

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

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June 2015

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC) is a not-for-profit corporation committed to the conservation, study, management, and acquisition of caves and karst areas having significant geological, hydrological, biological, recreational, historical, or aesthetic features. To these ends, the NCC combines the resources and expertise of affiliated cave explorers, educators, scientists, landowners, and conservation officials.



Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.		
Officers		
President	Robert Addis	president@necaveconservancy.org
Vice President	Vince Kappler	vicepresident@necaveconservancy.org
Secretary	Christa Hay	secretary@necaveconservancy.org
Treasurer	William Folsom	treasurer@necaveconservancy.org
Board of Trustees		
Thom Engel		t.engel@necaveconservancy.org
Peter Youngbaer		p.youngbaer@necaveconservancy.org
Alan Traino		a.traino@necaveconservancy.org
Mitch Berger		m.berger@necaveconservancy.org
Kevin Dumont		k.dumont@necaveconservancy.org
Paul Woodell		p.woodell@necaveconservancy.org
Michael Chu		m.chu@necaveconservancy.org
Morgan Ingalls		m.ingalls@necaveconservancy.org
Tom Rider		t.rider@necaveconservancy.org
Committee Chairs		
Acquisitions	Chuck Porter	acquisitions@necaveconservancy.org
Bylaws	Joe E. Levinson	bylaws@necaveconservancy.org
Education	Thom Engel	education@necaveconservancy.org
Membership	Peter Youngbaer	membership@necaveconservancy.org
Nominating	Bob Simmons	nominating@necaveconservancy.org
Fundraising Barn Dance	Jose Martinez Emily Davis and Michael Warner	fundraising@necaveconservancy.org barndance@necaveconservancy.org
Office	Emily Davis and Michael Warner	office@necaveconservancy.org
Preserves	Thom Engel (Onesquethaw)	onesquethaw@necaveconservancy.org
	Alan Traino (Sellecks)	sellecks@necaveconservancy.org
	Mitch Berger (Knox)	knox@necaveconservancy.org
	Michael Chu Thom Engel Chuck Porter (Clarksville)	clarksville@necaveconservancy.org
	Alan Traino (Ella)	ella_armstrong@necaveconservancy.org
	Jonah Spivak (Bentleys)	bentleys@necaveconservancy.org
	Morgan Ingalls (Merlins)	merlins@necaveconservancy.org
	Luke Mazza (Bensons)	bensons@necaveconservancy.org
Liaisons Surprise Cave Thacher Park	Bob Simmons Thom Engel	surprise@necaveconservancy.org thacherpark@necaveconservancy.org
Publications Editor Webmaster Publisher Publicity	Christa Hay Danny Brass Michael Chu Christa Hay Christa Hay	publications@necaveconservancy.org newsletter@necaveconservancy.org website@necaveconservancy.org publisher@necaveconservancy.org publicity@necaveconservancy.org
Science	R. Laurence Davis	science@necaveconservancy.org
Special Use	Thom Engel	specialuse@necaveconservancy.org
Volunteer Value	Vince Kappler	volunteervalue@necaveconservancy.org

The *Northeastern Cave Conservancy News* is published quarterly by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. The Northeastern Cave Conservancy promotes the study and preservation of speleologically significant properties in the northeastern United States. Annual membership is \$15 (Regular), \$5 (Additional Family), \$10 (Student), \$50 (Benefactor), \$100 (Institutional), \$100 (Family Life Membership), and \$300 (Life Membership). All checks should be made payable and sent to:

Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Schoharie, N.Y. 12157

www.necaveconservancy.org

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Next Board Meeting
Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m.
John Boyd Thacher State Park
1 Hales Cave Road. Voorheesville, NY 12186
Horseshoe 1 Pavilion

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To these ends, the NCC combines the resources and expertise of affiliated cave explorers, educators, scientists, landowners, and conservation officials.

The NCC programs are focused mainly on the preservation of caves and karst. Outreach includes education in schools and local communities, establishment of park spaces on karstlands, and educational messages about the significance of groundwater pollution on this sensitive underground ecosystem.

NCC members assist in the exploration, survey, and protection of these natural resources, and manage them so you can explore them yourself.



NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

March Minutes - Summary

March 22, 2014 Board meeting held at Seymour Pollack Opticians. Hawthorne, NJ

Many thanks to Emily for her years of service as Knox Preserve Chair.

Committees dissolved are the Legal Committee and the Finance-and-Investments Committee.

Act 01-38 Officer Committee Assignments is amended to read: Act 01-38 Officer Committee Assignments 09/25/05. The Committees within The Northeastern Cave Conservancy are organized under each officer as follows:

- President – Acquisitions, Legal, Cave Preserves, Ad Hoc Committees
- Vice President – Science, Education, Special Use, Thacher Park, Surprise Cave
- Treasurer – Fundraising, Office, Membership, Volunteer Value
- Secretary – Bylaws, Nominating, Publications

NCC is investigating the purchase of the NCC.org domain.

