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June 2008

Cave Talk

Cave Association National

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CaveTalk

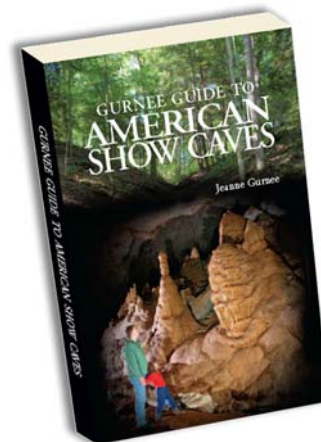
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

National Caves Association - Susan Berdeaux, Coordinating Director
P.O. Box 280, Park City, KY 42160 susan@cavern.com 270-749-2228 fax 270-749-2428

SUMMER 2008

GURNEE GUIDE READY FOR SHIPMENT

The new, full-color edition of *Gurnee Guide to American Show Caves* is off the press and ready to ship to members of NCA. Many thanks for sending information about your cave and a color photo. The information about each cave includes mailing address, directions for reaching your cave, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and website addresses, months, days, and hours the cave is open, the kinds of tours that are offered, and a list of the facilities on the premises. There is also a description of your cave to give an idea of what visitors will experience underground, as well as some cave history.



This new all-color edition is perfect bound and has flood gloss aqueous coating on a color-photo cover. The 220-page book is printed on glossy paper and contains over 100 photos. It also includes information about the National Caves Association and our organization's mission.

The book provides a permanent record that will be in the Library of Congress, and available in other libraries, bookstores, organizations, and to individuals throughout the country and overseas.

Order books from R. H. Gurnee, Publisher, 720 Flat Ridge Road, Goodlettsville, TN 37072. Just e-mail JGurneeNSS@aol.com or phone 615-264-0019 for discount prices.



CONVENTION 2008 - LINCOLN CAVERNS, PA

Get ready for NCA 2008 in the beautiful woods of west central Pennsylvania! The 2008 NCA Convention will be held Monday, October 6th through Friday, October 10th at beautiful Lake Raystown Resort, Entriken, PA. Pre-convention visits on Saturday, October 4th and Sunday, October 5th are being planned by Crystal Cave, Kutztown, PA and Indian Echo Caverns, Hershey, PA. Post convention tours of several former show caves will be offered on Friday, October 10th and Saturday, October 11th ('mild' caving - bring your equipment).

All our meetings and meals will be held in the Resort's brand new Conference Center. Sleeping quarters are in your choice of the Villas (lakeside cabins) or Lodge (hotel style rooms). In the event that these accommodations fill, Beach Bungalows will be made available. Lake Raystown Resort is a family friendly venue. Special lodging rates and convention registration will be offered to all children under 12! You may

reserve rooms by calling the Resort directly at 814.658.3500. Room rates and reservation guidelines are as follows:

Arrival Date	Departure Date	Room Type	# of Rooms	Rate per night
10/5/2008	10/10/2008	Standard Lodge Rate includes breakfast	36	\$83.93/single or \$101.37/double inclusive
10/5/2008	10/10/2008	Deluxe Lodge Rate includes breakfast	14	\$119.95/single or \$137.34/double inclusive
10/5/2008	10/10/2008	Lodge Suite Rate includes breakfast	2	\$174.40/single or \$191.84/double
10/5/2008	10/10/2008	LakeSide Villa & Beach Bungalows Rate includes breakfast	25 & 12	\$163.50/single or \$180.94/double inclusive

Lodge room rates are based on single or double occupancy and **inclusive** of tax and gratuity.

LakeSide Villas and Beach Bungalow rates are based on single or double occupancy and **inclusive** of tax and gratuity.

Maximum occupancy per unit is six. An Additional rate \$28.34 per night inclusive of tax & gratuity, per adult will apply to all lodging options. An Additional rate of \$8.72 per night inclusive of tax & gratuity, per child ages 3 – 11 will apply.

Reservations will be accepted on an individual basis through the Front Desk. The block of Lake Side Villas and Beach Bungalows will be held until **August 5, 2008** at which time all unreserved accommodations will be released to the general public and no longer available at the group rate. The block of Lodge Rooms will be held until **September 5, 2008** at which time all unreserved lodge accommodations will be released to the general public and no longer available at the group rate.

