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Cave Talk

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April 2003

### Cave Talk

Cave Association National

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# CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

**National Caves Association**

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**APRIL 2003**

## **AWARDS**

Congratulations go to Steve and Jeanne Beckley, Glenwood Caverns, Colorado. They were named Citizens of the Year 2002 by the Glenwood Springs Chamber Resort Association for their efforts to expand the caverns to a year-round attraction. They are in the process of constructing an aerial tramway that will bring visitors to the site up the side of Iron Mountain. According to Mary Nelson of the Chamber Association "the result of their efforts has been a world-class attraction that has gained statewide, national and international attention.

Kudos also go to Don Wallace, Forever Resorts, Inc., concessionaire at Mammoth Cave National Park, KY for his award for the Best Out-of-State Craft Retailer, 2002 by the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. This was only the second season for Forever Resorts at the park and the shops have come a long way in a very short time.

## **TIA TRAVEL OUTLOOK**

In the Domestic Leisure Travel Newsletter dated March 26, 2003, TIA says the prospects for summer leisure seem dependent on the length of the war and what the longer-term aftermaths turn out to be. If the war is over in a month or two, summer leisure travel could potentially be saved. Most economists expect the economy to gain significant momentum if the fighting ends quickly. Travel by air, even for leisure, however, is expected by airline analysts to continue to remain depressed for quite some time to come.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

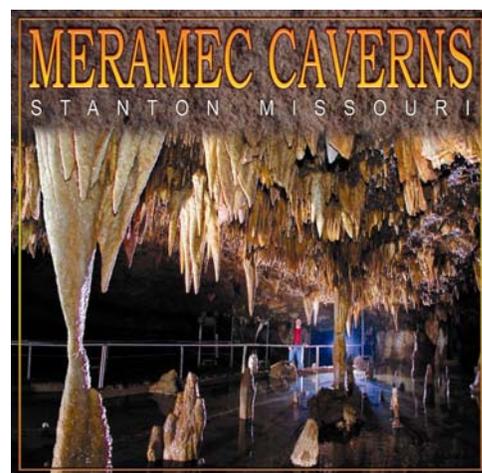
It's hard to believe that three years (!! ) have gone by since Barbara Munson has retired as the long-time NCA coordinator. Apparently, it's harder for some members to believe than others, as there are a number of them who still send checks and correspondence to Barbara in TN instead of to Susan in KY!!! As recently as the last invoices that went out, Barbara had to forward four checks – yes, checks, not junk mail. The editor will not embarrass the offending members (this time!) but implores everyone who has not yet done so to please change the NCA address from TN to KY. Barbara has graciously sent along all mail that has been incorrectly addressed but is running up a postage bill, most of it unnecessarily. Please take a few minutes to correct your records and help keep confusion and delays at a minimum.

## **IN PRINT**

The April 2003 issue of Rural Missouri named Meramec Caverns, Marvel Cave and Onondaga Cave as the first, second and third, respectively, caves in the state. The editor gave Mark Twain their vote as the best.

Meramec and Onondaga were also mentioned in the Sunday Travel section of the Southeast Missourian on February 9, 2003

Parent World, a Day Communications publication out of Nashville, has a feature article in their family getaway section on the caves of central Kentucky. Diamond Caverns, Kentucky Caverns, and Mammoth Cave National Park were the highlighted attractions, including a Diamond Caverns photo taken by Gary Berdeaux.



## PASSINGS

We are sorry to inform you of the death of Reddy Candalaria, Ice Caves, NM on February 2, 2003. She and her husband, Dave, have owned and operated the cave since 1947. Reddy was a warm, wonderful woman and she will be greatly missed.

Howe Caverns, NY sadly notes the passing of Erma Schaeffer. Erma was an Honorary Member of the NCA and the widow of Rodney Schaeffer, a founding member of the National Caves Association and retired General Manager of Howe Caverns. Erma had been in declining health for the past two years. Services were held April 12 in Schoharie, NY.

## NEW IN 2003

DeSoto Caverns, AL has added a five-minute orientation movie that is projected on a large inflated screen in the caverns. They have also added two new sound, light and water shows and three new rides, including Happy's Potty Racers (only Alan!!). Call Alan for details, as the editor can't stop laughing long enough to write about them.



