



400-1 Cascades Avenue, Carlsbad, NM 88220-6215 USA  
575.887.5518 • 575.887.5523 (fax)  
[info@nckri.org](mailto:info@nckri.org) • [www.nckri.org](http://www.nckri.org)

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### ***NCKRI News and Announcements for 2023-02-23:***

#### **Job, Student, and Researcher Opportunities:**

- **Job Opportunity: Park Naturalist, Mystery Cave State Park, Minnesota, USA**
- **Karst Field Studies 2023 Course Announcement**

#### **Various News:**

- **New Book and Cave Chapter: Human Impacts on Mexican Caves**
- **2023 BCRA Online Seminar**
- **European Cave Protection Commission Invitation for Support**

#### **Conferences and Meetings:**

- **Sinkhole Conference: Detailed Schedule Now Available!**
- **Clay Mineral Society Meeting and Cave Sediments: Texas, USA**
- **28th International Cave Bear Symposium: First Circular and Registration**
- **3rd Balkan Speleological Congress: Bulgaria**
- **List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings**

Please contact the people and organizations listed below for more information, and feel free to share this message with anyone who may be interested.

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#### **Job Opportunity: Park Naturalist, Mystery Cave State Park, Minnesota, USA**

This posting will be used to fill up to 4 positions.

Working Title: Park Naturalist

Job Class: Interpretive Naturalist 1

Job ID: 62694

- Location: \_Forestville/Mystery Cave Stat;Preston
- Full/Part Time: Part-Time
- Regular/Temporary: Seasonal
- Who May Apply: Open to all qualified job seekers
- Date Posted: 01/28/2023
- Closing Date: 02/24/2023
- Hiring Agency/Seniority Unit: Department of Natural Resources

- Division/Unit: DNR Parks & Trails Reg 3 / PAT-R3 Forestville CaveStaff 2
- Work Shift/Work Hours: Rotating Shift
- Days of Work: Varies
- Travel Required: Yes; training and drive between park units
- Salary Range: \$21.43 - \$31.00 / hourly
- Job Class Option: Parks
- Classified Status: Classified
- Bargaining Unit/Union: 218 - Insufficient Work Time
- Work Area: Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park / Preston, MN
- FLSA Status: Nonexempt
- Telework Eligible: No
- Designated in Connect 700 Program for Applicants with Disabilities: Yes

For more information and to apply for the job, visit:

[https://careers.mn.gov/psp/mnjob/MNCAREERS/HRCR/c/HRS\\_HRAM\\_FL.HRS.CG\\_SEARCH\\_FL.GBL?Page=HRS\\_APP\\_JBPST\\_FL&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1001&JobOpeningId=62694&PostingSeq=1](https://careers.mn.gov/psp/mnjob/MNCAREERS/HRCR/c/HRS_HRAM_FL.HRS.CG_SEARCH_FL.GBL?Page=HRS_APP_JBPST_FL&Action=U&FOCUS=Applicant&SiteId=1001&JobOpeningId=62694&PostingSeq=1)

Dawn Ryan  
Mystery Cave Manager

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### **Karst Field Studies 2023 Course Announcement**

Friends, Colleagues, and/or Fellow Karst Enthusiasts,

The time has arrived to formally announce the 2023 Karst Field Studies (KFS) summer program line-up via email! We are so pleased to announce that registration for Summer 2023 is fully OPEN. We are pleased to offer the following KFS courses this summer:

- Karst Hydrogeology, May 7-13, Dr. Chris Groves and Lee Anne Bledsoe
- Exploration of Mammoth Cave, June 11-16, Bruce Hatcher and David Kem
- Cave Survey & Cartography, June 18-23, Dr. Pat Kambesis
- Cave Archaeology, July 16-22, Dr. George Crothers

Reserve your spot in a course by clicking any of the “Register for Courses” buttons on the website or accessing our [RegFox Registration Site](#). You may take courses for graduate, undergraduate, or continuing education credit. Courses may also be taken as non-credit workshops.

Visit [karstfieldstudies.com](http://karstfieldstudies.com) for more information about the program, course descriptions and schedules, registering, instructor bios, and more.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Leslie North at [leslie.north@wku.edu](mailto:leslie.north@wku.edu).

