

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Minutes

Submitted by Christa Hay

12/04/05 Speleobooks, Schoharie, NY 11:00 am

Meeting called to order at 11:02 am

1. Introduction and greetings – President Bob Addis
2. Attendance:
Officers: B. Addis, B. Folsom, J. Levinson, C. Hay
Trustees: J. Allison, J. Armstrong, M. Chu, J. DeGroff, V. Kappler, J. Siemion, B. Simmons, P. Youngbaer
3. Absent without Proxy
 - Sean Ryan proxy for P. Murphy (voted in by Board)
4. P. Murphy has put in his resignation as Trustee.
5. Nominating Committee Report – M. Martuscello - Attachment A-1 (at end of document)
6. Addis moved to convene a meeting of the Trustees to elect Officers. V. Kappler will preside over the elections as Chairman of the Trustees and will report.
2nd by Simmons
Passed unanimously
Kappler moved to re-elect the three officers by acclamation.
2nd by Simmons
Passed unanimously
- Kappler closed the meeting of the Trustees and reported the results to the full Board and also thanked the Officers on behalf of the Trustees for the past year service to the NCC
7. Addis moved to thank Joe Levinson for his years of service (1999-2005) as Treasurer.
2nd by Chu
Passed unanimously
8. Addis moved to thank P. Murphy for his years of service as Trustee.
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
9. Addis moved to appoint J. Levinson as transitional Treasurer with full voting authority until replacement.
2nd by Folsom
Passed unanimously
10. President's Report – Bob Addis- Attachment A
 - 9a. Land Use Advisory ad hoc Committee – committee has started research on municipality regulations.
 - b. A. Lehamn – pro-bono lawyer for legal opinions.
11. Vice President's Report –Bill Folsom – Attachment B
 - 10a. Pompeys ad hoc Committee - Attachment B
12. Treasurer's Report – Joe Levinson – Attachment C
13. Secretary's Report – Christa Hay
 - Status quo
 - All minutes are being put in pdf format as to html or word and will be available on the web.

- Electronic Votes: (motions from September 2005 meeting)
Addis moved the NCC sponsor up to three workshops, one field trip, and one banquet ticket to the NCKMS to be given to any NCC member indicating interest. Selection will be done by an electronic board vote on October 7, 2005.
2nd by Youngbaer
For – Rest, Against – Levinson
Passed

There was not a need for an electronic vote as to who would attend since we got the right number of people requesting the sponsored tickets. Those members responding were: Joanne Stokowski and Peter Youngbaer for Project Underground, Joe Armstrong for Bat Workshop, Alan Traino for the field trip (due to circumstance Alan was not able to make it – Joe Armstrong will be reimbursed for his field trip), Bob Addis for the banquet.

Addis moved _____ and _____ be given the complimentary registrations to the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium to be held in Albany, NY Oct. 31 to Nov. 4, 2005. These registrations were given to all sponsoring organizations.
2nd by Kappler
Folsom moved to postpone the filling of the blanks until October 7, 2005.
2nd by Allison
Passed unanimously
Postponed until October 7

These blanks were filled in with Bill Folsom and Steve McLuckie.

- Acquisitions Committee Report –Chuck Porter – no report received
 - B. Addis updates on Beckers- group was able to get scoping letter into the state – 11 concerns.
 - Caves of the Cobbles in Vermont – P. Youngbaer drafting a letter to the owner.
- Conservation Committee Report - Joe Armstrong
 - Working on process for starting baseline data gathering. Has contacted SUNY Cobleskill for help.
 - Folsom and Youngbaer discussion on Green Berkshires – against wind power – bat surveys.
- Publications/Publicity Committee Report - Christa Hay
 - The NCC new display board was set up at the NCKMS.
 - NCC baseball caps are ready.
 - NCC polo shirts were ordered for the NCC board attending the NCKMS. Another order will be going in for the beginning of the year.
 - All newsletters will be available in pdf format on the web.
- Fundraising Committee Report - Alan Traino
 - Fundraising has nothing to report at this time. Waiting for the go on Pompeys.
- Office Committee Report – Emily Davis / Mike Warner
 - Progress: The office participated in helping run the NCKMS. We have been able to continue office reports in a timely fashion.
 - Problems: None
 - Plans: We need to send out donation letters to all those who sponsored part of NCKMS. I will produce this letter and have the President and Treasurer look at it before it goes out. We also need to produce the final budget report, send out several refunds and transfer extra funds from NCKMS to the national office and close out that account.
- Knox Cave Preserve Report – Emily Davis
 - Progress (and plans): We are discussing methods of turning Knox into a park and go caving for independent cavers over 18. Thom and I still want permits for windows but these could be sent out ahead as we will not continue using a single trip sign in sheet or they could be faxed. We plan to present a clear plan to the board for change in the spring.
 - Problems: There continues to be minor trespassing. We need to have all NCC members help keep an eye on the property.

