

The Speleo Dealeo

NSS Convention Daily Rag

Tuesday July 7th, 2026



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

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Fellows & New Members Reception
at Harrison Co. Discovery Center

6:30-8:30pm

Open Mic at Campgrounds

7-9pm

Keynote Speaker: Genevieve von
Petzinger at Highschool

9pm

Karaoke at Campgrounds

10pm

HOURS

ALL TIMES ARE IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME

Registration

8am - 5pm

Vendors

8am - 8pm

Daily Shuttle

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



Genevieve
von Petzinger

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
Coffee & Karst	8:00-9:00	Back area cafeteria
US Exploration	9:00-Noon	Auditorium
Cavers Against Sexual Harassment	9:00-Noon	154
Cave Conservation & Management	9:00-Noon	205
Spelothem Repair Workshop Part 1	9:00-Noon	254
Discover Vertical Caving	9:00-12:30	100
Interagency Meeting	9:00-Noon	104
Sketching Contest	8:00am-7:00pm	In-Cave
Biology Field Trip	9am	Wyandotte Cave
Luminary Speaker: Catherine & Charlie Bishop	12:30-1:30	Auditorium
Cave Conservation & Management	Noon-1:00	205
Book Signing: Mud, Water, & Guts - Gary T. Roberson	11:30-1:00	Vendor Area (Aux. Gym)
US Exploration	1:40	Auditorium
Cave Conservation & Management, Celebrating Robb Stitt	2:00-4:00 4:00-5:00	205
Convention Planning	2:00-5:00	110
Vertical Climbing Contest	1:00-5:00	Junior High Gym
Fellows & New Members Reception	6:30-8:30	Discovery Center
Open Mic	7:00-9:00	Campground Stage
Keynote Speaker: Genevieve von Petzinger	9:00pm	
Karaoke	10:00 pm	Campground Stage

Breakfast

7:30-9am ✦ \$10 without meal pass

Entree (1)	Bacon Egg Cheese Biscuit 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)	Bacon Cheeseburger Egg Salad Sandwhich Chicken Salad Sandwhich Kale Salad
Side (3)	Soup Side Salad Fresh Fruit
Beverage (1)	Beverage

Allergen Friendly

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

WEATHER UPDATES

High 85 Low 73
Very high humidity



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 annouced the next day in the Daily Rag. Scan the QR Code or stop by Registration to sign up.



Volunteer Raffle Winner

Joe Kinder Joan Mylroie
Gail McCoy Lizz Wagner
Alex Reed Elizabeth Covington

Pick your prize up at Registration!

Thank you all for another
FANTASTIC day!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SCHEDULE UPDATES

- The afternoon session of US Exploration (Tuesday) will start at 1:40pm - after the luminary talk.
- Cyndie Sea's talk will be replaced with one by Philip Schuhart who will present on the Nimbus project on Vancouver Island, BC. We don't have an abstract yet.
- For the Vietnam talk in International Exploration a talk does not show its 3 authors.. The talk should read: "Mapping the extensive caves of the newly accessible Lạng Sơn Geopark, Vietnam Carol Vesely, Carl Haken, Shane Fryer
- Auction - Moved from Room #223 to Cafeteria
- Coffee and Karst - Moved from Registration hallway to back area cafeteria
- Cave Diving Exploration - Moved from Room #157 to Choir Room
- Cave Sim - Moved from door #13 to door #9 (outside)



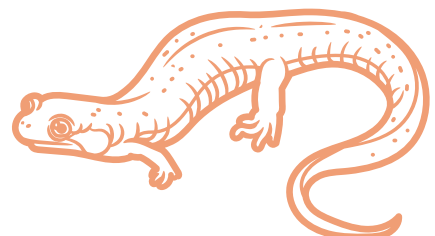
LUMINARY SPEAKERS

Charles Bishop, NSS 9355 FE LB
Catherine "Cat" Bishop, NSS 12100 FE LB
A Couple of Cavers from Kentucky
Tuesday 12:30-1:30 in the Auditorium

Charlie and Cat are part of an ongoing restoration project to remove lighting fixtures and deteriorated wood left in James and Coach after commercial tours ended in the 1980s. They also assist U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists who conduct a biannual census of endangered gray and Indiana bats that hibernate in both caves.

Both Bishops are NSS Fellows, and in 2010 they received the Lou Bicking Award.

FAQ





CAVER COLUMN



Thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that have helped make this an amazing Convention....and we are on DAY 1!!!!

