

The Caving Courier of Cobleskill



Friday, June 27, 2025

Submit material at <https://caves.org/convention/dailyrag/submissions/> by 4 p.m. daily. Or drop a legibly written blurb at Registration.

Today's Schedule (Typically, the CCC schedule is most accurate.)

FRIDAY		
Event	Time	Where
Caving in Vietnam: Lang Son GeoPark	9:00–Noon	Bouck Aud
Video Salon Viewing	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 100
Fine Art Salon Critique	9:00–10:00	Unity Ctr.
Cave Writers Workshop	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 209
NSF Trustees Meeting (Closed)	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 130
BOG Meeting	9:00–Noon	Upper Champlin
Cartographic Salon Critique	10:00–Noon	Unity Hallway
Photo Salon Critique	10:00–Noon	Wheeler 203
Cave Ballad Salon Critique	10:00–Noon	Unity Ctr.
Arts and Letters Lunch	Noon–1:00	Cobys
Survey and Cartography	Noon–1:00	Upper Champlin
NSF (Closed)	1:00–3:00	Wheeler 130
Cave Writers Workshop	1:00–4:00	Wheeler 209
Collegiate Grotto Challenges and Solutions	1:30–3:00	Wheeler 230
Survey & Cartography Session	1:00–5:00	Bouck Aud
BOG Meeting	1:00–5:00	Upper Champlin
Conn Documentary Screening	2:30–3:30	Wheeler somewhere
NSS Awards Banquet	Seating: 5:30 Food Service: 6:00 Awards: 7:30–9:30	Fairgrounds
Campground Party	9:30–Midnight	Fairgrounds

Get Your Raffle Tickets!

Grab your raffle tickets from anyone (directors) wearing a “Buy Raffle Tickets from Me” pin. Top prize is an NSS Life Membership! Tickets are \$5 or 5 for \$20. The raffle ends Friday. We’re doing the drawing BEFORE the banquet between 4:30 and 5. Must be present to win. The proceeds go to the Cave Acquisition Fund. See prizes at caves.org/raffle

T-shirts, Mugs, Guidebooks

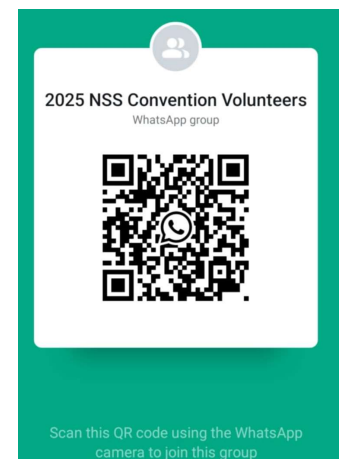
Convention t-shirts (\$20; 3XL \$25), mugs (\$10), and guidebooks (\$35) are all still available for purchase at Registration in Bouck Hall! You can make a purchase online and pick it up at Registration or, you can come to Registration to make the purchase.

Thank you, thank you to everyone who volunteered at Registration!!

Volunteers Needed!

The NSS Convention is 100% volunteer run and we need your help! Join the WhatsApp group chat or stop by the volunteering table to sign up.

We have positions available at the campground security, fine arts salon, party helpers, and golf cart drivers. We can’t do this without all of you!



NSS A&L Salon Announces 2025 Illuminations Awards Winners

Jo Schaper and Michael Ray Taylor, Arts and Letters Co-Chairs, would like to announce the 2025 A&L Illuminations Award winners:

Steve Beleu—Poetry Winner: “The Pull of the Caves.”

Bill Steele—Prose Winner: “The Game of Rockin’ Cave Packs.”

Elizabeth Owens—Graphics Winner: Art and Poetry Combo for “Stalactites.”

Congratulations! These awards are given at Convention for submissions that appeared in the last year's *Illuminations* magazine. There is no separate submissions process—all work deemed fit to publish are automatically entered, and judged by non-staff, anonymous caver judges. *Illuminations* publishes original fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry, graphics and art, music and A/V productions with cave and karst subjects. <https://caves.org/salons/arts-and-letters-salon/illuminations/> for more information. Awardees may pick up their awards at the Writer's Workshop, or email Jo @ joschaper@socket.net to make arrangements.

Register Now for Next Year's Convention and Get \$10 Off!

Registration for the 2026 Convention in Corydon, Indiana (July 6–10) is available at a \$10 off, discounted rate (\$285) until Friday at 5:00 p.m.! If you'd like to sign up now, you can use the following link: <https://caves.org/convention/2026-nss-convention/> Field trips, merchandise, and more information will be shared as it becomes available. We look forward to seeing you in the Ohio River Valley next year!

Vietnam Session Update

At the 9 a.m. Friday Vietnam session held in the auditorium, we will be including an Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between the NSS and the Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark, with officials from Vietnam appearing live via video feed! If you cannot attend Friday but are interested in participating in a future Vietnam caving project, or just want to keep updated with NSS progress there, sign up for our quarterly newsletter at <http://adventureinvietnam.com/signup>.

Online Schedule Reminder

Please try out the online schedule at:

<https://talks.caving.dev/nss-convention-2025/schedule/>

Please send comments, praise, criticism to philip@balister.org. Thanks!

Live Auction Results!

\$10,173 including: \$611 for Cave Acquisition and \$1,967 for the library/archives. Silent auction proceeds were \$830 for the library/archives. Pick up silent auction items at the NSS booth by noon!