20. Onesquethaw Cave Preserve Report – Thom Engel – no report received

21. Sellecks Karst Preserve Report – Jason Siemion

- This caving season the Sellecks property saw 20 people going caving, 5 people doing surface visits, and 6 maintenance trips by NCC members. New bolts are in and the zipline has been removed. Property Boundary signs should be up before next caving season. A pile of old glass bottles was cleaned up from the parking area. Members are reminded to please help clean up garbage they find on the property. If you complain about garbage on the property be prepared to volunteer to help clean it up!
- Management Plan Review: Attachment D

22. Simmons moved to accept Sellecks management plan as submitted.
2nd by Kappler
Passed unanimously

23. Clarksville Preserve Report – Mike Chu, Thom Engel, Chuck Porter – no report received

- Stewardship program for 2006? – Chu will check with rest of management team.

24. Ella Armstrong Preserve Report – Joe Armstrong

- The kiosk is almost a reality; it now is on the property, though not assembled, or "set in stone" yet. With the help of Jay, who built it, and Mike Chu who helped bring it there, thanks guys. I plan to put some rocks in the streambed to make safer a piece of steel holding back the stream cobbles. That and the kiosk have been donated and are of no cost. A "filter" for debris will also be added to prevent trash from flowing in from the road.

- Management Plan Review:
Here are the changes that I'd like to make to the interim management plan at Ella Armstrong. I was not the property manager when it was written, or when the property was being bought. So that there may be some difference from then to now, but I hope to show just cause to the board for any changes I may ask for.

Surface Management- There should be changes made to the making of a driveway, and the fence too. No fires, no camping, no firewood, no permission.

Equipment Requirements- There are 3 new bolts-- 1 is a bolt set-up to be a safety to go out to rig. 2 bolts are set-up to rig off of. Making the tree unnecessary to rig to. The group should access the bolts and be sure that they are safe before going down, if they are not safe, it should be recorded in the sign in book, and the property manager should be contacted. Of COURSE DON'T USE UNSAFE BOLTS

Access Policy- Instead of trip cards, I'd like to use a notepad, like the other properties. I'd put it in a chocolate candy box to keep the mice from making it into a nest. It would have info like time in and out, who visited the cave and when. This will be kept in the kiosk (once its put up).

Exploration Rules- The property manager is willing to go see the dig, at any time to give permission. To also make sure the diggers are doing it in a manner, that is proper, and how they said they would. The spoils will need to be dealt with in a proper manner, not spoiling the caving experience of others.

Rescue Consideration- The mock rescue should be X-ed too, hopefully no need of rescue will be necessary at Ella. If that need arises we will do what is needed to remove the caver. We don't as I know it go to the tightest caves and do mock rescues, just to see where we need help. What old bolts? I do remember an old peton in the back at the top of the up-climb. That should and will be done before winter. Will have a pre-plan for rescue but no mock rescue.

Future Plans- 1- Old bolts? 2- Bolting the old entrance climb? What -- this makes no sense. Its 12-15 feet! Half the distance of the Great Divide (across the street at Knox) 3- The parking area 4- The fence

25. Siemion moved to postpone Ella Armstrong management plan changes until March meeting.
2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

Motion postponed until March, 2006.

26. Membership Report – Sean Ryan

- Emily printed out an up-to-date paper copy of the membership list to work with. Members' current statuses can be jotted down on it in pen, until the online database becomes the official repository of the list.
- Norm has sent Excel files of the online database, so it can be updated without going through the online access (it works well for small entries, but is a bit laborious when you're updating the entire list of names). I'll hopefully have this done and back to Norm by the time of the meeting.
- On line database is mostly up to-date.

27. Website Subcommittee Report – Norm Berg

- Email aliases have been set up for the Officers and Committee Chairs. This system enables one publicly available email address to go to a one or more personal email addresses. Using aliases hides the personal email addresses from the public, plus the addresses are listed on the website in a way that prevents harvesting of email addresses by spammers. If this system interests the Trustees, I can set up email aliasing up for them.
- I request that those that have email aliasing, to send an email to their alias address to verify that the email goes to an email address that they check.
- Sean Ryan is in the process of updating the membership database with current data.
- Mike Chu has been updating the NCC preserve pages with maps and photos.
- Mike Chu to teach Office committee how to use new database.

28. Land Trust Liaison Committee Report – Jon Allison

- I have been in touch with Dan Driscoll at the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy (formerly ACLC) about the Gregory Entrance Easement. He was going to figure out exactly what needed to be done on the MHLIC's side at their meeting on 11/21. I have started a draft easement for Onesquethaw, but it is a slightly harder parcel to work with (farming, second entrance sink). I would also like a little run time with the Gregory Easement to make sure there aren't any glitches in the process. By their nature these easements are permanent, and I don't want to rush in.
- Bill Folsom sent me some contact info on the Columbia Land Conservancy. I have sent an email to see if any progress had been made with respect to Indian Oven, but have not had any reply yet. As of meeting -there has been no progress on their end.
- Gregory Entrance – working on the conservation easement. Need name change.

