



ISCA Newsletter

March
April
2022

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

CONTENTS

Halfway...Texas!

There are many events awaiting in the **International Year of Caves and Karst 2022**. Among them, the **ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention** is expected to be the spearhead celebration of a very special year.

Many cave lovers are expected to attend an event which will take place shortly after the summer season, from **September 22nd to October 1st**.

The Congress will be hosted by **Natural Bridge Caverns in San Antonio (Texas)**, and it will not only offer the opportunity to meet attendees from every corner in the world, but it will also be the perfect occasion to learn more about the subterranean world from different perspectives. Find out more about the Congress **trips, itinerary and registration** in our newsletter.



Besides, take a look at other interesting events including the **18th International Congress of Speleology**, the **36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology**, the **NSS Convention** in Rapid City (South Dakota), and **CUEVATUR VIII**, which has been confirmed to be celebrated in October.



JOIN ISCA NOW!

Would you like to become a member of the **International Show Caves Association**?

Find all the information you need on our [website](#).



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Message from the President

by Brad Wuest

Dear ISCA Members and Cave Enthusiasts,

Happy Spring from Texas! At least March is the beginning of the spring season for us in Texas although I know many of you in the Northern hemisphere are still experiencing winter conditions. Not to fail to mention all of you in the Southern hemisphere are going into autumn. I'll just say happy season to all!

For us, school spring break holiday falls in the month of March and we see it as the first busy travel period after a slow January and February. In fact, spring break is the busiest week of the entire year for many show caves in our region of the United States. The weather is nice, COVID cases are low, there is still a lot of pent-up demand, and per capita spending is still very high. I think this will be a great spring break as well as an excellent 2022 year for tourism in general and our global show cave industry.

As all of you know, we are still celebrating the [International Years of Caves and Karst 2021 & 2022](#), along with our fellow cave and karst supporters around the world. So much has been accomplished thus far to spread the word about the importance of our caves and karst resources and I encourage you to keep the celebrations and momentum going! Along those lines, our [International Day of Caves & the Subterranean World, June 6th](#) is coming up in three months.

Our friends at [ANECAT \(French Show Cave Assoc.\)](#) are partnering with the [FFS \(French Federation of Speleology\)](#) to celebrate this year's international cave day by working collaboratively on animations, events at show caves and PR. They are proposing other show cave and speleological associations work together in the same way. This is a great theme that fits the spirit of the international year and day and I encourage other to collaborate in this way.

As we do each year, ISCA will be distributing press kits to members and press releases to media worldwide. This year I'm proud to say our efforts will be doubled because the board of directors of the [National Caves Association \(NCA\)](#) in the USA voted to match ISCA's PR budget so we can expand the reach and frequency of our public relations efforts!

Last week the Board of Directors and insurance committee of the NCA came to San Antonio for meetings at the same hotel we will be at for the Congress. The NCA has a group insurance program with Lloyd's of London that many of the USA show caves take advantage of. I had the opportunity to update the NCA on Congress 2022 plans as I did with the ISCA Board of Directors in early February. We are all very excited for Congress 2022 and the NCA is honored to welcome and collaborate with international show cave folks in September.

While the NCA board and committee were here last week I had the pleasure of taking them to the [San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo](#) which was a lot of fun! I think bull riding was their favorite event! And they visited [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) and got to see our cave development project in process and see the beautiful lighting from the [Cave Lighting Company](#) team. We are still doing some tunneling so NCA president (and ISCA



Brad Wuest (ISCA President) and Joe Klimczak (NCA President) during last week's meeting at the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo and Natural Bridge Caverns

member) Joe Klimczak from [Cave of the Mounds](#) had the opportunity to push the button on the detonator and set off the explosive blast! During the Congress ISCA and NCA members will get to see this completed project and new cavern tour experience.

We are now seven months away from the ISCA-NCA Congress. The Congress website will go live very, very soon which will be your source for all the latest information about the Congress, pre and post excursions, meeting agendas, information about presentations and our sponsors. There is also a Congress mobile app with all the same information and the ability to socially engage with other attendees, presenters, and sponsors. You will find more information in this newsletter about the Congress. We are working hard to prepare an awesome and valuable Congress experience for you!

I hope you enjoy and find value in this newsletter from our wonderful publisher Juanjo. Remember to share any news you have with him for social media posts and including in future newsletters.

Best wishes for your health, safety, and prosperity. In these difficult times I pray for peace. Please let me know if there is anything I can do, or ISCA can do, to help you.

