

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 Board Meeting

Saturday, March 27th, 2003, 2:00PM
at the Howe Cave House, Cobleskill, NY

Notes from the Board Last Meeting

- 1) The last NCC board meeting was held on 12/14/03 at CT Male in Latham, NY.
- 2) The current officers were re-elected for another term by the Board of Trustees. All of the officers were running unopposed.
- 3) There was discussion of the new credit card software that Alan Traino and Bill Folsom are working on for accepting donations to the NCC. This is the same software used by the SCC.
- 4) The budget for 2004 was passed.
- 5) The Board voted to purchase the Ward Entrance of Clarksville cave and the surrounding land for \$50,000.
- 6) The NCC is continuing to negotiate the purchase of Ella Armstrong Cave in Knox NY.
- 7) There was considerable discussion on conservation easements on NCC properties.
- 8) There was discussion of funding options for the Clarksville purchase.

Notes from the Last Executive Committee Meeting

- 1) There was much discussion on fundraising for Clarksville.

- 2) Joe Levinson is completing the tax exempt paperwork for the Knox property
- 3) Ella Armstrong – The owner has come back to us on our last proposal and did not accept it (\$17, 500). The owner has offered to let us take a smaller area, but he did not set a price. During the summer we had sent a proposal to owner for 1 acre surrounding cave but it was turned down at the time. Now it looks like we could get the property. Bob Addis will submit another proposal for 1 acre.
- 4) Bill Folsom, Alan Traino and Vince Kappler will be attending the New Jersey Cave Conservancy meeting to discuss the management of Leigh Cave.
- 5) Bill Folsom is still working on Vermont Foreign Corporation.

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Deadline for next issue – 4/31/2004

Clarksville News
by Bob Addis

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<p>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:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. P.O. Box 254 Schoharie, N.Y. 12157</p> <p style="text-align: center;">www.caves.org/conservancy/ncc/</p>		

Since the last NCC Board meeting, I have been assisting Chuck Porter of the Acquisitions Committee. We have visited the Albert's a number of times working out an agreement. Part of this is/was due to the survey coming out with unequal division of the parcel (accurate surveying vs. tax maps, no surprise), and the Albert's wanted it to be approximately equal. And speaking of the survey, they were able to finish the field work before the heavy snow came, although they have not yet set the corner monuments. As this works with the surveyor's agreement, this will be above the \$3500.00 approved by the Board. Thus the Board will need to vote an additional amount (\$650.00) if they decide that marking our property corners is important.

Chuck and Publicity Committee Chair Christa Hay have gotten a good article into the NSS NEWS about the Clarksville purchase. It contains a strong appeal for donations since many of the NSS members nationwide have visited the cave and there is a general feeling of conservation among the members. The article should be out in the April issue.

We have also been in contact with our lawyer, Mike Breen of Middleburgh, to start preparing the contract. Treasurer Joe Levinson contacted Mike, and reminded us that we didn't have to have the legal description in hand to write a binding contract. As with the Sellecks purchase, we are pursuing this route and should have something in the Albert's hands this month. Of course, the legal description is nearly done by the surveyors.

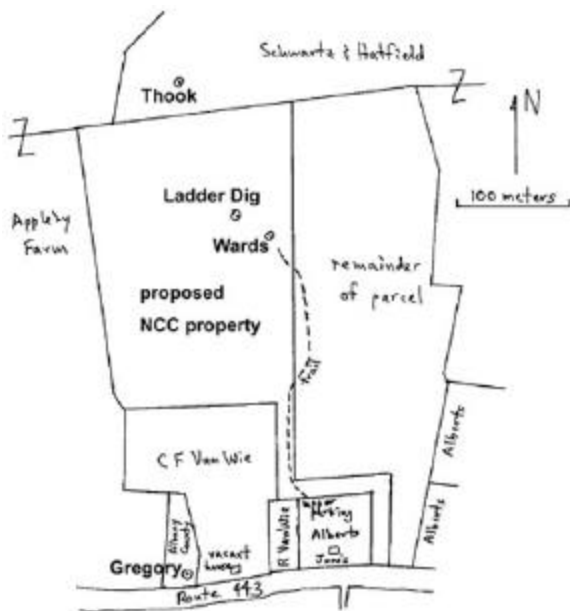
As described elsewhere, our Fund Raising Committee headed by Alan Traino and assisted by VP Bill Folsom has been busy. They have made amazing progress, but are really starting their biggest push. Expect to hear from them!

