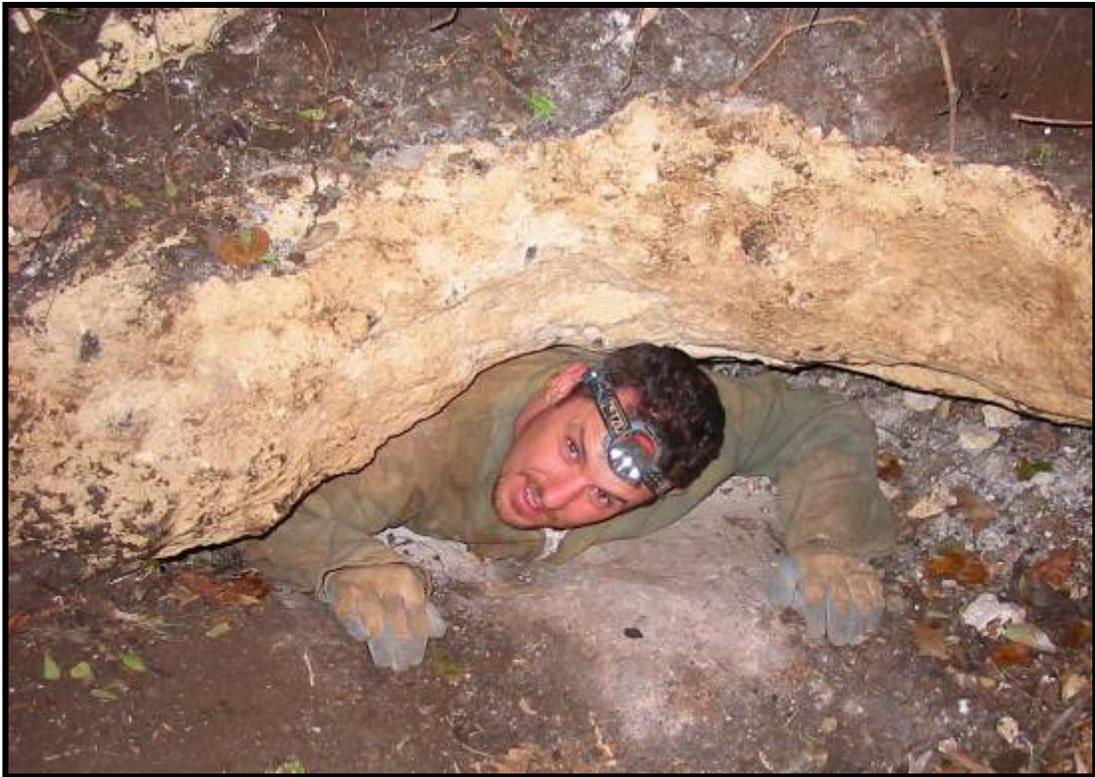


Salamander Squeeze

Bill Larsen discovered this interesting cave in **1988**. The entrance drops three feet to a dirt floor that slopes to an extremely small hole. This small crawlway leads to a tight squeeze. Once through the squeeze, the cave opens up as a nice pit about twenty-five feet deep and four feet in diameter. At the bottom is a small pool of water sometimes containing rare salamanders.



Stonewell Caves

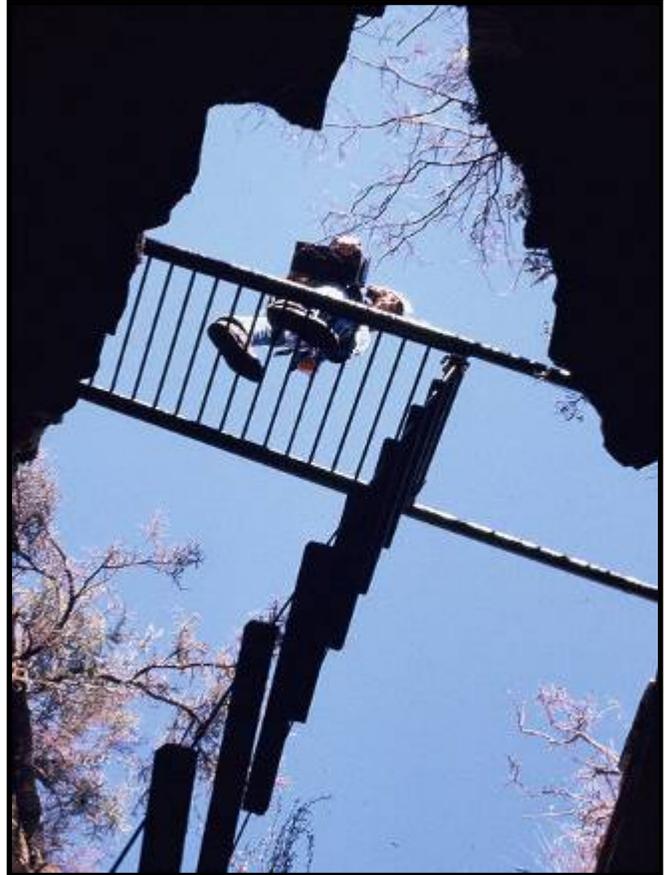
These two caves were filled with dirt and rock when cavers first located them. The cavers broke into large vertical drops after a great deal of digging. The pit on the left (east) drops forty feet to a dirt filled floor. The pit on the right (west) is the deeper of the two. It is possible to follow the passage downward to a total depth of seventy feet.

