TCMA PASSAGES

FALL 2007

VOL 8 NO 2

Amazing Maze Cave Speleogenesis Studied

By Geary Schindel

In 2006, the Texas Cave Management Association (TCMA) reached an agreement with the Texas Lands System (TLS) to manage their cave resources. Some of caves located on Texas Lands System holdings include O-9 Well and Amazing Maze Cave. Since the initiation of the agreement, TCMA representatives have repaired the gate at Amazing Maze and started to remap the cave. Amazing Maze has one of the densest collections of passages in the United States with more than 7,500 meters shown on the existing map, making it the third longest cave in the state. Each passage intersection has four to five passages which lead off at different angles. The

Photo by Aimee Beveridge

Steve Bryant observed and collected a clay specimen from the cave which analysis revealed was endolite.

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TCMA By-Laws Revisions Proposed

By William Russell

The Bylaws of the TCMA are being revised for the first time since 1994. Many of the changes are just to bring the bylaws up to date with changing times. Telephone meetings are changed to electronic meetings to allow for the use of email. The revisions to the bylaws are included in this issue of the Passages (see page 9) and the thinking behind the changes is discussed below. The TCMA membership must approve these revisions, which will be presented at the general membership meeting on October 21, 2007 at the Texas Caver Reunion.

Section 1.4 states that the TCMA shall act "by and through" its Board of Directors, but provisions are also included for "members meetings" that can "transact such other business as may be properly brought before the meeting." Members meetings are primarily intended to elect the Board members who are then to govern the TCMA. To clarify this division of duties, the ability of members meetings to take independent action was limited [in sections 3.1 and 3.2] to the election and termination of

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VIEW FROM THE PALIT

By Linda Palit

Organization. How do you get an organization organized? How do you translate good ideas and good intentions into reality? How do you get over a "Hump" and move on to the next step of organization and growth? What does any of that mean to having caves available to Texas cavers, saving caves, and preserving caves?

TCMA held a weekend workshop for strategic planning last May. The Board began to answer the above questions and set goals to accomplish for the next two to ten years for TCMA. Seeing the vision is easy; developing a realistic plan for how to get to the vision is hard, hard work. But we developed some ideas and I believe you will start seeing some results.

We have a new Communications Committee, with Kevin McGowan as it leader. Kevin needs your help. He is sending you a personal letter in this edition of Passages, and is especially concentrating on compiling pictures and video on all our caves so that the information can be used whenever needed.

To make it easier to join, renew, or donate, we now can accept memberships or donations through PayPal. We have been talking about this for a long time, but it is now a reality. We are revising and restoring our ability to take monthly donations from any caver willing to make that commitment. Susan Souby has agreed to coordinate this effort, and we will begin accepting monthly donations through credit cards or electronic funds transfers this weekend. Monthly donations not only add to our coffers, but also generate an "income stream" to improve our access to loans when we suddenly find those caves to purchase and need loans.

Ron Ralph, Joe Ranzau and Butch Fralia are putting together information for a TCMA Listserve to provide membership and other interested people email news about TCMA projects, needs, and initiatives. We will take your email information if you want to be on the list, and will keep you informed. We anticipate sending no more than one or two emails a month. This will not be a discussion forum because we don't want you overwhelmed with emails. We are doing this to reach out to our members, keep you informed on what is happening, and invite you to help with projects.

Our new Fundraising Chairman is Don Arburn. Don needs your help in fundraising! Come by our table and see the great banner he has created for TCMA. Don will coordinate the fundraising initiatives we already have, supervise some new ones, and help keep you informed about our progress on different initiatives.

One of our major initiatives at this point is paying off Deep and Punkin Preserve. We owe a bit more than $40,000. We want to pay that off within the next year and a half to avoid having to get a new loan or deal with the ARM on the current loan. We need your help to make this happen.

We have some other important organizational initiatives. These will affect the membership less directly because they deal with how TCMA is organized. We are developing our Budget Committee and Bylaws Committee to help TCMA function more efficiently.

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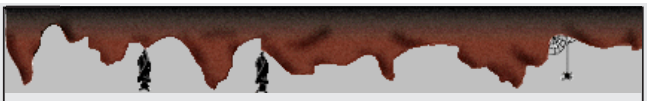

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BY-LAWS (from p. 1)

Board members. For example, members meetings can pass a resolution to buy a cave, but this is just an advisory action; the actual decision to purchase the cave will be by the Board.

