

CAVE SCIENCE NEWS

CONSERVATION EDITOR NEEDED BY JCKS

The *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* seeks a new Associate Editor of Conservation. The responsibilities of the Associate Editors include soliciting articles, arranging for appropriate reviews of papers in their fields of expertise, working with authors to prepare their manuscripts for publication, making recommendations concerning acceptance and rejection of submitted papers, and assisting the Editor in gathering material for the non-refereed section of the *Journal*. Advice from the Associate Editors, along with the *Journal's* Advisory Board, is commonly solicited on editorial policy decisions.

The *Journal* desires a pro-active caver with contacts in the cave and karst conservation and management community, and experience in scholarly publishing. Interested candidates are asked to send a letter of interest by February 1, 2002, to the editor at: Hose@chapman.edu.

EBAY CHANGES ARTIFACTS POLICY TO HELP PROTECT SPELEOTHEMS

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: On Saturday, September 1st, eBay changed their Artifacts Listing Policy to include speleothems. I want to thank everyone who spoke with and/or emailed eBay Community Watch over the past two years to help eliminate the listing of speleothems. It's evident your comments did not go unnoticed.

Two of the Community Watch comments I received were "if we only knew the state and federal laws" and, "the auction ended before we could delist the item." Approximately 2 weeks before Convention, I mailed the Chairman of the Board, President, Vice-president and General Counsel of eBay a copy of all of the Federal laws and state statutes regarding the protection of speleothems and caves.

When I returned from Convention, I had a message to call the General Counsel. For a week we discussed cave conservation, eBay politics, and how their Artifacts Policy could be changed. Below is an annotated copy of the new eBay Artifacts Policy with the changes in ***bold italics***. (<http://pages.ebay.com/help/community/png-artifacts.html>):

Artifacts, Grave-Related Items and Native American Crafts

Many artifacts, *cave formations (speleothems, stalactites and stalagmites)* and grave-related items are protected under federal laws such as, *The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988*, and the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. eBay cooperates with the Department of the Interior, *Department of Agriculture*, Bureau of Indian Affairs and Federal Bureau of Investigation in determining what items may lawfully be sold under these laws. Please follow these general guidelines when listing related items on eBay.

Artifacts - Artifacts taken from any federal, state, public *Department of Interior (NPS, BLM, USFWS)* and *Department of Agriculture Agencies (USFS)*, Native American land, or battlefield are prohibited for sale.

Cave Formations - *The sale of speleothems, stalactites and stalagmites taken from caves on any federal land is prohibited by federal law. See The Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988. Many states also prohibit the sale and/or removal of speleothems, stalactites and stalagmites taken from caves. Please be sure your item complies with all applicable laws before listing it for sale.*

The revised policy, however, does not prevent speleothems from occasionally being listed. There are over 300,000 items on daily and the eBay Community Watch Team cannot check them all. Cavers still must monitor the auctions, and, if we find a cave formation for sale, immediately email eBay Community Watch found under Contact Rules and Safety (<http://pages.ebay.com/help/basics/select-RS.html>), referencing the item and the new Artifacts Policy. I have been advised when we do this, eBay Community Watch will immediately contact the seller and have the item delisted. This system is not perfect; however, eBay has made a stand for cave conservation and together we can make a difference.

YAHOO CHANGES AUCTION POLICY TO HELP PROTECT SPELEOTHEMS

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: On November 1st, Yahoo changed their Auction Listing Policy to include speleothems. The Yahoo's policy is simple and can be found at <http://user.auctions.shopping.yahoo.com/html/guidelines.html>.

After eBay change their policy on September 1st, I sent a similar detailed document to their General Counsel Matt Robinson and two weeks later we developed the below policy. Although it is not perfect, the policy is one that can be enforced by the Yahoo Auction Team.

Items that are prohibited by Yahoo!