Bentleys Management Plan was reviewed and updates were discussed and implemented,

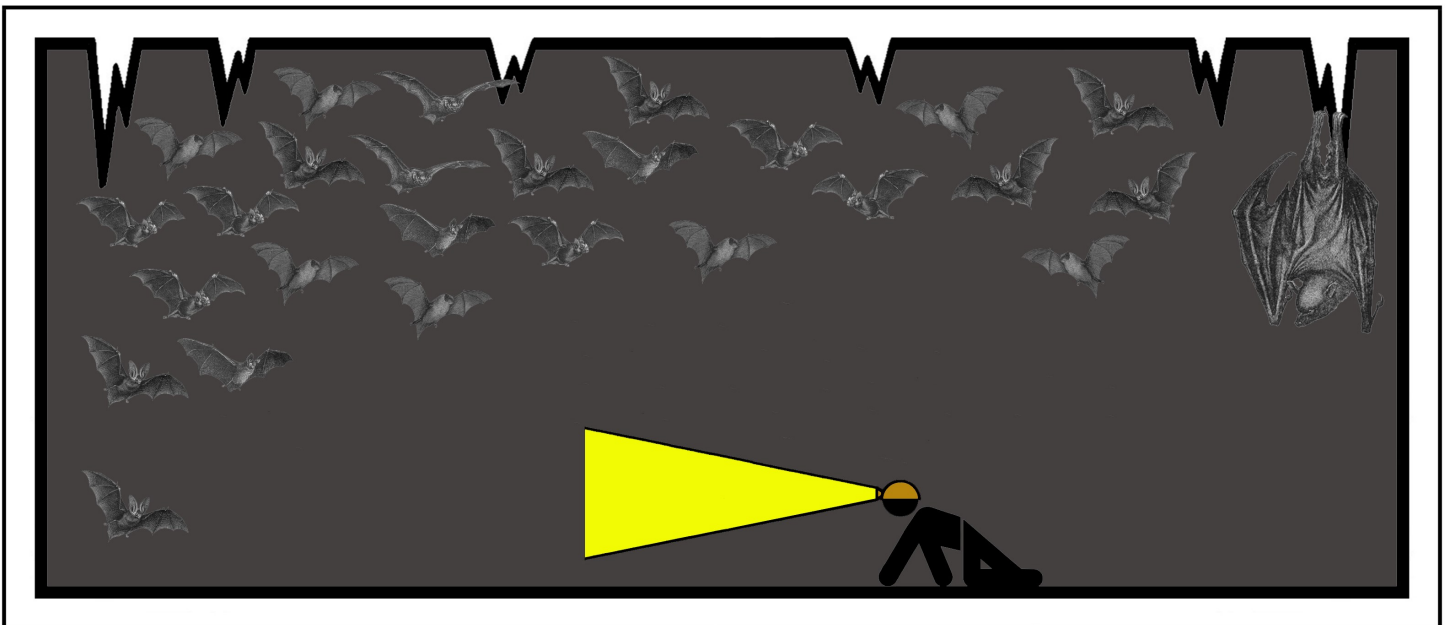
Jose Martinez was appointed Fundraising Chair.

Bentleys – Jonah Spivak and Chuck Porter attended the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance meeting, regarding development of regional trail systems.

Education – Thom Engel met at Clarksville with a hydrology class from Williams College and explained karst hydrology.

Volunteer Value – Totals for 2014 = \$46,692.00. The total since 2006 = \$377,762. Many thanks to all who have supported the NCC Mission over the years and have reported their personal contributions to the preservation of karst in the Northeast.

Thanks to Alan Traino for hosting the meeting.



LIFETIME MEMBERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY: THE ANCHORS, HISTORY, AND PRIDE OF OUR EXISTENCE

— Peter Youngbaer —

Lifetime Members. That sounds weighty and important, and it is. These are individuals who have made a long-term commitment to the mission of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy.

The acquisition and conservation of significant caves and karst lands, and the maintenance and protection of those cave properties and what they contain, from groundwater, to fossils, to bats, is a long-term affair.

The NCC was incorporated in 1978, and became a member-based organization in 1999. In 2010, after a couple years of discussion, the category of Life Member was created, offered as an opportunity for those willing and able to make a long-term commitment to do so, and help build the reserves of the organization.

The Life Member's dues level was and is set at twenty times the annual Regular membership level. For people who intend to be involved in caving and cave conservation over the long haul, it's an excellent value. More than that, it's a statement of commitment and support.

Candidly, it's also a hedge against inflation. The NCC hasn't raised its basic dues ever, but the time will come when it may be necessary, as we continue to grow and acquire new properties. Thus, it's worthwhile for every Regular, Family, Student, and Benefactor level member to consider becoming a Life Member.

In 2010, immediately after the motion passed, NCC President "Nice" Bob Addis pulled out a check and became Life Member # 1. The other two original incorporators, Jim Harbison and Art Palmer, are also Life Members.

Look at the list below, and you'll see a "who's who" of people who have been significantly involved in the history of caving and cave conservation in the Northeast. Want to see your name on the list? It's a great group to join and to be a part of with pride. You can upgrade your membership anytime, and even do it over time (three years) to make it more affordable. Come join us!

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Life and Family Life Members

L #1	Robert Addis	L #16	Alan Traino	L #31	Peter Youngbaer
L #2	Dean Snyder	L #17	Peggy Palmer	FL #32	Jane Youngbaer
L #3	John Keough	L #18	Art Palmer	FL #33	Susan Kappler
L #4	Vince Kappler	L #19	Mitchell Berger	FL #34	Felicia Millett
L #5	Ken Nichols	L #20	Michael Tennant	L #35	Dr. R. Laurence Davis
L #6	Thom Engel	L #21	Bru Randall	L #36	Julie Russell
L #7	Paul Dower	L #22	Christa Hay	FL #37	Wayne Russell
L #8	Chuck Porter	L #23	Joe Light	L #38	Norman Berg
L #9	John Taylor	L #24	Rich Lester	FL #39	Connie LaPorta
L #10	Fred Stone	L #25	Steven Millett	L #40	Peri Frantz
L #11	Brian Pease	L #26	Kathleen Lavoie	FL #41	Bill Frantz
L #12	Bonnie Pease	L #27	Andrew Boardman	L #42	Nigel Dyson-Hudson
L #13	Jim Harbison	L #28	Teresa Berger	L #43	Seth Perlman
L #14	Alvin DeMaria	L #29	Mike Bourgeois	L #44	Kevin Downey
L #15	Donald Klein	L #30	Matthew O'Donnell	L #45	Cara Gentry

