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### ***NCKRI News and Announcements for 2022-12-14:***

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- **National Speleological Society 2023 Convention: Call for Geology and Geography Abstracts**
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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.

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#### **International Year of Caves and Karst: Planning for the New Year!**

There must be something about UNESCO that attracts large round numbers. When I was last there in September 2021 to celebrate the International Year, that event was the 300<sup>th</sup> for the Year. Last week I was there for the United

Nations Groundwater Summit where UIS organized a side event, *Karst Aquifers: the Most Prolific, Vulnerable, and Misunderstood*. This well-attended event was the 800<sup>th</sup> International Year event. As of today, we have 813 events! This is excellent! Don't forget that you can watch and learn about these events at the Event Results page at [www.iyck2021.org](http://www.iyck2021.org).

As you seen me write before, please continue planning and sending events. How many of you are organizing International Year events as part of parties on 31 December? I hope to see several reports from you early in the new year. Everyone you talk with and teach about caves and karst is important. One by one, we are reaching the world and making a big impact.

As for my usual reminder, any activity that promotes or teaches or excites people about caves and karst, no matter how small, should be sent to our fabulous website manager, Jasmina Rijavec ([webmaster@uis-speleo.org](mailto:webmaster@uis-speleo.org)), in the simple format you see on the website:

Location:

Date:

Event name:

Event description:

Event report: [usually one or more simple links to websites, social media, and/or news media reports]

Remember, all this information will be compiled next year into a report to further demonstrate the importance of caves and karst to the world, and the more events we show in our report, the greater influence it will have in getting everyone support for cave and karst exploration, research, and management. In the years ahead.

If you have any questions or if there is anything I can help with, please let me know.

Thank you again for supporting the International Year of Caves and Karst.

George Veni

UIS Past-President, 2017-2022

Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

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## **Summer School on Speleothem Science: Accepting Applications**

Dear Caving Community,

We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the Summer School on Speleothem Science (S4) 2023!

S4 2023 will be an in-person event and will take place from 6 to 13 August 2023 in São Paulo, Brazil.

The S4 includes a series of lectures, workshops, and a field trip organized by a student committee and led by invited experts in the field of speleothem science. The topics covered will include stable isotopes, trace elements, and fluid inclusions in speleothems, as well as cave monitoring, climate modeling, and more! The program is particularly tailored for MSc and PhD students working in speleothem science. For further information, and to apply, please visit our website: <https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023>

We are accepting applications for S4 2023 until 31 December 2022.

Please distribute this announcement to anyone who might be interested.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Brazil!

Kind regards,  
S4 organizing committee

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## **Next GeoModelling/VisualKARSYS N4 Course**

Visual KARSYS is a software platform dedicated to karst groundwater management. This course is dedicated to the learning of the construction of 3D geological models with the implicit approach. Participants will be briefly introduced in the theoretical aspects of 3D geoModelling and will be guided through the construction of a 3D geological model in a folded/eroded/thrusted environment by using different geological data (maps, cross-sections, drillholes, galleries, faults, etc.). The course is dedicated to geologists/hydrogeologists working in complex areas.

The dates for the course are:

- Wednesday, February 22<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - from 1 PM to 4 PM\*
- Thursday, February 23<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - from 1 PM to 4 PM\*

\*(GMT+00:00 Time zone)

Course fee in Swiss Francs: employees CHF 170.- / students CHF 120.-

For registration, questions, or other information: [info@visualkarsys.com](mailto:info@visualkarsys.com) or <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>

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### **Job Opportunity: Cave Resource Manager, Arizona, USA**

The Cave Resource Manager will manage the development of a Science and Research Center at Kartchner Caverns State Park, Arizona, USA. Work through ambiguity (e.g., create structure, develop deadlines to keep work moving forward and manage mission creep). Manage multiple priorities within the Science and Research Center during the changing dynamics of a new mission and organizational needs. Responsible for strategically connecting the dots with overall mission, purpose, and operations of Kartchner Caverns as an Arizona State Park.

