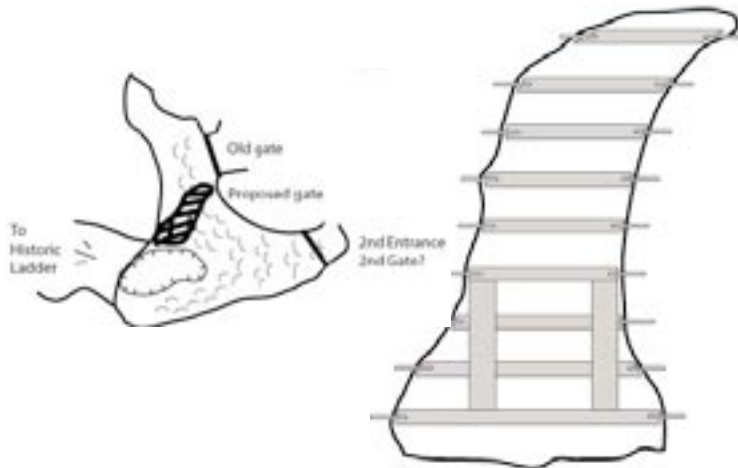


Ranger, What's that Person Doing?

Middle Cave Gate

The construction of Middle Cave gate is about to start. The Resource Management crew will be working for the next two to three weeks to complete this gate. This new gate will be located about 15 ft inside of the entrance. After the gate is completed, the old gate will be removed.

Every effort will be made to ensure the safety of the workers and visitors. A safety tarp will be installed below the gate to catch any falling debris from reaching the cave trail. The shuttling of personnel and supplies to the Middle Cave Entrance may occasioning send rocks on the hiking trail below. Travel to the entrance will occur only when no visitors are seen below. Staff will be posted on the trail on the trail at these locations to assist visitors in crossing safely. Please help in providing information to visitors on our gating activity.



Middle Cave Gate Design & Location Specifications

Cave Cleaning

Cami Pulham lead the crew in focusing our cleaning effort on the cave's trail. With the help of Tim, Bridgett, Intern Carrie, and BATS Volunteer, Camille Horrocks, they cleaned the Hansen Cave Catwalk, most of the Middle Cave Catwalk, Timpanogos Tunnel, and around the St. Bernard. The project removed large amount of hair, lint, and introduced mud. The effort cleaned 50% of our annual cave cleaning close to 1,500 ft². Cave cleaning will continue throughout the season.

Cave Atlas

Brandon Kowallis has created a great tool - a map atlas of the entire Timpanogos Cave System. When laminated these atlas pages make great detailed erase boards to communicate the locations of wildlife sightings, cave accidents, out lights, sampling sites, artifacts, and proposed projects. Throughout the year we can input some of the data from these atlases into GIS, erase, and start again. These atlases can also be downloaded and printed from the RM website.

UCC Weeding

In early July, four Utah Conservation Corps (UCC) volunteers came to help pull invasive weeds throughout the entire monument. The first day we covered the entire north side of the monument. The second day we waited until the last tour left the mountain to pull most all of entire south side including above the cave trail. In two days and up to 13 workers, we are able to weed most all of the park's problem with Dalmation Toadflax, Hounds Tongue, Bull Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, Yellowsweet Clover, Alfalfa, White Top, Mullein, Morning Glory, Goatsbeard, and Burdock. The total acreage pulled was 6.8 acres 135% of our annual weeding goal.

NSS Convention

Every year the National Speleological Society (NSS) hosts a national convention where cavers from around the country and world can share findings and insights in the cave disciplines such as geology, biology, cartography, photography, exploration, rescue, history, and management. Brandon Kowallis and Jon Jasper headed to this year's NSS Convention in Marquette, Michigan to share our recent work. During the week, Jon presented, "Disturbed versus Pristine Microbial Communities" that won the award for "The Best Presentation on a Show Cave." Brandon gave a presentation on incorporating studio photography techniques in underground settings and techniques for digital cave cartography. Brandon's recently completed Timpanogos Cave map and atlas received an Honorable Mention award in the cartographic salon.