29. NCKMS 2005 Report - Mike Warner

- Letter from Cheryl Jones
- The 2005 NCKMS hosted by the NCC drew very favorable comments. See Cheryl Jones attached letter.
- The event was attended by slightly more than 100 participants. NCC members from the region were well represented during both the workshops and during the week. Around 85 people attended the banquet on Thursday evening at which NCC founders Bob Addis, Art Palmer and Jim Harbison were honored.
- The final accounting has not been completed, but the event was clearly in the black. The NCKMS received \$2600 in scholarship money which was used by about a dozen attendees. In addition, \$1,000 was contributed to the NCKMS by the steering committee to cover expenses related to the attendance of guest speaker Elery Hamilton-Smith. We should be returning most or all of these funds to the steering committee for use at future events.
- The board of the NCC should feel good about the representations of the NCC made during the field trip and in sessions. Over 12 NCC members worked as volunteers in the conference staff, all at their own expense. As Cheryl Jones points out, the NCC's participation in this event not only will enhance our reputation (and resultant relationships), but the reputation of

all cave and karst based conservancies in the eyes of professional karst managers and scientists.

- The Land Trust Alliance had a representative at this meeting. This was the first attendance of an LTA member at a karst related event. They now plan on attending a Cave Conservancies Forum planned for next fall.
- Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about agencies or organizations in attendance.
- I wish to thank the board for their participation in what has been a two year project. Although much of the process has been in the political realm, the outcome should have real benefit to the fundamental mission of the NCC.

30. Legal Committee Report – Dan Werner – no report received

31. Special and Group Use Coordinators – Aaron and Amy Cox – no report received

32. Financial and Investments Committee – Paul Murphy – no report received. Position now vacant.

33. Ad hoc Committee - Volunteer Value – Vince Kappler – Attachment E

Lunch break 12:32 – 12:46

34. Addis moved to open the Committee of the Whole. The Vice President will preside.

2nd by Levinson

Passed unanimously

- Folsom – Eldon French, MA has a conservation easement on entire woods.
- Folsom – need to form an Education Committee.
- Folsom – discussion on dues increase for membership \$15 - \$20 and Family \$5 - \$10.
- Simmons – Lifetime membership needs to be removed from bylaws in board manual.

35. Folsom moved to close the Committee of the Whole.

2nd by DeGroff

Passed unanimously

36. Hay moved to accept the minutes of the September 25, 2005 meeting.

2nd by Allison

Passed unanimously

37. Addis moved Mike Warner, Chairman, be thanked for his efforts to host a successful NCKMS.

2nd by Simmons

Passed unanimously

38. Levinson moved to accept the 2006 budget as attached in the treasurer's report.

2nd by Youngbaer

Addis moved to postpone until after new business.

2nd by Folsom

Passed unanimously

39. Youngbaer moved that the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. purchase basic liability insurance and volunteer accident coverage through the Conserve-a-Nation program.

2nd by Simmons

Postponed from September board meeting

Allison moved to postpone until March meeting.

2nd by Levinson

Passed unanimously

Postponed until March, 2006

40. Youngbaer moved that the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. join the Land Trust Alliance.

2nd by Folsom

Postponed from September board meeting

Levinson moved to postpone until March meeting.

2nd by Allison

Passed unanimously

Postponed until March, 2006

41. Informational Point: The President will serve as Chairman of the Becker's Cave ad hoc committee to study the possible acquisition of Becker's Cave, Schoharie County, NY.

42. Addis moved the Officers will select the EC meeting place, date and time. This will be reported to the Board and Membership.

2nd by Folsom

For – rest, Opposed – Youngbaer

Passed

43. Addis moved that Article V: Trustees, be amended by adding a section 9 to read:

Vacancies: In the event that one or more vacancies develop, the Board may appoint interim Trustees. Their term shall run until a successor to each vacancy can be elected thru the normal election process. The elected successor then serves the remainder of the full term.

(This is a Bylaws change requiring a 21 days' notice to the membership and a 2/3's vote of those members attending the March 2006 meeting.)

44. Folsom moved Joe Levinson be appointed as Bylaws Committee Chair.

2nd by Hay

For – rest, Abstained – Levinson

Passed

45. Addis moved to establish the Volunteer Value Committee under the Treasurer.

2nd by Simmons

Passed unanimously

46. Folsom moved to establish the Education Committee, for the purpose of coordinating educational outreach to schools and other groups. The Education Committee is under the President.

2nd by Hay

Passed unanimously

47. Levinson moved to accept the 2006 budget as attached in the treasurer's report.

2nd by Youngbaer

Passed unanimously

48. Allison moved to move Publicity, Publication and Newsletter Publisher committee to the Publication and Publicity Committee.

2nd by Hay

Motion withdrawn

49. Informational Point: The Officers will conduct an Executive Committee meeting on February 12, 2006 in Kerhonkson at 11:00 am.

50. Addis moved that the next NCC Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2006 in Vermont (Details to follow).