Apply by 23 December 2022 at <https://www.azstatejobs.gov/jobs/research-project-specialist-benson-arizona-united-states>, where you can find more information.

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### **Job Internships: US National Park Service**

The National Park Service (NPS) has released its Summer 2023 Scientists in Parks (SIP) internship opportunities, and there are several related to cave and karst resources. These internships allow students and scientists to work with the NPS on resource management issues over periods of 10-52 weeks. The application deadline for Summer 2023 internships is January 22, 2023. While there are many more opportunities available on the SIP website [Scientists in Parks - Science \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/scientists-in-parks), the following links are highlighted:

#### Scientists in Parks

- Cave and Karst Assistant-Jewel Cave National Monument: [Cave and Karst Assistant at Conservation Legacy \(breezy.hr\)](#)

- Cave and Karst Assistant-Carlsbad Caverns National Park: [Cave and Karst Assistant at Conservation Legacy \(breezy.hr\)](#)
- Cave and Karst Assistant-Capulín Volcano National Monument: [Cave and Karst Assistant at Conservation Legacy \(breezy.hr\)](#)
- Cave and Karst Assistant-Valles Caldera National Preserve: [Cave and Karst Assistant at Conservation Legacy \(breezy.hr\)](#)
- Hydrology Assistant-Springs-NPS Water Resources Division: [Hydrology Assistant at Conservation Legacy \(breezy.hr\)](#)

#### Mosaics in Science

- Paleontology Assistant-Mammoth Cave National Park: [Mosaics In Science | Paleontology Assistant](#)
- Natural Resources Management Assistant-Oregon Caves National Monument: [Mosaics In Science | Natural Resource Management Assistant](#)

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### **Call for Proposals: Fort Stanton Cave, New Mexico, USA**

Caving Community,

It's that time of the year when the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Roswell Field Office is asking for proposals to be submitted for project work in Ft Stanton Cave for the 2023 caving season. 2022 was a successful year and we accomplished some great projects and learned more about FSC. Thanks to all who participated!

There is a new process for submitting 2023 proposals. This new process is intended to help you convey all of the information the BLM needs to review your proposal and streamline the review process on our end. There are three documents that you will need to download from the BLM website. Read and use the 2023 Proposal Submission Criteria document to guide you through the process. The Special Recreation Permit Application (form 2930-1) should be filled out as completely as possible. Use the 2023 Operations Plan/ Proposal document in lieu of section 13 on the 2930 form. The 2023 Operations Plan / Proposal document is what the BLM would like you to use to submit information about your proposal. If you need more room than the fillable document can accommodate, put that information on a separate word document and put the section header number from the Operations Plan document at the top of the additional information. Pictures and graphs can not be loaded into the fillable documents, add them to the separate word document. Submit the two

fillable documents and any supplemental information to the following email address by January 7th , 2023. ---> [blm\\_nm\\_rfo\\_caves@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nm_rfo_caves@blm.gov)

Given that this process is new, there are bound to be a few hiccups. Please let me know if you encounter any and we'll work to fix them.

I will be on leave 12/19 to 1/3, but can be reached by phone if you have any pressing questions.

Please help by distributing this email, and or the link contained within it, to any caver, grotto, professional, academic, regional, cave related listservs, or other groups that might like to submit a proposal during the open submission period to do cave related projects in the BLM Roswell Field Office.

Please go to the following BLM website and follow the directions found there.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-activities/new-mexico/2023-caving-proposals>

Thanks,

Knutt Peterson  
ORP Cave Specialist  
575-354-0052 or mobile 575-626-5076  
BLM Roswell Field Office  
2909 W 2nd ST  
Roswell, NM 88201

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### **New Book on Abercrombie Caves, New South Wales, Australia**

Over the past 115 years, at least five publications have sought to cover Abercrombie Caves, but none covered all the various facets of the area. To address this shortcoming, Metropolitan Speleological Society (MSS) has put together the definitive book on the caving area that's affectionately known as "Abers." This wonderful book highlights not only the abundance of opportunities for some genuine exploration and adventure, but also its beautiful natural environment, abundant wildlife, and fascinating historic relics.

