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### ***NCKRI News and Announcements for 2022-05-06:***

#### **The International Year of Caves and Karst: Send Your Videos!**

##### **Various News:**

- **New Book: The Caves of Bihor Mountains, Romania**
- **Research Project Needs Sediment Samples**
- **International Show Caves Association: Newest Newsletter Now Available**
- **Habe Prize for Karst and Cave Protection Accepting Applications**

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

- **17<sup>th</sup> Sinkhole Conference: Call for Abstracts!**
- **International Show Caves Association and US National Caves Association Congress: USA**
- **20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology: Vietnam**
- **Clay Minerals Society 2023 Conference: Karst Trip and Session, USA**
- **Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts—Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst: Serbia**
- **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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#### **The International Year of Caves and Karst: Send Your Videos!**

The second year of the International Year of Caves and Karst continues to grow with new partner organizations and events. The main event will be the International Congress of Speleology in beautiful southeastern France, on 24-31 July 2022. For information about the Congress, visit <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

One of the events being planned for the congress needs your help. Please send videos that are about 30 seconds to 1-2 minutes long of the most exciting, interesting, important, or “crazy” activities from your International Year events.

We want to show what we have accomplished, and that we had fun doing it too. Please contact me at [gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org) and I will send you instructions on where to send them. We will need your videos no later than 1 June 2022.

For more information about the International Year and its many events and activities, visit the website ([www.iyck2021.org](http://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/>).

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

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### **New Book: The Caves of Bihor Mountains, Romania**

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to inform you that the volume, *The Caves of Bihor Mountains, Romania*, is ready to be written and will be printed this month. The volume has 260 pages in large format, A4 vertical, full color, hard covered, with 115 maps, 266 photos. The book presents 87 important caves from the Bihor Mountains with data on their physical values, research history, descriptions, hydrogeology, geology, geomorphology, genesis, location, paleontology, climatology, separate bibliographies for each cave, etc. The book also publishes 20 detailed area maps with the geology, geomorphology and hydrogeology of the area.

The Bihor Mountains are not only the most important karst area in Romania, but also one of the most interesting in Europe, with 43 caves longer than 1 km (of which three are over 20 km). The text is in Romanian. All maps of caves and areas have the text in English, as well as the Foreword, written by Dr. George Veni, President of the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

For those who are interested in buying a copy of the book, the bank account and PayPal accounts are:

Bank account:  
Alexander Liviu Valenas  
Postbank Nürnberg – D  
IBAN: DE69100100100600674138

BIC: PBNKDEFF

PayPal account

[maliwan.valenas@gmail.com](mailto:maliwan.valenas@gmail.com)

The price of one copy will be 59.90 Euros, which will correspond to the printing costs. Shipping is 9 Euros. For questions or more information, contact:

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Facebook: Liviu Valenas

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### **Research Project Needs Sediment Samples**

The diversity of microbes in caves is poorly understood. Amongst the interesting groups of microbes in caves are the archaea, which produce distinctive membrane lipids that have only recently been studied in depth. Empirical evidence suggests that in some environments, certain groups of these organisms may alter their membrane lipids as an adaptation to environmental conditions (e.g., pH, temperature). Our preliminary data suggests this may be true of some types of archaea living in cave sediments. To better understand these relationships, we are interested in generating preliminary data on archaeal lipid composition in cave sediments from a variety of different conditions, and are looking for community members who might be able to help us by collecting small samples for our pilot study. Depending on our results, we hope to use these findings as the basis for a more extensive future project.

We seek sediment samples from caves spanning a wide variety of temperatures and sediment types. Samples should be from sites away from the cave entrance, where the temperature is stable. Samples can be collected in a quart size Ziploc bag. Given that we seek to collect modern microbes, samples should be taken from shallow depths (max 1-2") and in undisturbed locations. Samples can be collected with a soap and water washed trowel. We anticipate microbial growth to be relatively slow so samples do not have to be stored in any particular manner but should be frozen or mailed soon after sampling.

For more information, contact Dr. Tim Shanahan, The University of Texas at Austin, USA, at [tshanahan@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:tshanahan@jsg.utexas.edu).

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### **International Show Caves Association: Newest Newsletter Now Available**

Dear friends,

Our latest newsletter is now available at <https://www.i-s-c-a.org/clanok/270-isca-newsletter-may-june-2022>. Make sure you do not miss it!

And don't forget to register for the ISCA-NCA Congress! (See below.)

Thanks to everyone who collaborated!

