

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 Meeting

Saturday, September 20th, 2003, 11:00AM
Warner Household, Schoharie, NY

Notes from the Last Meeting

- 1) The last NCC meeting was held at the Schoharie Cabin, and was well attended.
- 2) Jason Siemion and Jeff DeGross were elected as trustees, and Jon Allison was re-elected. Thanks for all who ran, and thanks to the Nominating Committee, Bob Simmons.
- 3) In attendance were Bob Addis, Bill Folsom, Joe Levinson, Christa Hay, Jon Allison, Ed Lucas, Paul Murphy, Steve McLuckie, Mike Warner, Jason Seimion, and Al Lehmann. Mike Chu and Emily Davis were nominated as proxies for Vince Kappler and Jeff Degross.
- 4) Wrap up of NRO. 242 registered participants; NCC gained 14 new memberships, and a total profit of \$2500 from the event.
- 5) Clarksville acquisition continues. Long discussion on methods for raising money as well as future management of the property.
- 6) Jon Allison announced that Albany County is likely to donate its acre of land which includes the Gregory entrance of Clarksville to the NCC.
- 7) Tonya Smothers is elected as the membership chair.
- 8) Proposal presented to realtor for the purchase of 14 acres of the Ella Armstrong Cave property, for \$15,000 total. Amount includes offer of \$5,000 down and \$10,000 7yr private mortgage.

- 9) Central Connecticut Grotto (CCG) donated profit from NRO (\$438.60) towards Clarksville purchase.
- 10) Discussion on fall sinkhole cleanup at Thatcher.
- 11) The board voted to ban the use of pressure treated lumber at NCC preserves.

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Deadline for next issue – 10/31/2003

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

Spring 2003 NRO Wrap Up by Bill Folsom

Over the weekend of May 16-18, which featured gorgeous cave-friendly weather, 242 people attended the Spring NRO at the Cobleskill Fairgrounds. As it should be, the NRO site was almost vacant during the day on Saturday as most people were offsite on the numerous trips offered, including 42 people who went on Art Palmer's geology field trip. Vertical demonstrations/training were held at two sites, the Fairgrounds and the Benson Preserve, the former sponsored by Sterling Rope, which donated several ropes -- the 200-footer being given away as the final door prize Sat. night. Other door prizes came from Howie's Harnesses, Speleobooks, Bob & Bob and IMO, who decided to attend NRO at the last minute based on the weather! All meals were tasty and on time and all advertised activities came off as planned, including the sauna and hottub, 2 different squeezeboxes, cave movie theater, winetasting, beer Sat night (Sam Adams), auction with guest professional auctioneer and cave ballad singing. First prize in the photo salon was Jansen Cardy, while second prize went to Nigel Dyson-Hudson. Thanks to all the people who helped out, it was a real team effort. After the dust settles, the NCC should see a profit of about \$2500 on the event which will go towards NCC cave acquisition efforts.

Schoharie Preserve Cleanup, Part II by Michael Chu & Chuck Porter

Chuck Porter and Mike Chu made several trips during the month of July to dispose of the tire and metal piles left from the Schoharie Preserve cleanup that occurred before the May NCC board meeting. Several trips were made to a tire recycling locations in Scotia and Schoharie, as well as a metal scrap yard on Green Island. The final load of tires was taken on July 29th, with the help of Bill Folsom, Joe Armstrong, and Alan Traino (see photo on page 4).

The final bill for disposing of tires at the Schoharie Preserve came to \$321. Totally, 51 passenger tires, 46 passenger tires on rims, 10 truck tires, 4 tractor tires and one "huge" tractor tire were removed from the preserve. Charges ranged from \$1 for passenger tires to \$35 for the huge tire.

The property is clean now except for an old icebox shell which is light and can be removed some other time.

Fall 2003 NRO

The Fall 2003 NRO is being hosted by the Boston Grotto on September 5-7th. It will be held at the Barton Cove Campground at Gill, MA. If you pre-register, the basic fee for the entire weekend is just 15 bucks!

Planned activities include:

- Caving in Massachusetts tectonic and talus caves
- Caving in the Lanesboro marble karst area
- Caving in the Bennington karst area
- Auction (donations welcome) & 50/50 raffle sponsored by the NCC
- Knot competition
- Group photo (bring your grotto flag!)
- Slide show
- Cave ballad sing-along with Churpy the bat!
- Kayaking and canoeing on the Connecticut River (bring you own boat)
- Squeeze box!