God bless,



Brad Wuest
ISCA President

BRAD WUEST

President/CEO at Natural Bridge Caverns (Texas, USA) and ISCA President. Born in 1972 in New Braunfels (Texas), Brad is married to Lexi and they have four beautiful children: Ashley, Clara, Millie and Harrison.

Contact: bwuest@naturalbridgecaverns.com



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION





My best life companion, Tiza

From the editor

by Juanjo Tíscar

To all my ISCA friends

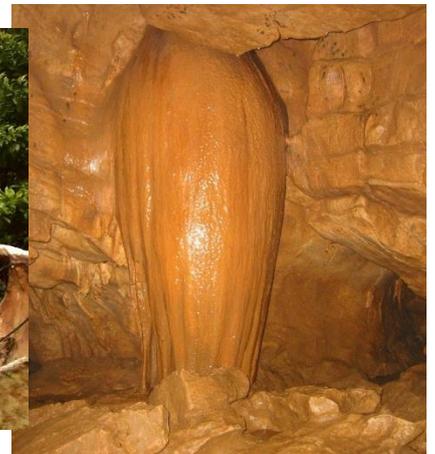
I'm writing while correcting some of the exams my students have done in the last few days. They were asked to write an essay about an unforgettable experience in the past, which had the objective of learning how to use the most important past tenses. While correcting, I can't stop thinking about my own experience in Costa Rica, which took place less than two months ago and in which I learnt a lot about their people, culture and country. Let me show you some pics!

On December 26, my sister and brother-in-law, my fiancée and I took a plane from *cold* Madrid to the *warm* San José (capital city of Costa Rica). After then, two weeks of nature, good weather and beautiful company followed. We spent three wonderful days in Tortuguero (or Little Amazon, as they call it there), we also spent New Year's Eve next to the volcano El Arenal and then we stayed in Tamarindo for some days just before coming back to an *even colder* Madrid (seriously, if you are ever told to choose between cold Christmas or Christmas in a bikini, choose the second).

So, here are some of the pictures and info about Costa Rica's **Venado Caves!**



The four of us in Tamarindo and La Fortuna and some cave formations in Venado Caves (Costa Rica)



Reminder! My short novel ('The cave') is **available** on Amazon. Thanks to everyone supporting me and my little project. **BIG THANKS** to my family at [Natural Bridge Caverns](#), who are selling my book on [their online gift store](#).



ISCA Library

Did you miss any of our previous publications? Click on the images below and download them all!

ISCA Newsletter
January-February 2022

Merry Christmas!

And welcome 2022! As the year of ISCA's 9th Congress and NCA Convention, the International Union of Speleology (UIS) has organized the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) 2021 and 2022. The event will be held from September 2021 to October 2022 in San Antonio, Texas, and will be hosted by National Bridge Caverns. Check out our newsletter for more details!

JOIN ISCA NOW! Would you like to become a member of the International Show Caves Association? Find all the information you need on our website.

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2022 Jan-Feb

ISCA Newsletter
November-December 2021

Success of the IYCK

2021 has so far been regarded as the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 and 2022, an event which aimed at amplifying the influence of caves and karst on the life of mankind.

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2021 Nov-Dec

ISCA Newsletter
September-October 2021

12 months to go!

We are now 12 months away from the ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention, which will be held from September 21st to October 2nd 2022 in San Antonio, Texas. Hosted by National Bridge Caverns, the main objective is to promote the study of caves and karst, including scientific, educational, and recreational aspects.

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2021 Sep-Oct

ISCA Newsletter
July-August 2021

International events

On June 4th, many show caves from different countries in the world celebrated the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World.

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2021 Jul-Aug

ISCA Newsletter
May-June 2021

IYCK 2021...& 2022

Five negative situations have positive impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic has made many people who decided to be a part of the IYCK 2021 and 2022 more motivated to participate in the event.

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2021 May-Jun

ISCA Newsletter
March-April 2021

Let's #IYCK2021

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2021 for the International Year of Caves and Karst.

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2021 Mar-Apr

ISCA Newsletter
January & February 2021

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a great one and are looking forward to a successful 2021.

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2021 Jan-Feb

ISCA Newsletter
November & December 2020

ISCA show cave survey

Worldwide results of the ISCA show cave survey are available. The survey aims to identify show caves and their potential for tourism.

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2020 Nov-Dec

ISCA Newsletter
September & October 2020

Welcome, cavers!

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020 for the International Year of Caves and Karst.

JOIN ISCA NOW! Would you like to become a member of the International Show Caves Association? Find all the information you need on our website.

