



Preserving Caves and Karst in
the Northeast since 1978
necaveconservancy.org



Trails at Merlins Cave Preserve. Photo Credit: John Dunham

NCC PRESERVES

From our popular Clarksville Cave Preserve - where people of all ages have gotten their first taste of wild caving - to the beautiful and historic woods and trails of the Merlins Cave Preserve and its challenging and pristine marble caves, the Northeastern Cave Conservancy offers a wide variety of above-ground and underground experiences. Take the time to walk the trails and examine the unusual beauty of the karst landscape where caves are formed.

Underground visitation is welcomed, but some caves are only open seasonally to protect hibernating bats and some require permits, while others are open year-round. Learn more about the unique features of each of our preserves by visiting our website at: necaveconservancy.org.



Bentleys Cave Preserve

Cover Image: Ella Armstrong Cave Preserve. Photo Credit: Lance Dickey

CONSIDER A LAND DONATION

Do you share the NCC's vision to conserve caves and karst areas of importance? We can accept donations in various forms such as land, or through various mechanisms such as wills and trusts. Several of our preserves have been donated to us and we can help with the donation process.



Photo Credit: Kevin Dumont

RESPONSIBLE CAVING

Cave exploration and hiking on karst terrain may involve risk or injury. All cave visitors must abide by the normally accepted rules of safe and conservation-minded caving as outlined in *A Guide to Responsible Caving*, which can be found at:

caves.org/brochure/Guide_to_Resp_Caving_2016.pdf

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, ZIP: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
Caving Affiliations: _____

ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF:

- \$5 Family (non-voting—must reside with member)
- \$20 Regular
- \$50 Benefactor
- \$100 Institutional

TWO WAYS TO JOIN OR RENEW NOW:

1. By check
 My check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed,
payable to:
Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
P.O. Box 254
Schoharie, N.Y. 12157

2. Securely online at necaveconservancy.org

- I am making an additional donation to the NCC of \$ _____
- My employer will match this gift.
- I'm interested in volunteering.
- \$400 Life Membership—one time payment
- \$125 Family Life Membership—one time payment (must be spouse or civil union or minor child and reside with Life Member)

The NCC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, tax-exempt, charitable organization. Dues and donations are tax deductible.

OUR MISSION

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.

WHY JOIN THE NCC?

The concept and beauty of an underground wilderness is just as real and often more fragile than that found in surface wilderness. You can help in preserving this remarkable facet of our environment now and for future generations. Your membership and generous donations will support the NCC in implementing its goals.

CAVE AND KARST CONSERVATION

In karst (limestone and marble) landscapes, water moves underground very quickly. The soil in such areas is often thin or nonexistent. As a result contaminants move to the water table quickly. Because caves are like natural pipes, pollution may then move many miles without any change. Thus, a spill may contaminate a spring several miles away.

Thousands of people visit NCC caves annually and an additional unknown number visit the preserves to walk the nature trails and otherwise enjoy the karst landscapes. All of our preserves were acquired with the help of conservation-minded individuals who volunteered to conduct fundraising events and navigate us through the acquisition process.



Photo Credit: Christa Hay

NCC GEOGRAPHIC REGION

The NCC's region covers Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont. While our current preserves are in New York, we have done management consulting and provided hands-on assistance in other states. The NCC is actively seeking opportunities to acquire or manage cave properties throughout the region.

JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO PRESERVE CAVES AND KARST IN THE NORTHEAST

- Become a member
- Receive our newsletter
- Attend meetings and activities
- Visit a cave or karst area
- Volunteer for committee work or preserve workdays
- Learn about White Nose Syndrome and how NCC efforts help protect bats and their habitat
- Make a tax-deductible financial or land donation



Photo Credit: Art Palmer



Photo Credit: Bill Nettleton



Photo Credit: Rich Lester



Clarksville Cave Cave. Photo Credit: Lance Dickey