

# 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, December 10th, 2006, 10:00AM  
at the Howe Caverns.

## Notes from the Last Board Meeting

- 1) The recent NCC Board meeting took place on Saturday, September 30th at the Howe's Cave House in Howe Cave, NY at 1:00PM. There was a cleanup of Baugh Cave before the meeting and we had around 18 people helping. Following that was a potluck lunch and the board meeting. There were several members in attendance for the meeting.
- 2) Joe Armstrong presented a document "An Inventory on Things Living in Caves (and mines) in NY State.
- 3) The revisions for the Clarksville Cave Management plan were accepted.
- 4) Bob Addis established the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest ad hoc committee for the purpose of researching and establishing a policy. Peter Youngbaer and Vince Kappler are committee members.
- 5) Vince Kappler reports that the volunteer value totals have increased to over \$13,000 and 700 hours of labor to NCC projects.
- 6) Jon Allison resigned as the co-editor of the NCC newsletter- Thanks for his years of service.
- 7) The purchase of a groundwater model was approved by the board.
- 8) The basic liability insurance and accident coverage motion (do we get it or not) was postponed until the December meeting as the final numbers from the insurance company did not come in yet.

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Deadline for next issue – 1/31/2007

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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;"><a href="http://www.necaveconservancy.org">www.necaveconservancy.org</a></p>		

## Chapter on caves for Town of Carlisle bicentennial by Chuck Porter

As a public service for the Town of Carlisle, NY, NCC members Bob Addis, Chuck Porter and Jay Siemion have put together a chapter on the caves of Carlisle for their bicentennial book to be published early next year. Bob spearheaded the effort and met with committee members at several meetings in Carlisle. Chuck wrote about 10 pages of text using numerous historical and modern sources. A safety and conservation message is included. Jay prepared a map showing the (approximate) locations of major caves in Carlisle, along with line plots of McFails and Barrack Zourie caves. About a dozen photos were also submitted and the committee was "wowed" by them. A bicentennial celebration is scheduled for the weekend of July 20 which unfortunately is also the date of the NSS Convention in Indiana. We hope nevertheless to arrange tours of the Sellecks and McFails preserves then.

## NCC Project Activity

The following are some updates from President Bob Addis on several of the current NCC projects:

### 1. Howe Caverns:

There is the possibility of a sale of the business, and the NCC has been a key player in finding a new owner who will be environmentally acceptable. The Howe Caverns ad hoc Committee (Bob Addis, Bill Folsom, Christa Hay, Mike Warner, Peter Youngbaer) is limited to what it can disclose at this time due to confidentiality agreements, but our underlying premise is to preserve the cave and continue public access to it. Efforts will continue next year and updates will be made shortly.

### 2. Mt. Aeolus Bat Cave, VT:

We have been working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for some time now on ironing out a Memorandum Of Understanding concerning the management of the cave. It has been a good exchange of comments, and it looked like we were near an agreement. Unfortunately two key employees of TNC resigned recently. This has caused the staff to be busy picking up their

workloads and assisting in the hiring process, so we have fallen back in the process. TNC wants to continue, and a spring 2007 meeting will be scheduled.

### 3. NCC Treasurer:

Joe Levinson has given his final resignation after seven years of dedicated service, and this will be effective December, 2006. The search presses on for a replacement. Please contact any Board member if you have a candidate in mind, and we will talk to that person

### 4. Year End Fund Raising:

This is a reminder that your generous donations to the NCC, a 501.C.3 organization are tax deductible and can be accepted up to December 29 for this tax year. The NCC has several strong programs in operation, and we depend on your continual support. Recently we have been pleasantly surprised at a few corporate matching contributions coming into our office. Please check to see if your employer offers such a program since it doubles your donation.

### 5. Other News:

On November 18 we conducted the NCC Executive Committee meeting in Essex Junction, VT on the grounds of the Champlain Valley Fairgrounds. Following that, we had a meeting and walk around of the facilities for the NSS 2010 National Convention Planning Committee. Ken Moore and Rick Pingree are Co-Chairs, and the convention site is impressive!

The NCC had a display, talk and geology walk led by Thom Engel at Thatcher State Park on October 18.

## Year one of Volunteer Value

*By Vince Kappler*

It was only one year ago, at the December 2005 meeting, that the NCC adopted a policy to track the volunteer efforts of its members as they worked to preserve the caves and karst of the region. As I write this in late November, the Volunteer Value (VV) database has 185 entries which total to some impressive statistics: NCC members drove over 15,000 miles to do 1058 hours of work with a total value of \$20,545! This is

an outstanding accomplishment for such a small organization.

VV is, however, more than a collection of interesting data and totals. A web search of "Volunteer Value" will reveal more than 40 million pages devoted to the topic. It is used by countless organizations to track the value of the services they provide. But closer to our mission, VV has been used by western cavers to gain access to restricted caves; it has been used to garner grant monies to cover expenses for cave clean ups, and most recently, the VV of NSS projects was recognized by the National Park Service with a plaque and commendation for "... the Society's efforts in exploration, contributions to the science of Speleology, (and) decades of leadership on cave and karst projects .....".

As the NCC becomes involved with more and bigger preservation projects, a documented history of our work may be the catalyst that (1) sends grant monies our way, (2) proves our expertise in karst related topics relating to governmental actions, and (3) makes us a more viable candidate for property donations. Moving into 2007, I urge all members to report the time you spend working on NCC projects. Be sure to sign in on the attendance sheets at work sites; track your mileage and hours if you are a committee chair or property manager; use the VV submission form on the NCC web site

[http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add\\_vv.php](http://www.necaveconservancy.org/add_vv.php); or just send me an email at [vkappler@nac.net](mailto:vkappler@nac.net). If every member makes a commitment to document the work and services they provide the organization, I'm sure we'll document even more VV. This will provide additional proof of the NCC's commitment to cave and karst preservation in the NE.

If any member would like a copy of their *own* VV totals submitted over the past year send me an email after the holidays. The base information may be useful for tax purposes (consult your tax advisor for your specific situation) *but the values assigned by the NCC to your volunteer donation are not deductible.*

## Upcoming Events

**December 10<sup>th</sup> 2006:** NCC Board meeting at Howe Caverns, starting at 10:00AM.

**May 2006:** Spring NRO in Schoharie, NY.

**June 16-23, 2007:** NCRC 2007 Cave Rescue Operations and Management Seminar, in Salem, Virginia.

**July 23-27, 2007:** NSS Convention in Marengo, Indiana.

**October 8-12, 2007:** NCKMS 2007, hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy in St Louis, Missouri.



NCC Members at a Jack Packer's Cave Cleanup on 6-20-266.



Jay and Ross Anderson, and ?? (center) with the groundwater model at the National Cave & Karst Conservancies Forum in September 2006.