Joe Levinson has been guiding his friend Marie in the preparation of a foundation grant application, and it should be ready for signature(s) at the 3/27 Board meeting. Marie

has spent time researching grantsmanship and the appropriate foundations to contact. Her conclusion is to make one carefully prepared application at time. It is a very small pool, the foundations talk among themselves, and they prefer not to see a "shotgun" approach.

If all of this sounds like it will never end, please remember that we are dealing with many individuals, more than a few businesses, family concerns on the Albert's part, and even the holidays and weather. Progress is clearly being made and the end is in sight. Now it is on each and every NCC member's part to reach down and donate. Look for matching contributions. Ask friends.

A further update on Clarksville will be made at the next NCC Board meeting, 3/27/04 at 2 PM at the Cave House, Howes Cave Quarry. Please try to attend. You'll get to view the Cave House in its restoration process. Remember that the Karst Waters Institute is honoring Art Palmer at 5 PM the same day at the other end of the Howes Cave system - the Howe Caverns Restaurant. Various tours will be offered.



NCC to Host Spring NRO Dinner

by Christa Hay

Once again the NCC will be providing a delicious dinner at the NRO in Vermont. This year the profits will go towards the Clarksville Cave purchase. The menu is not yet final but it will live up to all the other wonderful meals the NCC has provided in the past. I am looking for volunteers to help with the dinner: prep work, setup, serving, and cleanup. Also, if anyone would like to donate towards the purchase of dinner items that would help cut down on our costs, which in the end provides more money towards the purchase of Clarksville. Please contact me at c.hay@ctmale.com or call (518) 237-1165 if you would like to volunteer or donate.

Karst Waters Institute to Honor Art Palmer

As you all know the NCC will have its next meeting on March 27th. At the same time the Karst Waters Institute board will be meeting at Speleobooks. The day will end with a dinner in honor of Art Palmer at Howe Caverns. The dinner is by reservation only. See the press release below for more information.

Howe Caverns is offering its motel rooms at a discount for the evening. There are only 21 rooms available. If you plan on attending this gala affair and plan on staying over in luxury rather than at one of the cabins, you will need to make your reservations at the motel soon.

The motel number is 296-8950. Mention the Karst Waters Institute for the best rate.

KARST WATERS INSTITUTE TO HONOR SUNY ONEONTA PROFESSOR

HOWES CAVE, N.Y. - The Karst Waters Institute (KWI), an international organization based in Charles Town, West Virginia, will have its annual meeting and awards ceremony on March 27, 2004 at Howe Caverns - the first time the organization has met in Upstate New York. At the meeting, the KWI will present its life-time achievement award to SUNY Oneonta

Professor Arthur N. Palmer for his significant contributions to karst science.

The KWI is a non-profit institution dedicated to improving understanding of karst water systems through sound scientific research and education. Dr. Palmer, an emeritus member of the KWI Board of Directors, is director of the Water Resources program at the State University of New York at Oneonta and is SUNY's Distinguished Teaching Professor of Hydrology and Geochemistry. He will deliver a speech, "Searching in the Dark," at the meeting.

"We're extremely honored to have the KWI meet at Howe Caverns, particularly as we celebrate our 75th anniversary this year," said General Manager John D. Sagendorf. "It is truly significant that the KWI is honoring Art Palmer, a superb geologist and a neighbor, who has generously shared his expertise with Howe Caverns over the years," Mr. Sagendorf said. Emily Davis of Schoharie, a nationally recognized caving expert and a KWI board member, is organizing the event. "The institute is thrilled to be working with Howe Caverns because of their tremendous interest in conservation and research," Ms. Davis said.

The KWI event will begin at 5 p.m. with tours of the cave, followed by cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner will be prepared by the culinary students of SUNY Cobleskill, under the direction of Instructing Chef JoAnne Cloughly. The public is welcome. Reservations at \$35 per person are required. Checks should be made payable to Karst Waters Institute and sent to: Emily Davis, P.O. Box 10, Schoharie, NY 12157. Those attending should note their dinner selection of either grilled chicken, pork tenderloin or vegetarian Wild Mushroom Strudel.

Howe Caverns is located between Albany and Cooperstown, off Exit 22 of I-88. It is open daily, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Thanksgiving and Christmas days when it is closed. During July and August, Howe Caverns has extended hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. For additional information, call 518-296-8900, or visit the Web site at www.howecaverns.com.

Cleanup of Cayuta Creek *by Jim Hasse*

Caving Venture Crew 105 of Athens, PA teamed up with Boy Scout Troop 1 for a clean-up of Cayuta Creek in Bradford County last fall, collecting more than 7 tons of trash and 122 tires. The Crew plans to donate \$330, their share of a state grant that supported the cleanup project, towards the purchase of the Clarksville Cave property.