Volunteer Shirts were ordered in mid-June. If you think you signed up on the SIGNUP website before then and don't yet have your shirt --- Stop by the Volunteer Table to have one of our friendly staff check the list.

Every amazing person who signed up afterwards is First Come/First Served on our handy dandy waitlist being created every day - we will have your shirts available for you Wednesday Afternoon until Supplies Last.

Staff Shirts were ordered based on role and attendance at the Staff Zoom meetings the last few years. Many people have multiple roles and we APPRECIATE EVERYONE!!

VERTICAL SECTION HELP

Looking for a caver to help the Vertical Section tow our small trailer from IN to a location closer to the TX Convention site?

The trailer is small with a 4 by 6 foot box, and it was towed from NY to IN by a Ford Maverick pick up truck with a 2,000 lb tow capacity. Milage will be reimbursed.

Please contact Carl Heitmeyer, Vertical Section Chair 2025/2026



WESTERN REGION MEETUP

Join the Western Region for their Ice Cream Social meetup. July 7th from 1pm-2pm near the Mammoth Cave Map in the Windell Ag Building.



STONEWALL CAVERS

Hello, everyone! We will have our annual grotto meeting and dinner on Wednesday at 6 PM at FISTFUL Craft Restaurant & Brewery. Hope to see you there!



BOOK SIGNING

George Dasher will be signing his fantasy and sci-fi books from 11:30 am to 1 pm on Wed and maybe Fri in the Vendors Area.



DIAMOND CAVERNS

FREE tours at Diamond Caverns this Saturday and Sunday. 10-5 pm. Park City, KY. (Exit 48 on I-65 South)



COFFEE & KARST

Coffee and Karst will be Tuesday and Wednesday from 8-9 am in the Cafeteria Annex (back of the cafeteria)



WHAT'S JSS DOING TODAY?

8am - Welcome

8:30am - Orienteering game or Outdoor Photography Workshop

10am - Bus departs for Maucks Langdons Cave



CAVER COLUMN



CELEBRATE THE CONSERVATION LEGACY OF ROB STITT (NSS 5403) STORIES, SONG, SNACKS! THREE GENERATIONS OF CAVING, CONSERVATION, AND SPELEOPOLITICS

Born in 1941, the same year the NSS was born, Robert R. Stitt spent a major portion of his adult life as a caver and NSS volunteer. Starting his caving in Montana, over the years Rob lived and caved in Washington, New Mexico, Sweden, Minnesota, and upstate New York. Rob has served as NSS Conservation Chair, Board Member, Executive VP, and NSS President for many years. After all that, Rob served many more years as the Conservation and Management Section Chair, leading a team of early NSS speleologists who all used typewriters to pound out the correspondence that built the foundation of the American grass root cave and karst conservation efforts we participate in today. In 1970 Rob started writing cave ballads, and in 1972, he helped start the annual NSS Cave Ballad Contest that we continue to hold annually at our NSS Conventions. Rob and his grandson, Aslan Rife, will tell tales, sing some of Rob's cave ballads, and show some photos. Please come join us to celebrate him with snacks and revelry on Tuesday at 4PM, Room 205!

VISIT THE SCCI BOOTH!

Stop by the Southeastern Cave Conservancy booth for candy, SCCI merchandise, and the latest on Bats, Beer, and Bluegrass, our bluegrass concert fundraiser!

Renew your membership, become a new member, or simply stop in to learn how SCCI is protecting more than 170 caves and karst landscapes across the Southeast.

We'd love to meet you. See you at the booth!

GET YOUR CONVENTION \$2 BILLS!

Be part of a long-standing NSS Convention tradition!

Years ago, cavers began using \$2 bills at local businesses during Convention as a fun and visible way to highlight the positive economic impact that convention attendees have on the host community.

Every time a \$2 bill is spent, it leaves a memorable reminder of the caving community's visit.

See Carl Pierce or Sharon Scherling at Registration, our Convention Treasurers, to get your \$2 bills, and help continue this unique tradition!

Spend a little, make an impact, and leave your mark on the local economy—one \$2 bill at a time!

Today is the last day for the sketching contest. Instructions and signups are in the cartography area above the vendors. Sketchers can go to Wolfe Cave on their own, sketch and see the cave. Thursday we will give prizes and discuss the results. The best sketch will be part of the new map!



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.



