

National Speleological Society

Administrative Vice President's Report

Board of Governors Meeting
Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 6, 2010

Prepared by:
Geary Schindel, AVP@caves.org

October 19, 2010

INTRODUCTION / SUMMARY

The Department of the AVP consists of 4 Divisions (Cave Management, Conservation, Conventions and Education) and two Commissions (National Cave Rescue and Vandalism Deterrence). Contained within are 19 committees and various subcommittees.

The complete Division reports are appended to the document.

Here are some of the highlights of the Department of the Administrative Vice President

Progress:

- Funds have been allocated and transferred for legal assistance in developing a “cave rights” opinion for the Schoharie Cave Preserve.
- A large dead tree was removed from the Shelta Cave property that was endangering the fence.
- A conference call between the NSS AVP, Peter Youngbaer, Ray Keeler, the NSS Colorado Convention Organizers and the U.S. Forest Service was held to discuss the WNS policy of the Forest Service and access to caves in Colorado. The Forest Service agreed to work with the NSS and the Colorado Cave Survey to develop plans that would allow limited access to caves during the NSS Convention.
- The NSS Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission has recommended an award of \$1,000 to Jessica Deli for her assistance with the prosecution for a person caught spraying graffiti at Richard Blenz Nature Preserve Committee. The AVP has approved this award and forwarded this to the NSS Office Manager for payment.

Issues:

- The Shelta Cave Nature Preserve web page was out of date causing an NSS member to cancel a trip to the cave. All of the Preserve managers have been notified to check their web pages and confirm or update the web page information. Gary Bush is the Preserve pages web master and is making the updates as they come in. Additionally, the Shelta management plan is changing and will be updated by the end of July.
- The group that was going to host the 2013 Convention at Ely NV, has no chairs due to personal issues
- The group that was going to host the 2014 Convention in New Mexico does not have region or grotto support. They are continuing to work on these issues.

CAVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION (John Wilson)

Cave and Karst Acquisition Committee - Kim Metzgar - kimmakc@aol.com

The Cave and Karst Acquisition Committee (CKAC) reviewed a request for a grant from the Middle Mississippi Valley Grotto in support of the purchase of Berome Moore Cave System in Perry County, Missouri. The grant request was forwarded for consideration by the BOG with a deficiency that it does not contain an appraisal of the property. CKAC has also received a management proposal from the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation (Va) regarding possible management of Crystal Cave located on the property. This is an ongoing review which has also been forwarded to the Legal Committee.

Cave Conservancies Committee - John M. Wilson - jmwgeo@gmail.com

The New Jersey Cave Conservancy is no longer in compliance with the minimal standards of being an NSS cave conservancy. I have found no evidence that this organization still exists and there is no indication that it has functioned in the last several years. NJCC has been removed from the list of cave conservancies and is no longer entitled to use the phrase "An NSS Cave Conservancy" as part of its name or other identification.

NSS Nature Preserves - Gary Moss, Chairman - kd4itj@amsat.org

There are no major issues to report with any of the preserves.

	NSS Preserve Reports	Oct 2009	Mar 2010	Aug 2010	Nov 2010
1	Barton Hill Nature Preserve (NY)	N	Y	N	Y
2	Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve (OK)	N	Y	N	Y
3	Great Expectations Cave Nature Preserve Committee (WY)	N	N	Y	Y
4	John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve (WV)	Y	Y	Y	Y
5	Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve (GA)	Y	Y	Y	Y
6	McFails Cave Nature Preserve (NY)	Y	Y	Y	Y
7	Mill Creek Sink Nature Preserve (FL)	Y	N	Y	Y
8	Richard Blenz Nature Preserve (IN)	Y	Y	Y	Y
9	Schoharie Caverns Nature Preserve (NY)	Y	Y	Y	Y
10	Shelta Cave Nature Preserve (AL)	N	Y	Y	Y
11	Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve (FL)	Y	Y	Y	Y
12	Warren Cave Nature Preserve (FL)	N	N	Y	N
13	Wells Cave Nature Preserve (KY)	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Total Reports Received	8	10	11	10

NSS Preserve Status	November 2010
Barton Hill Nature Preserve (NY)	Closed in Oct
Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve (OK)	Closed for WNS
John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve (WV)	Closed for WNS
Schoharie Caverns Nature Preserve (NY)	Closed from Oct to May
Wells Cave Nature Preserve (KY)	Closed for WNS

CONSERVATION DIVISION (Val and Jim Werker)

Partnerships in Washington, D.C—NSS partnerships with federal agencies become increasingly important as western states begin to follow FWS protocols for WNS decontamination and containment. Jim and Val are in regular contact with Peter Youngbaer, NSS WNS Liaison; Jeremy Coleman FWS WNS WO; Jim Goodbar, BLM National Senior Cave Specialist; Dale Pate, NPS National Cave/Karst Specialist; David Kempworth, newly appointed FWS Regional Cave and Karst Specialist; and we are planning cooperative partnerships and workshops for cave/karst personnel with newly appointed USFS National Cave/Karst Coordinator, Cindy Sandeno, as she takes on new responsibilities in her nationwide leadership position. Lincoln National Forest Leadership requested we distribute the Region 3 Cave/Karst Coordinator Outreach Notice and Guadalupe Ranger District requested we distribute the District Cave Specialist Outreach Notice through the nationwide NSS Conservation Network. WNS notices from Peter Youngbaer have been distributed for the past three years through the NSS Conservation Network.

NSSNews—NSS NEWS 2011 CONSERVATION ISSUE submissions are due before Dec 31, 2010. If you are interested in submitting an article, please send a notice of intent to submit articles now. Send articles to werks@cunacueva.com

Partnering with NSS Education Division—Conservation, Education, and Speleoart are collaborating on Conservation Art emphasis. Conservation and Education are planning collaborations on a variety of workshops and other projects.

NSS CONVENTION DIVISION (Carol Tideman)

The NSS Convention in Essex Junction, Vermont was deemed a success with 38 states and 5 countries represented with approximately 705 attendees.

One note is that this was one of the first uses of a professional convention site and along with that came a number of restrictions and lack of control over what the NSS could do on site. For example the contract with the facility required that we hire a provider that drove up the cost for the Howdy Party.

A full report is included as an appendix to this document.

EDUCATION DIVISION (Dianne Gillespie)

The Education Division hosted an “Educational Roundtable” session during convention. The purpose of the roundtable was to gain information and insight from the NSS membership as to the focus and direction of the division. The information gathered at this meeting will be used in the development of the division’s strategic plan as a part of the overall NSS strategic plan. Six major ideas were identified and will be developed for inclusion in future educational plans.

Environmental Education Committee – (Kriste Lindberg and Dianne Gillespie)

The Indiana Karst Conservancy received the Group Conservation Award from the NSS Conservation and Management Section at the 2010 NSS Convention

Project Underground continues to support WNS education outreach working closely with Peter Youngbaer. Project Underground had a presence at the Boy Scout Jamboree where they had visits from over 13,000 scouts, leaders, and family members.

Project Underground may submit funding requests to support its educational programs.

Youth Groups Liaison Committee – (Allen Maddox)

Allen continues to develop structure and strategic plans for the committee to include promoting the Caving Forum Youth Group Section and to increase activities. He needs to fill regional coordinator positions in Arizona Regional Association, Northwest Caving Association, and the Ozark Valley Region. Vacancies will be posted in the NSS News. The Committee will investigate marketing to promote the program.

Safety & Techniques Committee – Aaron Bird

The S&T Committee has been actively promoting the committee through articles in the NSS News and development of a new Facebook page with over 260 members. The committee is developing a Best-Practices decon video for WNS decontamination from video shot at the 2010 NSS Convention. The committee will develop a “near hit” questionnaire and data base in the near future.

National Cave Rescue Commission – Anmar Mirza

The commission is working on continued improvement and refinement of the NCRC Training Manual and the three year review of the curriculum has commenced. The national seminar was held in Mentone, Alabama in May. The NCRC is still considering the possibilities of fixed sites for 3 of 4 of the National Seminars on a rotating basis. The 4th will be open to bids to allow different areas of the country to host the seminar. The 2011 national seminar will be held in Puerto Rico and 2012 National Seminar site will be back in Mentone, Alabama.

NCRC is committed to keeping the cost of the trainings at a level that is conducive to the average caver attending, but this is increasingly difficult to do as site, equipment, and reporting requirements increase.

Scholarships for cavers has helped somewhat but can only go so far. Current thinking is to charge anyone not an NSS member at the time of registration more on top of the amount we already charge extra to make them NSS members. This would help underwrite the cost of the seminar for the NSS cavers to a small (very small) degree.

White Nose Syndrome has severely impacted the ability to find seminar sites as many caves formerly used are closed by state and federal agencies.

Cave Management Division

John M. Wilson – Division Chief, jmwgeo@gmail.com
9504 Lakewater Court, Henrico, VA 23229
phone) 804-741-4274

Cave and Karst Acquisition Committee - Kim Metzgar - kimmakc@aol.com

Since the last report, I have received one inquiry from James Sherrill about a potential project in Missouri. I forwarded him the appropriate information on writing a cave management plan, as well as the NSS policy for cave acquisitions, and offered my assistance in any way possible. I also reminded him that we would need information early for the BOG meeting. I was contacted on Aug. 27, responded by Aug. 30, but have not yet heard back. I will send him a reminder email. The project, as it stands now, appears to be quite interesting, and definitely worthy of the NSS considering some type of assistance. However, until more details are provided, that is all I can say at the moment.

Cave Conservancies Committee - John M. Wilson - jmwgeo@gmail.com

The New Jersey Cave Conservancy is no longer in compliance with the minimal standards of being an NSS cave conservancy. I have found no evidence that this organization still exists and there is no indication that it has functioned in the last several years. NJCC has been removed from the list of cave conservancies and is no longer entitled to use the phrase "An NSS Cave Conservancy" as part of its name or other identification.

There are now 14 cave conservancies entitled to use the NSS Cave Conservancy designation.

Two other cave conservancies are NSS institutional members.

The 13th annual Cave Conservancies' round table was held at the 2010 NSS convention. The 14th annual roundtable will be held at the 2011 NSS Convention.

Contemporary Cave Use Study – Lisa Hall - caverlisa@hotmail.com

No report yet.

NSS Nature Preserves - Gary Moss, Chairman - kd4itj@amsat.org

Gary will send the Nature Preserve Report separately

**Cave Management Division
NSS Nature Preserves Committee
(Gary Moss)**

Barton Hill Nature Preserve - NY

By: Thom Engel

Very little to report this quarter. We are closing the caves for the season on October 1 at the recommendation of the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation.

Progress: The boundary line issue has been resolved and all the legal documents filed.

Problems: None

Plans: None in the near term. Next season, we will fix the ladder and try to get to the cabin.

Thom Engel
Barton Hill Nature Preserve Manager

Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve – OK

By: Clayton Russell

Jan. 10, 2010

Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve Report

The status of the preserve is normal in that the bat population is holding steady if not increasing. The Longeared bat census was estimated at around 400 by the Fish and Wildlife service. This census was done in December 2009. The Gray bat population seems normal by observation of guano piles. The area was devastated by an ice storm last year and is recovering. There is nothing else new to report that I can think of.

Clayton Russell
NSS 9487

Sept 24, 2010

The status of The Donald R. Russell preserve is the same as normal. No visitation has been noted. There have been no problems and plans for the future is keep the status quo. I cant explain why the DRR preserve is missing from the website, I have no control of that. The policy for WNS has been stated in the preserve policy, which is no visitation. This will include persons studying bats whom might contaminate these caves.

Clayton Russell

Clayton Russell
Donald R. Russell Nature Preserve

GREAT EXPECTATIONS CAVE NATURE PRESERVE - WY

FALL 2010 REPORT

By: Robert Montgomery

PRESERVE INFORMATION:

1. PRESERVE NAME: GREAT EXPECTATIONS CAVE NATURE PRESERVE
2. PURCHASE DATE: JANUARY 30, 2003
3. DEED LOCATION: NSS OFFICE
4. DONATED FUNDS: YES
5. ACREAGE: 40 ACRES
6. PURCHASE PRICE: \$200,000.00
7. LIABILITY RELEASE: YES
8. AREAS OF IMPORTANCE: RECREATION, HYDROLOGY, MINERALOGY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

ROBERT MONTGOMERY – PRESERVE MANAGER

JOHN SCHELTENS

MIKE HANSON

MARC OHMS

DAN AUSTIN

CARL BERN

PAUL SPACKMAN

PRESERVE REPORT:

PROJECTS:

This year's proposed projects, for the preserve were: a surface archeology survey, a surface plant survey (including noxious weed and proposed treatments), fence repair and construction, and repair and maintenance of the Great X Cave gate.

