



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

March 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.

A look at NSS web services and a nod to the future.

In the Past: As a benefit to IOs, the NSS has offered web hosting and subdomains of caves.org to support IOs and their local missions. To date, 50 grottos, 20 committees, 12 sections, 10 regions, and 3 conservancies have taken advantage of this. Many of these sites are currently hosted on an outdated server that cannot be updated.

The Current Situation: About a year ago, the IT department set up a new hosting service which is in the cloud and will receive regular updates to stay current. However, based on NSS staffing, we are not able help individual IOs to migrate old sites to this new platform. It is available for any IO (not individuals) to create a new site, bring their domain over, or create a new domain. This is a way for IOs who currently pay for web hosting elsewhere, and have the internal expertise, to save some money. Again, we have limited amounts of technical support available for this service, but it is available for you today! To apply for web hosting or a subdomain go here:

<https://it.caves.org/index.php/hosting/>

The Future: All of the NSS leadership understands that an update to the website is needed. Our organization needs a public face that is not only easy to navigate, but is also visually striking. To this end, the Board of Governors (BOG) created the *Caves.org Steering Committee* at the spring meeting two weeks ago. This committee, chaired by Adam Weaver (adam@caves.org), will begin a complete rebuild of caves.org. It seeks to make our website a more intuitive and up-to-date experience.

This committee also hopes to find a way to help IOs that do not have the ability to manage their own sites and is actively looking for a solution that will help the majority of IOs. If you have great ideas for this project, want to help, or have concerns about how it affects your organization, contact this committee at:

website@caves.org



Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve Photo from caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

Speleo Buzz Email

Get the word out! The Public Relations committee of the NSS has recently been re-energized. They are now pushing out an e-newsletter the first week of every month to keep the NSS membership informed. If you have news to share - reach out to them at pr@caves.org

Current IO Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

Buy a Brick, preserve a memory

- ◆ The Headquarters Memorial Brick Fundraiser is ready to put some bricks down. Bricks are \$100 each and can be bought by a grotto, an individual, a family, anyone really. The bricks will be used around the flagpole at NSS HQ. So far we have sold 671 bricks!

https://caves.org/donate/HQ_Donation_Form.pdf

- ◆ The form can be downloaded and filled in electronically: save and email it back to the office or send it via the mail.

The Members Manual in 2020

There will be a members manual produced in 2020. It was not produced in 2019 due to some issues caused by the NSS database migration. The members manual will still be mailed out as per the normal. However, this comes at a significant cost to our organization. So, we ask you, and anyone you know to please opt out of the members manual if you don't need it in print. Member information is searchable in the most up-to-date form in the members section of caves.org. More direction for online searches of members will be in the April IO Newsletter.

To opt out, go to caves.org > Member Portal > Member Central > Change Membership Info > Manage Profile > (scroll to bottom of page)> Change your selection under *Members Manual Type* to "Electronic" > save

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— Kingston Saltpeter Cave and Nature Preserve

The Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve in Bartow County, Georgia is composed of 40 acres of largely hardwood forest, underlain by a variety of wildflowers and mosses. The area is teeming with wildlife, from deer and an occasional bear to small rodents, snakes, birds and microscopic life. The Preserve is located almost entirely on and along the flanks of a large isolated dolomitic knob, providing an incredible vista in all directions. Outcroppings of the Knox series of dolomite are found, along with an array of multi-colored agates. The focal point of the Preserve is the Kingston Saltpeter Cave, and it is for the protection of this endangered natural resource that the Preserve has been established.

This preserve is not regularly open to sport caving, but the caves on this property do see regular visitation by special groups, or scientific projects. This cave has been heavily visited, and vandalized, since its saltpeter mining days. Kingston Saltpeter Cave is probably Georgia's most historic cave with an interesting Pleistocene fossil record and archaeological evidence. This past year the cave was visited by a number of historians and researchers continuing their efforts.

If you have questions about this preserve, email **Larry Blair**:
kingstoncommittee@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 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