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Find us on Facebook!

2020 Sep-Oct

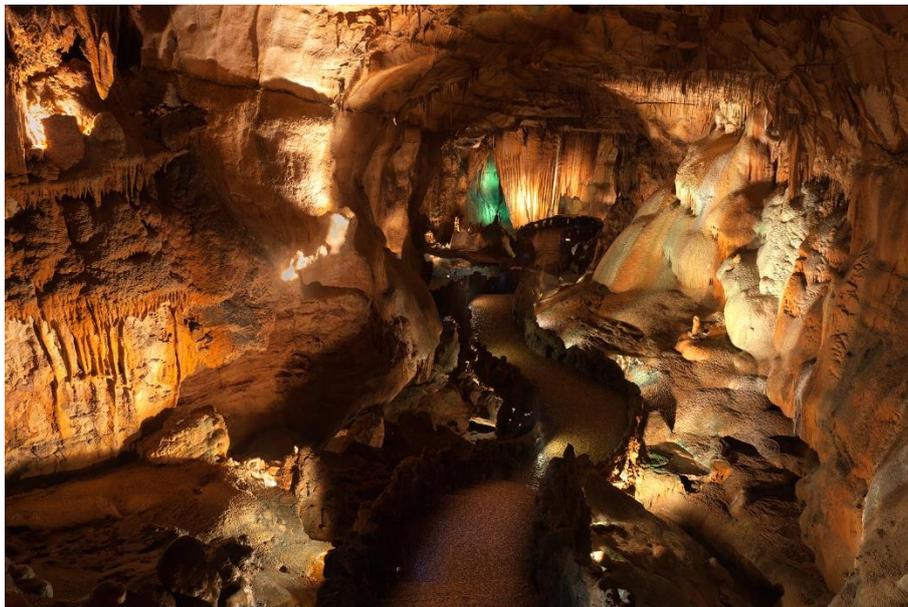
Welcome, Briana!



Welcome, Briana, and congratulations to your family.

The International Show Caves Association would like to welcome **Briana**, the first daughter of our dear and beloved friend **Nuno André Querido Jorge**, member of the **Board of Directors** of the International Show Caves Association and SA Manager and PR at **Grutas de Mira de Aire** (Portugal).

We really wish all the best to such a wonderful family, and welcome Briana to the world of caves (and motorbikes?!). There is no doubt that she will be a true cave lover. Congratulations!



Grutas de Mira de Aire (Portugal), one of the treasures in the Iberian Peninsula



ISCA Congress & NCA Convention 2022



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



Don't miss the following pages to learn more about the:

- Congress itinerary
 - Trips
- Registration rates...
 - and more!

Website Sooooo Close to Launch for ISCA and NCA Congress!



It's almost time to register for the **International Show Caves Association and National Caves Association Congress**, the first joint congress in our history! The website will launch in the coming days and will be your resource for information about the Congress as well as where you register and book your hotel rooms.

This year's Congress is an incredible opportunity to network, collaborate and learn with even more cave managers and affiliates from around the world and across the USA.

The itinerary will be filled with presentations on important topics that are relevant to the show cave industry.

But while you'll want to come for all the learning opportunities, you'll want to plan to take part in our pre and post trips! We'll tour some of the most highly decorated and well-known caves in the region including our host cave, [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) during the Congress, [Caverns of Sonora](#) and [Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#) during the pre-trip, [Cave Without a Name](#), [Longhorn Caverns State Park](#), and [Inner Space Cavern](#) during the post-trip. We'll even visit the [National Caves and Karst Research Institute](#) that [UIS](#) president George Veni is the Executive Director of.

But, it won't be all caves – you'll be visiting the Buckhorn Saloon, famous [San Antonio River Walk](#), the [Alamo](#) (a World Heritage Site), and the [Briscoe Western Art Museum](#); you'll see a horsemanship show from the famous [Charro cowboy, Jerry Diaz](#), and you'll dance the night away in Texas' oldest dance hall, [Gruene Hall](#).

- The dates are September 22nd to October 1st, 2022, which includes pre and post Congress trips.
- Click [here](#) to see the full **Congress itinerary** including pre and post field trips.
- Thanks to many generous sponsors, we have been able to get the registration cost down to an Early Bird Registration rate of \$649 (586€) per person. After July 15th, it will be \$749 (677€). This cost includes 4 full days of Congress programs, meals, drinks, transportation, and activities. There is no need to rent a car.
- Our Congress hotel is The Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio, the discounted group rate starts at \$165 (149€) per night plus taxes and fees.
- Pre-Trip -- \$225 (203€) per person plus hotel for two nights \$99.99 (90€) per night plus taxes and fees.
- Post-Trip -- \$225 (203€) per person plus staying one night in Boerne Texas for \$159 (144€) plus taxes and fees, and one night close to the [San Antonio International Airport](#) for \$129 (117€) plus taxes and fees.

