

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 1 : Kartchner Caverns State Park - Wikipedia

cave's discovery by Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts in These efforts involved the discoverers, select- ed cavers, the Kartchner family, the Nature Conservancy, and the Arizona State governmentâ€”especially.

The two kept the cave a secret until February when they told the property owners, James and Lois Kartchner, about their awesome discovery. Since unprotected caves can be seriously damaged by unregulated use, they knew the cave had to be protected. Tenen and Tufts spent several years looking into the possibility of developing the cave themselves. Some members of the Kartchner family lived in Tucson and were very impressed with the development and operation of Catalina State Park by Arizona State Parks. They decided to approach State Parks to see if the agency was interested in acquiring this outstanding resource. Eatherly was working with citizen committees around the State to identify sites to be considered for future acquisition as State Parks. Tufts was advised that acquiring a site and creating a State Park was a lengthy process and could take from two to five years with no guarantee of success, and each step of the process would be open to the public. In , water filled parts of the cave at Kartchner Caverns. Tufts insisted that Eatherly had to see the site. A meeting date was set for January Eatherly was asked to sign an oath to guarantee secrecy. He advised the discoverers that as a State employee he could not sign such a document. Shortly after dark, they met outside the motel room. It was a clear, cold evening with a dark sky filled with stars. Before they got into the car Eatherly was blindfolded. With the blindfold in place, the car was driven around town in various directions, and then out to the highway. After a period of time the car was driven off the paved roadway, through a gate that had to be unlocked, and then over a stretch of very rough road. Soon the car stopped and the blindfold was removed. Introductions were made to members of the Kartchner family. Sinkholes are a natural depression occurring in limestone regions and usually formed by a collapse of a cavern roof. The group dropped over the sinkhole side about ten feet to the bottom and waited for Tufts and Tenen to pull back some rubble from the entrance. Everyone crawled through the small hole and slowly descended down through small chambers and several tight holes towards the Blowhole. A Blowhole is a vent that permits the escape of air or other gas. Before entering the Blowhole, the group sat and talked about what was ahead. After the group had crawled some distance in the Blowhole, Eatherly found he could not move. The space was too small for him to squeeze through. After a short while he managed to get free and back out of this small area into a space where he could sit up. The group decided it would be better to return to the motel. Everyone returned to the motel and spent the rest of the evening talking about the cave and looking at pictures and slides of the caves beautiful, colored formations. Tufts and Tenen again requested that Eatherly sign a pledge of secrecy. Eatherly said he could not sign the document but he would only talk to State Parks staff. Kartchner Planning Group in Ed McCullough from the University of Arizona was going to be given a tour of the cave the next day. They agreed to give the presentation and discuss with staff the pressing need for secrecy to protect this outstanding resource. Everyone was very excited about the possibility of acquiring this cave for a new State Park. The major concern of staff was getting the necessary appropriation to make the purchase and being able to complete the necessary developments. State Parks staff decided to refer to the cave as Secret Cave. Tufts and Tenen agreed to send the agency a copy of the slide presentation and other cave information to pursue acquisition by the State. Director Ramnes brought this outstanding resource to the attention of Governor Bruce Babbitt. Shortly after learning about Secret Cave, the Governor, who has a degree in geology, was taken on a tour through the cave by Tufts and Tenen. At the time State finances were very limited. Staff worked with Governor Babbitt on the potential of a State land exchange as one possibility. Governor Babbitt also brought in The Nature Conservancy to assist with acquiring this wonderful resource for the State. Staff continued to pursue various options for acquisition of the cave but it did not prove feasible at the time. He set a high priority on the acquisition. Babbitt left office in and the cave lost one of its strongest positive supporters. This approach would not require an appropriation from the General Fund. Special legislation was required to authorize the acquisition and the