Check-in / Check-out Policy:

Lodge	2:00pm (check in)	11:00am (check out)
Lake Side Villas, Beach Bungalows	3:30pm (check in)	11:00am (check out)
<i>Late check-out will result in penalty fees of \$25.00 per hour</i>		

Payment for one night is due for all overnight reservations at the time the reservation is made with the balance in full upon check in at the Resort. In the unfortunate event an overnight accommodation needs to be cancelled, the following will apply:

Notice Received Prior to Arrival	Cancellation Fee
On or before 91 Days	80% Refund
90 – 61 Days	50% Refund
60 Days or less	No Refund

Please visit www.raystownresort.com for driving directions, further information and a map of the resort indicating locations of lodging options in reference to the conference center.

Flight information:

University Park Airport, State College, PA offers connecting flights from Cincinnati, Detroit, Philadelphia and Washington/Dulles via Delta, United, Northwest and US Air. (55 miles – 1 ¼ hours)

Blair County Airport in Martinsburg offers United connecting flights from Dulles 4 times a day. (15 miles – 25 min.)

Major Airports serving Pennsylvania:

Harrisburg International would be most convenient if you are planning to attend the pre-convention visit to Crystal Cave and Indian Echo Caverns. (106 miles – 2 hours)

Pittsburgh (135 miles – 2 ½ hours)

Philadelphia (209 miles – 3 ½ hours)

Dulles (147 miles – 2 ¾ hours)

For a tentative schedule of activities visit www.cavern.com/convention
For more information about this beautiful area – visit www.raystown.org
...about your host caves, www.lincolncaverns.com and www.pennscave.com

Watch your mail and check the NCA website later this month for complete convention registration information!
Can't wait to see you in October!



VENDOR SHOW – PENNSYLVANIA 2008

Happy Summer from your Retail Committee. We have been hard at work, helping plan an exciting event for our 2008 National Caves Association Convention. This year on the opening day of our convention, Monday, October 6th, we will be having a full fledged Vendor Show. Beautiful Lake Raystown Resort has a wonderful meeting area that we are taking over. There will be 28 booths representing 28 different vendors. Representatives of the companies will man these booths. The show will only be for one day, Monday, October 6th. A list of participating vendors will be available for everyone to see prior to you arriving at Lake Raystown. These vendors are excited about coming to our convention and several of them are creating things just for the cave gift shop. The vendors will be prepared to take orders during the show also. Bring your inventory along and place your orders at the show.

There are two reasons the Retail Committee is going to great lengths to have a Vendor Show at the convention. First of all is that the members have said over and over again how important the gift shop is. Many caves could not survive unless they had the extra sales from the gift shop. The second reason is that the costs of putting on a convention are going up and up. To try and keep some of those costs from being passed on in higher convention registration fees, the vendors are absorbing some of those extra costs. Our member caves need to support these vendors as much as we can. We would like these vendors to return year after year and continue supporting the convention, which they will only do if we make it worth their time and effort. We highly encourage all member caves to come to the Vendor Show ready to purchase items for your gift shop!



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION & BYLAWS

Hello NCA members! Here is an update on the Proposed Articles of Inc. & Bylaws project. Your NCA Bylaws Committee presented the Board with a Committee approved draft of the Proposed Bylaws back in April. Board feedback was very positive and included some good suggestions that merited further consideration and refining. The Board also had a few minor tweaks for the Proposed Articles of Inc. which have been made.

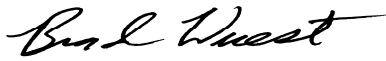
We are currently in the process of finalizing those refinements to the Proposed Bylaws. I hope to have the refined draft to the Board soon and, with the Board's approval, a copy of both documents to each of you soon as well.

We will try to do a good job of explaining the many important amendments within the document and the need for the NCA to Incorporate, but it's a lot of information to convey. This is a very big step for the NCA and we want all of you to have plenty of time to look the Proposed Articles of Inc. & Bylaws over and ask questions. Please feel free to call or e-mail me any time with comments you may have. And of course your Regional Directors ear will be available too!

The plan is for members to vote on the Proposed Bylaws at the upcoming Annual Business Meeting part 1 via ballot in October. The process will be explained more in the cover letter that accompanies your mailed copies of the documents.

A tremendous amount of time and energy has been put into this important project. We feel the Proposed Articles of Inc. & Bylaws fix the problems which developed over time within the old Bylaws, bring us up to date, are well organized and will ultimately protect, strengthen and improve our organization. All of this while preserving the principals which the NCA was founded upon. Thank you for your support.