These and other projects on the Great X Cave Preserve were scheduled for this year's field season, which started in late July and ends in October.

PROBLEMS:

The fall before last, while entering Great X Cave on a trip which I was leading, there was a rock that shifted immediately above the gate so that it could not be closed. The rock was stabilized and everyone exited the cave. We then pried the rock loose and it fell into the entrance crack. It was moved further into the cave and stabilized. The area above the gate was examined and no further loose rock was observed. When the gate was closed it was noticed that a large gap existed above the gate, which a small individual could

possibly fit through. We determined that the gate can be swung about 15 degrees and a new hole for the locking bar be installed to solve the problem.

This was fixed this summer by drilling a new hole for the locking bar, using a hammer drill, and shifting the gate as described above.

During this trip, it was noted that the gates in the fences on the preserve had been left open at some time shortly before our trip and a cow had entered and died on the property. I suspect that lazy individuals on 4 wheel ATV's are the culprits here. The gates were closed and we again wired them shut. I guess that the "No Trespassing" signs posted at the gates don't mean much to these people. We intend to repair the fences and lock the gates.

Along with the repair on the cave gate, the fences and gates were inspected and repaired as necessary.

In addition, it was noted that there are several areas infested with Canadian Thistle on the property. Since these are a noxious weed we will attempt to eradicate them over the next several years.

No action was taken on this problem this field season.

PLANS:

In addition to the above mentioned projects, we intend to cut some dead timber on the property above the cave entrance. A conservation trip is being discussed to do a clean up in the Milky Way area of the cave. The management plan is currently being reviewed and revised to more accurately reflect the level and type of usage of the property and caves. A rescue plan is being developed and there are plans to place a rescue cash in the cave. There is also a proposal to more accurately map and sketch the section of the cave from the entrance to the end of the Great Hall and to the Cephalopod Malt Shop.

SUMMARY:

Overall this year's caving season was mostly uneventful. Usage of the cave was been about the same as previous years, with no through trips. Lack of time available by volunteers has limited the work being done on the preserve. We will probably need several hundred dollars next year for signage and fencing materials.

Robert Montgomery
Great Expectations Cave Nature Preserve Manager

John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve

By: Dave West

Chairman - Dave West

Members: Fred Grady, Bob Hoke, Pauline Apling, Keely Owens

The preserve remains closed at the request of West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service due to WNS presence at the preserve. As noted in my previous report, this closure has allowed a significant group (>150) of endangered Virginia Big Ear bats to adopt Trout Cave as a summer roost. It has been determined that the colony is in fact a bachelor colony. WVDNR and USF&W are sensitive to the significant recreational value of Trout Cave. A meeting is planned to be held at the time of the annual bat count in February 2011 to discuss whether some period of time may exist between a winter closure for the endangered Indiana bat and a summer closure for the Virginia Big Ear bat to permit at least short term opening of the cave for recreational use when the WNS closure ends. Historically, many of our visitors have come from as far away as North Carolina and Ohio and are unaffiliated with the organized caving community. Because these groups are less likely to comply with the recommended decontamination procedures, the WNS closure of the preserve will remain in effect until such time as it is clear that the spread of WNS is such that those two states are considered saturated or nearly so. The preserve management plan, last updated in March of 2008, will be updated again to reflect the new status of Trout Cave in the Spring of 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave West

Manager, John Guilday Caves Nature Preserve

Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve – GA
By: Larry O. Blair

KINGSTON SALTPETER CAVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP LIST
[SEPTEMBER 2010]

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Dan Hills, NSS 25736RF, 214 Farmbrook Pkwy., Stockbridge, GA 30281,
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Joel M. Sneed, NSS 10137RLF, 5449 Evergreen Forest Ct., Flowery Branch, GA 30542
phone: 770/965-4923

... Continued ...

Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve

COMMITTEE REPORT

September 26, 2010

This report will serve as the official record of the Kingston Saltpeter Cave, KSC Nature Preserve, a.k.a. the Kingston Saltpeter Cave Preserve of the National Speleological Society for the time period since my last report dated June 15, 2010.

On June 24, 2010 a second "spider" collection trip for and at the request of Josh Campbell, professor of biology of the Shorter College of Rome, Georgia was conducted. Note...see my last report to the BOG for details of that trip. More samples were recovered at the pleasure of Prof. Campbell. He continues to study these specimens at this date. My previous report references that first collecting trip into the cave.

Also on this trip I collected some old trash in the cave including an old tennis shoe that was reduced to the rubber sole, metal eyelets and remains of the laces! I continued repair work to the scar of the "main dig". While doing these tasks I located what is felt to be two more lithic artifacts! These are all cleaned and identified by professional archaeologist. The collecting team and myself made note of some very unusual mushrooms growing near to the Second Entrance to the cave in the twilight zone.

Outside the cave I continued to work on the erosion ditch I am always fighting. We located a three or four foot hole cut in the wire of the Big Entrance fence to our dismay.

Two days later on June 26, Committee members Kevin and Shannon Glenn visited the Preserve. No new trash was located but they did, however, discover the breach in the fence mentioned earlier.

On July 30 I met with our fence company and aided them in repairing the cut wire discovered back on June 24. After the crew left I drove rebar rods in at an angle through the base of the wire at this repair to strengthen this area. I cut downed small trees and deadfalls and vines from the Big Entrance enclosure.

The Glenns once again visited the property finding all to be in order on September 4.

On September 15 I conducted an all day solo work trip to the Preserve. I hauled in quite a load of limbs, yard litter and etc. for erosion control. I cut more vine from the fence, oiled the lock and wire brushed four large bollards across the walk-in trail. I then mixed up some concrete to replace that which had broken up in the tops of these post and replaced it. After it dried the posts were painted. I lastly worked cutting brush and low-hanging limbs all along the old fire road leading to the KSC Preserve.

September the 20th. was a "red Letter" day for the KSC Preserve. After much planning the Executive Director of the Board of Directors of the Felburn Foundation and his wife came for a visit to the property. The Felburn Foundation is the actual owner of the Kingston Saltpeter Cave Preserve. A trip last year never developed but a good visit finally took place.

Continued...



During their visit the Glenns and myself led the Director on a tour of parts of the cave pointing out historic features and points of interest. He seemed very impressed with this old saltpeter cave. His wife remained outside the Big Entrance with their pet dog. She later related how quite and peaceful the woods were.

The Director stated that he was pleased with what he had seen. He had no suggestions for any improvements. He said our signs were sufficient and in fact as has been in the past left everything at our judgement. We discussed insurance and money for future projects and our love for this property during his visit.

This was the first visit by any representative of the Foundation since the property was acquired back in 1983! This indicates the trust between the Foundation and the Committee membership. They understand that we mean to protect this site and are free to follow our best judgement and be good stewards of the land and its wild-life and plants as well.

After our day together our friends were to continue their trip to Kentucky to visit other properties then to return to the Foundations headquarters in Ocala, Florida.

The Preserve is currently in excellent physical condition. In all of the trips inside the cave indicated in this report no evidence of white-nose syndrome. Our policy here at the KSC is to continue to maintain the cave as being closed to the general public, that is there being no planned trips for groups and etc. Any cavers or others who have visited other caves are expected to be using clean equipment. We of the Committee do reserve the right to enter the cave to monitor our bat population.

We currently have no problems at the Kingston Saltpeter Cave Preserve.

On another note I was asked that a "Conservancy Survey" be completed on all caves that may be located on the lands of the KSC Preserve and send it in to Ted Kayes for the purpose of "looking (for) insurance at rates for coverage for underground activities". This request would represent two surveys of which I completed and mailed off on September 23, 2010.

Also I was asked to provide a committee member list of which a copy of current members is enclosed along with this report.

I was also asked that this current report cover a period of time for the last six months as requested of all committee chairmen by AVP Geary. Since our last report was dated June 15, 2010 and would, therefore, along with this report cover that time period I am including a copy of that last report to accompany this current one.

Again...all is well here.

Respectfully submitted,



encs./2

Larry O. Blair
Kingston Saltpeter Cave Nature Preserve Manager

MILL CREEK SINK NATURE PRESERVE - FL
QUARTERLY REPORT – October 2010
By: Robert Anderson



Mill Creek Sink Preserve is parcel number 03066-002-001. Located in section 10 township 8S range 18E or approximately 0.25 miles east of I-75 on the north side of US 441 in the City of Alachua. It is 8.58 acres.

Introduction

2010 has been a good year at Mill Creek Sink.

Site conditions have been good, despite the basin being dark for a large period: the first half of this year and, now still poor visibility in the 3rd quarter. Activities included meetings with the Alachua Police Department, grounds maintenance and mowing of the access area.

Activities

I have met with the Alachua Police Department representatives several times to continue the good relations with the city. Guides have been doing individual cleanups, as they have visited the site.

Progress

One dive was safely completed since June 2010. The guide was: Mark Messersmith. The new system for paperwork is working well and all forms have been received by the PM. The reason for the low activity, was due to significant rain fall, causing poor visibility in the basin and partially in the system.

The next guide meeting is tentatively scheduled for January.

The availability calendar is up and working. It is through the Yahoo system on the internet and can be viewed at: <http://www.calendar.yahoo.com/alachuasink>.

The Guide Data sheet is attached as Appendix B to this report.

The Alachua Police Department has been notified of, and sent the revised Guides/Science Diver list.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations at this time.

Conclusions

The Diving Program is working well at this point. Few, if any changes need to be made. Currently dives are being conducted and observations are being made. We need to move forward collecting data as we go.

(Added by Gary Moss)

“Robert is the head of a guides committee and CDS property manager. The Guides committee is a committee of about dozen members which are responsible for the day to day management. All the Guides are NSS and CDS members. Overall management is done by CDS Programs Director, Frank Ohidy, and the CDS Board.”

Robert Anderson
Mill Creek Sink Nature Preserve Manager

Richard Blenz Nature Preserve – IN

By: Anmar Mirza

The RBNP is not closed due to WNS. Visitors are asked to come in cleaned and decontaminated clothing. The vast majority of our visitors are not of the caving community and Buckner is the only cave they will visit. Progress: Graffiti removal continues using volunteer labor and wire brush methods.

Ongoing cleanup is progressing.

Drafting the new map is approximately 2/3rds complete.

Plans: Depending on NSS Headquarters site selection, a small shelter is planned for the foundation of the old barn site.

Stabilization of the Queen Blair entrance and opening for limited trips.

Problems:

The RBNC sent a letter to Miss Haines (our prosecuted graffiti artist) offering to let her make amends for her crime by helping clean the cave. No response has been forthcoming still. Discussion of civil legal pursuit of Miss Haines is being discussed.

One issue that has been ongoing is that Jessica Deli, who was the caver who reported the new graffiti to the RBNC has applied for the NSS Vandalism reward and thus far has received no response. She first contacted the rewards contact in February, sent the asked for information, and in spite of contacting the former AVP and the current AVP who both have queried the rewards contact, has received no information at all regarding the status of this reward. This reflects badly on the NSS policy of vandalism deterrence.

Anmar Mirza
RBNP Manager

Schoharie Nature Preserve Report – NY

By: Christa Hay

There has been about average visitation for the cave this year. Most weekends the cabin is in use by groups and has been kept in good condition. There was one incident of someone kicking in the door. I went out to inspect and the only damage done was the lock was broken and someone had pulled off a screen. I was able to fix both that night. There is a new lawn service. It is the same person mowing, Robert Warner, but now he runs his own business. He continues to do a good job.

There is a brush clearing work day scheduled for October 2nd. General upkeep on the cabin continues each year. I was not able to get to the driveway this year but it really should be addressed next year since the ruts are getting deep. This brings me to the issue of the budget. There is a separate Northeast Properties Fund and I would like to know what is available. The driveway work is going to take some heavy equipment to scrape it down some.