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## NCA Insurance Program Notes

### Check Your Policy Book!

The NCA Insurance Committee would like to remind all program members to check your policy book carefully for coverage details etc. Please relay any questions you have subsequent to your examination to your Arthur J. Gallagher representative. While the staff at Gallagher made every effort to review your coverage details, the change from Fireman's Fund to Markel introduces opportunities for coverage oversights or changes. Refer to your service commitment booklet for information regarding your designated Gallagher representative. Also in the service commitment booklet, you will find your Insurance Committee representative who can assist if you have issues that Gallagher is not able to resolve.

### Acord Applications To Arrive!

Again this year, you should be receiving (or have already received) the dreaded Acord applications. These must be completed so that we can have a timely renewal for the coming year. Rampant caution in the insurance industry will likely make these applications a yearly chore—the upside being that your coverage should be more up-to-date than before. Current NCA Insurance Program members should receive their applications with most information already completed to reflect this year's status. In this case you need only update the information on the applications to reflect any changes or additions. Your Gallagher representative should be able to help if you have any questions. Please remember that the **applications should be sent to A.J. Gallagher by May 10.**

### Cave Inspection Checklist Standards

In conjunction with the development of a comprehensive cave-related safety checklist, and at the request of their underwriters, Markel Insurance has inquired as to existing standards for cave safety inspections. While a few of our members are located in states that require cave inspections, most are not. Since we believe that **we, as operators, are the best source of information on cave safety**, the Insurance Committee has formed a sub-committee consisting of Steve Fairchild, Anne Molosky, Dick Bell, and Jim Richards. This sub-committee is charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive set of standards for cave safety to be finalized at our upcoming California meeting. NCA members are encouraged to submit input based on their individual expertise to the sub-committee members. By working together, we should be able to develop a great set of standards and procedures which will help all of us operate more safely and, at the same time, convince insurance carriers that we are serious about promoting safety in our operations.

### Joining The NCA Insurance Program

Based on the belief that a larger program is a stronger program, representatives from Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., with the assistance of committee members are continuing to contact NCA members who are not currently

enrolled in the Insurance Program. All NCA members are urged to seriously investigate the program for the benefit it can give to the individual members and to the industry. In order to complete program rate quotations, Gallagher needs Acord applications, loss information, and copies of current policies. The time spent assembling this information can be of great value to your business in the future. Please contact Gallagher or an Insurance Committee member if you have not already been contacted about joining the NCA program. A larger membership means more influence!

### **NCA Insurance Committee**

Members of the NCA Insurance Steering Committee and the staff of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. continue to invest many hours in the improvement and expansion of the NCA Insurance Program. NCA members who are not current members of the Insurance Program can make our efforts more productive by seriously investigating the advantages of joining the Program. Current Insurance Program members can assist with timely completions of necessary paperwork and important input on current projects. **We all can gain by working together!**

### **Committee Members**

Richard Bell (Seneca Caverns), Steve Fairchild (California Caverns), Rod Graves (Luray Caverns), Roger Lefebvre (Lake Shasta Caverns), Anne Molosky (Lincoln Caverns), Steve Rawlings (Mercer Caverns), Jim Richards; Chairman (Bluespring Caverns), John Sagendorf (Howe Caverns), Gordon Smith (Marengo Cave). Brad Wuest (Natural Bridge Caverns)

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### **ANTI-VIRUS SOFTWARE REMINDER**

I recommend that all members get, install and KEEP UPDATED a good anti-virus program. I have only one computer doing our e-mail, and we run "Live Update" Every Morning before going to our e-mail account. My current Norton scans outgoing e-mail before sending it... An excellent feature. We have been using Norton products from our DOS days, and in all our e-mailing since we started using it in 1992 we have passed on a virus only once. That was a few years ago and we 'caught' it from someone asking about our then free county days!

- Cheers, Bill Austin

### **CaveTalk Editor's Two Cents Worth on Virus Protection...**

No you won't need any duct tape... I too use Norton Anti-Virus service. Many people do not realize that when you buy anti-virus software, what you are actually buying is a service more than you are a software package. The "service" is actually a list of profiles that help your software look for the latest viruses infecting computer system. As hackers are constantly inventing new devilish ways to crash your machine, anti-virus companies like Norton must be continually looking for the virus-de-jour. To take advantage of your anti-virus protection you MUST log onto your service frequently to download the latest virus profiles. Otherwise you are likely to get a system crash from a computer virus. Be VERY selective of e-mail attachments. Be sure you know who sent it to you BEFORE you open it.

- Gary Berdeaux

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

"We are all pilgrims on the same journey – but some pilgrims have better road maps".

**Nelson DeMille, author**

"A window of opportunity won't open itself".

**Dave Weinbaum, author**