

The Western Region of the
National Speleological Society presents...

SPELEO-ED 2006

With the cooperation and assistance of:

Calaveras Big Trees State Park, the Western Cave Conservancy,
California State University Sacramento, California Native Bat Conservancy, Modesto Junior College, the Cave
Research Foundation, Applied Earthworks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Live-Art International - USA,
SierraNaturePrints.com and the
Executive Board of the Western Region of the National Speleological Society



May 12-14, Calaveras Big Trees State Park

About the Seminar

Speleo-Ed seminars are an outstanding way to learn more about cave exploration and science while enjoying a fun and social weekend with friends from across the Western Region. Building on last year's popular seminar, we have arranged an even broader collection of interesting topics for 2006. With the gracious assistance of numerous speakers and organizations, we have worked together to design what should be an outstanding spring weekend! From ghostly campfire tales to current trends in cave research, there is sure to be something for everyone. We hope you can join us!



The 2006 Speleo-Ed Seminar offers 3 distinct tracks of sessions and workshops designed to interest cavers of all skills and experience. On Saturday evening, the Western Cave Conservancy will offer an optional fund-raising dinner followed by a short business meeting of the Western Region. Of course, the entire weekend offers ample opportunities for socializing with cavers from across the region!

Biology and Geology Track

This year's morning sessions are designed to be of significant interest to cavers of all abilities. From live bats to aerial photographic tours of the sierra foothills, these sessions are sure to be extremely fun and informative. Special equipment will even be on hand to listen to the ultrasonic sounds bats make while hunting for insects.

Human Sciences Track

Focusing on human interaction with caves, these sessions primarily explore historical and prehistorical cave use across multiple cultures. Rounding out the sessions will be some current exploration reports and caving methods in the Western Region.

SEKI Invertebrate Monitoring Track

For the hard-core troglodyte, Joel Despain from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks will lead two half-day sessions on the park's new invertebrate monitoring project. Following a 3-year study, the park recently announced the discovery of 27 new species of cave animals. To monitor these creatures, the park is seeking volunteers to conduct long-term study projects. Joel will explain the methods and provide examples of this effort.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Three miles north of Arnold off Highway 4, the colossal trees of Calaveras Big Trees State Park stand in quiet testimony to a time when giants ruled the earth. These massive relics, which can reach a height of 325 feet and a diameter of 33 feet, are survivors from the Mesozoic Era, a time when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and birds, mammals and flowering plants began to appear. Some of these trees are thought to be as much as 2,000 years old.

Located at the mid-elevation level of the western Sierra Nevada, Calaveras Big Trees State Park is a prime example of a mixed conifer forest in the yellow pine belt. Giant sequoias dominate ponderosa pines, sugar pines, incense cedars and white fir. The Pacific dogwood displays white blossoms in the spring, and wildflowers along the Lava Bluffs Trail include leopard lily, Hartweg's iris, crimson columbine, monkey-flowers, harvest brodiaea, wild hyacinth and lupine.

Group Camping

The Western Region has reserved all group camping spaces at Calaveras Big Trees for the seminar weekend. Capacity at this site is approximately 100 people - about the same as we had at last year's seminar. The group area provides running water, flush toilets and coin showers. All campers must be registered participants in the Speleo-Ed Seminar. Day use rates are available but do not include camping, field trips or evening activities. Due to parking constraints, we encourage all cavers to **carpool** as much as possible. The recreation hall is scheduled to have WiFi Internet service. With the exception of the WCC fund-raising dinner on Saturday evening, all meals are the responsibility of the participants. RV hookups are not available in the group camping area, but may be reserved in the main campground at your own expense. Pets are allowed, but the park has specific leash laws we will be expected to follow. Camping and park entrance fees are included in your registration. Many hotels are available in Arnold or Murphys for those not wishing to stay at the campground. Bear boxes are available in the camping areas for food storage.

www.caves.org/region/western/

2006 Speleo-Ed Seminar - May 12-14 - Event Schedule

Friday	
7:00 PM	Registration Open - Please come to the group camping area.
9:00 PM	Special Screening: Cave of the Glowing Skulls (Shown at the group campfire area) This one hour documentary follows archaeologists through a four-year process of discovering and excavating the remains of a previously unknown society in central Honduras. Carbon dating shows the remains to be over 3000 years old. Many of the discoveries occur right on camera, providing the viewer the opportunity to witness them as they happen. The first remains were found in a cave. Calcite deposits, which had built up on the skulls and bones, caused them to actually glow in the dark.

