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NCKRI News and Announcements for 2021-10-30:

The International Year of Caves and Karst: Building on the Celebration at UNESCO

New NCKRI Website and Publications!

Student and Job Opportunities:

- **Undergraduate Cave and Karst Experience: [Virginia, USA](#)**
- **Job Opportunity: [Field Cave and Karst Scientist, Virginia, USA](#)**

Various News:

- **Podcast: [The Undiscovered Cave](#)**
- **New Major Book on [Evaporite Karst](#)**
- **[EuroSpeleo Newsletter, October 2021](#)**

Conferences and Meetings

- **[International Congress of Speleology: Accepting More Papers](#)**
- **[IV National Days of Speleology, Virtual Edition: Argentina](#)**
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Please contact the people and organizations listed below for more information, and feel free to share this message with anyone who may be interested.

The International Year of Caves and Karst: Building on the Celebration at UNESCO

The International Year of Caves and Karst is organized by the International Union of Speleology (UIS) to celebrate caves and karst internationally and teach the world about their importance. Following our special celebration at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris last month, we now need to build on that momentum and expand our influence and gain measurable and meaningful results.

The UIS is planning its next steps and will seek your continued support when those are defined. For now, we ask you use the UNESCO event to demonstrate the

importance of caves and karst in your areas. Tell possible partners and local governments in your area that UNESCO, this international body of global governmental leaders on education, science and culture, has recognized and celebrated the International Year. Since UNESCO sees the International Year as important, they should too!

Please continue to organize events and join the International Year as partner organizations. Promote the successful UNESCO celebration to show the importance of your celebration and to get more people involved. Remember to announce your events on <http://iyck2021.org/index.php/events/> and then it is especially important to post the results on the International Year website at <http://iyck2021.org/index.php/event-results/>. Send your announcements and results to the e-mail address at the top of those website pages.

To watch the celebration and all International Year videos, go to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzSiErLj5x6viNbvAdehDvA>. For more information about the International Year, visit the website (www.iyck2021.org). Also like us at the UIS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/uisspeleo>), UIS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/uisspeleo>), and/or the UIS Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/uisspeleo/>).

We welcome your organization to join our 253 International Year partners (<http://iyck2021.org/index.php/partners/>) and to announce your International Year events and activities at <http://iyck2021.org/index.php/events/>.

George Veni
President, International Union of Speleology
Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

New NCKRI Website and Publications!

NCKRI has completely revised its website! The address is still the same, www.nckri.org, but the look, navigation, and content are completely new or updated and improved.

Meet our staff under the About tab. The website is now a go-to source for general information for the public on caves and karst, as well as information on our research, academic, and educational programs. Under the Publications tab you'll find all our reports are available for free download. New reports include:

- 2020-2021 Annual Report, which summaries our activities during that fiscal year.
- Field Guide 1: A Cross Section of Central Texas: Show Caves, Preserves and Private Property. This guidebook for a field trip we will lead next week at the *National Cave and Karst Management Symposium* (see list of conferences below) is the first of new publication series.
- Report of Investigation 10: Statistical Analysis and Revision of Endangered Karst Species Distribution, Austin Area, Texas. This study developed a new method for mapping and predicting the distribution of troglobite species in karst areas.
- Report of Investigation 11: Phase 1 Dye Tracing of a Conglomerate Karst Aquifer, Black River Basin, Eddy County, New Mexico. Conglomerate karst has seen little study and this report is on one of few dye traces in such areas.

More information and improvements will continue. We hope you will bookmark www.nckri.org as one of your sources for cave and karst information.

Undergraduate Cave and Karst Experience: Virginia, USA

James Madison University, Virginia, USA, is offering a 10-week summer research program for students interested in caves and karst, extending from 22 May to 30 July 2022. The program offers individual mentoring in laboratory and field settings, seminars, workshops, on-campus housing, and a \$600/week stipend and \$100/week food allowance. Applications are due by 15 January 2022. For details, see <https://www.jmu.edu/geology/UROCKS/>.

The program is called U-ROCKS (Undergraduate Research Opportunities in Cave and Karst Science), not to be confused with NCKRI's undergraduate research grant program, UROCK (Undergraduate Research On Caves and Karst) for students at New Mexico Tech. No matter what they are called, any program that supports students definitely rocks!

