

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News



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.

Next Board Meeting

Sunday, September 12th, 2004, 10:00AM
at Speleobooks, Schoharie, NY

Next Executive Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 14th, 2004, 2:00PM
at the Addis/Hay residence, Cohoes, NY

Notes from the Board Last Meeting

- 1) Bob Simmons announced that Mike Warner was re-elected as a trustee and that Joe Armstrong and Peter Youngbaer were also elected to trustee positions.
- 2) Paul Murphy was appointed to be the chairman of the Finance and Investments Committee.
- 3) The NCC accepted the final contract for purchasing the Ward Entrance to Clarksville Cave.
- 4) Jon Allison was appointed chairman of the Land Trust Liaison Committee.
- 5) Money was allotted to purchase a domain name and to move the NCC website to a private server.
- 6) There was considerable discussion on Clarksville and planning for the NSS convention.

In this issue

Notes from the Last Meeting.....	Page 1
NCC at the NSS Convention.....	Page 2
Ella Armstrong Cave.....	Page 3
Cleanup at Knox Cave.....	Page 3
Earth Day in Troy	Page 4
Howe Caverns Coin Toss.....	Page 4
Radiolocation at Clarksville	Page 4
Publicity at CT Male	Page 4
NCC BBQ	Page 4
Upcoming Events	Page 5
A few pictures	Page 5

The NCC at the NSS Convention July 12-16, 2004

By Bob Addis

Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.		
Officers		
President	Bob Addis	(518) 237-1165 raddis@capital.net
Vice President	Bill Folsom	(212) 427-7256 rockeater@mindspring.com
Treasurer	Joe Levinson	(973) 208-9049 jlevinson@tellurian.net
Secretary	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Trustees		
Jon Allison		(518) 383-1465 allisj2@alum.rpi.edu
Jeff DeGroff		(518) 296-8990 jeffd@howecaverns.com
Vince Kappler		(973) 579-2116 vkappler@nac.net
Al Lehman		(518) 234-8585 BigAl102@hotmail.com
Joe Armstrong		gonecaving@hotmail.com
Peter Youngbaer		Youngbaer4@aol.com
Paul Murphy		(518) 234-4923 mortgageexp@hotmail.com
Jason Siemion		(518) 928-4300 jaysiemion@hotmail.com
Michael Warner		(518) 295-7978 mike@speleobooks.com
Committee Chairs		
Acquisitions	Chuck Porter	(518) 274-4863 necaver@acmenet.net
Bylaws		
Conservation	Joe Armstrong	gonecaving@hotmail.com
Finance & Investments		
Fundraising	Alan Traino	PollackOpticians@aol.com
Land Trusts Liaison	Jon Allison	(518) 383-1465 allisj2@alum.rpi.edu
Legal	Dan Werner	danwern@hotmail.com
Membership	Tonya Smothers	vicechair@metgrotto.com
Nominating	Bob Simmons	rwsimmons1@msn.com
Office	Mike Warner	(518) 295-7978 mike@speleobooks.com
	Emily Davis	(518) 295-7978 emily@speleobooks.com
Preserves	Thom Engel (Onesquethaw)	(518) 478-9664 necaver@earthlink.net
	Jon Allison (Sellecks)	(518) 383-1465 allisj2@alum.rpi.edu
	Emily Davis (Knox)	(518) 295-7978 emily@speleobooks.com
	Mike Warner (Clarksville)	(518) 295-7978 mike@speleobooks.com
Publications	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Newsletter Editor	Jon Allison & Michael Chu	allisj2@alum.rpi.edu chum2@rpi.edu
Newsletter Publisher	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Website	Norm Berg	(860) 621-2080 nb.website@cox.net
Publicity	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Science Coordinator	R. Laurence Davis	(203) 932-7108 rldavis@charger.Newhaven.edu
Special Use Coordinators	Aaron & Amy Cox	(203) 426-4602 Amycaves2@aol.com
<p>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 addtl. (Family), \$10 (student), \$50 (Benefactor), and \$100 (Institutional). All checks made payable and sent to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. P.O. Box 254 Schoharie, N.Y. 12157</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.caves.org/conservancy/ncc/</p>		

After a 1000 mile trip with the Suburban & Airstream travel trailer, including a minor 40 mile 4WD mistake in the middle of the night, the bulk of the NCC booth arrived at Convention with us. Saturday we set up the Clarksville Cafe, our continental breakfast service at the campground, and Sunday we set up the NCC booth at the college. The Convention was attended by less than 700 cavers, but it was nicely set up. With 3 wings on the 2nd. floor, we had vendors, sessions, and the cafeteria all on one floor with the cave conservancies in the center hub of traffic. First floor had all the salons on display.