The cave will officially be closing for hibernation on October 3rd and will open May 15th of 2011. The cave and cabin will have posted signs.

Committee member would be Peter Teresco for cabin reservations.

Christa Hay
Schoharie Nature Preserve Manager

Shelta Report. September 2010.

Plans

- Continue monitoring bat populations in the cave. A winter hibernation count and early spring exit counts will be made.
- Provide more timely updates to Management Plan. Photographs are needed.

Progress

- Fence modifications to handle possible cave break-ins have been completed. There has been evidence of person(s) climbing over the fence to gain entrance to Shelta Cave. The placement of the lock boxes on the gate made for convenient steps to climb over the fence. A local trade school was utilized to weld a panel to the outside of the gate to prevent the lock boxes from being used as steps.
- A dead maple tree, which was overhanging the fence, has been removed. Bids were taken from 4 tree removal services were taken. Business licenses and insurance was mandatory. All had issues with the location of the fence under the dead branches. All had wanted to bring in a bucket truck to be able to safely remove the tree. Coordination with the fence vendor was necessary as to be able to remove sections of fence to avoid dropping the tree on the fence. The tree cutter was able to climb out on the overhanging branches and drop the branches without issue.
- The Shelta Cave Management Plan has been updated.
- A summer bat survey was performed. The Preserve managers and the Shelta Property manager entered the cave just before dusk and found numerous bats flying in both East Hall and Jones Hall, as well as in the upper section below the entrances. Another fresh pile of guano was found in the same location in Jones Hall that was first seen in 2008. Normal exit counts during this time are very low (2 – 3). It was surprising to find evidence of continued summer usage. During this survey, more accurate measurements were taken at the drops for each of the three entrances.

TYTOONA CAVE NATURE PRESERVE – October 2010

Submitted by Garrett Czmor, NSS 22709(R)(FE)
(Manager/Chair)

The yearly plan is to maintain the property, provide education opportunity, and allow access to our membership, practice conservation among other things.

Since January of 2010, members of our committee have made at least 12 trips to the Preserve. Those trips either consisted of property maintenance, educational trips, cave register book replacement and general inspections. The kiosk contains four brochures (Bats Needs Friends, Fragile Underground, NSS Membership and a Tytoona brochure), which always need replenished. On average, we make visits to the property or cave at least once or twice a month.

In March, we noticed where the erosion wall to hold back flood waters appeared to show some damage. By July, the damage was notably greater and vandals could not be ruled out. We repaired the wall with stone and cement that same month.

I also caught a family in the act of trying to dam up the small stream in front of the cave. Apparently, they thought it was not a crime to cool off by making an artificial pool. The family apologized and dismantled the dam that day.

On July 15, I along with two members of the Huntingdon County Cave Hunters (NSS) lead an educational caving trip for the Schuylkill Environmental Center (Philadelphia, Pa.). There were 15 youngsters and 3 adult counselors on this trip. This organization usually schedules one trip a year here to learn about cave history, geology, conservation and hands on exploration. I require youth waivers and proper equipment each time. This group has been known to donate to the NSS on behalf of Tytoona. Tytoona is considered by many as a novice cave. This makes it attractive for youth groups and college students as an introduction to caving. Many university professors have used Tytoona in their teaching plans.

One of our on-going projects is to replace (as needed) the wooden steps that lead down to the sinkhole and entrance. Each wooden step measures 6 inch by 6 inch by 4 foot. Some of the original steps installed by Boy Scouts during the mid 1980's are starting to decay. They are being replaced with treated lumber as needed. The lumber was pre-bought to cover expected repairs, so this will not affect the present budget.

One of our highlights at the beginning of the year was the completion of the new map of the entire Tytoona Cave system. Four large maps comprise the cave system (each map measures 32"x48"). I am currently seeking a cheaper business to print the maps so they can be sold to NSS members.

Usually on a yearly basis, we receive donations for the Tytoona Preserve. The donations are forwarded to the NSS office at Huntsville.

On the topic of WNS, Tytoona is allowed to stay open year around primarily because the cave is not a habitat nor suitable as one. Nor does the cave harbor any amount of bats to speak of. Periodic winter and spring flooding plus over all visitations, will prevent this cave from ever becoming a suitable bat site.

Presently, we do not have any problems to note, except one. The cave register book has been stolen at least twice. No rational behavior can explain this except perhaps as a prank.

The current active Tytoona Committee consists of:
Garrett Czmor, Mary Czmor, Derek Flaig, John Blough, Kevin Busko and Gene Jones.

Garrett Czmor
Tytoona Cave Nature Preserve Manager

Wells Cave Nature Preserve - KY

By: Larry Simpson

Wells Cave Nature Preserve is still closed due to WNS. Signs and brochures about WNS have been posted at the changing station. No other news. I have a new phone contact which is 513-379-8120.

Larry Simpson

Wells Cave Nature Preserve Manager

NSS Conservation Division Fall 2010 Report

NSS Conservation Division

Jim C. Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker, Division Chiefs werks@cunacueva.com

Vision for the NSS Conservation Division

Promote strategic collaborations to advance global cave/karst conservation outreach. Make karst a household word!

Mission • Develop cooperative partnerships for resource protection, conservation outreach, and rapid response karst advocacy • Implement strategies to reach greater diversity of populations in advancing cave/karst ecosystem awareness and promoting karst groundwater protection • Network cave/karst conservation issues to protect spelean values through cavers, caving organizations, agencies, and targeted stakeholders • Promote conservation protocols and practices nationally and globally through workshops and other venues of information sharing.

Partnerships in Washington, D.C.—NSS partnerships with federal agencies become increasingly important as western states begin to follow FWS protocols for WNS decontamination and containment. Jim and Val are in regular contact with Peter Youngbaer, NSS WNS Liaison; Jeremy Coleman FWS WNS WO; Jim Goodbar, BLM National Senior Cave Specialist; Dale Pate, NPS National Cave/Karst Specialist; David Kempworth, newly appointed FWS Regional Cave and Karst Specialist; and we are planning cooperative partnerships and workshops for cave/karst personnel with newly appointed USFS National Cave/Karst Coordinator, Cindy Sandeno, as she takes on new responsibilities in her nationwide leadership position. Lincoln National Forest Leadership requested we distribute the Region 3 Cave/Karst Coordinator Outreach Notice and Guadalupe Ranger District requested we distribute the District Cave Specialist Outreach Notice through the nationwide NSS Conservation Network. WNS notices from Peter Youngbaer have been distributed for the past three years through the NSS Conservation Network.

NSSNews—NSS NEWS 2011 CONSERVATION ISSUE submissions are due before Dec 31, 2010. Send notice of intent to submit articles now. Send articles to werks@cunacueva.com

Partnering with NSS Education Division—Conservation, Education, and Speleoart are collaborating on Conservation Art emphasis. Conservation and Education are planning collaborations on a variety of workshops and other projects.

NSS Conservation Committee

Jim C. Werker & Val Hildreth-Werker, Co-Chairmen werks@cunacueva.com

NSS Convention—NSS Conservation will be sponsoring several events throughout Convention week in Colorado through the efforts of various sub-committees.

Cooperative Conservation and Grant Opportunities—We continually seek opportunities in corporate or foundation grants targeting ecosystem restoration, biodiversity indicator species, climate change, program development, and public information outreach. Please notify Val if you run across opportunities, werks@cunacueva.com

NSS Karst Partnership Forum (KPF)

Merideth A. Hildreth, Coordinator planning@zianet.com

Progress: In addition to continued follow-up with 200+ planners who joined KPF at the “got karst?” exhibit booth during American Planning Association Conferences in 2008 and 2010, KPF continues to expand its membership among NSS members and affiliates. Recently, the KPF membership roster has expanded from 41 to 210 cavers, creating greater synergy in attaining KPF goals.

Plans:

- Merideth Hildreth is submitting an article about karst to *Western Planner*, a publication of Western Planning Resources, Inc. (WPR). Upon acceptance, this feature article will reach a readership of 1,800 land planners in Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and, Alaska.

- KPF continues to work on its Karst Central Website <http://www.karstcentral.org> dedicated to providing resources to help communities and planners with karst protection issues, hazards, documents, and community outreach. KPF works with KIP (Karst Information Portal) to post Model Karst Protection Ordinances, community karst groundwater ordinances, and management plans so communities can easily access these valuable documents through Karst Central. KPF welcomes submissions of materials for review and possible posting on Karst Central.
- KPF members have been working on *Karst Rapid Response Handbook*. When completed, this guide will be posted on Karst Central to serve as a resource for communities that need to act quickly to protect endangered karst resources from pending land development.
- KPF is developing materials tailored for land planners who will be invited to a special karst workshop at the 2011 NSS Convention in Colorado. KPF will distribute workshop information to planners through KPF's membership list and network with American Planning Association Chapters. Merideth is pursuing APA accreditation for planners to receive CEUs for attendance.
- During a Municipal League Zoning Officials Conference in September, Merideth Hildreth developed contacts for expanding KPF's network among communities and zoning officials affiliated with the Municipal League.

Problems: Without consistent funding support, KPF has to turn down opportunities and invitations to reach out to communities through other national and regional organizations and conferences. In order to help achieve its mission, KPF needs NSS support as well as additional collaborative partnerships and funding sources.

NSS Conservation Specialists

NSS Conservation Specialists are providing cave/karst project info and conservation concerns around the nation.

- Provide reports or networking updates outlining cave/karst conservation issues and project updates. The nature of these reports will vary as they reflect the resources and concerns of the differing karst areas.
- Some regions include states supported by populations of cavers outside the regional caving groups that typically deal with familiar issues in their regional karst-similar locals. Due to geographic location and karst diversity, specifically the caves and cavers in the states of Florida, Hawaii, Utah, and the Southeastern U.S. each area needs its own recognized Conservation Specialist.

Arizona Conservation Specialist

Steven Smith (AZ) stevenlsmith@usa.net

- Escabrosa Grotto (Tucson, AZ) manages access into Onyx Cave (Santa Cruz County). To better understand summer bat usage (maternity roosts) within Onyx, Escabrosa continues into their second year of gathering bat population data. From May through October 2010, members conduct twice-monthly trips to set up reflected infrared cameras outside the entrance at twilight to count exiting bats. This continuing project is to establish a multi-year database on the bat maternity roost in Onyx, which will allow Escabrosa to make better informed cave management decisions on whether to limit or deny visitors access into Onyx during the summer bat breeding season.
- Escabrosa Grotto members continue to assist NSS member Sarah Truebe's PhD research into Onyx Cave's temperature, humidity, and hydrology. A rain gauge placed on Onyx hill allows both measurement of the amount of rain falling on Onyx hill and collection of rain samples for chemical analysis. Several dripwater collection devices within the cave also allow chemical analysis of the water once it has passed through the soil and rock over the cave. A large part of Sarah's research will be a comparison between these surface and subsurface waters. As stewards and conservators of the entire Onyx ecosystem, Escabrosa members are looking forward to Sarah's results and are certain her work will assist us to better understand the cave's complex hydrology, speleothem formation, and response to local climate change.
- Ray Keeler provided this update on the Peppersauce Cave Conservation Project:
Progress: Lava River Cave in Arizona. During the summer of 2010, a substantial number of graffiti tags (around 30) appeared in Lava River Cave in northern Arizona. The first tag happened on June 20th. The cave had remained essentially graffiti free for 19 years since the last major graffiti removal. Coconino National Forest Service day-trip cleaning could not keep up with the tags, and the local media was contacted. September 17-19 2010 saw Arizona cavers – both independents and from several Arizona grottos – volunteer to assist in the graffiti removal effort. 3800 feet of fire hose was laid, and sandblasting equipment was hauled in. The result is that now 3500 feet of lava tube is graffiti free. We ran out of time, however, and two tags still remain near the entrance.

The first tag of 6/20/2010 was investigated, and the perpetrator caught. It turns out he was a student on a visa that had expired and I am told he will be deported. USFS is also asking for payment for clean up costs.

Plans: The equipment is en route to another cave requiring restoration.

