

**National Speleological Society  
Executive Vice President's Report  
Board of Governors Richmond, Virginia  
November 8, 2008**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS:**

**NO. COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, or PUBLICATION**

- ( 1) AMERICAN CAVING ACCIDENTS COMMITTEE**
- ( 2) AAAS REPRESENTATIVE BIOLOGY**
- ( 3) AAAS REPRESENTATIVE GEOLOGY**
- ( 4) AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE DELEGATE**
- ( 5) U.S. EXPLORATION COMMITTEE**
- ( 6) INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION COMMITTEE**
- ( 7) RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
- x( 8) SPELEO DIGEST**
- x( 9) SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**
- x(10) JOURNAL OF CAVE AND KARST STUDIES**
- x(11) NSS NEWS**
- x(12) MEMBERS MANUAL COMMITTEE**

**INTRODUCTION / SUMMARY**

**Other EVP Issues:**

**Permissions**

The following actions were accomplished regarding reprinting NSS copyrighted materials and release of NSS Member information by the respective Editors of the ACA, Journal, News, and Members Manual:

WHO ORG. TYPE ORGANIZATION	REPRINT PERMISSION STATUS	REQUEST/REASON FOR REQUEST
Dr. Andrea Baucon, UNESCO Global Geopark Naturtejo Meseta Meridional, was granted	Granted	permission to reproduce Figure 2 from: Willey, P., Stolen, J., Crothers, G., and Watson. P.J., 2005, Preservation of Prehistoric Footprints in Jaguar Cave, Tennessee: Journal of Cave and Karst Studies, v. 67, no. 1, pp. 61-68.  in the soon to be published

		manuscript “Applications of Ichnology to Archeology.”
Dr. Jennifer Buhay, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Granted	<p>permission to reproduce Figure 1 from:  Cooper, J.E., and Cooper, M.R., 1997, New troglobitic crayfish of the genus <i>Orconectes</i>, subgenus <i>Orconectes</i> (Decapoda: Cambaridae), endemic to Shelta Cave, Huntsville, Alabama: <i>Journal of Cave and Karst Studies</i>, v. 59, pp. 119–127.</p> <p>in the soon to be published manuscript “Taxonomic revision of cave crayfish in the genus <i>Cambarus</i>, subgenus <i>Aviticambarus</i> (Decapoda: Cambaridae) with descriptions of two new species, <i>C. speleocoopi</i> and <i>C. laconensis</i>, endemic to Alabama, USA.”</p>
Dr. Luis Travassos, Departamento de Administração de Empresas	Granted	<p>permission to reproduce Figure 2 from:  Colas, P.R., Reeder, P., and Webster, J., 2000, The ritual use of a cave on the northern Vaca Plateau, Belize, Central America: <i>Journal of Cave and Karst Studies</i>, v. 62, no. 1, p. 3–10.</p> <p>in the soon to be published book “Caves, Rituals, and Religion.”</p>
Jim Minie, NSS 29912	Granted by both Bunnell and Jones	permission to reprint the article on the NSS Bat Sticker by Cheryl Jones, page 31 in the July 2008 issue, in the MVG newsletter.

### **(1) AMERICAN CAVING ACCIDENTS COMMITTEE**

Ray Keeler, Editor, 23245R (FE)  
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**Progress:** For 2008, accidents and incidents continue to come in. Bill Putnam has been extremely instrumental with providing information. Summaries are compiled up through November 2007. I still need to compile diving and caving related incidents.

**Plans:** Have the complete draft for 2007 done by December.

**Problems:** None yet.

### **(2) AAAS REPRESENTATIVE- BIOLOGY**

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**Progress:** Nothing to report.

**Plans:** Still brainstorming on a session at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting.

**Problems:** Time and the lack thereof.

### **(3) AAAS REPRESENTATIVE-GEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY**

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**Progress:** The AAAS will host its Annual Meeting in Chicago February 12-16, 2009. The theme for the annual meeting is "Our planet and its life: origins and futures". The topic was selected because it coincides with the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. The advanced list of symposia and the list of potential speakers has not yet been released. It is expected that there will be a number of geology symposia to match the broad theme, and the

interplay between the earth and biological sciences. I am also expecting a number of symposia on timely/popular science topics such as climate change, species evolution/diversification, and pandemic planning.

