

February 2002

Alaskan Caver, Volume 22, No. 1, February 2002

Diane Raab

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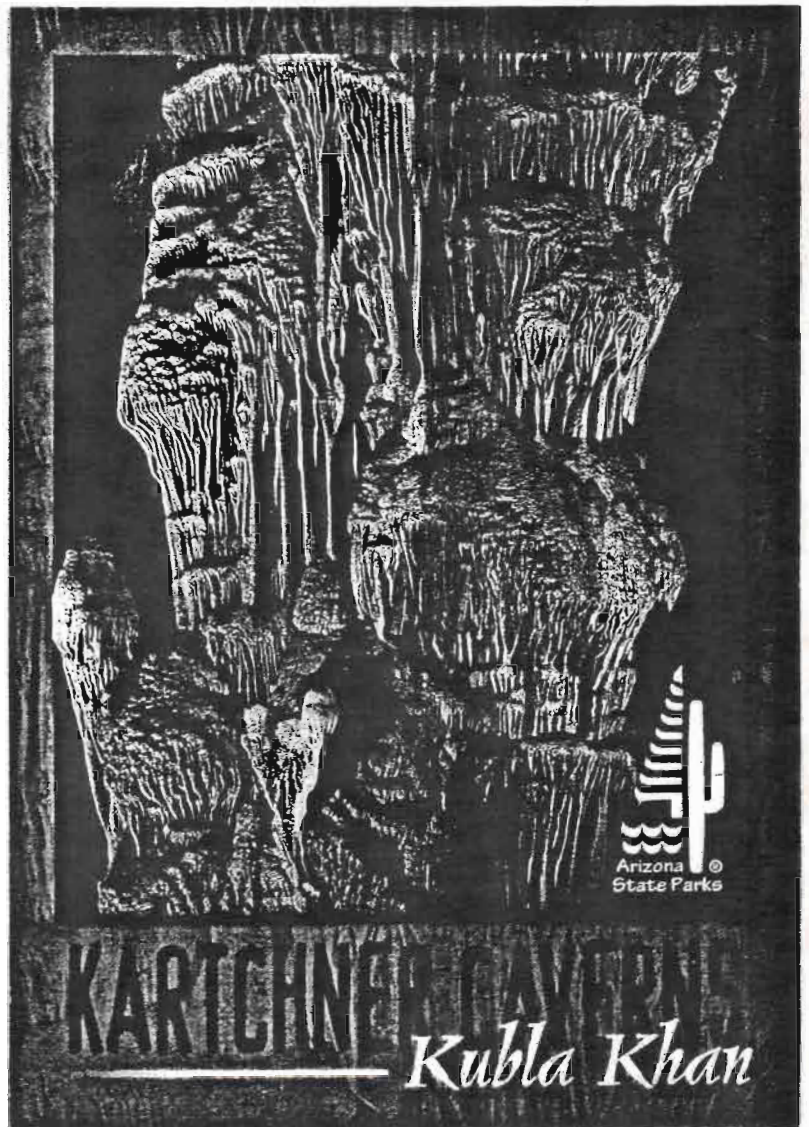
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THE ALASKAN CAVER

A PUBLICATION BY
AND FOR THE
GLACIER GROTTO
OF ALASKA

FEBRUARY 2002
VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1



KARTCHIN *Kubla Khan*

The Alaskan Caver

published by the

Glacier Grotto

P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Editor -- Diane Raab

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Deadline for
next issue:

MARCH 15, 2002

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THE ALASKAN CAVER (ISSN 0735-0481) IS THE PERIODIC PUBLICATION OF THE GLACIER GROTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NSS)

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Send Contributions to *THE ALASKAN CAVER*, Editor, P.O. Box 9062, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 Or 7300 N. Mona Lisa Road #4223, Tucson, AZ 85741.

Opinions are not necessarily that of *THE ALASKAN CAVER*, the GLACIER GROTTO, or the NSS. Proven errors will be corrected in print.

Annual dues are \$15 for an individual and \$20 for a family or organization. *THE ALASKAN CAVER* is included in the membership fee.

For an additional \$8, six *ALASKAN CAVERS* will be sent overseas via airmail. Send dues to: Glacier Grotto Treasurer, P.O. Box 9062, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 USA.

Meet the new editor of *The Alaskan Caver*

After many years of dedicated publishing, **Connie and Marcel LaPerriere** will not be publishing *The Alaskan Caver* this year. Many thanks to both Connie and Marcel for consistently publishing and circulating this newsletter for members of the Glacier Grotto. The new editor is a caver and a writer, and is looking forward to publishing *The Alaskan Caver*.

