August 2013

Message From The President

What a great start for our new members at Indiana Caverns! It has been interesting and fun watching their progression to get open on their Facebook posts. Read below to see how accomplished it and if the saying is true… “if you build it, they will come”.

Speaking of building it, have you considered adding a zipline or a rappel? It seems like each month an NCA member cave is announcing a grand opening. Claudia has reported that Squire Boone Caverns Zipline Adventures is doing well. Read below for an announcement by Hidden River Cave.

Ever considered offering weddings at your cave? If so, read below for some good ideas and links to our members that already do so. Hey, are there any NCA members getting ready to tie the knot (or renewing vows)?… perhaps Steve Thompson could offer special discounts at Bridal Cave at Thunder Mountain during our NCA convention this year?? Just thinking out loud Steve, no pressure.

Seriously though, I hope all of you are in the midst of a busy summer season and have found ways to be successful in bringing in much needed profits. Speaking of being profitable, do you know what the current rate of inflation is and are you keeping up with it by adjusting your prices? If not, David Summers offers some advice on why this is important, complete with examples.

Finally, good planning is always important for running a successful business. So plan on going to the Tennessee Gift Shows and let Lettie Stickley help show you how she approaches buying. Also, now is the time to start making your plans to visit Australian ISCA Congress in 2014. See you there!

Keep Moving Forward,

Greg Beckler

Meramec Caverns Featured in Rural Missouri

Thanks to Dr. Stanley Sides for submitting this great link. www.ruralMissouri.coop. After you click on the link, click on Current Issue (August 2013), use your right-arrow to go to pages 8-9, “then savor a fine article on Meramec Caverns entitled “Hideout Heaven!” It quotes Les Turilli; a guide, Lee West; and discusses Lester Dill,” says Stan.
Indiana Caverns First Month

As I write this update, Indiana Caverns has been open for 24 days. Right at 7,000 paid visitors (plus lots of freebies) have taken the tour so far. We are pleased to be meeting or exceeding our projections and the reviews from our visitors have been well above our expectations. You never know in advance whether visitors will receive your product the way you think they will. I am to report in our case they probably like it even more than I thought they would.

With all the above being said, behind the scenes it has been quite hectic. None of us would recommend having an opening day in mid-June. However we had no alternative. We couldn’t have made it without a great group of employees, which Laura hired. While Laura and Carol had a week of classroom training for most of our guides, they essentially had no opportunity to practice a tour as key sections of lighting were only installed the last two days before opening. A week before opening we had no motors on boats and we only had lights in the boat river area late on Thursday before opening on Saturday morning. The guides took it all in stride and are really getting a lot of tips to supplement their hourly wage. I am really glad that they can share in our success that way.

We were pulling out welding cables Saturday morning at 3AM after a 19 hour work day on Friday. To say it was a rush to the finish would be an understatement. Rob Houchens, one of our general partners, spent the last 3 months prior to opening working underground with the team every day to help us get open before the summer was over. His dad, John, also pitched in working at least three weeks during the final phase.

It has been a learning process on the boats, but our visitors love the boat ride and most consider it the highlight of the tour. We have 3-20 passenger boats and after about a week our guides learned how to drive them without bumping too many walls. We have found that our batteries can do about 15 tours per boat without being recharged, which was just about what they needed to do on a busy holiday weekend.

Since we opened, we have had near record rainfall levels for June and early July. However this has not caused us a problem on our tours as our boat river is on a very small upper level stream. We have had a couple of very large natural waterfalls make the tour more interesting during big rains.

Our tour turned out to be just about the length I was estimating - 1 hour and 20 minutes (with a range of 1 hour 15 min. to 1 hour 35 minutes). Each tour is started with a 9 min. historical and scientific video in our theatre room right before the tour goes down the ramp into the cave. While our visitors have to ascend 110 feet from the river level, most people are making it just fine. The entire walking section of the tour is on elevated steel walkways with 42" handrails on both sides.

People have been very complimentary of our visitor’s center, courtyard patio (in front of the building) and the gift shop. We have received great initial publicity including short article in USA Today, a mention in Parade magazine that goes to 30 million households and several articles picked up by Associated Press. Carol did a great job on pre-opening publicity combined with an awesome Social Media campaign. Carol and I have also had the opportunity to be guests on several TV shows and a number of TV stations have done very good stories on our opening.

We hope many of you will be able to stop by and see us either on the way to this fall’s NCA convention or on the way home.