Problems: The final Peppersauce Cave graffiti removal effort was planned for August 27th, 2010. However,

substantial summer rains caused access to the back of the cave to become sumped, preventing entry. Thus completion of this project will have to wait for awhile.

Mid-Atlantic Conservation Specialist

Doug Soroka (PA) snowshoe7@verizon.net

Huntingdon County Cave Hunters

- We have virtually stopped caving because of WNS. We even rescheduled grotto meetings now to quarterly. Other than visiting Tytoona and leading educational trips there, we haven't done anything. We've kept our caves closed but I suspect this will change soon.
- This last winter, a few of us worked with the PA Game Commission in monitoring Cave entrances for WNS. Most did not show any results of WNS except one cave that we already knew had it.
- As you might know, we are opposing the reactivation of the quarry that will obliterate the Heller Caves and destroy the bat habitat.

York Grotto

- It's summer. We party, we picnic, we go on vacation ... we do not do much grotto business.
- We are staying in touch with Indian Echo Caverns and do intend to work with them this winter to help remove green stuff that grows around the electric lamps. Last year the entrance was completely snowed shut so little was done before the cave had to be reopened for its commercial purposes.
- We are communicating with the new owner of a PA cave. He is very shy regarding publicity and wants to be very careful and discreet.

Greater Allentown Grotto

- We have also worked 3 weekends at Crystal Cave in PA—a commercial cave, in wall cleaning and algae removal. We brought in a step-up water pump to bring water into the back of the cave. Since this is a commercial cave it was carefully determined that city water could be introduced into the cave. We have never observed any cave critters in the off trail areas or the lower areas of the cave. There is no standing water observed in these lower areas.
- Three of our members again worked with Jim and Val this summer at Floyd Collins Crystal Cave Restoration in Mammoth Cave National Park with much success in finding vandalized pieces in Collins and Thomas Avenues.

Mississippi Valley – Ozark Conservation Specialist

William R. Elliott (MO) Bill.Elliott@mdc.mo.gov

No report received.

Northeast Conservation Specialist

Mike Warner (NY) mike@speleobooks.com

No report received.

Northwest Conservation Specialist

Hester Mallonee (OR) hestermallonee@yahoo.com

- Cascade Grotto in Washington, with help from cavers in Oregon, over two weekends in July and October 2010, cleaned over half-a-ton of rotting lumber and contaminants from Dynamited Cave, a very long, multi-drop, breakdown-floored lava cave in Southwest Washington. A battery-powered reciprocating saw was used to cut up the lumber, which was then bundled into heavy-duty trash compactor bags cinched with duct tape and transported by deploying highlines, haul systems, and portable gantries, to raise debris from sections of the cave. Project head was Hester Mallonee assisted by Albert Meerscheidt. Gantries were built by Albert Meerscheidt with consultation from Hester Mallonee, Aaron Stavens, and Ethan Donohue. Tensioned traverse system at second drop was the brainchild and creation of Aaron Stavens and Ethan Donohue. Participants included Des Marshall and TJ Smith, Marla Pelowski, Lindsay Donohue, Lisa Bauman, Lane Holdcroft, and Chris Miller. After three days' work there were still many bundles in the cave when about fifty young people and twenty leaders from the Pathfinders, a Christian outdoor recreation and civic service group appeared on the scene to conduct compass-and-tape mapping for their caving merit badges. They helped complete the hauling. Cavers learned more about the Pathfinders, Pathfinders learned more about cavers, White Nose Syndrome was discussed and contact information exchanged. At the end of the day, 1180 pounds were removed. The dedication and good spirits of all of these cavers over a four-day period and their willingness to travel substantial distances to do this work are deeply appreciated by project leadership. The willingness of the Pathfinders to have their agenda expanded and their day re-scheduled in the interest of good stewardship of the planet is the subject of gratitude that is also very deep indeed.
- Cascade Grotto accompanied by cavers from the Oregon Grotto also carried out its annual cave conservation and restoration weekend in February 2010 at Oregon Caves National Monument. This was actually the maiden voyage of the battery-powered reciprocating saw. Albert Meerscheidt and Michael McCormack, on rope about

thirty-five feet above the bottom, redundantly tethered to be sure, armed with saw and mallet, removed two gigantic (three-to-four-foot long) iron staples that had been driven into a formation slope to support a previous ladder providing access to the Monument's most beautiful room, Paradise Lost. These pieces of metal were corroding onto the formations as well as looking generally deplorable. The removal was effected without further damage to the formations, and an esthetic restoration of the holes will take place within the coming year.

- As usual, Cascade Grotto trash-picked its way through several other caves where cavers were equipped with trash bags and caves were equipped with trash. Would that it could be otherwise.

Ohio Valley Conservation Specialist

Bill Walden (KY) wdwalden@windstream.net
606-340-9569

- April 2010 I organized a group of students from the ecology class at Wayne County High School to do a clean up a cleanup and graffiti removal from the LMBH Cave.
- September 11, 2010 Misty Cave Cleanup and Survey trip 13 Volunteers from Greater Cincinnati Grotto helped with the following: Trash - Removed 12 bags of trash from cave, parking area, and roadside. Spray-paint - Removed or covered paint with mud for over 600 ft. of passage.
- May 2010 I posted signs from the Kentucky Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Services at the NSS Wells Cave preserve and all privately owned entrances to the Sloans Valley Cave System. These signs read: "**Caves Closed** All caves, sinkholes, tunnels and mines on this property are closed in an effort to slow the spread of White Nose Syndrome. This ailment has killed hundreds of thousands of bats in the eastern United States and may soon threaten bats in Kentucky. For more information, please visit www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html. Thank you for your cooperation."

Plans:

- Signs from KY Dept of F&W will be posted at privately owned caves in Wayne County, which are popular and/or sensitive (Indiana bats). This will be completed the first week of October 2010.
- Pine Mountain Grotto is planning a cleanup trip to either Dykes Bridge Cave or Fletchers Cave. From Thor H. Bahrman III, Conservation Officer, Pine Mountain Grotto, Inc

Rocky Mountain Conservation Specialists

Rick Rhinehart (CO) nss@rockymountaincaving.com
Camille Pullham (UT) camille_pulham@nps.gov

- Members of the Colorado Grotto participated in a clean-up of an unnamed cave on Bureau of Land Management land near Cave of the Clouds in western Glenwood Canyon. This small shelter cave was the home of Illinois native Gary Petkus, who died in the cave sometime during the winter of 2007-2008. His body was discovered on March 29, 2008. Cavers spent August 28-29 removing accumulated trash from the cave, which had been occupied by Petkus for nearly 30 years. Colorado Grotto Conservation Director Andrea Croskrey coordinated the project, which began with an initial clean-up in 2008. Additional cleaning and removal of trash is necessary to restore the cave.
- The Williams Canyon Project of the NSS repaired the damaged gate to Narrows Cave near the commercial Cave of the Winds in early September, 2010. Unknown vandals had removed the door from its hinges to gain entry into the cave, which has several thousand feet of surveyed passage. Repairs to the gate included installing heavy-duty pins for the hinges, which will not be removable in the future. Narrows Cave was discovered in the mid 1990s through an extended digging project, and has periodically been subject to unauthorized entries, in part owing to its visibility to the popular Williams Canyon hiking trail.
- At Cave of the Winds, Williams Canyon Project members continued their project to rebuild the original entry door to the popular commercial cave. Unused by tours since 1895, the door was discovered to poorly fit the door frame, allowing air and water to pass through the gate. A volunteer effort by the NSS project has restored the entry walkway, removing a sizable debris cone that had developed over the last century in front of the entrance door. Plans are to better secure the door so that wind flow through the cave is reduced, and to keep water from draining into the entrance chamber. Reducing wind through the Cave of the Winds could allow the cave to become moister and less dusty. Additional work efforts are planned for 2011 on this project.
- The Conservation Fund bid \$7.5 million at an auction July 21 for an addition of more than 5,500 acres to South Dakota's Wind Cave National Park. The additional land will expand the park to the southeast, and includes grasslands and historic features. The Conservation Fund will hold the property for the National Park Service until Congressionally-appropriated funding is processed by Washington.
- Lighting for cave tours at Wind Cave National Park has been updated by the National Park Service. Featuring LED and compact fluorescent lights, the \$2 million project was completed in early August 2010. Officials indicate the new lighting will save energy and provide better, safer lighting for visitors. Funding for the project was through cave tour ticket sales.

- In Utah, sheriff officials continue to monitor the sealed entrance to Nutty Putty Cave, the formerly popular wild cave west of Utah Lake. In late August, the *Salt Lake Tribune* published a series of feature articles detailing the tragic Thanksgiving 2009 death of John Jones in the cave. Despite public disagreement as to the merit of sealing the cave, it was cemented shut by authorities in December 2009 with the body of the deceased remaining within.
- A fire in the Main Elk Creek Canyon north of New Castle, Colorado burned over 1,500 acres of land in late June and July. The fire, called the Meadow Creek Fire, burned lands above and around several caves, including Charlotte's and Sylvia's Caves. Started by lightning, the fire was fought by fire crews organized by the National Forest Service. It is not known if cave life, including bats, in the caves of Main Elk Creek was affected by the fire or the smoke.
- On July 27, 2010, Deputy Regional Forester Tony Dixon signed an emergency one-year order to close all caves and inactive mines on National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region. This includes caves in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, most of South Dakota and most of Wyoming. The emergency order was in response to the discovery of a single Cave Myotis bat in the James Selman Cave System in west-central Oklahoma that was carrying the *Geomyces destructans* pathogen. The closure prompted forests outside the region, notably in Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona to consider similar closure orders. In Wyoming, forests in the Grand Tetons closed for a three month period ending December 1 to consider possible future actions to protect bats. Cavers throughout the region communicated with Forest officials their concern about the effectiveness of the closure order, particularly in view that other local, state and federal land owners, as well as private cave owners, are leaving their caves open to visitation. Forest officials, meanwhile, have asked groups like the Colorado Cave Survey to provide assistance in identifying caves on their lands, and to help post closure signs. Popular Forest caves, such as Colorado's Fulford and Hubbard's Caves, are also closed to the public, though the Forest's enforcement consists mainly of signage and fencing at the trailhead to the caves. With no funding or monitoring of caves, it is unknown if the closure is reducing or eliminating visitation to any Forest caves.
- The Colorado Cave Survey is actively working with the US Forest Service in Colorado in exploring options for reopening caves under the terms of the July emergency closure order. Survey officials meet regularly with Forest officials to consider possible reopening of caves known to not contain any bats. Survey officials also are seeking a permitting system for the July 2011 NSS Convention in Glenwood Springs, which will allow convention participants to visit selected caves after undertaking decontamination.
- The Bureau of Land Management in Colorado and Wyoming held public meetings in August to consider procedures and policies for cave and White Nose Syndrome management in the coming years. The BLM has indicated it will not implement the blanket closure policy of the USFS, believing that continued cooperation and assistance from cavers will be helpful in determining which caves and bats might be at risk from the approaching *Geomyces destructans* pathogen. Understanding that cavers know where the caves are located, the BLM has proposed targeted closure of significant caves in coming years, while leaving other caves open to visitation. In the Rocky Mountain Region, the BLM owns many significant caves, particularly in Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. The BLM is encouraging cave visitors to report back to the Bureau sightings of bats and any unusual bat activity.
- In Colorado, the State Parks Department has indicated it will not close the popular tufa caves at Rifle Falls State Park, despite the closure of limestone caves on adjacent White River National Forest Lands. In eastern Colorado, Jefferson County Parks and Open Space in the foothills west of Denver is keeping their granite fault caves open for visitation, while the City of Boulder Open Space and Parks are closing their small sandstone caves open to the public. The privately-owned Cave of the Winds at Manitou Springs announced in July they are keeping their caves open to visitation by members of the Williams Canyon Project. The popular commercial cave will close at least temporarily two small caves in Williams Canyon, Myotis and Natural Bridges Caves, since they were identified as bat colony caves in a 1990s bat inventory of canyon caves.
- Despite the rush to close Forest caves, the Colorado Cave Survey is keeping open Fly and Marble Caves near Canon City. These two privately owned caves are managed by the Cave Survey. Visitors to the caves from outside the region are required to undertake decontamination procedures before entering. Neither cave is considered to host significant bat colonies, though in the 1980s, Marble contained numerous bats. Unfortunately, the deliberate murder of the colony by vandals has resulted in the cave seeing far fewer bats in the decades since.
- The closure of many Colorado caves owing to the USFS closure order has resulted in an increase in visitation to LaSunder Cave in Deep Creek Canyon north of Glenwood Springs. Gated in the mid 1990s, LaSunder Cave's management plan allows for a limited number of trips each year by the grottos of Colorado. In recent years, not all trips have been taken, but with the closure, it appears 2010 might be the first year the full allotment is taken.
- Colorado caver and bat specialist Cyndi Mosch is monitoring Colorado bats. The Loveland caver has an active permit for bat studies on Forest lands.
- In late October 2010, bat biologists and students will participate in the 40th Annual Symposium on Bat Research, to be held at Denver's Hyatt Regency Tech Center. Hosted by the North American Society for Bat

Research, the seminar will include a symposium on White Nose Syndrome. Dr. Rick Adams of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and the Colorado Bat Working Group are organizing the conference.