The classes of membership [section 3.6] have been expanded to include life members. The number of Board members [section 4.2] has been changed to allow up to 15 board members to reflect action taken at the last Board meeting, and much historical information has been eliminated. The procedure for removal of Board members [section 4.4] has been clarified to emphasize that "a majority of the members" --the original wording-- is required to remove a Board member. With the increased size of the TCMA this provision is no longer useful, prompting much discussion. Meetings and notifications by email [sections 4.5 and 4.8] were authorized, and the authority of the president to appoint committees was clarified [section 4.9]. The Budget Committee was added to the bylaws [section 4.11]. Proxies [section 4.14] were not allowed because it was thought proxies cause problems when they are not well acquainted with complex problems, and attempt to follow instructions and deal with new issues. Roberts Rules [section 4.15] were cited to govern the conduct of meetings. The section on delivery of notices [article 5] was deleted because provisions were included elsewhere for the delivery of notices. A provision to elect a Chairperson of the Board was provided [section 5.1 and 5.4] for special circumstances such as conflict of interest.

Ranzau and others were concerned about the lack of a specific provision for removing Board members. Currently there is only section 4.4, and it requires action by a majority of all members to remove a Board member. A Board member could be removed by calling a members meeting to remove the Board member. This would only require a majority of the members attending, though 10% of the members are needed for a quorum. This has not been a pressing problem, but most organizations have such a provision to remove Board members to prevent the embarrassment of having a Board member identified as a major bad actor. If a Board member filed a false expense account to the TCMA, or wrote to a cave owner that the TCMA will "come after you unless you provide access to your cave," or attempted a kidnapping to obtain money to buy a cave; then we might need a provision to remove the Board member.

The By-Laws revisions will be presented to the TCMA membership for a vote at the Oct. 21st Membership Meeting

See pg. 9 for a complete copy of all proposed revisions to the TCMA By-Laws.

One problem with a lack of specific procedure is that an angry Board is likely just to vote an offending Board member off the Board. I do not think it is a good idea to allow a majority of the Board just to instantly remove Board members. Could Board members sue the TCMA, claiming they had been illegally harmed? I suggested a bylaw amendment that provides a board member could be removed by a three-fourth majority of the Board, and this way the Board could take care of the problem. There probably should be a specified waiting time, like two weeks, for explanations to be delivered and passions to cool; but there was not time to work out the details. This issue is still to be resolved.

Bill Russell is the Chairman of the TCMA By-Laws and Structure Committee

The Texas Cave Management Association is actively seeking out caves for purchase. If you are aware of any caves that you think are significant in length and depth and are available for sale, contact a TCMA board member and they'll bring it to the attention of the Cave Acquisition Committee (Geary Schindel, Chair).

Finding caves worth purchase, which are located on properties that are affordable to the TCMA is the trick. Hopefully, our persistence will pay off with future cave acquisitions.

New Hope to Break Deadlock over Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve

By William Russell

The Villages of Western Oaks Karst Preserve is an area of about 20 acres with several caves and a sinkhole located in Southwest Austin, in a subdivision one block west of the Mopac expressway. The area was set aside as a preserve during development of the neighborhood, and an annual assessment was placed on neighboring houses and apartments to pay for management and maintenance of the preserve. During construction there was an interim management agreement between the City of Austin, the developer Lumberman's Investment Company (LIC) and Village of Western Oaks Homeowners Association (HOA), and the TCMA. The idea behind this agreement was TCMA would take care of the caves, the HOA would collect the assessments, and the City would turn the property over the TCMA when the subdivision was finished and LIC had completed all the work in the preserve. Unfortunately, the contract was not explicit, there was much confusion in writing the contract, and the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer District (BSEACD) is actually listed as the recipient of the property. However, the BSEACD has zero interest in the property. But that is not the serious problem.

