

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

Volume 21, Number 4

December 2019



Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.		
Officers		
President	Bob Simmons	president@necaveconservancy.org
Vice President	Thom Engel	vicepresident@necaveconservancy.org
Secretary	Mitch Berger	secretary@necaveconservancy.org
Treasurer	William Folsom	treasurer@necaveconservancy.org
Board of Trustees		
Devon Hedges		d.hedges@necaveconservancy.org
Jacob Morris-Siegel		j.morris-siegel@necaveconservancy.org
Kevin Dumont		k.dumont@necaveconservancy.org
Erik Nieman		e.nieman@necaveconservancy.org
Ramon Armen		r.armen@necaveconservancy.org
Leslie Hatfield		l.hatfield@necaveconservancy.org
Michael Chu		m.chu@necaveconservancy.org
Morgan Ingalls		m.ingalls@necaveconservancy.org
Wayne Russell		w.russell@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	Norm Berg	nominating@necaveconservancy.org
Fundraising Barn Dance	Vacant 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
	Joey O'Reilly (Sellecks)	sellecks@necaveconservancy.org
	Mitch Berger (Knox)	knox@necaveconservancy.org
	Michael Chu Thom Engel Chuck Porter (Clarksville)	clarksville@necaveconservancy.org
	Erik Neiman (Ella)	ella_armstrong@necaveconservancy.org
	Devon Hedges (Bentleys)	bentleys@necaveconservancy.org
	Morgan Ingalls Jacob Morris-Siegel (Merlins)	merlins@necaveconservancy.org
	Luke Mazza (Bensons)	bensons@necaveconservancy.org
	Kevin Dumont (Spider)	spider@necaveconservancy.org
Liaisons Surprise Cave Thacher Park	Al DeMaria Thom Engel	surprise@necaveconservancy.org thacherpark@necaveconservancy.org
Publications Editor Publisher Publicity	Christa Hay Danny Brass Christa Hay Christa Hay	publications@necaveconservancy.org newsletter@necaveconservancy.org publisher@necaveconservancy.org publicity@necaveconservancy.org
Science	R. Laurence Davis	science@necaveconservancy.org
Technology	Michael Chu	technology@necaveconservancy.org
Investment	John Fioroni	investment@necaveconservancy.org
Risk Management Insurance Liaison	Mitch Berger Mitch Berger	riskmanagement@necaveconservancy.org insurance@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 \$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

In this Issue

Life Members of the NCC.....3
 Old Time Barn Dance.....5
 Nominating Committee Seeks Officer Candidates.6

Next Board Meeting

**Sunday, December 8, 2019 at 10:00 am
 Speleobooks - Schoharie, New York**

Spring Board Meeting

Date and Location To Be Determined

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



**LIFE MEMBERS OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY
THE ANCHORS, HISTORY, AND PRIDE OF OUR EXISTENCE – 2019 UPDATE
— Peter Youngbaer —**

In 2015, I wrote this article about our Life Members. Now, four years later, we’ve seen the number of Life and Family Life Members grow from 43 to 73—a pretty substantial rate. It seemed appropriate to give you all an update. So, here’s the article again, with some tweaks and the updated Life and Family Life Member roster. It’s an impressive group. Are you next?

Life 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 Members’ dues level was and is set at twenty times the annual Regular membership level. That’s currently \$400. 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 commit-

ment and support.

The Life Member funds are invested, with the idea that the principal generates about 5% per year toward operating expenses. This leaves the principal for emergency reserve or to be tapped by action of the Board of Trustees for timely action on cave acquisition.

Candidly, it’s also a hedge against inflation. The NCC has only raised its dues once, 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, our then-NCC President, and one of the original founders, “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 as of October 30, 2019

