

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News



The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC) is a not-for-profit corporation committed to the conservation, study, management, and acquisition of caves and karst areas having significant geological, hydrological, biological, recreational, historical or aesthetic features. To these ends, the NCC combines the resources and expertise of affiliated cave explorers, educators, scientists, landowners, and conservation officials.

Next Meeting

Sunday, December 14th, 2003, 11:00AM
at CT Male*, Latham, NY

Notes from the Last Meeting

- 1) The last NCC meeting was held on 09/20/03 at Speleobooks, and was well attended.
- 2) Moment of Silence for Pete Johnson
- 3) In attendance were Bob Addis, Bill Folsom, Joe Levinson, Christa Hay, Vince Kappler, Jason Siemion, Ed Lucas, Paul Murphy, Steve McLuckie, Mike Warner, and Al Lehmann. Tom Rider was nominated as proxy for Jon Allison.
- 4) Clarksville acquisition continues. Chuck Porter noted that the ACLC has a policy that it must raise \$10,000 for each property that it owns. The \$10K is put into escrow and the interest is used to pay for an outside report (audit) each year. Should not be an issue but is another step in the process. Spoke with June Alberts- she has not talked to the Town about the 50' ROW to road, \$50,000 is the price.
- 5) Ella Armstrong: Bob Addis has been in contact with realtor and put in an offer of \$15,000 for 14 acres- they declined and came back with \$25,000. Tried to buy 1 acre around cave but they declined that too.
- 6) The owner of Joober Hole has recently passed away recently. Will discuss cave with widow when appropriate.
- 7) Joe Armstrong announced that the Knox cleanup is scheduled for September 21st, and mentioned that two large propane cylinders have been dumped near the Clarksville parking lot. It was also noted that it cost \$321 to properly dispose of all the tires from the Schoharie cleanup.

- 8) Board voted to join the NSS Conservancy Committee after discussion with committee chairman John Wilson via speakerphone.
- 9) Amy Cox and Aaron Cox of 31 Pond Brook Road, Newton, CT. are appointed as Special Use Coordinator(s) under the Preserves Committee to handle the access to NCC properties for groups needing considerations such as advance trip scheduling and insurance liability certificates. The Special Use Coordinator(s) may liaison with NSS property managers in order to combine access procedures.
- 10) Draft Clarksville management plan introduced by prepared by Thom Engle and introduced by Mike Warner is accepted by the board.

*Directions to CT Male can be found at:
<http://cobalt.ctmale.com/Latham.htm>

You will need to go the back of the building to Door C which is at the top of the long ramp.

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Deadline for next issue – 1/31/2004

Clarksville News
by Bob Addis

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The Northeastern Cave Conservancy News is published quarterly by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. The Northeastern Cave Conservancy promotes the study and preservation of speleologically significant properties in the Northeastern United States. Annual membership is \$15 (Regular), \$5 addtl. (Family), \$10 (student), \$50 (Benefactor), and \$100 (Institutional). All checks made payable and sent to:

Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
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www.caves.org/conservancy/ncc/

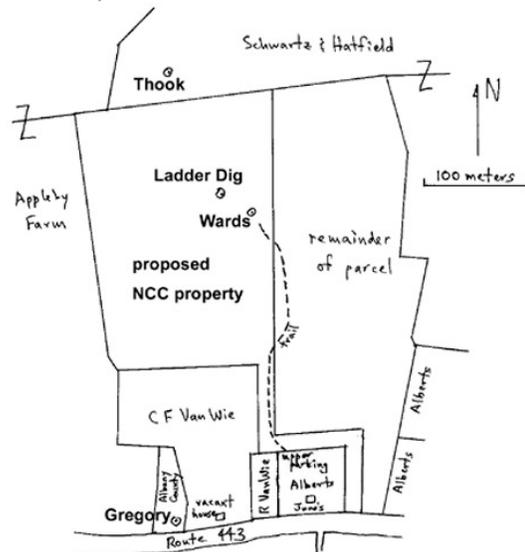
It appears that we have got an understanding about our access to the cave property, hit upon an acceptable surveyor, and have a number to take to the Alberts this weekend for a verbal agreement. As well, I want to get a written statement from the Alberts permitting surveying and requesting permission from the Town of New Scotland for this subdivision. Bob Addis will ghost write it for them.