Diane Raab is a former newspaper reporter, former radio news broadcaster, former high school English teacher, former nanny, former dishwasher, former cabin dweller, former boat dweller, former lots of other things, now residing in Tucson, Arizona. She is the current editor of *The Alaskan Caver*, current freelance writer, current relay operator for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, current substitute teacher at the Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and current student of American Sign Language.



Diane Raab, new editor of *The Alaskan Caver*, is just hanging around waiting for submissions to the world's only publication dedicated to Alaska's amazing caves.

CONTRIBUTE TO *THE ALASKAN CAVER*!

Send a paragraph about a cave trip, a photo or cave news via snail mail to: **Diane Raab, 7300 N. Mona Lisa Road #4223, Tucson, Arizona 85741** or to the **Glacier Grotto, P.O. Box 9062, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901**.

As this is the 21st century, you can e-mail submissions for the next issue, due by March 15, 2002, to **diane_raab@hotmail.com** or to **marcel@alaskamade.com**.

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Glacier Grotto members attend Cave and Karst Symposium in Tucson, Arizona

In October, the United States Forest Service hosted an international symposium on cave and karst management issues in Tucson, Arizona.

Tongass National Forest Geologist **James Baichtal** presented a discussion entitled "Lidar Applications in a Temperate Rainforest Environment Case Study: Kosciusko Island, Southeastern Alaska, Tongass National Forest." (SEE ABSTRACT) His wife, **Karen Petersen**, attended

sessions on caving recreation. **Dave Klinger** and **Diane Raab** were also in attendance.

The conference included a trip to **Kartchner Caverns**, a large limestone cave discovered south of Tucson in 1974 and opened to the public in November, 1999.

The cave includes stalactites, soda straws, and calcite shields, cave bacon, and other formations. The cave is under construction as a tourist attraction, including cement wheel-chair accessible walkways and lighting. Symposium participants viewed "The Strawberry Room," not yet open to the public.

Bat Gate Design Forum to Meet

Bat Conservation International, The US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Office of Surface Mining will be hosting a forum **March 4-6, 2002 in Austin, Texas** on the importance of protecting caves and mines and maintaining access to them for bats. Bat gates will be discussed in detail.

For more information, contact **Kimery Vories**, forum chairperson, at 618-463-6463 x 103 or send e-mail to kvories@osmre.gov or **Jim Kennedy** of Bat Conservation International, 512-327-9724. Kennedy's e-mail address: jkennedy@batcond.org.

ABSTRACT FROM James F. Baichtal's Presentation at 2001 National Cave and Karst Symposium:

"As part of ongoing Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for proposed timber sales in the Tongass National Forest on Kosciusko and Tuxekan Islands, west of Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska, URS Corporation utilized Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology as part of field data collection in the temperate rainforest. EagleScan Remote Sensing Services/3Di, a subcontractor to URS, collected the data utilizing a combined LIDAR and digital camera unit. Data were generally collected utilizing a last pulse mode in order to map the "bald earth" for the majority of the study area. In addition, a test area was established within which both first and last pulse data were collected. A digital elevation model (DEM) was developed from LIDAR point data. Contour maps developed from the DEMs were successfully utilized to identify steep slopes, landslides and karst features. The method also allowed for the characterization of canopy structure in conifer stands. The maps generated from the LIDAR data were found to be instrumental in better understanding the landscape for the variety of disciplines involved in the EIS process with significantly less effort and improved resolution than pre-existing methods. The LIDAR data aided in karst resource inventory and karst vulnerability classification of the Project Area."