Abercrombie Caves are protected as part of the Abercrombie Karst Conservation Reserve, <https://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/visit-a-park/parks/abercrombie-karst-conservation-reserve>

For more information and to order a copy, visit:  
<http://www.mssadventure.org.au/home/AbercrombieBook>

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### **Minnesota Karst Inventory: Now Available**

The Minnesota, USA, Karst Feature Inventory (KFI) is now available to the public as a database and interactive map. It includes features such as sinkholes and sinking streams and is maintained by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource (DNR) through weekly updates.

The database and interactive map are available through the DNR web page [Springs, Springsheds, and Karst](#). GIS data is available through the Minnesota Geospatial Commons. State agencies that use the Quick Layers toolbar can also access the KFI using the GIS add-in. The KFI can be used with several DNR companion datasets found on the same web page: Minnesota Regions Prone to Surface Karst Feature Development, Minnesota Spring Inventory, and the Minnesota Groundwater Tracing Database.

The KFI is essential to understanding areas where contaminant transport is high due to interaction between surface and groundwater systems. Karst features are the result of water dissolving bedrock, thereby creating conduits, sinkholes, sinking streams, and caves that can move water rapidly. Rapid water movement makes groundwater in karst areas especially vulnerable to activities on the land surface.

The KFI is used by state and county agencies, consulting firms, researchers, and landowners for resource evaluation and conservation purposes such as assessments for surface and groundwater interaction, contaminant transport, spill response, proposed feedlot and manure lagoon sites, stormwater management, and environmental impact.

The KFI evolved from the former Karst Features Database started in the 1990s by researchers at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota and became a collaborative effort with the DNR. The DNR will maintain the new KFI because the agency is required by statute to

identify sensitive areas as part of the groundwater degradation prevention goal (Statute 103H.001) Subdivision 2 of 103H.101 (Protecting Sensitive Areas).

News Release URL:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/3388973>

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## **UIS Cave Glossary Project**

The International Union of Speleology (UIS) has started a project to produce an extendable, multi-lingual glossary of cave and karst terms that is both human-readable and machine-readable.

The project is being run by the Dictionary Sub-commission of the UIS Informatics Commission (UISIC) and aims to create a web- and Linked Data-accessible cave and karst glossary of terms that also provides definitions linked to the terms in the existing Caver's Multi-lingual Dictionary. In the first instance it will start by converting an existing comprehensive and professional glossary into a term-addressable web page, linked to the terms in the Multi-lingual Dictionary. This glossary will also be incorporated into the UIS KarstLink Ontology for *Linked Data*.

Everyone interested is invited to follow or contribute to the project.

Full details of the project can be found on the project's web page and forum:

Web page: <https://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/lexgloss.html>

Forum: <https://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=19>

Draft Glossary: <https://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/lexgloss1.html>

Multi-L Dictionary: <https://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/lexintro.html>

KarstLink: <https://uisic.uis-speleo.org/exchange/karstlink/index-en.html>

Peter Matthews - Project Leader

Mike Lake - Assisting

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## **France HABE PRIZE 2023 : Applications Now Accepted**

The *Karst and Cave Protection Commission* of the *International Union of Speleology* (UIS) is pleased to announce the opening of the France HABE Prize 2023.



The prize is named in memory and in honor of Dr. France HABE (□10/12/1999) from Slovenia (Yugoslavia), Past President of the Protection Department of the UIS (1973 -1997).

The purpose of this prize endowed with 300€ is to promote the protection of karst and caves. Their natural heritage is an increasingly rich source of proven information on the history of our planet and of humanity, allowing us to act in a more thoughtful, effective and sustainable way for the future of our environment.

You will find the complete regulations in French, English and Spanish on the UIS website by following this link:

<http://uis-speleo.org/index.php/karst-and-cave-protection-commission/>

Feel free to disseminate widely.

Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns

President, Karst and Cave Protection Commission of the International Union of Speleology

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### **National Speleological Society 2023 Convention: Registration is Open**

The 2023 National Speleological Society (NSS) Convention will be held on 26-30 June 2023 in Elkins, West Virginia, USA. The NSS Conventions are well known as well attended, highly informative, and great fun, and this next one will be no different. To register and for more information, visit <https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/>.

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### **National Speleological Society 2023 Convention: Call for Geology and Geography Abstracts**

The National Speleological Society (NSS) Section of Cave Geology and Geography is accepting abstracts for presentations at the Geology and Geography Session of the 2023 NSS Convention, to be held June 26 – 30, 2023 in Elkins, West Virginia, USA. Each year, the Geology and Geography Section of the NSS hosts talks featuring the latest research in geology, hydrology, speleogenesis, and many other topics related to caves and karst. All abstracts will be considered to be for oral presentations unless a poster presentation is

specifically requested. At this time, we have not reserved poster space, but could accommodate a poster session if there is sufficient interest and enough advance notice is given to convention organizers. As we did last year, we also encourage interested researchers to bring posters from other conferences such as GSA, AGU, and ICS that may be of interest to attendees at convention. This provides an additional opportunity to share your work with your colleagues.

Abstracts may be no more than 300 words in length (this limit must be strictly met). In addition to the text, the abstracts should contain the title of the paper, and the name(s), address(es), and email address(es) of the author(s). The abstracts should be informative summaries that include the conclusions, and not lists of topics that "...will be discussed." Bibliographies and references should not be given in the abstracts. Papers may be submitted for either oral presentation or as a poster. Please specify your preference when submitting your abstract.

The deadline for abstracts is May 22, 2023. Early submissions are encouraged. Confirmation notes will be sent to everyone sending an abstract. Details on presentation times, dates, and other information will be sent to all confirmed participants after the deadline. For online details about the convention, visit: <http://nss2023.caves.org/>. The recommended length for the talks is twenty minutes.

Please email me if you have any questions and feel free to forward this to anyone who you think might be interested.

Katie Schmid  
[kschmid3@gmail.com](mailto:kschmid3@gmail.com).

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### **Sinkhole Conference: Free Short Courses!**

Did you know that for the first time, short courses are included in the price of registration at the Sinkhole Conference?!

The *Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst* (usually referred to as "the Sinkhole 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.

Its short courses are taught by leading experts in the field and celebrated in excellent reviews. They are opportunities for students and long-time professions to expand and/or refresh their skills and knowledge of various engineering and environmental aspects of karst research and management.

The 17th Sinkhole Conference will be held at the University of South Florida campus in Tampa, Florida March 27-31, 2023. Many great papers have been submitted, two excellent field trips are planned, and there will be much more to see and do.

To register for information about the conference, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.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) [GeoModelling/VisualKARSYS N4 Course](https://www.visualkarsys.com/), 22-23 February 2023 (online), <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>
- 2) [17<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst](http://www.sinkholeconference.com/), 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 3) [4<sup>th</sup> International Planetary Caves Conference](https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/), 4-7 May 2023 (Haria Municipality, Lanzarote, Spain), <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>
- 4) [Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip](https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary), 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 5) [14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst](https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/), 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 6) [National Speleological Society Convention](https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/), 26-30 June 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA), <https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/>
- 7) [37<sup>th</sup> Brazilian Congress of Speleology](https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/), 26-29 July 2023 (Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil), <https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/>
- 8) [Summer School on Speleothem Science](https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023), 6-13 August 2023 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023>
- 9) [Geological Society of America Convention](https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home), 15-18 October (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home>

- 10) 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Enhancement of Natural Heritage, 2-5 November 2023 (Rabat, Morocco), <https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>
- 11) 9<sup>th</sup> US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop, 22-24 October 2024 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), <http://www.usgs.gov/kig-workshop>
- 12) 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>