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The Cave Conservationist

The Cave Conservation and Management Section of the NSS

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Please Renew Your Cave Conservation and Management Section Membership

Rod Horrocks CCMS Chair and John Wilson CCMS Vice Chair

The Cave Conservation and Management Section (CCMS) is on a drive to increase its membership and improve its effectiveness as a force in cave conservation and management. One component of this drive is to increase our financial resources. An example of the section's financial commitment is the recent addition of the Grotto Conservation Award, with an annual cost of about \$300.00. The start up costs of this award and some replacement costs associated with the Group Conservation Award will require an additional \$500.00 for permanent plaques and certificates and related expenses. Our newsletter, *The Cave Conservationist*, is another example of the financial commitment of the section. Copies of recent newsletters are posted on the section website. The last issue provided extensive information about the proposed destruction of Wilkinson Quarry Cave in Bermuda. The section's related articles can be found on the web at: www.caves.org/section/ccms/ or mirror site www.acave.us/ccms/.

Enter and then click "The Conservationist" on the index.

Unfortunately, the 2003 and 2004 section billing and membership solicitation was not done. The problem that led to this lapse has been corrected and we are actively trying to get our members back. We have a new treasurer and a new section address. Once we have restored our membership at a level reached in the late 1990's, we will again be able to effectively respond to conservation emergencies and carry out long-term conservation projects.

Section dues are \$5. per year. We invite you to renew your membership, preferably for more than one year. You may download an application form from our web site or use the application on page 2 of this newsletter and mail it with your check made payable to The Cave Conservation and Management Section to:
Eugene Vale, Treasurer
46 Cedar Drive
Pacific, MO 63069-3414



**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
46 Cedar Drive
Pacific, Missouri 63069-3414

CCMS Website Summary

Rod Horrocks CCMS Chair and John Wilson CCMS Vice Chair



The CCMS website specializes in conservation resources, editorial comment, cave laws, ethics, and policies. The site mentions both cave conservation successes and failures. Considerable information about the cave conservation and awards presented by the Section is also available. All back issues of *The Cave Conservationist* are in the process for being placed on our web site.

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.

NSS Cave and Karst Preservation Policy

Caves and areas of karst and pseudokarst development are sensitive environments that 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 that 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 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.

Source: National Speleological Society
http://www.caves.org/section/ccms/nss_cave_preservation_policy.htm

NSS Conservation Policy

The National Speleological Society believes:

Caves have unique scientific, recreational, and scenic values

These values are endangered by both carelessness and intentional vandalism

These values, once gone, cannot be recovered

The responsibility for protecting caves must be formed 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 their 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 destroy

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 them knowledge about their cave and assisting them in protecting their cave and property from damage during cave visits

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.

For more information on cave conservation, check out the NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section Web Site

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

Source: National Speleological Society

<http://www.caves.org/info/policy.shtml>

Call for Cave Conservation and Cave Management Abstracts for 2005 NSS Convention

Jim C. Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker, NSS Conservation

Send abstracts for all Conservation Sessions during for the 2005 NSS Convention (Huntsville, AL — July 4-8, 2005) to Jim Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker: werks@zianet.com Abstracts are due to us by April 20, 2005.

We are accepting abstracts for the **NSS Restoration Forum**, the **NSS Conservation/Management Session**, and presentations on **Conservancies**.

NSS conservation activities will be scheduled throughout the week of Convention. The Southeastern Regional Association's SERA Karst Task Force is sponsoring three in-cave workshops during the Huntsville Convention · Speleothem Repair Workshop · Graffiti Removal Workshop · Sinkhole Haul-out System Workshop. (*see more information on page 7*)

Please note the difference between Conservation and Conservancy activities during Convention. The words are easily confused—read carefully. Conservancies should also submit papers to Jim and Val and will find information on the scheduled Conservancy Roundtable in John Wilson's announcement below.

We encourage early submissions. Equipment will be available for PowerPoint presentations. For online details, visit the Convention website: <http://www.nss2005.com/>. Our deadline for submission of session and forum abstracts is April 20, 2005. Please email us now and indicate your intent to submit an abstract: werks@zianet.com

Conservation abstracts are usually submitted for oral presentation, but if you have a poster presentation, contact Jim & Val to make special arrangements.

Send any questions and submit your abstracts by mail or e-mail to: Jim C. Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker, NSS Conservation Division Co-Chairs, PO Box 207, Cuna Cueva Hwy 27, Hillsboro, NM 88042-0207. Phone: (505) 895-5050. Email submissions are preferred: werks@zianet.com

As you prepare your paper, there are several comments from the editor of the Journal of Cave and Karst Studies concerning convention abstracts:

1. Each year the Journal of Cave and Karst Studies publishes abstracts from the annual National Convention..."
2. Cavers preparing abstracts for the convention sometimes forget that the abstract is more than an invitation, or "teaser" to entice an audience. It is also a permanent record, a summary of all the substantial information one plans to present." Abstracts are informative summaries that include conclusions, not merely a list of topics that will be discussed. "The Journal has to limit the number of pages devoted to abstracts..."