Stay up to date on all the latest KFS news and announcements by following us on social media through Instagram @karstfieldstudies, Twitter @KFSWKU, and/or Facebook @WKUKarstfieldstudies.

Please help us spread the word about the program by forwarding this message and sharing our posts with your colleagues, grotto members, staff, students, friends, and any other parties you feel may be interested in the program courses!

We hope to see you this summer!  
Leslie

Leslie A. North, Ph.D. (she/her/hers)  
Interim Chair, Department of Earth, Environmental, and Atmospheric Sciences  
Director, Karst Field Studies Program at WKU  
Associate Professor of Environmental Studies  
Western Kentucky University

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### **New Book and Cave Chapter: Human Impacts on Mexican Caves**

Springer Publishers have released a new book titled, *Mexican Fauna in the Anthropocene*, which contains 27 chapters and 593 pages. It also contains the chapter, *Human Impacts on Mexican Caves*. The book can be purchased from the Springer website at: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-17277-9>.

If you are only interested in the cave chapter, you can purchase it at: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-17277-9\\_18](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-17277-9_18). The citation and abstract for the chapter are below:

Elliott, W.R., Palacios-Vargas, J.G., Medellín, R.A., Calva, O. (2023). Human Impacts on Mexican Caves. Chap 18, pp 377–414 In: Jones, R.W., Ornelas-García, C.P., Pineda-López, R., Álvarez, F. (eds) *Mexican Fauna in the Anthropocene*. Springer, Cham.

**Abstract:** This chapter examines Mexican caves and their entire fauna. Caves are important in Mexican science, cultural history, and economy, since pre-Columbian times. They provide access to groundwater and support many species, including bats, which are important to ecosystem services and agriculture. Bats control insects, pollinate plants, and spread essential seeds for natural reforestation. Caves and karst are useful natural resources in México, as attested by thousands of scientific papers and books. Mexico has about 800 obligate cave species (troglotic species), invertebrates and cavefishes that are important in scientific research. Some of the cavefishes have become model systems in genetics and biomedical research. México is a major cave and karst country with at least 12,000 known caves, 4,000 of which have been mapped. Sistema Huautla, Oaxaca, is the deepest vertical cave in the Americas, and there are many world-class, long, submerged cave systems in Quintana Roo. We report on 64 caves (including 3 mines), 28 of which were impacted by humans through vandalism, trash, sewage, mining, or bat disturbance; two were gutted of life. We assigned a "risk factor" to each cave, which means the likelihood of losing more species in the cave because of human activity; 1 is a natural cave, 2 had minor degradation, 3-4 are increasing levels of damage, 5 is severely impacted, and "gutted" caves now lack life. Risk was based on several factors: known loss of species, reduced bat populations, loss of habitat, level of human visitation, degree of human alteration, and vandalism. High risk factors should be prioritized for conservation actions. Most documented impacts involved bats. Groundwater pollution is a concern in karst, especially in the Yucatán Peninsula. Many caves have been damaged, but partial restoration of some has begun. Specific recommendations are made for the study, protection, and restricted use of caves.

**Resumen:** Este capítulo examina las cuevas mexicanas y toda su fauna. Las cuevas son importantes en la ciencia, la historia cultural y la economía de México desde la época precolombina. Proporcionan acceso a las aguas subterráneas y sustentan a muchas especies, incluidos los murciélagos, que son importantes para los servicios ecosistémicos y la agricultura. Los murciélagos controlan insectos, polinizan plantas y propagan semillas esenciales para la reforestación natural. Las cuevas y el karst son recursos naturales útiles en México, como lo atestiguan miles de artículos y libros. México tiene alrededor de 800 especies cavernícolas obligadas (especies troglóticas), invertebrados y peces cavernícolas que son importantes en la investigación científica. Algunos de los peces de las cavernas se han convertido en sistemas modelo en genética e investigación biomédica. México es un importante país de cuevas y karst con al menos 12000 cuevas conocidas, 4000 de las cuales han sido mapeadas. El Sistema Huautla, Oaxaca, es la cueva vertical más profunda de