As part of the initial enthusiasm over the karst preserve, LIC agreed to build a wet pond to improve the water quality. This pond was constructed, but then was found to leak. LIC said it was not their fault, it was built to city specifications; the city said LIC should fix the pond. Much discussion (for years), then LIC said the subdivision is finished and we are giving the property to the City of Austin as allowed in the contract. The City said you can't do that; we refuse to accept the property. Meanwhile, during dry years the water level in the wet pond seriously declined and the City said the neighborhood had to add makeup water. The TCMA warned the HOA not to accept the pond or

Photos by William Russell

A work day was held at the Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve in early October. Julie Jenkins paints kiosks at the side entrance to the Preserve (top), while Guy Ruehls and Ron Ralph enthusiastically tackle weed wacking (bottom).

they would be libel for the water that leaked from the pond. The city was just looking for a way out and wanted to give the wet pond to the HOA, but they resisted.

This impasse has continued for years, but recent activity gives some cause for hope. The city called a meeting that was mostly a restatement of the issues, but it resulted in talks between the HOA and TCMA that informally sorted out some of the problems. After reading the contract we agreed reluctantly that the karst preserve included the wet pond, and karst preserve assessments could be used to maintain the wet pond. The HOA has asked the TCMA to start some work on the preserve using the preserve assessments, and this could be the start of a working relation. We do not actually need the either the City or LIC; we can just manage the preserve. This is not a good long-term solution, as under this arrangement the TCMA has little influence on the HOA, but it is a start. And, several influential parties have commented that the standoff is a silly spat, and should not be allow to continue; so the TCMA is planning to bring the issue before the City of Austin Environmental Board, to break the deadlock. And despite the politics, the TCMA is planning on a wonderful Austin Cave Day at the preserve on October 27. There will be booths and displays from several agencies and you can poke into two of the caves. If you are in the area stop by and visit the preserve.

A Letter from the Communications Committee

By Kevin McGowan

Howdy! Last year I was voted on the board of TCMA. I have always felt TCMA to be a welcoming and friendly organization with the cavers' best interests at heart. Gone are the days of secret caving and secret caves. With the advent of the internet, cavers are in touch, more informed, and a more inclusive than ever! The past year on the TCMA board has proven that my first impression was right.

Kevin McGowan

I was recently elected to the chair the Communications Committee. Joe Mitchell and Ron Ralph volunteered to help me with the committee. The goal of the committee is to transform TCMA into a more professional and responsive organization. We've grown over the past few years and with it, so has our responsibility. It's a daunting yet exciting task.

Our biggest and most urgent need is for you, our members, to help out in anyway you can. As chair of the Communications Committee, one of my first duties is finding visual materials to help support TCMA. We might use them to make a proposal for grants or selling our services of property and cave management, or helping us to acquire more caves.

We need visual, audio, and written materials on our properties. We are putting together brochures for Whirlpool Cave, Robber Baron Cave, the Deep/Punkin Cave Preserve, and even a TCMA Poster. We would greatly appreciate any copies of still photos, video, or sound clips that you think really captures the caves and preserves. Also, if you have a particularly interesting trip report, we'd love to read it.

TCMA needs the support of our members, and hope that you'll respond. Any materials you submit to TCMA will be given a copyright credit. All we ask is that we can use them to promote TCMA and its mission.

I first got into caving by volunteering…LOTS of volunteering on resto trips. That experience gave me a great respect for cave conservation and also allowed me into some pretty incredible caves. I find that the more I give more to the caving community I get it back—and sometimes I get back ten fold!

It is the great caves, great caving opportunities, and great people out there that makes it so much fun! TCMA needs its members to step up and help us, as an organization, to jump to the next level. We need your help and support to make that happen!

Robber Baron Gets New Fence, Steps

By Joe Mitchell

The long running Robber Baron project has recently achieved several important milestones and is starting to near its final phases. Robber Baron Cave is the longest known cave in Bexar County and has been a well-known and heavily-visited urban cave since the early twentieth century. As a result, the sinkhole has long been partially debris-filled and the surface resembled a neglected vacant lot. The cave also is home to two federally listed endangered species. This project, begun in 2001, has involved the restoration of the sinkhole entrance by removal of the fill, improving air, water and nutrient flow into the cave, enhanced access, and improving the surface of the property. Over the past year, there have been seven work days, during which two major portions of the project have been completed: the steps into the sinkhole and a fence around the sinkhole.

Photo by Joe Mitchell

Matthew Haas organized the construction of the fence around the sinkhole for his Eagle Scout project.