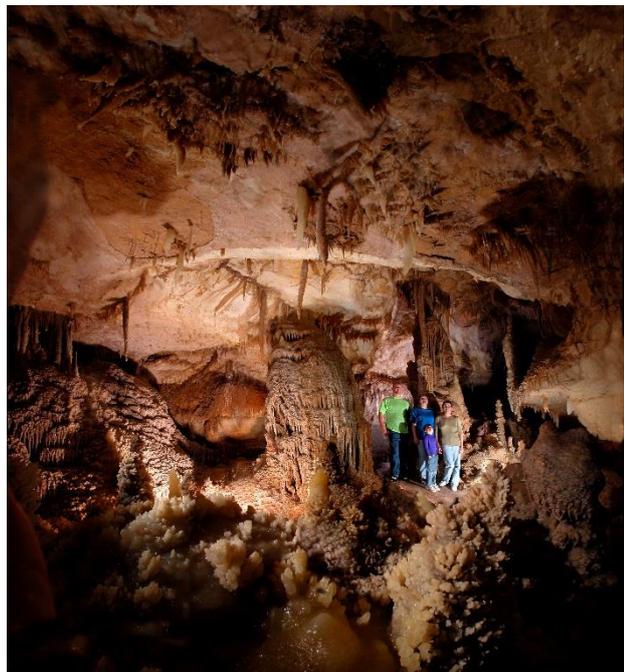
Keep an eye out for an announcement that the website is live! For your convenience, you will be able to register on the website and pay with a credit card. The website will also have links to the hotels so you can easily book your rooms too. We understand attending a Congress is an investment of your money and time.

We are determined to provide you a Congress experience with value that far exceeds your investment!

Looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio, Texas USA!



Join us in the Congress and visit some of the most incredible caves in the world, including Cave Without a Name, Natural Bridge Caverns, Inner Space Cavern, Carlsbad Caverns, Longhorn Caverns and Caverns of Sonora



George Veni (UIS President) on IYCK2022



Dear Partners in the International Year of Caves and Karst,

Thank you for your continued support as we continue the second year of the International Year of Caves and Karst. Some of you have already organized events for 2022 and more events are definitely needed. Much of the planning for the International Year by the UIS is now focused on the International Congress of Speleology, which will be the major event of the year.

For this update, I'm writing to ask your support for the International Year at the Congress. Of course, I invite all of you to attend the Congress, which will be held in beautiful southeastern France on 24-31 July 2022. For information about the Congress, visit <https://uis2021.speleos.fr/>.

To support the International Year at the Congress, you do not need to attend the Congress. Do you have videos of your events for the International Year? The UIS wants to create a video for the Congress made of short pieces of your videos to show many highlights of the International Year. Do not send your entire videos, but send pieces that are about 30 seconds to 1-2 minutes long of the most exciting, interesting, important, or "crazy" activities from your events. We want to show what we have accomplished, and that we had fun doing it too.

If you have videos, or create videos in the coming months, please send your short pieces to Anja Hajna at anja.hajna@gmail.com. If the files are too large to send by e-mail, use WeTransfer.com or other such services. Anja will need all your videos no later than 1 June 2022. Please start sending her your videos now!

Please send me any questions and please continue to send announcements and reports of your events for the International Year website to our fabulous web manager, Jasmina Rijavec webmaster@uis-speleo.org, in the simple format:

Date:

Location:

Event name:

Event description:

For more information: (for event announcements)

or Event report: (for completed events)

Thank you again for your support. The International Year is a success and can only continue to be successful because of your partnership and commitment to teach the world about the importance of caves and karst.

George Veni

President, International Union of Speleology

Executive Director, National Cave and Karst Research Institute

Partners and events of the IYCK2022

Hundreds of **caves and organizations** from all over the world are already a **partner** of the **International Year of Caves and Karst**. If you want to join us, send your **logo** and **website** to webmaster@uis-speleo.org and you will soon appear on the **IYCK website**.