América, y hay muchos sistemas de cuevas sumergidas largas y de clase mundial en Quintana Roo. Presentamos información sobre 64 cuevas (incluidas 3 minas), 28 de las cuales fueron impactadas por humanos a través de vandalismo, basura, aguas residuales, minería o disturbios por murciélagos; dos han sido totalmente desprovistas de la vida. Asignamos un "factor de riesgo" a cada cueva, lo que significa la probabilidad de perder más especies en la cueva debido a la actividad humana; 1 es una cueva natural, 2 tuvo una degradación menor, 3-4 están aumentando los niveles de daño, 5 está severamente impactada y las cuevas "destripadas" ahora carecen de vida. El riesgo se basó en varios factores: pérdida conocida de especies, poblaciones reducidas de murciélagos, pérdida de hábitat, nivel de visitas humanas, grado de alteración humana y vandalismo. Los factores de alto riesgo deben priorizarse para las acciones de conservación. La mayoría de los impactos documentados involucraron murciélagos. La contaminación de las aguas subterráneas es un problema en áreas cársticas, especialmente en la Península de Yucatán. Muchas cuevas han resultado dañadas, pero se ha iniciado la restauración parcial de algunas. Se hacen recomendaciones específicas para el estudio, protección y el controlado limitado de las cuevas.

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### **European Cave Protection Commission Invitation for Support**

The team of the European Cave Protection Commission is inviting every caver with cave and karst protection and conservation ambitions, to join the commission to help pushing forward the cave and karst protection goals of the European Speleological Federation (FSE) in Europe. The new commission will start its work after the FSE GAM in May this year and the duration of the mandate is 4 years, from 2023-2027.

The call may be found here in English here:

[https://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Board-Members\\_2023-2027\\_Call-out\\_02\\_en.pdf](https://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Board-Members_2023-2027_Call-out_02_en.pdf)

and also in French here:

[https://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Board-Members\\_2023-2027\\_Call-out\\_02\\_fr.pdf](https://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Board-Members_2023-2027_Call-out_02_fr.pdf)

In case of further questions, we invite you to get in contact with the commission at the address: [protection@eurospeleo.eu](mailto:protection@eurospeleo.eu)

Best regards,

Jean-Claude Thies

ECPC President  
European Cave Protection Commission  
Fédération Spéléologique Européenne asbl.  
B.P. 3067  
L-1030 Luxembourg  
[www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC](http://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC)

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### **EuroSpeleo Newsletter, February 2023**

It is with great pleasure that the European Speleological Federation (FSE) publishes the first EuroSpeleo Newsletter in the year 2023. This Newsletter is exclusively available in electronic form and distributed through the FSE mailing lists, website, and Facebook page. It is edited by the FSE Bureau and informs member countries and individual speleologists about important events nationally and internationally as well as new developments and the initiatives of the FSE and its member countries. This Newsletter will be released on an occasional basis.

You can download the English version of the February 2023 Newsletter here:  
[https://www.eurospeleo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Newsletter\\_2023\\_02\\_EN.pdf](https://www.eurospeleo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Newsletter_2023_02_EN.pdf)

Vous pouvez télécharger la version Française du Bulletin d'Information de février ici:  
[https://www.eurospeleo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Newsletter\\_2023\\_02\\_FR.pdf](https://www.eurospeleo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Newsletter_2023_02_FR.pdf)

With cordial regards,  
The FSE Bureau, February 2023

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### **Sinkhole Conference: Detailed Schedule Now Available!**

The full schedule for the *Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst* (usually referred to as "the Sinkhole Conference") is now posted. Go to [www.sinkholeconference.com](http://www.sinkholeconference.com), and select it from the dropdown menu of the Program tab at the top. You'll find a

rich array of presentations from leading engineers and scientists from six countries, plus many chances to visit with them to exchange ideas and build relationships.

This conference is the longest-running international conference of its type. Since 1984, engineers, geologists, hydrologists, land managers, biologists, and many others have gathered at these meetings to exchange cutting-edge information on karst and its many benefits and challenges.

The 17th Sinkhole Conference will be held at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida March 27-31, 2023. NCKRI has arranged reduced prices for lodging at two nearby hotels, but those prices increase on 24 February at one and 1 March at the other. To reserve your rooms before prices go up, go to [http://sinkholeconference.com/sites/sinkholeconference.com/files/2023-01/Lodging%20at%2017th%20Sinkhole%20Conference\\_2023%2001%20January%2008.pdf](http://sinkholeconference.com/sites/sinkholeconference.com/files/2023-01/Lodging%20at%2017th%20Sinkhole%20Conference_2023%2001%20January%2008.pdf).