2002 NSS Convention

June 24-28, 2002 Camden, Maine

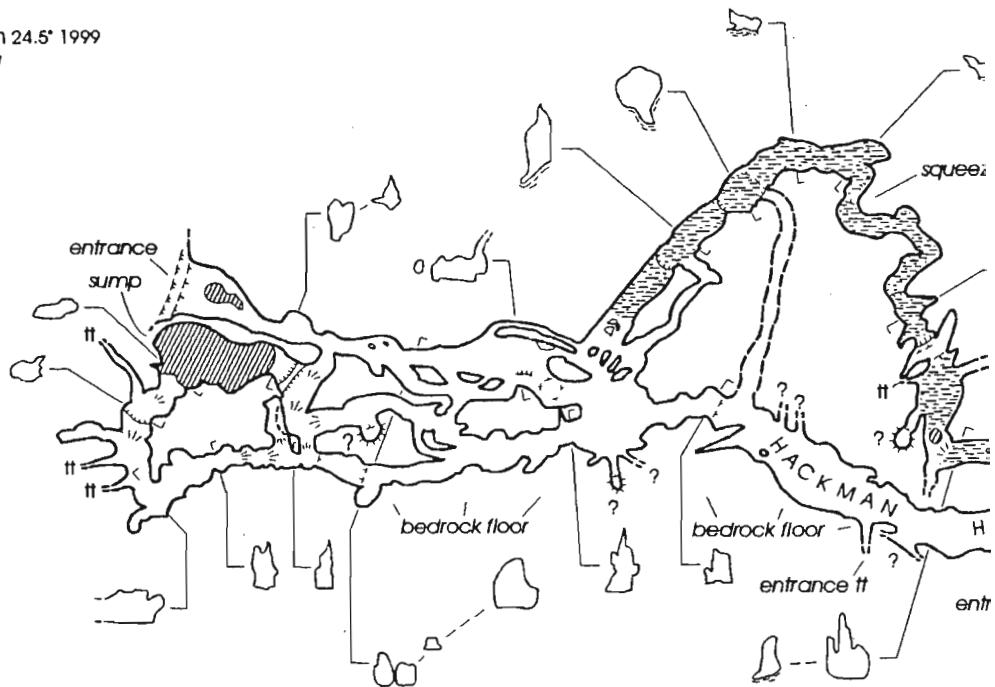
Attendees can enjoy Maine's **caving**, sailing, kayaking, biking, whales, climbing, canoeing, shopping, rafting, lobster, camping, lakes, lighthouses, hiking, waterfalls, forts, sunrises, swimming, islands, moose, fishing, museums, sandy beaches, rocky coasts, tidal pools, antiques, fogs, seafood, accents, lumberjacks, microbrews, tides ... oh, and the **NSS Convention** featuring **caves**, geology, mountain chair lift, biology, **caving vendors**, **other cavers**, **cave art**, **caver parties**, sailing and lobster!

Check out the website: www.nss2002.org or call **Kevin Harris** at 603-888-6946 or **Peter Jones** at 207-236-6112

Registration: *NSS 2002 Convention Registraton c/o John Stembal*
4475 Leonora Drive Tucker, GA 30084-2832

N

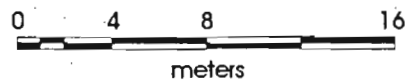
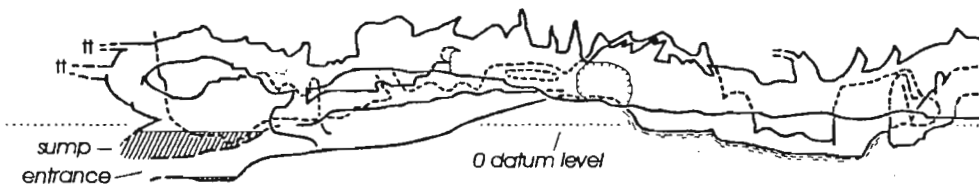
Nm 24.5° 1999



LEGEND

- passage wall
- unsurveyed passage wall
- underlying passage wall
- entrance dripline
- vertical drop
- depth of drop in meters
- slope, splay downward
- ceiling height change
- ceiling height in meters
- pool
- mud fill
- rocks
- too tight
- chimney
- very tight

PROJECTED PRO.



