

18 admission Secret Caverns, north-east of Cobleskill, NY 9/8/1996 427-3

Rock: Coeymans LS at surface to about 1/2 way down.
Manlius^{LS} from about 1/2 way down to beyond cave bottom.
There is a sign "Manlius Limestone" just below the contact.

Rocks dip S
maybe 5°

Age of cave: Periglacial meltwaters created the channels; yet by flowstone accumulation rates of 1 cu. inch/100 years, the flowstone ages are estimated to be 38,000 to 36,000 years — long before deglaciation.

Cave temperature:
48° to 52° F all year, but variation is NOT seasonal. Rather due to humidity fluctuations. 52° on 9/8/1996 (Thermometer near base of cave)

Biology:
Mosses & lichens at ^{electronic} lights, not collected. At ice cave on surface, a moss specimen was collected for ID from a LS ledge at ice cave.
May or may not be the same sp. (from most common species)
* Bats.

Length of trail & cave features
Descent 110 steps & then a gently-inclined ramp which heads SSE for 1/4 mile, passing under the county road. Base of cave is at least 100 ft underground.
± 100 ft high waterfall begins underground. There is no surface stream which plunges into a sinkhole.
Crevices & passageways follow many major joints at 90° & oblique angles from trail joints.
Natural opening of cave is a small sinkhole, now covered by a concrete slab to (over) prevent animals from falling in.
* A small opening is maintained for bats.

427-4 Vegetation around Secret Caverns

RM
PB, general
SUB
B
Ewh Pine
OST
TASP
BASS
ASH
HEM

Lonitza can.
Samb pub
Hamam
MO
Rhus rad.

Mitella
Tiar
Aster
phen
Cord
entoides
div.
Asarum
Solid caes
Galium trifl.
Actaea rubra

Cystopteris bulb?
Smilacina
Dmarg
PA

unknown
moss coll.
on LS ledge
at Ice Cave

Burn index ⑨

Elevation ± 1200'

