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July 2010

### 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](mailto:susan@cavern.com) 270-749-2228 fax 270-749-2428

## Cave Talk June 2010

### NCA CONVENTION 2010

The convention information is on the website at [www.ncaconvention.com](http://www.ncaconvention.com). Please visit the website to find all the information you need about the hotels being used during the convention. This site also offers information about other lodging alternatives and area sites & attractions that are a must see while you are visiting for the convention. If you have not made reservations for the convention yet, please do so soon.



### WNS NEWS

Each NCA member cave should have already received a WNS poster of educational material to display for their guests. This poster will give them a basic overview of WNS. If your cave has not received this poster, please contact your WNS Chair: Greg Beckler from Natural Stone Bridge & Caves in New York - [gbeckler@frontier.net](mailto:gbeckler@frontier.net)



### LAS VEGAS SOUVENIR & RESORT GIFT SHOW

More than 50% larger than last year's edition, the September 22-24, 2010 Las Vegas Souvenir & Resort Gift Show returns to North Hall 3 & 4 of the Las Vegas Convention Center with a vast product selection that's ideal for today's Cave Gift Shop Buyer. As the show heads into its fifth year, steady growth and positive buzz have helped position it as the national event for the souvenir and resort industry. Come see what everyone is talking about!

Explore offerings from 450-plus companies showcasing tourist merchandise, souvenirs, t-shirts, logo products, giftware, toys/games and more. Attend seminars and networking events with fellow industry



### HOWE DINOSAUR CANYON

For many months, Howe Caves Development LLC has been exploring ways to expand the activities here at Howe Caverns, changes that would convert us from an attraction into a destination in Schoharie County.

A new master plan for the 300-plus-acre [Howe Caverns](http://HoweCaverns.com) estate has been developed.

Currently, it's in the process of being reviewed by the Town of Cobleskill (Howe's Cave is a hamlet in the town).

While it will take years for the plans to realize fruition, we're excited at the prospect. For us, the most often asked question by our visitors is, "What else is there to do?" And, the plan certainly helps answer that question.

If all goes well, the first phase will include a Zip Line, Mountain Coaster and an Entertainment Building. The Entertainment Building will have an expanded gemstone mining area, plus a variety of other activities for adults and children ranging from an Arcade to a 4D Theater, Flight Simulator, Laser Stone Engraving and a Dark Ride.

Down the road a bit is the [Howe Dinosaur Canyon](#), with meandering walkways and full-sized animatronics replicas of Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus Rex and others -- all in realistic settings.

And, depending on future demand and economic conditions, the master plan envisions the potential development of a hotel and indoor water park. The plan also includes an RV park, rock climbing, a rock maze and winter sports area.

But, it's all in the very early stages. We'll keep you posted on our progress

As always the Great Cave remains the focal point at Howe Caverns.

Come see us soon. Anytime is a good time to Go Underground!

Robert Holt  
General Manager

**Check out the link below - Howe Caverns was on WRGB CBS 6 News**

<http://www.cbs6albany.com/video/?videoid=87545517001&play=now>



**Long before Howe Caverns was formed, Tyrannosaurus Rex roamed the Earth.**



## **RETAIL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Happy Summer Everyone,

I wanted to update everyone on what your retail committee is working on. Most of you know that the retail committee was asked to come up with some items that the cave gift shops could sell and part of the proceeds would go to WNS education. Two products were decided on: awareness bracelets and post cards. Several caves have already preordered their awareness bracelets and they should be here in early June. Once again a big thank you to the Howe Caverns staff for their idea of the awareness bracelets and thanks to Steve Rawlings for the saying. The second project was postcards. Jeanne Cunningham has taken on this project and we should be seeing the postcards soon. The postcards will have pictures of bats and bat facts on them. More information on the new postcards will be coming soon.

The NCA convention trade show will be a little different this year. We are having a catalog show! Vendors will be sending a few samples for us to view and their catalogs for us to look at during our leisure. The catalogs will be available for everyone to pick up during the entire convention.

Are you attending the IGES Gift Show in Sevierville this fall? If so please plan on attending the NCA dinner! Once again the show hosts of IGES and several vendors will be sponsoring a NCA dinner and a lounge for us to use during the show! The vendors are also sponsoring a mixer for us! Here are some dates to keep in mind: IGES Show Nov. 3-7 Gatlinburg Gift Show Nov. 5-9. Yes the two shows do overlap again this year. The NCA dinner will be Thursday Nov. 4th at the Orleans (same as last year). The NCA mixer will be Saturday Nov. 6th. More details will be coming!

**ATTENTION** Cave Retail Buyers: The retail committee has started a buyers group. All buyers of a cave store know it's hard to find cave related items sometimes. And sometimes it's just nice being able to share and receive information from other buyers. If you would like to become a member of the buyers group just let

Claudia know and she'll add you to the list. We are also trying to use the blog area on the NCA website to share information and to throw out questions.  
That's about all for now. Have a great summer!!

Claudia Yundt  
Retail Committee Chair  
[claudia@squireboone.com](mailto:claudia@squireboone.com)



### **CONGRATULATIONS, LURAY CAVERNS - 132<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Luray Caverns is celebrating our 132nd Anniversary DISCOVERY DAY and the Grand Opening of LURAY VALLEY MUSEUM Aug.14, 2010. The governor and other dignitaries are expected for the ribbon cutting.



### **ALPHA RADIATION UPDATE**

The Air Quality Committee has been busy reviewing Alpha Radiation Plans. Please check the date that your plan is up for recertification. All plans must be reviewed by the Air Quality Committee prior to sending to the Ozark Underground Lab for Recertification. This saves both the NCA and members caves money. Please allow ample time for the review process prior to your recertification date. Send your entire binder either to Steve Runkle or Steve Thompson for review.

Steve Thompson  
Air Quality Committee Chairman



### **TALKING ROCKS CAVERN FUNDRAISER - WNS Research & Education**

In an effort to raise money toward WNS research and education, Talking Rocks Cavern is donating a portion of every souvenir photo sold to Bat Conservation International. The cave guide takes time during their cave tour to explain what WNS is, and how those visiting Talking Rocks Cavern can be a part to help fund WNS education and research though the purchase of a souvenir cave photo, which is taken of the guest and their group toward the end of the cave tour. Before this program was implemented, the cost of souvenir cave photos was \$7.50. A \$2.50 increase was taken, raising the cost of each souvenir photo to \$10. From November 2009 through May 2010, a total of \$5,855.50 has been raised.



### **ADMINSTRATIVE NOTE**

If you have an article for the next Cave Talk that you would like all of the NCA members to know about, please submit them to [diane@cavern.com](mailto:diane@cavern.com) and we will try to put it in the next issue.

Diane Thompson, Assistant Coordinator, has changed her e-mail address to [diane@cavern.com](mailto:diane@cavern.com). Please send correspondence for Diane to this address or she will not receive them. Thank You