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

use of a Certificate of Participation COP as the means to acquire the property. By utilizing this approach, State Parks could acquire the property and make monthly payments to pay off the acquisition costs. State Parks hired two appraisers, Sanders K. Solot and Associates for the ranch land and H. Cannon for the Cave and worked in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to acquire and protect this natural resource. In January, Eatherly was serving as legislative liaison for Arizona State Parks and assisted Travous in working with legislators to determine the most feasible approach to having the necessary legislation passed. At the time, Joe Lane was Speaker of the House and the cave was located within his district. Representative Larry Hawk, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, assisted the agency in getting a bill passed through the House before the beginning of the impeachment of Governor Evan Mecham. The bill provided the authority for State Parks to acquire the property and established the State Park Acquisition and Development Fund where all park fees and concession revenues would be deposited. From these deposits, the monthly payments would be made to cover the Certificate of Participation COP, and the remaining funds would be used to pay for the Park developments. The agency managed to keep the location and identity of the cave a secret, per the wishes of the Kartchner family and the discoverers, except for those people who had to know. To assist in showing the Legislature what the potential State Park resource was, the staff requested and received assistance from Delbert Lewis, owner, of Channel 3 TV. Lewis agreed to send his staff to photograph the cave and prepare a video presentation for the agency. Bodinet narrated, and with other Channel 3 staff, produced an outstanding video of the cave for State Parks. This video presentation was used in closed caucus meetings in both the House and Senate to show the resource proposed for acquisition. Having the caucus meetings closed to the public helped ensure the information about the cave and its location were kept confidential. As soon as one body completed its work on the amended bill, the other body would finalize its actions. This bill might hold the record for the shortest time taken for any bill to pass through the legislature and be signed into law. Acquisition of the Kartchner property was finalized on September 16, Jeff Dexter was selected as the first Park Manager. Overcoming more than 10 years of unforeseen challenges in research, planning, construction, legislative threats, mining concerns, and legal issues, the upper caverns were ready to open to the public. The ribbon cutting initiated the Celebration with Governor Jane D. The lower caverns opened to the public four years later on November 11, Governor, Janet Napolitano, did the honors at this celebration.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 2 : WikiZero - Kartchner Caverns State Park

About Kartchner Caverns State Park In November , Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts were exploring the limestone hills at the eastern base of the Whetstone Mountains. They were looking "for a cave no one had ever found" and found it.

Your personal information will be used only to fulfill your request. You must agree to the condition above for us to process your request Thickbox test Your request has been processed, thank you! We also have the following visitor guides in Arizona. Click on any additional guides you would like to receive. Request this Free Visitor GuideRequested! Request a few more Visitor Guides, or complete the form below to receive your guides by mail. Visitors come to experience the unique culture and natural history of the area. Capitol Reef Country Central Utah Capitol Reef Country Central UtahThis area of southern Utah has a diversity of landscape like no other area in the state - red rock formations and canyons, pristine meadows, alpine forests, as well as lush green valleys. That landscape makes Capitol Reef Country perfect for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, ATV tours, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, or just a quiet picnic! For those seeking time away in the great outdoors, the Hualapai Mountains offer hiking, picnicking, camping, wildlife viewing and any number of activities in a beautiful setting. Tucson Southeast Arizona Tucson Southeast ArizonaTucson is a borderland metropolitan area influenced by many cultures to make it an exciting and unique place to visit. Friendly locals and beautiful surroundings make this quite the popular destination. Bisbee Southern Arizona Bisbee Southern ArizonaVictorian neighborhoods, locally-owned restaurants and coffee shops, bookstores, galleries and more make Bisbee a good choice for those seeking sophistication along with small town charm. Located on the Arizona shoreline of Lake Havasu, Lake Havasu City is a destination for boaters, water sport enthusiasts, hikers, nature lovers, car enthusiasts and history buffs. It attracts , visitors a year with its calm waters, beautiful beaches and desert weather with more than sunny days a year. The Arizona Office of Tourism ships domestically as well as the following countries only: Visitors will want to spend at least a few days exploring this spectacular part of Utah. A great draw for many visitors is Kartchner Caverns State Park which offers camping, hiking, beauty and of course, the caverns themselves. Order your free Travel Guide today. No sweltering summers or miles of cactus covered moonscape. Make your way to Gilbert, Arizona. Our welcoming town is just southeast of Phoenix and only a short drive away from the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport. One of the best places to live in America, Gilbert boasts sunny weather, safe neighborhoods and an exceptional school system, as well as a wide array of outdoor and cultural attractions. It is nestled in the foothills at the bottom of the Coronado Trail, which passes through scenic eastern Arizona. Awaken your senses and explore Arizona Indian Country in a whole new way. We also have visitor guides available in states highlighted in blue below.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 3 : Friends of Kartchner Caverns State Park