Job Opportunity: Field Cave and Karst Scientist, Virginia, USA

Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation's, Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) seeks a qualified individual to join our Inventory team, a collaborative group of botanists, zoologists, karst scientists, and vegetation

ecologists with the programmatic mission of cataloging the plants, animals, unique geological features, and native ecosystems of Virginia, assessing their status and condition, and prioritizing their conservation needs. This statewide inventory is the foundation of the Natural Heritage Program, providing the basis for analyses and data products used to set land and biodiversity conservation priorities in Virginia.

The Cave and Karst Field Scientist for DCR-DNH is based out of Blacksburg, Virginia, USA, but the position has statewide responsibilities, mainly in western Virginia. There will be ample opportunity to conduct cave and karst related field work, focusing on biological inventory, monitoring, and habitat characterization. Inventories focus on finding new occurrences (locations) and updating information on known occurrences of rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) fauna and natural communities tracked by the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, and caves designated as Significant under the Virginia Cave Protection Act. Duties include accurately mapping extents of occurrences, and assessing the condition of and threats to them. Cave and karst associated fauna consists largely of troglobitic invertebrates, epigean invertebrates associated with springs, and troglomorphic vertebrate fauna (e.g. bats, woodrats, salamanders). Field work, data and specimen processing, and report writing all occur year-round.

The hiring range is \$45,000-\$55,000 and all applications must be received by 4 November 2021. For more information, visit <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/jobs?j=2021-10-14-12-45-48-215799-21t>.

Podcast: The Undiscovered Cave

The US National Park Service celebrates National Fossil Day with this this podcast: "Explorers in a remote area of Grand Canyon National Park discovered a cave they believe human beings had never entered before. Inside this maze of limestone passageways, researchers found thousands of fossils that could change our understanding of one of the country's quirkiest animals — bats!"

Listen at <https://thesecretlivesofparks.org/episodes/the-undiscovered-cave>. For more National Fossil Day events and activities, visit:

- NPS Dinosaur Website <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossils/dinosaurs.htm>
- New TUSK website <https://www.nps.gov/articles/series.htm?id=68595afd-c603-4309-b3cd9bc938cc0303>

- NNL Prehistoric Life coloring book <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/nnl-prehistoric-life-coloring-pages.htm>
- Fall 2021 Issue of Park Paleontology Newsletter <https://www.nps.gov/articles/series.htm?id=cd893667-d9cc-8c4a-2a7729a7a2a2c937>
- Dinosaur coloring book <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossils/dinosaurs-coloring-pages.htm>
- NPS Fossil Footprints Storymap <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b2a8ca28ae1a46789752440de90b83fe>
- White Sands fossil footprints https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/whsa_fossil.htm
- Junior Paleontologist <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fossils/junior-paleontologist.htm>

New Major Book on Evaporite Karst

Dear Colleague in Karst,

Below please find a link to the website for a new Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) publication: OGS Circular 113, "Evaporite Karst in the Greater Permian Evaporite Basin (GPEB) of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Colorado."

Evaporites underlie a vast region of southwestern United States that is herein named the Greater Permian Evaporite Basin, and both natural and human-induced evaporite-karst features are present in much of the region. The publication is released on-line only, and it is free.

Circular 113

link: https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/ogs/documents/circulars/OGS_C113.pdf

Additionally, one can go to <https://www.ou.edu/ogs/>, open "Publications," then open "Circulars," then open "View Circulars by Year," and finally open "2010-present Circulars."

Please feel free to call this to the attention of other colleagues and co-workers that may have an interest in karst.

Ken Johnson

Retired Geologist, OGS

EuroSpeleo Newsletter, October 2021

It is with great pleasure that the European Speleological Federation (FSE) publishes the next EuroSpeleo Newsletter in year 2021. This Newsletter is exclusively available in electronic form and is 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 is released on an occasional basis.

You can download the English version of the October 2021 Newsletter here:

<https://www.eurospeleo.eu/images/stories/docs/europeleo-news/Newsletter%20October%202021%20English.pdf>

Vous pouvez télécharger la version Française du Bulletin d'Information de octobre 2021 ici:

<https://www.eurospeleo.eu/images/stories/docs/europeleo-news/Newsletter%20Octobre%202021%20Francais.pdf>

With cordial regards,
The FSE Bureau

The International Congress of Speleology: Accepting More Papers

The 18th International Congress of Speleology has been delayed by COVID to 24-31 July 2022 in Savoie Mont Blanc, France. Due to the delay, more papers can be accepted, or existing papers upgraded, through the end of November 2021. The details follow below.