Gary Roberson, CEO
Indiana Caverns
New Zipline and Rappelling Adventures at Hidden River Cave

Hidden River Cave announces the opening of new zipline and rappelling adventures. The grand opening took place June 15, 2013. Adventure seekers will be able to zip over the top of the cave entrance or rappel down the rock face entrance to Hidden River Cave. In addition to these new adventures, Hidden River Cave will still offer a regular cave tour; a wild cave tour and all packages include admission to the American Cave Museum. Also, new is the gem mining sluice that allows visitors to pan for their own gemstone.

“We are really excited to be bringing new adventure to Horse Cave. This is the first major addition since the renovation of the American Cave Museum and it seemed like a natural addition. That first step may be a little scary but we think it will be a thrilling ride”, said Dave Foster, the Executive Director for Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum.

Adventure seekers will be able to do an individual adventure or combined adventures for a full thrill seeking experience. Regular Cave tours are $15.00 for Adults, $10.00 (6-14) & 5 and under are free. Wild Cave tours are $35.00 for three hours or $50.00 for five hours (reservations are required). Zip and Rappel trips start at $20.00 per person per trip. Discount packages and family packages are available.

Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum are operated by the American Cave Conservation Association, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of caves nationwide. Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum are located 2.2 miles off Interstate 65 at Exit 58 in downtown Horse Cave, Kentucky and are open year around. Hidden River Cave runs directly under the city streets and is considered “the greatest cave restoration story in the whole United States”. For more information call 270-786-1466 or visit www.hiddenrivercave.com.

Dave Foster
Hidden River Cave and the American Cave Museum
Horse Cave, Kentucky

Dues Invoice in the Mail

Shortly you will be receiving your dues invoice for 2014. In the past you were invoiced October 1, however, we have moved the new date to August 1. Your Association has changed to a calendar year and now, by doing this, we will be able to get things like brochure production and printing done during the winter and need not wait until the last minute when the new season has already begun.
Move Over Bats – Brides Discover Caves

At the mention of caves we immediately conjure mental images of crystallized stalactites, reaching-for-the-roof stalagmites, and dark clouds of bats hanging upside down from stone ceilings like tiny circus performers. We don’t often conjure the image of a bridal altar. Yet caves have been hosting extraordinary wedding events for generations.

Aside from the obvious “unique” appeal of holding a wedding in a cave, there are benefits that can’t be reproduced at any other wedding venue. There’s the pleasure of a constant temperature, (no matter what heat or cold snap is happening outside) and that special, otherworldly reverberation of cave acoustics. Each cave also boasts its own individual identity, such as an array of unusual inhabitants, breathtaking, spontaneous water streams, or million-year-old formations unable to be viewed anywhere else in the world.

Some caves remain as primitive as the day they were first discovered, while others have been fitted with stairs, walking paths with safety railings, and a myriad of decorative lights and man-made altars. Plain or spruced up, caves offer a pretty spectacular backdrop for a wedding.

Cave weddings are often cost savers as well. With fewer decorations required, no need for sound equipment for the ceremony, and no particular seating for guests, less cash outlay for the ceremony means more wedding budget dollars to spend on the reception and the honeymoon.

While multiple caves throughout the country offer wedding services, a lesser number permit receptions in underground areas. Fortunately, most cave venues are prepared to recommend nearby reception facilities that make moving from the inside-the-cave wedding to the outside-the-cave reception a seamless progression.

Some wedding services offered at caves are extraordinarily inexpensive but also limit the number of guests you can invite. If you’re planning an intimate wedding or an elopement, these caves provide a magical experience that doesn’t require annihilating every piggy bank in the house. For weddings with larger guest lists, a bigger price tag may accompany the bigger cave space. Yet, cost for cost, when compared to traditional wedding venues, cave weddings frequently prove to be a bargain on many levels, and the wow factor for you and your guests is pretty high.

A cave wedding does have its challenges. Every cave venue must be vetted for parking, disabled accessibility, and walking distances. If some of your guests would be adversely affected by entering and navigating the cave, such limitations will have to be considered at onset of planning.