For more information, visit the Fall NRO website at <http://mysite.verizon.net/ncrcjohn/2003NROWeb/index.shtml> or send email to fall2003nro@bostongrotto.org.

Sellecks Preserve News

by Michael Chu

When the ice finally melted from the Sellecks Cave sink in late May, the presence of a second tree trunk in the sink was observed. It fell in such a way as to have bumped the existing tree trunk into an unstable position as well as plugged the cave entrance. Two trips were made to reopen the cave, the first by Jon Allison, Joan Gitnick, Greg Wallace and Mike Chu, and the second by Joe Baj, Mike Chu and Jon Cousins. Between these two trips, the newly fallen trunk was cut into segments and largely removed from the sink (note: use of gas chainsaw in a sink was a bad idea; fumes), and the original trunk was brought into a more stable position. The cave entrance is no longer blocked, but the area is still unstable, with the large trunk wedged in a semi-precarious position and the floor of the sink (before the drop) being held up by a second log. At the very least, the remaining trunk should be removed from the sink before the entrance is considered safe.

In other news, Levy's Cave has been reopened by Joe Armstrong, Alan Traino, and Bill Folsom on July 27th. Thanks!

Announcements

- Volunteers are needed at OTR for the NCC booth.
- The NCC will be holding a 50/50 raffle and an auction at the Fall NRO; items for the auction are needed, so please bring something to donate!
- The Cave Diving Section of the National Speleological Society is pleased to host the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium to be held at the Gainesville Sheraton October 13-17, 2003. Located in the heart of cave diving country in north central Florida, Gainesville and the surrounding area has a high concentration of karst features containing many significant dry caves, but equally important are the springs and associated underwater caves that lie within the Floridian aquifer. Their importance in regards to water quantity and quality, as well as recreation, for one of the most rapidly growing population areas in this country is the subject of much debate and study.

"Protecting the Aquifer in Karst Regions"

The 2003 Cave and Karst Management Symposium will bring special focus on the problems and solutions of managing the aquifer within karst areas. Florida contains the largest concentration of springs in the world with 33 first magnitude springs and over 600 lesser magnitude springs throughout the state. The springs, and their cave systems, are home to over 40 species of cave-adapted life and are crucial wintering habitats for the endangered Florida Manatee. As windows into Florida's karst aquifer, the springs provide an important gauge of the health of our water supply. Only thinly protected by the overlying soils and sediments, Florida's aquifer is particularly susceptible to the effects of the exploding population of the State.

We look forward to this opportunity to share information aimed not only at the management of karst aquifers, but many other areas of the world's cave and karst.

The Symposium will be held at the [Sheraton Hotel](#) located in Gainesville, Florida at 2900 SW 13 Street. For more information and online registration, see the official NCKMS website at <http://www.nckms.com> or contact Steve Ormeroid at (937) 642-7775.

Upcoming Events

August 4-8, 2003: NSS Convention in Portersville, CA.

August 7, 2003, 7PM: Lecture on “The Adaptive Reuse of the Howes Cave Quarry” by Clemens McGiver, Dana Cudmore, and Benson Guenther. Old Stone Fort, Schoharie, NY.

August 10-12, 2003: Silver Jubilee Anniversary Symposium, Northeastern Science Foundation, Troy, NY. Lecturers include John Mylroie, Art Palmer, Thom Engel. Registration is required. Contact Gerald M. Friedman, Distinguished Professor of Geology Northeastern Science Foundation / Rensselaer Center of Applied Geology at 15 Third Street, PO Box 746, Troy, NY 12181, ph: 518-273-3247, gmfriedman@juno.com

August 17, 2003: NCC summer barbeque following the conclusion of the NCC Executive Committee meeting at the Hay-Addis house in Cohoes, NY which begins at 10:30AM. Contact Christa Hay at c.hay@ctmale.com or ph: (518) 237-1165 for directions.

September 5-7, 2003: The fall Northeastern Regional Organization meeting of the NSS will be hosted by the Boston Grotto, at the Barton Cove Campground - Gill, Massachusetts. More details can be found on the Fall 2003 NRO website or from the Boston Grotto at fall2003nro@bostongrotto.org.

October 13-17, 2003: National Cave and Karst Management Symposium to be held at Gainesville, FL.



Knox entrance in winter of 1959, taken by Art Palmer



Last load of tires from the Schoharie Preserve Cleanup.