Caver Co-Op sales end at 11 a.m. on Friday. Sellers: Pick up your unsold items between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Friday.

Announcements and Personals

Crash & Burn—Recovering

Thank you, everyone, for the wonderful birthday/get well wishes and card. You are the best family ever! Cave Softly, watch your step, and use a light! Dave Socky

Lost & Found

Eyeglasses found at McFails Disappointment pit. Now at registration desk.

Fairground Sirens

The sheriff of Cobleskill told us that when the loud overhead sirens go off near the campground not to worry because that is how the city gets a hold of the volunteer firefighters.

Thanks for a fantastic convention!

Are They Here?

A sincere THANK YOU to all the many friends who have asked if my parents, Cato and Susan Holler, are here and how they're doing! They are both well but decided to sit out this year. They asked me to send their love and best wishes to each of you! (From Nancy Holler Aulenbach)

I urge you all to **go to Secret Caverns**, a real caver's cave. Commercial style but barely. Well worth the trip and only \$10, half off for conventioners. Also, the **Iroquois Museum** in Cobleskill is offering 10% off to conventioners. Great, great place and history!

2027 Convention Staff Opportunities

We are actively recruiting for the remaining staff members helping to plan for the 2027 Convention in Del Rio, Texas on 14–18 June. Find Crash and let him know you would like to help.

JSS Wildlife Rescue

Wednesday afternoon the JSS embarked on an adventure into Onesquethaw Cave. Near the back of the cave, a quick eye by 9-year-old Kras Kennedy-Avila revealed a very lost turtle. The excited junior cavers were able to rescue the turtle, a female Red Eared Slider, by carrying her out and returning her to the surface where she continued her normal turtle daily life.

Looking for a New Cave Suit?

Come check out Sophieapress's booth in the vendors' room. You can try them on and buy one off the rack or pre-order one with custom measurements and colors!!!

The Art of Jeremy Hush

Come check out Jeremy Hush's art work in the vendors' room! There are lots of bats!!!

Cave Art

Come see the extraordinary fine art of Michael Kehs and Peter Jones. We are in the vendors room in the back. You'll see beautiful works in wood and pottery. There'll be bats and stalactites and stalagmites. You'll see dragons and dragonflies. Come in and make your friendly artists happy with a purchase.

Micro Racks

Wm Shrewsbury has taken over micro rack and chest roller production from retiring Carroll Bassett.

Safe Convention Reminders

If you run into issues, we have people available to help: The general Convention helpline number is 1-773-536-9321. Cave safety and issues in caves: Use teamwork and cave softly! If anything goes wrong, please notify Erik Nieman of any incidents or safety issues.

Harassment, discomfort, or issues between people: please treat everyone with respect, practice consent, and know the NSS Anti-Harassment Policy [link: <https://caves.org/anti-harassment-policy/>]. Always check for an enthusiastic yes—don't put the burden on someone to say "no." If you want support with an issue, or just want to talk about it, the following volunteers can talk it over with you

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confidentially, intervene to help educate and deescalate person(s) involved, or coordinate other responses as needed. You can ask for help finding one of us at Registration. For Wed-Sat the folks available will be: Elizabeth "Boof" Truchan, Emma Enos, Jim Minie, John Dunham, Leslie Hatfield, Morgan Ingalls, and Mystik Miller

Visit CaveSim for Horizontal and Vertical Cave Exploration Fun

CaveSim is back! Stop by to test your horizontal caving skills in 150 feet of mobile cave passage, or bring your vertical gear to practice your rope work skills on the CaveSim ropes tower, or learn about various haul systems for vertical cave rescue. CaveSim is located just downhill from registration, and participation is completely free. If you've seen the old version of CaveSim, be sure to come by and check out the new cave with its soft, padded floor and new scoring system. For those not familiar with CaveSim, it is a cave conservation education tool that allows you to explore an artificial cave and receive a score based on how careful you are about not touching speleothems, cave biota, and artifacts. We are open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. each day.

Some People Do Not Have First Name/Last Names

Some people only have one name. Forms should not expect people to have two names and force them to adapt to a two-name society. For more info: <https://wookware.org/name.html>. Thank you from Philip.

Many thanks to the convention staff and volunteers! You've done and are doing a great job!

Herb & Jan Conn Documentary Pre-Screening

A new documentary about Herb and Jan Conn entitled "Catching Pinecones" is in development, and the filmmaker is looking for feedback! Come see this 60-minute pre-release film in Wheeler TBD at 2:30 p.m. Friday. Watch the online schedule for the room number.

Clarksville Cave Preserve Surficial Geology Tour (Saturday, 6/28/25; 9:00 a.m.)

Reservation required with Paul at: hydroquest@yahoo.com. Details were in Tuesday's *The Caving Courier of Cobleskill*.

Free Post-convention Camping at "The Cave Slum"

Call Julian Benson, 845-554-7058, to register. Details were in Monday's edition.

Horizontal Section Meeting

The annual Horizontal Section meeting will take place on Friday June 27th at 4:30 p.m. outside of Progressland in the left or right birdcage (Progressland is the barn/indoor seating area where the banquet will be held outside the campground Friday evening).

Agenda Items:

- -Reading of Last Year's Minutes
- -Committee Reports
- -HTC (Horizontal Training Commission)
- -On Crawl Book Progress
- -Safety/Incident Reports
- -Liaison/Ambassador With Vertical Section and VTC
- -Program (TBD)
- -Elections
- -Next Year's Meeting