Southeast Conservation Specialists

John Hoffelt (TN) MossyGuy@comcast.net

Deirdra Hahn (AL) DHahn@adem.state.al.us

Allen Padgett (GA) on_rope@windstream.net

Albert A. Krause (FL) aakrause@cox.net has stepped down and suggested Sean Roberts – we thank Al for his long-time dedication to NSS Conservation

(Sean Roberts – FL) Florida’s status will be included in the next update

Covering the period June 2010 – September 2010

Alabama

- The Alabama Bat Management Team posted the link to the AL White-nose Syndrome Management Plan. http://goodworkscomm.com/bats/AL_WNS_Management_Plan_Final_6-2010.pdf
- Alabama Public Television series “Discovering Alabama” aired Alabama Bats. “Various species of that unique flying mammal, bats, can be found in Alabama. Several, such as the Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and the Big Yellow Bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*) are considered imperiled due to declining populations. This program follows a team of bat scientists on a research expedition into Alabama’s Bankhead National Forest to study the habits and ecological status of bats. Included are expert assessments of the special capabilities of bats and their important role in the natural environment.” <http://discoveringalabama.org/>
- The “Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama” hosted Keith Hudson, wildlife biologist with the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Nongame Wildlife Program (and Alabama’s bat expert) at Sauta Cave National Wildlife Refuge. Hudson presented a moving narration on his life’s work with Alabama’s bats, white-nose syndrome, the impending loss of this colony and the night-time emergence. The event was featured in the Birmingham News. http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/07/time_may_be_running_out_for_al.html
- Central Alabama Grotto in conjunction with the Birmingham Zoo hosted “Bats Need Friends” at the Zoo. Daytime activities at the zoo included an information table, face painting, bat game, and a story-time with a live bat. A free afterhours educational program on bats and WNS was presented by a biologist. Approximately 200 people attended and \$150 was raised through donations. Volunteers included the Alabama Bat Working Group and the NSS Bookstore. One purpose of the event was to augment the chance that the NSS WNS Rapid Response Fund could be selected as one of four charities included in the Zoo’s proposed “Quarters for Conservation” program. The program will allow zoo visitors to select one of four charities to receive twenty-five cents of their admission price. The program will last for three years.
- Alabama Bat Management Team and Huntsville Grotto member, Jennifer Pinkley, presented a talk and slide show to the North Alabama Sierra Club on bats, caves, and WNS. Jennifer spoke about the role bats play in our ecosystem, how WNS is affecting bats in the eastern US, and what club members could do to help report suspicious bats this winter.

Georgia

- Georgia opted for common sense in the WNS saga. The official Georgia DNR plan calls for voluntary closure of caves on public land and requires decontamination per guidelines if you enter. This quarter I took the head of DNR to a wild cave and on a separate trip took the head of the Wildlife Division. By this these executives could understand the many facets of cave conservation and management issues. Georgia DNR owns over 144 caves and numerous old mines on its property statewide. Two public hearings were held and cavers made up almost the entire audience on both occasions. This made quite the impression on agency executives. A local county commissioner wrote a letter to the DNR expressing concerns of economic impact that would result from a blanket cave closure on public land. Tourist dollars are very valuable to rural communities. The impact to her local economy would have been at least a million dollar loss in revenue due to the large number of cavers visiting caves on public land.
- Recently announced were preliminary inquires into constructing a large wind turbine farm on the west brow of Lookout Mountain near the Georgia - Alabama border. Local opposition has already been strong and outspoken.

Tennessee

- The Tennessee Bat Working Group announced its 7th annual meeting for November 18, 2010. Currently, cavers are not included or represented in the Working Group; however, input may be added in the future.
- The Tennessee Cave and Karst Working Group met to increase communication, awareness, and public education about caves. This first meeting introduced cave managers from several federal and state agencies and from several caver groups (including the Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. and the NSS) in a “get to know one another” atmosphere. At the 2010 NSS Convention in Vermont, Jeremy Coleman (USFW) recognized the need for this type of interaction on a national level by noting the Convention was the first time he met with many cave managers from different agencies. The Tennessee Cave and Karst Working Group is organizing

itself using Google Groups as a communication tool, and the group is planning a Public Meeting to be held in January.

- The Bedford County Solid Waste Authority issued a letter to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation to “strongly endorse” closure of the Quail Hollow Landfill. The landfill, which is situated in a karstic area, is unable to contain leachate releases that migrate through subsurface conduits to area springs. Following the county’s letter post, the Tennessee Division of Solid Waste Management (TDSM) issued a Notice of Intent to issue a Closure Permit for the Quail Hollow Landfill. Several central Tennessee counties are unsure where solid waste disposal will occur once Quail Hollow and Cedar Ridge landfills are closed. TDSM previously denied an expansion to Cedar Hill due to the presence of an onsite cave and migration of contaminants through the karstic subsurface to area springs. Waste Management, Inc. (Cedar Hill owner-operator) vowed to challenge this decision in court (no recent developments to report).
- A recent article in the e-zine “Governing.com” highlighted the uncertainty in the Clean Water Act (CWA) caused by U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 2001 and 2006. These decisions narrowed and limited the scope of the CWA to exclude isolated wetlands, including sinkholes and sinking streams. Cavers around the nation would do well to monitor the local effects of these decisions on cave streams and streams in karst areas where water quality protections may be removed, with no legal recourse.

Southwest Conservation Specialist

Kathy Peerman (NM) speleobabe@comcast.net

- See CTF Reports for ongoing High Guads Restoration activities in Southeastern New Mexico.
- A lint camp is scheduled for Calsbad Cavern National Park during October.
- BLM has issued a new statement regarding closures of know bat roost caves in the face of the WNS threat.
- Guadalupe Ranger District had a public meeting regarding WNS protocols at the end of September.

Texas Conservation Specialist

Linda Palit (TX) lkpalit@sbcglobal.net

Linda sent a note stating that she is traveling a lot and needs a replacement to submit Texas details.

Virginia Conservation Specialist

Meredith Hall Weberg (VA) merecaver@yahoo.com

No report received.

Western Conservation Specialist

Joel Despain (CA) joel_despain@nps.gov

No report received.

NSS Conservation Network (Subcommittee)

Steve Smith, Coordinator StevenLSmith@usa.net

- The Conservation Network is an e-mail address list designed for rapid distribution of alerts and important information. The list is continually updated as IO Chairs and Conservation Chairs change. NSS Members with various responsibilities and interests are also included on this simple e-mail alert list.
- Continues to be a valuable tool for quickly “spreading the word” on WNS and time-sensitive issues.
- Peter Youngbaer emphasizes to continue sending letters to Congress to advocate increased funding for WNS research.

Cave Conservation Online (Subcommittee)

Hilary Lambert, Coordinator Hilary_Lambert@yahoo.com

Cave Conservation Online is the Web-based course developed from the NSS volume *Cave Conservation and Restoration* (Hildreth-Werker and Werker 2006). Next steps and courses for 2011 will soon be announced.

NSS Brochures (Subcommittee)

Cheryl Jones, NSS Brochures Coordinator cheryl.caver@verizon.net

Mike Dale, Graphic Design

Progress:

- At the request of the Monongahela National Forest (WV), produced a WNS brochure for the USFS and USFWS, produced primarily to present information on WNS to non-cavers and cavers outside the mainstream caving community. It is also on the USFS Web site. <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/tes/wns-brochure8310.pdf> The NSS is given credit as a partner in the project with the USFS and USFWS.

Plans:

- Update and reprint NSS membership brochure, in response to the Board's opt-in requirement for the Journal.
- Continue to keep the NSS WNS brochure up to date.

Problems: None

Conservation Web Site (Subcommittee)

- John Wilson jmwgeo@gmail.com will be listed in the 2010 MM as Webmaster. Much appreciation goes to John Wilson for his long-term dedication. John has agreed to serve in this capacity while we work out transition details for the Conservation Website.
- Bob Simmons has the Karst Central for Communities Website up and running for KPF. bob@digitalbrushstrokes.com

Volunteer Value Online Database (Subcommittee)

Jennifer Foote, Coordinator bigredfoote@yahoo.com

Team includes Kevin Toepke kevin@tuningoracle.com, Mark Lankford (former?), Bern Sukalski (former and possibly future), Jim & Val (original concept, consult)

We need your quick attention to help test the Beta Version. Go to link in next line.

- The database has been built and the data entry form is online <http://www.caves.org/volvalue/volvalue.php>
- NSS News Article in March publicized the database to NSS members.
- Potential users of data reports include: NSS annual report, CFC application
- Need to initiate and evolve static report format.
- Possibility to tie data entry into new IRS tax requirement that volunteers have a letter.
- Have found a new database guru.
- Jim and Val are working with federal agencies to more dependably recognize caver volunteer value.

Conservation Grants / Save The Caves (Subcommittee)

John Pearson, Chairman jpearson@rcc.com

- Pearson responded to a grant inquiry on Sept 20, 2010 from MCKC.
- No other requests or activity since Convention.

Geocaching Committee

David Irving, Chairman daveirving@earthlink.net

No report received. Nothing to report.

NSS Cave Vandalism Deterrence Reward Commission

Jay Jorden, Chairman jjorden@texoma.net; jjorden@gmail.com

Current commission members: Gale Beach <raybeach@earthlink.net>; Tom Rea <tomrea@ccrtc.com>; John Wilson <jmwgeo@gmail.com>; Aaron Atz <atz@netpointe.com>; Thomas Lera <frontier2@erols.com>

Progress:

- Received successful prosecution information on Buckner Cave
- Panel is seeking information on prosecution for Grassy Cove Saltpeter Cave in eastern Tennessee.

Problems: None noted.

Plans: The commission will continue to review all successful prosecutions of cave vandals in order to identify those in which a vandalism deterrence reward can be applied. Objectives include rewarding vigilance in reporting and prosecuting cave vandals and publicizing the Society's conservation objectives.

Mammoth Cave Restoration Camp Committee

Roy Vanhoozer, Chairman RVanhoo@aol.com

Rick Williams, C-Chair/Treasurer

- Volunteers with the restoration camp continue working through a list of restoration projects approved by the National Park Service (NPS). Projects range from lint removal and trail repair to removing large wooden staircases and old pipes, wire, concrete, and other approved items.
- 30 volunteers attended the week-long summer camp in August 2010. Volunteers continued removing unused rock light boxes, concrete and wire in the Lower Historic and Grand Avenue tour routes of Mammoth Cave. A small crew worked removing lint in the entrance and rotunda area of Mammoth Cave. Another crew in wetsuits ventured into the Echo River to recover numerous submerged timbers and assorted debris.
- The next restoration camp is the weekend camp scheduled for the first week in November 2010.

- Volunteers continue to follow guidelines provided by the NPS for decontamination of caving gear and tools to prevent/inhibit the spread of White Nose Syndrome (WNS). Volunteers from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and many other states regularly attend the camps. WNS was recently discovered in western Tennessee approximately 75 miles from Mammoth Cave.