DENDRITE CAVE

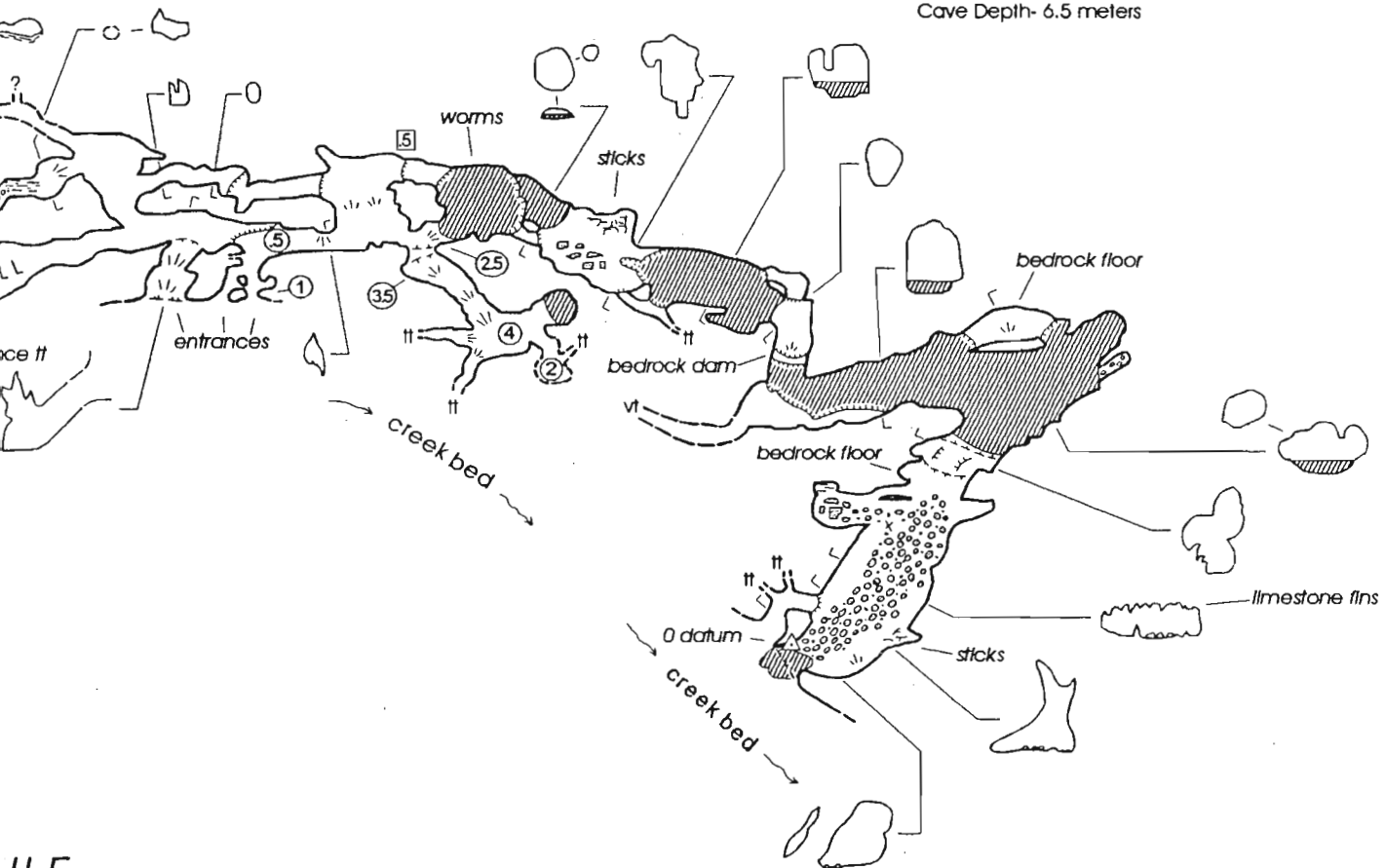
KOSCIUSKO ISLAND, ALASKA
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

Compass, Inclinator and Tape Survey, July 1998 and
June 1999 by B. Galitsky, J. Kokubo, H. Abe, K. Esterson, D.
Monteith, B. Brewer and D. Raab. Map by K. and C. Allred.

