

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

Volume 21, Number 3 September 2019



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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 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, September 29, 2019 at 10:00 am
Schoharie, New York

Winter Board Meeting
Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 10:00 am
Speleobooks - Schoharie, New York

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



**ROBERT P. ADDIS - NSS 9958 RECIPIENT OF THE 2019
— VICTOR A. SCHMIDT CONSERVATION AWARD —**

Dear Awards Committee,

As the Northeastern Cave Conservancy celebrates its 40th Anniversary of preserving caves and karst in the northeastern U.S., I can think of no more appropriate person to honor with the NSS' Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award than Robert P. Addis (9958RL, FE) of Cahoes, NY.

In 1978, Bob joined with Art Palmer and Jim Harbison to form a new organization, the Northeastern Cave Conservancy (NCC), primarily for the purpose of accepting Knox Cave, a former New York commercial cave, and conserving it for future generations. In 1999, the NCC changed into a membership organization, and Bob was elected its first President, re-elected every year, and held that position until 2017, a total of 18 years.

During that time, the NCC grew in membership to roughly 200 members today, acquired more caves and karst lands, now numbering 9 preserves with 15 known caves. As part of his Presidential duties, Bob oversaw the preserves and preserve managers, ran quarterly board meetings and intervening executive committee meetings, developed and maintained land-owner relations, and defended caves and karst in legal actions. Bob was the face of the NCC to the public for all this time, attending many outreach events, negotiating with landowners about potential donations, sales, or management of their cave properties.

Bob was particularly dedicated to interfacing with state agencies. This was incredibly important with the onset of White Nose Syndrome, which devastated bat populations in NCC and other nearby caves. Working closely with the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the NCC has been a close partner with the state in surveying, managing, and protecting our caves' bat populations, which are now happily in recovery. Bob was also key in developing and maintaining stewardship relationships with NYDEC on Surprise Cave and with New York's Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation on surveying and managing the caves and karst features of John Boyd Thacher State Park, as well as raising funds for the Children's Cave permanent exhibit at the Park.

Bob supported the NCC and its work in many ways, most enjoyably through his work twice a year at the NSS' NRO (Northeast Regional Organization) cave meets. Acting as auctioneer—always in one fun costume or another—he used his jubilant personality to tease funds out of a cave and cave conservation community to help support the latest cave acquisition or related project.

