

INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

August 2020



The IO Newsletter

Started a year ago, This new newsletter was aimed at helping the leadership of the internal organizations to know and share what the NSS is working on at the national level. Now, work continues to be done to be ready to send out the IO Newsletter to using member services from the NSS. That will be ready to launch next month. Please look for that change and check your email preferences.

Important Notice from Maureen Handler

In the March 2020 IO newsletter we mentioned that a new hosting service is available for internal organizations. With the release of the new NSS website right around the corner, the time has come for committees and IOs hosted on the caves.org server to migrate to the new hosting service. This hosting service is free for all internal organizations and committees to use. You can learn more about the changes and request a new hosting account at the following URL: <https://it.caves.org/index.php/hosting/>. IOs and committees will have until December 31, 2020 to migrate their sites to the new service. Questions or concerns about the change should be directed to it@caves.org.

-Maureen Handler, Operations Vice President

Check and Update Your Email Settings: It was brought to our attention that some members aren't receiving emails from Member Services. Please check your email preferences by logging in to <https://members.caves.org/login.aspx>.

Under "welcome 'your name'" click "Account + Settings." From there scroll to "Manage Email Preferences". A box should appear with four options. Make sure all are checked to receive all communications from the NSS.

Members are always welcome to call the NSS office and talk with Michelle Vaughn (Membership and Bookstore) or Christy Starr (Office Manager) if you have any questions or need additional assistance. Christy or Michelle may be reached via phone at 256-852-1300 or via email at nss.caves@org.

Call For Candidates: The Executive Search Committee is looking for candidates to run for NSS Secretary/Treasurer. The candidate needs to be proficient in Quickbooks. If you are interested in running or can suggest a good candidate, please send a note to the committee at execsearch@caves.org or call the chair at 410-792-0742 in the eastern time zone.



Photo of Schoharie Cave from Caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

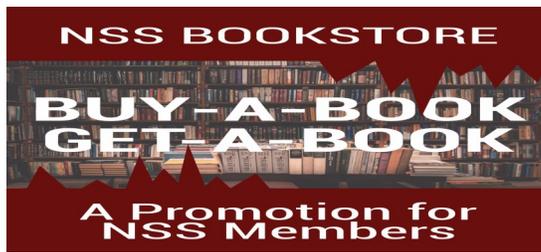
Zoom Meetings:

Are you hosting or organizing a large caving event? Will that event have a virtual audience? If so, contact Nick Anderson at Anderson@caves.org. The NSS has a paid account and wants to share that function for caving events that might receive a larger than usual virtual audience.

Current I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org



Looking to build your caving book collection? Have you always wanted a certain book from the NSS Bookstore? Now is the perfect time!

The NSS Bookstore is offering **NSS Members** the opportunity to buy one book from the Bookstore and get another FOR FREE!

That's right! You have the chance to get two (2) caving resources for the price of one! The only cost to you is one (1) full-price book and the shipping and handling.

To participate in this great offer, put your desired book in the cart along with one of these "free" books:

- [Caves and Karst of the USA](#)
- [Adventure of Caving](#)
- [Visions Underground](#)
- [American Caving Accidents 50th Anniversary](#)
- [On Caves and Cameras \(Hardbound\)](#)
- [On Call \(Hardbound\)](#)
- [Cave Minerals of the World \(Hardbound\)](#)
- [Diamond Jubilee of the National Speleological Society's 75th Anniv](#)

After your two (2) books are in your cart (one (1) full-price book and one (1) from the list above) use the promo code *Getabook* at checkout.

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve

Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve is located in Sinking Valley, Blair County, Pennsylvania, between the cities of Tyrone and Altoona (hence the name). This preserve is the ninth nature preserve owned by the NSS. Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve, containing 6.8 acres of property, was purchased from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy on December 23, 1997.

Tytoona has been noted as one of the most significant caves in the state. The cave is rich with history that dates back to 1788 and has been mentioned in early publications and county maps. Two attempts in the past (1947 and 1972) to commercialize the cave were short-lived adventures and today little or no trace can be found of those early business ventures.

This past fall and winter marked lower visitation along with adverse weather making higher water levels. Most visitations at these times involve people looking at the sinkhole and entrance. On Dec. 5th, 2019, Professor Mitzy Schaney (University of Pittsburgh – Johnstown campus) took a group of equipped students for a brief visit inside the cave as part of the class study. Liability forms were signed and there were no problems.

Maintenance is ongoing at the preserve, with a wooden step replaced, more signage placed, and recurring trash pick up along the side of the road. Litter has fortunately decreased substantially over the past few years.

For access and more information contact the Preserve Manager, email Garrett Czmor at tytoonacommittee@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 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