One of the more inventive cave wedding perks can be enjoyed at Luray Caverns in Luray, Virginia, home of the Great Stalacpipe Organ, an organ that uses naturally formed stalactites as its “pipes.” At Longhorn Cavern State Park in Burnet, Texas, full table-seating receptions are held right in the cave, and at Bridal Cave at Thunder Mountain Park in Camdenton, Missouri, wedding packages include a gift of lifetime passes to the cave for the bride and groom, a gesture that provides plenty of over-the-years opportunities for revisiting the wedding site and rekindling the romance. The Lost River Cave in Bowling Green, Kentucky grants its wedding parties exclusive use of the Cavern Nite Club at the cave’s entrance, which still houses the club’s original 1930s bandstand and bar. And California’s Napa Valley combines its wine country mystique with weddings and receptions at a variety of cave venues where guests may find themselves surrounded by hundreds of bottles of wine aging to perfection amidst the stone walls. Or, if you’ve always dreamed of a faraway destination wedding, the rest of the world boasts some pretty amazing cave wedding venues as well.

Caves that host weddings dot the countryside from coast to coast, and just a bit of dedicated digging unearths each cave’s particular treasures, with no spelunking tools required. A thorough computer search will do the trick. And if the Internet doesn’t produce the finds
you're hoping for, contact your state parks department. Many caves are on public land and are maintained by the state. The parks office of any given state may be able to steer you in the right direction.

Like the cave itself, a cave wedding is worth exploring. As evidenced by the 1908 "Bridal Altar at Mammoth Cave, Kentucky" postcard depicted below, cave weddings are not new, but they are surely as special in the 21st Century as they were in centuries past. As a bonus, many of today's cave weddings are enhanced by modern amenities that transform ordinary stone caverns into wonderlands. Whether you prefer your cave organic, or technologically enhanced, the perfect one is out there, somewhere.

Bats and the lovable Fred Flintstone aside, when it comes to weddings, caves definitely have potential.

**Tricia Spencer**  
Author, "1001 Wedding Ideas: The Ultimate Resource for Creating a Wedding No One Will Ever Forget"

*(Thanks to Steve Thompson for sharing this article with us)*

---

**WNS Report**

The focus continues to be on education and looking for volunteers to count bats.

Nova Scotia has added bats to their protected species list.

The US Fish & Wildlife Service awarded grants to 28 states totaling over $950,000 for WNS projects such as research, monitoring populations and to detect and respond to WNS.

The USFS denied an appeal to keep caves closed and are reopening national forest caves in the Rocky Mountains. Caves in the Black Hills are scheduled to reopen in August.

A newsletter from Canoe Creek State Park in Pennsylvania reports that prior to 2006, gated limestone mines in the park were a hibernation site for over 30,000 bats of six species. There is a church in the park that was a summer site for 20,000 little brown bats. In March of this year, they counted on 155 bats hibernating and this summer less than 100 bats in the church.

Not WNS, but possible the WNS of snakes: Cases of Snake Fungal Disease in the Eastern and Midwestern U.S. have been increasing in frequency since 2006. It is characterized by lesions on the skin that appear to be lessened once the snakes get out of hibernation and are warmed by the sun. Unlike WNS, it is appearing in different parts of the country at the same time.

Not related to WNS, but just for fun: There is a video all over the Internet that uses actual bat sounds put to the theme song of the original Batman TV series. Do a search for Batman Theme Song with Bat Sounds.

**Patty Perlaky**  
WNS Committee Chair
It is about time to start thinking Tennessee and Gift Shows! This is always a busy but fun several days for me. I try to have as much leg work done as possible prior to the shows. I have found that the better prepared I am beforehand, the smoother things go at the shows. I realize that not everyone goes to this particular show, but being prepared can work for any show. The first step for us is to start looking at the inventory we still have and what we don’t. Barbara, my lead staff, has spreadsheets with everything we have bought in the past year, so it is just a matter of going through these and deciding what was a good buy and what we may not want to reorder.

Once the shows (IGES and Smokey Mt) release their vendor information, Lead Staff and I will start looking at vendor catalogs and trade magazines for ideas. I find that looking through trade magazines such as the “Souvenirs and Gifts” and “Museums and More” also help us decide on the type of items to purchase.

After perusing our inventory, catalogs and magazines I start to have a vision of the types of items I will need to purchase. In our gift shop we try to stay on the educational and rock side of sales. We tend to steer away from the nick-knack type of items. We do of course have some outerwear and name drop items for the true souvenir consumer.

The next step for me is actually sitting down and making out some orders. I will have the Purchase Orders completed before I leave home for the items and vendors that I know I will be buying from. I always make appointments with the vendors that I purchase from yearly and have as much of the order done as I can before I get to the show. This takes some time on the front end but seems to save a lot of time at the show. I can then concentrate on any new items that I may want to order.