Conservation Task Forces

Jonathan B. Beard, CTF Coordinator mokanman@att.net

Conservation Task Forces (CTF) under the coordination of the Conservation Committee are created to focus on local cave conservation issues. Since the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 was passed, more CTFs are being recognized by local agencies as the primary representatives of the caving community on conservation issues. If you are involved in a conservation project and think your work would benefit from CTF designation, please contact the Conservation Task Force Coordinator or the NSS Conservation Committee, werks@cunacueva.com

Boone Karst CTF

Robert "Chris" Hacker, 1714 Arundel Court, Loveland, OH 45140

SMGCaver@earthlink.net or Robert.Hacker@DHS.gov, 513-383-8954 Mobile (best)

No report received.

Germany Valley CTF

No report received.

Hawaii Caves CTF

Fred Stone, P.O. Box 1430, Kurtistown, HI 96760, 808-966-7361 fred@hawaii.edu

Francis Howarth, Hawaii Biological Survey, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St., Honolulu, HI 96817

808-848-4164, fhowarth@bishopmuseum.org.

- Continue working toward our main purpose—the conservation and management of Hawaiian caves.
- Work with Hawai'i State Department of Land & Natural Resources to get Natural Area Reserve status for a major lava tube, Paho Cave.
- Continue research on ecology, evolution and distribution of Hawaiian cave species
- Continue working with Federal, State and private agencies on resource inventories and management plans for caves on land they own or manage.

High Guads Restoration CTF

Jennifer Foote highguads@yahoo.com.

Learn more about this group through their Web site www.hgrp.org

- Currently running 4 weekend restoration trips a year in High Guads caves on Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. Plan to have at least one trip a year with at least one trip to horizontal caves to provide beginner opportunities to learn restoration and cave conservation. Typical activities include monitoring, restoration, formation repair, trail flagging repair, summer exit bat counts.
- Over 1/2 million dollars in Volunteer Value over the last ten+ years. Three trips completed so far this year, 25 k of Vol Value so far for 2010. Next trip is end of October.
- New District Ranger may come out for October trip. District has sent Outreach Notice to seek potential applicants for a District Cave Specialist position before flying the position.

Klamath Mountains CTF

Steve Knutson, KMCTF

P.O. Box 111, Corbett, OR 97019, sssknutson@aol.com, 503-695-6552

- The GIS sketching has gone pretty well, and we hope to have a portion of the upper karst in Marble Valley done in detail this winter. The July 4 and Labor Day weekends were better attended than in recent years.
- Geo Graening has done some collecting in Marble Valley caves and thinks he is seeing several new species. This is the first real bio work done in those caves.
- David Hodges, the prime mover in the Cave Next Door dig project has come down with painful back nerve problems. We hope it goes away.
- Oregon Caves NM continues to be unresponsive to email contacts. Rumor has it that the spelunker tour now visits the bear claw marks in the South End, a violation of their EA, under NEPA.
- The FS managing the Marble Valley caves continues to drag its heels regarding cave management and a new MOU that would include such. The existing MOU says nothing about cave management. I don't feel this is a pressing matter, as under the recession, hiker and horse packer traffic is down. There is now a new District Ranger at the Scott-Salmon office so maybe we can get something going.

- I was contacted by Discovery Channel, who was looking at the Marble Valley caves, and Bigfoot Cave in particular, as a possible site for a session of a series they say they are doing, on extreme activities by scientists. Proposed was a trip into the cave to get sediment samples for microbial analysis, to be provided for a cancer researcher in Tennessee.
- My associates and I were a little hesitant to allow filming of the Bigfoot main entrance, as it might jeopardize its location, which currently is not well known. But the interest by DC seems to have gone elsewhere. The USFS sent them special use permit forms to fill out, and we have heard nothing since.

SERA Karst CTF

Jim Wilbanks P.O. Box 34, Rising Fawn, GA 30738, Jimgail69@earthlink.net, 706-462-2316
 Maureen Handler, 900 Old Sewanee Rd, Sewanee, TN 37375, tnshotgun@earthlink.net.
 Yahoo group is sktfcommittee@yahoogroups.com and their website is www.sktfi.org
 Intermittent reports received.

Sloans Valley CTF

Hilary Lambert Hilary.Lambert@yahoo.com
 Intermittent reports received.

Networking Updates to the NSS Conservation Division

The following updates are included to facilitate networking and improve the exchange of information between the NSS Conservation Division and conservation-focused agencies and organizations with national or regional scope. Updates are received and included here intermittently. Various entities send updates as appropriate.

Bat Conservation International—Networking Update to NSS Conservation

Jim “Crash” Kennedy jkennedy@batcon.org

Purpose: This position was created in 2003 to more closely monitor cave issues involving bats, especially conservation issues. Essentially, most of the work done in my job at Bat Conservation International qualifies under this NSS umbrella. The bullets below summarize some of this work in calendar year 2010.

Plans: I will be attending the National Caves Association meeting in California the first weekend in October. I am currently working on a website for the Bureau of Land Management on abandoned mine closures, much of which will be applicable to caves. We may tackle a cave protections website in the future as a sister to the mine site. In January, I will be spending 2 weeks in the Philippines, doing further bat cave research and outreach, including training of local cavers and detailed mapping (for population estimates) of a major bat cave. I will also be attending the 2011 NSS Convention, the 2011 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, and possibly one or two smaller regional meetings. In 2011 I also hope to re-issue BCI’s popular waterproof *Field Guide to Eastern Cave Bats as Field Guide to Cave and Mine Bats of the US and Canada*.

Progress: BLM website is under construction, and is scheduled to go live in March 2011. I worked on several cave gating projects this past year, including 2 in Kentucky, 1 in Illinois, and 2 non-cave sites in Arkansas. Work continues of mapping and documentation of several bat caves in Texas. I am currently advising two graduate students doing bat cave research in Texas, and had two others publish their theses in the last two years. I also trained Tennessee biologists in winter censuses of their gray bat hibernation caves, and was featured in an upcoming (October 2010) story on that work, focusing on WNS. I helped create a WNS decontamination video for the USFS, which premiered at the NSS Convention in Vermont. Also had some great coverage in a Houghton-Mifflin book called *The Bat Scientists*. Finally, I continue to assist with WNS issues on a weekly basis.

Problems: WNS complicates an already-difficult mission, that of protecting bat habitats. Many agencies are closing caves, even to legitimate researchers who scrupulously follow USFWS decontamination protocols. And the limited funding normally available to cave conservation work is now being siphoned off by the WNS monster. We need to make a concerted effort to strategically identify and protect all important bat caves, past and present, to provide critical refugia for declining populations, especially now with the expanding threat of WNS.

NSS Conservation and Management Section

The NSS C/M Section, in collaboration with the NSS Conservation Division and the NSS WNS Liaison, is working to establish coordinated support and assistance for nation-wide WNS efforts across the NSS.

The Nature Conservancy—Activity Networking Update to NSS Conservation

Cory Holliday, Cave and Karst Program Manager cholliday@TNC.org 615-383-9909
 Cave and Karst Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator

The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, 2021 21st Ave. South Ste. C400, Nashville TN 37212

- The IN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy signed an agreement with the Indiana Karst Conservancy (IKC) to re-establish access to the two private entrances of the Lost River Cave system on TNC land. One of the longest caves in Indiana, the site has been closed due to WNS precautions and other management issues. This agreement will allow the IKC to manage access to the cave for continued mapping and other scientific research, but is not meant for general recreational access at this time.
- The IN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy worked with NSS member and IKC president Dr. Jerry Lewis to create a list of portfolio sites based on rare obligate subterranean fauna. This list will be used for various conservation purposes including acquisition prioritization.
- The TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and NSS member Keith Hausman (25403RE) hosted a NG Video Expeditions group from National Geographic and Blue Planet to film karst groundwater in New Mammoth Cave, TN. The NG group was led by Alexandra Cousteau.
- The TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is assisting Cornell University with a cave microclimate study.
- The TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy co-hosted the first TN Cave and Karst Working Group Meeting. We are also planning a meeting for January.
- The TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is funding the gating of a significant archaeological cave in middle TN. NSS cavers from the Upper Cumberland Grotto are involved in the project.
- The TN Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is developing “clean caving” materials that simplify the USFWS decontamination protocols into a caver/decontamination friendly format.
- The CO Chapter of The Nature Conservancy now holds a conservation easement on the Orient Mine, which is the northernmost, and largest known bachelor colony of Mexican free-tailed bats in North America.
- The FL Chapter of The Nature Conservancy is working with the USFWS and the state of Florida to restore Fanning Springs to permit easier access for Manatee’s which depend on the springs for winter refuge.
- The KY Chapter of The Nature Conservancy replaced an outdated cave gate at John Henry Cave.

Problem: There is currently no functional existing mechanism or system of communication to share cave/karst related work within The Nature Conservancy.

Plan: I have incorporated into my annual goals to develop such a system within this fiscal year.

Progress: I am currently reviewing online group options and listserv services.

Convention Division Report

Progress

- Hosted Convention Planning and Development Meetings at the 2010 Convention.
- Communicating with the confirmed groups. Checking on their progress and passing along new information, filling requests for data, history and other materials and answering any questions.
- Working with the group who will be hosting the 2011 Convention in Colorado
- Working with a group proposing to host 2012 Convention in Fairlea WV.
- Working with groups considering hosting the 2013, 2014 Conventions and beyond.

Plans

- Attend convention committee planning meetings (any year's) whenever possible,
- Continue working with confirmed groups
- Continue to solicit new host groups.
- Get a site & crew locked in for 2013.
- Persuading rumor of a bid from Arkansas

Problems

- The group that was going to host 2013 at Ely NV, has no chairs due to personal issues.
- The group that was going to host 2014 in NM does not have region or grotto support. They are continuing to work on this issue.

2010 NSS Vermont Convention

I believe we had a successful convention in Essex Jct., Vermont. We had 38 states and 5 countries represented with approximately 705 attendees. The weather for most of the week was wonderful and it was a "Cool Convention" as advertised with I think the high for the week only 82. On Monday evening we had to move the Howdy Party inside at the last minute, but the move was seamless. The only other weather related incident was a strong wind on Thursday that brought down a few canopies in the campground.

Some issues that arose. On Thursday before the start of convention our on-site registration person had to cancel due to personal issues. I asked the VCA V.P. if she (Donna Stanley) could step in and take over at registration. She stepped up, she has never been to convention, and did a great job for flying blind. Of course she had lots of helpful experience that showed up and volunteered at the table along with Wm. Shrewsbury, the registration went very smooth.

More last minute issues that popped up needed staging for the vertical workshop and also were used by the Photo Salon on Thursday and the Banquet. Moving the Howdy Party inside at the last minute due to rain, the only real rain during the week. We ended up selling ice in the campground. We had originally decided not to sell ice but after the 100th person asked about it, we got a local ice vendor to bring a box and kept us full for the week. The local grocery was upset at me about this at first, but they kept selling out of ice so they got over it. The only other major issue was a lack of volunteers. The most common fed back on this subject that I got from folks was that why should I volunteer if you are not giving me anything. Due to our budget

constraints we could not give out volunteer shirts, so for future convention budgets, maybe this needs to be a line item. It's sad that no one will do it just to help, but that's a bigger issue with our society. A few people found out that I was the wrong person to bitch to about this subject. Hopefully they will think differently about it next year. There were other little fires along the way but nothing that affected the running of the convention.

The caterer did a fantastic job and provided us with some great food and gave us a great deal on the food. Everyone's belly was happy and full.

All the planned trips and events went very well. No one was lost or injured.

One last issue I feel must be mentioned is about the site. It was a good site that meets all the criteria for hosting a convention, but it is a professional convention site. So along with that came many restrictions, and a lack of control over what we could do on site. One costly example is the beer at the Howdy Party. Due to existing contracts we had to hire a provider and that drove up the cost. There were other instances of this. So even though a professional site is nice it doesn't fit with the needs of the NSS.

So in conclusion I feel that we had a great convention, but it could not have happened without the help of caving community of the northeast and the volunteers from all over that pitched in and made it happen. Thank you all for giving me this opportunity. Submitted by Ken Moore on behalf of the staff of the 2010 NSS Convention.

MayaCon 2012

4Q 2010 Report

Progress.

Held meeting in Dailey WV on 9-4-2010 to recruit staff. Very good turnout with lots of talented cavers. Firmed up Security, Registration, Party Liaisons, and Campground positions. Too many people to list here, but the list consisted of around two-dozen volunteers.

Promo slide show was shown at Vermont convention and was well received.

