



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

December 2019

The New IO Newsletter

This newsletter format is aimed at helping the leadership of the internal organizations to know and share what the NSS is working on at the national level. Hopefully providing you with the ability to brief your membership on what the NSS is doing for them, and keeping you in the know. Please share it with your organization.

The Landowner Network Relations Committee

◆ The NSS Landowner Relations Network Committee (LRNC) has been established to work on private sector landowner relations at a national level and facilitate access to the resources of the NSS for the purposes of cave conservation, cave access, cave preservation, and cave acquisition.

JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO SUPPORT LANDOWNERS

- Request support or guidance as a landowner or caver.
- Request guidance to develop a management plan that ensures perpetual access and support for landowners.
- Become a member of the NSS LRNC to serve as the connection between the NSS and landowners.
- Contact us at LRNC@caves.org with questions or comments.

NSS Headquarters Updates

- ◆ The NSS HQ received three new works of art this month from the patron of the arts program.
- ◆ The WiFi in the HQ is in the processes of being updated including work in the "Back 5."

NSS Photo Salon in Digital Format

- ◆ The NSS photo salon is now available for purchase from the NSS Bookstore with original music by Keith Goggin.



McFail's Cave Nature Preserve
photo from www.caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

As a follow-up to last month's message about liability waivers. Many of you asked for an example waiver. These example waivers will eventually be posted to the IO website, but until that site is updated, these vetted waivers can be obtained by emailing us at :

iocommittee@caves.org

Current I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

The San Francisco Bay Grotto

The San Francisco Bay Chapter (SFBC) of the NSS is excited to announce a new scholarship opportunity aimed at promoting diversity among cavers participating in cave expeditions. This scholarship can help defray up to \$500 in expedition costs, and will be awarded once per year. Application are accepted on a rolling deadline; please apply three months prior to expedition fee deadline.

Preference will be given to SFBC and NSS members who have not previously joined an expedition. Check out their website for more detailed information: <https://www.sfbaycaving.org/caving-expedition-diversity-scholarship/>

The Great Batsby

The annual New Year's Eve Member Appreciation Dinner and Party is happening again this year at the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, AL. This takes place from December 31, 2019 at Noon to January 1, 2019 at 10:30. The "Bat Ball" this year has a Great Gatsby theme and promises to be a great time for all in attendance.

NSS Preserve—Spotlight—McFail's Cave Nature Preserve

New York's McFail's Cave, the first NSS-owned cave, is managed for recreation, exploration, and research. With over 7 miles of mapped passage, McFail's is the longest cave in the northeastern United States. Two vertical entrances provide access to the cave, leading to passages ranging from water crawls to sculpted canyons

Donated in 1967, the property contains two other caves, each less than 500 feet long, and numerous sink holes. Managing this cave is the job of the McFail's Cave Nature Preserve Committee, co-chaired by Peter Haberland and Jason Siemion. The Committee coordinates access to the cave and ensures the parking area and trails at the Preserve are maintained

In 2019, the preserve was used for a small self-rescue class and the preserve management completed some small trail and parking lot maintenance tasks.

If you have questions about this Preserve, e-mail the Co-Chairs at:

mcfailscommittee@caves.org

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 I/Os 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