**Plans:** I plan on attending the first few days of the Annual Meeting. The Geology Section business meeting is typically held on Friday afternoon.

One of the Plenary Speakers will be Dr Susan Kieffer, chair of Geology and Physics at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

**Problems:** No problems to report.

#### **(4) AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE DELEGATE**

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**Progress:** Kimberly Howell attended the AGI Meeting that was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) conference in Houston, Texas (October 5–9, 2008). The focus of the GSA Meeting was to discuss the Transition Document which has been completed and is ready for dispersment amongst politicians, member societies, and the public. Also discussed was the state of geoscience education in the U.S. Where there has been success in some states, there is still a shortfall in others. It was determined that help with geoscience education can be helped by those in the member societies.

The Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee, which NSS has been a strong participant, has gone to meeting once at year at the annual Geological Society of America (GSA) meeting. It was also discussed that a teleconference will be help at mid-year (April 2009) so as to not go an entire year without meeting. The focus of this year's meeting in Houston was ideas for the Environmental Awareness Series, a series of publications to the public related to everyday life. Harvey Duschene was an author of one of the publications titled *Living With Karst* and apparently has been quite popular. I have put forth the idea of doing one related to caves in National Parks, not sure if that's going to go anywhere or not.

**Plans:** Kim plans to attend the annual AGI Meeting in Portland, Oregon, which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (October 18–21, 2009).

**Problems:** None

#### **(5) U.S. EXPLORATION COMMITTEE**

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**Committee Members:** Don Broussard – Texas

Dave Black – Indiana

Jim Chester – Montana

Scott Davis – Arizona

Jim Smith – Georgia

Stan Allison – New Mexico

No report received

**(6) INTERNATIONAL EXPLORATION COMMITTEE**

Joel Despain, Chairman, 23136RE (FE)

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**Committee Members:**

Carol Vesely Kevin Downey Cyndie Walck Rebecca Jones

Pat Kambesis

No report received

**(7) RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Donald A. McFarlane, Chairman, 23523RE

Professor of Biology

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National Speleological Society Research Advisory Committee:

<http://jsd.claremont.edu/bio/nss/>

**Committee Members:**

Joyce Lundberg, (Assoc. Prof, Carleton University)

William White (Prof. Emeritus, Penn State U.)

Joseph Troester (USGS)

Donald Davis

Keith Christenson

A total of eight research grants of \$500 each were awarded in the June competition. These were:

Sofia Angelo NSS #: 59479

“Summer roost selection requirements of the cave bat (*Myotis velifer*) in Texas”

Dorien McGee NSS 58688

“Testing a Biologic Model of Carbonic-Acid Driven Cave Dissolution with Stable Carbon Isotope Tracing”

Michal Joey Pakes

“Feeding ecology of Remipedes in anchialine caves”

Jessica R. Snider

“Identification of Roots and Associated Microorganisms in Caves in the Southwestern USA”

Joel M. Ledford

“Untangling the Webs in California’s Caves:

The Biogeography and Systematics of the Cave-Spider Genus *Usofila*”

Drew Aaron Westerman,

“Assessing the sensitivity of water to surface, soil, rock, and cave conditions in Fitton Cave, northern Arkansas”

Melissa Irene Pardi

“Don’s Gooseberry Pit, Black Hills, South Dakota: A site based taphonomic study of non-analog faunal assemblages”

W. Joe Lambert

“Karst Hydrology and Aragonite Forming Cave Deposits: A Case Study at DeSoto Caverns, Childersburg, Alabama, USA”

Research Grant applications are reviewed twice annually, in June and January and four proposals are currently under review. No new applications for NSS Project status have been received.

#### **(8) SPELEO DIGEST COMMITTEE**

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Chairman pending approval

George Jaegers NSS 12978

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**Progress:** The editor that who about to be begin work on the 2008 Digest agreed to take over the 2006 Digest.