The Congress Organizing Committee met recently, and more news and announcements are expected soon. To stay up-to-date on the congress, visit <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

The conference papers are organized under what is called the "Scientific Conference" although it actually covers 20 topics on cave exploration,

techniques, history, etc., as well as the sciences. The editorial committees are continuing their work to make the Scientific Conference a great success.

Before the end of 2021, the finalized texts submitted by the authors registered for the Congress before July 1st 2021 will be pre-published online.

From October 1st to November 30th 2021, a new call for papers is open.

From October 1st to November 30th 2021 (strict dates), papers that were at the abstract stage may be upgraded to a full text of 4 pages according to the template available on Science conf.

From October 1st to November 30th 2021 (strict dates), it is also possible to update your texts if you feel it is necessary. It is imperative to contact the managers of the concerned symposium.

For all the details, visit <https://uis2021.sciencesconf.org/>

IV National Days of Speleology, Virtual Edition: Argentina

The 4th National Speleology Days scheduled for 2020 had to be postponed to 26-27 November 2021 as a result of the pandemic caused by COVID 19. Argentine speleologists, like our entire society, have been going through a period of restrictions since March 2020 to mobilize and meet. Even today, in a more controlled framework, restrictions persist, and it is difficult to predict what the epidemiological situation will be several months in advance. That is why the direction of the Argentine Union of Speleology (UAE) resolved to develop this event virtually, focusing on the exchange of the experiences of the different federated groups to transit the pandemic, their work and projects in this situation, and the commitment of the Argentine cavers with caving, dissemination and conservation, in this International Year of Caves and Karst promoted by the International Union of Speleology (UIS). We also have the support of the Speleological Federation of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEALC). We hope to continue the path of institutional consolidation of our groups, in a democratic framework of reflection, debate, and consensus, aimed at guiding policies for the growth of Argentine Speleology. The Argentine Union of Speleology Federation invites speleologists to work from our reality and spirit of solidarity for a better future for our planet.

Friday, November 26, 2021 preliminary program:

- 19:00 hs - Reception and words of welcome.
- 19:05 hs - Opening ceremony by the UAE authorities.
- 19:20 hs - Presentations.
- 20:00 hs - Panel 1: Argentine caving and the COVID 19 pandemic. New challenges for a changing world.
- 21:00 hs - Closing first day.

Saturday, November 27, 2021 preliminary program:

- 17:00 hs- Start of Second Day.
- 17:05 hs - Presentations.
- 20:00 hs - Panel 2: Argentine caving in the International Year of caves and carso. Commitments and strategies for environmental sustainability.
- 21:00 hs - Closing of the Conference.

To register use the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eUJsQafgEJPTXoQ9nhBcvOfpTS9mbfPCE8_04ozr8/edit?ts=6148b8b4%C2%B4. For more information: espeleoar@gmail.com and www.espeleoar.blogspot.com.

List of Upcoming Cave and Karst Meetings

If you are interested in any of the following events, contact the organizers directly to learn if they are still planned as announced below.

- 1) 23rd National Cave and Karst Management Symposium, 1-5 November 2021 (San Marcos, Texas, USA), <https://symposium2021.nckms.org/>
- 2) XV Mexican National Congress of Speleology, 29 October to 2 November 2021 (Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico), <https://umae.org/congreso2021/>.
- 3) European Cave Rescue Association Meeting, 11-14 November 2021, pre-meeting 10-11 November 2021, (Ramales de la Victoria, Alto Asón, Cantabria, Spain), <https://caverescue.eu/european-cave-rescue-meeting-2021-second-circular/>
- 4) Conference of the Arabian Journal of Geosciences, Cave and Karst Session, 25-28 November 2021 (Istanbul, Turkey), <https://www.caig.org/>
- 5) 4th National Speleology Days, 26-27 November 2021, (virtual meeting, Argentina), <http://espeleoar.blogspot.com/>.
- 6) Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference, postponed to 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>

- 7) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, postponed to Spring 2022,
<https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 8) Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference, 7-9 April 2022 (Socorro, New Mexico, USA), <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/FtStanton/home.cfm>
- 9) 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 3-6 June 2022 (Brasilia, Brazil),
<http://36cbe.org.br/>
- 10) EuroKarst 2022: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-25 June 2022 (Málaga, Spain),
<http://www.eurokarst.org/>
- 11) 25th International Conference on Subterranean Biology, 18-22 July 2022 (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), <https://www.25icsb.com/>.
- 12) 18th International Congress of Speleology, 24-31 July 2022 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>
- 13) 19th International Congress of Speleology, 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>