The stairs follow a trench that was dug into the sinkhole in order to remove the debris fill. Rather than re-fill the trench, is was decided that it would be an easier and safer access into the sinkhole as well as providing a controllable conduit for water and organic material to enter the cave. The steps are a series of low stone walls that are backfilled with large-diameter gravel. Water can trickle down through the gravel and pass through conduits placed in the stone portion of the steps. This controls the speed of water flow, reducing erosion and sediment deposition at the bottom. This project proved to be a major undertaking, requiring five different work trips and lots of hard work by many volunteers to finish.

The most recent addition was a fence around the sinkhole. The 30-foot depth of the sinkhole poses a potential safety hazard and the sinkhole has also been the victim of dumping on several occasions. This project was undertaken by Matthew Haas of San Antonio for his Eagle Scout project. His plan involved placement of wood posts around the sinkhole and then attaching a four-foot high no-climb fencing material. A gate was also placed on the backside of the sinkhole to allow for hoisting materials in and out of the cave in the future.

Matthew acquired all the materials without any expense to TCMA and organized for a group of volunteers to attend the work day. This was coordinated with a standard TCMA work day and

Photo by Jim Jasek

The completed stairs provides access into the sinkhole and helps reduce erosion by controlling water flow.

occurred on June 23 when more than 30 volunteers came to dig holes, place posts, and pour concrete footers. The work was accomplished by early afternoon, after which some of the volunteers toured the cave. At followup workday a week later, the fencing was attached and the gate was mounted.

Since then, one additional work day was held on October 6. Several small projects were done including staining the new fence posts, pulling ivy, and building a stone patio in the frequently muddy area leading up to the cave entrance.

The final phases of this project are finally in sight. First up is the completion of drainage improvements on the property to funnel street stormwater overflow into an adjacent alley and reduce erosion of the trench walls by berming the edge. Following this will be another Eagle Scout project to build a trail across the property linking the gates and bridge. The final two major tasks include construction of a parking area in the alley and landscaping. During this latter task, we will remove non-natives and replace them with native plants. We will also add signs and an information kiosk.

Through the work of many years and over 3000 volunteer hours, Robber Baron will be one of TCMA's showplace preserves. Thank you to everyone who has helped make this possible!

Photo by Joe Mitchell

Cavers, scouts, neighbors, and many other volunteers provided the labor for completing the sinkhole fence and step projects.

D&P Sees Survey, Work Trips

By Geary Schindel

We are now into our third year of ownership of Deep and Punkin Nature Preserve and there are a number of improvements to the property that have occurred and are planned for 2007 and 2008. Recent additions to the cabin include a larger refrigerator, the addition of a pressure tank and two hot water heaters, and the installation of a second stove for cooking. The pressure tank has vastly improved water pressure in the cabin and made the shower a great luxury after a hard day of caving on the property. We upgraded the electric service to the cabin to a 120 amp panel which has allowed the addition of the second stove. This has improved the use of the cabin for cooking during when larger groups use the property. Our neighbor has worked hard on the road by removing a number of large rocks and grading the road. This should improve our ability to get to the property. We have also purchased a number of steel beams which will be used to construct a cover for the back porch and a second floor for a screened in sleeping porch. When the porch cover is completed, the second stove will be moved to the back to create a new cooking area.

There have been a number of trips to Deep Cave over the spring and summer. Most of the trips visited the Helictite Room, the Entrance Room, and the Bat Room for photographic or recreational purposes. The cave is in good shape and the traffic in the cave appears to be having minimal impact. Over Labor Day, we had about 20 people members to the property. While there were a number of trips into Deep Cave, the group also did a lot of work on the property including clearing of cedar along the western property line, cutting of cat claw, and clearing and moving the road to Punkin Cave.

Punkin Cave has been closed since early June because of bats. Evening visits to the Punkin Cave entrance have produced nice bat flights of about a half hour in duration. The bats have headed south for the winter and the cave is now open for visitation.

Both Punkin and Deep caves are being remapped and additional new passage has been found in both caves. Surveying in Punkin Cave is being coordinated by Jim Kennedy and mapping in Deep Cave is being coordinated by Jerry Atkinson. If you would like to participate, contact Jim or Jerry for more information.

AMAZING MAZE (from p. 1)

unusual pattern of the cave attracted the attention of Dr. Alexander Klimchouk, director of the Ukrainian Cave and Karst Research Institute. Dr. Klimchouk has been spending the year in the United States as the visiting scientist with the National Cave and Karst Research Institute. While he was in San Antonio in 2007 to attend a meeting on the Edwards Aquifer, he asked if he could also visit Amazing Maze Cave. Phillip Rykwalder and Peter Sprouse were holding a mapping trip that weekend and invited us along. We also brought Steven Bryant, an undergraduate student in geology at UT- Austin.

