



#### The Caves and Springs of Merritt's Mill Pond, Jackson County Florida

Merritt's Mill Pond begins at Blue Springs and flows in a southwest direction for approximately 4 miles. The Mill Pond ends at the dam at Highway 90 at Spring Creek Park. To provide a larger scale to the map only a third of the mill pond is shown in the picture on the other side. The eight known springs that feed Merritt's Mill Pond are all located northeast of where the power lines cross the pond (about the mid-point of the pond). The springs are numbered traveling southwest from Blue Springs County Park towards the public boat landing on Hunter Fish Camp Road and Arrowhead Camp ground. The GPS co-ordinates should get you within 30 feet of each spring.

1. Blue Springs - 30 47.431N, 085 08.407W. This spring is inside the fence and under the concrete diver's platform in the Blue Springs County Park.
2. Shangri-La (or Second Spring) - 30 47.409N, 085 08.573W. This spring is on the North side of the pond where the shore line meets the limestone cliff. The small opening to the spring is on the North side of the big boulder sitting just off shore. An interesting feature is the big crack in the bottom about 30 feet from the spring.
3. Twin Caves - 30 47.217N, 085 08.696W. Look in the middle of the pond just East (inside) of the no wake buoy line. The two entrances are near the small boat dock. A sunken log is over one entrance.
4. Indian Wash Tub - 30 47.283N, 085 08.712W. This spring is not always visible. If the water flow is low, silt will hide the opening. This spring is on the North side of the pond by the private dock that is just outside (West) of the no wake buoy line.
5. Hole in the Wall - 30 47.001N, 085 09.371W. Look for the small boat dock built off shore in the cypress trees on the South side of the pond. The cave is underwater at the base of the limestone cliff.
6. Hidey Hole - 30 46.840N, 085 09.805W. This spring is not always visible. If the water flow is low, silt will hide the opening. This spring is on the South side of the pond by the private dock across the pond from the condominium dock.
7. No name known - 30 46.820N, 085 09.936W. This spring is not always visible. If the water flow is low, silt will hide the opening. This spring is on the North side of the pond by the private dock that is two docks west of the condominium dock.
8. Gator Hole - 30 46.682N, 085 10.043W. This spring is located on the shoreline directly across from the public boat landing on Hunter Fish Camp Road. Look for the steep rock hillside on the South side of the pond with a cave above and below the water level. The cave is much easier to see in the winter.