Venturing (formerly called Exploring) is a coed, high-school age division of the Boy Scouts. www.venturecrew105.org

2004 National Cave Conservancies Forum *by Mike Warner*

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy has undertaken a role as organizer and sponsor of a first ever forum. The event is intended to draw cave conservancies together so participants may share ideas and compare methods. The National Cave Conservancies Forum will be held on April 15-17 in Lewisburg, West Virginia and is being co-organized by the NCC with the West Virginia Cave Conservancy.

The meeting is also being sponsored by the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium. The NCC is the host for the next NCKMS to be held in Albany the fall of 2005.

The National Cave Conservancies Forum is a national meeting scheduled to promote education and interaction among cave and karst based conservancies in the United States. Any board member, committee member or involved general member of these organizations should be able to benefit from and contribute to this forum.

Sessions will be all day Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17. Cave field trips coordinated with the meeting are planned by the West Virginia Cave Conservancy.

This meeting is built around a series of sessions each highlighting an area of common interests for cave based conservancies. Three NCC

members will lead sessions including President Robert Addis on the subject of insurance, Thomas Engel on management plans, and Emily Davis on access to properties.

Other sessions include: David Culver, Professor of Biology at American University and an associate of the Karst Waters Institute on managing and protecting biological resources; Rane Curl, past president of both the National Speleological Society and The Michigan Karst Conservancy on The Land Trust Alliance perspective; Kriste Lindberg, Indiana Karst Conservancy Director and Chair of the IKC Education and Outreach Committee on creative partnerships for karst protection; and Beth Wheatley, Executive Director West Virginia Land Trust on protecting special places with conservation easements.

In addition to the sessions, several invited talks are scheduled including: "The Value of Delineating Recharge Areas for Critical Caves: A Case History from Tumbling Creek Cave, Missouri." Tom Aley, Ozark Underground Laboratory, Inc.; "Grants from the National Speleological Society." Philip Moss, NSS Cave and Karst Acquisition Chair; and "The John Guilday Cave Preserve: Twenty years later". Frederick Grady, David R. West, and Robert B. Hoke. Additional talks are also planned.

A meeting of the National Speleological Society Cave Conservancies Committee is scheduled to be chaired by John Wilson.

Evening discussion sessions on Friday and Saturday will round out the activities.

NCC members are invited to join members from other conservancies at this first ever gathering.

Registration is \$45.00 until March 15, then \$50.00 thereafter. Participation may be limited to the first 100 registrants. Registration includes break snacks, sponsored hospitality and a special publication which is being prepared in association with this event.

Full information, including online registration, can be found at the West Virginia Cave Conservancy web site: <http://www.wvcc.net>

Clarksville Fundraising Update *by Alan Traino*

As you already know we have kicked off the Clarksville Fund Drive. The first batch of donations came in from the family and friends of the late caver Peter Johnson with almost 3000.00 dollars raised to date. Bill Folsom and myself raised the second batch at the Howe's Cave cleanup will almost 80 cavers present and 4000.00 dollars pledged at that event. The third event Bill and I fundraised at was the Met Grotto annual dinner with about 1150.00 dollars raised that Sunday at the Crab Shanty. Now we will swing into full fund raising mode. We have planned a Phoneathon, Indoor caving- dinner-party, Old secret scroll auction, and other events.

So please get ready to help us in our purchase. Please talk to your friends, other cavers, Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups, camps and colleges or any other group you think could help with raising funds! Please send me any information or contact information you may have so I can request their help. For your information we now have the ability to accept Pay Pal, Credit cards, and checks as well as cash. Please DIG deep Remember that Clarksville is YOUR CAVE. So let's protect it FOREVER!

Thanking you in advance
Alan Traino Fundraising Chairman

Upcoming Events

March 27th, 2004: NCC Board Meeting 2:00 PM at the Howe Cave House

March 27th, 2004: Karst Waters Institute board meeting and dinner at Howe Caverns

April 15-17th, 2004: Cave Conservancies Forum, Lewisburg WV

May 14-16th, 2004: Spring NRO in Arlington VT hosted by the VCA

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

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



Cleanup crew from Cayuta Creek



Ice formations in Clarksville Cave
(Photo by Mike Chu)



Mud figures in Clarksville Cave (Photo by Mike Chu, Figures by ??)



The Bathtub in Clarksville Cave
(Photo by Mike Chu)