Room Change: Convention Development in Rm 103
Convention Development meeting moved to Room 103 in Eshleman Science Center. To avoid having to use the stairs, walk on the road along the left side of the building. Walk down the ramp next to the loading dock to enter the 1st floor.

New Event: A Synopsis of the Pleistocene Paleo Finds in West Virginia
Another presentation has been added to the Archeology/Paleontology Session Thursday afternoon: "A Synopsis of the Pleistocene Paleo Finds in West Virginia," by George Dasher, at 3:45 PM.

General Announcements
Convenient Shuttle Services: Regular and Evening Buses for Easy Transportation
Regular Hourly Service Monday - Friday:
Shuttle buses run every half hour between the campground and D&E between 8 AM and 6:30 PM. The last hourly bus leaves D&E for the Campground at 6:30.

Additional Evening Shuttle Services:
- Tuesday: Buses will pick up at D&E at 9 PM, 10 PM, 10:15 PM, and 10:30 PM following the Fellows Reception and Thailand Rescue talk.
- Wednesday: Buses will pick up at D&E at 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 9:30 PM, 10:30 PM, and 10:45 PM following the Auction.

Return buses will pick up at Gainer Center at 8:30 PM.
Squeeze Factor: CaveSim
CaveSim is located between the McDonnell Center and Myles Center for the Arts on the Southeast side. It will be open 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Register for 2024 Convention for only $235!
Join us for the 2024 NSS Convention in Sewanee, TN for the best possible price! Register before Friday and NSS Members pay only $235 for the entire week. Come back to the heart of TAG in 2024 and experience one of the premier caving areas in the country. Register at: caves.org/2024/registration.

Event Announcements
Fellows and New Members Dessert Reception: Congratulations to the newest Fellows of the Society!
If you don't have a ticket in your badge holder (and it's highly likely you don't), please find Meredith Hall Weberg for your ticket to the Fellows and New Members Dessert Reception that happens on Tuesday night. This is not dinner and is ONLY for Fellows and new members--no "plus ones.

Rick Stanton's Presentation: Recording Prohibited
Audio or video recording of Rick Stanton's presentation on the Thailand Cave Rescue on Tuesday evening is prohibited. The presentation is only for the live audience.

Conservancy Roundtable Update!
Are you a leader in a cave conservancy or manage a cave preserve? Come to the Conservancy Roundtable on Wednesday 9AM-Noon (Room 318). Tom Whitehurst from the Southeastern Cave Conservancy is giving a short talk on security camera systems at preserves. Join us to learn how the SCCi does it or even if you just want to learn more!

Cave Tunes: Open Mic @ the Campground Tonight!
Open Mike begins at 7:30 at the Campground Pavilion. We go until interest flags, from performers or audience. Here's your chance to show others what you can do. Performances range from professional to amateur and are always varied and rotate quickly. And we need an audience as much as performers. It's the thing to do on Tuesday evening!
Greatest Little Cave Ballad of Them All: Cave Ballad Listening Kiosk @ Fine Arts Salon
The Cave Ballad Listening Kiosk is set up in the Fine Arts Salon, across from the WVa and Va Cave Conservancies exhibits. Come listen to this year's contestants, vote for your favorite for the Caver's Choice Award. We have a CD, along with leaflets containing lyrics and explanatory information for each entry. You will find the quality is very high this year - and hope you will be inspired to enter next year (when there may not be so much competition!)

Howdy Party: Join Speleo Santa for Free Fun Pics, Plus a Special Camp Night for Kids and Parents!
Santa will be at the howdy party for free fun pictures as Speleo Santa. On Wednesday night, he will also be at the camp near Big Tree by Cooters for kids and parents to enjoy.

Section Announcements
Greener Pastures: Free, New Cow's Tales at the Vertical Section
Do your cowstails need to be sent to greener pastures? The Vertical Training Commission has you covered! Come to the VTC table at Memorial Gym and we will cut you some new cowstails on dynamic rope donated by Sterling and PMI. Your choice of exciting colors, while supplies last!

Vendor Announcements
Aquanaut Author Rick Stanton's Book Signing Event at Speleobooks' Milestone Celebration
Rick Stanton, author of the book "Aquanaut," will be signing autographs at 12:30 on Wednesday during the Speleobooks 50th anniversary celebration in the vendor area. You are invited to come and meet Rick, have a chat, and enjoy some cake while you're there.

Legacy of Adventure: Mountaineering Books and Memorabilia from Horton "Beep" Hobbs III
Mountaineering books and personal items from the late, great Horton "Beep" Hobbs III will be for sale at the Speleobooks Annex in the vendor area. Profits will go to the Biology Section in support of students.

Final Sale: Karst Waters Institute Publications
KWl will not be selling copies of their publications after this convention. Their books are available at Speleobooks in the Vendor area for $5 each while they last.
Award Announcements

Acknowledging Achievement: Welcoming the Accomplished Fellows of 2023

It is the Awards Committee's honor to announce and congratulate the new Fellows for 2023. We look forward to seeing you at the Fellows and New Members Reception on Tuesday evening at the Augusta Pavilion.

George Bange
Karen Bange
Terry Bolger
Mary Ellen Chester
Bill Devan
Jeff Gobin
Pete Johnson
Kyle Lassiter
Greg McNamara
Chris Pelczarski
Knutt Peterson
Savannah Sawyer

Up for Grabs: The James G. Mitchell Award

The James G. Mitchell Award is conferred for the best scientific paper presented by a student NSS member at the convention. The awardee receives a certificate and a cash award and is introduced at the Friday Banquet Awards Ceremony. Contact Roy Jameson, Awards Committee, Mitchell Award subchair, if you qualify at rjc19@comcast.net

Other Announcements

Be Part of the Future of Vertical Training: Donate to Build Vertical Bill’s Training Tower

Donate to the construction of Vertical Bill's Training Tower to be built at the NSS HQ in Huntsville. The NSS has a large matching fund campaign. Be a part of future vertical training. See Maureen Handler for more information.

Support The HQ: Buy a Brick!

Order forms are available at the NSS Bookstore. See the drone aerial photo of the existing Celebration Patio! The next engraved brick order will be placed in September with brick installation happening in December!

Give Back to Elkins: US Capital Christmas Tree

We need your help to create over 10,000 ornaments for the US Capitol Christmas Tree and smaller trees that will be displayed this holiday season in Washington DC. Join the Monongahela National Forrest in the Myles Center every day from noon to 2pm to make your ornaments

Having so much fun at the NSS Convention that you want to VOLUNTEER FOR THE NSS? We have hundreds of projects, committees and work that can use your help. Fill out an interest form at https://caves.org/volunteer/ and we will contact you with opportunities!

Special thanks to our Sponsors!