

SLOANS VALLEY PRESERVE IN OUR SIGHTS AT LAST !!!

After years of working on this project, the Rockcastle Karst Conservancy (RKC) now has an option on five acres of the former Tom Crockett property, including the Garbage Pit/Greenhouse and Scowling Tom entrances to the Sloans Valley Cave Complex.

Sloans Valley is a 24-mile long cave system in Pulaski County, near Somerset, KY and Lake Cumberland. It is the fourth-largest known cave in Kentucky, with many entrances large and small. The large pit entrance on the Crockett property is one of the best known and holds a fondness in the memories of our cavers, dating back to the 1970s. For many, this entrance was one of their first caving experiences.

Tom and Cathy Crockett, and their children Joshua and Emily, were welcoming to cavers for decades. After Tom's death in 2009, the family had lost control of the property to the bank. RKC has been working with the potential buyers of the property for a couple of years to get an option to purchase the entrances, should their sale go through.



Crockett Entrance, Sloans Valley

On Wednesday, October 31, 2018, the property was sold and RKC signed an option with the new owners to purchase approximately 5 - 6 acres around the Garbage Pit/ Greenhouse and Scowling Tom Entrances. The new preserve will be named the **Sloans Valley Preserve**. The Garbage Pit/ Greenhouse entrance will be renamed the Crockett Entrance.

Work needs to be done for both safety and aesthetics. The old, rotten air duct must be removed, a fence built around the Pit, an information kiosk built, a gravel parking area installed, overgrown brush removed, and a permanent ladder must be installed in the Pit. Besides the cost of the property purchase, some of these projects will require additional funds.

We are so excited to finally become guardians of these iconic cave entrances! We now have the opportunity to keep these entrances open to all cavers and make it safe for cavers to explore this grand cave system. Please help us to raise the funds needed to cover this purchase and to make this another great RKC caving preserve.

The first opportunity to get into the entrance and start clearing it will be the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 24th. More information on this event will come later.