

# TAG Tour Tales

**2024 NSS Convention, Thursday 7/4**  
**Sewanee, TN**

## **Volunteer needs**

We need 4 or 5 volunteers to help the caterers keep the food lines supplied during the banquet service period. Time frame for this is 6:30 until everyone is served.

## **Registration Information and Hours**

Don't forget to bring your ID to registration. Arm bands for beverages at functions will be issued during registration, and volunteers will need to verify your birth date.

Registration Hours:

- Monday through Thursday: 8 AM – 5 PM
- Friday: 8 AM – Noon

## **Salon Information**

### **Salon Award Program**

- **Date:** Thursday Night
- **Location:** The Caverns
- **Short Show:** 5:30 PM CT
- **Long Show:** 7:30 PM CT

General information

## Custom Survey Pages Printing

Beau Gregel will be printing custom survey pages at the Survey and Cartography Section meeting.

- **Date:** Thursday
- **Time:** Starting at noon
- **Location:** Room 567 in Simmonds Hall

## Shuttle Buses

- **Departure:** From SAS at 4 PM CT, big white tents (Banquet site)
- **Shuttles:** Three shuttles will run to the venue (20-minute one-way drive), starting at 4 PM CT with multiple cycles.
- **Return:** Long Show ends at 10 PM CT. Shuttles will start runs back to SAS immediately after the show. Please be prompt.

## Driving and Parking

- **Option:** Drive your own car and park at The Caverns for more flexibility.

## Big Room Cave

- **Availability:** Open all day on Thursday for event attendees
- **Details:** A fun, horizontal, commercial cave that is wild and free to explore! Enjoy The Caverns property before the event.

## Salons Award Program THURSDAY 7/4

Alcohol will be sold at The Caverns!

If you would like to purchase containers of beer and other alcoholic beverages during the Salon Awards, they will be available for sale at the venue during the show. Bring ID.

## **Schedule changes**

Friday:

BOG, 9am -noon- Simmonds, room 11

## **2024 LUMINARY TALK SCHEDULE**

This year, we are proud to showcase three outstanding women cavers as part of our Luminary Talks! Due to some conflicting scheduling information in the Program Guide, we are reiterating the official schedule below for your reference. All talks will take place from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM CT in McCrory Hall Auditorium!

- THURSDAY: Emily Davis (Classic)
- FRIDAY: Dr. Louise Hose

Don't miss these inspiring presentations!

## **2025 CONVENTION REGISTRATION NOW LIVE!**

Want to experience the charm of rural New York karst, the hospitality of the cavers of the northeast, be able to visit 3 NSS Nature Preserves, attend a caving event in a cooler climate, and hear the stories from A LIFETIME OF CAVING? Then REGISTER NOW for next year's convention. Registrants (adults and minors) who register during this year's convention will not only receive the pre-registration discount but also an additional \$10 off (ONLY during convention). Take advantage of this LOW, LOW price today!

<https://caves.org/convention/2025-nss-convention/>

## **Overflow Seating for Auditorium & Helm's Deep Sessions**

Space is limited for some of our larger sessions, but overflow seating is available in the Spencer Room of Langford Hall for the following sessions. If seating is full, head over to Langford Hall for ample seating and air conditioning.

- **International Exploration (7/3)**
  - **Primary Room:** McCrory Hall
  - **Overflow:** Spencer Room
- **Helm's Deep (7/5)**
  - **Primary Room:** 5/6/7 Simmonds Hall
  - **Overflow:** Spencer Room

## **Annual Horizontal Section Meeting**

Join us for the Annual Horizontal Section meeting to discuss the highlights from the best caves of the past year.

### **Agenda:**

- Annual review of progress on our book "On Crawl"
- Vote for new officers (typically chosen from people not attending)
- Presentation by Brooke Fehlenberg on horizontal medical treatments
- Horizontal Mitten Challenge judged by Paul Walko and Eric Pelkey

### **Details:**

- **Date:** 07/03/2024
- **Time:** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

- **Location:** VPI Camp Ground

[More Information](#)

## **19th International Congress of Speleology - Brazil 2025 - Second Circular**

We are pleased to share the Second Circular of the 19th International Congress of Speleology, which will be held in Brazil in 2025. Please distribute this information to the entire speleological community in your country.

The PDF file can be downloaded by clicking on the link below:

[19th ICS - 2nd Circular](#)

## **Members and Donors Welcome at the Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i**

The Cave Conservancy of Hawai'i needs your help to protect Hawai'i lava tubes!