I highlight all of the vendors that I want to visit on a copy of the floor plan. This saves a lot of steps for me or missing a vendor that may have that one item that I just HAVE to purchase. I always have my purchase orders as complete as possible just so I am not using valuable shopping time to complete these at the show. I am probably in a different situation than most since we are owned by a small town, we must have a Town Purchase Order for everything we purchase.

Usually the first day of the show consists of price comparisons and ordering items that I know I want from the vendors that I always buy from. On some items, I will check prices with several vendors, and then go with the one that works the best for me. Sometimes it is not the price but quality of the item.

The dinner and cracker barrel are always a plus for the show. There is always that one item that I never thought of that someone brings for show and tell that really sparks an interest. The day after our NCA dinner, I always try to purchase something that has been shown or make a purchase from one of the vendors who sponsored our dinner.

I have found that lodging is simpler in Sevierville and the shuttles work fine for traveling between shows. As a plus, I get to see the Christmas lights on the way back to Sevierville if I am lucky enough to catch the last shuttle of the day from the Gatlinburg show. I also always register for the shows as early as possible and that really paid off this year, since I won three nights lodging at the Wilderness at the Smokies! Thanks IGES!!!

I have found the more prepared I am prior to the shows the more enjoyable the experience is for me.

Lettie Stickley
Grand Caverns

International Show Caves Association

7th ISCA Congress  While attending the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association (ACKMA) 2013 Conference in Waitomo, New Zealand, over 12-17 May 2013, I had the opportunity to meet with Dan Cove a number of times. As most of you may know, Dan is the Manager of Cave Operations and Assistant General Manager at Jenolan Caves in New South Wales, Australia, the host of the 7th Congress of ISCA, to be held 2nd to 8th November 2014.

Dan has assembled a superb team together to organize what promises to be a cracker of a Congress. This team, headed by himself, comprises Scott Melton, Domino Houlbrook-Cove, and Sandy McFeeters. In addition to this team, stalwart Andy Spate has agreed to chair the panel to deal with the papers submitted to the Congress. Andy is in the process of inviting a few others to join him in dealing with the papers.

I have been privileged to see a draft of the 1st Circular that Dan intends sending out in the near future. As those of you who know Dan will know, you can expect a circular that is innovative and very different!
There is no doubt that our 2014 Congress will be a very special event and one that will be a lifetime experience. Having made several visits to Australasia in recent years I can assure everyone that just planning the travel to down under is tremendous fun all in itself. It is not too early to start this planning.

8th ISCA Congress It may seem strange for this subject to be brought up so far in advance, but a very important thing that we must do in 2014, is to select the venue for our 2018 Congress. It is not too early for those of you, who may be considering hosting a Congress, to start the process.

As a direct challenge to our European members, it is appropriate that I remind everyone, that soon we will have had two of our last three Congresses held outside of Europe!

If you are starting to think about hosting a Congress it is not too early to start the initial planning. If anyone has any questions about hosting a Congress, Renata and/or myself stand ready to field them.

ISCA SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE On 24th June, 2013 the ISCA Board of Directors elected Arrigo Cigna as Chairman, and Friedrich Oedl as a Member, of the Scientific and Technical Committee. I take this opportunity to welcome Arrigo back as Chairman and Friedrich as a Member of this important committee.

GROWTH OF ISCA I am pleased to report that the growth of ISCA continues. Since 28th March 2013 we have had two more caves join ISCA. I welcome Seneca Caverns (Denise Bell) of the United States and Capricorn Caves (Ann Augusteyn) of Australia, to our ranks. The world is becoming more and more complete!

The address given by David Summers, President of ISCA to ACKMA’s Waitomo 2013 Conference in New Zealand 13th May

Mr. President, Conference Convener, Conference Organizers, ACKMA Members and Invitees.

It is a wonderful privilege to not only be able to attend your Conference this year, but to also be able to address you. After a relatively slow start, Australasia has burst onto the international stage of show caves, in a spectacular fashion. It started with the attendance of your genial wanderer, Andy Spate, at the ISCA Conference 2006 in Bermuda. Andy did a wonderful job of telling the attendees, of the wonderful caves that existed in Australasia.

This was followed by the attendance of a veritable gang, comprising Dan Cove, Barry Richard, Kent Henderson and Andy Spate, at the 2010 ISCA Congress in Slovakia. This Australasian crew secured the unanimous support of ISCA to hold the 7th Congress of ISCA at Jenolan Caves in 2014, as well as causing a constant disturbance, I might add! Quite a track record, and well deserved. Australasia followed this up with the attendance of Dan Cove and Gregory Middleton at last years ISCA Conference in Greece and Turkey. Australasia has certainly stamped its presence on the world of show caves in recent years. This is my second cave related visit to Australasia, and I have a third visit scheduled next year. Having originated, and grown up, in the southern hemisphere I can assure you all that it feels really good to be in this half of the world again.