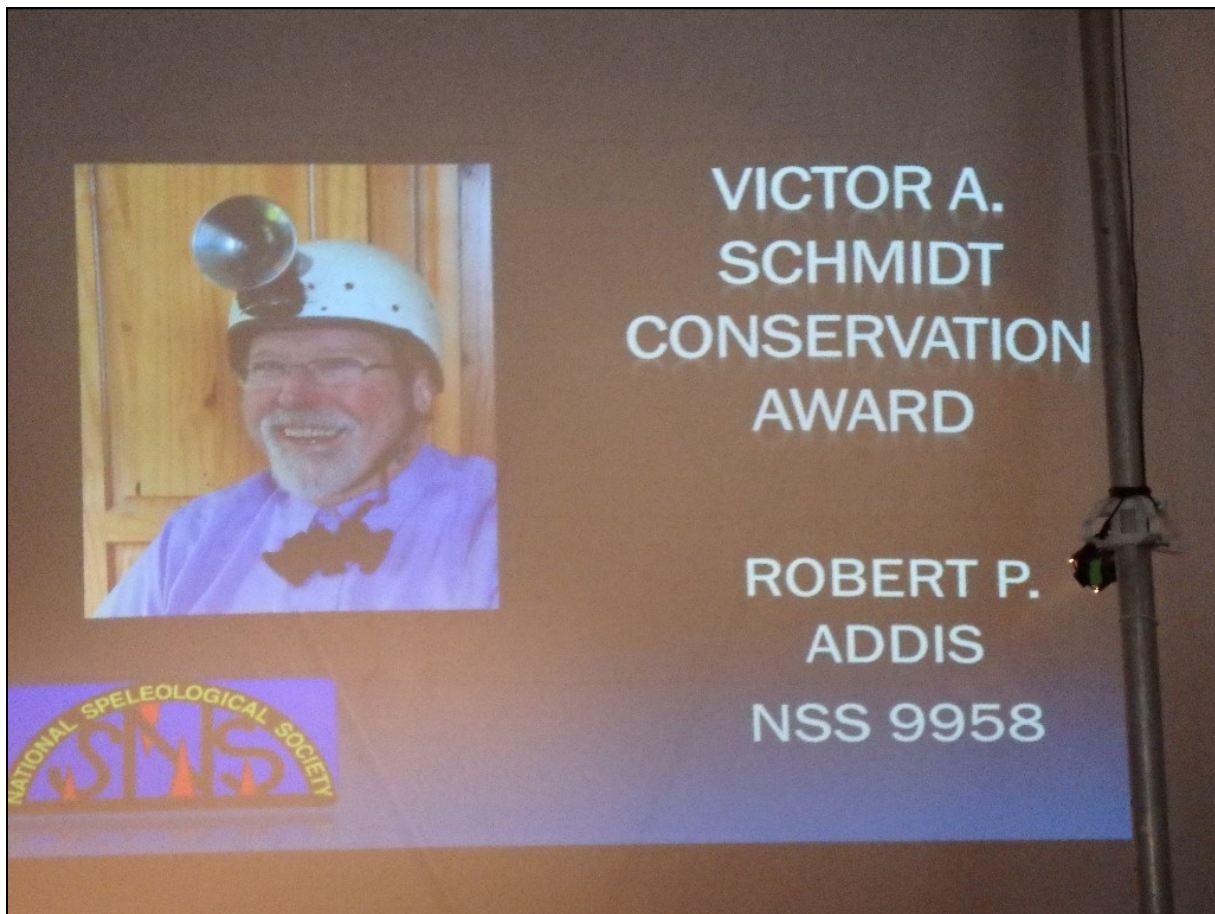
A life-long caver, Bob is well-known in the caving community in many roles, including as an explorer, notably in West Virginia. In Lost World Caverns, formerly Grapevine Cave, he worked as a guide, and gained national celebrity by setting the Guinness Book of World Records for stalagmite sitting, a takeoff on the flagpole sitting phenomenon of the early 20th century. Known as “Nice Bob” of Bob and Bob's caving supplies, he helped serve the caving community with gear for many years, and lays claim to having invented the caving tee shirt. On a more serious note, he has held many grotto positions in numerous grottos, as his educational and professional career moved him around the country. Notably, he also served as a Director of the NSS for 21 years—from 1977 through 1998.

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy and the caving community in general owe so much to Bob for his vision and decades of work and commitment to the conservation of caves in our region. He was honored locally at the NCC's 40th Anniversary Dinner just recently, but it would mean so much more for Bob to have the recognition of the entire NSS for all he has done to conserve caves and karst for future generations. I urge the committee to award Bob Addis the Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Youngbaer,
NSS 16161, CM, FE
Member, NSS Board of Governors
Current Membership Chair, former Vice President and Trustee, Northeastern Cave Conservancy



