



Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership

Ohio-West Virginia YMCA

1132 Bell Hollow Road, Latham, Ohio www.hi-y.org

Frost Cave

Habitat of the Frost Cave Isopod, *Caecidotea rotunda*, and the rare plant, *Sullivantia sullivantii*

Found in only four other caves, the Frost Cave Isopod was thought destroyed at Cave Lake by the time the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA purchased the property in late 1999.

Dr. Horton Hobbs helped the YMCA develop a strategy to protect the cave and hopefully, if any isopods were still surviving, allow their population to recover. General Electric funded a sign to place at Frost Cave to explain the importance of the cave especially as habitat for the isopod.

Good news! Dr. Hobbs and his crew surveyed Frost Cave for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources on June 3, 2007. His survey counted 39 isopods . . . the most ever in his more than 25 years of studying Frost Cave.

Dr. Hobbs wrote the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA – *I appreciate your efforts to control access to the cave. Your directive to restrict traffic and to educate the public in the significance of Frost Cave have really paid off with the recovery of a population of the Frost Cave isopod that was on the brink of being extirpated in that locality. I applaud your efforts!* **Dr. Horton Hobbs III, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Wittenberg**