Efforts to give Kartchner Caverns protective park status required over 13 years to complete following the cave's discovery by Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts in

Tufts died at University Medical Center after a long battle with the rare blood disease known as myelodysplastic disorder syndrome, according to a statement issued by friends and family members. I wish I had more years with him. That first trip would prove fruitless, but Tufts returned in with his friend and then fellow UA student Gary Tenen. The two gained entrance into the caverns after squirming through several cracks that eventually emptied into a series of corridors and rooms. They were so impressed with the mineral formations in the cave that they decided to keep their discovery a secret to ensure the cavern would not be overrun by vandals or throngs of curious cavers. Four years later, Tufts and Tenen told the Kartchner family, who owned the land, about their discovery. They all agreed to keep the caverns a secret while they worked on plans to make sure the caves would be protected. After working to find a way to preserve their discovery, Tufts and Tenen broke their vow of silence in after the state of Arizona purchased the property from the Kartchner family with plans to protect it. About , people tour the caves yearly. Mark Kartchner, a Tucson surgeon. In his last years alive, Tufts continued to protect the natural wonder he helped introduced to the world, even as he fought for his own life. The state stopped the project by condemning the property. I think that the Kartchner thing gets a lot of notoriety, but if you look at the hundreds of people he touched, that was really his legacy. He went on to graduate in from the University of Arizona, majoring in geology and serving as student association president. Tufts embarked on a year career in public policy after leaving the UA. He helped lead the grass-roots organization Citizens Take the Initiative and helped found and direct Tucson Public Power, which challenged proposed rate increases of former utility Tucson Gas and Electric Co. He is credited with discovering the mile San Andreas-like fault "Astypalaea" on Europa. Tufts earned a Ph. He was diagnosed with MDS two years ago, and in November he received a bone-marrow transplant from his only sibling, Judy Rodin. The transplant took, and Tufts began to recover. Then in late January of this year, his body unexpectedly rejected the transplant and he fell ill. Besides his wife and sister, Tufts is survived by his mother, Carol Tufts, of Tucson. Tufts returns with Gary Tenen to the sinkhole. They crawl in and discover the cave. Tufts and Tenen share their discovery with the landowners, the Kartchner family. The discoverers quietly look for a public entity able to protect the caverns. Bruce Babbitt tours the cave toward that end. The state of Arizona, with the help of The Nature Conservancy and others, acquires the cave. Creating tunnels in and out of the cave proves to be more expensive and time-consuming than first thought, delaying the opening date by years. Kartchner Caverns opens to the general public. Arizona State Parks says it will stop a proposed luxury resort and spa from being built next to the caverns by condemning the resort property. State park officials give preview tours of the lower caverns, which could be open to public tours by the end of the year. We want people to see it hundreds of years from now in essentially the same condition as we found it.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 4 : Kartchner Caverns “ UAPress

The cave and its series of underground chambers that Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen discovered that day is now known as the Kartchner Caverns, the most popular state park in Arizona. The cavers kept their find a secret for 14 years to ensure the caverns would remain as pristine as when they discovered them.

Soon they felt a brush of warm air and followed it through a small crack in the wall down a dark, narrow passage to another opening, a grapefruit-sized hole. Click on the play button to begin the slide show. To view the accompanying slideshow go to <http://> They wandered through more passages until they came upon a dreamlike setting: The cave and its series of underground chambers that Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen discovered that day is now known as the Kartchner Caverns, the most popular state park in Arizona. The cavers kept their find a secret for 14 years to ensure the caverns would remain as pristine as when they discovered them. Neil Miller, a lecturer in English and journalism at Tufts, heard about the caverns while he was in Arizona a few years ago. Intrigued, he went for a visit. There was none, and Miller, the author of four other books, realized this was a good story waiting to be told. Soon Miller was interviewing Tenen and many others who had played roles in the saga of the Kartchner Caverns, named after the family on whose property they were found. The result, Kartchner Caverns University of Arizona Press , is much more than a tale of lucky discovery, though. Tufts, for instance, had been fascinated by caves since he was a child. Tenen would even practice wedging his body through coat hangers to work on techniques for getting through what are known as blowholes, the small openings that lead to caves. Many other caves in Arizona were beset by thieves and vandals, and they resolved that would not happen to theirs. Miller documents all the precautions they took-even blindfolding state park officials when they took them to the site for the first time. In its first three years of operation, some , people visited the caverns, making it the prize of the Arizona State Parks system. It also accomplished what Tufts and Tenen set out to do: Nowadays, visitors can stroll easily through the caverns, seeing such wonders as the Miller got a personal tour with Tenen. Though the Kartchner Caverns are now well known, there are still other caves yet to be discovered. Taylor McNeil may be reached at taylor.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 5 : Kartchner Caverns – Benson, Arizona - Atlas Obscura

