

The Speleo Dealeo

NSS Convention Daily Rag

Thursday July 9th, 2026



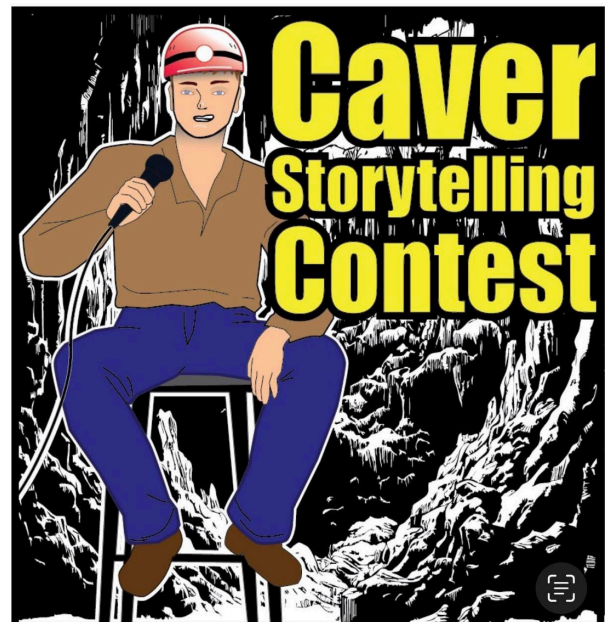
OHIO RIVER VALLEY
CORYDON, INDIANA
JULY 6-10

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

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Photo Salon Awards
5:30-7:00 & 7:30-10:00

Caver Story Telling Contest
10:00-Midnight



HOURS

ALL TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Registration

7am - 5pm

Vendors

8am - 8pm

Daily Shuttle

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

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
Yoga	8:00-9:00	202
Contingency Considerations in Caving	8:00-Noon	Junior High Gym
Spelean History	9:00-Noon	205
Planned Giving	9:00-Noon	112
Vertical Section Session	9:00-2:00	254
Paleontology	9:00-Noon	102
Cave Photography Workshop	9:00-1:00	In-Cave
Karst Hydrology of the Lost River Field Trip	9:00-3:00	Fairgrounds
Luminary Speaker: Jill Yager	12:30-1:30	Auditorium
Vertical Section Lunch/Business Meeting	Noon-2:00	254
NCKMS Steering Committee	Noon-1:00	110
Book Signing: Mud, Water & Guts - Gary T. Roberson	11:30-1:00	Vendor Area
Cave Diving Exploration	1:00-5:00	254
State Cave Survey	1:00-5:00	205
Convention Debrief	2:00-5:00	112
NSS Preserves & Aquisitions	2:00-5:00	110
NSS Award Committee	2:00-3:00 open 4:00-5:00 closed	104
Cave Photography Session	2:00-5:00	154
Sketching Contest Results	3:00-4:00	Vendors Area
Archaeology	2:00-5:00	102
Photo Salon & Salon Awards Short Show	5:30-7:00	Auditorium
Full Photo Salon & Salon Awards	7:30-10:00	Auditorium
Caver Story Telling Contest	10:00-Midnight	Windell Ag Building

Breakfast

7:30-9am ✦ \$10 without meal pass

Entree (1)	Ham Egg Cheese English Muffin Sandwich
Protein (1)	Cottage Cheese/ Hard Boiled Eggs
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)	Breaded Chicken 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 89 - Low 71
High humidity all day
Rain in the evening



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 Winner

Patty Jordan &
Gary Napper

Pick your prize up at Registration!

SESSION UPDATES

- Change in time for NSF FRIDAY OPEN meeting is now 1pm
- Please keep your shoes off and your clothes on in the Chill Zone



Lost & Found



LUMINARY SPEAKER

Jill Yager, NSS 19089 FL

The Discovery of the World's Most Exciting Crustacean- as told by a farm girl from rural Indiana

Jill's Luminary Presentation will share the fascinating timeline of discovering Remipede crustaceans. She'll reflect on her upbringing on a rural Indiana farm and how it unexpectedly led to exploring underwater caves and identifying not just a new species, or genus, or family, or order, but a new Class of cave crustacean. From earning a basic scuba certification in a cold Indiana lake to spending a decade diving in the Bahamas, Jill's journey shows how curiosity can open unexpected doors.

FAQ



VOLUNTEER NEEDS

As we near the end of this AMAZING(ly hot) week we don't want to forget about getting the spaces we are in back in order.

Many hands make light work so stop by the VOLUNTEER DESK if you can help with decommissioning the spaces.

The Volunteer Desk will be open Wed - Friday
8am - 5pm and
Saturday morning 8am - Noon.

(so if you won a raffle --- you have until Noon Saturday to claim or Danyele WILL FIND YOU



CAVER COLUMN



Within the great depths of Southern Indiana, a Powerful Force has been reawakened on Tuesday. The Thunderous Power of Brother Otinki and the Raging Waters of Sister Winki have been stirred. It is rumored they have Now Arisen.



