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NCKRI News and Announcements for 2023-02-02:

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Various News:

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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.

Job Opportunity: Cultural Resource Specialist

Bat Conservation International (BCI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ending bat extinctions worldwide, seeks a full-time Cultural Resource Specialist to join BCI's Conservation Department. The Cultural Resource Specialist will work as part of the Restoration Team in the Habitat Protection & Restoration Program (HP&R).

Status: Full-time, exempt

Reports to: Cultural Resource Field Lead (Autumn Cool)

Key Relationships: Restoration Team, Habitat Protection & Restoration Program, Conservation Department

Salary: \$55,000- \$58,000 per year

The successful candidate will work directly with BCI's Cultural Resource Field Lead to document and analyze archaeological sites, primarily historic-period abandoned mines. This includes writing archaeological technical reports, completing cultural resource inventory forms, and conducting fieldwork on public lands throughout the southwest United States.

BCI's cultural resource inventories are done in combination with subterranean bat surveys to gather information on both wildlife and cultural resources at abandoned mines. The inventories are used to guide treatment recommendations to protect important cultural and biological resources during safeguarding and closure of abandoned mines on public lands. In the future, BCI's cultural resource inventories may also include surveys of areas selected for wildlife habitat restoration projects. Additionally, this position will assist with other project duties, including data and photo organization, map production, conducting research, and other tasks.

Our program highly encourages all staff to seek out opportunities within other teams and specialties to better understand the full capacity of the HP&R program and to build working relationships with colleagues outside of their respective specialties and teams. The ideal candidate will be willing and able to provide technical writing and fieldwork assistance to other teams within HP&R during lulls in cultural resources work. BCI offers on-the-job training, and opportunities for additional safety/medical certifications may be available. Traversing challenging terrain on foot and conducting surveys in inclement weather is a part of all field-based work within HP&R.

To read additional details and access the online application, please visit:
https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=4f1d76c0-c801-4a5e-879d-35f46070697c&cclid=19000101_000001&jobId=490762&lang=en_US&source=EN

European Cave Protection: Seeking Members to Help

The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) (www.eeb.org), is Europe's largest network of environmental citizens' organisations. EEB brings together 180 member organisations from 38 countries and stands for sustainable development, environmental justice & participatory democracy.

As a full member of EEB since 2011, the European Speleological Federation (FSE) as network organisation has the right to send interested people as members into one or more working groups. (<https://eeb.org/membership/our-working-groups/>) A working group (WG) gathers interested people from concerned member-organisations. The WGs which are specially interesting for the caving environment are: Biodiversity, Water, Soil, International Environmental Governance.

One of the tasks of the European Cave Protection Commission is to represent the FSE at the EEB and we would be glad if interested persons could join us with expertise and engagement in a working group of your interest.

Please get in contact with the commission for further questions and interest. We would be glad to welcome and guide you in this major role.

Thank you,
The ECPC team

Descriptions of the working groups (from EEB Text)

The EEB Working Group on Biodiversity works on European Union (EU) policies so that they help protect and restore nature.

Topics of interest to the group include:

- *The implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*
- *The new Nature Restoration Law*
- *The implementation and enforcement of the Nature Directives*

The Biodiversity Working Group meets once or twice a year and is coordinated by Sergiy Moroz, Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity and Laura Hildt, Policy Officer for Biodiversity and EU Affairs

The EEB Water Working Group works on maintaining an ambitious EU Water Framework Directive.

Topics of interest to the group include:

- *The upcoming Fitness Check of the Water Framework Directive*
- *River Basin Management Plans*

The Water Working Group meets once or twice a year and is coordinated by Sergiy Moroz, Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity

The EEB Working Group on Soil contributes to the development of a new dedicated EU legal instrument for soil protection, not least because of soil's crucial role in storing carbon.

Topics of interest to the group include:

- *The 7th Environmental Action Programme;*

- Support the adoption of a dedicated EU legal instrument for soil protection.

The Soil Working Group is coordinated by Sergiy Moroz, Policy Manager for Water and Biodiversity.

The EEB Working Group on International Environmental Governance follows different international processes such as the 2030 Agenda, the UN Environmental Assembly, COPs of the most relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and regional processes such as the Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference. The Working Group functions as an information hub for all interested EEB members.