2nd by Simmons

For – rest, Abstained – Levinson

Passed

51. Addis moved to thank Speleobooks for providing meeting place and lunch.

2nd by Levinson

Passed unanimously

52. Addis moved to adjourn.
2nd by Levinson
Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Attachment A-1

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY
December 4, 2005

1. Calls for nominees for the executive offices of the NCC brought no new nominations for this year's election.
2. Most of the incumbent officers have graciously agreed to sit for another term in their respective office. The current Treasurer had declined to run for another term.
3. The Nominating Committee hereby submits the following names for the consideration of the Board:
 - For President: Robert Addis
 - For Vice President: Bill Folsom
 - For Secretary: Christa Hay
 - For Treasurer: OPEN

There are no other items to report at this time. As always, the Nominating Committee requests all Board Members, Officers and Members to consider and inform the committee of likely candidates for the 2006 Board elections and Officers positions.

Sincerely,

Mike Martuscello
NCC Nominating Committee Chair

Attachment A
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
12/04/05

Fall 2005 has been a busy time for the NCC, and the fall newsletter (V7, N4) had great content. Several authors highlighted those events and contributed to the newsletter. Take some time to look it over, even a second time. This is what the NCC should be!

Fall 2005 was particularly busy for me – a surprise birthday party followed by 4 days on Cape Cod, unexpected major surgery, the NCKMS, NSS Board of Governors weekend where I did the pre-registration while convalescing, and then the preparation of the NCC's comments about Becker's Cave being threatened by an expansion of limestone mining. I had literally scores of knowledgeable volunteers helping on all of the above, and it proved to me once again the power of the NCC membership.

Quick Recap:

1. Gregory Entrance, Clarksville Cave turned over to the NCC by Albany County. Conservation easement going to the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy.
2. Plum Fest, Sept. 24 in Clarksville was a good interaction with the community. He had 80 visitors at our booth in the parking lot, 8 volunteers, Thom Engel led a surface geology tour of a dozen or so local citizens.
3. Baugh Cave cleanup continued with some NCC members helping and Trustee Joe Armstrong leading the effort.

4. NCC statement on the Lawton subdivision near Benson's Cave read to Town of Cobleskill Planning Board advocating special engineering practices in karst areas. They were implemented.
5. NCC hosted NCKMS along with others. Very successful, and the NCC received numerous comments on how we manage our cave preserves. I believe that the NCC has now gone national in its creditability as cave managers.
6. Cobleskill Stone Products has an application into the DEC to expand its Schoharie quarry, and as the plan initially showed removal of about one half of Becker's Cave. On Nov. 18th we formally petitioned the DEC to consider 10 other points about the cave and karst in general. Probably other local interest groups and individuals did the same, so we now wait to see what more is required of CSP in revising their Environmental Impact Statement –the purpose of this exercise. What is underneath the term, “formal petition”, is the immediate response by cavers to map all of the cave, do radio location to determine terminus point, roughly 2-3 days of research in the tax records and deeds as well as DEC visits to see the application, and five revisions of the petition being circulated and commented on by our 13 member Board. All of the above (and more) was done in 10 days! Do you see what I mean about the power of NCC volunteers?

At the Thursday night banquet of the NCKMS, Jim Harbison, Art Palmer and myself were recognized as the founders of the NCC. The plaques we received stated that the NCC “was born of your visions” in December 1978. Speaking for the three of us, I'll just say that it has been a long, interesting ride and we are very grateful for this honor. We thank the volunteers and all their countless hours of effort that have brought us this far, and we can only dream about what the future will bring. Thank you, NCC.

Updates (received via email)

- Becker's Cave. I called Kent Sanders of the Stanford office of the DEC, and he had received the NCC letter requesting the 11 points be added to the scoping document for Cobleskill Stone Products' Environmental Impact Statement concerning their quarry expansion in Schoharie and a possible threat to Becker's Cave. Copy of that letter is in V7, N4, November 05 NCC Newsletter.
- As suspected, other groups & individuals had written comments to him, and he is in the process of selecting scoping points to submit to CSP by mid-December. He said that he would mail us a copy of the final scoping document so that we can see how many of our points were used.
- Al Lehman also gave me the name of the Town of Schoharie Supervisor, Martin Shrederis, and Al suggested that the NCC make its position on Becker's known to the Town. I left a message on his phone.

ad hoc Land Use Advisory Comm. Al Lehman will be assisting us on this committee, and he knows of a possible pro bono land use lawyer who could offer legal opinions on various planning board decisions. Some times it comes to this - confront the board's decision with a legal opinion and they will have to conform to a better engineering practice.

Attachment B **Vice President's Report**

3/20/05

Pompey's Cave update

Chuck Porter, Vince Kappler and Alan Traino walked the corners of the property on 12/14/04. Per Alan's email report:

Things went very well yesterday, Chuck, Vince and myself met at the cave around noon and GPS'd the area of the cave. The lay of the land is wider than we need, as we only want the streambed and all of the entrances from the resurgence down stream. We then went over to meet the owner Mr. Neff. I gave the point to Chuck to do the talking for us. He spoke about the NCC, and the conservation of the cave for the future. He described the area we were interested in to Mr. Neff. He was very jovial towards us. Chuck then made the offer of

\$12,000.00. The owner said he would have to talk to his wife and his brother? He also said he would have to see about the deeding of the land. He said his brother has deeded all of his land across the street, but he has never done it to his land. As they have already sold 1 piece of there property he doesn't know about the town laws on division. He said he would have to look in to this. Vince told him that we could help him on these issues, Town meeting, Zoning laws etc etc.

