippled Cave and to repay several three-year low-interest loans provided by central California cavers.

To support the acquisition of Rippled Cave, pay online through PayPal at <http://www.westerncaves.org/donate/> or Network for Good at www.networkforgood.org (search for "Western Cave Conservancy"); or, download a donation form at www.westerncaves.org/docs/WCC_Membership_Form.pdf. All donations are tax-deductible.



Dave Bunnell

Dan Snyder in the cave's namesake passage

READING

CAVES: A WONDERFUL UNDERGROUND

Kyung Sik Woo (English translation by Kyeong Park and Eunmi Chang). Hollym, Elizabeth, New Jersey; 2005. ISBN 1-56591-221-7. 6 by 9 inches, 230 pages, softbound. \$29.50.

This is a fairly nice little introduction to caves from Korea. The majority of the book is an elementary description of cave geology and biology at about, I'd say, a ninth-grade level. There is more about lava tubes than is usual in such a book, perhaps because they are relatively prominent among the caves of Korea. Except in a forty-page section devoted specifically to the caves of Korea, the coverage is international. There are color photographs on most pages; a number of the photos of lava tubes are by Dave Bunnell. There is a good conservation message at the end, where the author bemoans vandalism in Korea's caves.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of things that are not quite right. The Clansman is not in Carlsbad Cavern. The town and cave in Kentucky are not named Horseshoe Cave. Mammoth Cave was not mined for saltpeter during the Revolutionary War. Trivia aside, the most serious problem is that the author seems to think that condensing water vapor supplies some types of speleothems with minerals for growth. As this appears three

places, I find it hard to blame it on the translators.

The book doesn't appear to be widely available. When I looked, neither Amazon's nor Barnes and Noble's web sites had ever heard of it. Perhaps a cave-book dealer will carry it, or order from the publisher's web site, www.hollym.com.

Bill Mixon

WIND CAVE

(2003) by John Eric Ellison. PublishAmerica, Baltimore. Paperback, 211 pages, 5.5 x 8.5 format. ISBN: 1-4137-0407-7 \$19.95 retail. \$16.95 direct from PublishAmerica.com

On Saturday, June 14, 1969, John Ellison, age 13, and his stepfather were exploring Wind Cave, a segment of the Arnold Lava Tube System in Bend, Oregon. Shortly after entering the cave, John had a sudden, overwhelming feeling of dread and a premonition that something was terribly wrong.

John convinced his stepfather to leave the cave as quickly as possible.

About a half hour later, two other men in the cave discovered the badly decomposed body of Mrs. Beverly Gayley. The body was wrapped in bedding and hastily buried under rocks near the entrance. She had an electric

cord around her neck and severe head trauma. Gayley, age 54, had been reported missing from her home since mid-April. An autopsy reported her death was due to "combined acts of violence." For young John Ellison, the memories of that trip and the ensuing murder investigation would have a profound effect on him for years to come. So profound in fact that as an adult, "the need to purge his soul of disturbing memories" would inspire him to write *Wind Cave*.

In *Wind Cave*, Ellison (NSS# 50750) has relived the events of his youth through the eyes of Ronny Hazelwood and his young companions. When a woman's body is found in Wind Cave, the kids begin their own murder investigation and unintentionally get caught between supernatural forces of good and evil, culminating deep underground where the known laws of nature seem to have disappeared. It is the perfect book to read aloud the next time you find yourself trapped underground with a bunch of scouts.

Anyone wishing to explore *Wind Cave* after reading this book should be reminded that the murderer of Beverly Gayley was never found—and as they say, the guilty always return to the scene of the crime.

Paul Jay Steward