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NCKRI News and Announcements for 2022-10-07:

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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.

International Year of Caves and Karst: A Major Goal Reached!

The International Year of Caves and Karst is organized to teach the world about the important of caves and karst. Organized by the International Union of

Speleology (UIS), it was extended through 2022 because of the COVID pandemic.

One major goal of the International Year has been to hold an average of at least one event for each day of the International Year. Since the International Year was extended to two years, a total of 730 days, we're delight to announce that we have passed that goal with 737 events posted on the website, with more soon to be posted and even more events coming soon. Congratulations and thanks to all 263 partner organizers in the International Year which made this possible!

As always, remember to please continue organizing events through the end of the year and send your event results to our fabulous website manager, Jasmina Rijavec (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]

Please send reports of any past events you have organized and are not posted. They are very important to include as larger numbers of events will show greater support that UIS and you can use to demonstrate the importance of caves and karst and gain more support.

If you are not sure if your activity qualifies as an International Year event, or if you have any other questions or needs regarding the International Year, contact me at any time.

To learn more about the International Year and its many events and activities, visit the website (www.iyck2021.org).

George Veni
UIS Past-President, 2017-2022
Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

Job Opportunity: Cave and Karst Program Manager

The White River National Forest is 2.3 million acres in central Colorado, USA, and is seeking to hire a cave and karst program manager. This person:

- Serves as a Geologist with responsibilities for evaluating, monitoring, and protecting sensitive geologic features such as karst and managing the Forests cave and karst program.
- Conducts and oversees geologic inventories, geospatial analysis, and cave monitoring to contribute to baseline geological data and to inform resource protection measures in compliance with the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act and other selected protocols.
- Must be proficient in GIS, LiDAR interpretation, and mobile GIS. Maintains geologic surveys and monitoring records in appropriate data base files.
- Is responsible for the analysis and interpretation of LiDAR for karst feature identification, and verification and the preparation of summary reports.
- Performs assignments which may include collaborating with other resources specialists in the preparation NEPA compliance documents for a variety of geologic management and restoration actions.
- Responsible for maintaining partnership communication with Colorado Cave Survey and serve as a point of contact with the recreational caving community.

If interested in this opportunity, please visit

<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/?id=874AF72CBF024EC0B3EA3298B3EB1728>,

complete the WRNF Cave and Karst PM Outreach Response Form, and e-mail the completed form by **October 14, 2022** along with your resume to: Chuck Burley, Resources and Planning Staff Officer, Charles.burley@usda.gov, 970-945-3303

Visual KARSYS, Understanding and Modelling Aquifers in 3D: Online Course

This online workshop will be held on 19 and 20 October 2022 from 1300-1600 GMT. It is dedicated to the learning of the KARSYS approach through an application on a pilot site by using the Visual KARSYS web-tool. It is dedicated to geologists and hydrogeologists working in karst and other complex environments. Attendees will be introduced in theoretical aspects of the approach and in the practical process of its application: project dimensioning, data introduction, 3D geological modelling, groundwater modelling, end-users functionalities, etc. For more information visit: <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>.

White-Nose Syndrome Research Grants Available

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce a funding opportunity focused on Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for White-nose Syndrome (WNS). It accompanies other funding opportunities for WNS from USFWS, which are anticipated to be repeated in 2023: WNS Grants to States and Tribes; WNS Research for Conservation Grants; Bats for the Future Fund, a cooperative grant opportunity led by The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Funding through the Research and Development of Biotechnological Tools for WNS will advance projects that leverage knowledge about WNS, fungal pathogens, invasive species, wildlife diseases and other relevant topics to produce enduring solutions to WNS in North America. We seek management solutions that are pathogen-specific, effective, scalable, and safe for native biota and environments. For this opportunity, we consider biotechnological tools to be those that involve the modification of an organism or genome for the purposes of acting on the function of an organism (in this case, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*).

