



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

JANUARY 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.

The National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar

- ◆ The national seminar provides a great opportunity to increase your cave rescue skills and meet ~100 new caving friends from across the country. This year it will be held at Camp Pinnacle, Voorheesville, NY from June 12th-20th, 2020. The cost is currently \$730.00 and includes meals and lodging at the site.
- ◆ Several scholarships are available to cover half the cost of tuition for the June 2020 Seminar. Additional information is available at the registration website listed below: applications must be submitted before March 14th, 2020. Send questions to scholarships@ncrc.info
- ◆ The registration for this training is can be found at https://ncrc.regfox.com/ncrc-2020-national-seminar?fbclid=IwAR3jBD_gumY1GYQUMZ1_I1A0R49ytDYNr1c0nGoVnPm_uTD-LZ6oCdGaRcXA and is on a first come, first served basis. Additional information can be found by contacting 2020registration@ncrc.info



Shelta Cave Nature Preserve photo from www.caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

Guidance for your IO: Many important pieces of information about running a successful IO can be found in the NSS Policy for Internal Organizations. Located here: <https://caves.org/nss-business/bog/Append-D.pdf>

Many internal questions can be solved by looking through this document. Make sure you log into the website first or the link may not work for you. Enjoy!

Welcome to two new Grottos!

- ◆ Two new grottos have been chartered with the NSS: The Persona Non Grotto - An online non-location based grotto; The Israeli Caving Club - A group of excited cavers operating in Israel.

NSS Board of Director Nominations

- ◆ It is time again to submit nominations for NSS Director. Think about someone who might make a positive on the NSS, and ask them to run! Nominations can be sent to: nominating@caves.org

I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

Your 2019 Annual Internal Organizations report is now Due.

Instructions for Completing Annual Report Requirement.

Follow your custom link to your organizations IO Report that you received last year and review the information for your internal organization. Make sure you update the date for your login or you'll get another email from the NSS IO committee!

No Link/Missing Link?

If you don't have your link, or you are a new IO or IO contact, simply email iocommittee@caves.org and mention what IO you represent to receive your link.

Questions/Due Date?

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out any time! Reports are due by January 31st, 2020. If you've already updated your information after the end of November, thanks!

NSS Preserve—Spotlight—Shelta Cave Nature Preserve

Shelta Cave is located directly beneath the old NSS national headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama. It was the second NSS-owned preserve, purchased in 1967. Approximately 2500 feet long, the cave has one of the most outstanding underground ecosystems in North America.

Shelta Cave was visited on 14 occasions since October 2018. The initial trip on 28 October 2018 was led by Kevin Reeves to Jones Hall, East Lake, East Hall, and Tom Johnson Hall areas. Visual encounter surveys were conducted on this trip in these areas.

Over the course of these trips teams documented 37 taxa during the current bioinventory including 9 cave obligate species, highlighted by observations of *Typhlichthys subterraneus*, *Orconectes australis*, *Pseudanophthalmus lodingi*, and an undescribed species of *Stygobromus* amphipod. We also discovered the Shelta Cave Crayfish (*Orconectes sheltae*) during a snorkel survey of Jones Hall on 31 May 2019. Two bat species (*Perimyotis subflavus* and *Eptesicus fuscus*) also were observed. No bats showed evidence of White-nose Syndrome.

In total, at least 72 species have been documented from Shelta Cave. They continue to search the literature for additional historical records.

If you have questions about this Preserve, e-mail the Co-Chairs at:

Bill Torode and Kevin Reeves at sheltacommittee@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 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