Saturday Biology & Geology Sessions	
9:00-9:30	Welcome to Calaveras Big Trees State Park [Park Staff]
9:30-10:00	Mending Broken Bats: Rehabilitation & Release
10:00-10:30	[Dharma Webber / California Native Bat Conservancy]
10:30-11:00	Geology of Table Mountain [Garry Hayes / Modesto Junior College]
11:00-11:30	Singing For Your Supper: Echolocation for Navigation and Prey Detection by Bats
11:30-12:00	[Dr. Winston Lancaster / CSU Sacramento]
12:00-12:30	----- Lunch -----
12:30-1:00	

Saturday Human Sciences Track		SEKI Biology Track
1:00-1:30	The Care & Feeding of Bolts: Placement & Inspection	Invertebrate Monitoring Project in Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Park Caves [Joel Despain, NPS/CRF/NSS]
1:30-2:00	[Mark Scott / SFBC]	
2:00-2:30	Prehistoric Mortuary Caves of the Central Sierra	Course includes in-cave field trip on Sunday to learn the mechanics of these study methods.
2:30-3:00	[Dr. Mike Moratto / Applied Earthworks]	
3:00-3:30	Speleo-History Methods & Sources [Dan Snyder / MLG]	
3:30-4:00	Caves of the Mojave Desert [Bern Szukalski / SoCal]	
4:00-4:30	The Role of Pinnacle Point Cave in California Prehistory	
4:30-5:00	[Dr. Jerry Johnson / CSU Sacramento / MLG]	
5:00-5:30	Under Ben Lomond Mountain [B. Rogers & D. Snyder]	
5:30-6:00	Happy Social Hour	
6:00-6:30	Plan your summertime multi-grotto cave trips!	
6:30-7:00	----- Western Cave Conservancy Dinner -----	
7:00-7:30		
7:30-8:00	Western Region Business Meeting	
8:00-8:30		



Arctostaphylos patula
GREENLEAF MANZANITA



Toxicodendron diversilobum
WESTERN POISON OAK



Quercus wislizenii
INTERIOR LIVE OAK



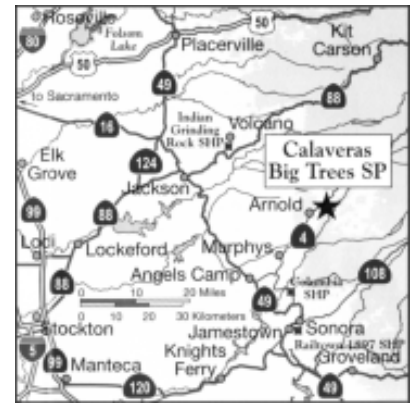
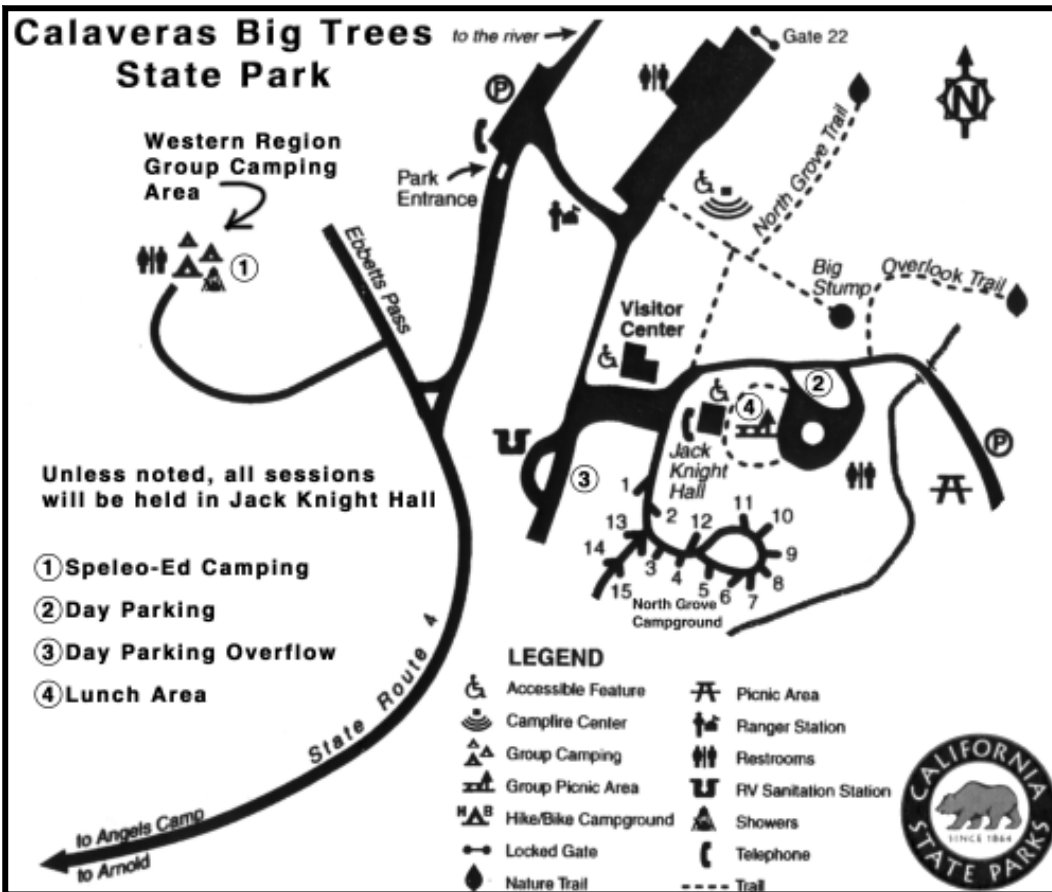
Chamaebatia foliolosa
MOUNTAIN MISERY



