

SECTION 6 -- AWARDS

This section describes all of the awards given by the Society and lists the past recipients of most of them. All of the awards are administered by the Awards Committee. (The Ralph W. Stone Award is administered by the Research Advisory Committee. After 1992, this Award was converted to a grant. It is no longer listed as an Award, although past winners - up through 1992 - are listed.) Each individual award is handled by a subcommittee. A list of the subcommittee chairmen is published in the NEWS annually. Nominees for the various awards should be sent to the proper subcommittee chairman, if known, otherwise they should be sent to the chairman of the Awards Committee.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP -- One Honorary Membership is given each year by the Board of Governors for outstanding contributions to the field of speleology. The Honorary Member Award is of equal stature to the William J. Stephenson Award for Outstanding Service and together they constitute the Society's highest awards. The Honorary Member Award includes a life membership in the Society.
(Act 43-246)

WILLIAM J. STEPHENSON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE -- One William J. Stephenson Outstanding Service Award is given each year by the Board of Governors for outstanding service to speleology and the Society. The Outstanding Service Award is of equal stature to the Honorary Membership and together they constitute the Society's highest awards. The Outstanding Service Award includes a life membership in the Society. (Act 43-246)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT -- Up to three Certificates of Merit are awarded each year at the Convention for specific accomplishments in cave exploration, study, or conservation. Certificates may be given to individuals, jointly to no more than three individuals, or to organizations. Emphasis will be on recent accomplishment. (Act 43-368)

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY -- The Fellow Award was instituted in 1967. All recipients of Honorary Memberships and Certificates of Merit prior to 1967 were made Fellows at that time. The title, Fellow of the Society, is an award given by the Board of Governors for service in the field of Speleology, whether in research, exploration, conservation, or administration. Emphasis usually is on continued service over a period of time. The total number of Fellows is limited to 10% of the Society membership. (Act 43-380 and Appendix AU)

RALPH W. STONE RESEARCH GRANT-- The Ralph W. Stone Research Award is given at the Convention to a graduate student preparing a thesis on a speleological subject. The recipient is chosen by a sub-committee of the Research Advisory Committee based on nominations or applications received by the Committee. The Award consists of \$1700 from the Ralph W. Stone Research Fund. The recipient is required to give credit to the NSS when the work is published and donate a copy of the publication to the NSS Library. (Act 19-378) *NOTE: In 1992 this grant was dropped from the list of Awards presented each year at the annual Convention. The grant itself is still awarded and administered by the Research Advisory Committee.*

LEW BICKING AWARD -- The Lew Bicking Award is given annually to recognize outstanding dedication to the exploration of a cave or group of caves. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. (Acts 43-374, 43-375 and 18-715)

JAMES G. MITCHELL AWARD -- The James G. Mitchell Award was established in 1969 to be given for the best scientific paper presented at any of the sessions of the annual convention by a

member (or members) of the Society 25 years old or younger who has applied or been recommended for the Award. The Award consists of a certificate and a cash award based on the income earned by the James G. Mitchell fund. (Act 43-139)

VICTOR A. SCHMIDT CONSERVATION AWARD -- The Conservation Award is established to annually recognize one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together which, over time, has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the conservation of caves. (Act 43-116)

PETER M. HAUER SPELEAN HISTORY AWARD -- The Peter M. Hauer Spelean History Award was established in 1979 to be given to an individual or group involved in an outstanding spelean history research project. The Award consists of a certificate and a cash award based on the income earned by the Peter M. Hauer Fund. (Act 43-381 and 43-382)

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION -- Certificates of appreciation are awarded by the President of the Society to people or organizations that have, by specific action, furthered the goals of the Society. The Award consists of a certificate signed by the President. (Act 43-376)

SCIENCE AWARD -- The Science Award was established in 1993 and is given annually to recognize outstanding dedication to the scientific study of caves. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. (Act 43-507)

SPELEAN ARTS AND LETTERS AWARD -- The Spelean Arts and Letters Award was established in 1993 and is given annually to recognize contributions to spelean arts and letters through artistic expression, management, or criticism. The award may be given to one NSS member or to a pair of members who qualify equally for the award based on work they have done together. (Act 43-508)

NSS YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD -- The Young Investigator Award was established in 1998 to recognize outstanding research proposals by young society members. The award is administered by the Research Advisory Committee. (Act 19-609 and Appendix AL)

FUNDS -- The Ralph W. Stone Research Fund, James G. Mitchell Fund, Lew Bicking Fund, and Peter M. Hauer Fund are memorial funds managed by the National Speleological Foundation. The monetary awards given from these funds are based on donations to the funds.