Marketing plan to give the high bidders for Registration Nos. 1 and 2 was very successful. Had two stones made up with the initial logo, the registration number, the place and date etched.

Received another donation from Communications Design Consulting Group.

Applied for a grant for the production of the promo film and was awarded a significant amount (\$1500) towards the production. The only catch is that the Grantee has to approve the film before they will release money.

Draft Logo progressing nicely.

Promo filming began the weekend of September 18th.

Jerry Bowen has finished digitizing the Benedict and Bone-Norman maps that Bill Douty has graciously allow to be released for the convention.

Have attempted to contact Marty Morey concerning information on the registration software that has been requested by our Registration Staff.

Plans.

Staff meeting scheduled for weekend of November 13th in Lewisburg, WV.

Jeff and/or John plan to meet with the High School to measure rooms accurately, taking pictures of each room, noting overhead projectors, electrical outlets etc.

Attend Colorado convention and attempt to be as successful with pre-registrations as Colorado was in Vermont.

Problems

Too many good ideas are being put forth. Need to select the best of the best and use them.

Junior Speleological Society

Ed Kehs Chairman

1715 Route 212

Quakertown, PA 18951

Cell 267-718-1735 (best)

House Phone: 610-346-6968

kehscarpentry@verizon.net or edkehs@hotmail.com

Progress:

- I have been in contact with a couple of people from 2011 Colorado Convention
- A building is being set up
- Vans are being looked into
- Activities are being looked at and talked about

- We had a good showing for the early scientific talks/demos at 2010 Vermont convention and I hope to continue in 2011
- I have talked to some people from the 2012 West Virginia convention and they have an idea of what is needed

Plans:

- Planning for 2011 convention will continue
- Planning for 2012 West Virginia convention will start this year
- Rick Bowersox is going to Colorado site to check things out

Problems:

- I have not received any of the past information from Rick Bowersox to help me with the planning. Things like past schedules, dollar amounts that they used to plan things out, number of kids used to plan, and whatever else they might have used to help with planning. I had some things on my computer that I had collected over the years but I lost them all when my computer hard drive went twice in 3 years. (I have since set up a better back up to keep this from happening again, and paper copies are a must)
- I have not received any of the vertical gear that is JSS gear
- I do not have any means of taking care of the financial aspect for JSS, this includes past data on the amounts we have and should be getting. This includes 2010 convention.
- I do not know who my JSS liaisons for 2011 and 2012 conventions. (Is this known by conventions to have one in place?)

NSS Salon Committee Report

Plans / Progress

Salons Display: Stands

Dave Lester has worked to get permanent display stands for the Photographic Prints and Fine Arts displays to minimize the need to construct stands for each convention. There were fewer stands required at the 2010 Vermont convention – the facility's walls were used for display.

Salon Awards Show: Projectors

The NSS Convention chairs from 2010, 2011 and 2012 formed a coalition to buy projectors for the Salon Awards Show (and Friday night Banquet) using part of the budget for each convention. The Optoma TRX774 DLP projectors were acquired for the 2010 convention and worked very well. The new and original NSS projectors are available for conventions to use for daily sessions M-W, although the new projectors are required for the Salon Awards Show all day Thursday and for the Banquet on Friday.

Having the same projectors for (at least) the next 2 years simplifies setting up the Salon Awards Show and Banquet.

Salon Awards Show: NSS-Owned Equipment

The list of NSS-owned equipment is an appendix the end of this report.

Salon Awards Show: Music / Live Music

John LaMar Cole played piano at the 2010 Salon Awards Show and NSS Banquet courtesy of Dick Blenz, who granted us with the funds to be able to rent and tune an instrument of quality good enough for John to play. John outdid himself!

We hope to have live music again for 2011 Colorado convention Salon Awards show.

Requirements & Problems

There are two aspects to the Salons Committee: the **Salons**, and the ***Salons Awards Show***.

The Salons require a **web site** to display each year's winners and to generate interest in next year's salon entries. Alex Sproul continues his job as Salons web master extraordinaire. We continue the relationship Alex worked out with the Pro-Imaging Bill of Rights to ensure that salon artists' art works and music are protected.

The Salons require the **NSS News** to publicize salon entry requirements and deadlines. David Bunnell works with the Salons Committee to provide the entry information and logistics to get excellent entries. 2010 was a smaller year for entries, but the quality was still very good.

The Salons require **display space** from the NSS Convention. 2010 CaVermont provided a mix of salon display areas: the Cartography Salon and Video Salon room were close to the sessions and well attended. The Fine Arts, Prints, T-Shirt, Symbolic Emblems, and Cover Art Salons were in a single venue with a kitchen, needed for the Monday wine & cheese reception – and a long way from the sessions, and behind construction barriers. In spite of the distance to the combined artistic Salons building there were people present most of the time, enjoying the art on display. The Photo Salon, Video Salon, Multimedia Salon, and Cave Ballads Salon had individual critique and review sessions, mostly on Friday. The Fine Arts, Prints, T-Shirts, Symbolic Emblems and Cover Arts Salons and Cartographic Salon had their critique and review sessions in their display areas.

The Salons require the **Salon Awards Show** on Thursday night. 2010 CaVermont provided a locked room for the Salon Awards Show presentation equipment, and access to the Salon Awards Show space all week, for which we are all very grateful. The NSS and the Salon backstage crew all have a great deal of equipment used for the Salon Awards Show. It is good to keep it in a secure area. We are in contact with the 2011 and 2012 NSS Convention chairs to plan for what we need.

A small problem, the lack of follow-spot lights, was solved by the participation of Anmar Mirza and his wonderful dual-Sten custom helmet. He graciously provided “interactive” lighting for the Salon Chairs as they presented their Salons and the awards.

The Salons and the Salon Awards Show require ongoing **personnel** who are experienced in what is needed and flexible enough to move from one type of venue one year to something completely different the next. The Salons Awards Show backstage personnel have impressed the theatre staff wherever we go with our ability to solve problems and to make the show go on no matter what happens. With the assistance of the personnel at the Champlain Valley Expo Center, we were able to rig the rear-projection screens above the audience to provide the best sight lines for the show. With the able and willing assistance of dozens of cavers, we were able to de-rig the rear-projection screens safely and pack them away for next year.

Budget

Providing a professional Salon Awards Show using a combination of ‘volunteer-’ and NSS-owned equipment is a challenge. Each of the Salons has its own budget, most make use of the Salon entry fees to pay for the Salon and its awards. The Salon Awards Show budget largely comes under the purview of the annual Convention budget.

The 2012 Colorado Salon Awards Show budget will need a category for shipping equipment, as nearly all of the equipment is stored in the homes of cavers in the east, who will fly to the convention. We will try to have an estimate for shipping fees for the next report.

NSS-Owned Salon Committee Equipment

Qty	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Size/ Length	Owner	Salon?	Usage / Storage
VIDEO SALON								
1	Cable, audio	RCA - big		male-male	100 feet	NSS	yes	video from stage front camera to backstage / D. Socky
2	cable, VGA	15 pin DIN		male-male	50 feet	NSS	yes	computer to video projector / D. Socky
1	cable, VGA	15 pin DIN		male-female	25 feet	NSS	yes	computer to video projector / D. Socky
1	cable, S-Video	4 pin		male-female	25 feet	NSS	yes	video source to video projector / D. Socky
1	cable, S-Video	4 pin		male-male	50 feet	NSS	no	video source to video projector / D. Socky
2	TV, portable	RENTAL				-	yes	backstage monitoring / D. Socky
1	<i>AV Selector</i>	<i>S-Video, 4 channel</i>	<i>Recon</i>			<i>D.Socky</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>switch between VCR and DVD player/ D. Socky</i>
1	<i>AV Selector</i>	<i>S-Video, 4 channel</i>	<i>JVC</i>	<i>JX-S100</i>		<i>D.Socky</i>	<i>yes</i>	<i>switch between black and video/ D. Socky</i>

1	AV Distribution Amp	S-Video, 4 channel	Cable Electronics	AV-400SV		D.Socky	yes	distrbute video to projector and monitor/ D. Socky
1	DVD player		Panasonic	DMR-EA18		D.Socky	yes	Source for video salon/ D. Socky
2	DVD players		Cyberhome			D.Socky	yes	Source for video salon/ D. Socky
1	Headphones	good				D.Socky	yes	Monitor video audio/ D. Socky
1	audio mixer	3 channel	Numark			D.Socky	yes	Use for audio monitor/ D. Socky
1	Video Projector		Sharp	XG-C40XU		NSS	no	Project program, titles, and video/ D. Socky/ D. Socky
1	Tripod	light weight				NSS	no	Use to monitor stage front from back stage/ D. Socky
1	Tripod	Good				D.Socky	yes	Use to monitor stage front from back stage/ D. Socky
1	Video CamCorder	Current				D.Socky	yes	Use to monitor stage front from back stage/ D. Socky
1	Laptop computer	Current				D.Socky	yes	Play multimedia and video files/ D. Socky
2	Switchers	Video/RGB Scaler	Extron	IN1508		NSS	yes	Use to switch sources for salon projectors/ D. Socky
2	Projector shutters					NSS	yes	Shutters made by Ray Cole to black out the projectors/ D. Socky
2	Cable, audio	RCA - thin		male-male	24 feet	D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
2	Cable, audio	RCA - thin		male-female	12 feet	D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
2	Cable, audio	RCA - thick		female-female	6 feet	D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
1	Cable, audio	RCA - thick		male-female	6 feet	D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
1	Cable, audio	RCA - thick		male-male	6 feet	D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
1	Cable, ethernet	Ethernet			12 feet	NSS	yes	Connect computers/ D. Socky
1 lot	cables and adaptors	audio and video				D.Socky	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky
1 lot	cables and adaptors	audio and video				NSS	yes	Connect video and audio gear/ D. Socky

Qty	Equipment	Type	Manufacturer	Model	Size/ Length	Owner	Salon?	Usage / Storage
2	Monitor, video		Panasonic	cr-1382y		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
2	VCR	SVHS	Panasonic	ag-1960		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	Time base corrector	digital	IDEN	ivt--7		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	AV Mixer	Digital	Panasonic	WJ-MX12		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	Edit Controller	1 input/1 output	FutureVideo	EC1000Pro		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	Video Titler	Analog	Videonics	TM-1		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	A/B Roll Edit Controller	4 channel	Videonics	AB-1		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	Color Sync Generator	Analog	Horita	CSG-50		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	Wireless Microphone	xmtr, rcvr, mic	Nady	151VR		NSS	no	/ D. Socky
1	2010 DLP projector	Digital	Optoma	TRX744		NSS	Yes	/ David Lester
1	2010 DLP projector	Digital	Optoma	TRX744		NSS	Yes	/ Cady Soukup

PHOTO SALON

8	Film Slide Projectors with special lenses		Kodak			NSS	yes	/ Bruce Bannerman
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2	Slide Projector Frames			NSS	yes	/ Bruce Bannerman
2	Projection screen frames, 12' by 12'			NSS	yes	/ Aaron Bird
2	Front Projection screens, 12' by 12'			NSS	yes	/ Aaron Bird
2	Rear Projection screens, 12' by 12'			NSS	yes	/ Aaron Bird
	Radios	Business Band	Various (with separate speakers / earphones)	NSS	yes	/ Barry Welling
	Radios	Family Radios	Radio Shack (with headsets)	NSS	Yes	/ Ray Cole

National Speleological Society

Office of the Administrative Vice President, Geary Schindel.

Education Division, Dianne Gillespie, Chief

Report Submitted 30 September 2010

The NSS Education Division,

This generation of cave explorers inspiring the next.

Report of activities from June through September of 2010

Education Division Chief, Dianne Gillespie hosted an "Educational Roundtable" session during convention. The purpose of the roundtable was to gain information and insight from the NSS membership as to the focus and direction of the division. The information gathered at this meeting will be used in the development of the division's strategic plan as a part of the overall NSS strategic plan.

Ideas presented by those in attendance of the roundtable,

1) The division needs a portable conference type display that would be used as NSS outreach. The division would develop posters for the display.

2) The division needs to take on a more supportive role and seen as a "go to" place for NSS internal organizations and committees for educational and outreach needs. This includes developing posters and other educational materials.

