

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 25th, 2005, 11:00AM
at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center,
Delmar, NY

Next Exec. Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 27th, 2005, 3:00PM
at the Schoharie Cabin, Schoharie, NY
NCC BBQ to follow the meeting, around 5PM

Notes from the Last Board Meeting

- 1) The winners of the election for the trustees were Bob Simmons, Mike Chu and Vince Kappler (re-elected)
- 2) Thanks go to outgoing trustees Mike Warner and Al Lehman for their hard work
- 3) Negotiations with Pompeys owner are progressing
- 4) Thanks to Melanie Peterson for the startup work on the on-line database
- 5) New website design in the workings - thanks to Seth Perlman, Bill Folsom. Mike Chu will help Norm Berg with the update.
- 6) Peter Youngbaer looked into the issue of Directors and Officers Liability and will continue with General Liability.
- 7) Volunteer Value Tracking - Vince Kappler will provide information on the tracking of work to help us as we grow and our next level of professionalism and it can help with the grant process.
- 8) Jason Siemion as appointed the new Sellecks Karst Preserve manager. Thanks to Jon Allison for previous years as the manager.
- 9) A management plan will be written for Pompeys Cave. Mark Folsom to work with Thom Engel on this. Mark has done much work on the cave over the past years.

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Deadline for next issue – 10/30/2005

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<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;">Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. P.O. Box 254 Schoharie, N.Y. 12157</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.caves.org/conservancy/ncc/</p>		

Stewards Still Needed for Clarksville

We still need people to sign up to steward at Clarksville Cave. Please do your part and sign up for at least a day on the preserve.

TO SIGN UP AS A CLARKSVILLE STEWARD:

Only one signup is needed for each group. Go to <http://chum2.dyndns.org/calendar/> and sign in with "ncc" for user name and "signup" for password. You will then be able to place your name or your grotto name on the calendar and also see who else has signed up and for which days.

Thanks a lot and have fun at Clarksville this year!

Mike Chu
Thom Engel
Chuck Porter

Clarksville Cave co-managers

On the Knox Property By Emily Davis

There has been heavy use of the Knox Cave property this summer. Most of it has been per our management plan and with permission. We have had several beer cans found in the entrance area and a large pile of rocks in the main room. The rocks are a mystery as Mike Nardacci, who reported them, can not figure out where they came from.

We have had some great instant stewardship on the property as well. Eva Hunter and her girl scout troop had a conservation, safety and landowner discussion with some folks who entered the property while they were there. Whenever visiting the property, help out the managers by passing on the permit and permission system information to anyone you meet.

NCKMS 2005

Final plans are in motion for the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium in Albany, New York, October 31 to November 4 being hosted by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. Full information and online registration is available at <http://www.nckms.org/2005>

Elery Hamilton-Smith will be the banquet speaker at the symposium this year. He is currently Professor in Environmental Studies at Charles Stuart University, Australia. He heads the Cave and Karst Management Program and is Chair of the IUCN/WCPA Task Force on Cave and Karst Protection. The National Cave and Karst Research Institute is partnering with the Northeastern Cave Conservancy and the 2005 NCKMS to bring Elery Hamilton-Smith to a variety of institutions across the country enroute the the Symposium. Kartchner Caverns, New Mexico Tech, NCKRI, Texas State Parks, Blanchard Springs USFS, The National Caves Association, Mammoth Cave, The Virginia Karst Board are all tentatively on the schedule for this tour culminating in the 2005 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium.

Diana Northup will present the keynote address on the topic "Partnering with Scientists to Enhance Cave and Karst Management." She has studied biospeleology since 1984. She studies cave microbial communities and their interactions with minerals with colleagues in the Subsurface Life in Mineral Environments (SLIME) team. She is a Professor in the Science and Engineering Library and an Associate Professor in Biology (University of New Mexico).

The early registration deadline (\$25.00 discount) has been extended to September 16. This date is also the deadline for abstract submission. A number of abstracts have already been submitted and may be previewed on the website. A list of preregistered attendees as well as full

presentation schedule will be posted in September.

Online registration is available for the George N Huppert Scholarship Program, also on the <http://www.nckms.org/2005> site. The deadline is August 31. Funding is available for both housing and registration.

The staff listing on the website provides contact information for any question you may have. I will be in Greece the last two weeks in August, and hope to encourage further international attendance.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Albany,

Mike Warner
Chair, 2005 NCKMS

Cleanup of Baugh Cave

I have put this clean-up off long enough. I will make myself available to anyone willing to help out on this project, it really needs people to make this work.