SURPRISE CAVE UPDATE

— Bob Simmons —

The NCC held an Adopt-A-Natural-Resource (AANR) stewardship permit the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Region III, to assist DEC with the management of Surprise (Mystery) Cave in the Bashakill Wildlife Management Area in Sullivan and Orange Counties. That agreement lapsed in 2014, in part because the DEC was changing its program for volunteer stewardship agreements. The NCC has applied for a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) to continue and expand activities related to the cave and its management. We anticipate obtaining the final VSA in May 2015. Note: At the present time, visitation to the cave for recreational purposes has NOT been approved by DEC and is not included in the VSA; however, we hope to negotiate some level of access to the cave once we have the formal VSA in hand. The VSA contains a number of tasks, which will be implemented over the next year as listed below.

- Under direction from the Department, provide oversight at the cave gate. No more than once a week, volunteers may enter the restricted area to monitor the condition of the cave gate (including the chains and locks). Chains and additional locks will be provided so that any damaged materials can be replaced. No entrance to the cave will be allowed during these visitations. A list of volunteers and their vehicle descrip-

tions must be provided to the Department.

- Work with Department staff, including the NYSDEC Forest Rangers, to prepare a preplan for emergency responses. Local rescue and emergency response personnel should be included in this planning effort.
- Under direction of Department staff, survey the cave as needed for biological information, including but not limited to bat counts and white-nose-syndrome surveillance.
- Serve as a point of contact and liaison with the caving community.
- Provide assistance to the Department in the design of a new cave gate.
- Provide education and outreach services.
- Propose to the Department a Cave Access Management Plan.

Similar to the previous AANR Agreement, the VSA also requires that each individual who wishes to participate in the activities under the VSA, complete and submit an Individual Volunteer Application (IVA). I will distribute these forms to those who request them. Please send your IVA requests to Bob Simmons, Surprise Cave Liaison at surprise@necaveconservancy.org and I will send you an IVA and also include your name on the distribution list for activities under the VSA.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKS BOARD CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee is continuously soliciting nominations for candidates for the NCC Board of Directors. Each spring, three of the nine board seats come up for election to be seated at the June meeting. If you would like to be considered for candidacy, know of someone who would make a good candidate, or are simply curious about the process, please contact Bob Simmons, Nominating Committee Chair, at rwsimmons1@gmail.com or call 860-620-2055. You can also speak to any NCC board member or officer with no obligations.

NCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Cavers can get involved with many volunteer opportunities offered by the NCC. These include work on various committees or assisting with one of the cave-preserve management teams. Volunteers contribute to the maintenance and preservation of unique underground environments and help to support various NCC educational and outreach activities. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Vince Kappler at vicepresident@necaveconservancy.org. You can also speak to any NCC board member or officer. Don't pass up the chance to give something back to the caves that are so important to us all.

NCC BOARD VACANCY AND 2015 ELECTIONS UPDATE

— Bob Simmons —

The Nominating Committee tries to find candidates for the seats and coordinates the elections process. Each year at this time, three seats on the NCC Board come up for reelection. The Seats go to the three top vote getters, from the declared and write-in candidates on the ballot. Balloting this year will be the same as in the past; you will receive an email with a unique code to cast your vote. Voting will be on-line and open from May 20 to May 31. Voting is limited to NCC Members in good standing only.

The platform statements for the three declared candidates for the Board, Alan Traino, Thom Engel and Jacob Morris-Siegel, are provided below.

Alan Traino

It has been my pleasure to serve as trustee for the last three years, I am asking for your vote to continue the work in helping to make the Northeastern Cave Conservancy one of the premier cave conservancies in the US. I also serve as preserve manager of both the Selleck's Preserve and Ella Armstrong Preserves. I feel that I can help the NCC continue to grow, and ask for your support in this election. I feel I have the devotion and free time to serve you as trustee and listen to the ideas and feelings of others. I am a strong opinion on all matters and promise to give my best to the NCC. I am a hands-on worker and freely give time and effort to the cause. So I am asking for your vote.

Thom Engel

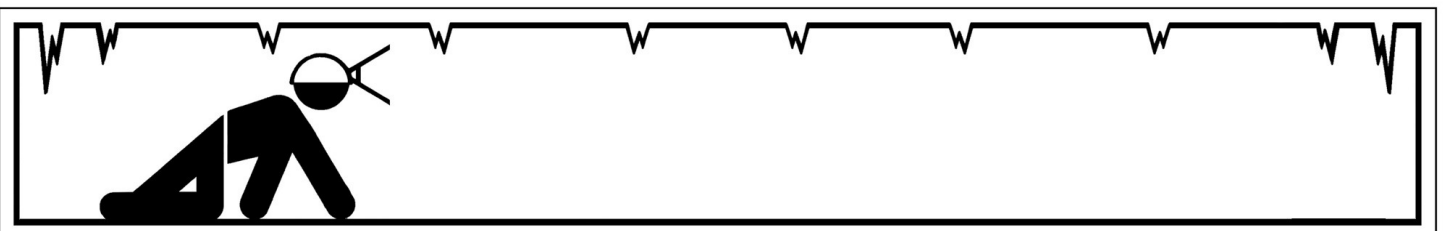
I have been caving for over 45 years with much of that time spent in the Northeast. I am past NRO chairman and past administrative vice-president of the NSS, and currently preserve manager for Onesquethaw and co-manager for Clarksville and the NSS's Gage Preserve. I am also the Education chairman and the co-chair for the special use committee.

