

The Speleo Dealeo

NSS Convention Daily Rag

Monday July 6th, 2026



OHIO RIVER VALLEY
CORYDON, INDIANA
JULY 6-10

HOURS

ALL TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Registration

8am - 5pm

Vendors

8am - 5pm

Daily Shuttle

7am-9am, 11am-1pm,
3pm-6pm

24/7 Helpline for Urgent Issues:
"SPELEOWEB-1" or (773) 536-9321

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Howdy Party at Fair Grounds

5:30-Midnight

Dinner Served at 5:30pm

The Creekers

Show starts at 9pm

Open House at Indiana Caverns

6:30-10pm

Shuttles start at 6:30pm



The Creekers

Submit entries to: **dailyrag1@gmail.com** by 7pm daily.
Or drop a legibly written blurb in the Daily Rag submission
box at Registration.



Event	Time	Where
Opening Ceremony	8:30-9:00	High School Main Ent
BOG Open Meeting	9:00-Noon	104
Cave Exploration of the Ohio Valley Region: Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky	9:00-Noon	Auditorium
Introduction to Sketching: Digital and Paper	9:00-Noon	205
Speleology for Cavers	9:00-Noon	254
Carlsbad Caverns Listening Session	9:00-Noon	154
NCRC Annual Meeting	9:00-Noon	110
Sketching Contest	8:00am-7:00pm	In-cave
10 Years of The Caving Podcast	Noon-1:00	Auditorium
Speleology Class Lunch	Noon-1:00	254
Vertical Climbing Contests	1:00pm Start	Junior High Gym
Communications & Electronics	12:30-2:00	154
BOG Meeting (Closed)	Noon-2:00	104
Fine Arts Salon Opening	12:00-2:00	Library
Cave Exploration of the Ohio Valley Region: Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky	1:00-5:00	Auditorium
BOG Meeting (Closed)	2:00-5:00	104
Vertical Climbing Contest	1:00-5:00	Junior High Gym
Speleology for Cavers	1:00-5:00	254
Vertical Training Commission (VTC)	1:00-4:00	205
Communications & Electronic Session	2:00-5:00	112
In-Cave Sketching - Paper & Digital	1:00-5:00	in-cave
Cave Conservancy Roundtable	1:00-4:00	102
Howdy Party Dinner & Music	5:30 Start	Fairgrounds
Cave Open House	6:30-10:00	Indiana Caverns

Breakfast

7:30-9am ✦ \$10 without meal pass

Entree (1)	French Toast Sausage Sandwich
Protein (1)	Yogurt Cup
Fruit (1)	Fruit Mix
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Allergen Friendly

Entree (1)	Cereal Donut
Protein (1)	Almond Milk Yogurt
Fruit (1)	Fruit Mix
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Lunch

11am - 1pm ✦ \$15 without meal pass

Entree (1)	Pulled BBQ Sandwich Egg Salad Sandwich Chicken Salad Sandwich Kale Salad
Side (3)	Soup Side Salad Fresh Fruit
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Allergen Friendly

Entree (1)	Vegan Kale Salad Egg Salad Sandwich Chicken Salad Sandwich
Protein (3)	Soup Salad Fresh Fruit
Beverage (1)	Beverage

WEATHER UPDATES

High 86 - Low 69
Mostly cloudy with a
chance of thunderstorms



Volunteer Opportunities

The NSS Convention is 100% volunteer run and we need your help! Stop by the volunteer table near registration to see how you can help out!

For every shift you work each day, your name will be entered into a Raffle to win various donated items. The winner will be announced the next day in the Daily Rag. Scan the QR Code or stop by Registration to sign up.



Volunteer Raffle Winners

Joe Kinder Joan Mylroie
Stacey Pirtle Bambi Dunlap
Gail McCoy Barb Bentzin
Alex Reed

Pick your prize up at Registration!

ROOM CHANGES & ADDITIONS

- Yoga moved from Room #202 to Wrestling Area (Next to Cartography)
- Room #112 has been moved to Room #103
- Sketching Workshop:
 - Analog - Room #202
 - Digital - Room #205
- Cave Diving Exploration moved from Room #254 to Room #257



Karst Hydrology of the Lost River Field Trip

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

The Lost River is one of the finest expressions of karst hydrology in southern Indiana: a base level stream that abandons the surface, travels through a hidden maze of limestone conduits beneath the Mitchell Plain, and returns to daylight near the Indiana Karst Conservancy's Orangeville Rise. In doing so, it has helped shape an intricate drainage basin within one of the Ohio Valley Region's iconic karst landscapes.