The Cave: a beautiful example of NY caving at its best. You need skills, either on rope, or cable ladder, to get down the entrance (~30 ft. or so) then its a fun cave. There is a few chimneys and other caving "tricks" that will bring you down to the bottom of the cave (--126 ft. nice) The trash: this is the one people, if you think of yourself as a caver who cares. SHOW ME.

This cave doesn't have a couple of pieces of trash in it, its full of trash from some idiot who thought it was a good place to dump junk. My goal: is to make this cave clean again. (period) We have already cleaned a lot of the main passage making getting through the cave passable.

Really what we need is a large crew of cavers willing to clean up a cave. What will I do with the trash? My hope is to involve the community, and the area trash collectors, dreaming that a little good PR is worth helping us out. In order to help, ask a caving

friend/group to come out some time in the next two months, (Aug/Sept) there, no pressure no reason for excuses. You pick the time, any night, any weekend, and I will be there. Please arrange any cleanup trips through me, as this will make it easier with the landowner. The digging of new and undiscovered caves will just have to wait. If you want to help..

Progress to date. There have been at least 4 trips to clean, resulting in at least 40 "asswheat bags" being filled. Tires and other larger things have been staged for removal. We need help. Remember, just let me know, I'll drop everything to get this cave clean.

Thank you all, Joe
Home #(518)295-6281
Cell # (518)378-9743
e-mail -- gonecaving@hotmail.com

Knox Property Kiosk *By Jay Siemion*

Over the past month we have got the Knox kiosk up as well as put up trail markers on the Knox and Sellecks Properties. I will be sending out an email to the list at some point about a work day over at Sellecks, possibly cleaning up a few of the junk piles still on the property and doing some work on the bolts in Levy's and Sellecks. Visitation to the Sellecks Property has been minimal this summer according to the register, although I did see a local person checking out the property. Very friendly guy who was interested in what we were doing. Good reason to have information posted at all our properties!

OTR *By Bob Addis*

The NCC will have its tent and booth on Vendor's Row again this year, and we encourage NCC members to stop by and do a little booth sitting over the weekend.

Different this year will be the sale of items from the NCC booth. Already we have had donated 2 bottles of fine cave wine and a few

old publications certain to interest the speleocollector. Please look around you for donations to the NCC and make them significant! Art, books, cave videos, etc, but get them to someone going to OTR if you are not attending. Emily Davis & Mike Warner are only in town Aug. 28 & 29 and running around between trips, so we suggest that you get your items to someone else. Call Bob Addis or Christa Hay, 237-1165, to get them in our truck.

OTHER CONSERVANCIES *By Bob Addis*

We receive newsletters from some of the other cave conservancies, and I try to pass them around to the board. There are often good ideas to be shared and certainly there will be items of news interest to us.

In WVCC's "The Open Cave", they outlined a program that they have started to mark storm drains that lead into caves as a way to cut down on groundwater pollution. The Indiana Karst Conservancy had tried to stencil drains but found it labor intensive so they affix colorful markers to educate the public. WVCC has found grant money and also has the cooperation of several cities in marking storm drains with an attractive three color circle saying "No Dumping. Drains to Cave. Clean Water. West Virginia". They were asking for volunteers to help install them at the Spring VAR, so I will follow this program. I'm not certain that this will have widespread application in the Northeast, but I'm open to suggestions about specific sites.

Another success story for the WVCC is the video surveillance of Island Fort Cave, VA, the cave seen on the north side of I-64 as you drive towards WV. A donated camera has been placed 20 ft. up a wall and seems to have cut down on the wasted brochures that were littering the cave and being used to start a fire in the cave. "...Legitimate cavers are now much more reluctant to change clothes in the entrance area, for fear of finding themselves on the internet". Probably that's a tongue-in-cheek joke from Alex Sproul, but to

be sure it isn't, stop into Inner Mountain Outfitters (Alex's) at OTR and watch his running cave videos!



The new kiosk at the Knox Preserve



Peg Palmer in the Gunbarrel, by Art Palmer 1969

Upcoming Events

NCC Exec. Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 27th, 2005, 3:00PM at the Schoharie Cabin, Schoharie, NY
NCC BBQ to follow the meeting, around 5PM

Plum Festival

Saturday, September 24th, 2005 at Clarksville.
<http://bcsd.k12.ny.us/clarksville/captions.pdf>
(2nd page)

Fall NRO

September 16-18 in Hancock MA

NCC Board Meeting

Sunday, September 25th 2005, 11:00AM
at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center,
Delmar, NY



Changing area at Clarksville (side view)



Changing area at Clarksville (front view)