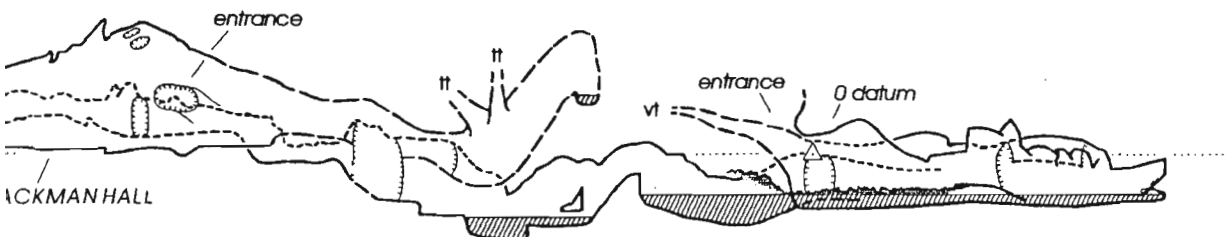
Tongass Cave Project, NSS

Survey Length- 236.8 meters
Cave Depth- 6.5 meters

PLAN VIEW



ILE



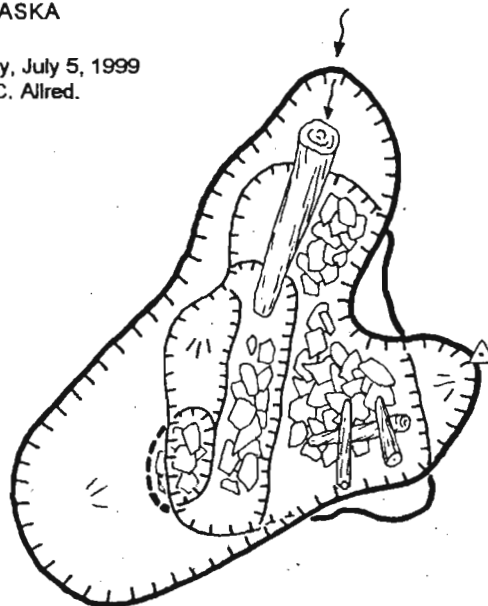
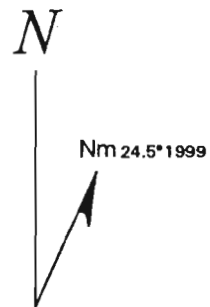
UNCLE JESSE'S PIT

KOSCIUSKO ISLAND
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST, ALASKA

Compass, Inclinator and Tape Survey, July 5, 1999
by B. Brewer and B. Galitsky. Map by C. Allred.

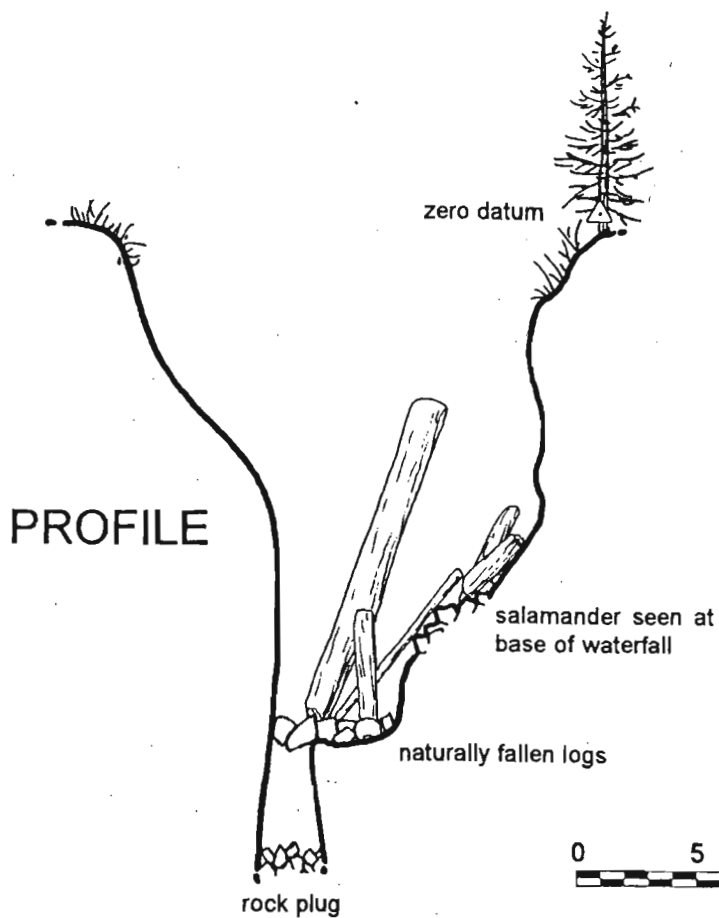
Survey length- 30.8 meters
Vertical extent- 26.5 meters

TONGASS CAVE PROJECT



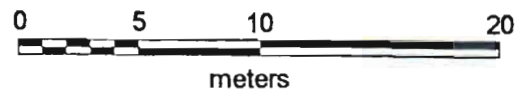
zero datum

PLAN VIEW



LEGEND

- pit wall
- rocks and breakdown
- vertical drop
- slope
- stream
- logs



Glacier Grotto

Financial Statement 2001

Beginning Balance:	\$956.22
Income:	\$1180
Dues:	\$20
Total Received:	\$1200
Expenses:	
Cavers	\$200.25
Postage:	\$231.95
Bank Charges:	.72
Total Expense:	\$432.92
Ending Balance:	\$1723.30

Grotto Dues are Due!