Photos by Bonnie Pease

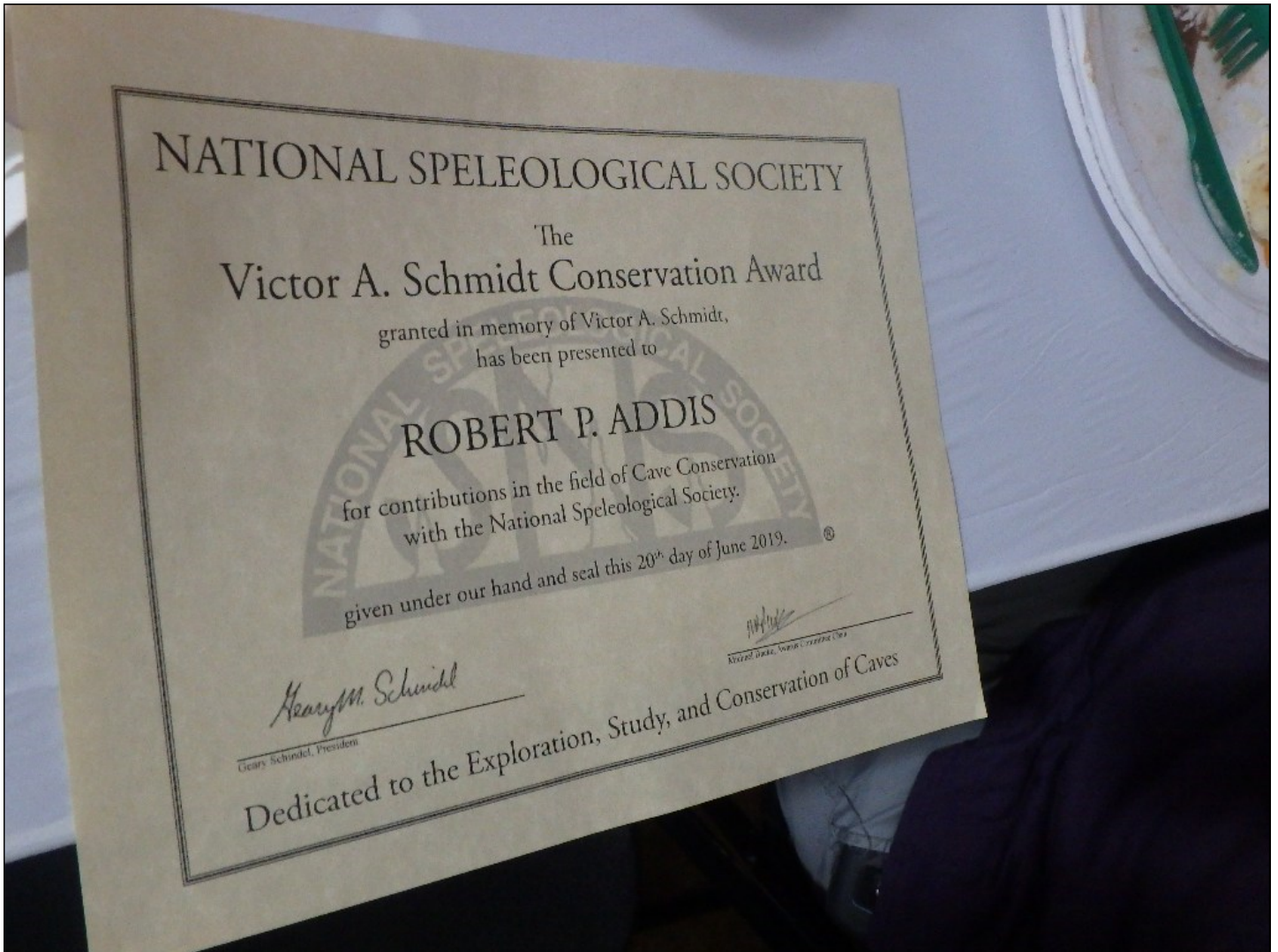


Photo by Bonnie Pease

Dear Awards Committee,

I would like support Robert P. Addis for the Victor A. Schmidt Conservation Award. Bob has devoted 40 years of his life to conserving caves in perpetuity. He has worked in partnership with many cavers and with the NY State Department of Conservation. He personally led me into the world of land trusts and management, an area to which I now devote much of my life. Without Bob's leadership, I would not be doing the work I do for cave conservation.

I can think of no other person that deserves this award more.

Thank you
Emily Davis
NSS 12154 Life, Fellow

OLD TIME BARN DANCE

AT

KNOX CAVE

**11th
Year**

Knox, N.Y. - Octagon Barn, Middle Rd.

Sat. September 28

Dancing 7 to 10PM, Doors open @ 6:30

Featuring Paul Rosenberg & Tamarack

Live fiddle band playing traditional early American, Celtic,
French-Canadian, Old-time and original fiddle tunes

Easy to learn step-by-step contras, squares and folk dances.

No experience necessary, all dances are taught.

Raffle & Door Prizes!



Sponsored by
Northeastern Cave Conservancy

\$10 per person (\$5 for students), \$20 per family, children under 12 free
Refreshments and light snacks will be served