Dr. Klimchouk is internationally known for his work on the large gypsum maze caves in Ukraine, and also for his work in Georgia, as one of the leaders of the expedition that explored Krubera Cave, the deepest cave in the world. Dr. Klimchouk has written extensively on the formation of maze caves by a process called vertical transverse speleogenesis. The theory states that some maze caves, such as network mazes and spongework mazes are formed by groundwater moving vertically upward. When groundwater reaches an impermeable unit, it will move horizontally, dissolving large networks imprinted upon the controlling geologic factors, such as faults, fractures, or fossil beds. Caves formed by this process have some unique characteristics including copulas or holes in the ceiling, dead end passages, and characteristic maze patterns. Because these types of caves are formed by regional and deep seated (hypogene) groundwater flow, they may be formed by either carbonic acid or sulfuric acid processes. Amazing Maze Cave shows clear evidence of having been formed by vertical transverse processes and Dr. Klimchouck took a number of photographs of the cave as examples of this process. Some of these photos appear in this new monograph titled "Hypogene Speleogenesis: Hydrogeological and Morphogenetic Perspective" published by the National Cave and Karst Research Institute.

Amazing Maze Cave contains a number of unusual speleothems including calcite blisters, crusts, and some large gypsum deposits. In addition, Steven Bryant found a deposit of waxy red clay in the cave which was later identified as endolite, a clay mineral indicative of sulfuric acid speleogenesis. The mapping of Amazing Maze Cave continues to extend the limits of the cave and hopefully, reveal additional clues regarding its formation.

TCMA Board Visits Rolling Oaks Preserve

Photos by Kevin McGowan

Several members of the Board of Directors visited TCMA's Rolling Oaks Preserve after their September 29th meeting (left). During the trip they evaluated the condition of the rarely visited San Antonio Preserve and discussed some potential future projects on the property. Bill Russell checks out Chimney Cricket Cave (right) which was re-located during the visit after it's location was lost for several years.

TCMA BY-LAWS REVISIONS PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL

The TCMA Board of Directors proposes these changes to the TCMA By-Laws. These changes must be voted on by the membership to be approved and will be presented at the membership meeting to be held Sunday, October 21st at the Texas Caver Reunion. Only sections of the By-Laws with changes are shown below. A complete copy of the By-Laws can be acquired from TCMA Officers upon request. All changes are denoted with Bold Text with additions denoted by an Underline and deletions denoted by a Striketh-rough.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERS

Section 3.1 Annual Meeting. Annual meetings of the members shall be held on such date, at such time, and at such place as shall be determined by the Board. All Board members shall use all reasonable efforts to attend the annual meeting of members. At each annual meeting, the members shall elect Board members and transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting. At least 20 days prior to each annual meeting of members, the Nominating Committee shall present to the Board slates of director nominees. The Board shall present such slates to the membership at the annual meeting. Nominations for directors may also be made by members from the floor at the annual meeting, provided that if a nominee is not present, written proof is presented that the nominee will serve if elected. **Actions taken at a members meeting, except those involving election or termination of directors become effective upon approval of the Board.**

Section 3.2 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called (i) by the President; (ii) upon written request of at least 15 members; or (iii) upon the request of the Board. Special meetings shall be held within 30 days after receipt of any of the above requests and shall be held at such place as shall be determined by the Board. The purpose of any special meeting shall be specified in the notice of the meeting or any waiver of notice of the meeting. **Actions taken at a special members meeting, except those involving election or termination of directors, become effective upon approval of the Board.**

Section 3.6 Classes of Membership. The Corporation ~~**shall**~~ **may** have ~~**six**~~ **seven** categories of members:

1. Regular
2. Family
3. Associate
4. Corporate
5. Institutional
6. Honorary
7. **Life**

The amount of dues and the ~~**annual**~~ period to be covered by dues and fees shall be established by the Board.