History of Kartchner Caverns Opened & Dedicated November 5, By Charles R. Eatherly. In November , Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts were exploring the limestone hills at the eastern base of the Whetstone Mountains.

Peachin Nov , Vol. Equally amazing are the steps Tufts and Tenen took to protect their remarkable find from vandalism and destruction. Rather than trumpeting the news of their discovery, the two men, then in their mids, adopted a year code of silence, going so far as making selected friends and loved ones sign documents of secrecy, so as to protect the caves. The road to discovery was a long one. On one of their many weekend trips into the Whetstones, they bumped into a miner digging in the Lone Star Mine, in the Coronado National Forest just west of the private Kartchner ranch. They asked the miner if he knew of any caves in the area. The sinkhole was on private land, owned by a rancher named James Kartchner. After many hours of searching, Tufts found the sinkhole and, in it, an opening leading into a small chamber. The two cavers found no evidence of the existence of a larger cave and, concerned that the sinkhole might be unstable, they abandoned further exploration. While Tufts had no expectations of finding a cave, out of habit, he marked the site on his topographical map. On an autumn day seven years later, Tufts, while caving in the same area, decided to further explore the sinkhole. While wandering near its perimeter, he discovered a second tunnel and hypothesized about the possibility of a passage between the two holes. When Tufts and Tenen returned the next weekend for further exploration, they found the small chamber as they remembered it. Searching more carefully this time, the two men found a small opening in the rocks. From it, amid the cool air of the chamber, seeped a whiff of warm guano-scented air. Tufts and Tenen knew they were on to something big. They wasted no time squeezing into the narrow opening—and discovered a second chamber, littered with footprints and broken stalactites that spoke of visits from the teenagers they had heard about. The cavers continued their search of the chamber, finding a inch high crawl space, which extended into a narrow twenty-foot tunnel. The tunnel ended abruptly at a wall, marred only by a small hole. As Tufts peered through the blowhole, a breeze extinguished his carbide light. The velocity of the guano-scented air meant that it had to be coming from a large underground chamber. Highly motivated, Tufts and Tenen began to chip away at the blowhole, with a sledgehammer. After enlarging the blowhole enough to squeeze through, Tufts and Tenen crawled through a foot long guano-covered tunnel. Then suddenly, they emerged into a foot long passage, one high enough for them to walk upright. The cavers stood stunned, surrounded by fragile glass-like soda straws, formations that grow into stalactites as the droplets of water seep through limestone and calcium carbonate. There were no footprints, or other evidence that a human being had ever entered this wondrous cave. Carefully, the young men retraced their steps—knowing that touching one of the numerous mineral formations could destroyed a structure that took a million years to create. They emerged changed, weighted down by the awesome responsibility of protecting their discovery—a living cave dripping with an awesome variety of mineral and rock formations, undiscovered by humans since its formation. If the word got out, the cave could be vandalized or damaged by enthusiastic amateurs. They decided to keep it a secret until they could decide what to do. It took a year for Tufts and Tenen to fully explore the two-and-a-half mile cave, which was made up of two main chambers—each feet high and the size of a football field—and 26 smaller attached rooms. Whenever they drove to the Whetstones, the cavers hid their cars while they were exploring, so as not to give away the location of the cave entrance. As they explored, they marked their trail only with Popsicle sticks. They removed their shoes, wearing only socks so as not to leave footprints. If they accidentally broke a formation, they glued it back with dental cement. They named the cave Xanadu. The weight of the responsibility of their discovery continued to grow. The pristine cave was too accessible, only nine miles from a major highway. Tufts and Tenen decided that the only way to protect the cave was to develop it as a commercial attraction, or get federal or state protection. By this time, using aliases, they had visited other tourist caves, making comparisons of their discovery and learning about the cost of commercial development.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