The goal for these funds is to eliminate the threat of Pd to hibernating bats in North America through the following objectives

- Develop biotechnological tools that remove or suppress Pd's pathogenic properties, making it unable to cause severe disease.
- Develop biotechnological tools that reduce or eliminate the environmental reservoir of Pd in treated sites.

The ceiling on awards is \$300,000 for 1-2 year projects, with potential for additional funding for phased projects that demonstrate progress toward the goal.

Applications for this funding opportunity will be accepted through March 31, 2023, although applications will be reviewed a monthly basis and projects may be awarded prior to the closing date of the funding opportunity.

More information on this funding opportunity and the application process is available here:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=343941>

New Publications Available from NCKRI

NCKRI has released two new publications. Our 41-page 2021-2022 Annual Report describes our many activities, projects, and reports from grant recipients over that period.

Our other report is NCKRI Field Guide 2: *International Show Caves Association Pre-Congress Field Trip: The Show Caves of West Texas and Southeast New Mexico*. This 60-page field guide was produced for the highly successful International Show Caves Association and National Caves Association Congress that was held last month in San Antonio, Texas.

All NCKRI reports are available for free download from <https://www.nckri.org/publications/>.

International Congress of Speleology Proceedings: Now Available

The proceedings of the 18th International Congress of Speleology (ICS) hold the results of the most papers ever presented at an ICS. If you missed the ICS in France in July, you can find the 6-volume proceedings at: <https://uis-speleo.org/index.php/proceedings-of-the-international-congress-of-speleology-ics/>. While there you download the proceedings of 18 ICSs, which total over 20,000 pages of caves, and cave history, science, techniques, management, and many other topics.

Salt Karst Bulletin Now Available

The Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS) of the US has released a new publication: OGS Bulletin 153, *Salt plains and brines in western Oklahoma result from dissolution of Permian salt and distinguishing those brines from oil-field brines*. Emission of high-salinity brines at 11 sites in western Oklahoma has created some very large salt plains and degrades the water quality of major rivers in the region. It is important to determine if a particular brine is a natural phenomenon, or if it results from local petroleum activity. This publication is part of the second-year celebration of the “International Year of Caves and Karst” (IYCK). The free publication is only released on-line.

Bulletin 153 link:

<https://www.ou.edu/content/dam/ogs/documents/bulletins/Bulletin%20153.pdf>

Additionally, one can go to <https://www.ou.edu/ogs/> , open "Publications," then open "Bulletins," then open "Search Bulletins."

Ken Johnson
Retired Geologist, OGS

Environmental & Engineering Geoscience Call for Papers: Karst Special Issue

Environmental & Engineering Geoscience (E&EG) publishes peer-reviewed, high-quality original research, case studies, and technical notes (manuscripts of fewer than 10 pages) on environmental geology, engineering geology, engineering geophysics, geotechnical engineering, geomorphology, low-temperature geochemistry, applied hydrogeology, and near-surface processes. E&EG is pleased to announce that it will be publishing a special issue on karst for which Russell Harmon, Bob Denton, Cory BlackEagle, and Eric Peterson will serve as guest editors. We are soliciting papers on novel techniques and methodologies that advance karst science and/or those that focus on solutions to engineering and environmental problems in karst terrains.
Submission Deadline: November 15th, 2022

Link to submission page: <https://www.editorialmanager.com/eeg/default2.aspx>
Style guidelines for the papers can be found here:
<https://www.peertrack.net/eeg/eeginstr.pdf> A sample paper a copyright forms are available at <https://www.aegweb.org/e-eg-supplements> for your assistance.

E&EG is a joint publication of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists (AEG) and the Geological Society of America (GSA). The journal is published quarterly and hosted at [GeoScienceWorld](https://www.geoscienceworld.com). If you have any questions or would like more information, please let me know (ewpeter@ilstu.edu).

Call for Papers: Special Cave Waters Issue of Journal Water

We are pleased to inform you we organizing a Special Issue in the Water journal (ISSN 2073-4441, IF 3.530,

website: <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/water>; <http://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/stats>), "Cave Waters: Modern Perspectives for Short to Long-Term Environmental Monitoring." As the Guest Editors of this special issue, we invite you to publish a feature paper. Either a long review or research paper is encouraged.

