

ENDLESS CAVE

This cave has been known to cavers for many years, and is on the property of Sherman Singleton. The Singleton family have been friends of responsible cavers, but an incident two years ago has made them more particular about who goes in the cave now. Please talk to them before and after visiting the cave and show common courtesy. Earliest history we can find on the cave dates back to 1902 when a local peddler named Fisher was murdered. Fisher hauled his horse drawn junk wagon all over the area selling his wares. Some unknown person shot him for some unknown reason, and to cover the crime dragged his body into the cave a little ways. After that dastardly deed was discovered the cave was known as Fisher's Cave for years. There is evidence that the 4 sons of Sherman Singleton and their friends roamed around in the caves' upper level not quite as far as the gypsum room. We have removed some names and dates put there by later murks, but have left those of the Singleton family dating in the 30's because of historical interest. Jim Rebmans' book lists the cave as Singelton (sic) Cave, but the owner and family have been calling it Endless Cave for a long time now, so that's what we're calling it officially. The entrance is a small crevice-creek crawl and is located on the east hillside above Crooked Creek, almost directly opposite the farmhouse, across the road and creek. The small entrance opens up quickly into nice walking and stooping passages with some crawling places. The cave is mostly dry and contains very little water except at the very back of the cave. The cave has some old abandoned pack rats nests that are worth looking at. There are plenty of calcite formations in the front quarter of the cave. Cave life abounds in the form of bats, crickets, salamanders, spiders, smaller insects, and lower life forms, and occasionally the lowest life form of all, a caver. About 600 feet in all, which we'll describe as first, second and third. First, the left-most passage heads north thru some very dry fine sand to a collapse dome which will someday be a new entrance to the cave, but not in our lifetimes. It is not a safe stable place to be climbing, so please just look upwards and do not try to climb the extra 300 feet. Second, an upper level passage heads northeast thru a couple of small holes, to a room containing some of the finest gypsum crystals and flowers in this part of Kentucky, not up to Mammoth Cave standards, but exceptional and unique to Rockcastle County. From the gypsum room the passage goes into and hands and knees crawl which breaks out into a large room which contains some of the largest examples of popcorn you will see anywhere. Please protect the gypsum and popcorn from damage and handling. From the large room, you can work your way down to an area of domes and pits by squeezing thru a popcorn-lined hole. Third, there is a lower level passage to the left at the bottom of a long sloping walk downward. That turns into a rather long hands-and-knees crawl that eventually brings you out into the bottom of the dome-pit complex you can see from the upper level observation deck. A nice waterfall and pool exists down there. Don't expect to free climb the connection pit between the upper and lower levels without rigging it. Only unmapped portions of the cave are upper level leads near the waterfall and dome-pit series, and a tight crawl that heads south out of the gypsum room. A very nice cave that will be open to us as long as we are careful to observe basic landowner relations. If you haven't been there, it's worth the visit.