I retired from over 30 years from doing environmental work for New York State. Since retiring I have concentrated more time on cave management issues. I think it is fine for the NCC to accept donations, but in determining which properties we want to concentrate on, we should be targeting caves that are either currently closed or may be closed.

We are still dealing with WNS issues. As cave owners we will need to address listings of some species as endangered, science and not politics will become ever more important. If re-elected I will continue to work to optimize access and resource conservation.

Jacob Morris-Siegel

I am asking for your vote for trustee on the Northeastern Cave Conservancy board. I have been caving and digging in the northeast for the past four years and am currently the Vice-President of the Vermont Cavers Association. For the past eight years I have worked for the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. Currently I am the Stewardship Biologist for Mass DFW's Western District. My work includes boundary marking, creating access points, dealing with abutter issues, evaluating land for acquisitions, and working with private land owners and land trusts. I have conducted most Massachusetts bat counts for the past seven years and currently help oversee 60,000+ acres of Wildlife Management Areas & Conservation Easements. I feel my work experiences would be beneficial to the Northeastern Cave Conservancy and that my expertise will be valuable to help the NCC manage their current cave preserves as well as acquire new ones.



THE NCC AND JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK — Bob Addis and Thom Engel —

For many years, Thacher State Park has been restrictive of some of the recreational activities that they perceived as higher risk/higher liability, such as caving, rock climbing and, to a lesser extent, mountain biking.

As part of creating a master plan for the Park, many of these policies were reassessed. Public hearings on the master plan were held, and the NCC had a prominent voice in advocating for the recreational activities, pointing out the weight of Section 9-103 of the NYS General Obligations law—the so-called Landowner Liability or Sportsman’s Law (see <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/about.php>).

Whether this ever reached the state attorneys for Parks & Recreation or whether it mattered for a state agency may never be known, but relations with Thacher State Park turned a definite positive corner. In 2014 and again in 2015, the NCC signed a permit with Thacher State Park for project days to inventory and survey caves and karst features in the Park...the largest cave being Hailes Cave in the escarpment face. These project days have been very popular with both the NCC and Thacher and are ongoing.

In 2013, several volunteer members of the NCC, along with Park employees and a paid consultant, constructed a massive bat-friendly cave gate at Hailes to protect the overwintering bats and to regulate visitor traffic into the cave. Again, the Park turned to the NCC for expert assistance. Park officials insist that all participants in the project days must be members of the NCC, but details about caving in the Park are yet to be announced. Park officials suggest guided trips into Hailes, but the NCC resists this because of our liability insurance concerns, as well as a potentially different category under the Section 9-103 law. There are continuing discussions about visitor regulations in Hailes, as well as other caves in the Park.

News has been released about the planned building of a new visitor’s center in Thacher State Park this year. The interior—the displays—are without design at this time, and a one-million dollar public fund-raising effort was started to finish the inside. Once again, the NCC has been asked to act as experts to “design a cave under the stairway” and to set up a display upstairs in the main geology area. This presents both an interesting challenge and a significant opportunity to promote our mission statement of education to the public. The NCC will have its own fundraiser within the public fund raiser. Watch for details.

Thom Engel is on the design committee of the interior and Bob Addis is assisting.

NCC PROJECT DAY AT JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK

The quarterly NCC meeting will take place at John Boyd Thacher State Park on Saturday, June 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the Horseshoe 1 Pavilion. This will be followed by more of the ongoing Thacher Park Cave and Karst Project. Note: To participate in the latter activity, one must be an NCC member (state requirement). Please check with Thom Engel for more details on the project activities for that day.

Thom Engel will be there by 8:30 a.m. for those who wish to get started on mapping and inventorying before the NCC Board meeting. Participants should bring caving and cave-surveying gear. Anyone having GPS units should bring them.

Caves to be surveyed include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hailes Cave - continuation of the cave survey
- Uhl Be Cold Cave - very wet (wetsuits required)
- Daddy Longlegs Cave - map update
- Twin Fissure Sink - push, if possible
- Novemberkill Cave - see if this cave can be pushed
- A bunch of small stuff that won't be exciting to map, but that needs to be mapped nevertheless

The Park is open until sunset (about 8:30 p.m. on June 6), so it will be a good day for longer trips.

MERLINS WORK DAY WITH THE BOSTON GROTTO — Morgan Ingalls —

As a preserve manager, sometimes it can feel tedious putting together work days. Something about finding a date that works for everyone, sending out lots of emails, organizing what projects need to happen... it all can seem kind of boring when I'd really rather be caving. Not so this time! As a weekend conservation project for the Boston Grotto, Ramon Armen organized a preserve work day at the Merlins preserve. Perfect! All I had to do was show up with a list of things I wanted done!

