

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, March 14th 10:00AM at the Octogon Barn, 588 Middle Road, Knox NY.

Notes from the December Board Meeting

- 1) The current officer slate has been reinstated
- 2) Bentleys paperwork has been completed, and Jonah Spivak has been appointed the preserve manager.
- 3) The 2010 budget has been approved by the board.
- 4) One new bylaw change has been proposed.

Article 3, Membership Section 2, Categories to add Point F – Life Membership. Life membership shall have all rights and privilege of regular members and will receive publications digitally when available.

- 5) The proposed bylaw changes that were announced on 9/1/09 have passed.

Bylaw 1: An election tie shall be broken at the meeting following the election by a written ballot of those current officers, continuing trustees and newly elected trustees, excluding any trustee who is involved in the voting tie.

Bylaw2: Article VI (Officers), Section 3.c (Duties of the Secretary), be amended by deleting they hyphen in the first sentence and adding between Line 1 and 2, "The Secretary is also responsible for editing and publishing the Board Manual. The Board Manual will contain all actions approved by the Board which establish policies or procedures. The manual may also contain historical data such as lists of Officers, Trustees, meeting dates, etc. The Secretary may appoint assistants as required.

Bylaw X: Standing Committees.

Section 2. The chairman of a committee shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees and serve at the Board's pleasure.

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NCC Recent Activity *by Bob Addis*

Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.		
Officers		
President	Bob Addis	(518) 237-1165 raddis3@verizon.net
Vice President	Peter Youngbaer	(802) 454-7752 youngbaer4@aol.com
Treasurer	Bill Folsom	(845) 626-4220 rockeater@mindspring.com
Secretary	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Trustees		
Thom Engel		necaver@earthlink.net
Al Hicks		achicks@gw.dec.state.ny.us
Vince Kappler		(973) 579-2116 vkappler@nac.net
Michael Chu		chum2@alum.rpi.edu
Joe Armstrong		gonecaving@hotmail.com
Peter Haberland		518-928-4300 peterhaberland@yahoo.com
Michael Warner		(518) 295-7978 mike@speleobooks.com
Alan Traino		PollackOpticians@aol.com
Bob Simmons		rwsimmons1@msn.com
Committee Chairs		
Acquisitions	Chuck Porter	(518) 274-4863 chuckporter@earthlink.net
Bylaws	Joe Levinson	(973) 208-9049 jlevinson@tellurian.net
Education	David Lyons	cavewine@hotmail.com
Finance & Investments	Joe Levinson	(973) 208-9049 jlevinson@tellurian.net
Fundraising	Alan Traino	PollackOpticians@aol.com
Legal	Mark Seltzer	legal@necaveconservancy.org
Membership	Sean Ryan	belloq@juno.com
Nominating	Mike Martuscello	mikemart@superior.net
Office	Mike Warner	(518) 295-7978 mike@speleobooks.com
	Emily Davis	(518) 295-7978 emily@speleobooks.com
Preserves	Thom Engel (Onesquethaw)	(518) 478-9664 onesquethaw@necaveconservancy.org
	Jay Simion (Sellecks)	(518) 928-4300 sellecks@necaveconservancy.org
	Emily Davis Jay Simion (Knox)	(518) 295-7978 knox@necaveconservancy.org
	Michael Chu Thom Engel Chuck Porter (Clarksville)	clarksville@necaveconservancy.org
	Joe Armstrong (Ella)	ella_armstrong@necaveconservancy.org
	Jonah Spivak (Bentleys)	bentleys@necaveconservancy.org
Publications and Publicity	Christa Hay	(518) 237-1165 c.hay@ctmale.com
Newsletter Editor	Michael Chu	michaelhkchu@gmail.com
Website	Michael Chu	michaelhkchu@gmail.com
Science Coordinator	R. Laurence Davis	(203) 932-7108 rldavis@Newhaven.edu
Special Use Coordinators	Amy Cox	(203) 426-4602 specialuse@necaveconservancy.org
<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.necaveconservancy.org</p>		

Bentleys Caverns: With the donation and closing behind us, newly-appointed Preserve Manager Jonah Spivak is making plans for a workday on the property this spring. Work needs to be done on the trails, parking lot, boundary signage, and the installation of a kiosk. Whether on the same day or not, this spring there will be a formal dedication ceremony with the Bentley's and local officials resulting in another press release. And on July 10, the Rensselaer Land Trust has been invited to visit the Preserve and cave, so please mark your calendars to assist this tour. Acquisitions Chair Chuck Porter and I have opened negotiations with RLT for them to hold a conservation easement on the property, and Chuck will be taking their Executive Director and Acquisitions Chair to get an overview earlier this spring in anticipation of showing their group the Preserve on July 10.