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| L #1 Robert Addis | FL #39 Connie LaPorta |
| L #2 Dean Snyder | L #40 Peri Frantz |
| L #3 John Keough | FL #41 Bill Frantz |
| L #4 Vince Kappler | L #42 Nigel Dyson-Hudson |
| L #5 Ken Nichols | L #43 Seth Perlman |
| L #6 Thom Engel | L #44 Kevin Downey |
| L #7 Paul Dower | L #45 Cara Gentry |
| L #8 Chuck Porter | L #46 Tom Rider |
| L #9 John Taylor | L #47 Leslie Hatfield |
| L #10 Fred Stone * | FL #48 Ellen Schwartz |
| L #11 Brian Pease | L #49 Jacob Morris-Siegel |
| L #12 Bonnie Pease | L #50 Mark Dickey |
| L #13 Jim Harbison | L #51 Al Hicks |
| L #14 Alvin DeMaria | L #52 Jim Moore |
| L #15 Donald Klein | L #53 Thomas (TB) Walker |
| L #16 Alan Traino* | L #54 John Mylroie |
| L #17 Peggy Palmer | FL #55 Joan Mylroie |
| L #18 Art Palmer | L #56 Peter Lenahan |
| L #19 Mitchell Berger | L #57 Robert Simmons |
| L #20 Michael Tennant | FL #58 Terry Ann Simmons |
| L #21 Bru Randall | L #59 Larry Bernier |
| L #22 Christa Hay | L #60 David Lasker |
| L #23 Joe Light | L #61 Morgan Ingalls |
| L #24 Rich Lester | L #62 Mike Chu |
| L #25 Steven Millett | L #63 Craig Cantello |
| L #26 Kathleen Lavoie | L #64 Kim Metzgar |
| L #27 Andrew Boardman | L #65 Tom Metzgar |
| L #28 Teresa Berger | L #66 Ron Carlson |
| L #29 Mike Bourgeois | L #67 Tom Kinsky |
| L #30 Matthew O'Donnell | L #68 Paul Rubin |
| L #31 Peter Youngbaer | L #69 Marcia Middleton (In
Memory of Jack) |
| FL #32 Jane Youngbaer | L #70 John Dunham |
| FL #33 Susan Kappler | L #71 Charlene Sandonato |
| FL #34 Felicia Milet | L #72 Ramon Armon |
| L #35 Dr. R. Laurence Davis | L #73 Dean Russell |
| L #36 Julie Russell | |
| FL #37 Wayne Russell | |
| L #38 Norman Berg | |

* Deceased

The 11th-annual Barn Dance to benefit the NCC was held at the Octagon Barn in Delanson, NY on Saturday, September 28th, 2019. Over 40 attendees enjoyed the music and calling of Paul Rosenberg and Tamarack. Many people went home with items won during two rounds of raffle drawings, including many local items, gift certificates, and a hand-sewn quilt valued at over \$500. As usual, the Rensselaer Outing Club from RPI was well represented.

Many thanks to all of those who attended, volunteered, and donated items for the raffle! Hope to see everyone again for the 12th-annual dance in 2020!

Kevin Dumont



All photos by Kevin Dumont



If using Amazon, keep in mind that if you go via this link, the NCC gets a donation:
https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ext_ch_13

NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY (NCC)

At the December 8, 2019 NCC meeting, the Trustees will elect the President and the Secretary, each for a two-year term. If you would like to be considered for either of these positions, would like to nominate someone for a position, or would just like more information on the process and requirements, please contact the NCC Nominating Committee at nominating@necaveconservancy.org.

The last day to submit nominations is November 30, 2019. Then the Nominating Committee will present the submitted candidates' information to the Trustees.

General Requirements:

Candidates need to be current members of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy.

Please email a pdf file, as an attachment, with your contact information, relevant experience, and what you would bring to the NCC to nominating@necaveconservancy.org. You will receive a reply confirming receipt.

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

A summary of the election process and terms can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ss-IJ4LfcXbCuopMyMYE6h0kJcYIPcaiEum-MxnSyDo/edit?usp=sharing>.

A summary of each officer position is listed below, followed by a link to a more detailed description.

President:

The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the NCC, and supervises the activities of the NCC within the scope detailed in the bylaws of the NCC. The President presides at meetings of the Board of Directors. Various committees report to the President as well as any ad hoc committees established for specific purposes.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-XTGojJ0AvE6zsGkMWRsriBNmu7y4hQXXoAnKsYAr_c/edit?usp=sharing

Secretary:

The Secretary keeps the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and maintains the membership roll. The Secretary is also responsible for all organizational correspondence, sends out notices of meetings, and edits the Board Manual.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11CQieJNdNDR4Ko1NfkviecUKF5Qog20O5jv0DS9dCgY/edit?usp=sharing>

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

PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY (NCC)

Summary Description

This position can be based anywhere in the Northeast.

As leader of the organization, the President oversees the following committees: Executive, Acquisitions, Cave Preserves, Nominating, Risk Management, and several Ad Hoc Committees.

The President is responsible for providing dynamic leadership for the planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of mission-related programs, revenue-generation and financial-management strategies, partnerships, community relations, legislative relations, marketing/public relations, strategic and annual planning, and other key areas.