VENDOR HOURS

Vendors are open late tonight! Check them out until 8pm



CAVE BALLADS

The kiosk will be open until Friday. Come on Friday at 10am to discuss how to best handle AI submissions.

THE NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium is the pre-eminent conference focusing solely on cave conservation and management. It is held every two years, with printed proceedings that can also be found at NCKMS.org. Our annual meeting is this Thursday at 12pm in Room 110, and is open to all. Please attend if you are interested in possibly hosting a future convention.



BOOK SIGNING

Book signing outside of the NSS bookstore vendor booth with Author David Hughes on Thursday from 11:30 - 1:00.



OUTSTANDING STITCHES GEAR REPAIR

Does your pack or suit need some love (repair)? Bring your clean and dry caving gear for repairs to the Out Standing Stitches booth in the vendor area. We have a sewing machine on site and will be doing repairs all week!



BIG REUNION - ALUMNI & MEMBER PHOTO

If you've ever been a member or joined our trips, we want to see you. We'll meet at 7pm outside of the Corydon Highschool entrance, under the large NSS Convention banner, as soon as the short salon awards have finished.



NSS HEADQUARTERS AND A CAVE AND NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

There is an opportunity for the NSS to transform large spaces at the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama, into a Cave and Natural History Museum in partnership with museum experts, inspired by past leaders of the NSS with visions of physical space for a Museum of Speleology. We are soliciting feedback from members regarding their interest in this opportunity.

The QR code and link - <https://forms.gle/UkGIVsJkGoJFdGYy5> - will take you to more information and a feedback form. The information will help NSS leaders plan a space that is aligned to the NSS mission, as well as welcoming and appealing to members and the public, today and long into the future.





CAVER COLUMN



BOOK SIGNING

Roger Brucker will be autographing his books including his new title "Bad Caves" and Gary Roberson will be autographing his book "Mud, Water, & Guts" on Thursday 11:30-1:00 in vendor area.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

Have you considered including SCCi in your long term giving plans? Stop by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy booth to learn how planned giving can help protect caves and karst landscapes for generations to come.

While you're there, browse SCCi merchandise, grab a piece of candy, and say hello. We'd love to talk with you.

VERTICAL SECTION

The VSS (VERTICAL SECTION) would like to welcome over 90 new cavers to the section.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

Friday 2-4pm - if you are available please report to the hallway in front of the Vendor Hall to help tear down/clean the space once the Vendors have packed out their gear. **Please do not go in and start helping vendors packup unless they specifically have asked for your help to avoid confusions and such. Check in at volunteer table at 1:45pm.

SOPHI REAPTRESS CAVE SUITS

Hi everyone!

Sorry that Jeremy Hush and I weren't able to make it to convention! If you were looking to get a cave suit from me use code "NSS26" at check out to get a 15% discount. Sorry to miss you guys! Have fun underground! www.sophireaptress.com

CORYDON POPCORN FEST

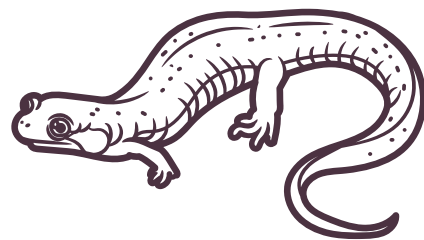
The parade starts at 11 am on Saturday, July 11, so it has suggested to leave town by 10:30 if you don't want to get stuck.

LAZY COW ICE CREAM

Get the crazy Archie. 16 scoops of ice cream for \$25. If one person finishes it in one hour, you get it for free!

COLLECTIVE PHOTO DRIVE FOLDER

Please add any photos you'd like to share to this google drive folder! Keep it PG and dont be weird.



Here's to Consent, Safety & Good Times

We are actively working to create safer experiences for our attendees through consent and anti-harassment initiatives and open and judgment-free reporting avenues.

Please speak to any of our staff if anything causes you any concern.



© 2026, Old Timey Convention

For Assistance Head to Medical Station or Report to Medical/Security Staff (Help Line # +1 773 536 9321)

CAVER COLUMN

CaveSim needs your help

What we do: We teach 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.



Students at a CaveSim SRT demo in Oklahoma



Left: a veteran from the Afghan War says exploring CaveSim helped him overcome PTSD.
3 generations explore in TX

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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.com/support



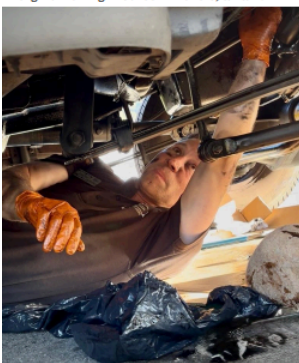
Firefighter training in CaveSim Trailer3, 5/15/26



High school students enthralled by bat skeletal morphology



Joyfully exploring CaveSim Trailer1 (above) in 2018 and Trailer3 (below) in 2025



Dave fixing oil leaks, 6/28/2026. Two repairs held, but total engine failure followed. The truck is returning to CO on a flatbed. We finished 31 days of outreach in California and drove to NSSCON with a rental truck.