Brandon Kowallis's Map with award

Cave Survey Workshop

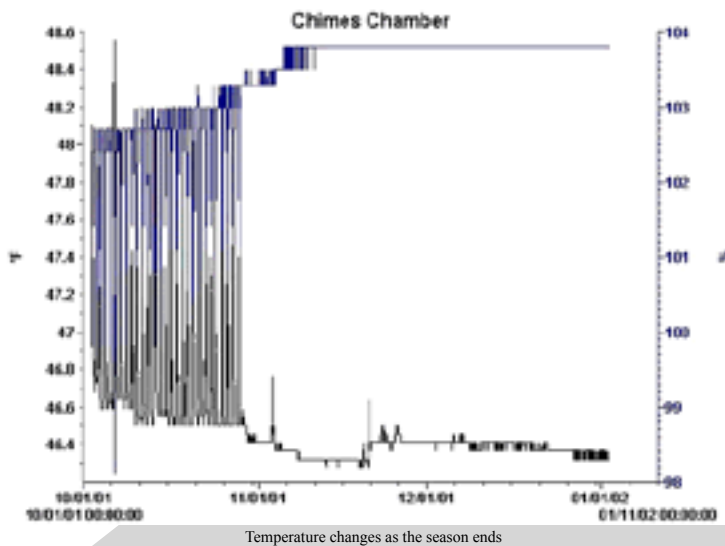
At the request of the local caving community, Brandon Kowallis will be leading a workshop on computer aided cave cartography on Saturday, August 7. The recent discoveries in the Tony Grove area near Logan, Utah, have increased interest in cave mapping. Because many cavers have not had the opportunity to learn proper survey and cartographic techniques, little is being done to document and preserve these discoveries. This workshop will educate local cavers on the entire process of creating a cave map, from in the cave data collection to the printing a final map.

Two Doors?

Have you ever wondered why the cave tunnels have two doors? The twin doors on the tunnels are known as an “airlock.” The airlock was installed to minimize the effects of unnatural airflow created by connecting the caves. Now that Maintenance has installed magnets to keep the doors closed, we should start using the airlocks properly.

Our HOBO dataloggers record up to a 2.5°F change from a single tour. These temperature changes can be caused by heat transferring from body heat, lights, and outside air exchange. These changes alter the stable environmental characteristics of the cave that could lead to long-term changes to the cave’s ecosystem and deterioration of cave formations. Some of the temperature increases are not easily mitigated; however, proper use of our tunnels airlocks may greatly reduce these changes.

At all times at least one door should be closed to reduce the effects airflow. The proper use of the airlocks is to walk through the first door and hold your entire tour at the second door until the first door is shut.



Sage McKenna

At 3:30 am on July 16, Becky Peterson gave birth to Sage McKenna after 20 hours of labor. Sage was born weighing 6 lbs 11 oz and 19 in long. She has strawberry blonde hair and slate color eyes. Becky has returned and will continuing working part time for the park.



Hurray for me! It's my Birthday!

Mice versus RM

Resource Management has circulated an informative flyer detailing information of how to reduce rodent infestations and prevent Hantavirus. The mice’s primary motive is getting food. The opportunity is created by improper food storage and deficient cleanliness.

At the end of June, Resource Management placed a live trap in the Ranger Room. The results are RM 2, Mice 0. Within the first week, two mice were caught and would have been relocated, if not for their unfortunate demise. In accordance with their last wishes, they were properly disposed in a trash can by trained, uniformed personnel using mask, gloves, and bleach water. Hopes are high that some day we may all learn to live together.

Operation New Home

Operation New Home is group of young teens, Shannon Babb, Alison Babb, Darci Crandell, and Linsley Crandell, working with Resource Management to restore disturbed wildlife habitats in the monument. This ambitious group wrote and received a \$600 grant and trip to New York from *Girls for Planet Earth*. They will be pulling invasive weeds, collecting seeds, growing native plants, and revegetating disturbed areas throughout the monument.



Becky, Alison, & Darci planting seeds

Tree Removal

Some of you may have noticed the unusual blue stripes as well as red and green marks on trees surrounding the Visitor Center, residences, picnic areas, Maintenance, and the Rock House. The monument has hired contractors to remove or limb these marked tree trees in the first two weeks in August. These projects will remove the park’s hazardous trees and create defensible fire space around the monument’s facilities. The picnic areas may be closed for up to a week, and possible road delays may exist.

Fire Cache Updated

The fire cache has been updated with new items to supply our red carded employees with proper fire fighting equipment. Some of the new items are new fire shelters, helmets, batteries, fireline packs, and first aid kits. Also, all the employees with red cards have successfully passed their pack tests and are ready to fight fires.