Activities of interest to the group include:

- Participate in and provide input to UN processes such as the HLPF, UNECE Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and UNEA as well as to other processes at global and regional levels including the Environment for Europe conference;
- Share information about COPs of the most relevant MEAs;
- Actively engage in around development of stakeholder engagement mechanisms;
- Monitor and influence EU involvement in those processes;
- Participate in and provide input to OECD led activities;
- Work with SDG Watch Europe and exchange with Action 4 Sustainable Development, a large global coalition focussing on SDG implementation and advocacy.

The International Environmental Governance Working Group is coordinated by Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary General and Director for EU Governance, Sustainability and Global Policies.

Important Information:

As for the meetings of all WGs, there are 1-2 each year in person and usually in Brussels but regularly there will be online meetings 1-2 time each month depending on urgencies. Travel and accommodation for the physical meetings will be covered by EEB up to a certain amount and following strict sustainable rules. Please note as well that the working language for all WGs is English.

The information in document form may be found here:

<https://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/European-and-International-Cave-politics.pdf>

Sinkhole Conference: Lower Hotel Prices Ending Soon

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.

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.

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

5th International Meeting of Cavers in the Moravian Karst: Karst, Caves, And People 2023

This 2nd Specialized Conference will occur on September 20 – 24, 2023 in Sloup, Moravian Karst, Czech Republic. In 2023, we celebrate the unique achievement that happened 300 years ago! Lazarus Schopper, the Provincial Superior of the Minority Monastery in the city of Brno, was the first one to descend into the Macocha Abyss. In 1723, he was dropped in wicker basket into the abyss, 138 m below the surface. At that time, such a unique action attracted the interest in caves in the Moravian Karst area.

This anniversary coincides with another—the 45th anniversary of the foundation of the Czech Speleological Society. Since 1978, the Czech Speleological Society has been connecting together successors of the brave monk—cavers who

represent the largest and most important speleological community in the Czech Republic. On the occasion of these anniversaries we offer excursions into the most significant sites of the Moravian Karst and call for presentations related to human activity in the karst regions.

Conference topics:

- settlement in the karst regions
- first karst explorers and scientists
- scientific view on caves and its evolution in time
- then and now of the modern speleology
- utilization and protection / conservation of the karst regions

The preliminary meeting and conference program:

- September 20 – arrival of participants, registration and event opening
- September 21 – all-day excursions, evening presentations
- September 22 – all-day excursions, conference “Karst, Caves and People”
- September 23 – half day excursion, reconstruction of Lazar Schopper descent to
the bottom of the Macocha Abyss, social evening, event closure
- September 24 – departure

For more information: www.speleo.cz/karst2023 and karst2023@speleo.cz.

United Nations 2023 Water Conference: New York City, USA

Dear All,

WATER is a fundamental part of all aspects of life. Water is inextricably linked to the three pillars of sustainable development, and it integrates social, cultural, economic, and political values. It is crosscutting and supports the achievement of many United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through close linkages with climate, energy, cities, the environment, food security, poverty, gender equality and health, amongst others. With climate change profoundly affecting our economies, societies and environment, water is indeed the biggest deal breaker to achieve the internationally agreed water-related goals and targets, including those contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (text source UN website: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>)

Registration for the United Nations 2023 Water Conference in New York City, USA, 22-24 March is still open until 10 February. Online participation is possible.

Registration is possible through the German Speleological Federation and you need a confirmation letter from them (contact: vorsitz@vdhk.de).

In case that your organisation is already ECOSOC accredited with the United Nations, you may register yourself directly. Each ECOSOC accredited NGO like the German Federation can register up to 10 participants.

Link to the Forum >> <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>

While this meeting is not focused on karst, your participation may help assure that the special needs of karst aquifers are considered.

The European Cave Protection Commission team

Call for Presentations: Survey and Cartography Session, 2023 NSS Convention, West Virginia, USA

This is a call for presentations for the Survey and Cartography session at the 2023 National Speleological Society (NSS) Convention, planned for 26-30 June 2023 in Elkins, West Virginia, USA. The session provides a good way to tell other cave mappers what you are doing, and to discuss problems related to mapping and cave surveying. Most cave surveyors have either developed useful techniques that may benefit others, or are encountering problems that someone else may have solved. In either case, a session presentation would be appropriate.