Surveyors: Clough, Harbour & Assoc. - \$900
CT Male, Inc. - \$920
Buckman & Whitbeck (B&W) - \$3000

Best of all, they can start within 2 weeks and feel that they can finish before the heavy snow flies. \$800 deposit to start; deducted from the final invoice. Most importantly, B & W has errors & omissions insurance - basically malpractice insurance for surveyors. Copies of the B & W proposal will be circulated to the Board for an electronic vote in order to get it started before the 12/14 meeting.

Joe Levinson suggested that we use Mike Broom of Middleburgh as our lawyer. He drew our agreements for the Sellecks property and is reasonable. I did speak with him and he is on board to write an agreement for Clarksville. He gave me a list of items that he will need and will do most of his work after the survey is completed. His fee will be about \$400, allowing for filing fees.

Obviously things are moving now, and the Board can expect email voting on some issues soon. NCC Board meeting is 12/14, 11 AM, at CT Male Associates, Latham.



Spring 2004 NRO

The spring 2004 NRO is going to be hosted by the Vermont Cavers Association (VCA). Look for more details in the next issue of the newsletter!

Chockstone at Levy's Cave by Michael Chu

Jon Allison, Joan, Dave Hubelbank, Julie Sundemier and myself went to Levy's Cave on Friday October 24th to take a look at the precarious looking chock stone that is holding up the ceiling of the entrance way, as reported by Joe Armstrong and Chuck Porter. (A picture of the stone is at the end of this newsletter). Armed with a 2 ton winch, hammers, picks, and a 2"x4"x8' board, Jon and myself were determined to test the stability of the rock—from a distance. We tried placing the 2"X4" in contact with it and kicking from a distance, as well as chipping away at the rock ledge next to it using a pick tied to the 2"x4" board. None of these attempts had any measurable impact on the rock's position.

Agreeably, that rock does look very precarious, however our general feeling was that if hitting and kicking with all our might is not enough to move it even slightly, then it is probably wedged well enough so that it should not dislodge if someone accidentally bumps it while exiting the cave.

Wards Entrance Stability at Clarksville by Michael Chu and Dave Hubelbank

The question of stability at the Wards entrance was raised in an email by Pete Febroriello on October 27th to the NRO mailing list, warning of a large slab limestone ready to let go at any moment. Since then, numerous trips have gone there to check out the potential hazard. (See photo at the end of the newsletter) From the numerous reports that have been received about this potential problem, the universal conclusion has been that the entrance has not changed much in recent years. While it does appear to have a large slab that could potentially let loose when first entering the cave, further inspection of it reveals that the questionable slab is wedged tightly in two opposing corners, with one larger slab squeezed tightly between it and the bedrock. Attempts to budge the slab were made by several people, with no movement observed; thus the conclusion is that the Wards entrance appears to be safe to use. As always, caution should be exercised when entering the cave.

Announcements

- The status of Nickwackett and Chaffee Caves has changed from carefully driven 4 wheel drives to CLOSED. A management plan is in the works, so please be patient.
- Nominating committee seeks officer candidates: At the upcoming December Board meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for the Boards consideration for the following offices: President, Vice-President, Treasurer & Secretary. Each year, the Committee solicits candidates for these positions. If you, or someone you know, is interested in one of these positions (or if you know of someone who I should harass into running!), please let me know by the end of November. I may be reached at: rwsimmons1@msn.com via email, or by telephone: Work 1-860-793-6899 XT 134; Home 1-860-738-1176. Thanks. Bob Simmons, Nominating Committee Chair.
- There will be a volunteer day at the Howes Cave House, on Saturday the 6th of December (say starting at 9:00 am). Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided. Also door prizes. Please bring hard hats and sturdy nail proof footwear. If you'd like to help out here's the perfect time. If you have any questions, let me know (gonecaving@hotmail.com) Thanks. Joe
- Thanks also to those of you who have helped-out on the cave clean-ups. (Schoharie and Knox) Don't forget, I'll be asking for more help at a later date for more of your help. For the caves sake. Thanks again. Joe the caver

Upcoming Events

December 6, 2003: Volunteer Day at Howes Cave House, starting at 9:00AM.

December 14, 2003: NCC meeting, at CT Male, 11:00AM. (See first page for directions to CT Male)

June 19-26, 2004: NCRC 2004 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar, at Corydon Indiana.

July 12-16, 2004: NSS Convention in Marquette, Michigan.



Chockstone at Levy's Cave



The questionable rock slab (on top), looking towards the Ward's entrance from inside the cave on 10-29-03



Gregory entrance of Clarksville on 10-29-03, 12:30PM



Gregory Entrance of Clarksville at 10-29-03