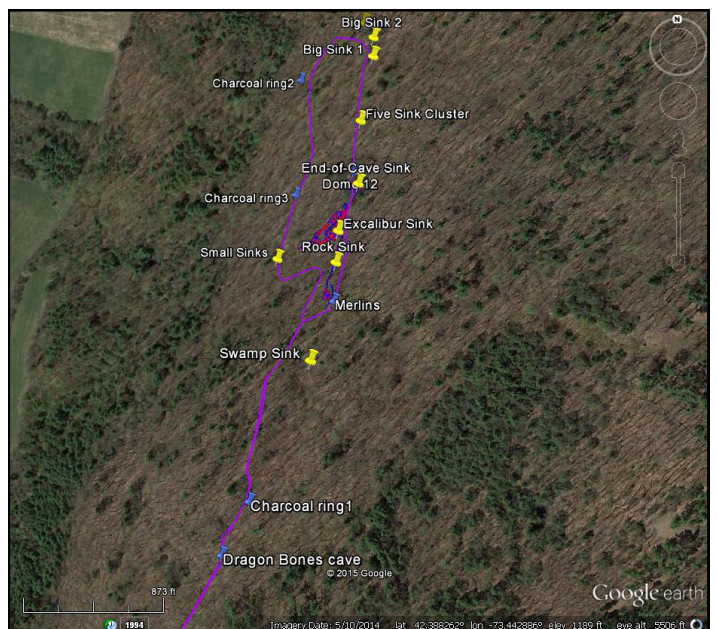
April 25 even provided us with perfect weather: sunny, but not too hot. The major project for the day was to cut and mark a new loop trail that runs down the sink line past the Dome 12 sink to the edge of the property, then loops back at the south end of the preserve meeting back with the main trail near the Merlins Cave entrance (see Google Earth track, a prettier map to follow in a future issue).

Eleven of us showed up with rakes, loppers, shovels, saws, and enthusiasm! On the way to the start of the new trail, we cleared winter blow downs and fixed water bars on the main trail before reconvening reconvened at the Merlins Cave entrance. Here, we put up a small wire fence around some fragile blue cohosh that the botanists from the Hawthorne Valley Farmscape Ecology Program asked us to protect. Then we started in on the new trail! I lagged behind putting up our yellow NCC trail markers, and the group made good time staying ahead of me the whole way!

By mid-afternoon the new loop trail was cleared and we all met in the parking area for some snacks and to rehydrate. In the future, we hope to put up some interpretive markers pointing out karst features, such as the sinkholes, and historic features, such as the charcoal circles. All in all, we had a very successful work day! Thanks so much to Ramon and the Boston Grotto, and to everyone else who helped out: Mitch Berger, Larry Bernier, John Dunham, Logan Fortune, Tristen Miller, Chuck Porter, Mike Telladira, Zach Yarter, and Kourtney Yeamen.



Above photos by John Dunham



Merlins Cave-Steward Orientation

I'm hoping to run another Merlins Cave Steward Orientation at some point this summer. If interested, please get in touch with me at merlins@necaveconservancy.org. Participants must be comfortable with exposed and technically challenging climbs and be familiar with the proper use of their own vertical gear.

VCA CLEANUP AT BENTLEYS CAVERN PRESERVE

— John Dunham and Jonah Spivak —

Bentleys Cavern Preserve is located on five acres of land south of Berlin, NY. The preserve was donated to the NCC in 2009, and is one of eight preserves managed by the NCC. Jonah Spivak has been the cave preserve manager since the creation of the preserve in 2009. The cave is locally well known; about 150 visitors a year sign in/out at the register (139 in this past year). In early 2015, Jonah was asked by John Dunham and the Vermont Cavers Association (VCA) about doing a cave cleanup at the preserve.

According to John, at the February VCA Grotto meeting, the grotto voted to approve a motion to get the VCA more engaged in conservation activities. The text of that motion was as follows:

“The VCA shall dedicate one activity each year, which may be a regular monthly activity or an additional activity, to a conservation project work day at a local cave or cave preserve. Such projects may include, but are not limited to, trash cleanup and removal, graffiti removal, sinkhole cleanup, surface trail construction and maintenance, landscaping, maintenance of informational signs and kiosks, or any other work necessary to protect caves and maintain cave preserves.

The responsibility for organizing this work day yearly, shall fall to the current VCA president, vice president, and conservation chair, in collaboration with the NCC preserve manager or landowner of the property in question.”

The VCA decided to focus its first conservation activity on Bentleys Cavern, since the preserve was likely to see significant visitation during the Spring NRO in Hancock, MA. The preserve also offered a combination of surface trail clearing and marking work, and graffiti and trash removal in the cave itself.

On the third Sunday of March, despite the bitter cold weather and -12 degree wind chill, a full 18 people showed up to help clean up Bentleys, including three of the four newly elected officers of the VCA. Although about a third of the participants were VCA members, some local unaffiliated cavers and some cavers from south and west of the area also made the trip to help out.

Inside the cave, the group split into several teams, each armed with spray bottles, stiff brushes, and wire brushes for the particularly tough cases. The amount of graffiti in the cave, while not the worst example of such things, was still significant and noticeable.

The worst area was the Big Room, just past the water crawl. This area held the largest concentration of graffiti. The entrance canyon and several corners were also decorated with paint. Happily, with so many people working, the group was able to clean more than 95% of the spray paint off the cave walls, leaving only a few very difficult places and around some historic signatures and formations that we did not wish to damage.

The whole cave was effectively cleaned in less than three hours; spray bottles were especially effective, removing the top layer of mud film and the paint along with it without damaging the underlying rock. Before-and-after photos included with this article show the restored interior of the cave. Hopefully, the clean walls will not encourage any future would-be vandals.

While not an important cave for hibernating bats, particular care was made to not disturb the bats that were found. Three tricolor bats and three large brown bats were located, a similar number to that found in previous bat counts in the cave.

In addition to the work in the cave, Jonah and Mike Telladira worked aboveground to update the blazes, cut down fallen trees, and remove brush along the trail.

