

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

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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 \$20 (Regular), \$5 (Additional Family), \$50 (Benefactor), \$100 (Institutional), \$125 (Family Life Membership), and \$400 (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
Sunday, March 18, 2018 at 10:00 am
Mass Wildlife Office - Dalton, MA

Summer Board Meeting
(Date and location in June TBD)

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.

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.



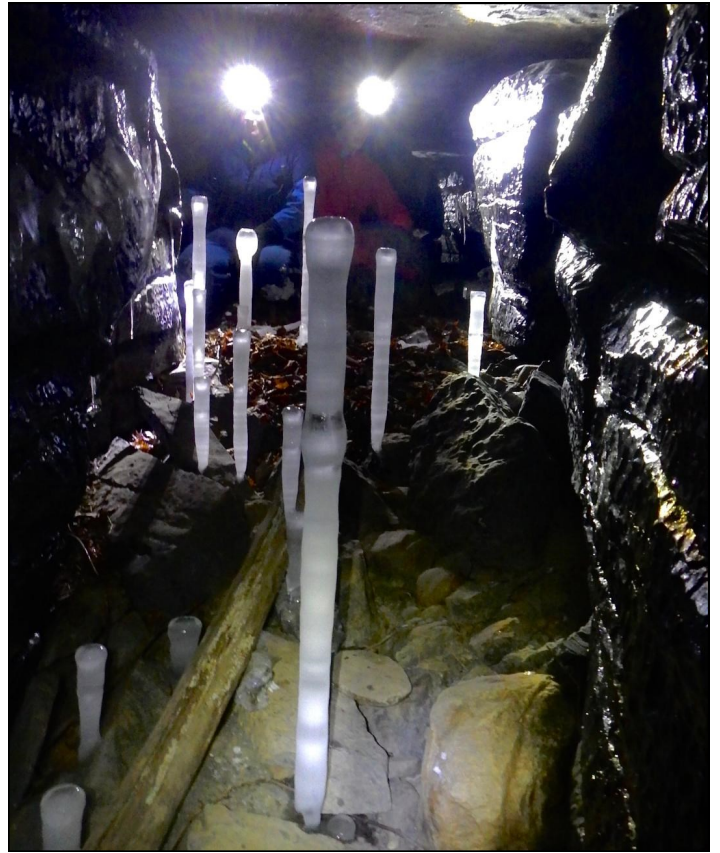
NCC logo design by Christa Hay

Onesquethaw Cave Bat Survey

— Michael Warner —

On January 9, NCC Hibernation Committee members Emily Davis and Mike Warner met a three-person NYS DEC team led by Katelyn Ritzko to assist with a bat survey in Onesquethaw Cave. We met at the parking area for Clarksville Cave and rode together in the NYS DEC vehicle to Onesquethaw. The survey took about two hours. Emily checked the high passage, and we checked the ceiling areas near the crossover rift. We looked as far as the back of the Barnyard area. We believe the total bat count was 2, both little brown bats. There was no sign of visitation to the cave and no garbage or debris near the cave. The DEC Threatened Species sign was still in place. Water levels were low. Ice was formed a good distance into the cave, extending over 100 feet and well into the dark zone.





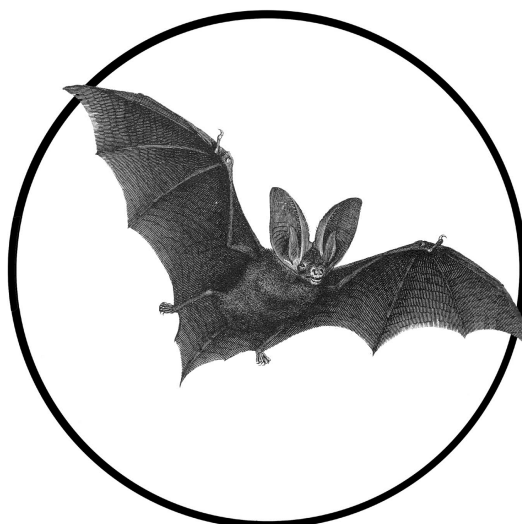
All photos on pages 3 and 4 by Michael Warner.





NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.
Summary of the December 3, 2017 Meeting Notes
Speleobooks - Schoharie, New York

- The Trustees held the annual election of officers of the NCC. The new officers are:
 - President: Bob Simmons (two-year term)
 - Vice-President: Thom Engel (one-year term)
 - Treasurer: Bill Folsom (one-year term)
 - Secretary: Mitch Berger (two-year term)
- In June 2017, the membership enacted a change in the bylaws such that officers serve staggered two-year terms. This was the first election under these new rules. Next year, only the Vice-President and Treasurer will be up for election, each for a two-year term.
- Devon Hedges was appointed to fill one of the two empty seats on the Board of Trustees created by the officer elections (Mitch Berger and Thom Engel were previously Trustees). Devon will serve until the next election of Trustees by the membership in June. One temporary seat remains open.
- Thom Engel shared plans that the Special Use, Office, and Risk Management Committees have been working on - as of January 1, 2018, the NCC will no longer require anyone to submit waivers in order to visit our preserves. A much less cumbersome system will be in place for next season.
- The Ad-hoc Governance Committee was formed to review and update job descriptions and Board member expectations. Christine Young, Norm Berg, and Morgan Ingalls serve on this committee, which is chaired by Devon Hedges.
- Updates to the Bentleys Cavern Preserve Management Plan were approved as part of the regular Management Plan review process.
- Three grant proposals in progress were discussed, which have since been submitted. The primary purpose of the grants is to begin basic data collection in our caves with respect to temperature, humidity, bat activity and visitation, to allow better and more scientific management of our underground resources.
- The Conservancy's 2018 budget was approved.
- Vince Kappler received a standing ovation and was thanked by everyone present for his many years of devotion to the NCC. Vince has served continuously on the Board since the NCC first became a membership organization in 1999, first as a Trustee, then as Vice President, and finally as Secretary. Though he will be missed on the Board, the NCC will continue to benefit from Vince's efforts on various committees.



WANTED — CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF TRUSTEE OF THE NCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC) is soliciting candidates for Trustee of the NCC Board of Directors. Each spring, three of the nine Trustee seats come up for election. Trustees are elected by members of the NCC via emailed ballot during the last half of May and those elected are seated at the June Board meeting. The Board of Directors, which consists of the Officers and Trustees, set policy for the NCC. The Board meets quarterly, generally for half a day, with frequent communications, mostly via email, between meetings. Candidates need to be a current member of the NCC. No specific prior experience is required; however, experience in land conservation and stewardship, business, finance, law, fundraising, or community outreach is always helpful.

You may wish to review the NCC Board Manual and the minutes from previous meetings of the Board of Directors, available at <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NCC-Manual-2017-09.26.pdf> and <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/minutes/>

If you would like to be considered as a Trustee candidate, please send a bio/platform to nominating@necaveconservancy.org no later than May 11 for inclusion with our electronic ballots. I'll send an acknowledgement to you when I receive it. If you know of anyone who would make a good trustee, please ask them to become a candidate. If you have questions about the process, or would like to see sample bios/platforms, please contact Norm Berg, Nominating Committee Chair, at nominating@necaveconservancy.org, call 860-621-2080 (leave a message), or contact any NCC Board member.

Norm Berg

NCC Nominating Committee Chair
nominating@necaveconservancy.org
Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC)
<http://www.necaveconservancy.org>



CURRENTLY OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITIONS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Fundraising Committee Chair coordinates all fundraising activities for the Northeastern Cave Conservancy. The fundraising committee may be authorized by the Board to research and apply for grants to generate funds for specific projects, including cave acquisitions. If interested in this position, please contact the nominating committee at nominating@necaveconservancy.org

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR AND MEMBERS

As part of the NCC’s continuing evolution, the Board of Trustees recently approved the formation of an Investment Committee, so as to bring added financial expertise to the management of the Conservancy’s long-term investments. The Committee—which will consist of five members, each appointed to a three-year term—will have overall responsibility for the operation and administration of the Conservancy’s investment portfolio. The Investment Committee Chair will coordinate long-term management of the NCC portfolio. Individuals with significant knowledge of financial investments who are interested in serving on this committee should contact the NCC treasurer at treasurer@necaveconservancy.org, and provide relevant information about qualifications and experience for further consideration. Note: Although the Committee Chair must be an NCC member, other committee members are not required to be members of the NCC.

TECHNOLOGY CHAIR

Are you technology focused? Looking for a way to contribute to the NCC’s mission of preserving caves for current and future generations? Unleash your inner geek by supporting the NCC’s new website (<http://www.necaveconservancy.org>).

Skills needed: HTML, Wordpress, SQL

Interested folks should email the current Technology Chair, Michael Chu, at technology@necaveconservancy.org. Please include any relevant experience/skills, along with examples of websites you have administered.

NCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Cavers can get involved with many volunteer opportunities offered by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy. 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. If interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the NCC, please contact Vince Kappler at volunteervalue@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.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - PAYPAL

Tired of getting dues reminder emails from the NCC Membership Chair? Now you can subscribe your annual membership so that it is automatically charged each year! Scroll to the bottom of the “Join” page to where you see Annual Renewal - PayPal: <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/join/>