In , they went to visit the landowners. By then, Tufts and Tenen had been trespassing on the Kartchner ranch for four years. The family was at first annoyed, but then they heard about the cave. Sworn to secrecy, the Kartchner family worked with the cavers. Despite all the secrecy, however, the caving world is a small one and rumors inevitably spread. When curious spelunkers trespassed on the ranch, the pistol-packing Kartchner brothers rode up on horseback to escort them off the property. They brought in then-Governor Bruce Babbitt, who viewed the cave and, under a veil of secrecy, helped to guide the property into public ownership. Babbitt led the cavers and ranchers through the legislative process of designating the cave as a state park. In , when the state of Arizona bought the land, only six members of the legislature knew that the dummy legislation actually authorized the creation of the James and Lois Kartchner Caverns State Park. Tufts and Tenen had seen their dream come to fruition. Touring Kartchner Caverns On a cool day almost 25 years ago, Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen found the cave every spelunker dreams of discovering. The responsibility these young men took to preserve the pristine space will be appreciated by the visitors who tour Kartchner Caverns, slated to open in November. The grand opening is expected to draw worldwide attention. It is anticipated that Kartchner will be the second largest tourist attraction in the state of Arizona, after the Grand Canyon. The fourteen years spent exploring the cave and outfitting it for public access have been tedious and costly. The expense comes from efforts to protect the wetness of the cave and ensure continued growth of formations, while still allowing visitor access. To protect the fragile ecosystem, visitors will walk through a descending foot-long shaft, passing through an air curtain before entering an air-locked conservation chamber designed to remove any spores collected on clothing. Protective shields, unnoticeable to the visitor, line the trail to collect any foreign material carried on shoes. The park service will convey an emphatic message of caution. The trail winds through the mineral formation, stalactites, and stalagmites. One curious touch of a hand could destroy a formation a million years in the making. Lighting the interior of the cave is an ongoing challenge for the experts. They will continue to work with the lighting until they feel they have achieved the amount of wattage that will not create drying heat. At the same time they need enough light to prevent a visitor from stumbling. A tour through the two main chambers, the Big Room and the Throne Room, is enthralling. Stalactites and stalagmites, which grow only one-tenth of a millimeter in a year, appear in all shapes and forms. Droplets of water seep through the limestone, creating the soda straws that will eventually become stalactites. When water hits the floor, carbon dioxide escapes, leaving an irregular layer of calcium carbonate that grows into stalagmites. The walls of Kartchner are covered with helictites, formed by water forcing its way through tiny fissures. Formations that look like frozen waterfalls, called draperies or curtains, have been formed by water deposits dripping on the underside of a sloping ceiling. The single trail used by the cavers during their exploration remains at the muddy bottom of the Throne Room. During rainy years, water seeps through the limestone covering the mud to create a river. In the summer months, several thousand bats use the Big Room as a maternity ward. While the bats are birthing in the cave, there are no tours scheduled to disturb them. They are left in darkened privacy. Bats do not currently nest in the Throne Room, although there is evidence of bat guano dating back 35, years. One of the unique features of Kartchner Caverns is its accessibility to the public. The cave is located nine miles south of the exit. Approximate driving time is two hours from Phoenix; 45 minutes from Tucson.

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Chapter 6 : Kartchner Caverns State Park

Efforts to give Kartchner Caverns protective park status required over 13 years to complete following the cave's discovery by Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts in These efforts involved the discoverers, selected cavers, the Kartchner family, the Nature Conservancy, and the Arizona State government—especially Arizona State Parks.