This tour invites participants to follow that hidden journey from sink to spring, with stops at features such as the sinks of the Lost River, Wesley Chapel Gulf and other significant cave features. We will examine the geologic and hydrologic processes that have shaped the basin, see how those forces remain active today, and discuss the conservation pressures facing this vulnerable watershed.

Date: Thursday, July 9th

Departure Time: 9:00 am departure - return to High School by 3:00 pm

Departure Location: Meet in front of the High School building near Registration - bus starts loading at 8:30 am and will leave promptly at 9am

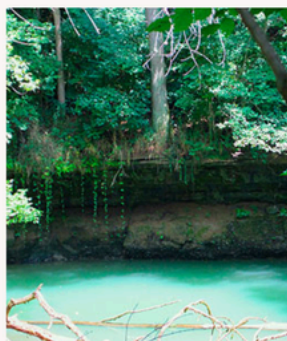
Cost: \$35/person

Deadline to Purchase: Wednesday night 5pm

*NOTE: Rain or shine - dress accordingly

Bus transportation and sack lunch/drinks will be provided. Guests should dress comfortably and prepare to do some light hiking -1 mile and use bug spray to prevent ticks.

Special thanks to Cave Country Canoes for providing discounted transportation!



With Indiana Karst
Conservancy
(IKC) President
Matt Selig

FAQ



WHAT IS JSS DOING TODAY?

8am - Welcome and
Introductory Games

10am - Bus departs for
canoe trip on the Blue
River



GENERAL UPDATES

Please make sure to stay off of the inner gravel track. No camping or cars allowed on track.

Stay safe out there! Make sure to drink plenty of water and electrolytes throughout the day.

Make sure you are washing hands more often as they meet and shake hands with people.

CAVER COLUMN

NSS BOOKSTORE UPDATES

The NSS Bookstore has new swag!! Shirts, water bottles, & bandanas! Come check it out in the vendor area!



The NSS Bookstore is closing out our polo shirts! If you are a life member, come get a free life member polo shirt at the Bookstore! While supplies last!!



!Attention!
NSS Life Members
Stop by the NSS booth
Monday, July 6th, and pick
up a free
NSS Life Member polo.
Limited Quantities

HOWDY PARTY

Looking for volunteers to help our crew break down tables and chairs quickly after everyone finishes eating at 7:30pm. Meet in the Windell Ag Building. Please DO NOT take the centerpieces.

2026 CAVE CONSERVANCY ROUNDTABLE

Join us for the 2026 Cave Conservancy Roundtable on July 6th from 1-4PM ET, Room 102!

The Roundtable is a meeting of US Cave Conservancy representatives and supporters held twice a year with speakers and networking. The meeting is open for all to join and this year we will have two guest speakers.

🦇 Aron K. Schmid, co-manager of the Harlansburg Cave Preserve for the Mid-Atlantic Karst Conservancy, will be leading a discussion on some conservation challenges specific to Harlansburg Cave such as graffiti on fossils and actinomycetes on cave walls.

🦇 Mike Warner, Vice-President of the Cave Conservancy of Hawaii will speak and lead a discussion on SLAM Lidar and implications for cave management.

CAVESIM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

What we do: CaveSim teaches over 20,000 people each year about cave conservation, exploration, and science. Kids and adults love exploring. They learn to love caves. Most participants will never enter a wild cave, but we're building generations of cave conservation advocates.

The problem: Our truck has 320,000 miles and just had major engine failure. We're using a rental truck. The new trailer is bigger. A heavier-duty truck is needed. CaveSim does ~100 days of events per year in 8-12 states!

The solution: A new truck to continue our educational work effectively and safely. A ¾ or 1-ton diesel w/ <20k miles. Such a truck is \$60,000-\$85,000.

Why we need your help: CaveSim relies on cavers. Generous cavers helped buy trailers for the mobile caves. Cavers fund education each year at schools, museums, libraries, and Convention. We need your help because doing the education is costly, and we can do far more if you help CaveSim get a new truck.

