

THE CAVE CONSERVATIONIST

May 2005

Volume 24, Issue 2

THE CAVE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT SECTION OF THE NSS



- **Conservation and Management Session**
 - **Conservancy Roundtable**
 - **Restoration Forum**
- **Conservation and Management Lunch Meeting**
 - **Speleothem Repair Workshop**
 - **Haul System Workshop**
 - **Graffiti Workshop**
 - **Project Underground**

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What is expected of the Section's Executive Committee?

John Wilson CCMS Vice Chair

One of the roles that the Cave Conservation and Management Section plays is that of encouraging and facilitating discussion of conservation issues in the NSS. While this function has sometimes worked, at other times the section has been strangely silent between NSS conventions. One way to increase the activity of the section between conventions is to explicitly charge the officers with ongoing conservation work. Another way that might help is to increase the size of the leadership group in order to have more motivated people assigned with doing the section's work. Another idea is to encourage more NSS membership involvement in the activities of the section. Some of these ideas may be pursued more at the annual meeting during the convention. One suggestion requires a bylaw amendment, which is proposed below.

Proposed amendment to the section bylaws

Amend Article X of the constitution to increase the officers at large to five.

Amend Article III A of the bylaws to increase the elected officers to nine.

Amend Article III B of the bylaws to increase the officers at large to five.

See the relevant sections of the bylaws.

Present Section By-law

III Executive Committee - Officers

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the six (6) elected officers of the Section.

B. Officers of the Section shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two (2) Officers-at-large.

Constitution

IX This constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members attending an annual meeting.

X. Officers of this Section shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Officers-At-Large

In reviewing the bylaws there may be a technical conflict between the amending process of the constitution and the process in the bylaws. The correction may be fairly simple to fix.

The Spirit Of Earth Day!

I extend an invitation to cavers to continue the spirit and celebrate Earth Day not only on April 22nd but every day! All you need to do is one small "act" for the cave and karst environment. It could be something as simple as picking up trash from a sinkhole cleaning a cave educating a landowner ... making a karst brochure to share with others talking with the public about cave and karst conservation or just learning more about cave conservation at <http://www.caves.org>.

Whatever you choose just continue the spirit of Earth Day, in your own way, Every Day!

Group and Grotto Conservation Awards Summary

Rod Horrocks CCMS Chair and John Wilson CCMS Vice Chair

These awards are given annually to an NSS group and an NSS grotto that makes significant contributions towards cave conservation and management. They are a continuation of the NSS Conservation Award that was presented from 1975 to 1993 to an internal organization. In 1994, the NSS changed criteria of the Conservation Award.

Under the new rules the NSS Award has always gone to an individual. The Section decided to continue the group award in order to encourage NSS groups to work for cave conservation. Each award consists of a plaque with the names of all past recipients engraved on it. The new plaque will be kept in the NSS Office in Huntsville, AL.



Virginia Commonwealth Designates State Bat

Legislation honoring the Virginia Big-Eared Bat passes Senate! The Virginia Big-eared bat (*plecotus townsendii virginianus*) is hereby designated as the official bat of the Commonwealth.

Sponsored by delegate Jackie Stump. HOUSE BILL NO. 2579 was offered January 12, 2005. A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 7.1-40.7:1, relating to emblems of the Commonwealth; designation of the state bat.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 7.1-40.7:1 as follows: § 7.1-40.7:1. Official bat.

Memorandum of Understanding

The Society enters a variety of formal and informal contracts and agreements with external organizations. After Board approval each Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed by the NSS President.

Appendix	NSS Memorandum of Understanding	Date
AA	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Department of the Interior	4-04-92
AB	American Cave Conservation Association	3-10-90
AD	U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service	4-01-89
AF	U.S. Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management	11-11-89
AH	National Park Service - Department of the Interior	10-2001
AI	The Nature Conservancy	11-09-91
AK	Bat Conservation International, Inc.	12-18-97
AM	Project Underground, Inc	5-19-04
AQ	Karst Waters Institute, Inc	8-15-00

SERA Karst Task Force To Sponsor Three Workshops At 2005 NSS Convention

The SERA Karst Task Force (SKTF) will sponsor three workshops during the 2005 NSS Convention in Huntsville, AL.