Yours,

*Juanjo Tíscar Moya*  
ISCA Editor

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### **Habe Prize for Karst and Cave Protection Accepting Applications**

The France HABE Prize is open to all project leaders concerning the protection of karst and caves. It is awarded by the Karst and Cave Protection Commission of the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

The deadline for submitting projects is June 10, 2022. The prize will be awarded this year at the 18th International Congress of Speleology in Chambéry, 24-31 July 2022.

All information about this award is here: <http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/karst-and-cave-protection-commission/>

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns  
UIS Karst and Cave Protection Commission – President

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## 17<sup>th</sup> Sinkhole Conference: Call for Abstracts!

Abstracts are solicited for the 17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst (usually referred to as “the Sinkhole Conference”), which will be held at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida March 27-31, 2023. The conference will be hosted by the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, an affiliate of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology.

The deadline for abstract acceptance is July 1, 2022. Each abstract must be written in English and should be a concise summary of results, limited to 300 words, and the contents should not have been published previously. Abstracts should include the names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses of each author and co-author (one per affiliation).

The *Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst* 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.

Topics often covered by the conference, and which may be selected for your abstract include:

### Karst development & mapping

- The formation of karst and sinkholes
- Applications of geophysics for investigating karst
- New geotechnical investigation techniques for karst
- GIS mapping and computer databases of karst features
- Karst imaging

### Proactive and remedial engineering in karst terrain

- Foundation design and construction, shallow or deep
- Dams and impoundments
- Engineering human infrastructure in karst
- Sinkhole mitigation and repair
- Grouting techniques

### Karst water resource management

- Hydrology and water resource management of karstic aquifers
- Groundwater tracing
- Storm water & waste water management

- Contaminant monitoring and remediation in karst
- Modeling groundwater flow in karst
- Planning and regulation

General information about the conference and more details on abstract submission is available at <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>. Additional conference news and updates will be added soon to the website.

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### **International Show Caves Association and US National Caves Association Congress: USA**

Join us in beautiful and historic San Antonio, Texas, USA, for the International Show Caves Association and National Caves Association Congress from 21 September to 1 October 2022.

As we exit the worst of the global pandemic it's more important than ever for us to gather and share our expertise with one another. We, as stewards of some of the world's most incredible caves, must share knowledge with one another of how to increase the flow of guests, improve operations, or begin our return to welcoming visitors.

The Congress agenda is absolutely packed with opportunities to learn, network, and plan. From a pre-Congress field trip to the region's most incredible caves, to presentations from internationally renowned experts in strategic planning, to some good old fashion honky tonk fun, and ending with a fabulous post-Congress trip, this year's Congress promises to be filled with valuable and insightful ideas, unique experiences, and chances to connect with industry leaders from around the world.

Registration and the website are now open with all the details at <https://caves.swoogo.com/congress22>. Make sure to register by 15 July 2022 to get the discounted registration rate!

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### **20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology: Vietnam**

The 20<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (20<sup>th</sup> ISV) will be held in Vietnam from Tuesday 22 November to Saturday 26 November 2022, with airport pickups and registration on Monday 21 November.

The ISV will be convened in close proximity to the Dak Nong UNESCO Global Geopark in Dak Nong Province. Dak Nong is located in south-central Vietnam, about 250km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City.

The symposium will be organized jointly by the Dak Nong Provincial People's Committee, the Vietnam Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources and the Vietnam National Museum of Nature.

Presentations and work sessions will be convened at the Lodge Resort Hotel in Gia Nghia City. These sessions will be followed by a 2-day excursion visit to the Dak Nong Global Geopark and its volcanic caves.

The theme of the Symposium will be: *Conservation and sustainable use of volcanoes and volcanic caves.*

More detailed information is available on the 20<sup>th</sup> ISV Website:  
<https://20isvdaknong.com/>.

You can now pre-register on the Website to receive information updates. Preregistration will also give you priority to attend to the ISV in the event that registration requests exceed the capacity of local facilities.

Full registration via the 20<sup>th</sup> ISV Website will become available in July 2022. The registration fee will be about \$US350 and will include

- 20<sup>th</sup> ISV booklet
- Transport from and to the airport
- Welcome Party
- Accommodation during the excursion trip
- Lunches for 5 days, including bagged lunches on the two excursion days
- Bagged lunches on the excursion days
- Gala Banquet
- Farewell Party
- Cave rescue insurance
- Proceedings of the Symposium (book or USB key)

A lower rate is available for accompanying members and a special rate of \$US50 is available for students to attend the presentation and work sessions.