It is the responsibility of both the seller and the buyer to ensure that the items listed for auction and bought by the winning bidder are appropriate for sale under all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, every item listed on Yahoo! Auctions must be consistent with Yahoo!'s policies, as determined in Yahoo!'s sole discretion. Yahoo! expressly reserves the right to, but has no duty to, refuse, reject or remove any listing in Yahoo!'s sole discretion.

There are some things that you may not list or sell under any circumstances. These include:

14. Speleothems, stalactites and stalagmites from caves on federal land or as prohibited by state or federal law.

The revised policy, however, does not prevent speleothems from occasionally being listed. There are over 100,000 items on daily and the Yahoo cannot check them all. Cavers still must monitor the auctions, and, if we find a cave formation for sale, immediately email Yahoo found under Auction Abuse http://add.yahoo.com/fast/help/us/auct/cgi_abuse referencing the item and the new Policy. I have been advised when we do this, Yahoo will immediately contact the seller and have the item delisted.

The two largest Internet Auction Companies, eBay and now Yahoo, have taken a position for cave conservation and speleothem protection. Together we can all make a difference.

Tom Lera - Liaison for International Speleothem Protection, NSServation Committee

KARST FRONTIERS: FLORIDA AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTS

THE KARST WATERS INSTITUTE CONFERENCE SERIES
MARCH 6-10, 2002

The Karst Waters Institute will host another of their excellent special topic meetings in spring 2002. This interdisciplinary conference will focus on exploring the biology, chemistry, and geology of Cenozoic carbonate aquifers in Florida, and in related environments around the World.

Oral sessions will be invited, abstracts for the poster session can be volunteered. Total participation is planned at 100-120 people. For more information contact: mylroie@geosci.MsState.edu or 662-325-8774.

HESS APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Geological Society of America recently announced that NSS member and karst hydrogeologist Jack Hess will become their Executive Director on December 15, 2001. Hess wrote his Pennsylvania State University PhD dissertation on the hydrology of the Mammoth Cave, Kentucky area under the direction of Will White. He has spent most of his career associated with the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada, most recently serving as Director of the Institute.

OBITUARY

GEORGE HUPPERT
NSS 7717

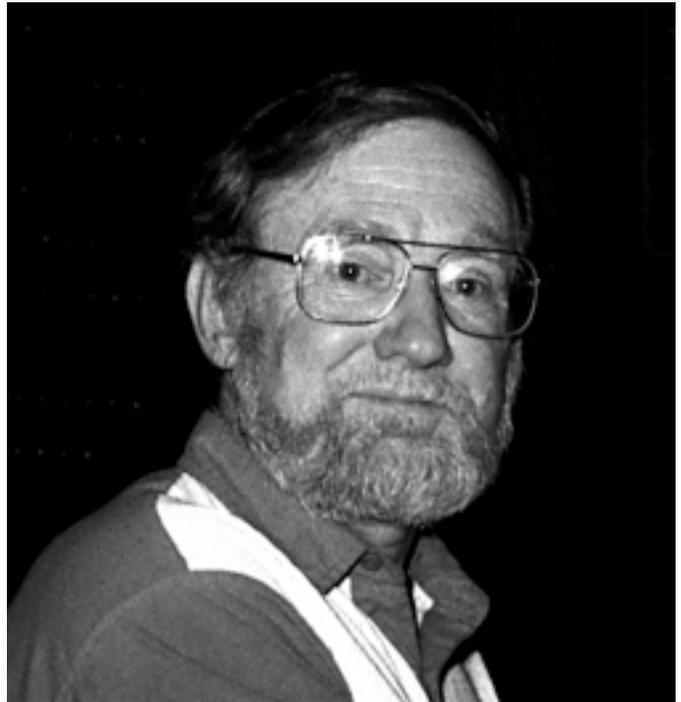
Dr. George Huppert, Conservation Editor of the Journal of Cave and Karst Studies, died on October 14, 2001, in a head-on car crash in the Roosevelt Lake area near Globe, Arizona, while exploring prior to the National Karst and Cave Management Symposium held in Tucson. George was a prolific writer on cave and karst conservation and management topics, and had spent many years of service to the National Speleological Society (NSS), the NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section (CCMS), the American Cave Conservation Association (ACCA), the International Union of Speleology (UIS), and most of the National Cave and Karst Management Symposia. He was 56 years of age at the time of his death, and is survived by his wife Betty J. Wheeler, one son, 3 nephews, and 2 nieces.

