

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

Sunday, June 12th, 2005, 11:00AM
at Fox Creek Nature Center, Gallupville, NY

Notes from the Last Board Meeting

- 1) The NCC will be at Howe Caverns April 30th for Earth Day
- 2) The NCC will also be at Troy for Earth Day on Sunday May 1st.
- 3) Jay Siemion has volunteered to build a kiosk at the Knox Cave Preserve
- 4) The trail markers for the preserves have arrived.
- 5) The board voted to accept the Cave and Karst Acquisition Policy.
- 6) Sean Ryan was appointed to the position of Membership Chair.

NCC to Purchase Pompeys Cave

By Bill Folsom

An ad hoc acquisition team of Chuck Porter, Vince Kappler, Alan Traino and myself easily persuaded the longtime owner of Pompey's Cave that selling the cave to the NCC would be a good way to preserve access to this unique underground resource for future generations.

Even with Pompey's located in Ulster County with skyrocketing real estate prices, Mr. Neff understands that a dry rocky streambed that floods from time to time is not worth a whole lot to potential homeowners. The plan is for the NCC to purchase the streambed, including all of the upstream insurgenes for \$12,000. While there are many details left to nail down, I thought it would be good to let you all know of the impending acquisition. Mr. Neff would like to close the deal in 2005. The ball is in his court at the moment, as he is checking on the subdivision/zoning implications. We have already checked this with the Town of Rochester Tax Assessor's office, and there should be no problems as Mr. Neff owns plenty of road frontage and will not be land locking either parcel. So anyone with any money left after our successful acquisition of Clarksville should get their checkbooks ready!

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Deadline for next issue – 7/30/2005

Stewards Needed for Clarksville

Volunteer stewards are needed at Clarksville Cave this spring, summer and fall to introduce visitors to the new NCC ownership of the cave. As discussed at NCC, NRO and grotto meetings during the past year we're looking for cavers from all over the Northeast to help out by spending a day or a weekend at Clarksville welcoming visitors, making sure they're properly equipped, answering questions and offering suggestions. We'll also be glad to accept their donations to the NCC, too!

Two or more people should be on hand on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from about 9 am to 5 pm to greet visitors as they arrive at the parking lot (the new NCC lot will probably not be ready until later this year). We hope that each grotto or group of cavers can schedule several weekends this year so that we can meet as many Clarksville visitors as possible.

Flyers will be in the new kiosk just above the upper parking lot. They were written with the idea that visitors would read this material as they arrived at the preserve. If we wait til they get out of the cave to give it to them that would defeat much of the purpose. Of course if we give them the flyers as they're walking along the trail, or starting into Wards, the flyers will just get wadded into their pockets and forgotten. But if stewards catch them at the parking lot, introduce themselves and hand out the flyers then, they will be much more effective. In case the flyers are gone when you arrive, the Guidelines section from them is reproduced below.

Since this is the first year, we expect to go a little easy on the guidelines. For example, although 3 sources of light are preferred, a big group going to the Lake Room with 2 lights each would probably be okay. Small flashlights duct-taped to bike helmets are fine. But we must prohibit solo cavers, groups over 15, spray paint, glass bottles, etc. Confrontations are unlikely -- just about all the visitors we've met have been friendly -- but in

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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.necaveconservancy.org/</p>		

case you run into a problem use your own good judgment. In the worst case, go call the sheriff.

TO SIGN UP AS A CLARKSVILLE STEWARD:

Only one signup is needed for each group. Go to <http://chum2.dyndns.org/calendar/> and sign in with "ncc" for user name and "signup" for password. You will then be able to place your name or your grotto name on the calendar and also see who else has signed up and for which days.

Thanks a lot and have fun at Clarksville this year!

Mike Chu
Thom Engel
Chuck Porter

Clarksville Cave co-managers

Directions to Clarksville

Clarksville Cave is located behind the former June's Diner near the west end of the village of Clarksville, on NY 443 about 10 miles west of Albany.

Clarksville Flyer

A digital copy of the Clarksville Flyer can be found at:
http://chum2.dyndns.org/calendar/files/clarksville_guidelines.pdf.

The guideline section of the flyer can be found below:

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Guidelines

Please look at the example of safe cave caving equipment sketched on the reverse side of this sheet. If visitors are not adequately equipped, such as having no extra lights, they may be asked to not enter the cave for safety reasons.

Camping, fires, wood cutting, and parties (without written permission) are not permitted.

This is a carry-it-in, carry-it-out property. Please leave nothing on the property.

Alcohol, firearms, coolers, glass bottles, spray paint and other objects which might cause safety problems or damage the cave are not permitted in the cave.

Groups larger than 15 are asked not to enter the cave.

There is no parking permitted at the Clarksville Cave Preserve between 11 pm and 7 am without written permission.

Institutional users such as summer camps, church groups, fee-based led trips, school groups, youth outing groups and similar organizations will be required to schedule trips and follow additional regulations similar to those in place for other NCC-managed properties. If your group possibly fits this category please contact the NCC special use coordinators (Amy and Aaron Cox, amycaves2@aol.com) who will assist you in facilitating your visit.

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<http://www.necaveconservancy.org/>

Earth Day and New Display

The NCC was present at Howe Caverns on April 30 and Troy on May 1st for the Earth Day. Howe Caverns had many visitors that day even with the rainy weather. Some of the other activities included wild animal shows, farm animals and caving techniques by the Helderberg-Hudson grotto. Troy Earth day was held at River Front park and was a good day if not a bit windy which did cause some havoc with our display.

Our new display arrived in time to be used at the Earth Day events. It is a professional

grade display and if anyone has any photos please send them along to the Secretary. We are looking for more photos especially of our preserves (above and below) and photos of activities with people.

Photos of Knox, Crossbones, and Ella Armstrong Caves

Hey folks. We will be installing a kiosk at the Knox property later this spring. If anyone has good pictures from Knox or Crossbones and would like to send them to me for possible use on the kiosk it would be much appreciated! I think Joe Armstrong will be putting up a kiosk on the Ella Property as well so if you have any from there send them along too. Thanks! -Jay

Jason Siemion
jaysiemion@hotmail.com

Vermont Cavers Work with Landowners to Develop Management Plans

By Peter Youngbaer

Thom Engel is doing the Aeolus Bat Cave management plan under arrangement with The Nature Conservancy. A number of Vermont cavers sent him information that he requested (e.g. maps, geology, library, bat temperature log data, rescue plans, etc.).

Chris Sanders has written a draft management plan that has gone to the landowners of Nickwackett Cave for their review. Again, VCA members have had input and will be reviewing the visitation portion of the draft at our upcoming May 15 meeting. The landowners have not yet commented on the draft (at least to my knowledge as of this writing).

Stepping Down as Sellecks Preserve Manager

I have been the Sellecks Preserve manager since the NCC acquired the property in March 2002. Although I enjoy the job, I am not the

best person for the job since I do not make the hour drive to the preserve as often as I should. Ken Nichols has volunteered for the job and will ask the NCC board to appoint him to this position at the next NCC board meeting in June. If anyone else is interested in the position of would like to help out at the preserve contact Jon Allison or one of the other board members

Jon Allison

Upcoming Events

NCC Board Meeting

Sunday, June 12th, 2004, 11:00AM
at Fox Creek Nature Center, Gallupville, NY

Spring NRO

May 20-22 in Cuddbackville NY (downstate)



The streambed above Pompey's Cave, 10/28/04. Photo by Mark Folsom