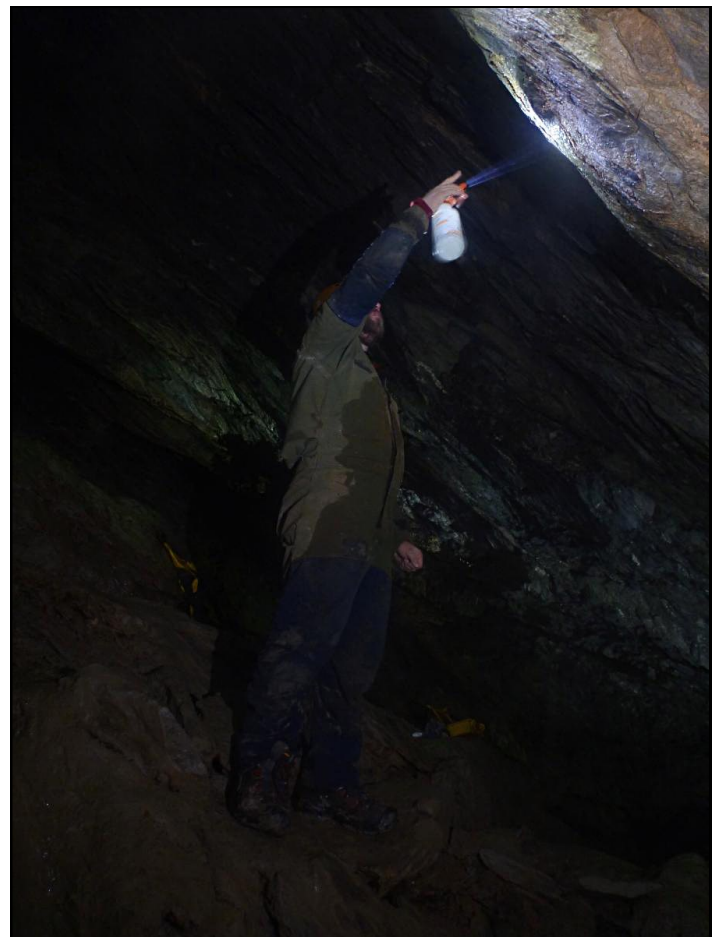
All told, a total of 76 volunteer hours were spent in and around the cave as part of the cave-cleanup effort, plus 42.5 hours of travel time and 1,672 travel miles. In addition to the wonderful results of the actual work done, this donated time and mileage is used by the NCC as a match for future grant applications.

Preserve Manager Spivak commented that “This work by the VCA exemplifies the best in the caving community. I’m impressed that the VCA has made the move to include regular conservation efforts as part of the group’s mission, and I’m deeply grateful on behalf of both Bentleys Cave and the NCC for this work!” Spivak notes that this is the largest single volunteer effort at the preserve since its inception.

Thanks go out to the VCA and everyone who participated for the generous donation of time and effort. An honorary trail blaze was awarded as a thank-you to each of the participants. With any luck these efforts will set a good example for landowners, locals, and cavers-to-be alike.



Left - Cavers gearing up for Bentleys cleanup. Right - Jacob removing paint in the Big Room. Photos by John Dunham.



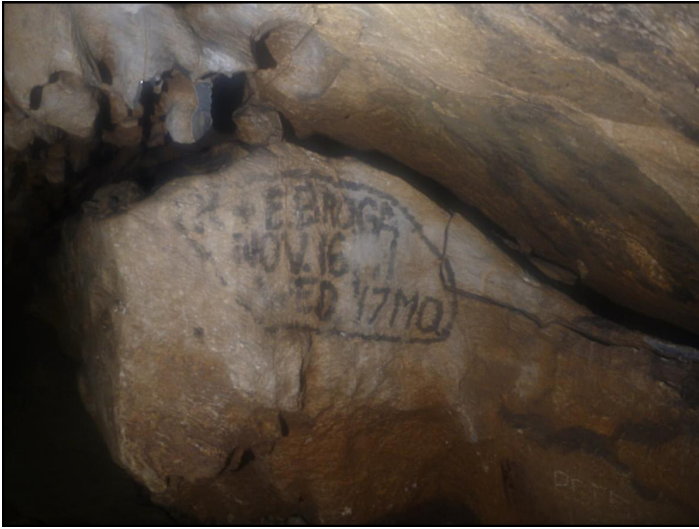
Left - Joel removing paint in the Big Room. Right - Jacob working on a hard-to-reach wall in the Big Room. Photos by John Dunham.



Photos before and after removal of mud-covered red paint from the Big Room. Photos by John Dunham.



Left - The Big Room after paint removal. Right - Graffiti being cleaned from the stream entrance. Photos by John Dunham.



Left Column - Photos before and after the removal of graffiti by Kara from along an overhang just beyond the stream crawl.
Top Right - Extensive graffiti covering wall above the entrance to the stream passage.
Bottom Right - Morgan and James enjoying a pristine view of the entrance to the stream crawl without any graffiti present.
All photos by John Dunham.

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY PRESENCE AT THE SPRING NRO
— Mike Warner —

