



A Huckleberry Finn-style interest in adventure is what led me to start caving. In 30+ years as an NSS member, the adventure continues to capture my full attention. My exploration has led me to the discovery of dozens of new cave species, participating and leading expeditions which are generally entirely volunteer-led, and friendships with cavers both near and far from my home in Austin, Texas.

Cave exploration is one of the greatest adventures of the modern era. We can discover a new cave, a new connection, a new bug, map a known cave, archive data for future cavers and so on. As NSS members, we are all fortunate to be a part of caving and contribute one way or another. This is what drives our volunteers to do the work that we do for the caving community and through the NSS.

At our core, the NSS is a community of persons who care for caves and each other. We cannot forget that caving is about having fun with our friends. Sometimes fun means regular fun, but often it means working to do something seemingly impossible, and frustrating, but when successful, brings an immense feeling of joy and discovery.

I am a professionally trained biologist with a Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin specializing in cave invertebrates of Texas and Mexico. I've received numerous grants for my research and published in peer-reviewed journals in the field. Through my work, I hold a USFWS endangered species permit. If elected, I will support the society in expanding our impact in the scientific community by supporting scientific grants, broadcasting research findings, and engaging more of our members in doing cave science.

Today I serve as Partner and President at an environmental consulting firm working closely with clients to ensure adherence to regulations and protect natural resources. I manage a staff of 12, and we've grown the organization while remaining true to fulfilling our conservation-oriented goals. My experience as a business owner equips me with the foundation and experience needed to transition the NSS towards a future with a focus on sustainable and long-term growth. I support thoughtful changes to the society to meet the growing needs of our organization.

Of course, going caving tops everything. I am a dedicated project caver and cave diver. As a diver and expedition leader, I pushed exploration in Main Drain Cave (UT) and Honey Creek Cave (TX). Internationally, I collaborated on projects in Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, Borneo and China. In America, I've done extensive surveys in Lechuguilla and The Grand Canyon. I've caved in too many states to keep track of. Having caved all across the country, I intend to serve cavers across America and not be myopically focused on one specific region.

I understand the trials and tribulations required to uncover new cave passages: blood, sweat, tears, bruises, and sometimes even broken bones. I have seen that dedication through the enthusiasm for recreational caving, tank hauls to support cave dives, etc. Strengthening fellowship across our nation and internationally is one thing that the NSS is uniquely positioned to contribute to.

The NSS is the most meaningful organization for cavers and caves in America. However, the NSS is at a crossroads today. We have an opportunity to become the global authoritative voice on caves, cave science, exploration, safety and more. In highlighting and treasuring the fun of caving, we can

engage more and more young cavers in preparation to carry the torch as responsible stewards looking out for caves.

If elected, I will fight for growing membership by getting more people underground, investing in cave science and the broadcast of scientific discoveries, and contributing to thoughtfully restructuring the NSS to build the foundation necessary to support healthy growth into the next 80 years. It would be an honor to serve.