So we left him with a good feeling about it. We thanked him for his time and they will be in contact will us . They will get back to Bill Folsom went they make their decision. I would say that we won't hear from them until some time after the new year. All in all it was a very good meeting.

On 2/18, I emailed the Neffs looking for an update prior to this meeting. I am not surprised to not have heard back from them as they are not email-focused. Perhaps it is time to give them a call also.

New website design

As stated in my previous report, increasing the professionalism of the NCC's image should be a priority going forward. That said, I solicited Seth Perlman with the task who has submitted a crisp new design that addresses how best to display information on our site to its various audiences. Seth comments:

Along with a look and feel overhaul the NCC site really needs an information architecture overhaul. There's no clear idea of what the navigation priorities are (for example, is it more important that people quickly get to information about joining the NCC or is it more important that people quickly get to the August 2004 Executive Committee minutes? Right now, the homepage really doesn't make a distinction.).

Upon emailing the new design to the Board, Bob sent the following comments regarding layout:

A first time visitor should get to the Preserves, access policies, group use policy & contacts' minor's waiver. Stick the Mission Statement up near the top. Calendar of Events. Archive the newsletters. Then down in importance would be Board Manual, followed by past business archives (minutes of meetings, etc).

Attachment C Treasurers Report For Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. 4-Dec-05

As of Dec-05 we had \$14,995.98 in our bank accounts. In addition, I moved 10,000 from our checking account over to the National Speleological Foundation (They requested that we add at least \$4,000 to our account). In the last accounting we had assets of \$15,432 being held by the National Speleological Foundation, this does not include the \$10,000 that was just added.

I have had the privilege and enjoyed the last 7 years serving as the treasurer of the NCC. During that time the NCC has grown by leaps and bounds, and so has the job of being treasurer. In light of this and my commitments with my job and school next year, I have decided not to seek an 8th term as treasurer. I expect this will be a smooth transition to the next treasurer.

Respectively submitted,

Joe E. Levinson

Attachment D
DRAFT
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SELLECKS KARST PRESERVE

INTRODUCTION

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc ~~proposes to purchase and manage~~owns and manages the Sellecks Karst Preserve. The preserve ~~will~~consists of about 15 acres. Of these 12.2 acres ~~will be~~are in a roughly square parcel containing Sellecks Cave, Cave 575, Natural Bridge, and numerous sinks. The remaining acreage ~~would be~~is contained in 50-foot wide strip owned in deed and running from Kniskern Road to the main parcel; a little over 2000 feet. The entrance to Levy's Cave ~~may be contained in this strip. A survey will verify this. straddles the property line between the NCC and the northern neighbor.~~

PURPOSE OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN

The purpose of a management plan is to describe what is on a property and how it should be managed. It is an operating manual for the preserve.

A plan is not a static document that once written is placed on the shelf and forgotten. It is a document that is to be used and referenced on a regular basis. The property manager must follow the plan unless there is a compelling and over-riding reason for doing otherwise. Unless there is an immediate need, nothing should be done at a property that is not in the plan. If something new is desired, the plan should be amended only after careful, complete, and thorough analysis of the proposed changes or additions. Then, the amendments must approved by the NCC board.

If the management plan is the basis for a management agreement with a third party, then the changes must also be approved by the third party.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

There is little known about the history of the caves on the ~~proposed~~ Sellecks Karst Preserve. In Underground Empire, Clay Perry reports, "Dr. [John] Cook tells us that George Sibley and J. C. Sellick first visited the cave in the year 1841..." However, this is not substantiated by a review of Cook's 1906 paper. Even the origin of their names is unclear. Selleck is a local family name. However, French's Gazetteer (1860) mentions a Selkirks Cave. Selkirk is also a local family name.

The caves were visited by Edward Rew and Arthur Van Voris in the 1920s and wrote about it in the 25 October 1928 Cobleskill Times.

The caves appear in the 1958 and 1966 Schoharie County Guides. John Mylroie mapped them in 1976 as part of his research published in 1977 as Speleogenesis and Karst Geomorphology of the Helderberg Plateau, Schoharie County, New York.

In 1991 John Schweyen made an effort to dive the sumps in Sellecks. The upstream sump yielded about 700 feet of passage. He was unable to penetrate the downstream sump.

In December 1987 Carl Snyder, Clayton Pauley, Paul Rubin and, Jill McMahon digging at the end of Levy's Cave, broke through and extended the cave by 170 feet to a sump.

In the last 10 years the surrounding area has seen a significant increase in the construction of houses. One informal survey estimates that the number of houses within two miles of the caves has doubled or tripled. ~~One of the concerns is~~was the possibility that economic forces ~~will~~would have made it necessary for the ~~current~~previous landowners, the Wards, to subdivide their farm.