2004 Digest: Unknown – No Report

2005 Digest: Initial template completed. See detailed report below.

2006 Digest: Initial template completed. See detailed report below.

2007 Digest: Initial template completed. See detailed report below.

2008 Digest: Need to identify an editor.

**Plans:** 2005, 2007, & 2008 Digest: See detailed report below.

2008 Digest: To find an editorial team..

Assuming George Jaegers is confirmed by the board, I plan to work with him to facilitate a smooth transition. Furthermore, if George would like me to stay on as an advisor, I plan to work with him through the production and an entire Digest.

**Long-term:** A second 25-year index.

**Problems:** I have been unable to make contact with the 2004 Editor between September 20th and October 7th.

### **Editor Reports:**

#### **2005 Speleo Digest Committee Report** (*Submitted by Neil Marchington*)

Editorial Team: Neil Marchington (Editor), Eric Schoonover (Proof Reader), Matt Skeels (Assistant), Nicole Marchington (Assistant)

**Progress:** We started by sorting source materials by state and grouping the individual publications together. This was considered to be the best way of getting coverage for every state and ensuring full runs of all publications. To date we have reviewed 100% of the publications received and selected 476 articles or items for tentative inclusion in the Digest. As articles are selected we have listed them in an index database. This database allows us to track the status of the article and can easily be transferred into the eventual Digest index. 100% of the articles have been requested from the various publication editors. The majority of the articles have been received and sorted. Articles and index files are on my hard drive and backed up on an additional external hard drive. The addition of Eric Schoonover as a proofreader has greatly improved progress. He has proofread the first 26 pages of the Digest. Series Editor Scott Fee has approved the layout of the initial draft.

**Plans:** The main task at this point is to continue compiling the digest from the articles received. Additionally, some states have very little suitable material at this point. Additional materials may still be sought. A time line is hard to estimate at this point, but I believe a final copy could be done by October or November 2008.

**Problems:** Various personal and computer issues arose over the last several months to delay progress. I learned about a formatting feature of InDesign that is going to greatly speed up editing. While learning how to use it I managed to destroy much of the formatting already done, but did not notice until after doing considerably more work. These issues seem to be resolved.

One of the biggest issues is the quality of pictures and survey maps received. Many are lower resolution and not usable. In some cases there are no higher quality images available. My newborn son has also kept me occupied and sleep deprived, but mom is feeling much better and I'll be back at work on September 29th. A recent change of assignments at work should allow me a great deal more time to work on the Digest.

### **2006 Speleo Digest Committee Report** *(Submitted by Aaron J. Hicks)*

**Progress:** I am a third of the way through reviewing the material I have received, selecting those articles by "flagging" them with "Post-It" notes. I would estimate having selected 60–70 articles for reprinting.

**Plans:** I would like to be finished with review of the paper articles within the next eight weeks. I would like to have this finished and off my desk by mid-February, but all plans run at least two months late so I would like to have this finished and off my desk by mid-April.

**Problems:** None.

### **2007 Speleo Digest Committee Report** *(Submitted by Kate Ferguson)*

**Progress:** I have completed the first round of article selection.

**Plans:** Apparently I was too selective during my initial review; therefore, I am working on picking out a second round of articles/pictures.

**Problems:** Due to a change in my personal situation, I have not been able to devote as much time as I had hoped to this project. I expect to have that resolved by November.

### **(9) SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Tom Rea, Chairman, 5683OS (OS, CM, AL, FE)

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#### **Plans:**

##### *Living in Darkness*

This is more or less an autobiography by Stephanie Schwabe describing her experiences as a cave diver, mostly in the Bahamas. The well-written text is available and will be turned into a book after the publications for the International Congress of Speleology are finished. I expect it will be popular with dry cavers as well as cave divers.

##### *Fifty Years under the Sinkhole Plain*

This book is the history of Binkleys Cave, the longest cave in Indiana. It traces the early exploration of the cave in the 1930s, the first mapping from 1958 to 1962, and the ongoing exploration and mapping from 1967 to the present.