Jim Werker and Val Hildreth-Werker will demonstrate their techniques during the Speleothem Repair Workshop. Lynn and Brian Roebuck are the SKTF Project leaders for this project.

SKTF project leader, Maureen Handler, will oversee the Graffiti Removal Workshop. A portable sand blaster will be on site as well as other graffiti removal methods. Lynn and Brian Roebuck will demonstrate techniques for identifying historic and prehistoric wall markings.

SKTF project leader Peter Michaud will conduct the Vertical Trash Removal Workshop. A vertical haul system employed during SKTF clean ups will be in use.

These three workshops will be held on separate days, the tentative schedule is Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For up to the minute details, visit Huntsville Grotto's Convention 2005 website:
<http://www.nss2005.com>

Be prepared to bring anything you may need to be well equipped and comfortable during the workshops.

Contact information:

Jim Wilbanks: jimgail69@earthlink.net
Maureen Handler: tnshotgun@earthlink.net
Peter Michaud: bhmmudpup@aol.com
Brian Roebuck: solow@charter.net
Lynn Roebuck: pretzlgirl@charter.net



Mark Joop at a cave clean up

Cave Conservancy Roundtable At 2005 NSS Convention

John M. Wilson

The Seventh Annual Cave Conservancy Roundtable will be held at the 2005 NSS Convention in Huntsville, Alabama. Check Convention website updates for time and place.

The NSS Cave Conservancy coordinators meeting will be held immediately after the Roundtable.

Please appoint your representative or representatives if you have not already done so, by sending an email to John Wilson: wilsonjml@msn.com

Details of these two functions may be found at: <http://www.acave.us/nssccc>
Click on Current Events in the index.

Renew Your Membership!

As a member, you already know how your ongoing support directly affects the Cave Conservation and Management Section's efforts to preserve, conserve and manage the underground.

By completing the renewal process right now you'll effortlessly maintain your membership status. This will enable you to be involved with CCMS activities, work with others who share your love of caves and broaden your life experiences. By Renewing your membership in the Cave Conservation and Management Section you can become more involved thus increasing the efficiency of our efforts. With your renewal you'll continue to receive *The Cave Conservationist* Newsletter, which provides you with up-to-date coverage of CCMS activities, conservation topics and issues facing caves today.

For just \$5.00 you can renew your membership right now and help ensure future generations of cavers continue to enjoy the underground! For more information visit: The Cave Conservation and Management Section <http://www.caves.org/section/ccms>

Dues/Renewal

Payable to: **CCMS** c/o Eugene Vale, 46 Cedar Drive Pacific, MO 63069-3414
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The Cave Conservationist

The Cave Conservationist is the official publication of the Cave 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, CCM Section or the 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 who want to reprint material should contact the Editor. Newsletter contributions should be submitted to the Editor as an attachment formatted to MS Word. Typed/mailed contributions are preferred but handwritten will be accepted if the item is brief. Photo contributions for publication should be submitted electronically to the Editor.



**Cave
Conservation and
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Section of the
National
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

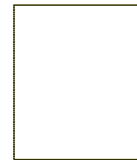
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 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Cave Conservation and Management Section
 of the National Speleological Society
 Membership Form**



NSS #		Date you joined the Conservation & Management Section		Membership Paid Until (Office use only)		Membership Category (Office use only)	
Title (Mr, Ms, Dr, Mrs., Miss,	First Name	Middle	Last Name		Suffix (Jr, Sr, III, PhD., M.D., etc.)		
Address Line 1				Phone (Home)			
Address Line 2 (if needed)				Phone (Work)			
City		State	Zip	Phone (Cell)			
Country				FAX			
				Primary E-mail			
				Alternate E-mail			

Your name and address are required so that you may receive the *Cave Conservationist*. Please provide additional contact information in order to be informed on any fast breaking cave conservation developments. Dues are \$5.00 per year (Checks payable to Cave Conservation and Management Section) and should be sent with this form to:

**Eugene Vale
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