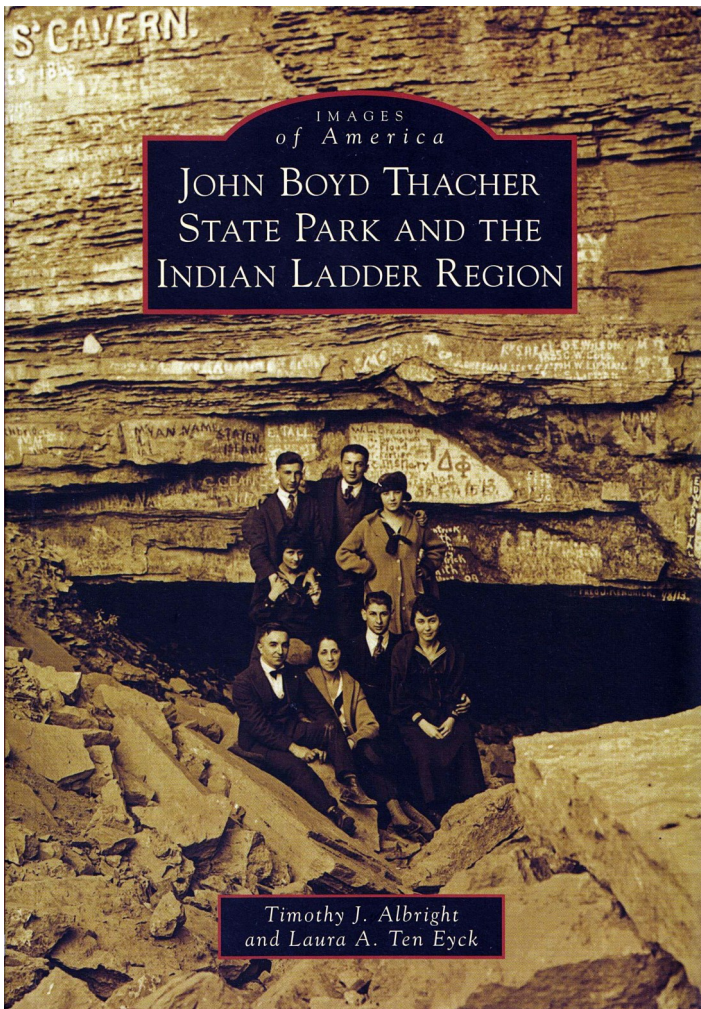
The NCC had a very well-appointed service counter and exhibit at the NRO. Membership chair Peter Youngbaer staffed a table with new informational posters and NCC logo items created by NCC Secretary Christa Hay. New embroidered NCC caps made their appearance and were a “top” item, featuring bold colors and a crisp new look. Look for them at future NCC events, while they last. New posters, including Ella Armstrong, Bensons, and Clarksville drew attention all weekend. Several new members signed up!



Top - Lee Del Valle checks out some of the caving gear available at the Spring NRO, while his daughter Elenah investigates the NCC table. Bottom - Peter Youngbaer shares information about the NCC with a host of cavers. Photos by Mike Warner.

SPRING NRO AUCTION NETS CASH FOR NCC
— Bill Folsom —

190 gratefully fed and primed NRO cavers donated over \$1400 towards the NCC Auction at the Spring 2015 NRO, hosted by Northern New Jersey Grotto and held at Privacy Campgrounds in Hancock, MA. Auctioneer Nice Bob Addis wore all black, including a top hat while hawking a huge selection of useful caver hand-me-downs in front of campground owner Andre’s “fallout shelter.” Thanks to all who helped out before, during, and after the festivities to make it all happen. Near perfect weather to boot!



JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK AND THE INDIAN LADDER REGION (2011) by Timothy Albright and Laura Ten Eyck. Arcadia Publishing. Charleston, South Carolina. Paperback, 128 pages, 6½" x 9¼" format, ISBN 978-0-7385-7596-4. Available for \$21.99. Reviewed by Danny A. Brass.

Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series is a diverse collection of several thousand books celebrating the colorful history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the nation. Each volume provides a detailed historical account—as told through a stunning collection of annotated archival photographs—of the development, culture, and heritage of a particular location.

This outstanding collection of books will be of considerable interest to anyone who enjoys viewing historical photographs or reading about local history, early development of state and national park systems, or select aspects of Americana.

The Helderberg Escarpment is an impressive limestone ridge in eastern New York State, richly endowed with caves and fossils.¹ With its lofty cliffs soaring as much as 1200 feet above the Hudson Valley, it offers magnificent

panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Once threatened by local quarrying operations, much of what is now the Thacher State Park owes its very existence to the foresight of John Boyd Thacher—a local resident and landowner, who had served as both the mayor of Albany and as a senator from New York—and his wife Emma Treadwell Thacher.

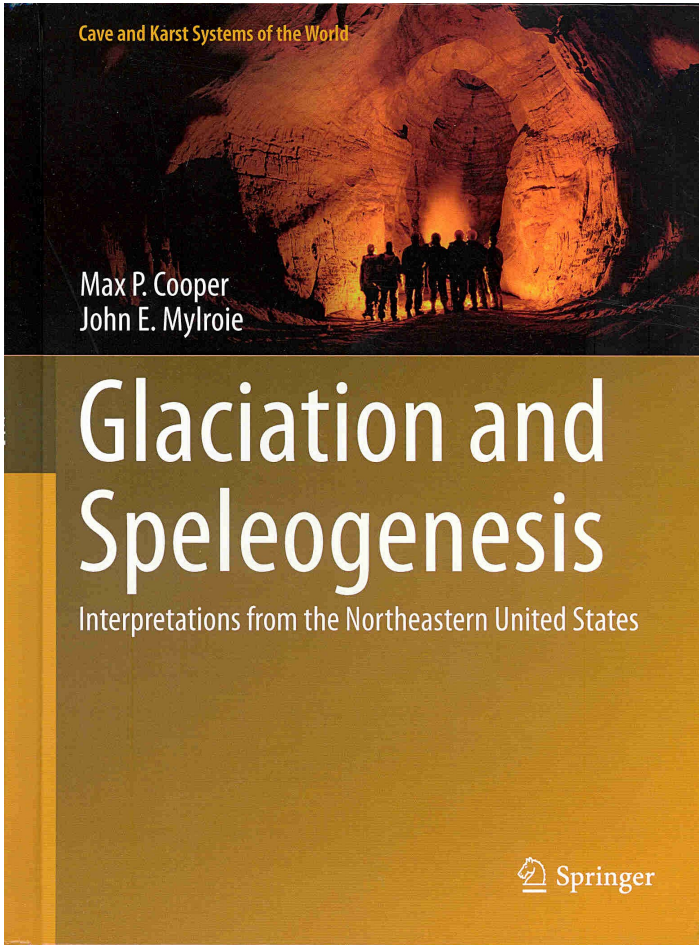
Inspired by the rugged beauty of the region, and especially by the potential threat of commercial ventures severely limiting public use of the land, the Thachers were determined to protect the land of the Helderberg Escarpment from the continued ravages of human greed, preserving it in perpetuity for enjoyment by future generations. In 1914, five years after John's death, Emma transferred a 350-acre tract of land along the escarpment to the state. This land served as the basis for creation of the John Boyd Thacher State Park, which was officially dedicated in September 1914.

