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CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

National Caves Association

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August 2003

LAKE SHASTA, HERE WE COME

Everyone should have received a registration packet for our upcoming meeting in California. Roger, Stacy and their staff have planned some interesting activities and seminars for us. Hope everyone will be able to participate. We all know, don't we, that some of the best business ideas don't have to come from the business sessions!! A good time is always had by all.



CRYSTAL CAVE, BERMUDA

REGIS DROPS IN

Television star Regis Philbin dropped in to visit the Crystal Caves of Bermuda over the weekend of June 15, 2003 and raved about Bermuda during his network show "Live with Regis and Kelly" on the following Monday. He told the show's five million viewers about the vacation he and his wife, Joy, took to Bermuda. Holding up a picture of the island, he said "Here is Bermuda. The sun is shining, it is so clean. It is a beautiful island". Regis spent ten minutes describing his trips to Front Street and the Crystal Caves. You just can't buy that kind of advertising!

APOLOGY

The editor omitted a contributor in the last issue when thanking all those that send news for Cave Talk. Bill Austin, Kentucky Caverns, KY has been a most prolific correspondent. Bill also includes tidbits about the local area and other items of general entertainment for the amusement of the editor. Since the editor is almost as old as Bill, she hopes he will accept her aging memory as an explanation, along with sincere apologies. (More tea, Bill?)

MORE HOUSEKEEPING

If you have changes to your listing in the 2004 Cave directory, the coordinator asks that you submit them in writing, either by faxing or mailing the form that was sent. Phone messages can be garbled and not clearly understood. Written confirmation of your changes will ensure that correct information will be printed in the brochure.

Also, the coordinator will ask one more time that the members change ALL your databases where the NCA address might be to the KY address. She is still receiving forwarded mail from Barbara. As accommodating as Barbara is, three years of forwarding is enough. Please be sure all NCA business is addressed to the KY location.



Rho Lansden and Lawrence McCoy pose on the beautiful new bridge over the Lost River Cave Valley

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rho Lansden, Executive Director, Lost River Cave & Valley, KY has planned the first annual "Get Down in the Valley" fest for Saturday, September 13 to celebrate the grand opening of the new bridge. The event is for all ages with entertainment by three bands, with lots of fun, food and frivolity!

CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Nicole Randall of Kentucky Down Under on her award-winning photo of coworker Cori Power. The photo (right) was selected as the third place winner in the Christian Science Monitor's July photo contest "A Summer Job".



UPCOMING TV

Producers for nationally aired PBS kids science show, Dragonfly TV, decided on California Cavern, State Historic Landmark as a venue to film for their upcoming episode. The premise of the segment was to investigate how different areas of a cave with their attendant environmental factors may affect the quantities of formations found. The Dragonfly TV show is produced by Twin Cities Public Television in St. Paul, MN. The episode featuring California Cavern will air in early 2004 on PBS stations nationwide. To see a slide show of the filming at California Cavern, log onto www.cavernstours.com and click on the link to the slide show or log on directly to www.cavernstours.com/drnqflyss/index.htm.

THIS AND THAT

Chuck Thorne, Ka'eleku Caverns HI, would like to know of anyone who has purchased cave sections that run under someone else's land. Contact him at hanacave@maui.net if you can help. Unfortunately, Chuck will not be joining us in California this fall, as he has decided to visit the caves in Slovenia. Someone else will have to provide the entertainment at this year's Round Table.

Dennis and Vicki Boyer, War Eagle Caverns AK, are just finishing their new website. Check out www.wareaglecavern.com. Also, after years of cajoling, the county has finally oiled their squeaky wheel and paved their gravel road.

On both July 8 & 15, the Southeast Missourian has focused on caves on the Mini Page. Ron Kerbo, national cave management coordinator for the National Park Service and Dave Foster, American Cave Conservation Association, were acknowledged for their help with the stories.

TRUITT'S CAVERN

Byron and Debbie Steward have decided to close Truitt's Cavern due to problems caused by recent blasting at a nearby gravel quarry in the first part of June. One of the larger explosions damaged the cavern pathway in a number of places and broke some small, brittle formations off the ceiling. Tom Aley inspected the damage and

determined the cavern was safe for visitors. After re-opening, some local papers got tipped off about the difficulties. The publicity and rumor that followed was devastating.

When spring arrived they discovered that the cave was subject to flooding that shut down business for five days. Byron and Debbie thought that it was best to walk away because they were not convinced they could follow through successfully on their business plan. They are investigating legal action at this time.

We all wish Byron & Debbie better luck and great success in their next venture.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The editor needs to be reminded of her commitment to working on patience so all of today's final thoughts are in relation to that lesson.

"He who knows patience knows peace."

Chinese proverb

"Great difficulties may be surmounted by patience and perseverance."

Abigail Adams

"I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end!"

Margaret Thatcher