Anyone looking for tax efficient contributions, especially with RMD or QCD, can donate through Cave Research Foundation by specifying CaveSim.

CAVE DIVING SESSION SPEAKERS

Thursday's session has been relocated to the Choir Room 231 on the second floor near the vendor area overlook/cartography display area.

Here are the speakers:

1300 Introduction and overview of the Maldives accident- Jason Richards

1330 The intertwining of Exploration and Landowner Relations - Sam Johnson

1400 Bad Medicine: Alpine sump diving in Wyoming - Jason Richards

1430-1445: Refreshment Break

1445: Beneath Del Rio: Selfies and Science - Jef Frank

1515: New Exploration in Peacock 3: Justin Judd

1545: Rolling Thunder Mine Rescue - Michael Raymond

1615- Magic Springs Resurgence - Ryan Hoffman

POPULATION MONITORING OF THE ENIGMATIC CAVESNAIL, FONTIGENS ANTROECETES, IN STEMLER CAVE

ROBERT WECK

ILLINOIS SPELEOLOGICAL SURVEY, SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE

*PRESENTING AUTHOR: CAVEANDWOODS@GMAIL.COM

The Enigmatic Cavesnail, *Fontigens antroecetes* Hubricht, is a cave adapted hydrobiid snail listed as state endangered in Illinois. It is known from only one cave in Illinois, Stemler Cave, and from several caves in the eastern Ozark ecoregion of Missouri. I present the results of a population monitoring program for the Enigmatic Cavesnail in Stemler Cave that began in 2009 and has continued, intermittently, to the present. Snail densities and substrate preferences were determined by quadrat sampling in five stream sections in the main passage. A total of 232 individual 0.1m^2 quadrats were sampled to date, representing 19 different survey trips. Enigmatic Cavesnail densities peaked in October 2012 with an average of 12.14 snails/ 0.1m^2 and crashed to an average of 0.071 snails/ 0.1m^2 following a significant pollution event in March 2024. The three subsequent surveys suggest a slow but steady recovery of the population. Stemler Cave has a documented history of septic contamination, and the findings of this study may help predict how the population of Enigmatic Cavesnails could recover from future acute pollution events.



CAVER COLUMN



VERY SUCCESSFUL HORIZONTAL SECTION MEETING

Election results:

Mike Futrell is nominated and voted in as the chair of the horizontal section.

Mitch Berger is nominated and voted in as Treasurer.

Nick Socky volunteers as the HTC liaison.

Swastik volunteers to prepare a program for 2027.

Hazel Barton and Aaron Clair are nominated and voted in as members at large.

Kyle won a whole spool of webbing!



ITEMS FOR SPELEOWEB DEALER

Will someone please contact me at

merecaver@yahoo.com if you are from the Georgia Speleological Survey. I have something you'd be interested in: a 1989 GSS map book

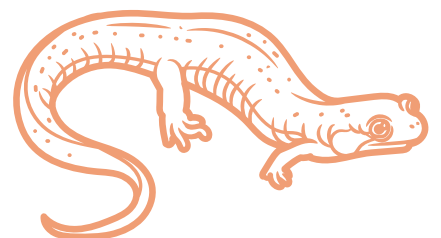


WHEN THE BEER FINALLY HITS



WHOSE GLASSES ARE THESE?

Lost at the Campground Party.
Find them in the NSS Saloon on
Amber at the bar.

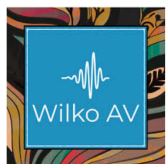


2026 NSS Convention Sponsors

Diamond Tier - \$5,000+ Value



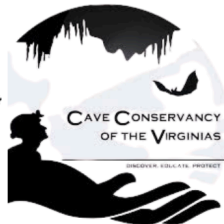
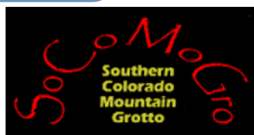
Platinum Tier - \$2,500+ Value



Gold Tier - \$1,000+ Value

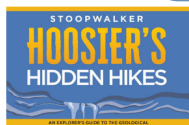


Silver Tier - \$500+ Value



Lewis & Associates LLC

Bronze Tier - \$250+ Value



Vietnam Project

2027 NSS CONVENTION



Del Rio, Texas
June 14-18, 2027

Texas cavers welcome everyone to the border city of Del Rio for the 2027 NSS Convention, June 14-18. This will be a real

Tex-Mex Convention, with piñatas, mariachis, and of course, caves on both sides of the border. Centrally located at the Val Verde County Fairgrounds, Southwest Texas College, and the Del Rio High School, every effort will be made to provide shade, hydration, and shuttles to avoid prolonged heat exposure. Large sessions and the Banquet will be held in the nearby Del Rio Civic Center. Come to Texas for the Convention, and stay for the caves!

Register before midnight on Friday to receive an additional 10% off of the early registration!