Our most exciting event was the appearance of Dick Blenz of Bloomington, IN at our booth on Sunday night. He pledged a matching grant up to \$6000 for all the funds that we raised during the Convention week. As seen below, we did better than \$6000 in fund raising so Dick cheerfully turned over a check for \$6000 at Friday night's banquet.

Before Convention, we solicited 3 significant prizes from the speleovendors, and we sold \$622 in raffle tickets during Convention. First prize was a \$300 gift certificate from Pigeon Mountain Industries, won by ("Vertical") Lance Nelson of Southern Cal Grotto. Second prize was a \$200 gift certificate from Speleobooks won by a caver from Nebraska who was in attendance. And third prize was a beautiful cave table lamp from Peter Jones Pottery won by Karen Kastning of VA, Ernst's wife. During the week, the cave table lamp was at our booth as a major attraction. Homemade chocolates also helped to draw cavers!

A big seller at the Clarksville Cafe were the large Clarksville coffee mugs - \$12 fund raiser with all the hot beverages that you wanted in the morning. We sold nearly 80 mugs that week and have some left. You'll be seeing them! Logo - "You Always Remember Your First Cave", "Clarksville Cave - 2004". Also a hit at the Clarksville Cafe were the 4 aprons that Christa made. They had an iron-on transfer of the 1968 photo of Peg Palmer in Perry Avenue and said Clarksville Cafe.

We applied for and received a \$2200 grant from the National Speleological Foundation for the purchase of Clarksville. We withdrew our application for a grant from the NSS at this time.

The Numbers:

Raffle	\$622.00
Donation Can	98.69
Clarksville Cafe	1258.18
Members' Donations	6010.00
Dick Blenz Matching	6000.00
NSF Grant	2200.00
Member Renewals	265.00
New Members	80.00

GRANT TOTAL \$16,533.87

Seeing that almost all of this money goes towards the purchase of Clarksville Cave, we had a successful week by anyone's definition. Our Fund Raising Committee will still continue collecting the pledges towards Clarksville since we need about \$5000 to do all that we want to do at this time. We will close on Clarksville probably in September.

Ella Armstrong Cave

by Chuck Porter

The NCC should soon own Ella Armstrong Cave, a small but scenic vertical cave near Knox Cave in Albany County, NY. It's at the northwest corner of two 14-acre parcels which have been up for sale for several years. After being contacted by Bob Addis, the owner -- Dave Doerge of Middleburgh, NY -- has verbally agreed to sell us an acre containing the cave for \$3000. This should eliminate liability concerns for prospective buyers of the remaining property.

We hope to have some 330 feet of road frontage, which will allow a small parking area on the high ledge immediately south of the cave. Parking would be parallel to the road, so that cars could turn around in the lot and exit without having to back into the road. This parking lot would also overlie the south end of the cave; we plan to extend the property survey to the end of the cave using Art Palmer's 1962 cave map (see the June 1999 *Northeastern Caver*). A trail would be cut down to the entrance, and a debris strainer should be constructed to keep highway trash from washing in along the intermittent stream from a nearby culvert.

NCC member Mike Bourgeois, NSS 53044, is a licensed surveyor and has graciously offered to survey the property for free. On July 29 I helped Mike with an initial survey at Ella Armstrong. We located old property monuments and surveyed along the road and back to the cave entrance sink. After Mike has drawn up the results we'll return and survey to the back of the property. We also made numerous measurements of the road shoulder and ditch for a topo map to be submitted to the county highway engineer as part of the process to get a culvert pipe installed for the parking area.

Ella Armstrong Cave has a short, tight, south-trending entrance fissure which slopes down to a 23-foot drop into a large hall up to 10 feet wide and 35 feet high. After 115 feet, a climb up to the west leads to a former entrance blocked by road construction a century ago. Near the base of the 23-foot drop, a complicated series of crawlways extends east for 100 feet along a joint dipping at 40 degrees. The Ella Armstrong name comes from historical graffiti carved in flowstone; this cave is mentioned in accounts going back to 1808.

A management plan has yet to be drawn up but it will probably be park-and-go-caving. Ella Armstrong Cave is not for fat people and vertical skills are necessary, but it is sporting and well decorated.