The Conservancy was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2002. Our mission is to preserve Hawaiian

caves. We have a new project in the Ocean View area of the Big Island to acquire a property with two cave

entrances, next to land we have already preserved.

We are looking for new members and donors to help us with projects like this. Visit our

website, <https://hawaiicaves.org>, or come see us at our table in the Non-Profit Hallway to join and collect new swag.

Donor contributions over \$50 also receive nice thank you gifts.

Annual membership categories = Regular \$25, Family \$35, Student \$15, Contributing \$50, or Supporting/Institutional \$100.

## **Cafeteria Dining Information**

Breakfast:

Days: Monday - Friday

- Time: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM
- Cost: \$8.00 plus tax
- Payment: Cash or credit

Lunch:

Days: Monday - Friday

- Time: 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- Cost: \$12.50 plus tax
- Payment: Cash or credit

## **Ice Availability**

Ice is available at the on-campus campground. We deliver in the mornings and early evenings for \$5 per bag. If you have an ice emergency, talk to a staff member, and we'll assist between deliveries.

## **Decon and Gear Cleaning Station Information**

The decon and gear cleaning station will be operational starting Sunday night.

Decon Hours:

- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

#### Additional Facilities:

- Water hoses, brushes, and tubs available after hours.
- After hours hot water bath drop-off is also available.

Ensure your gear is clean and ready with our convenient cleaning options!

### **Come and see the NEW Cave Sim**

CaveSim is open for everyone to explore for free just outside Registration. Come join us to see the brand new system, with three levels, over 50 formations, helmet tracking, highly-realistic passage, and a padded floor. We are open from 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday, and 9am-noon on Friday.

## **NSS Writing Workshop Schedule - Thursday, July 4, 2024**

**Co-Chairs:** Jo Schaper and Michael Ray Taylor

**Location:** Simmonds Hall, Room 10 (Map location 25)

### **10:00 - 10:30 AM**

- Greetings, Introductions, and Cave Writers Sign-Up Sheet

### **10:30 - 10:55 AM**

- **"SPELEOTHEMS, a Great Little Guide That Took a While"**  
by Will White
  - Description: Will White, a member of the Karst Waters Board, will describe the road to publication of the new KWI

field book "Speleothems: A Guide to the Speleothem Form and Identification." (Signing at Speleobooks)

### **11:00 - 11:25 AM**

- **"Ergor Rubreck's Story Funhouse"** by Roger Brucker
  - Description: Celebrated explorer and cave writer Roger Brucker, under his humorist alter ego Ergor Rubreck, will discuss writing cave humor and his new book "Mamma Says DON'T CAVE." (Signing at Speleobooks)

### **11:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

- Open Readings—please sign up with Jo Schaper

### **12:00 - 1:15 PM**

- Arts and Letters Salon Members' Lunch and Business Meeting (New members welcome! A new issue of "Illuminations" will be available)

### **1:15 - 1:55 PM**

- **"Flash Critique Sessions"** by Schaper and Taylor
  - Alternate: **"Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Writing and Art"** — discussion moderated by Schaper

### **2:00 - 2:25 PM**

- **"Ellison's Revisited"** by Bill Steele and Ryan Mauer
  - Description: Steele, an explorer of Ellison's Cave, and cave photographer Ryan Mauer discuss the new republication and expansion of Marion O. Smith's classic 1977 book, "The Exploration and Survey of Ellison's Cave." (Available at Speleobooks)

### **2:30 - 2:55 PM**

- **"iPhone to ISBN and Beyond: A Journey to Publication"** by John LaMar Cole
  - Description: Poet, musician, and caver John LaMar Cole describes the path to print for his new collection, "the ephemeral everything." (Signing at Speleobooks)

### **3:00 - 3:55 PM**

- **"Cavers Are Characters"** by Michael Ray Taylor
  - Description: In this hands-on workshop, seasoned cave author Michael Ray Taylor will help participants observe, record, and write artful and engaging character descriptions of their caver friends and colleagues.

### **4:00 PM - ?**

- Open Readings and Closing Thought

## **Cave Diving Session Update**

Diver Jonathan Bosquez will not be able to attend, and in his place, Diver Christina Richards will present "Exploration at Neal Cave, TN" at 1600 EST.

## **Stay Connected**

The NSS Vertical Section is active on Facebook! Look for events and information on our FB Page and help us determine new directions for the Section.

