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### Cave Talk

Cave Association National

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# CaveTalk

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL CAVES ASSOCIATION

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## From the Desk of the President

Hopefully everyone enjoyed a great turkey day and found something important to be thankful for. Keep in mind you are a member of an organization that is here for you and working hard to keep America's Best Show Caves thriving in this "interesting" economy. I know I am thankful for learning from and serving this great group of people.

As the busy season has now passed, thoughts go to reevaluating the past season and making plans for the upcoming season. This is a reminder that we have a number of tools and opportunities for you to help in this process.

First of all, please use our member side of the NCA website. You can access useful information such as:

1. Past Cave Talk issues. These are great resources with current information on NCA initiatives.
2. Insurance Webinars. A great way for management/staff to get ready for a SAFE season.
3. Alpha Radiation Template. Now is a great time to set a date in early 2012 for your yearly management plan review, staff training and filling out the simple forms.
4. Monthly Summaries. See how your cave and region is doing compared to the rest of the country.
5. Directory/Committees. Contact information of our members and active NCA participants.
6. Economic Impact Study. A useful document for understanding and educating just how big the dollars are in our business.
7. Bat and WNS. Keep up with the latest on these issues. We will also be adding links to information on the public side of the website.

I would like to ask the membership this question: What would prompt you to use the member side of the website more, and should we still pursue developing the on-line cracker barrel which has not been used by many?

The mid-winter meeting for the Executive Staff and Board of Directors will be at the end of Feb. In the mean time, please direct any questions/concerns to your Director. These are highly productive meetings. For example last year we developed and produced the concept of the brochure holders and phone app for “America’s Best Show Caves”. What idea do you have? I will also be reviewing our committees in the next 60 days, so don’t be surprised if you get a call from me soliciting your input or possible participation.

Time now to get into the holiday spirit, drink a little eggnog and wish everyone a happy holiday season and a prosperous 2012 new year!

Wishing you all the best,



Greg

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**International Park World publication**

Howe Caverns made coverage in the international Park World publication. We made mention on the cover and you will find the story on pages 32-33.

<http://content.yudu.com/A1ubx7/PWOct2011/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.parkworld-online.com%2F>

Robert A. Holt  
General Manager & Corporate Secretary  
Howe Caverns, Inc

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**Free Webinars**

The following webinars are free and may be of interest to NCA members. See the information below. - Rho

AASLH is able to offer the following webinar series **free of charge** with funding generously provided by an IMLS 21st Century Museum Professionals grant.

**Redefining Audiences**  
**January 27, 2012**  
**Time: 2-3:15 pm Eastern**

Who are our current audiences and how can we engage new ones? Looking at the most recent U.S. Census, Susie Wilkening will discuss demographic change and the valuable ways in which history organizations can use census data. Webinar content is supported by StEPs standards and performance indicators. **Pre-registration is necessary.** [Click here to register online](#) or to register by phone or mail, contact Terry Jackson, Program Associate, at 615-320-3203 or by email to [jackson@aslh.org](mailto:jackson@aslh.org)

Rho Lansden  
Friends of the Lost River, Inc.



## *NCA 2012 Convention*

The next National Caves Association Convention will be hosted by: **National Caves Association**

Dates of Convention: **September 24th – 28th**

Location of the Convention:

**The Lodge at Deadwood**  
**100 Pine Crest**  
**Deadwood, South Dakota 57732**  
**1-877-DWD-LODG**  
Link to website: [Lodge at Deadwood](#)



Point of Contact for the Convention: NCA Coordinator, Diane Thompson [diane@cavern.com](mailto:diane@cavern.com)



### *Administrative Notes*

NCA Website – The Photo Gallery for the website has not been updated for quite awhile & not all the caves in the NCA are pictured in the Photo Gallery. I would like to update the photos in the gallery and display a picture of each member cave. Please submit a picture for the website Photo Gallery by e-mailing it to the NCA Office: [diane@cavern.com](mailto:diane@cavern.com) or call: 573-836-2256. Please go to <http://cavern.com/> to view the current photos for the gallery.

NCA Brochure – A copy of the current brochure and a change of information form has been mailed to each member cave. Please verify and update this information by filling out and sending this form back to the NCA Office NLT Jan 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. The next printing of the new brochure will be the end of January.

NCA Books – The NCA books will be officially closed on January 15, 2012 for 2011. So please pay all invoices due by this time in order to maintain your membership status and to be part of the new brochure printing.