NSS#76088

Rallying after the rain



CAVER COLUMN



Mulu Cave Project 2026 Christine Saw and Kevin Liow

Since 1978, the Mulu Caves Project has been steadily exploring the caves of Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo. Over 34 expeditions later, the project has surveyed over 435km of passage, including the Clearwater Cave System, currently the 7th longest cave in the world. In 2025, a 10-person international team returned with the primary goal of pushing exploration

deep within Clearwater Cave. To maximize time in this remote section, a team of 6 established an underground camp for 9 days with a mid-expedition resupply. Two objectives ran in parallel - completing a major climb in the Velodrome - a large chamber discovered in 2023, and looking into leads in the upper Armistice level that had been dormant since 1989. The Velodrome climb yielded around 500m of passage, including richly decorated formations. But the defining moment came in the Armistice section, where pushing through a long-standing choke opened "Reputation", a towering 40m high fossil passage nearly 2km long, with multiple unexplored leads branching off in every direction. Together with connected passages the team surveyed over 3.4km of new cave. A return to the area is planned for the fall of 2026.



Mapping the extensive caves of the newly accessible Lạng Sơn Geopark, Vietnam Carol Vesely, Carl Haken, Shane Fryer

In 2024, caving in Vietnam became more accessible to NSS cavers with the signing of the NSS-Vietnam Memorandum of Understanding. A key area of interest is the Lạng Sơn UNESCO Global Geopark, located at the northern end of the country. With its gorgeous tower karst, extensive river caves, and little history of survey, the Geopark is an exciting place to be project caving. For two weeks in early 2026, 11 US cavers collaborated with Vietnamese partners to survey 6.8km of cave passage within the Geopark. Dragon Cave was surveyed to 3.2km with few remaining leads, and featured massive formations, long river sections, and a tricky connection across a massive flotilla of wood debris. On the same river system, Spring Cave was fully surveyed to 642m entirely on stand-up paddleboards. Fairy Cave was surveyed to 2.3km and was mostly dry with massive branching passages, beautiful orange flowstone, boulders of knife-like limestone, and one large going borehole lead. The karst in the Geopark is extensive and riddled with caves, with many more exciting surveys to be completed in the years to come. The project was permitted by the Provincial Agency and Geopark officials and executed in collaboration with Vietnam Expeditions.



Continued Exploration in Mindanao, Philippines Thomas Hawkins

The 2025 Philippine-American Joint Speleological Expedition was the tenth cave exploration and mapping initiative organized by the Philippine caver Mikko Cuevas.

These annual expeditions provide an opportunity for cavers from the National Speleological Society (NSS) to work with a host of Philippine cavers and organizations to map and explore caves in Sultan Kudarat and Agusan del Sur provinces. In the process the NSS cavers learn from their Philippine counterparts and team members about the caves and karst and culture of the area, while sharing some of their own knowledge of cave mapping, exploration and vertical techniques. The 2025 expedition was certainly a unique adventure, populated by some fascinating characters, from the enigmatic Sir Arnel, director of the local museum and extraordinary cultural and ecological knowledge resource, to the myriad members of the Sarangani Bay Area Outdoor Club.

Additionally, every caving expedition should have a resident illustrator to document the caves, plants, people and wildlife. On the 2025 expedition the amazing wildlife conservationist artist Dao Van Hoang drafted and painted alongside the cave mappers and explorers to create a stunning visual record of the expedition.

On the rest days, team members were able to visit the fascinating Agusan Marsh Wetland, home to the floating village of the Manobo Indigenous people and a vital wetland ecosystem protecting a vast biodiversity of birds, animals and plants. To add to the interest of the cave exploration and mapping, we were greeted by two earthquakes and the expedition was then followed by a couple of typhoons as cavers made their way home. Despite all of this, the expedition contributed to the exploration and mapping of some of important classified caves, and to the discovery and connection of a number of individual caves into what clearly will become a major cave system on the Marmol mountain.

“Destiny or Destruction: A Cave Story”

Thursday, July 10th | 1-5 pm

Max 10 participants (minimum age 13 yrs old)

A one-of-a-kind underground RPG experience using D&D 5.0 ruleset. Dice and pre-made character sheets provided.

Please no foam, glitter, etc. that will get left behind in the cave (leave no trace).

Basic cave gear for horizontal caving (not wet).



Trip Leaders: Greg Platt & Nathan Schonegg

HOWDY PARTY RECAP



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!



As you return from cave trips remember to check for ticks. Have a friend check your back. If one is attached pull directly away from skin to remove. Monitor the bit for redness and a bullseye ring. Ticks transmit Lyme and alpha gal.