



Joint DC Grotto & PSC Holiday Banquet

Saturday, December 5, 2026

All cavers and their friends are invited to join D. C. Grotto and the Potomac Speleological Club at an early Holiday Banquet. This year's gala event will be a pot-luck dinner in the Backroom Ballroom in Glen Echo Park in Glen Echo, Maryland. The event is informal and reservations are not required.

Where: Glen Echo Park, Glen Echo, MD (See directions and map on next page)

When:

- 6:00 Table setup and food delivery and prep
- 6:30 Social hour
- 7:30 Dinner
- 8:30 Presentation
- 9:30 Cleanup and breakdown
- 10:30 After Party at Clydes of Chevy Chase at 5441 Wisconsin Ave

Banquet Speaker: Bruce Fries will discuss the discovery and exploration of Burntwood Cave, located in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, about three miles southwest of the southernmost entrance to the Friars Hole system. The presentation tells the story of Burntwood—from the original dig and years of work in the cave's Wormway through the breakthrough and exploration that followed—and examines the evidence that Burntwood may ultimately provide a gateway to Underground Spring Creek and a much larger cave system beneath the sandstone-capped uplands of northern Greenbrier County.

What to bring: The DC Grotto's Executive Committee will bring main dishes (including vegetarian). Others should bring munchies or appetizers, side dishes, salads, or dessert as determined by the first letter of your last name (see below). Fancy, ethnic or home-cooked dishes are welcome, but not required! Carry-out, deli, or grocery stores are alternate resources for non-cookers. Please bring any serving utensils that your dish needs, and enough food to serve about eight cavers. There is no sink, stove, or other food prep facilities in the Ballroom. Adequate extension cords will be available for crockpots, etc.

Drinks will not be provided so please bring your own drinks. Alcohol is prohibited.

E-G	Appetizer or chips & dip (please arrive early)
A-D, H-M	Side dish (vegetable, salad, etc.)
N-Z	Dessert

Cost: \$10.00 donation per adult. (The requested donation goes to help pay the cost of renting the banquet room and providing the paper supplies for the banquet).

Questions? Contact Tom Beckman at 202-579-5220 or tombeckman@rcn.com.

PLEASE SEE THE MAP AND DIRECTIONS ON BACK

Directions from the Beltway in Maryland

1. Take **Exit 39**, Route 190, River Road, Toward Washington.
2. After 2.3 miles on River Road, turn **right** at a light onto **Goldsboro Road**.
3. After 1.0 mile on Goldsboro Road, stay in the **left lane toward MacArthur Blvd**, then bear **left** after the stop sign and immediately **turn left** to get on MacArthur Blvd toward Washington,
4. After 200 feet, turn **right** into the **Glen Echo parking area**. (Parking is okay after 4 PM). Park as far down the lot as possible. (GPS location of the parking lot entrance is 38.9682, -77.1383).
5. Walk past the end of the parking lot and through the park entrance.
6. The Spanish Ballroom is the large building ahead of you, past the round carousel building.
7. The Backroom Ballroom is on the far left side of the Spanish Ballroom building (there is a sign in the left-most window).

To drop off large items, go past the parking lot on MacArthur Blvd and after 2/10 mile turn right onto **Tulane Ave**. After 400 feet the road turns left, but you go straight at the “Service Vehicles” sign. Continue for about 250 feet to the entrance to the Backroom Ballroom. There is very limited parking space there so please park in the primary parking area if possible.