ARTICLE 4: DIRECTORS

Section 4.2 Number of Directors and Term of Office. The Board shall consist of ~~**seven directors until the 1994 annual meeting of the members, at which meeting two additional directors shall be elected to increase the Board to nine**~~ **not more than fifteen** directors. The number of directors may be increased or decreased by resolution of the Board,, but in no case shall the **numbers** of directors be ~~**more than nine or**~~ less than three No decrease in the number of directors shall shorten the term of any incumbent director. Except as expressly provided otherwise herein, the term of each director shall be three years and each director may be elected for additional terms; provided, however, that each director shall continue to serve as a director until his successor has been elected and has qualified. Each director must be a member of the Corporation. ~~**At the 1994 annual meeting of the members,**~~

~~the members shall elect two new directors to each serve three-year terms from 1995 through 1997. The terms of Carl Ponebshek, Bob Burnett, Lee Jay Graves and Ron Ralph shall expire December 31, 1995. At the 1995 annual meeting of the members, the members shall elect three directors to each serve three-year terms from 1996 through 1998 and one director to serve a two-year term from 1996 through 1997. The terms of Jay Jorden, Bill Russell and Noble Stidham shall expire December 31, 1996. At the 1996 annual meeting of the members, the members shall elect three directors to each serve three-year terms from 1997 through 1999.~~

Section 4.4 Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board ~~my~~ **may** be filled by election at an annual or special meeting of the members called for that purpose or by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors. ~~though the remaining directors may constitute less than a quorum of the Board.~~ A director elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. Any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors shall be filled by election at an annual meeting or at a special meeting of the members called for that purpose. A majority of ~~the~~ **all TCMA** members **in good standing at the time of the vote may,** at any time and with or without cause, terminate the term of office of all or any of the directors by a vote at any annual or special meeting called for that purpose. Such removal shall be effective immediately upon such action of the members even if successors are not elected simultaneously, and the vacancies on the Board caused by such action shall be filled only by election by the members. **Board members may not be removed at a special members meeting unless the notice of the meeting indicates a purpose of the meeting is the removal of Board members.**

Section 4.5 Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board may be held with or without notice at such time and place, as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board; provided, however, at least one regular meeting of the Board shall be held each calendar year. Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President ~~on~~ **with at least** twenty-four (24) hours notice to each director, given ~~personally or by mail or by telegram~~ **by email;** special meetings shall be called by the President or Secretary in like manner and on like notice on the written request of at least two directors. The purposed **purpose(s)** of any special meeting shall be specified in the notice of the meeting. ~~or any waiver of notice of the meeting.~~

Section 4.8 ~~Telephone~~ **Electronic** Meetings. Members of the Board or members of any committee designated by the Board may participate in and hold a meeting by means of conference telephone or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, **or by email. Actions considered in an email meeting require an affirmative approval by a majority of Board Members to be effective, and are to be conducted according to procedures approved by the Board.**

Section 4.9 Committees. The President may designate a committee or committees, each committee to consist of two or more persons. Each committee may include or be composed entirely of persons who are not directors of the Corporation. Each committee shall have such power and authority and shall perform such functions as may be designated from time to time by the President. Each committee shall have such name as may be designated by the President and shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings and report the same to the Board when requested by the Board. **The president determines the membership, terms and duration of each committee, though the power to appoint and dismiss committee members may be delegated to the committee chairman.**

Section 4.10 Nominating Committee. The President shall designate a Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for recruiting new directors and new officers, ~~verifying membership, and overseeing the orientation of new members.~~

Section 4.11 Budget Committee. The president shall designate a Budget Committee. The Budget Committee shall be responsible for compiling financial data in sufficient detail and sufficiently in advance of the end of the year to provide a proposed budget for Board approval before the end of the year.

(Section 4.11 is new, so all subsequent sections of ARTICLE 4 are renumbered accordingly.)

Section 4.13 Advisory Board. The Board may designate an Advisory Board ~~**of Directors**~~ which shall consist of such members as the Board designates by resolution. Such Advisory Board shall serve at the pleasure of the Board and shall perform such functions as may be designated by the Board.

Section 4.14 Proxies All votes at all meetings shall be made by the actual person eligible to vote. There is specifically no provision for proxies. If a Board member, who is not able to attend a meeting, wishes to designate a spokesperson to represent his or her views, the absent member may designate the spokesperson in any way satisfactory to a majority of the Board, and the spokesperson may be recognized by the chairman and speak in the meeting, but may not vote or second motions.

Section 4.15 Roberts Rules The current revision of Roberts Rules of Order shall prevail in all instances not covered by the TCMA charter or bylaws.