The session is informal and the audience is friendly. There are no requirements to provide fancy visual aids or to provide a written paper (other than an abstract to include in the Convention's *Program*). Most presentations are scheduled for 15-20 minutes, but this is very flexible and can be changed to accommodate the presenter. The session will be on Friday afternoon, June 30.

Presentations can be on any topic related to any aspect of cave mapping, and the material can be for folks with any level of mapping experience. A partial list of potential presentation topics includes:

- How to keep cave mud off your survey instruments (while still going into the cave)
- Tips on the care and calibration of electronic survey instruments
- How to resolve blunders without another trip to the cave

- Large project management (personnel, survey standards, data processing, etc.)
- New tools, toys, or software to aid in mapping or cartography
- Representing complex vertical caves on a 2-dimensional map
- Demonstrations of techniques for improving efficiency when drafting maps on a computer
- Comparison of various programs for survey processing, map drawing, and data visualization
- Integrating cave survey data with surface and GIS data

The above list is obviously incomplete. If you are doing something that you think would be of interest to other cave surveyors, please consider doing a presentation on it. We are also open to suggestions for topics for an “open discussion” to solicit input from the session attendees.

The session will be chaired by Carol Vesely. Abstracts can be emailed to her at cavesely@gmail.com or mailed to her at 328 Highland Pl, Monrovia CA 91016.

Your abstract must be limited to 250 words. Please make it a summary of your conclusions and results, not simply a statement of what you are going to talk about. Also, let Carol how much time you will need for your presentation and whether you need any special equipment.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is May 15! For questions about the session, please contact Carol Vesely at cavesely@gmail.com.

For information about the Cartographic Salon at the convention go to <https://caves.org/salons/cartography-submissions/> Check the convention's website, <https://nss2023.caves.org>, for convention information.

10th Speleological Symposium: Colombia

The 6th Colombian Congress of Zoology will include Colombia's 10th Speleological Symposium on 27-31 March 2023 in Montería, Córdoba, Colombia. For more information, visit <https://aczcolombia.org/vi-congreso/>.

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, 22-23 February 2023 (online), <https://www.visualkarsys.com/>
- 2) United Nations 2023 Water Conference, 22-24 March 2023 (New York City, New York, USA), <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/water2023>
- 3) 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst, 27-31 March 2023 (Tampa, Florida, USA), <http://www.sinkholeconference.com/>
- 4) 10th Speleological Symposium, 27-31 March 2023 (Montería, Córdoba, Colombia), <https://aczcolombia.org/vi-congreso/>
- 5) 4th International Planetary Caves Conference, 4-7 May 2023 (Haria Municipality, Lanzarote, Spain), <https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/4thcaves2023/>
- 6) Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip, 20-25 May 2023 (Austin, Texas, USA), <https://cvent.utexas.edu/event/b8822615-d0e8-4730-89e4-2ef519cbeb5b/summary>
- 7) Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association Biennial Conference, 21-26 May 2023 (Nelson, New Zealand), <http://ackma.org/conf2023/index.html>
- 8) 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst, 22-26 May 2023 (Sudetes, Poland), <https://14pseudokarst.wonders4you.com/>
- 9) National Speleological Society Convention, 26-30 June 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia, USA), <https://caves.org/convention/convention-registration/>
- 10) 37th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, 26-29 July 2023 (Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil), <https://www.cavernas.org.br/37-congresso-brasileiro-de-espeleologia/>
- 11) Summer School on Speleothem Science, 6-13 August 2023 (São Paulo, Brazil), <https://www.speleothemschool.com/s4-2023>
- 12) 5th 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.
- 13) Geological Society of America Convention, 15-18 October (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA), <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2023/home>
- 14) 3rd International Congress of Karst, Speleology and Enhancement of Natural Heritage, 2-5 November 2023 (Rabat, Morocco), <https://speleorabat23.sciencesconf.org/>

- 15) 9th US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Workshop, 22-24 October 2024 (Nashville, Tennessee, USA), <http://www.usgs.gov/kig-workshop>
- 16) 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>