

OBITUARY - WILLIAM L. WILSON (1953-2002)

William L. Wilson (NSS 12231FE) passed away on Friday, March 15, 2002. He was stricken with a heart attack exactly one week earlier while on a karst field trip, and did not recover. Bill began caving in 1968. He earned his BSc in geology in 1976 from Indiana University, and worked for 7 years as a field and project geologist for energy extraction companies in West Virginia, Wyoming, and Colorado. He went back to graduate school in 1983, and in 1985 he received a MSc in geology from Indiana State University. His thesis was titled "Lithologic and base control of groundwater flow paths in the Garrison Chapel area, Indiana", with the late Dr. Don Ash as his advisor.

Bill went to Florida in 1986 to begin work as a Research Geologist at the Florida Sinkhole Research Institute at the University of Central Florida. He branched off in 1987 to start his own business, Subsurface Evaluations, Inc. [SEI], which by 2002 had grown into a major geophysical consulting company. SEI provides geophysical surveys and geological evaluations for geotechnical and environmental applications, and specializes in the detection of karst geological hazards, such as sinkhole precursors, and karst hydrogeology. Bill was the first person to provide ground-penetrating radar as a commercial geophysical service in central Florida. Bill was a certified cave diver, and licensed as a professional geologist in Indiana, Florida, and Kentucky. He was the lead scientific diver on many cave diving expeditions including Deans Blue Hole, Red Snapper Sink, and one of the early Wakulla Expeditions.

Bill made substantial contributions to the science of karst and caves. At SEI, along with his wife Diane and others, he provided expert advice to people concerned with collapse sinkholes in the State of Florida and beyond. He maintained a large digital database on sinkhole occurrence, and developed an actuarial method for predicting the likelihood of sinkhole collapse. More recently, his work focused on evaluating the carbonate aquifer as a whole. His thoughts on this topic were just published in a paper entitled "Conduit morphology and hydrodynamics of the Floridan Aquifer: Moving to the next level - conduit modeling" [Karst Waters Institute Special Publication 7, p. 5-8], which he presented as a keynote opening address at a karst conference in Gainesville, Florida, just two days before he was stricken. His goal was to develop a dual-permeability model of the Floridan Aquifer that accurately predicts the effects of conduit networks on groundwater flow.

A scholarship in Bill's name, to support student research in caves and karst, has been established by the Karst Waters Institute in cooperation with Bill's family. Tax-deductible donations will be accepted at: Karst Waters Institute - Wilson Scholarship; PO Box 537; Charles Town, WV 25414. The purpose of the scholarship is to bring new, young scientists into karst research to continue the work that Bill had dedicated himself to. Bill is survived by his wife Diane and their son Robert, his mother Sylvia Motta, grandmother Mary Wilson,



Brothers Greg and Kevin Wilson, and sister Robin Grider.

Bill was an original thinker and a pioneer. He worked quietly and developed both a database and the ideas that illuminated new approaches to understanding karst. He was a steadfast friend to those around him and to the discipline. His good cheer and dedication to cave science will be greatly missed.

John Mylroie and Ira Sasowsky

NEW JCKS CONSERVATION EDITOR

The *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* welcomes a new Associate Editor for Conservation, Julian J. Lewis. A cave biologist by training, Dr. Lewis operates a cave, karst, and groundwater biological consulting company in Indiana. He has published over 90 articles, many of them related to cave conservation issues. His contact information is available on masthead of this issue.

JCKS ADVISORY BOARD ADDS NEW MEMBERS

Three prominent cave and karst scientists have accepted appointments to the *Journal's* Advisory Board for terms extending 2002-2004. They are hydrochemist Malcolm Field from the EPA in Washington D.C., paleontologist Donald McFarlane of Claremont Colleges in California, and geologist William White from Pennsylvania State University. Ending three-years of service to the *Journal* are Douglas Medville, John Mylroie, and Elizabeth White.

Members of the Advisory Board frequently provide advice and suggestions through e-mail conferences throughout the year. They help to form policy, provide insight on complex problems facing the *Journal*, and advise on the selection of new editors. It is an active group whose wisdom and experience has proven invaluable to the editorial staff. We thank the scientists who volunteer their time to help raise the standards of the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*.