At first glance, there is nothing to suggest that the Whetstone Mountains hide the most remarkable caves or caverns in the United States. For decades cavers or more accurately spelunkers had searched for virgin caverns in these mountains, but it took two amateur students from the University of Arizona to actually discover the Kartchner Caverns. In 1939, Randy Tufts came across a 5 m 15 ft sinkhole, but believed the hole was considered to be blind or dry and did not lead to a new cave. Seven years later, Tufts returned to the same sinkhole only to discover warm moist air and a bat smell coming from the sinkhole. Recruiting the help of a friend, Gary Tenen, the two young men returned to the sinkhole and squeezed through an extremely small opening. They then crawled through a natural tunnel for 8 m 25 ft, enlarged a hole in the bedrock, and discovered a subterranean wonderland untouched by mankind. They had entered the Big Room, which lead upward to the Throne Room. It must have been a speechless moment! Can you imagine crawling through a tight tunnel in the dark, covered in mud and bat guano and not being able to turn around? Many of the tunnel entrances were only 30 to 33 cm 12 to 13 in wide, and required the movements of a contortionist. Caving is certainly not for people who are claustrophobic or faint of heart. What happened next is even more unbelievable. Tufts and Tenen took elaborate measures to keep the cavern a secret for the next fourteen years, fearing vandalism would destroy the cavern. Working with Steven Kartchner, who owned the property, the men reasoned that the best way to protect the site was to make the caverns into a park. It must have seemed quite the paradox to turn the site over to the general public in order to protect it. In 1953, after years of lobbying the Arizona government, the caverns were finally designated as a State Park, but it would take ten additional years and twenty-eight million dollars to actually open the Kartchner Caverns to the paying public. The Formation of the Caverns What Tufts and Tenen originally discovered behind the sinkhole was two large chambers, connected by a narrow passage way, all about the size of a football field. Over many years of exploring they discovered numerous smaller rooms. Kartchner is a live or wet cavern that is still evolving very slowly. For example, stalactites grow at 2. As water percolates down through the limestone, a mineral called calcite remains. Once the water reaches the caverns, carbon dioxide escapes and, drop by drop, the calcite forms stalactites and stalagmites. Stalactites hang from the ceiling, like icicles, and stalagmites grow from the ground up. The longest soda straw stalactite is 6. When the speleothem cave formations grow together, they are called pillars or columns, such as the Kubla Khan column, which is 18 m 58 ft high. It took Mother Nature, years to create this masterpiece. Tours of the Caverns Kartchner Caverns provides three guided tours. You enter the caverns through a heavy steel door. The purpose of the door is to keep out the hot dry air of the Sonoran Desert. Misting machines maintain relative humidity at The walking tour follows the original trail of the two cavers, wandering upwards to areas with colourful speleothems. The tour guides explain terms such as flowstone canopies, cave rafts and popcorn. The tour ends at the Kubla Khan column with a light show. Following the tour, the Discovery Center has numerous exhibits, a film about the discovery and of course, a restaurant and gift shop. The tour takes one hour underground. The Big Room is closed during the summer months because of the hibernating bats. A third tour is called the Helmet and Headlamp Specialty Tour, provides the opportunity to experience the caverns as the original cavers did in 1939, with only a headlamp to light your way. In total, 100,000 people on average visit the caverns in a calendar year. Reservations When visiting the Kartchner Caverns, it is necessary to make reservations because they are often sold out. Cameras, cell phones, bags and purses are not permitted in any of the caverns. Only the Throne Tour is open to children, so check for age restrictions prior to visiting. This state park has 62 camping and RV sites, equipped with water and electricity. In addition, for those who like to hike, there are two moderate hiking trails, the Guindani and the Foothills

DOWNLOAD PDF DISCOVERY AND HISTORY OF KARTCHNER CAVERNS, ARIZONA BY RANDY TUFTS AND GARY TENEN

Loop Trail. Randy Tufts passed away in from a rare blood disease. Gary Tenen still lives in Tucson and continues to be involved with the Kartchner Caverns promoting this fascinating site for future generations.

Chapter 7 : A Tale of Two Cavemen

History. The caverns were discovered in , when cavers Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts found a narrow crack in the bottom of a sinkhole, and followed the source of warm, moist air toward what ended up being more than miles (km) of pristine cave passages.

Chapter 8 : Kartchner Caverns State Park - AZ - SunCruiser

Overview of Kartchner Caverns, Arizona Carol A. Hill 5 Discovery and History of Kartchner Caverns, Arizona Randy Tufts and Gary Tenen 8 Geology of Kartchner Caverns.

Chapter 9 : Kartchner Caverns State Park - Bing ç½'å... ,

About Kartchner Caverns State Park. In November , Gary Tenen and Randy Tufts were exploring the limestone hills at the eastern base of the Whetstone Mountains.