The author is Gary Roberson, former developer of Squire Boone Caverns and half-owner and CEO of Marengo Cave for 28 years.

Gary expects the text to be ready in a year or so and, published in the size and format of Larry Matthews' books, to be 300 to 350 pages.

### *Blue Spring Cave*

This book is the history of discovery and exploration of the longest cave in Tennessee. The authors are Larry Matthews and Bill Walter. This project has a good start, but will take more than a year to finish.

### **Progress:**

#### *Caves of Knoxville and the Great Smoky Mountains*

My last report said this book was ready to go to the printer. I printed 300 copies and we have reprinted it already. With a digital book I think it is a good idea not to print too many copies. There are always errors that slip through and a reprint gives me the opportunity to fix them. Also the reprints are the same price as the original order, arrive in a week or so, and the smaller quantity eases the bookstore inventory.

#### *Caves of Fire.*

Dave Bunnell's picture book on Lava tubes. This book is four-color throughout. Contrary to my last report, this is a digital book. I ordered 500 copies and they will cost \$12.75 each. We can get reprints in a week rather than 2 months from China. The book was shipped October 3 and will be included the Bookstore's Christmas ad.

#### 18th NCKMS Proceedings

I recently finished this book. Bill Elliott was the editor and I handled prepress work. The book was published with an 8-page color insert. These proceedings reports are not NSS books. I have been doing these books for years and it is a thankless task. I have told Mike Warner that I prefer not to do this anymore.

**Problems:** None except that I will be busy with the International Congress of Speleology for the next eight months or so.

10/1/2008.

### **(10) JOURNAL OF CAVE AND KARST STUDIES COMMITTEE**

Malcolm Field, Editor, 26915FE

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**Progress:** The April 2008 issue of *Journal* was published and in August 2008 (v. 70, no. 1) which was later than desired. However, we are working to get back on our publishing schedule.

Late publication of the *Journal* is slowly getting corrected as we get everything else corrected. It is expected that the *Journal* will soon be back on track in terms of publishing on schedule with release of the August 2008 issue (v. 70, no. 2). We are currently reviewing/correcting the PDFs of the galleys so barring any difficulties we will have the August 2008 issue published by the end of October.

The *Journal* Web site now includes a link to the newly accepted "Copyright Transfer Agreement" developed by the NSS lawyers. This new arrangement is currently designed so that when a corresponding author receives notice that his/her manuscript has been accepted for publication in the *Journal* the author is directed to click on the provided link that takes them directly to the NSS Copyright Transfer Agreement page on the NSS Web site for their signature. Due to some difficulties authors are having in transferring the signed Copyright Agreement to me, I have asked that the Web site be made interactive for people using Acrobat Reader.

Efforts are under way to bring on board an experienced Copy Editor to assist me with manuscript editing. Although I try to catch all mistakes prior to manuscript going to Production, I am not perfect. Not catching all mistakes prior to paste-up costs the *Journal* additional money when corrections need to be made to the paste-up. A Copy Editor will help control costs. We are still exploring this possibility.

**Plans:** We have begun exploring the possibility of making the *Journal* all-digital only (i.e., no more hard copies to be printed). The *Journal* Advisory Board and Editors were generally all agreed that it is an idea that no one likes. This consideration is not being considered seriously any longer.

We have also begun exploring the possibility of assigning Digital Object Identified DOI® numbers to published *Journal* manuscripts. A DOI number would ensure that all published *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* manuscripts are always available and can be tracked in the digital environment. A brief description of the DOI system has been provided to Tom Rea.

A new special issue is planned for the August 2009 issue. It will entail the printing of accepted/presented articles and abstracts for the Second Appalachian Karst Symposium to be held at East Tennessee State University in the Spring of 2008. Allen Track will be used to handle this issue and Dr. Yongli Gao will be guest editor for this issue. Dr. Gao has been contacted about funding part or all of this special issue.

Other organizations have contacted me about publishing their conference proceedings, but have since begun looking for other venues because of requests that (1) the conference organizers cover all or least a substantial portion of our publishing costs and (2) accept that there will likely be a substantial delay in having their proceedings published (we will only publish one special issue per year and Dr. Gao already has 2009 for his conference).