How to help: Mail a check to CaveSim at: 13 Kreg Ln., Manitou Springs, CO, 80829 (not tax deductible). Or mail a check to the Cave Research Foundation (memo: "for CaveSim") at: CRF Treasurer, Box 600367, Dallas, TX 75360 (tax deductible). Or donate via credit or debit card at www.cavesim.com/support.

Let us know if you want to be recognized or anonymous.

Questions? Contact Dave: 914-330-7824; jacksondmit@cavesim.com

CaveSim is open from 9AM - 5PM by door 9.



CAVER COLUMN



TUESDAY US EXPLORATION SESSION AT 1:40 PM THERE WILL BE AN ADDITIONAL TALK BY GARY T. ROBERTSON: THE IMPORTANCE OF DIGS IN EXPANDING INDIANA'S LONGEST CAVE

Prior to around 1930, the Binkley Cave system was unknown. There had been no known entrances at least since Europeans arrived in Indiana. The first entrance into the system was gained via a nearly vertical opening after the overnight draining of a sinkhole pond. That remained the only entrance into the cave for over 40 years until the Baelz entrance to the cave was opened by cavers in the fall of 1970.

Since 1970, another nine entrances into the cave system have been connected in, dug, excavated, or drilled. Three other existing cave entrances were connected into the system by in-cave digs, two new entrances were dug manually by cavers, four more by mechanical excavation, and a tenth utilizing both mechanical and manual techniques.

Major discoveries or new connections have come as a result of seven in-cave digs. One occurred in 1970 and the rest between 1999 and 2013. Only one significant in-cave dig has so far been a failure (Soda Straw Alley). Three digs in nearby caves have so far failed to connect (Watermelon Horror Hole, Dixie Schoolhouse, and Binkley Pit).

Three surface digs have resulted in major discoveries and significant connections. A fourth resulted in a new entrance into the system.

Only one major surface excavation has so far not been connected into the system (Butch's Dig). In addition, there is still one cave closely related to the Binkley system that has a promising in-cave dig moving big air but not yet tackled.

In summary, eleven of fifteen major surface or in-cave dig projects have been successful. A success rate of over 73%. Mainly as a result of these various digging projects, the Binkley cave system has grown from just over 11 miles in 1969 to over 46 miles in surveyed length today. Dye traces indicate enough square miles of sinkhole plain remain barren of cave to suggest that someday the Binkley cave system may approach or surpass 100 miles in surveyed length.

PROGRAM GUIDES NEEDED

If you are a two person household and don't need both of your program guides, or you just don't want it, we will take them back! Feel free to drop any unwanted program guides off at the front table in the high school.

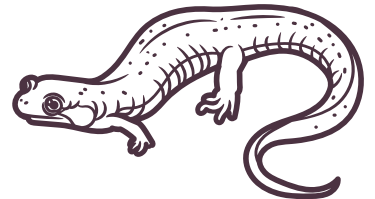
CHILLAX ZONE

Looking for a place to do yoga, lie flat, soak up the AC, or simply just relax? Join us in the wrestling room for our "Chillax Zone".

No shoes, no food, no drinks.

COLLECTIVE PHOTO DRIVE FOLDER

Please add any photos you'd like to share to this google drive folder! Keep it PG and don't be weird.



JUST A REMINDER 🤔

2026 NSS Convention Sponsors

Diamond Tier - \$5,000+ Value



Platinum Tier - \$2,500+ Value



Gold Tier - \$1,000+ Value



Silver Tier - \$500+ Value



Bronze Tier - \$250+ Value



SHOWCAVE DISCOUNTS

INDIANA CAVERNS

Early Bird Discounted Tours

\$15/adult and \$9/children (ages 4-12 yrs)
Arrive at 8 am to register - tours leave at 8:30 am.

Regular Hours Discounted Tours

\$20/adult and \$12/children (ages 4-12 yrs)
The Bat Chaser ride = \$11
The Plunge = \$11

SQUIRE BOONE CAVERNS

Half price tickets for Convention attendees

MARENGO CAVE

Half price tickets for Convention attendees

BLUESPRING CAVERNS

Tour Tickets = \$10/adult and \$5 youth
(up to age 15)

Make sure you are
wearing your badge!

LOST AND FOUND



Come by
Registration
to claim your
missing items

Joke of the Day

How to troglodytes drink?
Through soda straws!