In this intriguing volume, Timothy J. Albright and Laura A. Ten Eyck, both long-time local residents living in the shadow of the escarpment, offer readers an informative photographic essay relating to the land and culture associated with the Helderberg Escarpment, the legendary Indian Ladder Region, and the John Boyd Thacher State Park. This anthology of high-quality black-and-white photographs, dating from the early to mid-1900s, depicts a wide range of regional history, including Native American lore; early settlement of the area; growth of local communities; the establishment of camps, clubs, and vacationing opportunities in the vicinity; underground features of several regional caves; and, of course, development and notable qualities of the park itself.

The book is divided into six chapters: The Helderbergs and the Indian Ladder, The Road Traveled, John Boyd Thacher State Park, The Lakes, Camp, and Nearby Sights and Accommodations.

Several titles in the Images of America series are specifically devoted to caves or karst regions, since the discovery of a spectacular local cave system has often had a profound influence on shaping the future growth of an area. These volumes, in particular, will be of significant interest to members of the caving community who enjoy reading about speleohistory and the early years of commercial cave development and operations. In this regard, relevant titles in the series that will be of interest to cavers include *Mammoth Cave and the Kentucky Cave Region* (2003), *Wind Cave National Park* (2003), *Vail and Colossal Cave Mountain Park* (2007), *Jewel Cave National Monument* (2008), and *Carlsbad and Carlsbad Caverns* (2010).

¹The fossils of New York's Helderberg Escarpment are world renowned among paleontologists.



Book Announcement

Glaciation and Speleogenesis: Interpretations from the Northeastern United States (2015) by Max P. Cooper and NCC member John E. Mylroie.

About this book (from the back cover)

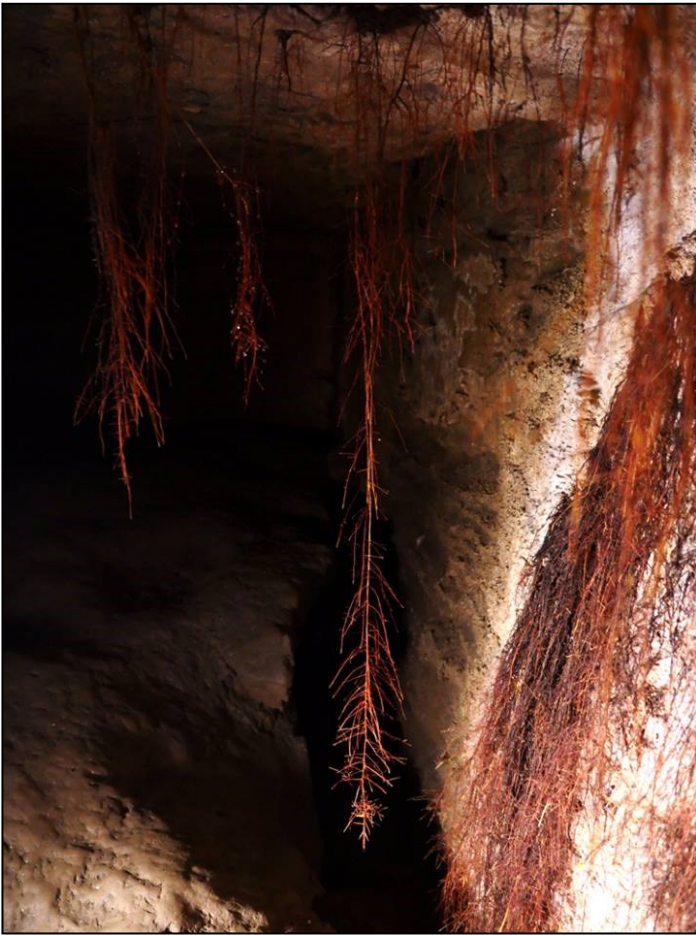
Focusing on glaciation and speleogenesis in the region of New York and New England, this book serves as an example of a karst region that has experienced large-scale continental glaciation. It reviews the literature on the controls of glaciation on karst development, exploring examples from the marbles of the Adirondacks, New England and eastern New York, the Ordovician strata of northern New York and the Siluro-Devonian strata of central New York. Each of these areas is examined in detail, demonstrating the evolution of thought on glaciated karst through case studies of individual caves as well as larger cave systems. Additionally, this book describes the geology and glaciation, the evolution of karst landscapes from pre-glacial times to the present and human interaction with the caves in the region.



A Selection of Regional Caving Photographs



Top - Bentleys Cave entrance. Middle - Clarksville Cave, Slipside Block. Bottom - Schoharie Caverns. All photos by Patrick Stephenson.



Top Row - Different views of the always-fascinating Root Room in Clarksville Cave. Bottom left - Bentley's Cave, Canyon. Bottom right - Albany County bats. All photos by Patrick Stephenson.

