



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

April/May 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.

2020 NSS Convention Plan Changes

The in-person convention in Elkins, West Virginia has been postponed to the summer of 2023: As most of us already know, and if not, already assumed, the convention has been moved online this year due to the public health recommendations. The next in-person convention will be in Weed, CA in the summer of 2021.

The Virtual Convention marches on! The 2020 convention staff are offering many elements of convention as virtual events free of charge! These include the Cartographic Salon, Cave Ballad Salon, Graphic Arts Salon, Photography Salon, Symbolic Emblems Salon, T-Shirt Salon, and Video Salon; as well as the Communications and Electronics Section and Vertical Section meetings. There will also be a number of presentations from West Virginia Exploration and United States Exploration and more!

The Fine Arts Salon folks are planning a special offering that is sure to please. Finally, the Thursday night Awards Salon and Friday Awards show will continue as scheduled via online offerings. If you have not been to a NSS convention before, this is great opportunity to sample some of the convention activities without the cost of travel. For all the information on this virtual convention, and to find a schedule of events, go to the 2020 convention website [HERE](#).

The NSS Elections are underway

- ◆ The NSS director elections began on May 11th and will continue until June 25th. For more information on candidates and the election timeline, visit: <http://caves.org/committee/nominating/index.shtml>
- ◆ If you are a current member and have not received your ballot, or you need some additional information about the voting process, please contact: nominating@caves.org



James Gage Karst Nature Preserve
Photo from [caves.org](#)

What can the NSS do for you?

Pro-Deals

The NSS has partnered with ExpertVoice to bring Pro Deals to all NSS Members!

This gives our members, professional discounts from over 700 brands of outdoor-related equipment. Discounts are commonly in the 40 percent range.

Click [HERE](#) for instructions to join ExpertVoice.

Current IO Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

The NSS Presents: Getting Started Caving Video Series

The NSS Board of Governors, helped by the talented Derek Bristol, have created a four part video series designed to educate those who want to begin caving, or those who want to know more about why we explore the underground. Proper safety and conservation techniques are at the forefront of the series. If your grotto is looking for a fresh presentation, or a resource for new cavers within your community, head to this link: https://caves.org/Getting_Started_Caving.shtml

The first video provides a broad overview on the sport of caving, including how to get started and the importance of safety and conservation. Part two dives into the various types of caves, the cave environment, and cave life. Part three discusses prepping for your first expedition with overviews on the importance of finding an experienced trip leader, how to prepare for your first trip, what gear and clothing is needed, proper landowner relations, and how to visit caves with a priority on safety and conservation. The fourth and final installment of this video series focuses on project caving. This provides an overview on the various goals of project caving including: resource management, survey and exploration, restoration and conservation, cave rescue training, cave science and research, and photography.

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— James Gage Karst Preserve

Located in Schoharie County, New York, the James Gage Karst Preserve is 12 miles east of the NSS-owned McFails Cave and 9 miles west of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy's Knox Cave.

The preserve, situated on 40 acres, contains three known caves and 310 acres of cave rights. The bulk of the Preserve is a limestone bench characterized by numerous sinkholes and solutionally-enlarged joints. All drainage is underground. The acreage is almost entirely wooded by a northeastern hardwood forest. The three caves on the property are Ball's Cave (previously named Gage Caverns), Keyhole Cave, and Greenes Cave. Discovered in 1831 by Peter Ball, Ball's Cave is one of the oldest known caves in the state of New York with over 3,000 feet of mapped passage.

Recently on this preserve, the outhouse was redone as was the parking area. Plans and fundraising have been underway to demolish and replace the current cabin that sits on the preserve. Caves on this preserve are closed from 10/1 through 5/1 annually.

If you have questions about this Preserve, e-mail **Bob Simmons, Emily Davis, and Mike Warner** at jgagelcommittee@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