For further information, we encourage you to check the Special Issue website at: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/YA5XW177DR

You may send your manuscript now or up until the deadline (April 20th, 2023). Submissions will be published immediately after acceptance on an ongoing basis.

Please feel free to reach us or milan.babic@mdpi.com (Mr. Milan Babić, Section Managing Editor of Water) if you have any questions.

In the hope that this invitation receives your favorable consideration, we look forward to our future collaboration.

Best Regards,
Rannveig Skoglund, Alessia Nannoni, Leonardo Piccini, Christos Pennos

New Website: European Cave Protection Commission

The European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) is happy to announce that their new Homepage is now live and online. After the renewing of the main European Speleological Federation website www.eurospeleo.eu the ECPC commission opted for a subsite with all its content.

Some work still has to be done but the main topics are already online. You can access the site here: www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC

In case that there is anything you would like to tell us, please use the email address protection@eurospeleo.eu or use the contact form on the site.

Jean-Claude Thies
ECPC President
European Cave Protection Commission
Fédération Spéléologique Européenne asbl.
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Friends of Karst Meeting: Denver, Colorado, USA

The Friends of Karst meet each year on Tuesday evening of the Geological Society of America Convention. This year the meeting will be held next week on 11 October 2022 from 7-10 p.m. at WestFax Brewing, 6733 W. Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado, USA. This location is about 4 miles west of the convention center.

The Friends of Karst is an informal gathering of people interested in caves and karst. There are no dues or requirements to be involved. The meetings are mostly social events to network with friends, potential collaborators, and where students can get to know professors they may want to study under. Midway through the meeting are announcements of upcoming karst news and events.

Sinkhole Conference: Time to Start Planning Your Trip

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.

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.

Register now while prices are low. They go up on 1 December. For information about the conference and to register, visit <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>.

4th International Planetary Caves Conference: Spain

The 4th International Planetary Caves Conference is scheduled for 4-7 May 2023 at the Haria Municipality in Lanzarote, Spain. Its purpose is to continue building on the advances in the current state-of-the-art cave exploration and exchanging knowledge and ideas between scientists and engineers for future planetary cave missions.

Planetary scientists have identified more than 270 lunar and several hundred cave-like features on Mars. These features allow access to the subsurface without costly deep-drilling payloads. Moreover, caves provide potential habitats for life, including future human habitation on the Moon and Mars. Cave-like features on Mars formed from volcanic processes, tectonic processes, and/or karst dissolution. Together, these features represent significant void space in the subsurface. Pit crater chains, lateral cave entrances, and skylight entrances represent potential access to the deep subsurface, raising questions about their subsurface habitability and biosignature potential. These caves may also host significant water ice deposits for human consumption and potentially generate hydrogen fuel to return humans to Earth.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>

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) Geological Society of America: multiple karst sessions, 9-12 October 2022 (Denver, Colorado, USA),
<https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2022/home>
- 2) 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>.
- 3) Highlights of Geoscientific Cave Research Symposium: Austria, 11-12 November 2022 (Vienna, Austria),
<https://www.oeaw.ac.at/geok/detail/event/highlights-of-geoscientific-cave-research>

- 4) 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology, 22-26 November 2022 (Dak Nong Province, Vietnam), <https://20isvdaknong.com/>
- 5) 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 6) 4th International Planetary Caves Conference, 4-7 May 2023 (Haría Municipality, Lanzarote, Spain), <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>
- 7) Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip, 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 8) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 9) US National Speleological Society Convention, 26-30 June 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA), <https://nss2023.caves.org>
- 10) 37th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 26-29 July 2023 (Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil), <https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/>
- 11) 3rd International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Enhancement of Natural Heritage, 2-5 November 2023 (Rabat, Morocco), <https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>
- 12) 9th US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop, 22-24 October 2024 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), <http://www.usgs.gov/kig-workshop>
- 13) 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>