The caves can only be entered in the winter when the carbon dioxide is pushed out of the cave by changes in the barometric pressure. The *Rhadine persephone* beetle has not been seen in these caves. The caves are located along a prominent fracture trend.



Cedar Elm Cave

In early 1988, **Bill Larsen** observed “steam” from the south dirt floored sink and dug through to a series of pits. This is one of the largest caves in the **Westside Preserve** area. From the small entrance, the cave drops as a series of pits to a total depth of fifty-five feet. While a number of cavers removed rock, it was **Mike Warton** that got serious when he removed tons of rocks to expose the main sinkhole. Most of the rocks were removed in five gallon buckets. The cave is rich in cave life including the *Rhadine persephone* beetle.



Notice the initials and dates carved in the rock by the early **Cedar Park** ranchers. Today we follow the motto of the **National Speleological Society**. “Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but time”.

Mushroom Cave

This small sink was found and excavated by **Mike Warton & Associates** in 1997, opening a 10-foot drop into a 15-foot long by 12-foot wide room with a clay-filled floor. A location survey places this cave close above the Texas Chamber of Buttercup Creek Cave. A small dome in the cave roof resembles a mushroom, hence the name "Mushroom Cave." The cave was gated in 1998 by **Mike Warton & Associates**. This cave is home to the B.E.C.K Project.



For the past-four years, British Cavers, **John Worsfold**, and others have been removing rock and mud in search of a connection with Buttercup Creek Cave. Mushroom Cave is also home of the cartoon characters, Ricky and his sister Rebecca Rhadine. Two times each year, on **CAVE DAY**, visitors are shown the entrance to the cave and told about the *Rhadine persephone*, the rare cave beetle.

Convolute Canyon Cave

This small sink was excavated by caver **Bill Larsen** in 1998, opening a cave with a low bedding-plane room about 15 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. Further excavations inside led to a descending narrow passage to a series of domes and clay-filled tube. The tube was followed for about 100 feet before further digging became too difficult. When this cave and Buttercup Creek Cave were mapped, the survey clearly indicated an interconnected relationship, and this cave is viewed as a downstream entrance to the Buttercup Creek Cave. The cave was named after the convoluted characteristics of its passages. The cave was gated in 1997 by **Mike Warton & Associates**.