To support caving activities, conservation of Alaska's caves, and to keep your subscription to *The Alaskan Caver* arriving on a somewhat regular basis, it's time to pay your dues for 2002! If you haven't already, send a check made out to **Glacier Grotto** to:

Connie LaPerriere, Treasurer
Glacier Grotto
P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

\$15 Individual
 \$20 Family
 \$20 Institution or Organization

The membership year began **January 1, 2002**. Current members will be published in the next edition of *The Alaskan Caver*. **Make sure your name is on the list!**

ROPECUTTER

Dear Rope Cutter,

Last month I was hiking around with an old forester and he said to me "Don't mistake the forest for the trees." What does that old saying mean? I only saw the trees. And remember, Life is like a box of chocolates.

Sincerely, Forrest G.

P.S. Dear Fred (sp?) You should come caving with us in TAG country!

Dear Forrest G.,

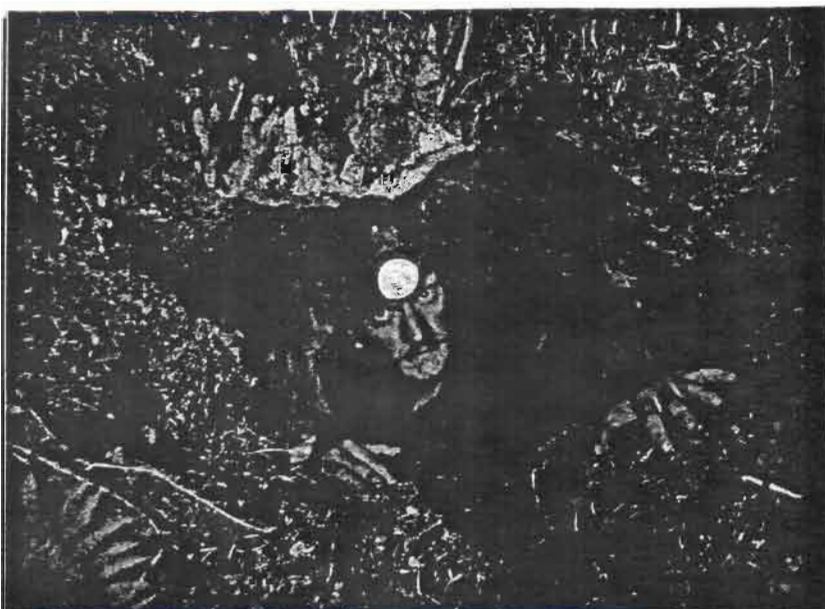
Life is like a box of chocolates in that you think you are picking a life path that is an orange cream when what you end up with is some unknown beige-colored concoction whipped up by a guy who taste-tests the candy on his dog (and we all know what dogs like to lick). I think that this is what happened to my life. But I digress.

Many philosophers and scientists smarter than I have contemplated just the kind of question you are asking. But since I wrote to me, **Phreada**, (not FRED!!) I presume you want my viewpoint and not Emanuel Kants.

Forrest, GET the BIG picture. If you think a forest is only the trees you would also probably think that caves are just #\$\$%^&*# holes in the ground, just like the Senator from SE Alaska. As Jack Ward Thomas said "Ecosystems are more complicated than you think -- they are more complicated than you can think." KC Cole says in *The Universe and the Tea Cup*, "You might be impressed if I told you that half the cars on my street were BMWs until you learned that there are only two cars on my street."

Looking at only the trees in the forest is like being impressed with that BMW. There are other dangers in only looking at the trees when you are walking in a forest. One of the best reasons to look around in a forest in Southeast Alaska is the desire to avoid joining the Devil's Club -- and I'm not talking about the guy with a trident and cloven hooves. I'm talking about the plant that is always handy just when you are about to trip and it offers up its spiny branch as a last ditch handhold. Which brings us back to the chocolate dilemma. Do you grab the thorns or go for the fall? So take a good look around the forest, Forrest, and you'll be surprised what you can see. Thanks for the offer to cave in TAG country. Just one question of you -- what are y'all running from??

Yours, Phreada Phreatic



Doctor Dan Monteith, anthropology professor at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau, does his famous deer-in-the-headlights impression.
Kosciusko Island, Summer 2001

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF *THE ALASKAN CAVER!*

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2002!

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR ANNUAL DUES TO **THE GLACIER GROTTO**,
THANK YOU! YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO *THE ALASKAN CAVER* WILL CONTINUE.
IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID, THIS WILL BE THE **LAST** *ALASKAN CAVER* YOU WILL
RECEIVE. **PLEASE DO NOT DELAY!** YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS **VITAL** TO THE
PROTECTION, EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY OF CAVES IN ALASKA.

The Alaskan Caver

**P.O. Box 9062
Ketchikan, AK 99901**

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