



I-O-INFO

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Call for Issues for the 2015 Congress of Grottos

By Bill Stringfellow, 2015 COG Chair

No Issues were submitted for consideration by the Congress by the April 15th cutoff date. There is still time to submit issues for consideration by the Congress but they will not be published to I/Os. Issues may also be brought to the floor during the COG meeting at the NSS Convention. Please make sure motions are presented to the COG Chair in written form.

Send issues via email to: cog@caves.org or by US Mail to:

Bill Stringfellow
Chairman, Congress of Grottos
204 Lake Court
Woodstock, Georgia 30188-3212

Issues to be acted upon should be from NSS Internal Organizations and should be in the form of a motion, i.e. ". . . Grotto moves . . .". A brief summary of supporting information for the motion is useful, and helps clarify the need for the motion. Please simply state the motion without 'whereas ...'.

Discussion items not requiring a motion may also be accepted, and will appear on the agenda following submitted motions.

Why is the Congress important and why should your IO consider presenting issues? Motions passed by the COG as resolutions must be considered by the NSS Board of Governors. Issues that are discussed are provided to the Board as well, as a means for them to receive feedback and ideas from members.

If you have an issue you would like considered by the COG, bring it up to your internal organization; grotto, region, survey, or section, and ask them to sponsor the issue or motion.

The Congress of Grottos meets annually at the NSS Convention. Meetings are open to everyone, however only IO representatives may present issues and vote. The number of votes allocated to each IO is based on how many NSS members claim that IO as their "primary affiliation." To change your primary affiliation, or ensure the correct one is recorded in the database, go to www.caves.org and click on "member change of info".

Call for Papers National Cave and Karst Management Symposium October 19-23, 2015

Cave City, Kentucky

By George Veni, Executive Director NCKRI

We are now accepting papers for NCKMS 2015. The theme for the Symposium is "Hidden Landscapes – Hidden Challenges", with particular emphasis on management issues related to human impact on karst. However, we encourage oral presentations and/ or poster submissions on all topics related to the management of caves and karst resources. The deadline for paper submission is September 7, 2015. Visit our website for more information on the Call for Papers. (<http://www.cave-research.org/NCKMS2015/callForPapers.html>).

The 21st Annual National Cave and Karst Manage-

ment Symposium will be held in the heart of the southcentral Kentucky karst in the Mammoth Cave region of the state. The venue for NCKMS 2015 is the Cave City Convention Center located in Cave City, Kentucky, situated just minutes off Interstate I-65 and convenient to the international airports of Nashville, Tennessee (1.5 hours to the south) and Louisville, Kentucky (1.5 hours to the north). Since the early 1800s, Cave City has hosted visitors to Mammoth Cave National Park, which is a World Heritage Site, International Biosphere Reserve, and the second oldest tourist attraction in the United States with 53,000 acres of natural preserve and over 400 miles of mapped passageways...the longest cave system in the world. The Symposium is hosted by Cave Research Foundation, Mammoth Cave National Park, and Western Kentucky University.

As the theme for NCKMS 2015 is “Hidden Landscapes-Hidden Challenges”, field trips will visit the surface and hidden landscapes of Mammoth Cave National Park and surrounding areas and will also feature field trips to Bowling Green, Kentucky to discuss the challenges of urban development on karst.

A selection of seven outstanding workshops will be offered on Monday, October 19, 2015. The workshops will provide hands-on experiences with the techniques and skills necessary for studying, monitoring, and managing cave systems and karst areas. The week after NCKMS 2015, Mammoth Cave and WKU’s Karst Field Studies Program will be offering a week-long course on cave management (October 26-30, 2015). The course can be taken as a workshop, for university credit (either graduate or undergraduate), or for Continuing Education credits. See the website for more information.

For more information on NCKMS 2015 please visit our website at <http://www.cave-research.org/NCKMS2015/index.html> or contact Pat Kambesis (pat.kambesis@wku.edu)

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