

INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

Update to I/Os on the organizational happenings within the NSS

Summer 2019

The New I/O Newsletter

This new newsletter format is aimed at helping the leadership of the internal organizations to know and share what the NSS is working on at the national level. Hopefully providing you with the ability to brief your membership on what the NSS is doing for them, and keeping you in the know.

NSS Conventions

- ◆ This past month the BOG voted on and approved the following NSS Convention Locations: 2021 Weed, California and 2022 Custer, South Dakota!

The 2019 NSS Convention was highly successful with over 1200 full registrants! The 2020 Convention is in Elkins, West Virginia.

Recent NSS Publications

- ◆ The NSS recently released three new publications, available from the NSS Bookstore:
 - *The Jewel Cave Adventure: 50 Miles of Discovery Under South Dakota* 3rd Edition by Herb and Jan Conn
 - *A World Below: The Underwater Discovery and Exploration of Coldwater Cave* by David Jagnow and Steve Barnett
 - *Caves of the Highland Rim* by Larry E. Matthew, feat. Bob Biddix

Cave Access Work

- ◆ The NSS President 's letter to the Secretary of Agriculture was used and cited in recent USFS cave access policies across the US. This letter helped maintain the presence of the NSS as a source for cave research and information, resulting in increased access opportunities to USFS caves for our members.
- ◆ The office of the AVP has been working hard with the NSS preserves, and conservancies. The next issue will have some exciting information on this front!



Great Expectations Cave—Great Hall
photo from www.caves.org

Current I/O Committee

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

iocommittee@caves.org

NSS Governance updates

- ◆ The BOG recently made updates to the NSS Anti-Harassment Policy. This policy applies to all NSS sanctioned events, and all I/Os must have their own policy, or a provision to accept the policy of the NSS. Additional info can be found at www.caves.org
- ◆ The ad hoc Code of Conduct Committee has released its second draft of the new NSS Code of Conduct. This committee is looking for additional input on this draft. To contribute contact: cindy@caves.org
- ◆ The next NSS Board of Governors (BOG) meeting will be held on November 9th at the NSS Headquarters in Huntsville, AL.
- ◆ Work is currently underway at the NSS Headquarters to repair damages to the exterior fence and gate of the compound that were damaged earlier this year.
- ◆ The office the Secretary-Treasurer has been working with the Audit team, finalizing work from the 2019 convention, and beginning work with the 2020 convention staff. Also, compiling

NSS Preserve—Spotlight— Great Expectations Cave

Great Expectations Cave Preserve (Great X) is located in the Big-horn Mountains of Wyoming at 8,500ft. The property includes 40 acres of land that was purchased in January of 2003 by the NSS for a total of \$193,000. Great X includes 8 miles of surveyed passage and is 1,400 vertical feet deep, making it the second longest and second deepest cave in Wyoming. Great X is known for a beautifully decorated room named The Cephalopod Malt Shop, and the Great Hall, which is over 2000 feet long and has 100 foot high ceilings.

Update: In July of 2019, a group of cavers visiting Great X reported that the water level was extremely high. During the trip, three drops on the way to the Lost Worland River were re-rigged with new ropes. Trips to Great X should be planned from mid summer through late fall. Access can be very difficult after the first snowfall

For access and more information contact the Great Expectations Preserve Management Committee (Bob Montgomery - wycaver@gmail.com; and Savannah Sawyer - ssawyer.wy@gmail.com.)

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 I/Os the chance is good 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