When I read about the Conference Theme of “the triple bottom line” of “people, planet, profit”, I became really excited. I have spent the past six plus years of my presidency of ISCA, stressing the need for full attention to be paid to the visitor, the environment, and for effective economic management of show caves.

The theme of people, planet, profit covers the full scope of what show caves are all about. I commend the author, or authors, of this theme. The down side of this theme is that if I tried to address all three of these components I will be talking to you all day. In these circumstances, I will focus on the third part of profit and a very, very important aspect of that.

There is no doubt that a show cave is a business. Not only is it a business, it must be a successful business. A business that must be continuously successful. A business that may be able to withstand one or two years of not being successful, but not for an extended period of time. Why is it so essential that the business of a show cave be successful? Because of the cave, that is the very basis of the business, that is why.

When most businesses fail, they usually close down their operations, and the place that the business was operated in, is sold, recycled, or otherwise disposed of. These options are not available to a show cave. The cave remains, long after the business that operated it as a show cave has gone, and inevitably it will become vulnerable as the gating eventually fails to remain secure, as well as a whole myriad of other consequences.

Having broadly painted the picture of what will happen if a show cave ceases to function, I will now focus on one aspect of the “profit”, or economic side, of show caves that I have found to be commonly overlooked, or misread, all over the world. That is the seemingly simple matter of inflation.

The scourge of inflation is one of the most common hidden traps lying in waiting for show caves. It is, in all probability, the single most misunderstood financial factor that affects the economic fortunes of a show cave. Even the most seemingly astute operator seems paralysed to the potential ravaging effect that inflation can have on the business of operating a show cave.
Inflation, which is a general increase in prices and the fall in the purchasing value of money, is like a slow cloud enveloping a business, if not properly attended to. One of the most disconcerting aspects of inflation is the degree of any decrease, or the rarely encountered increase, in the purchasing value of money, is not known until after the fact. Annual inflation cannot be calculated for a given year until after the year is over, and the next year is beginning to be well advanced.

The dangers of inflation affects show caves of all sizes. Not just the mega size caves, but the smaller ones as well. Let us have a look at how inflation can affect small and large caves over a five year period, with inflation averaging a seemingly modest three percent per year throughout the five year period.

First let us consider the purchasing value of money at a small cave, with an admission price equivalent to 10 euros (or dollars if you prefer) with an average admission level of 50,000 per year, where the impact of inflation is ignored and the admission price is held at the same rate for the full five year period.

At the end of the first year the value of the gross income is 50,000 x 10 = 500,000.
At the end of the second year the value of the gross income is 50,000 x 9.70 = 485,000.
At the end of the third year the value of the gross income is 50,000 x 9.41 = 470,000.
At the end of the fourth year the value of the gross income is 50,000 x 9.13 = 456,500.
At the end of the fifth year the value of the gross income is 50,000 x 8.86 = 443,000.

In effect the small cave operator, in this example, is receiving 57,000 less than was being received five years previously, in terms of the value of money.

Let us now look at the effect of ignoring the purchasing value of money on a larger show cave operation with an admission price of 15 euros (again dollars if you prefer) held at the same rate, with an average admission level of 200,000 per year, and an inflation rate of three percent for the five year period.

At the end of the first year the value of the gross income is 200,000 x 15 = 3,000,000.
At the end of the second year the value of the gross income is 200,000 x 14.55 = 2,910,000.
At the end of the third year the value of the gross income is 200,000 x 14.11 = 2,822,000.
At the end of the fourth year the value of the gross income is 200,000 x 13.69 = 2,738,000.
At the end of the fifth year the value of the gross income is 200,000 x 13.28 = 2,656,000.

The larger cave operator, in this example is receiving 344,000 less in the fifth year than was being received five years previously, in terms of the value of money.

As the President of ISCA I have visited a lot of show caves around the world, and I can tell you that I have not come across a small cave operator, who would willingly and knowingly, give away 57,000 euros or dollars a year. Or a large cave operator, who would willingly and knowingly, give away 344,000 euros or dollars a year. Note that I said willingly and knowingly. I have come across many who are unknowingly loosing these amounts.