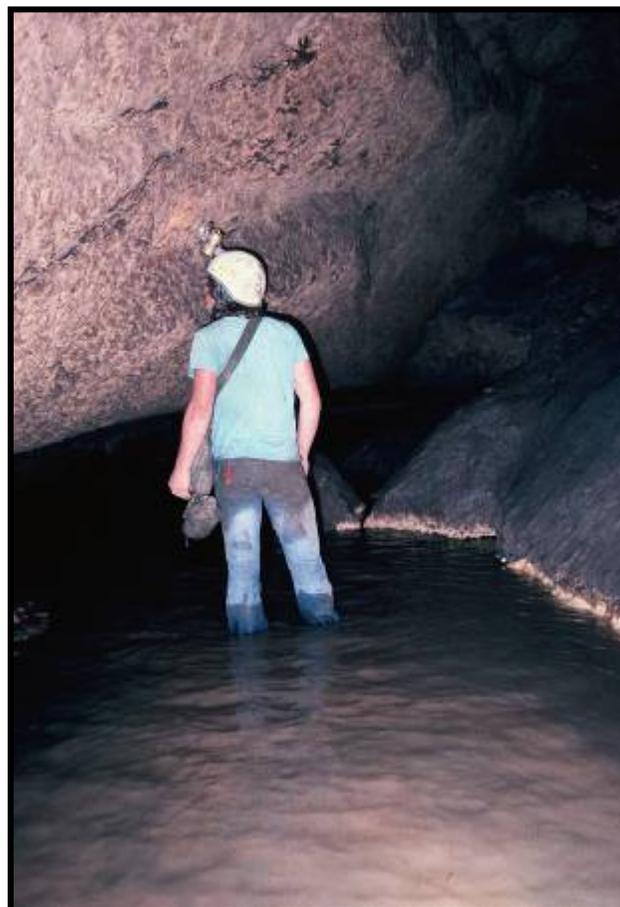
Buttercup Drain Cave

This small sinkhole in the drainage bed of Jamail Branch was first excavated by caver **Bill Larsen** in 1987, revealing a 12-foot deep pit. After each heavy rain event, the entrance shaft would become partially refilled and plugged by flood debris. Over a period of time, numerous digging trips by **Bill Russell**, **John Clark**, **Charley Savvas**, **Buddy Wetuski**, and **Mike Warton** eventually cleared and opened up the cave, extending it back to a point of a submerged groundwater conduit. The greatest excavation of the cave occurred just before its gating in 1998 to prevent flood water from washing in large rocks and debris. The cave is 100 feet long and 29 feet deep. It is a very significant point recharge feature to the Buttercup Creek Cave System (Cedar Park Watershed). Since it is not an endangered species cave, it was used for **CAVE DAY** visitors from 2005-2006.



Buttercup Creek Cave

What became the main or primary entrance to this cave is a small sinkhole found by caver **Bill Larsen** in 1989. Bill excavated this sink during several trips until he found the cave's main passage (groundwater conduit). In the following years, this cave (at a depth of 145 feet) would become the deepest known cave in Williamson County; it is also one of the longest. The cave ultimately led to the discovery of the largest known room of any cave in the area, named the "Texas Chamber," which is 70 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 40 feet tall. The cave was named after Buttercup Creek (just down slope) and is the main or premier cave of the Cedar Park area. The total length of the cave is just under 3000 feet of passage. At least four underground streams add to the water flow in the cave. The cave was gated in 1996 by **Mike Warton & Associates**.



Nelson Ranch Cave

The entrance to this cave was a smooth oval opening about four feet in diameter developed in a flat rock surface. The sink was first located by **Bill Larsen** in the fall of 1987. Later, **Bill Russell** dug down about five feet in the bottom of the sink until no more depth could be obtained without removing rocks from the entrance.

In April, 1991 **Mike Warton** dug out the entrance to a depth of twenty feet, where a horizontal crawlway ended after about 75 feet. There it opened to a twenty-foot blind pit. Later exploration led to a small crawlway and down to running water. The cave was gated by **Mike Warton & Associates**.

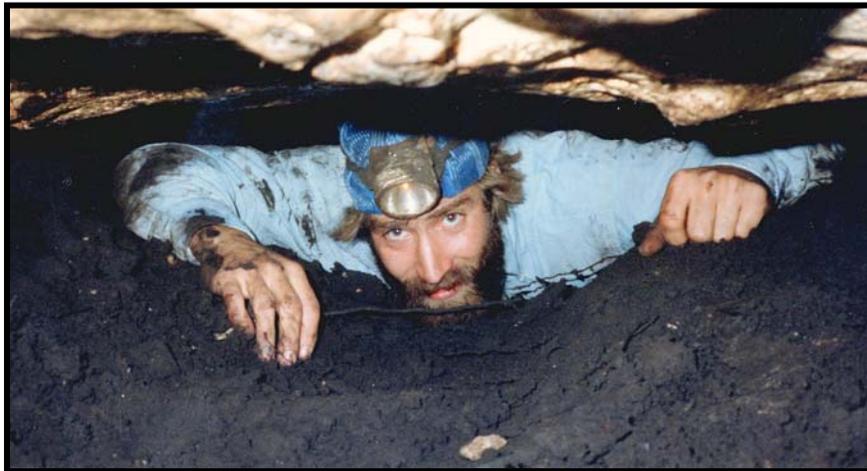
Recently, there has been a good deal of vandalism at this site.

There is a reward of up to \$1000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those individuals involved. Contact the Cedar Parks-Parks & Recreation Department if you have information.



Drain Side Cave

This small sinkhole was excavated by **Mike Warton & Associates** in 1996 to a depth of 10 feet at which point a low bedding-plane passage was found. The photo is of caver **Bill Larsen**. Further digging and tunneling revealed that the cave is an upstream entrance to nearby Buttercup Creek Cave. The cave was named after the side swale drainage down to the bed of Buttercup Creek. The cave was gated in 1997 by **Mike Warton & Associates**.



Boulevard Cave

This large sink contained a small drain at one edge which cavers **Bill Larsen and Bill Russell** managed to excavate into an open cave in 1991. The cave consists of an 8-foot entrance drop into a low bedding-plane tunnel sloping into an upper-level decorated room, 25 feet long and 15 feet wide, and then sloping over a 10-foot drop into a walking-size horizontal tunnel extending to the north and south. To the north, the passage extends for about 175 feet, decreasing in size and ending in a clay fill. To the south, the passage extends for 25 feet to a junction left and right. The cave is 320 feet long and 56 feet deep. It is a significant point recharge feature to the Buttercup Creek Cave System (Cedar Park Watershed). The cave was named after Buttercup Creek Boulevard due to its close proximity to the roadway. The cave was gated in 1994 by **Mike Warton & Associates**.