The President serves as the primary spokesperson for the organization with funders and stakeholders. As part of the President's responsibilities, s/he will formally and informally present reports, updates, and results to the Board of Directors on a periodic basis, which will include regular Board meetings and specific committee meetings.

The President will be responsible for supporting the development and advancement of a vision for the NCC's impact in the Northeast, for its continuing growth, for ensuring financial viability, and for building collaborative relationships in the region.

Specific Responsibilities

As chief executive officer of the NCC, the President is responsible for the efficient operation of the conservancy. This shall include performance, or timely delegation to the Vice-President or other officer, of the following duties:

Chairs quarterly Board and Executive Committee meetings.

Facilitates the orderly transaction of land trust business and the attainment of land trust purposes, including the proper functioning of standing committees.

Signs policy and fiscal documents with prior authorization from the Board of Directors.

Signs routine administrative documents, such as reports on behalf of the NCC, and letters relating to fundraising and similar activities.

Serves as the principal representative of the land trust at public functions.

Seeks, obtains, and transmits regular reports from NCC committees.

Sets overall NCC priorities, including short- and long-term goals, with other members of the Board.

Actively works with the Acquisitions Committee on acquiring new cave preserves.

Actively works with the Cave Preserve Committees on stewardship matters.

Performs other duties at the request of the Board of Trustees.

Proactively cultivates and solicits donors and prospects.

Works toward annual fundraising goals.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree or higher desired.

Demonstrated ability to provide forward-looking leadership to the organization to enhance its impact, while growing and maintaining effective partnerships.

Significant experience working with volunteer boards and/or other groups.

Superb verbal and written communication skills.

Leadership, diplomacy, and negotiation skills required.

Ability to work effectively as part of a team and without daily supervision.

Ability to work quickly, meet deadlines, and multitask.

Organized and attentive to details.

Willingness to travel extensively.

Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including occasional weekends.

Computer proficiency, especially with Microsoft Office and email.

Passion for saving land, caves, and karst features is a must. Knowledge of private land-conservation techniques and/or land trusts highly desirable.

An understanding of the landscape and culture of New York and New England is strongly preferred.

Development experience in individual major gift fundraising, including significant experience with face-to-face solicitations.

Compensation

This is a volunteer position and does not provide any compensation. However, reasonable expenses incurred while attending external meetings, conferences, and seminars relating to official NCC business, and expenses related to land trust projects may be reimbursed if approved by the Board.

Category

Officer

SECRETARY OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY (NCC)

Summary Description

This position can be based anywhere in the Northeast.

The Secretary is an officer of the NCC who actively participates in the Executive Committee, Board meetings, and other meetings as needed. S/he is an integral part of the leadership of the organization, responsible for managing and recording internal and external communications and assisting with coordination between various committees.

Specific Responsibilities

The Secretary is responsible for the following:

Attend Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and other meetings as needed.

Prepare the Secretary's Report and Board-meeting agenda, collect committee reports and minutes, and circulate them to all Trustees at least one week prior to the quarterly Board meetings.

Maintain the schedule for preserve management-plan reviews and advise the appropriate managers accordingly.

Announce committee vacancies and bylaw votes to the general membership.

Attend Board meetings, take minutes, circulate draft minutes to Trustees for edits and corrections, make edits and corrections to the minutes, and post final minutes on the website.

Take minutes at Executive Committee meetings and participate in decisions on the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Edit, update, and publish the Board Manual on the website after each Board meeting.

Prepare and disseminate all official organization correspondence.

Initiate an email discussion with Board members and others, should there be any urgent business between regularly scheduled meetings requiring immediate attention. Manage and record any votes taken by the Board on such issues.

Send out notices of meetings.

Work proactively to achieve fundraising goals.

Perform other duties at the request of the Board of Directors.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree or higher desired.

Demonstrated ability to provide forward-looking leadership to the organization to enhance its impact while growing and maintaining effective partnerships.

Significant experience working with volunteer boards and/or other groups.

Superb verbal and written communication skills.

Leadership, diplomacy, and negotiation skills required.

Ability to work effectively as part of a team and without daily supervision.

Ability to work quickly, meet deadlines, and multitask.

Organized and attentive to details.

Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including occasional weekends.

Computer proficiency, especially with Microsoft Office and email. Passion for saving land, caves, and karst features a must.

Compensation

This is a volunteer position and does not provide any compensation. However, reasonable expenses incurred while attending external meetings, conferences, and seminars relating to official NCC business, and expenses related to NCC projects may be reimbursed if approved by the Board.

Category

Officer