RESOURCES

UNDERGROUND RESOURCES

BIOLOGICAL — No troglobites are known to exist in the cave. It is possible that *Stygmobromus alleghaniensis*, an amphipod, exists in the cave. They have been found in McFails which is hydrologically related. Also, likely to be present would be a cave cricket, *Ceuthophilus maculatus*, the cave moth, *Scoliopteryx libatrix*, harvest men, *Leiobunum* sp., and snails, *Mesomphix* sp.

There are been no bat counts in Sellecks or Cave 575. (Natural Bridge, due to its small size, and Levys Cave, due to its flooding, are not expected to serve as bat hibernacula.) There should be a caver reconnaissance of Sellecks and 575 in the fall every five years. If bats are found, a bat count by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation should be scheduled. (In conversations in Alan C. Hicks of NYSDEC he says they see many more bats in the summer than they can account for from their counts in bats hibernacula. He believes there are many more hibernacula to be found in New York.)

GEOLOGICAL & HYDROLOGICAL — The caves on the preserve are formed in the Kalkberg, Coeymans, and Manlius limestones.

Sellecks Cave – The entrance to Sellecks is a very steep slope that ends in an 18-foot drop into the cave. The entrance passage follows the main joint set for the area for 175 feet. Overall, there is about 215 feet of passage in the main part of the cave. A stream crosses the main passage from north to south. While Sellecks Cave does not take a surface stream, it does provide a window into the McFails Cave watershed. In 1989 Mark Gottlieb performed a dye trace from Doolittles Cave. Bugs were placed in the upstream and downstream sumps in Sellecks, in the Northwest Passage in McFails, and in Doc Shauls Spring. Positive traces were found in all of these bugs. This indicates that the water sinking at Doolittles Cave is going to McFails via Sellecks Cave.

As noted in the History section, in 1991 John Schweyen dove the upstream sump in Sellecks and explored 700 feet of passage. He turned around at the 3rd sump. About the same time Schweyen unsuccessfully attempted to penetrate the downstream sump.

The total cave length is about 915 feet.

Cave 575 – Cave 575 has about 100 feet of passage. The cave follows the same joint set as seen in Sellecks. There is an initial 15-foot drop below a fairly small entrance. Once in the cave there are three more drops: one to the north and two to the south of the entrance. These are 15, 25, and 30 feet respectively. The south end is 81 feet below the entrance, though very tight.

The walls of Cave 575 are profusely covered with one of the best displays of fossils in the northeast.

Through the small entrance an ephemeral stream enters the cave. This stream drains a small wetland south and southwest of the cave. It has not been dye-traced, but in all likelihood the water sinking here also goes to McFails.

Natural Bridge – Some people are fond of saying that Natural Bridge is the shortest mapped cave in Schoharie County. The trip under

the bridge is only five feet. It occupies a portion of a large sinkhole south-southeast of Cave 575. This sinkhole takes two ephemeral streams. They drain the same wetland that goes to 575. In heavy rain, the sinkhole takes considerable amounts of water. Again, it has not been dye-traced, but in all likelihood the water sinking here also goes to McFails.

Levys Cave – Levys Cave lies at the downstream end of a large closed depression. A short crawl leads to where a dig significantly increased the length of the cave. A series of wet crawls led to a couple of climb-downs and walking passage. It ended in a sump.

A perennial stream enters the east end of the closed depression and flows west and north before sinking within 20 feet of the entrance to Levy's. The combination of the stream sink and cave entrance are inefficient and in a time of heavy runoff the depression fills up with water to 25 to 30 feet above the entrance. The stream has been dye-traced to McFails.

The cave is 210 feet long.

PALEONTOLOGICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

ARCHEOLOGICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

HISTORICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

SURFACE RESOURCES

BIOLOGICAL — Much of the surface is a typical late successional forest for the area. The predominant trees are hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Other trees include: large-toothed poplar (*Populus grandidentata*), ironwood (*Carpinus caroliniana*), ash (*Fraxinus* sp.), sugar maple (*Acer saccharinum*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), shagbark hickory (*Hicoria laciniosa*), moose maple (*Acer pennsylvanicum*), cherry (*Prunus* sp.), and oak (*Quercus* sp.)

Ground cover includes, but is not limited to: trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*), ramps (*Allium tricoccum*), barren strawberry (*Waldsteinia fragarioides*), goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.), various violets (*Viola* sp.), spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*), white trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*), purple trillium (*Trillium erectum*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), and blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*).

Gray dogwood and other dogwoods (*Cornus* sp.) are common on the access property.

GEOLOGICAL & HYDROLOGICAL — There is little actual bedrock exposed at the surface. Some is visible near all four caves and is either Kalkberg or Coeymans limestone. Of real significance are the sinkholes. Besides the 4 caves there are at least 12 additional sinkholes. Undoubtedly, all of these transmit water to the aquifer and, penultimately, to McFails Cave. As in any karst terrain, the few surface streams are short and quickly sink underground.

PALEONTOLOGICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

ARCHEOLOGICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

HISTORICAL — No significant or unique resources are known to exist.

ACCESS POLICY

The caves on the ~~proposed~~ preserve will not require special permission or a release form for normal caving. Any cave diving in Sellecks or Levys

Caves will require special permission and a release form. A kiosk/registration box should be constructed/maintained on the access property near Levys Cave out of sight of Kniskern Road. Anybody, cavers and non-cavers alike, using the property must complete a trip card and place it in the IN Slot. On leaving the property, they must move the card to an OUT box. (Card design follows)-sign in at the kiosk.

For all caves, except Natural Bridge which is only 5 feet long, standard caving gear will be required.

This includes helmet with a chinstrap; three (3)

_sources of light, one of which is mounted to the helmet; and at least 3 people in the party. For

Sellecks Cave and Cave 575, all drops must be

rigged and vertical gear will be required. Each person should have their own gear and be familiar with its use.

A trail should be ~~cut~~maintained permitting access to all three caves. In the main parcel, this trail should be cut in a loop to encourage use of the property.

Sellecks Karst Preserve

Trip Card

Date & time in ____/____/____

Date & time out _____ / _____ / _____

_____ Trip leader

Number in Party

(Please list the trip members
on the back.)

Purpose of trip (if for caving, list all caves to be visited)

Was there anything unusual or any problem you noted on the property that of which the manager should be aware?

USE CONFLICTS

At present there does not appear to be any use conflicts. Should a conflict arise between recreational caving and digging, the recreational caving

If bat counts reveal the presence of any endangered or threatened species, the cave containing them should be closed for the period

| recommended that the bat specialist of the Endangered Species Unit of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

EXPLORATION RULES

The main possibilities for exploration on the Sellecks Karst Preserve are cave diving and digging.

| Special permission will be required for any diving in

| any of the caves on the preserve.

Any digging projects will have to be approved by the preserve manager. Persons proposing a dig project shall submit a plan to the manager detailing

| where they plan to dig, how long they plan to dig, and where they plan to dispose of the spoil. Plans should also include how the diggers plan to

| remediate the dig should it be abandoned. Any dig that is not worked on for more than six (6) months shall be considered abandoned.

Use of explosives will require approval for each one-time use.

PUBLICITY POLICY

The cave is not publicized in magazines or newspapers of general circulation. Caver's publications like The Northeastern Caver and the NSS News

| may contain information on the latest discoveries. Some grotto publications may also have information, but again these have limited circulation and

| usually do not give locations.

SURFACE MANAGEMENT

~~There is a partial trail that runs near Levys Cave and follows near a stone wall that forms a property line with the Rogers to the north. The main parcel has several old roads that appear to have been use for logging. While these might serve as a partial basis for a trail, they do not consistently stay on the main parcel or the access property. A trail should be constructed from Kniskern Rd along the access property, to the main parcel. There a loop trail should be constructed that connects the three caves on that parcel. Where the proposed trail passes near Levys Cave, a kiosk or register should be constructed so that it is out of sight of the road.~~

~~Where the trail leaves the road, a small parking area should be constructed at the east end of the preserve where it meets Kniskern Rd. This will require the placement of a culvert, a shale base, and barriers to prevent people from driving into the Ward's field. A gate should be placed to permit four-wheel drive access in case of a rescue.~~

~~The property should be posted in accordance with the NYS Penal Law and the NYS Environmental Conservation Law. This will provide the NCC with the ability to better control access to the property. Without, individuals could hunt on the property without permission. A parking area on the 50 foot wide entrance to the parcel should be maintained. The trail to the caves runs along the field and then enters the woods near Levys Cave. This trail should be maintained, and possibly expanded to loop through the rear portion of the property.~~

| The conservation rights to the parcel should be sold to ~~the Schoharie Land Trust~~ a local land conservancy. This will reduce the potential value of the property by eliminating

| any development opportunities.

RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS

Sellecks Cave – A rescue from Sellecks would appear to be fairly straightforward. An open steeply-sloping to vertical entrance appears

— to pose ~~tno~~ unusual impediment to removing a patient in a stretcher. The bulk of the descent into the cave is on a very steep slope, but

— there is an 18-foot drop near the bottom. There are no really tight areas in the cave. A rescue would likely result from a fall. About 150

— feet of rope would permit an efficient hauling rig.

Cave 575 – The entrance to 575 is a 15-foot pit that is about 3 feet wide by 4 long. To the north there is one 15-foot drop. The cave
—— pinches. To the south there is a 25-foot drop followed by a very tight 30-foot drop. With slopes, the cave is about 81 feet deep. A

—— rescue would likely result from a fall.

—— A bolt would likely have to be placed to assist in hauling up a stretchered patient.

Natural Bridge – Natural Bridge lies in a sinkhole. It is five feet long. No special considerations are anticipated.

