

The Caving Courier of Cobleskill



Thursday, June 26, 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.)

THURSDAY		
Event	Time	Where
Yoga	8:00–9:00	Bouck Ballroom
Geology and Geography	9:00–12:05	Bouck Auditorium
NSS Awards Committee	9:00–10:00: Open 10:00–11:00: Closed	Wheeler 230
Spelean History	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 209
NPS Federal Cave & Karst Meeting (Closed)	9:00–Noon	Wheeler 214
Luminary Speaker: Bob Addis	12:30–1:30	Bouck Aud.
Vertical Section Lunch/Business Meeting	Noon–1:00	Cobys
NCKMS Steering Committee	Noon–1:30	Wheeler 204
Cave Diving Exploration	1:00–5:00	Wheeler 203
Vertical Section Session Presentations	1:00–5:00	Wheeler 205
Geology and Geography Meeting and Session	1:30–5:00	Bouck Aud.
Stop the Bleed	2:00–4:00	Wheeler 213
Convention Debrief	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 215
NSS Preserves & Acquisitions	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 130
Cave Photography Session	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 100
Paleontology, Archeology, & Cultural	2:00–5:00	Wheeler 209
Photo Salon Short Show/Salon Awards	5:30–7:00	Bouck Auditorium
Full Photo Salon/Salon Awards	7:30–10:00	Bouck Auditorium
Caver Story Telling Contest	10:00–Midnight	Fairgrounds

Luminaries

Bob Addis

Thursday, June 26 at 12:30 PM (Bouck Auditorium)

I Never Let Fear or Common Sense Hold Me Back: 64 Years of Spelean Adventure, Some Accomplishments, and Lots of Mischief

Caver Co-Op

If you have items put aside for later purchase, they need to be paid for before NOON today. After that, they are put on the general sales tables!

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.

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.



Shuttle Service for Thursday Nighttime Events

The shuttle bus between the campground and the college will be providing extra service for the nighttime events on Thursday, when it will run continuously from its usual afternoon hours until 11 p.m. to accommodate those attending the Photo Salon and Salon Awards shows.

Schedule Change for Archeology and Paleontology Session

2:00–2:30, Iván Alarcón, A study of the vertebrate fossils of the Huautla de Jimenez, Oaxaca, Mexico, area caves

2:30–3:00, Bill Steele, Cave Archaeology of the Huautla, Oaxaca, Mexico Caves

3:00–3:30, Luis Espinasa, Crypt of the Megafauna: Unveiling the Pleistocene Treasures of Calera Cave

3:30–4:00, Brendon Burke, Katarina Kosič Ficco, Penelope Vorster, Capturing the Barathrum: Documenting a Transitional Anthropogenic Subterranean Landscape at the Marshall Tunnel Complex, Botetourt County, Virginia

4:00–4:30, Emily Jane Murray, Brendan Burke, Jullian Schuler, Katarina Kosič Ficco, Lasers in the Dark: Operation Grotto and 3D Documentation of the Marshall Tunnel Complex

Vertical Section Presentations Schedule

9:00–12:00, Room 205 Wheeler, Presentations:

9:00–10:00, Jessica Van Ord will present “Safe Rigging Basics”

10:00–10:45, Talia Sepiol will present “How Does Your Frog Measure Up?”

11:00–11:45, Carl Heitmeyer will present “Rope, What’s On Your Descender?”

At 1 p.m. the **annual Vertical Section meeting** will take place in Room 205 Wheeler. Climbing Contest awards to follow meeting.

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

Abstract Missing From Program Guide: Thursday Geology Talk 3:20 p.m.

Extraordinary Geologic Features of White Pine County Caves, Nevada

Louise D. Hose, NSS 13138; Donald G. Davis, NSS 4956; Harvey R. DuChene, NSS 6318; J. Douglas Powell, NSS 16633; Gretchen M. Baker, NSS 50323

The Wild Caves of White Pine County Project was a multi-disciplinary exploration and documentation of 42 known caves in east-central Nevada between 2022 and 2023. Work was at the reconnaissance-level, which resulted mostly in identifying intriguing questions or promising opportunities for future researchers to pursue. In the geologic discipline, some features are unique (e.g., quills, mammillary-covered angular pebbles), a few features were first recognized in this region and remain among the best identified examples (e.g., folia, coral pipes, calc-siltite), and other features are outstanding examples of relatively rare speleothems (e.g., calcite/aragonite trays, a wide variety of condensation corrosion residues, metatyamunite, stubby stalagmites, wall cups). Mammillaries in four hypogenic caves were dated as more than 10 million years old (two yielded dates more than 13 Ma). Possible deposits of endellite in two caves and speleogenic dolomite (Polyak et al. 2016) in two other caves provide hope that future researchers might be able to determine the actual age of hypogenic speleogenesis in the region. Extending these dating efforts may dramatically inform geologists’ understanding of local Basin and Range tectonics. While the ages of at least some of the region’s

