

INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

February 2020

The IO Newsletter

This newsletter format is intended to inform the leadership of the internal organizations of what the NSS is working on at the national level. Hopefully this will provide you with the ability to brief your membership on what the NSS is doing for them and keeps you in the know. Please share it with your organization.

Nominations Needed for the NSS Outstanding Landowner-Caver Relations Award

Do you know a cave land owner or land manager whose efforts have been exemplary in supporting cavers and the mission of the NSS? Please consider nominating them for the NSS Outstanding Landowner-Caver Relations Award. This annual award consists of a plaque and an invitation to the 2020 NSS Convention to recognize landowners who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to cave access, conservation, education, and exploration. Only one award is granted each year by the NSS AVP and the deadline for nominations is May 15, 2020. Please send an email to LRNC@caves.org to request a form. Thanks for your support and recognition of landowners!

The NSS President is looking for a few good cavers.

There is a serious need for volunteers in the NSS. In the President's office alone, there are a number of openings as follows. If you have expertise or just a strong interest and are willing to work, we have a volunteer opportunity for you. We have committee chair positions available in the following areas:

- ◆ Annual Report Committee, Fundraising Committee, Planning Committee, and The Nature Conservancy liaison

For more information, contact Geary Schindel, NSS President, at president@caves.org

NSS Membership

- ◆ We have had a slight increase in membership this quarter: we are up 350 members to 7,401 members. This is a trend that gives us an optimistic view on membership, but NSS leadership is continuing to focus on membership as a top priority.



John Guilday Cave Nature Preserve
Photo by: Nikki Fox

What can the NSS do for you?

Presentations for your Grotto Meeting!

Don't forget that the NSS Webinar and Luminary Series have some outstanding programs that members will find educational and entertaining. They can be downloaded from the NSS website at www.caves.org

Current IO Committee

- Paul Winter (Chair)
- Keith Wheeland
- Adam Weaver
- Savannah Sawyer
- Nick Anderson

iocommittee@caves.org

Get Paid to Cave?

The Montana Conservation Corps is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to conduct cave inventory and monitoring of cave resources. Cave entrance location from a November 2017 recon flight and other information sources will be used to identify potential caves for inventory, monitoring and significance evaluation.

Program Dates: May 13th - October 2nd. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled. The link for application and additional information can be found [Here](#)

Gone Caving! - A Card Game of Exploration and Discovery

A new caving card game that promises to not only be fun, but to also serve as a fundraiser for the NSS, hit Kickstarter this month! [Lend them your support.](#)

A new cave preserve!

This month the National Speleological Society (NSS) announced the official management of **Thunderhole Cave** in Cookeville, TN; creating a new NSS Preserve. This cave management plan addresses visitation, access, liability releases and permits and is renewed on an annual basis. For more information see the press release [here](#).

NSS Preserve—Spotlight—John Guilday Cave Nature Preserve

Popularly known as “Trout Rock”, this 42-acre property in Pendleton County, WV was purchased by the NSS in 1983 for \$21,000. The property contains 3 major, one medium sized, and several FRO caves. The property is extremely popular with NSS members, cavers in general, locals, church, university and scout groups. Cheryl & I have managed the property for the NSS for about 10 years (time flies!). The property, hillside, and caves are in good shape. We find that if there is very little to no graffiti, there is a decreased tendency to be the first to place it. We regularly repair fences, do formation damage repair, replace & fix signs, maintain the kiosk, clean graffiti, and count bats with the WV DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Trout Cave is closed for endangered Indiana and Virginia Big-Eared bats. As of last year, we worked with these agencies to open Trout Cave for caving as much as possible without harming the endangered bats (currently open on a permit basis April 16th – May 31st). I am working on extending the access time to add two more weeks. We have bat counts coming up in late February or early March 2020.

For additional information about the preserve please contact Earl Suitor by cell (or text) 703-431-2661 or at wvcaver216@gmail.com

Need Help?

The secondary impetus for this newsletter is to open a constant lifeline to all of the Internal Organizations.

We are here to help you, and to connect knowledge and experts from within the organizations to one another. With over 250 IOs, there is a good chance that others have had the same issues.

In this effort, the I/O committee has been working to assemble a team of volunteer leaders from Grottos around the nation to help field these questions.

Bottom line, if your Grotto needs help, and you can't find someone with ideas or answers, send an email and we will do our best to help you with your project or problem.

Adam@caves.org



www.caves.org