Levys Cave – Levys presents some of the greater potential rescue problems. It has some low, wet crawls, a 12-foot drop, and some

—— tight passage. There are, however, no significant vertical pitches. A rescue would be either at Jill's Falls or from being stuck in a tight

—— fissure. A SKED stretcher would be needed along with a way to keep the patient dry and warm.

FUTURE PLANS & RECOMMENDATIONS

~~s A small parking area should be constructed at the east end of the preserve where it meets Kniskern Rd. This will require the placement
—— of a culvert, a shale base, and barriers to prevent people from driving into the Ward's field. A gate should be placed to permit
—— four-wheel drive access in case of a rescue.~~

~~s A kiosk/register should be constructed on the access property near Levy's Cave so that it is out of sight of the road.~~

~~s Tax-exempt status should be requested as soon as possible.~~

s There should be a caver reconnaissance for bats ~~of in~~ Sellecks and 575 in ~~the fall~~ every five years. If bats are found, a bat count by the NYS

—— Department of Environmental Conservation should be scheduled.

~~s A trail should be constructed from Kniskern Rd along the access property, to the main parcel. There a loop trail should be constructed
—— that connects the three caves on that parcel.~~

s The NCC should approach ~~the Schoharie a local Land land Trust trust~~ regarding selling of the conservation rights on the ~~main~~ parcel.

Attachment E

December 2005 Report
VOLUNTEER VALUE ad hoc COMMITTEE

Vince Kappler
973-579-2116
vkappler@nac.net

Progress:

I requested and received permission from Jim Werker and Val Hildreth-Werker (June 2005) to adapt the Volunteer Value worksheets they created to our use. The first draft of the forms was emailed to property managers with a request to become familiar with them and to plan on tracking the work performed by NCC members on cave projects.

In October, Michael Chu converted the final drafts of the forms to PDF files. My intention is to make the forms available on our web site.

In November, I received permission from the NSS to use excerpts from the NSS web pages and the NSS Board of Governors Manual to announce and explain the Volunteer Value project to our members. We can also make links to relevant pages on the NSS web site

Plans:

Now that I have permission to copy and use NSS materials, I will write an article about Volunteer Value and work with the NCC web master to get the information and forms on our web site. I would like to begin to track volunteer work in January 2006, and I will establish a schedule to periodically check with the property managers on progress or problems they are having documenting work.

Problems:

None; now that I have everything in place to reproduce and publish materials from the NSS.

Attachments:

The original requests to use copyrighted materials and the permissions granted are attached to this report. I do not expect any questions, but we probably should keep them for our permanent files.

----- Original Message -----

From: [vince.kappler](mailto:vince.kappler@zianet.com)
To: <mailto:werks@zianet.com>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2005 7:40 PM
Subject: V V forms

Jim, Val

I'm looking for forms to document volunteer value for the work cavers do for the Northeast Cave Conservancy. May I copy the models you have on the conservancies web page? And modify them, as needed, to reflect what we are doing?

I see references in the March '05 Officers' reports that a web site is being set up to track V V. Is that on line yet?

Thanks,
Vince
NSS 7274

----- Original Message -----

From: Werker
To: [Kappler, Vince](mailto:Werker)
Sent: Saturday, June 11, 2005 12:16 AM
Subject: Volunteer Value, etc

Vince, To answer your question on Volunteer Value, yes please copy and use the forms posted through the Conservation Division website.

I will attach them to a second e-mail for your convenience. (Some of the lines don't seem to hold well on the website.)

The Volunteer Value Online Database is under construction and in testing phases, but not yet up and running.

Best regards,
Jim & Val

Jim C. Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker
NSS Conservation Division Co-Chairs
PO Box 207
Cuna Cueva Hwy 27
Hillsboro, NM 88042-0207
phone 505.895.5050
werks@zianet.com

----- Original Message -----

From: vince.kappler
To: evp@caves.org
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2005 1:55 PM
Subject: Volunteer value

Hi Gordon,

The NCC wants to track the value of the volunteer work that members perform, using the "volunteer value" forms and guidelines that are on the NSS web pages. We intend to post forms and directions on our web site and also hand them out to project managers. Jim Werker has sent the forms he uses and permission to use/modify them to fit our needs.

Can I use text from the web pages to describe this project to NCC members.

Can we make links to some NSS pages, like Appendix AN.

Vince

Vince Kappler
Trustee, Northeastern Cave Conservancy
NSS 7274 RL, FE

----- Original Message -----

From: [Gordon Birkhimer](#)

To: 'vince kappler'

Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2005 11:33 AM

Subject: Volunteer value

Hello Vince,

As EVP of the NSS, I am responsible for the permissions. This email is my official approval and permission to use excerpts from the NSS web pages to describe your project to NCC members. And, you can make links to some NSS pages provided it is used for scholarly and educational purposes. Like all requests, my official NSS permission for this reproduction/electronic transmission is a one time approval for this project only.

If applicable you will please print the phrase, "Used with permission of the National Speleological Society (www.caves.org)" for our credit. Thank you for following the correct procedure for asking permission and I wish you success in your project. If you have any questions please ask.

EVP NSS
Gordon Birkhimer
703-573-4653