



THE CAVE CONSERVATIONIST

The Newsletter of the NSS Conservation and Management Section

Volume 23, Number 2

June, 2004

National Speleological Society Cave Conservation and Management Section

<http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/>

The Cave Conservation and Management Section of the National Speleological Society was formed to provide a central clearinghouse for research, expertise, and information in the fields of cave conservation and management.

Getting to know your Cave Conservation and Management Section

- The Section publishes a newsletter, *The Cave Conservationist*, several times a year to facilitate communication on cave conservation issues and keep members up to date on the latest cave conservation happenings.
- The Section provides a Web Site as a focal point for information about Cave Conservation and Management. Url: <http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/>
- The Section co-sponsors cave management symposia at national and regional levels and assists the NSS Cave Ownership and Management Committee in managing the Society's caves. Some of the symposia proceedings have been published and are available from the NSS Bookstore.
- The Section provides grants for vital cave conservation projects.
- The Section holds an annual meeting each year at the NSS Convention to conduct business and discuss cave conservation, problems and issues.
- The Section also conducts a session on cave management and conservation at the NSS Convention, with papers presented on a variety of topics. The Section also sponsors individual Seminars and Symposia on a variety of cave conservation related issues.
- The Section presents an annual award to an NSS Internal Organization for contributions to cave conservation. Url: <http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/award.htm>
- Additional projects include development of literature for specific use of cave managers and people directly involved with management of caves, and assistance to the NSS Conservation Committee in developing guidelines for the NSS Board of Governors to assist in decisions regarding cave acquisition and conservation issues.

What You Can Do to Help

Join the Section! It's just \$5 a year. Contact Rod Horrocks rod_horrocks@nps.gov and help out with Section Activities. Contribute material to *The Cave Conservationist*, our periodical! Attend the Section's annual meeting held during the NSS Convention! Get Involved in Cave Conservation Projects in your area!

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The Cave Conservationist...

The Cave Conservationist is the official publication of the Conservation and Management section of the National Speleological Society; All regular members of the Section receive copies. There is also occasional distribution to others interested in cave conservation. Materials that are unsigned may be attributed to the Editor. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NSS, Section or Editor. Permission is granted to NSS publications to reprint articles published in *The Cave Conservationist* providing credit is given to the author and *The Cave Conservationist* except where a copyright accompanies a specific item. Others wanting to reprint material should contact the Editor. Newsletter contributions should be submitted to the Editor as a document or an attachment formatted to MS Word. Typed contributions are preferred, but handwritten will be accepted if item is brief. Please submit photographs for publication electronically to the Editor.

Membership in the Conservation & Management Section...

The NSS Conservation and Management Section is open to all members of the National Speleological Society as well as those interested in the conservation, management and protection of caves. Annual membership costs \$5.00/ year and up to three years can be paid in advance.

The section gives an annual award to an Internal Organization or other NSS group (conservancy, conservation task force, project, etc.) that has made significant contributions to speleology in the field of conservation. Nominations may be made either by the group or others on their behalf.

Dues/ Renewal...

(Payable to NSS Conservation/Management Section)

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(See *Membership Application Form in this issue*)

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Join our Section List....

Send an e-mail to conservation@wingedseed.com and type subscribe in the subject field.

NSS Cave Conservation Policy

From NSS Board of Governors Manual

December 28, 1960

<http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/conspol.htm>

The National Speleological Society believes:

That caves have unique scientific, recreational, and scenic values; That these values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism; That these values, once gone, cannot be recovered; and that the responsibility for protecting caves must be assumed by those who study and enjoy them.

