

INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

September/October 2019



The New IO Newsletter

This new 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.

A Headquarters Mortgage Update: On January 2017, the NSS refinanced its Headquarters in the amount of \$345,104.00. We've now made 32 monthly payments along with three additional payments totaling \$69,644.09. The additional payments have shaved 19 months of payments from the loan. As of September 2019, we will owe \$150,053.64. If we continue to pay off the mortgage with monthly payments of \$4959.15, we have 34 payments left and our final payment will be on May 2022. Team 404 members are covering the bulk of the monthly mortgage with donations making up the rest. Info on team 404 can be found at: <https://caves.org/donate/index.shtml>

Headquarters Developments: Sponsorship of art work in the building is going well and the Sperka Entrance Hall is looking great. Sponsorship of a photo for the gallery is \$200 for a photo enlarged to about 2 feet by 3 feet. Please call the NSS office at 256 852 1300 to inquire about sponsorship of a photo. We have also acquired a number of museum cases for display of various materials on cave education and NSS History. We're now accepting materials for the NSS museum so if you would like to donate some of your historical items, please contact the NSS Office.

- Also, the Headquarters marque sign along Pulaski Pike is now up and running

For those of you traveling nearby, remember the NSS headquarters property is open for free camping by NSS members and their guests. Huntsville is a prime caving area.

Membership Update: There was recently a bit of difficulty with the member tracking software during a software migration. The NSS is now looking at ways to better notify members that their membership has expired and looking at calling past members to encourage renewal. It does appear that we've had another decline in membership (7542 total members at the end of July).

- On a positive note, we're averaging about 60 new members a month and NSS number 70,000 was recently issued.



An "OK lead" Photo: Dan Austin

What can the NSS do for you?

Grants:

Did you know that the NSS offers grants to support a number of different aspects of caving? If you are passionate about a great project, its worth seeing if the organization will support your efforts. For more information look under "grants" at caves.org. Or, <https://caves.org/grants/index.shtml>

Current I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

What can you do for the NSS?

The NSS is always looking for help in different positions across the organization. This month we will feature a special need:

Electronic Publications Manager

The NSS has a long history of publishing and distributing cave centric books that are only available in a printed format from our Bookstore or associated vendors. However, the publication industry and reader preferences are increasingly migrating to e-publication formats and we recognize the need to offer our readership access to non-printed content. The E-Publications Manager will work closely with the NSS Executive Vice President (EVP), Special Publications Committee, Bookstore, and Webmaster to develop electronic content for existing and new book publications and to establish web-based distribution methods. In addition, this individual will oversee improving the availability of searchable content on the internet (eg. by partnering with Google Books and other relevant search engines) to improve accessibility and global awareness of our publications.

This is a new volunteer position within the NSS organization that will report directly to the EVP. If you are interested in helping to expand the availability of cave-related literature to the global market and to shape the future of National Speleological Society publications please email EVP@caves.org.

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— The John Guilday Cave - Nature Preserve near Franklin West Virginia

This is one of the more popular caving spots in the Virginias. The preserve sees thousands of visitors each year. Often referred to as "Trout Rock" the preserve contains three significant caves, Hamilton, Trout & New Trout Caves. Hamilton and New Trout are open year round with open access. All we ask is that you follow guidelines for safety and conservation outlined in the management plan and posted at the kiosk. Trout has been closed year round for over 10 years due to the presence of endangered bat species. Just this last spring through consultation with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service we have been able to get Trout open for about 7 weeks in the early summer as long as the guidelines for visitation are met.

Update: Earl and his wife work diligently to keep the property nice, by graffiti removal, fence repair, kiosk up-keep, etc. We have found if you remove graffiti and let the public know that someone is working to keep things natural that there is much less new graffiti. Our goal is to keep it as natural as possible and still have trail access. Parking is across the street along the gravel pull-off maintained through an arrangement with the State Transportation Department. We also got the property taxes removed from the preserve since it is a nature preserve.

For more info: <https://caves.org/preserves/jgcp/jgcp.shtml>

*For access and more information contact the Manager, John Guilday Cave Preserve.
Earl Suitor - Cell: 703-431-2661 [text or call] Amateur Radio: WV4NSS*

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 the chance is good 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