To register for the conference and for more information, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>.

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### **Clay Mineral Society Meeting and Cave Sediments: Texas, USA**

The Clay Minerals Society (CMS) is an international organization devoted to the study of clays and clay minerals. CMS hosts annual meetings bringing clay scientist across a multitude of disciplines together to exchange research findings and build a collaborative atmosphere. NCKRI is sponsoring its upcoming conference with a cave sediments field into Inner Space Cavern and to several surface karst features.

The 60th Annual CMS Meeting will take place in Austin, Texas, USA from May 20-25, 2023. It will include many sessions plus four keynote/award presentations and other activities. Abstracts are due by 6 March 2023. To register and for more information, visit <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>.

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### **28th International Cave Bear Symposium: First Circular and Registration**

Dear Cave Bear Friends,

Time flies fast and next year is already upon us. We are already in the middle of preparations for the next Cave Bear Symposium, which will take place in on 21-24 September 2023 in Bayreuth, Germany. More precisely, at the Umwelt-Museum Oberfranken, a regional museum for natural history and mineralogy. We can expect exciting excursions into caves in the surrounding area.

To receive a copy of the first circular and to register, contact:  
[nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at](mailto:nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at)

We look forward to your coming,

The Organizing Committee

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### **3rd Balkan Speleological Congress: Bulgaria**

Dear Colleagues and Friends in Caving and Speleology!

It is a great honor to invite you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Balkan Speleological Conference in Sofia, Bulgaria on 19-22 October 2023. The year 2023 will also commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Balkan Speleological Union.

This important speleological meeting will be organized by the Bulgarian Caving Society and hosted by the National Museum "Earth and Man," under the patronage of the Balkan Speleological Union and European Federation of Speleology.

The conference will be a wonderful opportunity to gather together all Balkan cavers and speleologists, who are interested, involved and experienced in all the aspects of caving and speleological research. The program will ensure the participation of the relevant and experienced speakers in different fields of speleology.

For more information: [contact@bgcave.org](mailto:contact@bgcave.org) or [azhalov@gmail.com](mailto:azhalov@gmail.com).

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## List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings

If you are interested in any of the following events, contact the following websites or organizers directly for more information.

- 1) United Nations 2023 Water Conference, 22-24 March 2023 (New York City, New York, USA), <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>
- 2) 17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 3) 10<sup>th</sup> Speleological Symposium, 27-31 March 2023 (Montería, Córdoba, Colombia), <https://aczcolombia.org/vi-congreso/>
- 4) 4<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference, 4-7 May 2023 (Haria Municipality, Lanzarote, Spain), <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>
- 5) Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip, 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 6) Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Biennial Conference, 21-26 May 2023 (Nelson, New Zealand), <http://ackma.org/conf2023/index.html>
- 7) 14<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 8) National Speleological Society Convention, 26-30 June 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA), <https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/>
- 9) 37<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 26-29 July 2023 (Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil), <https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/>
- 10) Summer School on Speleothem Science, 6-13 August 2023 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023>
- 11) 5<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Cavers in the Moravian Karst: Karst, Caves, And People 2023, 20-24 September 2023, (Sloup, Moravian Karst, Czech Republic), [www.speleo.cz/karst2023](http://www.speleo.cz/karst2023).
- 12) Geological Society of America Convention, 15-18 October (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home>
- 13) 3<sup>rd</sup> Balkan Speleological Congress, 19-22 October 2023 (Sofia, Bulgaria), [contact@bgcave.org](mailto:contact@bgcave.org)
- 14) 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Enhancement of Natural Heritage, 2-5 November 2023 (Rabat, Morocco), <https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>

- 15) Cave Research Foundation Annual Meeting, 3-4 November 2023, (National Cave and Karst Research Institute, Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA), <https://www.cave-research.org/index.html>
- 16) 9<sup>th</sup> US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop, 22-24 October 2024 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), <http://www.usgs.gov/kig-workshop>
- 17) 19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology, 20-27 July 2025 (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil), for preliminary information see volume 63-1 of the UIS Bulletin at <http://uis-speleo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/uisb631.pdf>