A formal policy on cost-sharing with conference organizers who would like to have their conference proceedings published in the *Journal* was suggested to me and will likely be developed soon.

The index prepared for each *Journal* issue at the end of the year and published in the December issue of each volume will likely not be provided any longer. Ira Sasowsky does plan on developing the index one final time for volume 70, although cost concerns will dictate as to whether it can be published in Volume 70 number 3. After this volume, if an index is to be prepared it will likely only be published on the NSS Web site.

**Problems:** Two major problems were encountered in 2007 primarily as a result of the April 2007 special issue: extreme lateness of some issues and excessive costs. Expense accounting was inadequate. Both of these items are being addressed (see above). A regular cost-sharing partnership with NCKRI is delayed until later this year. A formalized cost-sharing with conference organizers who would like the *Journal* to publish their conference proceedings has not yet been completed.

**Changes:** At the end of the calendar year, Dr. Ira Sasowsky will step down as Associate Editor for Earth Sciences. Dr. Gregory Springer will be replacing Dr. Sasowsky beginning in January 2009. Currently, Dr. Sasowsky is training Dr. Springer so that there will be no significant problems associated with the transition.

**Thoughts:** It is now time to consider publishing the NSS Convention abstracts solely on the NSS Web site. The growth of the web allows for greater access to the abstracts from around the world and by publishing the abstracts solely on the NSS Web site scarce resources would be preserved for publication of full *Journal* articles. It is possible that we will have adequate space and funding to allow publication of the Convention Abstracts in the December 2008 issue, however.

## **(11) NSS NEWS COMMITTEE**

### **Editor**

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**Progress:** The News continues to come out on time and with more color than ever, for less than it cost to produce it when I took over in 1996. Only postage has increased.

Our "In the Media" columnist has sort of faded away (not sending columns for months or responding to e-mails) and since I have someone interested I am turning the column over to Derek Hoyle. No doubt it will take him a couple of months to get up to speed.

**Plans:** The December issue will have an insert for the ICS but it will not cost the NSS or the News budget anything. It will also be the convention issue since I wasn't able to get a wrap-up issue in time for November. Once again I plan to print several of the salon winners from fine arts and newsletters in color.

Future planned articles include the Mammoth Cave region coordinated by Jim Borden and James Wells, an Isla de Mona issue by Pat Kambesis, one on the Laos River cave expedition, one on Blue Spring Cave (Tennessee), and another on Arizona's Cave of the Bells.

**Problems:** None to speak of. We aren't enjoying the large backlog in submissions I'd experienced for awhile, and I have material on hand for just one or two issues ahead. But lots of features are promised so I'm not too worried.

Not really a problem, but I have noted a ruling from the post office that mailing labels are going to have to be placed on the TOP of the back cover of a periodical. So beginning with the April issue I will need to change the layout to accommodate.

*EVP Note: I have had a request from a person living overseas to make the NSS News available on the Web as a PDF. This person believes he cannot afford the high foreign mailing cost. Perhaps the download could be restricted to members who do not pay the foreign mailing cost. Thoughts?*

## **(12) MEMBERS MANUAL COMMITTEE**

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### ***2008 NSS Members Manual***

**Progress:** The *Members Manual* Committee did a splendid job and the *2008 Members Manual* was mailed out on time in June 2008.

**Plans:** None.

**Problems:** I don't think we had any, other than late reports.

### ***2009 NSS Members Manual***

**Progress:** The main *Members Manual* Committee members have agreed to serve for another year. We are a good team and work well together. I have yet to hear from the ads sales committee member, but that is very minor and does not affect the actual putting together of the publication.

**Plans:** I plan to follow a similar schedule to that of last year. This will start with a call for cover photographs in mid- to late-November to be due by February 1, 2009. I think I will send out an e-mail to all the NSS officers very early to let them know what my process is and that they can go ahead and start verifying their information. Maybe this will alleviate some late submissions.

**Problems:** I don't anticipate any right now.

Submitted by Meredith Hall Weberg  
October 5, 2008