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## **Clay Minerals Society 2023 Conference: Karst Trip and Session, USA**

The Clay Minerals Society is an international organization devoted to the study of clays and clay minerals. It hosts annual meetings bringing clay scientist across a multitude of disciplines together to exchange research findings and build a collaborative atmosphere.

The 60th Annual Meeting will take place in Austin, Texas, USA, from May 20-25, 2023. We will have over 30 sessions, including one on cave sediments, with four keynote/award presentations. This event will take place at the UT-Austin, J.J. Pickle Research Campus, University Commons Center.

A short course will cover chlorite geology, geochemistry, and mineralogy. Researchers at the University of Texas (UT)-Austin Jackson School of Geosciences and the Bureau of Economic Geology (BEG) are organizing and hosting this event. Discussions will be linked to examples from the BEG Austin Core Research Center.

Field trips will focus on the clay mineralogy and geology of cave complexes in the Edwards Limestone near Austin. Researchers from National Cave & Karst Research Institute and UT-Austin Jackson School of Geosciences are organizing this event.

For more information, visit: <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>

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## **Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts—Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst: Serbia**

The multidisciplinary conference *Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst* will be held on 21-22 October 2022 in Belgrade, Serbia. The plenary lectures and oral presentations will take place at the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SANU), Kneza Mihaila St. 35, Belgrade, Serbia.

The aim of this multidisciplinary conference is to present and promote results of various disciplines of karst research on the occasion of the International Year of Caves and Karst established by the International Union of Speleology and supported by UNESCO. The conference will provide space for both working



professionals and the academic students, to present results of their challenging work in the karst environments.

The three thematic groups of the Conference:

1. Research, utilization and protection of geodiversity and water resources in karst (*session dedicated to memory of prof. Borivoje Mijatović*)

2. Karst geomorphology and speleological research (*session dedicated to memory of prof. Dušan Gavrilović*)

3. Biospeleology, speleoarcheology, natural heritage and conservation (*session dedicated to memory of prof. Božidar Ćurčić*)

Attendance is FREE and abstracts are accepted until 5 September 2022. For more information, visit: <http://www.karst.edu.rs/en/index.html>.

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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) Astrobiology Science Conference, 15-20 May 2022 (Atlanta, Georgia, USA), <https://www.agu.org/AbSciCon>
- 2) International Conference on Groundwater, Key to the Sustainable Development Goals, 18-22 May 2022 (Sorbonne University, Paris, France), <http://www.gw-sdg2022.fr/index.php/en/>
- 3) 2022 White-Nose Syndrome National Meeting, 6-9 June 2022 (Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA), for information: [meg@delaneymeetingevent.com](mailto:meg@delaneymeetingevent.com)
- 4) 29<sup>th</sup> International Karstological School "Classical Karst": Speleology, 13-17 June 2022 (Postojna, Slovenia), <http://iks.zrc-sazu.si>
- 5) National Speleological Society Convention, 13-17 June 2022 (Rapid City, South Dakota, USA), <https://www.nss2022.caves.org/>
- 6) EuroKarst 2022: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs, 22-25 June 2022 (Málaga, Spain), <http://www.eurokarst.org/>
- 7) Climate Change, The Karst Record IX (KR9), 17-20 July 2022 (Innsbruck, Austria), <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>
- 8) 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Subterranean Biology, 18-22 July 2022 (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), <https://www.25icsb.com/>.

- 9) 18th International Congress of Speleology, 24-31 July 2022 (Savoie Technolac, Le Bourget du Lac, Savoie, France), <http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>
- 10) 27th International Cave Bear Symposium, 1-4 September 2022 (Golling an der Salzach, Salzburg, Austria), <https://www.museumgolling.at/forschung/icbs2022/>
- 11) Man and Karst Conference, 12-17 September 2022 (Sicily, Italy), <https://cirs-ragusa.org/blog/man-and-karst-2022/>
- 12) International Show Caves Association and US National Caves Association Congress, 21 September to 1 October 2022 (San Antonio, Texas, USA), <https://caves.swoogo.com/congress22>
- 13) 15th European Cave Rescue Meeting, 29 September – 2 October 2022 (Rudice/Moravian Karst, Czech Republic), <https://caverescue.eu/tag/15th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/>
- 14) Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst, 21-22 October 2022 (Belgrade, Serbia), <http://www.karst.edu.rs/en/index.html>.
- 15) 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 22-26 November 2022 (Dak Nong Province, Vietnam), <https://20isvdaknong.com/>
- 16) 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 17) Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip and Session, 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 18) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 19) 19th 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>