Quercus chrysolepis
CANYON LIVE OAK

Illustrations for this flyer and the Speleo-Ed Program Guide provided by Peg Edwards at SierraNaturePrints.com.

Sunday	Human Science Session	Biology Field Trip	Cave Trips & Hikes
9:30 AM	Introduction to Dowsing for Caves [Ralph Squire / Columbia Grotto] Session meets at the group camp area.	In-Cave Biological Monitoring Workshop [Joel Despain] Field trip element of Saturday's SEKI Invertebrate Session Cave TBD	North Grove Big Trees [Papke] Photography Workshop to Natural Bridges & Cathedral Cave [Bunnell] Various New Melones Caves Sign-up sheets available at camp area.



Contacts

Registration:

Dan Snyder (831) 421-0430
daniel@snyder-haye.com

Event Coordinator:

Matt Bowers (209) 529-9000
mattw@ThirdMedia.com

Take Note

Entrance to the group camping area is located 200 yards past the main park entrance on Hwy. 4. If arriving any time before 9AM Saturday, come to the camp area.

If possible, PLEASE CARPOOL!

Speleo-Ed 2006 Registration

May 12-14, 2006 - Calaveras Big Trees State Park, Arnold, California

Please type or print legibly - Use one form per person - Detach and mail with registration payment.



Name: _____ Natl. Speleological Society #: _____

Address: _____ Age: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Day phone: _(_____) _____ Evening phone: _(_____) _____ Mobile/pager: _(_____) _____

Grotto Affiliation: _____ Dietary or health considerations: _____

Emergency contact: _____

Please mail registration form and your check or money order payable to:
Western Region NSS
Attn: Speleo-Ed 2006
213 Elm Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831)421-0430

¹ Children 12 & under free with paid adult registration.
² Family rates are available for \$1 if at the same residence as a member.
³ Children 5 & under free, 6-12 are half price with paid adult dinner.

Basic Registration - Includes camping, sessions and field trips ¹ :	\$34.00	
Non-Member of the Western Region (includes membership) ² :	\$10.00	
Day-Use Only: No camping or field trips. 9AM to 9PM Saturday Only:	\$22.00	
Western Cave Conservancy Fund-Raising Dinner ³ :	\$15.00	
Late registration - after May 1st or on-site:	\$5.00	
Speleo-Ed 2006 T-shirts - priced per shirt, list quantity and sizes:	\$12.50	
T-shirt size: sm. <input type="checkbox"/> med. <input type="checkbox"/> lg. <input type="checkbox"/> xl. <input type="checkbox"/> xxl. <input type="checkbox"/>		
50th Anniversary Western Region Logo Ballcap:	\$15.00	
Cap: Black <input type="checkbox"/> Charcoal <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter <input type="checkbox"/> Khaki <input type="checkbox"/> Maroon <input type="checkbox"/> Navy <input type="checkbox"/>		
50th Anniversary Western Region Logo Coffee Mug:	\$6.50	
TOTAL ENCLOSED:		



MLG caver, Rosemary Hettgar, explores Pinnacle Point Cave. Photo by Dave Bunnell.



View from the Lava Bluffs Trail at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Illustration by Peg Edwards.

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Arnold, California - Calaveras County

May 12-14

Calaveras Big Trees State Park



Western Region
of the National Speleological Society
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