



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

November 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.

NSS Volunteer Opportunities

◆ The NSS is always looking for more volunteers. If you're interested in getting more involved with the organization, there are almost endless opportunities. There is a new web-link to look at the biggest needs here. For additions or help with this webpage, please contact cindy@caves.org. Additional information can be found at: <https://caves.org/info/volunteer.shtml>

NSS Headquarters Updates

- ◆ The NSS had two more donations for the Patron of the Arts Program, which continues to make the HQ a more inviting space.
- ◆ Work has been completed to get the museum cases that were purchased earlier this year, stocked and ready for display.

NSS Leadership

- ◆ The NSS BoG selected a New Operations Vice-Chairman, Maureen Handler, at its fall 2019 meeting. She is available for contact ovp@caves.org.
- ◆ Kristine Ebrey was selected as the new NSS Secretary/Treasurer effective at the Spring NSS board meeting. She will be replacing Gaylene Speaect who has served for many years in that position. Gaylene has worked tirelessly to implement the movement of the NSS to the QuickBooks accounting system.
- ◆ Jason Ballensky was confirmed as the chair of the US Exploration Committee and Amanda Willis was confirmed as the chair of the NSS Public Relations Division.



Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve
photo from www.caves.org

What can the NSS do for you?

Did you know? NSS Liability Insurance coverage extends to all I/O's and affiliated organizations. The NSS Insurance Committee recommends that all grotoes and internal organizations ensure liability waivers are signed by both members and participants on caving trips, vertical training, or events. This is particularly important if the trip includes minors.

Local organizations need to maintain a file of properly signed waivers. For more info contact Ted Keys, Insurance Committee Chairman

Current I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

The Hawai'i Grotto

The Hawai'i Grotto has some exciting things happening waaaaay out west. First in a very interesting offer, they have offered that NSS members may join the grotto free. For information on this, send an email to membership chair Kim Fedrick, kfdrck@gmail.com, stating you want to be a member and include your NSS number. Also, they are getting ready to celebrate Hawaii Cave Week, January 26th to February 2nd, 2020. Goals of the Hawai'i Grotto include encouraging cavers to participate in speleological endeavors on the island, which consist of cave research, conservation, and management. By far, the most significant lava cave site in the world, Hawaii Island is an ideal place for cavers to study and explore the many exceptional caves. Some cavers own property and even live close to these caves on the Island. Cave programs, a banquet, and a party are scheduled by the Hawai'i Grotto before the first weekend in February 2020. Opportunities to help during one afternoon with invasive plant removal on Cave Conservancy property is an example of a conservation activity. There will also be cave trips in the recently caver acquired caves that are now open to cavers for the first time in many years. They are looking for more cavers to help advance speleology and cave conservation in Hawaii. More info can be found from jmwgeo@gmail.com.

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 was the ninth nature preserve owned by the NSS. Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve, containing 6.8 acres of property, was purchased in 1997.

The first 1000 feet of passage offers easy caving for both young and old. As a well-known natural landmark, Tytoona attracts its own publicity. This cave has an exceptionally attractive entrance. Along with the photogenic qualities of the landscape, it's a popular site for cavers, conservationists, and others.

This past year, the location saw a number of improvements, including some stairs maintenance descending into its sinkhole entrance and some graffiti removal.

For access and more information contact the Preserve Management Committee Chair:

Garrett Czmore 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 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, we can help. Send an email and we will do our best to help you with your project or problem.

Adam@caves.org



www.caves.org