Happy summer,



Brad Wuest, Past President & Bylaws Committee Chair



FROM YOUR INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Insurance Committee made the recommendation that the NCA seek other insurance brokerage and consulting services for the NCA Insurance Program after a presentation made by Keith Dobrolinsky of Towers Perrin, and Pat O'Sullivan of PRO Insurance Services, Inc.

This action was taken after a review of the NCA Insurance Program and the concerns with regard to the overall management of the program by Arthur J Gallagher and Company. The committee felt that cave visitation was crucial to the stability and future growth of the program. We feel the new Insurance Team can provide benefits deserving of our members. We believe they can lead this NCA Insurance Program and help grow the program to include more of our NCA caves.

They have shown that they are willing and able to hit the road and visit our caves. In the article that follows you will note that as of June 13th, they have already made visits to TWENTY ONE caves and the NCA's headquarters. Keith still has the passion for our caves and Pat is quickly finding out that is not easy to keep up with Keith when they visit caves.

WE WELCOME KEITH DOBROLINSKY AND PAT O'SULLIVAN TO THE NCA INSURANCE PROGRAM AND THANK THEM FOR THE EFFORTS ALREADY TAKEN TO MAKE THIS NCA INSURANCE PROGRAM TRULY A BENEFIT FOR ALL CAVES IN THE NCA.

Steve Runkle
Chair, Insurance Committee



Dear Members of the National Cave Association:

I want to take this opportunity to let you know how much I have missed my association with the NCA and the many great friends I have met through the years. It's hard to believe that the NCA Insurance Program was created in 1990!

Upon leaving Gallagher in 2005, I had to honor a non-compete and I could no longer have contact with the NCA. Needless to say this was the toughest two years I have experienced in my professional career.

When the non-compete was over, I immediately called Steve Runkle to see how the program was doing since I had left. Although the program continued on with Markel and Gallagher, Steve outlined some concerns that the Insurance Committee had been facing. I offered the services of my new company, Towers Perrin, on how we could build upon the existing program. I felt that the resources of my company as a consultative placement broker coupled with the hands on services of a medium sized regional agent would greatly benefit the members. This is why we have selected Pat O'Sullivan of PRO Insurance Services, Inc. I am very impressed with Pat and his agency and know that he will be a great fit for the program.

Our mutual objectives to build a better program include:

- Creative solutions in managing our insurance program;
- Current relationship with incumbent carriers;
- Access to alternative solutions with National, Super Regional and Regional carriers for specialty coverage(s);
- Commitment to providing a "local broker" approach through an active cave visitation program and individual cave risk assessments;
- Commitment to a strategic and more personalized approach to new member growth;
- Commitment to explore alternative options in expanding our market presence.

I am happy to report that we are well on our way in accomplishing our goal of visiting all the NCA Insurance Program members to review their operations and to personally collect their insurance renewal data. We have visited a total of twenty-one caves and the NCA's headquarters to date. These include:

American Cave Museum & Hidden River Cave
 Bluespring Caverns
 Bristol Caverns
 Cave of the Mounds
 Crystal Cave of WI
 Crystal Onyx Cave & Campground
 Cumberland Caverns
 Diamond Caverns
 Forbidden Caverns
 Howe Caverns
 Kentucky Down Under

Lost Sea
 Marengo Cave National Landmark
 National Caves Association
 Natural Stone Bridge & Caves
 Niagara Cave
 Olentangy Indian Caverns
 Raccoon Mountain Caverns
 Ruby Falls
 Seneca Caverns OH
 Sequoyah Caverns
 Tuckaleechee Caverns

Everyone's hospitality has been great and their support has been very much appreciated. Pat was even given a nickname! It's not as good as "Dozer", given to me by Grant Carey in 1994, but I guess "Cork" will have to do for Pat. We look forward to visiting the remaining caves in the coming months.

In closing, I want to say how great it is to be back working with the caves. We look forward to seeing everyone in Pennsylvania in addition to working with those members that have not benefited from the NCA Insurance Program in the past.

I hope you all have a successful summer.

Best regards,

Keith A. Dobrolinsky



CAVE FOR SALE

Gary Lundstrom with Crystal Cave Park, SD is interested in selling his cave property in the Black Hills of South Dakota. He can be reached at 605-342-8008.

REQUEST FOR INFO

We are curious if any other caves are offering meals to school groups as a package deal. We would love any input as to the pros, cons or any experience the membership has had. Please forward the information to Jeff Campbell at jcampbell@fantasticcaverns.com Thanks!!!!

