



INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS NEWSLETTER

Update to IOs on the organizational happenings within the NSS

June 2020

The IO Newsletter

This newsletter format is intended to inform the leadership of the internal organizations of what the NSS is working on at the national level. Hopefully this will provide you with the ability to brief your membership on what the NSS is doing for them and keeps you in the know. Please share it with your organization.

2020 NSS Virtual Convention Update

In what will be the first, and hopefully last, virtual NSS convention, all presentations will be recorded and available for future viewing. From West Virginia Exploration to United States and International Exploration, from Conservation to the Arts and T-shirt Salons, all will be represented. Some of the section meetings will be presented live just as if you were there at Convention. Other sessions will be posted in a daily schedule where you can view them at your leisure and there are some amazing presentations that you may even want to watch more than once. For all the information on this virtual convention, and to find a schedule of events, go to the 2020 convention website [HERE](#).

In keeping with tradition, thanks to the generosity of Richard Raber, there will be virtual convention patches and pins for sale. Send a check or postal money order to him at P.O. Box 532, Effingham, IL 62401. The cost of each patch is \$10 and each pin is \$12, which includes postage. Rich will donate all profits to the NSS but is ordering only 100 of each symbolic device, so order early! Sales will end on August 1.

NSS Brochure Available for Landowner Relations

The NSS re-established the Landowner Relations Network Committee (LRNC) in 2016 with the principal goal of interacting with and supporting private landowners. Members of the NSS LRNC endeavor to establish a relationship with cave landowners that see frequent visitors, and reach out to landowners of closed or limited-access caves to bring goodwill from the NSS.

The NSS LRNC also works with grottos and internal organizations of the NSS to provide support for questions and inquiries that private landowners have about their caves. As part of our mission to promote education, exploration, conservation, and access to caves, we have developed a brochure that cavers can share with landowners. The NSS LRNC brochure is now available for download on the NSS website; hard copies can be requested by sending an email to LRNC@caves.org or by contacting the NSS Office. Please join us in supporting landowners.



Warren Cave Nature Preserve
Photo from caves.org

[What can the NSS do for you?](#)

Web Hosting

The NSS offers a free self-service web hosting platform for internal organizations. We are not able to help individual IOs to migrate old sites to this new platform. It is available for any IO to create a new site, bring their domain over, or create a new domain. To apply for web hosting or a subdomain go here: <https://it.caves.org/index.php/hosting/>

Current IO Committee

- Paul Winter (Chair)
- Keith Wheeland
- Adam Weaver
- Savannah Sawyer
- Nick Anderson

iocommittee@caves.org

2020 Geology Field Trip Guide is available through WVASS and the NSS

NSS Publication: The 2020 NSS Convention Geology Field Trip, North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, by George Dasher; 84 pages, 66 photos, ten maps, 21 geological schematics; \$30 color.

WVASS Monograph #6: A Convergence of Cave Men: The History of the Seneca Caverns Company, by Richard A. Lambert; 134 pages, 229 pictures, 13 maps, \$20 B&W; \$40 color.

WVASS Bulletin #20: The Caves and Karst of the Culverson Creek Basin, by Phil Lucas, Bill Balfour, and George Dasher; May 2018; 336 pages, 364 caves, 208 photos, 80 maps, nine appendices; \$35 B&W; \$100 color.

WVASS Bulletin #21: The Caves and Karst of Mercer and Summers Counties, by Nick Schaer and George Dasher; May 2018; 180 pages, 226 caves, 131 photos, 62 maps, seven appendices; \$25 B&W; \$45 color.

WVASS Bulletin #22: The Caves and Karst of Monroe County, by George Dasher; Feb 2019; 476 pages, 524 caves and springs, 143 maps, 242 photos, sections on bats and vertebrate fossils, 12 appendices; \$45 B&W; \$105 color.

WVASS Bulletin #23: The Caves and Karst of Hardy County, by George Dasher; April 2020; 194 pages, 70 caves and springs, 43 maps, 17 geological schematics, 185 photos; \$25 B&W; \$50 color.

These publications—as well as all the other WVASS bulletins and monographs—can be ordered from Ray Garton at P.O. Box 200, Barrackville, West Virginia 26559; 304-282-2306; and wvass@prehistoricplanet.com. Orders can be paid by check, or once an order has been confirmed by e-mail, then the payment can be made with Paypal.

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— Warren Cave Nature Preserve

Warren Cave Nature Preserve, located in Alachua County, Florida, was donated to the NSS in early 1991 by The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy had held the property, since acquiring it in 1976 with the help of the Florida Speleological Society, an NSS grotto. The Warren Preserve property is now overseen by the Warren Cave Nature Preserve Committee, headed by David Lizdas, with assistance from the Florida Speleological Society.

Warren Cave is the longest known dry cave in Florida with over four miles of mapped passage. At the present time, the cave is gated, but visitation is allowed. A waiver must be signed for admittance to the property.

Currently, the FWC (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) biologists lead by Lisa Smith continue to survey Warren Cave's tri-colored bat population and monitor temperature with sensors in the cave at FWC expense.

A dive into the history of Warren Cave is being undertaken as members are searching for records of original maps and survey data. They have found two velum maps from the 1980s and the 1960s and will scan and send to NSS. The original survey data (we have been told) was lost in a fire in the 1980s.

If you have questions about this Preserve, e-mail **James Hamlin, PhD** at warrencommittee@caves.org

Need Help?

The secondary impetus for this newsletter is to open a constant lifeline to all of the Internal Organizations.

We are here to help you, and to connect knowledge and experts from within the organizations to one another. With over 250 IOs, there is a good chance that others have had the same issues.

In this effort, the I/O committee has been working to assemble a team of volunteer leaders from Grottos around the nation to help field these questions.

Bottom line, if your Grotto needs help, and you can't find someone with ideas or answers, send an email and we will do our best to help you with your project or problem.

Adam@caves.org



www.caves.org