Accordingly, the intention of the Society is to work for the preservation of caves with a realistic policy supported by effective programs for: the encouragement of self-discipline among cavers; education and research concerning the causes and prevention of cave damage; and special projects, including cooperation with other groups similarly dedicated to the conservation of natural areas. Specifically:

All contents of a cave--formations, life, and loose deposits--are significant for its enjoyment and interpretation. Therefore, caving parties should leave a cave as they find it. They should provide means for the removal of waste; limit marking to a few, small and removable signs as are needed for surveys; and, especially, exercise extreme care not to accidentally break or soil formations, disturb life forms or unnecessarily increase the number of disfiguring paths through an area.

Scientific collection is professional, selective and minimal. The collecting of mineral or biological material for display purposes, including previously broken or dead specimens, is never justified, as it encourages others to collect and destroys the interest of the cave.

The Society encourages projects such as: establishing cave preserves; placing entrance gates where appropriate; opposing the sale of speleothems; supporting effective protective measures; cleaning and restoring over-used caves; cooperating with private cave owners by providing knowledge about their cave and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits; and encouraging commercial cave owners to make use of their opportunity to aid the public in understanding caves and the importance of their conservation.

Where there is reason to believe that publication of cave locations will lead to vandalism before adequate protection can be established, the Society will oppose such publication.

It is the duty of every Society member to take personal responsibility for spreading a consciousness of the cave conservation problem to each potential user of caves. Without this, the beauty and value of our caves will not long remain with us.

NSS Cave Preservation Policy

Adopted by the NSS Board of Governors

http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/nss_cave_preservation_policy.htm

Caves, and areas of karst and pseudokarst development, are sensitive environments, which often interact with surface and subsurface waters and ecosystems. They frequently harbor recreational, historical, and natural resources of considerable significance.

The National Speleological Society believes that all caves and cavernous areas are important; that cave wilderness, like surface wilderness, is a valuable resource that should be protected regardless of official designations or boundaries; and that caves and cavernous areas, with their unique environment and development, may require management measures which are independent of geographic boundaries or designations established for the management of other surface or subsurface resources.

Accordingly, the Society endorses, supports, and advocates the implementation of the following precepts:

- No cave or cavernous area should be altered or modified without a full, balanced, and conservative study of the impact of such action, including input from knowledgeable persons specifically experienced in the exploration and scientific study of caves and cave resources.
- Cave resources should be protected by keeping wild caves wild and free from human manipulations and alterations that hamper the free play of natural forces, endanger the cave and karst ecosystems, or diminish the pleasure of future visitors.
- Special efforts should be made to preserve the integrity of ecological and hydrologic systems within caves and cavernous terrains.

Where formal designation of Cave Wilderness is a useful tool in protecting this resource, the National Speleological Society will support such designation through actions of its Board of Governors.

Conservation Corner

Conservation Corner is a new feature of The Cave Conservationist Newsletter. Please email upcoming conservation related happenings to the Editor (*submission guidelines on page 2*).

Mammoth Cave Restoration Project - Camp Dates

Aug. 1-6, 2004, Nov. 6-7, 2004

<http://oldsci.eiu.edu/physics/len/mammoth/mcrp0.html>

2004 Black Hills Cave Restoration Camp

June 7-11, 2004 contact Marc Ohms at 605-745-1182 or Marc_Ohms@nps.gov

State Closes Tennessee's Big Bone Cave For Radon Gas Studies

For more information, contact Larry Matthews email nss6792@bellsouth.net

The National Cave and Karst Management Symposia

<http://www.nckms.org>

Kentucky Transpark Cosma Magna Project: A Collapse of Environmental Common Sense

http://www.stoptranspark.org/cosma_magna.html

Help Us Conserve Paper, Limit Clearcutting & Prevent Siltation in Caves!

To receive issues of *The Cave Conservationist* electronically, email Lynn Roebuck, Editor-The Cave Conservationist pretzlgirl@charter.net



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Conservation and Management Section – June 2004
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NSS Conservation and Management Section
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name		NSS #	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Phone H:		Phone W:	
Email			
Circle One: New Member or Renewal		Circle One: Years Paying 1 2 3	

Mail \$5/year payable to NSS Conservation and Management Section To:

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