Merlins Cave: After a long search for an attorney to review the purchase contract, Chuck and I have settled on Christine Young who is also the Executive Director of RLT. We have had a meeting and Christine is drafting our version of the purchase contract to be reviewed by the NCC Executive Committee and submitted to the owner, Michael Belknap. Probably he will have comments and revisions of his own so a period of negotiations has begun. Chuck and I will approach the local planning board to see if they will consider a "pre-application" on our part. The formal application requires a licensed survey of the property and that is the expense that the NCC will share with Mr. Belknap, 28% +72% respectively. With this pre-application we would present a good draft with our gps survey and make certain that the NCC should engage in the formal survey. Proceeding in this manner, Chuck and I are confident that we can be ready for a June 30 closing. This gives the NCC some time to maximize its fund raising efforts and minimize our borrowed money.

NSS 2010 Convention: Since many NCC members are NSS members and hold dual roles, the NCC along with several other cave conservancies will have a presence at the Convention in Burlington August 2-6 in the form of table displays. The NCC through the

energetic efforts of Vice President Peter Youngbaer has taken a prominent role in the White Nose Syndrome problem and Peter is leading the effort to do everything right for a caving convention in the Northeast. Peter has arranged that a full time decon station will be not only available but promoted at convention. The Central Connecticut Grotto will be running a loaner gear program to keep Northeastern gear, possibly contaminated with WNS, in the Northeast. They will be asking for donations of loaner gear. And Peter has organized a WNS forum to be presented Tuesday night in the community, inviting the locals, scientists, and governmental personnel.

NCC Helps with Bat Counts *by Christa Hay*

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has a large list of caves and mines to survey each year for the study of WNS. Al Hicks of the DEC asked for help from the NCC for surveys to be done on our properties. For each survey the main point of focus Al wanted was to identify survey participants, time required to do the count, documenting the numbers, species and distribution of bats within each site, and documenting the prevalence of WNS.



SPRING NRO MAY 14-16

HIDE-A-WAY CAMPSITES
CENTRAL BRIDGE, NY - THE HEART
OF NEW YORK'S CAVE COUNTRY!



NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY FUNDRAISER FOR MERLINS CAVE

AUCTION WITH
MERLIN THE WIZARD

DARK AGES OF NE
CAVING BY ART PALMER

CAVING & BAT
MOVIES

PHOTO & MAP
SALONS

GEOLOGY
FIELD TRIP

CAVE TRIPS
OF ALL TYPES

DOOR PRIZES

BONFIRES

SQUEEZEBOXES

SCHOHARIE
GUIDEBOOK



LET MERLINS CAST A SPELL ON YOU

VERTICAL TRAINING

COSTUME CONTEST

BAND SAT. NIGHT -- R.E.N.O. (SOUTHERN ROCK)

CAVING EQUIPMENT & BOOKS FOR SALE



STOP HIBERNATING AND GO CAVING!



Photographs of each animal, when possible, were also requested for the surveys. Maps were requested as they help to show the distributional shifts and any suggestion of resistance based on such behavior.

There are some counts still going on and when it is all done we can hopefully post results. I would like to thank everyone that helped on the bat counts! I receive this email from Al concerning our efforts in helping the DEC with the survey counts....

"This is yet another example of the great job done by the NCC and affiliates on these surveys.

I can sit at my desk and get a real understanding of what is going on, and get as good a perspective as could be gained by sending in any of our staff.

Atta-boys to all involved once more."

Upcoming Events

May 14-16, 2010: Spring NRO 2010, Hideaway Campground, Central Bridge, NY.

August 2-6, 2010: 2010 NSS Convention, in Essex Junction, VT.

NCC Pictures



Bentleys Preserve Manager Jonah Spivak posing next to the Bentleys Cavern (right) and Dry Valley Cavern (left) entrances.