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hypogenic caves are somewhat confined, the mechanism and solvent(s) involved are poorly understood. Acid pool rooms in at least two caves provide strong, perhaps compelling, evidence of sulfuric-acid-speleogenesis (SAS) and most of the other hypogenic caves have features that hint at SAS, but millions of years of continued speleogenesis have obliterated or covered much evidence of original speleogenesis.

Announcements and Personals

NCKMS Steering Committee Luncheon

This is the annual meeting of the NCKMS Steering Committee, and is open to all. We'll hear updates on the upcoming Symposium in Ely, Nevada, this October, discuss plans for the 2027 Symposium, and entertain ideas for 2029. This is a working lunch, so bring your meal to the meeting.

Cave House Museum of Mining & Geology

Posted on their Facebook page, the hours open for NSS members:

Thursday, 6/26: Private tour in the morning; Open 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Friday, 6/27 and Saturday, 6/28: TBD

Conventioneers and the public are welcome. There is no admittance fee. The cave is still muddy from the early June storms. Boots are best. CHMMG is located at 136 Blowing Rock Rd, Howes Cave. This is the original entrance to what is now Howe Caverns. The Museum was originally one of the hotels on site for early tourists.

2027 Convention Staff Opportunities

While we are waiting for the Board of Governors to officially accept our bid, we are actively recruiting for the remaining staff members helping to plan for the 2027 Convention in Del Rio, Texas, June 14–18. Find Crash and let him know you would like to help.

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 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

Looking for a New Cave Suit?

Come check out Sophieaptruss'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!!!

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Books

George Dasher and John Mylroie have Sci-Fi and Fantasy books for sale in Consignment Sales.

Cave Art

Come see the extraordinary fine art of Michael Kehs and Peter Jones. You'll see beautiful works in wood and pottery. There'll be bats and stalactites and stalagmites. You'll see dragons and dragonflies.

On Site Gear Repair @ Out Standing Stitches

Bring your clean and dry caving gear to the booth in the vendor area to have it repaired this week!

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.

NCKRI's Coffee & Karst @ NCKMS

The National Cave & Karst Research Institute will host a new event at this year's NCKMS—Coffee & Karst! Each morning, roundtable discussions will be held on topics directly related to cave and karst management. Discussion topics will be crowd-sourced and may include subjects like, "How to mitigate damage to caves following a surface wildfire" or "How to repair broken cave formations." Our goal of the Coffee & Karst sessions is to provide educational discussions for cave managers who may be experiencing issues that have already been solved in other parts of the country.

Boof Truchan **needs a ride to JFK** before 11 a.m. Saturday; 412-770-6398, Btruchan@caves.org

Vow Renewal Blessing

Hi all, SpeleoPastor Anmar here. Here's the blessing read at the vow renewal ceremony Sunday: Fellow Cavers. The Speleotarians commend you on your commitment to Caves, Caving, and each other. For those of you who are newly together, We wish you a Lifetime in Cave together. For those of you who have been together for a long time already in Cave, we celebrate your success. I am your SpeleoPastor Anmar and I wish to bestow a Blessing upon you for your Union. We all share a love of Cave and no matter our other beliefs, Cave unites us, and the Speleotarians welcome all witnesses to this Holey Ceremony.

May your Leads be long, may your surveys be on station, may your crawls be soft, may your pits be deep, and may you always be surrounded by your caving family.

I'd like to read a short passage from the Cave James Bible, Song of James:

2:9 My beloved is like a blind crawfish or a young salamander. Look! There he stands, in the entrance, gazing in at the darkness, looking through the karst window.

4:1 How beautiful you are, my cave, how very beautiful. Your karst window is like eyes below your sink hole. Your hair is like cave bacon, rippling down from the ceiling.

4:2 Your lips are like two salamanders

4:3 Your cheeks are like halves of a geode

4:4 Your eyes are like dark pools, dark in the darkness, muddy on the bottom.

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!
