

18 November, 2014

Dear Members of the Board:

I am a long time devotee of Colossal Cave Park. It has been a tradition within my family to camp and picnic there for the last 35 years. We've long considered it one of the unknown (hidden?) jewels of the Tucson Basin. The richness of its natural history (plant and animal life of the Sonoran Desert at its best) and the uniqueness of its history offer Tucson residents and tourists a look into Arizona as it used to be. So many have forgotten and even more have never known what Arizona was like, and this park is a living museum. I grit my teeth when I suggest this, but I believe what the park needs is publicity. Its roughhewn 1950's qualities are what gives it so much character but if we must bring it into the 21st century to help it survive, then so be it. But do it with forethought and in a way that will protect it. This area is too much of a treasure to be left to decay or worse, to be denied to the people of southern Arizona. Come Thursday afternoon, I will load up my bike with camping equipment and ride out to the park. It is such a joy to have something like this so close to home. It's one reason why I'm still living in Tucson (along with a working wife and a daughter at University High). This is a quality of life issue and I feel it is your responsibility to develop a plan to keep the park viable and accessible to the people of southern Arizona.

Thank you,

Craig Montgomery

Retired Tucson teacher of 30 years