## **First Aid**

First Aid General first aid services are available at the Registration desk or by calling SPELEOWEB1 (773-536-9321)

Emergencies: For emergencies, call 911 first. Then, you can request on-site medical assistance from Registration or SPELEOWEB1 (773-536-9321).

SPELEOWEB1 is staffed 24/7.

AED Locations:

- Outside the bathrooms near Registration
- In the Gymnasium lobby
- In the Chapel • At The Gauntlet
- In a BLS pack carried by on-site medical

## **Local business discount**

Mountain Outfitters is offering a discount. Mention you are with the caver convention (wear your name badge!) and you can receive 15% off any item in the store that are not already on sale this week!! They are doing an awesome shoe sale too and have a 50% OFF section upstairs full of gear!!!

Mountain Outfitters

[903 West Main Street](#)

[Monteagle, TN 37356](#)

931-924-4100 Phone

[www.themountainoutfitters.com](http://www.themountainoutfitters.com)

[facebook.com/themountainoutfitters](https://facebook.com/themountainoutfitters)

[plus.google.com/+themountainoutfitters](https://plus.google.com/+themountainoutfitters)

[Rope Roundup!](#)

[Do you have rope? Do you know how long it is? Do other people know how long it is? Is it labeled?](#)

[If you answered yes or no to any of those questions, feel free to bring any rope you have for free measuring and](#)

[marking.Come to the "Invenergy" trailer in noisy camping near the Howdy Party tents \(close to the beer\). 9-11 PM \(ish\) Wednesday and Thursday](#)

### **Missing bag, phone, and wallet**

My 10 year old child, Isaac Florea, has lost his phone and wallet at convention, if you find it please turn it in to registration, it is an iPhone 7 in a black case and a black wallet with a Go Henry card in it. It is in a Kings Island bag that includes his Convention name tag. It went missing Monday night.

### **General announcement re: Fritz Hardy**

For those of you who knew Fritzi Hardy, a caver in the guads in NM since the 1960s, she died June 26. I know of no specific memorial plans yet. --Kenneth Ingham

## **Vendor Ads**

### **NSS Bookstore**

NSS Bookstore sold out of some popular items today. Jarvis took a road trip to Huntsville to restock these items. If you couldn't find what you wanted yesterday, please stop back by today. The new clothing items and hats are awesome.

### **SCCi**

Historical Collection Available

You don't want to miss your chance to go home with an impressive historical collection of NSS News. 8 boxes full of first hand trip accounts from some of the most eminent cavers through time.

Documenting decades of caving history, issues dating back to 1944 are included! Imagine tracing back through time some of the first discoveries, emerging technologies, and advancing field of cave exploration. This goes beyond a trip down memory lane.

This rare collection is available at the silent auction, benefitting Southeastern Cave Conservancy's mission to protect caves and karst landscapes through conservation, education and recreation.

Stop by Southeastern Cave Conservancy's booth with questions about the historical NSS Newsletter collection.

## **Inner Mountain Outfitters**

**WE HAVE RESTOCKED**

We hope you're having an amazing time at the Sewanee Convention! We are thrilled to announce that we have restocked some of our most popular items that had sold out earlier.

Whether you missed out on your favorites or have just discovered our store, now is the perfect time to swing by and check out our newly replenished stock.

Here is a glimpse of whats back on our shelves:

- Dirty Daves Elbow & Knee Pads (all sizes)
- AV Fornocal Pants & Shorts (all sizes)
- Petzl Footcord
- Petzl Vertex Vent Helmets
- Maxim Dynamic Cowstails

Our team is here to assist you with any questions and help you find the perfect items.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing you soon!

## **Paint Rock Mountain Agate and Jewelry**

Paint Rock Agate is the premier Agate dealer in all of TAG and we offer the finest agate from the Cumberland Plateau. On Thursday will be slashing prices on selected tables. Come by and get you Convention 2024 souvenir rock while supplies last.

## **Pigeon Mountain Industries (PMI)**

Only Dynamic Rope Left at PMI.

We have officially sold out of all new chest rollers/harnesses and static rope. Thank you to everyone who made a purchase. We appreciate your trust in us. The new chest rollers will go into full production and be available online in the coming months.

Check [pmirope.com](http://pmirope.com) and social media for the announcement soon.

## **On Rope 1**

Sale on Pit Rope, knee pads and elbow pad. Come take advantage of or sale prices. We also have a great selection of essential caving gear.