The answer to the scourge of inflation is vigilance and awareness. The show cave operator must be fully aware of the effect that inflation will have. On average I would offer you the notion that if a show cave holds its admission price unchanged for more than two years, it is making a huge problem for itself.

Another important message that I have for you on admission prices is do not be afraid of arriving at fractions of whole numbers. I can recall proposing that the admission price at the Crystal Caves of Bermuda be increased to $17.50. The General Manager, at the time, protested that the price should be $17.00 otherwise we would have to be dealing with a lot of coins. After I pointed out that 80,000 times 50 cents equaled $40,000 a year, there was no further argument.

My final message to you all is that you increase your understanding of the effect that inflation has on your show cave. Stay current with it, and react accordingly. It can be a great friend, or an awesome enemy. Do not let inflation creep up on you.

Thank you.

David Summers
ISCA President

JENOLAN 2014 - The 7th Congress of ISCA
Start Planning Your Trip to Australia – Read Newsletter
Double Click PDF Here
Australia 2014.pdf
New Generation at Crystal Lake Cave, Iowa

Doris Rubel reports that she has officially retired and sold the cave and handed the reigns over to her daughter Julie. “She is doing a wonderful job with it,” says Doris, “Young new ideas along with years of experience are serving her well. I’m so happy the cave is staying in the family. Jim and I bought it 35 years ago... it was a ‘cave in despair!! Remote conditions involved a lot of blood-sweat-tears and major funding to update it to its’ present day state. The cave business truly ‘gets in one’s blood’ doesn’t it? I know it did here.”

“I was sole operator after Jim passed 11 years ago. It was a challenge...and I’m thankful I had a 34 year career doing what I loved. Few individuals are free to say that. So I was blessed, and now, it’s with pride and pleasure I see my daughter applying her knowledge, skills and talent in the cave business. And...our granddaughters are involved too...that’s a big ‘WOW’...I’m proud!!”

Doris is looking forward to seeing her NCA family at convention this fall.

Doris Rubel
Crystal Lake Cave

Gurnee Guide to American Show Caves

Is the Gurnee Guide on your shelves?
If you are running low... don’t forget to re-order!

Orders for the all-color book, "Gurnee Guide to American Show Caves" by Jeanne Gurnee, can be purchased for $10 each from R. H. Gurnee, Publisher, 720 Flat Ridge Road, Goodlettsville, Tennessee 37072. (E-mail: JGurneeNSS@aol.com; phone: (615) 581-0646) Color photo and information about 7

Newest Caver Born!

Congratulations to Kara VanBrunt of Ruby Falls on the birth of a beautiful little girl on July 3rd, Emery Addison VanBrunt. We are happy to report that everybody is doing great.

Did You Receive Your Convention Packet?

All convention registration information packets have been mailed. Please fill out the registration form and send it back to the NCA office at your convenience. This is the time we gather for our annual meeting and family reunion! You don’t want to miss it!
From Deep Down in the Archives… Timeline 1974

Arlington, Texas

Can you Name these Convention Attendees?

Mark Your Calendar!

- NSS Convention 2013, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, August 5 - 9, 2013
- NCA Convention 2013, Host: Bridal Cave, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, October 13 - 18, 2013
- National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS), Carlsbad, New Mexico, November 4 - 8, 2013
- IGES/SSS 2013, Sevierville & Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, November 5 - 9, 2013
- IAAPA 2013, Orlando, Florida, November 18 - 22, 2013
- NCA Mid-Winter Board of Directors Meeting, Renaissance Airport Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri, March 3 - 5, 2014
- International Show Caves Association Congress 2014, Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia, November 2 - 8, 2014
- IGES/SSS 2014, Sevierville & Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, November 4 - 8, 2014
- IAAPA 2014, Orlando, Florida, November 17 - 21, 2014
- NSS Convention 2015, Waynesville, Missouri, August ? 2015
- NCA Convention 2015, (50th Anniversary) Host: Cave of the Mounds, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin, (Dates to be Determined)
- IGES/SSS 2015, Sevierville & Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, November 3 - 7, 2015
- IAAPA 2015, Orlando, Florida, November 16 - 20, 2015

Got News?

Please make sure you let Bob Holt know when you have news to share with the membership regarding you and your cave. It is the goal of the NCA office to produce more issues of Cave Talk and this can only happen when you help with the sharing of your news. Please send your articles, photographs to bob@cavern.com.

September 2013 Cave Talk Deadline

Please have all articles to Bob Holt no later than August 15. Thank you!