In his life, George accumulated six university degrees in Geography, Geology and related subjects. He read two or more newspapers daily, and several hundred books, professional journals, and magazines per year. George was devoted to the study of the earth and nature, with an insatiable thirst for knowledge. He wrote most of the dissertations for his advanced degrees on cave related topics, including Papoose Cave in Idaho and a Survey of Cave Conservation in America. He joined the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse in 1979, and became Professor of Geography and Earth Science. He was twice voted Chair of the Department of Geography and Earth Science.

George's caving included trips to hundreds of caves (905 that he recorded) in many parts of the U.S.; and to caves in Canada, Jamaica, San Salvador Island (Bahamas), Cuba, England, France, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Hawaii, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Brazil. He was particularly delighted to visit the "Kras" area of Slovenia, which is the first area of solutional caves scientifically described ("type-section"), and where groundwater resources are fragile. (This work defined what is now known as a "karst" area.) George was also honored to visit the famous Lascaux Cave in France. This famous cave, with Paleolithic drawings and paintings of animals, is one of 16 sites named together as the "Decorated Grottoes of the Vezere Valley" and is designated a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site. The drawings and paintings in the cave are exceedingly fragile and, therefore, visitation is extremely restricted.

George spent thousands of hours volunteering in the NSS and other organizations. He was a founder and officer of the American Cave Conservation Association, and a founder and President of the NSS Cave Conservation and Management Section. He was at various times a Director of the Section, and was the coordinator for the NSS Convention Conservation Session for many years. He was a Fellow of the NSS, and was the 1996 recipient of the NSS Conservation Award, given each year to an individual who, through specific actions, has demonstrated an outstanding dedication to the cause of cave conservation. Ironically, George was a prime mover in convincing the Conservation and Management Section to continue to present the old style NSS Conservation Award to Internal Organizations after the NSS changed their award to an Individual Award; George chaired the Section Awards Committee for many years.

At the time of his death, George was an Adjunct Secretary of the UIS Bureau, and served for a time as the US Delegate to the UIS. Prior to 1996, he served on the International Geographical Union Commission on Sustainable Development & Management of Karst Terrain.



George attended and presented papers at many of the National Cave Management Symposia, on topics ranging from Underground Wilderness to Cave Laws to Show Cave Owners Perceptions of the NSS. He was co-editor of the Proceedings for the 1987 meeting at Rapid City. At the time of his death, he was collaborating with Tom Lera on a book on Cave Protection Laws.

There is no doubt that George will be sorely missed, not only by his family and friends, but also by the entire cave conservation community.

[A George Huppert Memorial Page has been established on the NSS CCMS Web Site at <http://www.caves.org/ccms/huppert/>]

Rob Stitt

(with inputs from Betty Wheeler, Arthur Clarke, and Abel Vale).

BCI - STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE IN DECEMBER

Approximately 15 grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 will be made in 2002, to support research that helps document bats' roosting and feeding habitat requirements, their ecological or economic roles, or their conservation needs. Students enrolled in any college or university, worldwide, are eligible to apply. Projects must have bat conservation relevance. The application deadline for 2002 scholarships is 15 December 2001.

Application information and forms are available on our web page at <http://www.batcon.org/schol/schol.html> or email aengland@batcon.org or write to:

Bat Conservation International
 Student Scholarship Program
 P.O. Box 162603
 Austin, TX 78716-2603 USA