~~**ARTICLE 5: NOTICES**~~

~~**Section 5.1 Form of Notice. Whenever under the provisions of a statute or of the Articles of Incorporation or of these Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any member or director and no provision is made as to how such notice shall be given, it shall not be construed to mean personal notice, but any such notice may be given in writing, by mail, postage prepaid, addressed to such member or director at such address as it appears on the books of the Corporation. Any notice required or permitted to be given by mail shall be deemed to be given when it is deposited in the United States mail, postage prepaid.**~~

~~**Section 5.2 Waiver. Whenever any notice is required to be given to any member or director, under the provisions of a statute or of the Articles of Incorporation or of these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated in such notice, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.**~~

(ARTICLE 5 was deleted in its entirety so each subsequent ARTICLE and Section is renumbered accordingly)

ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS

Section 5.1 In General. The officers of the Corporation shall be ~~**a Chairperson of the Board**~~ a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. The Corporation may also have an Executive Director. The ~~**members**~~ **Board of Directors** also may appoint one or more Assistant Secretaries, one or more Assistant Treasurers and such other officers and agents as the ~~**members**~~ **Board** shall deem necessary, who shall be appointed for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined ~~**form**~~ **from** time to time by the ~~**members**~~ **Board**. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person, except that the offices of President and Secretary shall not be held by the same person. **The President shall preside at Board meetings and the Annual members meeting except that a Chairperson of the Board may be elected by the Board to preside over Board meetings as special circumstances such as absence of officers or conflicts of interest may require.**

ARTICLE 7: AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted at any annual or special **non-electronic** meeting of the Board by a two-thirds majority of those voting. The amendment shall then be published by newsletter to the membership for approval at any annual or special meeting of the members.

PALIT *(from p. 2)*

Perhaps more important than all the other initiatives listed above is our Acquisitions Committee, headed by Geary Schindel. Without the Acquisitions Committee, we would not need the other committees because saving caves is what we are about. The Acquisition Committee, as its name implies, works at acquiring caves. Geary coordinates our efforts, but we need all of you to keep your eyes and ears open, to make those positive connections to land owners, and to be there when they are wondering what to do with their caves. When you hear of a cave for sale, let Geary know and you can help us look at the cave. If you don't have time, pass the information to Geary and we will see what we can do. We don't want to go around terrifying people telling them, "We want your cave!" but we do want to know about it and be there if the time is right. That takes lots of people watching and listening.

So where do you fit into TCMA? How can you help? Think about it. The organization cannot thrive without you, and all the cavers like you.

TCMA Officers and Board

President:	Linda Palit
Vice-President:	Bill Russell
Secretary:	Joe Mitchell
Treasurer:	Michelle Bryant

Don Arburn
Aimee Beveridge
Allan Cobb
Jon Cradit
Jay Jorden
Bill Russell
Kevin McGowan
Joe Mitchell
Linda Palit
Joe Ranzau
Sue Schindel

NOTICE TO TCMA MEMBERSHIP

The TCMA Board of Directors has proposed a revision to the TCMA By-Laws. These revisions must be approved by the TCMA membership in order to be effective. Please attend the Membership Meeting to be held at 9:30am on Sunday, October 21, 2007 at the Texas Caver Reunion to cast your vote. A complete list of changes to the By-Laws can be found inside this issue of the Passages on Page 9.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION INFORMATION

The Texas Cave Management Association invites you to be part of a statewide conservation effort by participating as an active member. TCMA needs your generous contributions and your help in its management activities and for cave acquisition. Your contributions are tax deductible and are used to support caves, cave science, conservation, and educational activities. Caves are a unique and non-renewable resource. We urge you to join with TCMA to protect our Texas caves and karst.

☐ Regular: $15.00 ☐ Associate: $10.00 (Students under 21) ☐ Family: $22.50
☐ Business: $100.00 ☐ Institutional: $50.00 (Non-profit)
☐ Sustaining Contribution for lifetime members: $10.00

Name _____ E-mail _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone #'s _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to: TCMA / Mail to: P.O. Box 7427, Austin, TX 78713

Cavers can buy caves ! Donate to TCMA

AMOUNT: $ _____

☐ Cave Aquisition Fund
☐ General Donation
☐ Donate to a TCMA Preserve: _____ Preserve Name