Cleanup at Knox Cave

by Jon Allison

In the morning before the last NCC board meeting there was a cleanup at Knox Cave organized by Conservation Chair Joe Armstrong. With the aid of several tall extension ladders, the last of the wiring remaining from the show cave days was removed. Most of these 70 year old wires were anchored with hooks and nails in the walls 30-60 feet of the ground. Other volunteers scrubbed at graffiti in the main entrance passage, removed lots of broken glass, and rebuilt some of the steps just inside the cave approaching the ladder. Several large garbage bags of trash were removed from the cave. The biggest remaining eyesore is the graffiti that still exists on some of the walls, mostly in the entrance area of the cave.

A little something from Earth Day in Troy

by Emily Davis

The office received the following note and check. Someone did notice that we set up in Troy on Earth day.

"Thanks for tabling at this years Earth Day Festival at Riverfront Park in Troy. Please do it every year! (I've been the environmental group coordinator for the last few years.) I wholeheartedly support your efforts. Wish I could give more. Preservation of caves & continued public access are both superlative endeavors. Here's \$50. Russell Ziembra"

Howe Caverns Coin Toss

by Bob Addis

This spring Howe Caverns offered the NCC the opportunity to place a coin drop in the cave as a fundraiser and also as a way to hopefully prevent tourists from tossing as much change into the cave stream. In early July, Mike Warner took a converted carbide can with a sign over to Howe Caverns to catch the tourist season. Howe has decided to locate it near Henry the Turtle (a popular mid-tour coin toss) rather than in the Vestibule near the Elevators. By late July, the exact figures are not in yet, but we seem to receive about \$10 a day, including paper money. This is a very rough estimate and will decrease during the 9 slower tourist months of the year. Obviously this should become a reasonable success for the NCC when we finalize the display and Howe incorporates our coin toss into their stop at the Turtle - support cave conservation, etc. Jason Siemion continues to work with Jeff Degroff on this, and Jason will pick up the money every couple of weeks, roll it and turn it over to the Office Committee for depositing in our account.

Radiolocation at Clarksville

by Bob Addis

The Executive Committee had concerns that Clarksville Cave might not be under the property that we were purchasing, so in June, 2004 Brian and Bonnie Pease, CT, came up for radiolocation of the cave. To our relief, the cave is under the property that we are buying, although it obviously runs off our land both to the North and to the South. It was an interesting

exercise, particularly talking back and forth to the cave on ordinary walkie talkies. (See photos.)

A Little Publicity at C.T. Male

by Bob Addis

Christa Hay works for C.T. Males Associates, and she was one of seven employees spotlighted in their recent in-house employees' newsletter. The focus of this column is to recognize contributions of CTM employees outside of their work - volunteer firemen, work with the Boy Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, national professional organizations, and so forth. Christa was spotlighted as "...a member of the Executive Board (sic) of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc." The article went on to talk about the NCC's mission, its current holdings and future plans. It played the NCC in a good light, gave credit to Christa, and had a nice picture of her as well!

NCC BBQ

By Christa Hay

The NCC EC meeting will be held on August 14th at 2:00 pm at Addis/Hay house in Cohoes*. Following will be the annual NCC barbeque starting around 4:30pm. So please come and just enjoy the barbeque - no boring meeting just friends and hopefully we can tie in the closing of Clarksville Cave. There will be room for people to pitch a tent if they want to indulge a bit and not drive. We can have a fire later on - not a big bonfire but we do have a fire ring. Maybe put ropes in the trees for vertical practice if that interests anyone. Anything else that might interest people let me know.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own drinks. There are still items left over from NCC dinners and the convention so we have enough plates and stuff like that. Bob and I will provide the meat/veggie grilling items.

- Directions: From I-87 take exit 7 -Cohoes. Follow the signs for Rt 9R. At the intersection with a CVS and Stewarts (you are in a residential area) take a right onto St Agnes Highway. The second left is Western Ave (If you pass the cemetery you missed it) We are on the left side of the road- -old brick house - 154 Western Ave. call 518-237-1165 if need more info.

Upcoming Events

NCC Exec. Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 14th, 2004, 2:00PM
at the Addis/Hay residence, Cohoes, NY

NCC Board Meeting

Sunday, September 12th, 2004, 10:00AM
at Speleobooks, Schoharie, NY

NCC BBQ

Saturday, August 14th, 2004, 4:30PM
at the Addis/Hay residence, Cohoes, NY

Fall NRO

September 17th-19th, 2004.
at Natural Stone Bridge and Caves
<http://www.caves.org/grotto/hhg/fallNRO2004/nro.htm>



Brian Pease doing radio location work at Clarksville



The Clarksville Café at the NSS Convention



Brian Pease doing radio location work at Clarksville



The NCC booth at the NSS convention.