(Continued on page 6)

Call for Abstracts *(continued)*

3. "We must limit the abstracts to 250 words. Thus, some abstracts are eliminated as too lengthy and others are edited down. Unfortunately, the people most qualified to cut out words are the author and the session chair. When they fail to do so, we are forced to make changes, often in fields where we have no expertise."
4. "Too often an abstract will say, 'Discussion will be on how to...' instead of actually summarizing the technique. A promise is nearly worthless but a summary has value to future readers." Abstracts are informative summaries that include conclusions, not merely a list of topics that will be discussed.
5. "While preparing an abstract for the convention, we ask you to consider some other requirements of the Journal. Like nearly all scholarly publications, we use metric. Please use, or at least include, metric in each abstract."
6. "A scholarly abstract should always include a mailing address. Professional affiliation and internet address are also commonly included."
7. "Avoid abbreviations" and do not include references in convention abstracts.

NSS Conservation Membership: Regular and Life

Dawn Ryan, NSS Membership Committee

Have you heard? The NSS is offering new choices in Society membership categories. Become a Conservation Member or a Conservation Life Member and commit to a higher level of cave conservation and protection.

The Conservation memberships are intended to emphasize and encourage the Society's conservation and education programs. Your Conservation Membership dues will help the NSS in fulfilling one of its missions: To advance the protection of caves and their natural resources.

Regular Conservation Membership dues are \$100 per year. The difference between the annual regular dues and the annual Conservation dues are considered a

donation and will be allocated to NSS conservation and education programs and activities. If you are considering donating \$50-\$70 to the NSS this year, why not become a Conservation Member?

Life, Family Life, Outstanding Service, or Honorary Members can pay a one time, additional \$1,000, beyond their initial life membership fee, to become a Conservation Life Member. NSS Conservation Memberships are considered donations to the Society and are tax deductible as provided by federal and state law. Help the NSS promote conservation and protect the caves we all love. Become a Conservation Member today by contacting the NSS:

<http://www.caves.org/info/member.shtml>

Three Conservation Workshops Scheduled for Huntsville NSS Convention

Jim Wilbanks

The [Southeastern Regional Association's](#) Karst Task Force (SKTF) will be sponsoring three workshops during the 2005 NSS Convention in Huntsville, Alabama. The SKTF is the NSS' s newest karst task force and has been the leading group sponsoring conservation activities in the southeast. In the process the group has learned a few things about cave conservation.



Surface: Volunteers set up Haul System Tripod

The SERA Karst Task Force wants to share what it has learned as well as learn from others. All workshops are "hands on". Come prepared with caving gear and eye protection. No experience is necessary. There is no cost involved to participate, although donations are always welcome.

The first workshop will be Graffiti Removal. We are looking for the right cave to clean, so we can compare various types of removal, side by side. We want to look at the impact on the cave and its environment as well as the effectiveness of each system. We plan to have a portable sand blaster on site as well as other removal systems. If you have a favorite system or tool, please bring it with you.

The second workshop will be Speleothem Repair. Jim Werker and Val Hildreth-Werker will demonstrate their techniques and a number of formations will be repaired. If you have experience with formation repair, please bring your tools and materials and show us what you have learned.

The third workshop will be Vertical Trash Removal from a Sinkhole. The SKTF has learned a lot about trash hauling and has created some successful systems. We will be working on a local pit that needs to be cleaned up. If you have vertical experience, bring your gear. Whether you do or not, there is plenty to do and learn on the surface.

The workshops will be on separate days, but the exact days of the week have not been set. Look for further announcements as the year progresses. For more information contact the 2004 SERA Karst Task Force Chair, Jim Wilbanks: jimgail69@earthlink.net
[Southeastern Regional Association](#)
[SKTF Yahoo Group](#)



Sink: Peter Michaud rigs Haul System Ropes

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.

The NSS Policy for NSS Nature Preserves

<http://www.caves.org/preserves/>

26-752 NSS Nature Preserves 3-20-04

All NSS properties are renamed substituting "Nature Preserve" for "Cave Preserve" or "Caverns Preserve." All Acts, Appendices, and committees are amended replacing "Cave Preserve" or "Caverns Preserve" with "Nature Preserve." The NSS requests the NSF amend Appendix G of the NSS Trust Funds contract to substitute "Nature Preserve" for "Cave Preserve."

The NSS Nature Preserves

<http://www.caves.org/preserves/>

The NSS now owns twelve preserves and manages one preserve. A local Management Committee cares for each preserve. These committees report to the NSS Board of Governors, through the NSS Nature Preserves Committee.

McFail's Nature Preserve (NY)
Shelta Cave Nature Preserve (AL)
John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve (WV)
Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve (GA)
Barton Hill Nature Preserve (NY)
Warren Cave Nature Preserve (FL)

Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve (OK)
Schoharie Caverns Nature Preserve (NY)
Mill Creek Sink Nature Preserve (FL)
Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve (PA)
Wells Cave Nature Preserve (KY)
Great Expectations Cave Nature Preserve (WY)
The Potter Unit Nature Preserve (OK)

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.

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Payable to: **CCMS** c/o Eugene Vale, 46 Cedar Drive Pacific, MO 63069-3414
Email: eugenevale@socket.net (See Membership Application in this Issue)

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 wilderness.

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 Joining or 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.

Renew your membership right now to help ensure future generations continue to enjoy caves!

For more information about CCMS visit: www.caves.org/section/ccms/



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

**We're on the
Web! See us at:**

<http://www.acave.us/ccms>

**Join our Section
Discussion List!**

E-mail:
conservation@wingedseed.com
type "subscribe" in the
subject field

February is

Cave Conservation Month!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Take Nothing but Pictures . Leave Nothing but Footprints . Kill Nothing but Time