3) Student Grottos - the NSS should consider establishing a national student grotto, where a portion of the dues for the Grotto would be channeled into the NSS national organization. Essentially the dues structure would mutually benefit the grotto and the national organization. From the NSS prospective, the funds would be used for educational programs.

4) The division needs to identify its target audiences and develop responsible ways to "recruit" members. The concept needs to focus on "targeted marketing" not marketing to the "general public."

5) The division needs to be instrumental in an attitude shift with the next generation of cave explorers. The following "value" statements were developed within the group.

- A. Cave safely cave softly
- B. Cavers mentor spelunkers
- C. Education does make a difference

6) Ideas were also presented for the development of the divisional vision, mission, and motto statements. The motto is presented above and is, "This generation of cave explorers inspiring the next."

Gillespie is compiling the information from the roundtable and interviews with committee chairs to develop a framework for the divisional plan.

Environmental Education Committee

The NSS Environmental Education Committee develops cave and karst educational and outreach programs, supports educational activities of the NSS, its internal organizations, and partners.

NSS Environmental Education Committee

Co-chairman Kriste Lindberg

kriste.lindberg@gmail.com

Co-chairman Dianne Gillespie

dianne.gillespie@me.com

Progress/Plans:

NSS CON 2010

Lindberg hosted a “Special Conservation-art Event” during the Cave/Karst Conservation and Restoration Forum at the NSS convention. Many good ideas regarding progress with the Outreach Through the Arts Sub-Committee were discussed. And, afterwards, she hosted a meeting on the topic with the Fine Arts Salon. Many excellent strategies were discussed and structure is now starting to form. Those involved include: John LaMar Cole (BOG), Tom Cottrell, Joey Fagan, Diana George, Val Hildreth-Werker (Co-Chair, Conservation Division), Carol S. Jackson, Jennifer Neemann (Chair, Human Sciences Section), Dale Pate (NPS), Alice Rolfes-Curl, Carolina Shrewsbury (Chair, FAS).

Discussion revolving around a steering committee to explore ways of getting the word out on NSS education endeavors and offerings across the country, including the formation of state-wide education committees is also taking place. It will be based, in part, on a successful model created by the Indiana Karst Conservancy.

Gillespie is actively recruiting members to develop and work on projects within this committee.

We plan to update the Education Division Web site and form a Facebook page soon.

Problems: Need to recruit more members to this committee.

Need to create EEC page for the website and need to update current “learn about caves” and PU pages.

Updates on Environmental Education Committee Partners

Indiana Karst Conservancy

Progress/Plans:

NSS CON 2010: Received the Group Conservation Award from the NSS Conservation and Management Section.

Problems: None reported.

Project Underground

Progress: Project Underground continues to support White Nose Syndrome (WNS) education, working closely with Peter Youngbear on the NSS efforts with WNS education and outreach. The Boy Scout Jamboree was a big success and showed a great partnership for bat education and the concern for WNS. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) sponsored the display and activity area with several organizations supplying materials and information including Bat Conservation International, Project Underground and the NSS. 13,000 Scouts, leaders and family members spent time learning about bats and the WNS issue during the weeklong Jamboree.

Project Underground sponsored an educator's workshop at the NSS convention for NSS participants, presented a morning session at JSS using Project Underground educational activities for the kids, and set up a display on Project Underground information and materials.

Project Underground participated in a meeting at Crystal Caverns at Hupps Hill, Virginia. The meeting was considering the possibility of the Virginia Region managing the cave in partnership with the NSS and several other cave and karst organizations.

Plans: Project Underground will continue to help the NSS with WNS education and outreach. Project Underground continues to promote Professional Development workshops for educators on cave and karst science.

Problems: Funding – The Project Underground board is under the impression that the NSS education grant program was established to provide small grants to Project Underground in accordance with the MOU between the two organizations. It has been many years since the NSS education committee provided a grant to Project Underground. The Project Underground feels funding support for travel and personnel are needed to run an education program.

Educational Chief Editorial Comment/Note: Project Underground submitted an "inquiry" to the Educational Grants and Scholarships Committee, for funding late summer of 2009, however Project Underground has not submitted a full proposal for funding for many years. The "education grant program" referred to here is the NSS Educational Grants and Scholarship Committee. The NSS Educational Grants and Scholarship Committee was established by board Act 19-704. "The Educational Grants and Scholarship Committee is created in the department of the Administrative Vice President, with the responsibility of administering or providing support for these programs." This was enacted on July 27, 2001.

From the NSS Website: http://www.caves.org/grants/nss_education_home_page.htm#guidelines

The Education Grants and Scholarship Committee is created in the Department of the Administrative Vice President with the responsibility of administering or providing support for educational programs.

Education grant programs may be awarded from the Cave Education Restricted Fund.

The NSS Cave Education Restricted Fund is established to promote cave and karst education programs for primary and secondary students. Donors established the Fund.

Guidelines and requirements for submitting a grant request to the NSS Education Division Grants & Scholarships Committee:

- Grants are awarded to private individuals as well as institutions. Please contact the [Education Division Chief](#) for questions about whether or not your project might qualify.
- Only grant requests pertinent to educational endeavors will be considered. If you have a grant request pertaining to personal education or funding a special project, please review the NSS grants page for more appropriate grant sources.
- The grant application can be completed and submitted electronically. The form is available in MS Word or as an Acrobat .pdf file. In the MS Word version, simply [download](#) the form, click in the gray box for each field and type your information. The form will automatically adjust its size to fit your needs. This form can be sent via email to the [Education Division Chief](#), or printed and mailed. See the NSS Web page for current contact information. If you cannot use MS Word, you can [download](#) the file in Adobe Reader and complete the form by hand or type. Electronic submissions are preferred; however, all grant requests are evaluated on merit, not format.
- Grants are awarded throughout the fiscal year; however, grant applications are due by the end of March and the end of September for consideration in each bi-annual round. Please note that sometimes only partial awards can be made due to the number of requests and the limits of funding.
- If an award is made, the requestor is required to provide a brief article suitable for the general readership of the NSS News when the project is completed. Photographs and other supporting documentation can accompany the article. The article should be submitted to the committee chair for evaluation, and will then be forwarded to the NSS News editor. Failure to complete this documentation will result in ineligibility for future awards.

From the Project Underground and NSS MOU: <http://www.caves.org/nss-business/bog/Append-AM.pdf>

“In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows: The Society and Project Underground shall support each other’s educational programs and initiatives and provide access to expertise and educational program information when it is requested by the other organization. This shall include, but is not limited to, permission to reprint copyrighted materials; distribution of each other’s materials at events and workshops; offering opportunities to participate in events and programs; and providing resources and contacts to support educational projects.

The Society and Project Underground shall each be recognized as a contributor in all printed, digital, audio-visual, and electronic materials associated with collaborative educational initiatives, programs, or projects.”

Gillespie will correspond with both the Project Underground Director and Board to clarify any misconceptions as to the nature of the Educational Grants and Scholarship Committee, its origin, and its purpose. Gillespie will also provide both the Project Underground Director and Board the instructions for submitting a full grant proposal, as outlined on the NSS website. Youth Groups Liaison Committee

Chairman, Allen Maddox
nssyouth@caves.org

"Youth Group Liaison Committee, through the Regional Coordinators, partners, and associates, acts as a connection between the National Speleological Society and its mission, and youth organizations seeking to include the sciences and arts of speleology and cave exploration to their program."

Progress/Plans:

Alan Maddox continues to develop structure and strategic plan for the committee to include promoting the Caving Forum Youth Group Section to increase activity. Eastern Regions becoming more active.

Need to fill Regional Coordinator Positions in the Arizona Regional Association, Northwest Caving Association, and the Ozark Valley Region. Maddox will be posting the vacancies in the NSS News.

Problems: Getting cavers interested in Youth Group Caving is difficult. Need to investigate marketing to see about promoting the program.

Education Grants and Scholarship Committee

Chairman, Pam Tegelman Mallabad
Pam.teg.mal@gmail.com

"This committee is responsible for supporting and administering educational grants and scholarships." (Act 19-704)

Progress/Plans: No grant requests have been submitted for this reporting cycle.

Problems: High number of spam in requests.

Safety & Techniques Committee

Chairman, Aaron Bird
bird2@oakland.edu

"The Safety and Techniques Committee (STC) promotes safe caving practices through the study and refinement of techniques, with a secondary emphasis on analysis of equipment. The committee works with grottos, government agencies, and National Parks on developing caving guidelines, hazard analyses, and accident investigation. Recommendations, results, and educational material are passed on to the NSS membership through the STC column in the *NSS News* and through workshops at the NSS Convention."

Report of STC Activities from June through September 2010:

I. STC Chair Website Updates

The STC website has been updated to reflect current information about the committee.
<http://caves.org/safety>

II. STC Advisory Board and STC Members/Participants

- A. A public list of Advisory Board members is being created. Several members have given permission for their information to be shared publicly.
- B. Facebook Page for NSS STC now has 260 members (as of 09/27/2010)

III. Initiatives based on STC Focus Areas as Defined by Current and Previous Boards of Governors

- A. Regarding directives of ACT 91-330.iii.(1) assistance to NSS IOs, dissemination of information, and workshops: David Kampwerth of the USFWS and Peter Youngbaer (NSS WNS Liaison) were given assistance and support for the WNS Decontamination Station at the 2010 NSS Convention in Essex Junction, VT. A best-practices decon video using appropriate personal protective equipment and disinfectants is currently in progress.
- B. Regarding directives of ACT 91-330.iii.(3) short articles: an article on safety culture in the *NSS News* was published in the September 2010 issue of the *News*.
- C. Regarding directives of ACT 91-330.iii.(8) research and development: a caving safety "near hit" questionnaire and database are currently in development.
- D. Regarding directive of conducting research on equipment: Committee member Dianne Gillespie has completed a product test on the Scurion P4 and P7. Gillespie will submit a report and article for the *NSS news* this Fall.

IV. Safety and Techniques Session at 2010 NSS Convention (Workshops directive)

The STC Session was held on Tuesday morning of convention week in room N-3. There were three presentations, a background session on the STC and current initiatives, and two periods of open discussion. The scheduled presentations are as follows:

- a. Human Exposure Hazards of WNS Decontamination – Aaron Bird
http://caves.org/safety/Human_Exposure_Hazards_of_WNS_Decontamination_080810.pdf
- b. The STC: A look back and the path forward – Kurt Waldron
- c. Historical Perspective of the STC in the 1950s and 1960s – Rane Curl

Problems: None to report.

National Cave Rescue Commission

National Coordinator, Anmar Mirza

anmar.mirza@gmail.com

"The Rescue Commission serves as an advisory training, developmental, and coordinating agency to work with cavers, government agencies, and rescue teams. The Commission provides training programs and will assist in solving specific cave rescue problems. They will also develop or evaluate cave rescue plans and resources." (Act 91-370)

(Expanded to include previous 6 months instead of 4)

Progress:

The NCRC Training Manual is undergoing continued improvement and refinement.

The Education Committee meets monthly via conference call in addition to the twice annual physical work sessions.

4 Orientations To Cave Rescue were conducted across the United States since the last report.

The every 3 year review of the curriculum has commenced.

The national seminar was held in Mentone Alabama in May.

Plans:

The NCRC is still considering the possibilities of fixed sites for 3 of 4 of the National Seminars on a rotating basis. The 4th will be open to bids to allow different areas of the country to host the seminar. There are many difficulties with finding suitable seminar sites.

A self-rescue curriculum is moving closer to pilot testing.

The 2011 national seminar will be held in Puerto Rico and 2012 National Seminar site will be back in Mentone, Alabama.

Problems:

NCRC is committed to keeping the cost of the trainings at a level that is conducive to the average caver attending, but this is increasingly difficult to do as site, equipment, and reporting requirements increase.

Scholarships for cavers has helped somewhat but can only go so far. Current thinking is to charge anyone not an NSS member at the time of registration more on top of the amount we already charge extra to make them NSS members. This would help underwrite the cost of the seminar for the NSS cavers to a small (very small) degree.

White Nose Syndrome has severely impacted the ability to find seminar sites as many caves formerly used are closed by state and federal agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Anmar Mirza, National Coordinator, NCRC