Use the same e-mail address to contact **UIS** in order to share any event which is taking place at your location. Remember to include the following data:

- **Date.**
- **Location.**
- **Event name.**
- **Event description.**
- **A link to more detailed information.**

Your announcement will be highly appreciated and it will be shortly included on the **events section**. Check it out in order to learn more about some of the confirmed events taking place worldwide to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst.

Did you know...?

- Disclosure -

We encourage you to download and use all of the IYCK files and information on the IYCK website. No permission is needed as long as you use it to promote the IYCK and teach the world about caves and karst. Please print, distribute, and share this information.

The **International Show Caves Association** would also like to promote your events, so we will be picking some of them in order to be posted both on our Facebook and in future newsletters.



- **Date:** 2022 (monthly)
- **Location:** Puerto Rico (online)
- **Event name:** Guácara Podcast
- **Event description:** Podcast to discuss caves, karst & speleology through interviews with caving enthusiasts from local to international perspectives.
- [More information](#)

Natural Bridge Caverns Donates 12 hour Caving Trip To Raise Money For Cave Conservation

photos by Bennett Lee (cave photographer)



On February 19th ISCA President, Brad Wuest took cavers on a 12 hour expedition into rarely seen areas of [Natural Bridge Caverns](#).

Natural Bridge Caverns donated the caving trip to the Texas Cave Management Association's (TCMA) live auction fund raiser. The TCMA is a non-profit organization that exists to acquire, conserve, and manage caves, and to promote research and education regarding caves and karst while providing responsible access to their preserves.

The caving trip sold for \$3,000 which is the most any one auction item has raised in the history of TCMA! It was purchased by 5 experienced cavers. Cave photographer, Bennett Lee also went along to photo document the caving expedition.

The cavers crawled through a tight passage, trudged through deep mud, descended and ascended four pits and crossed a traverse on their long journey through very large chambers and passages that very few cavers ever have the opportunity to see.

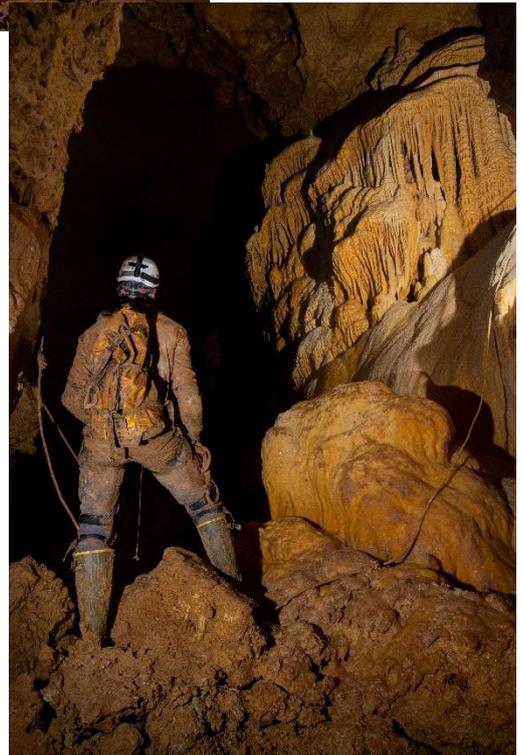
[Here is a link to photos from the journey](#) taken by acclaimed cave photographer **Bennett Lee**, and [here are photos and video](#) taken by **Brad Wuest** (President/CEO at Natural Bridge Caverns and ISCA President).



*The lucky cavers who enjoyed an unforgettable experience along with Bennet Lee and Brad Wuest.
Photo: Bennet Lee*



*Only a few cavers have been lucky enough to be here.
Photos: Bennet Lee*



36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology



The 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology is almost here and new updates have emerged in the last months. [Registration](#) is now open (find more details [here](#)) and an [agenda](#) of the congress is also available to download. Initially expected to take place in 2021, reasons directly associated to the pandemic made it impossible to celebrate one of the most awaited events in the calendar of many cave enthusiasts.

The Congress will take place in **Brasilia (Brazil)** on **April 20-23** and it will be held jointly by the **Brazilian Society of Speleology (SBE)** and the **National Cave Research and Conservation Center of the Chico Mendes Institute (ICMBio/CECAV)** in order to celebrate the technical cooperation between the two main managing institutions of the Brazilian speleological heritage.



UIS Bulletin Volume 63-2

The [Union Internationale de Spéléologie](#) recently published their latest [UIS Bulletin \(63-2\)](#). Follow the link below (click on the picture) to download it. The UIS is in charge of the organization of the [International Year of Caves and Karst 2021 and 2022](#).

Some of the most interesting contents in their latest publication deal with the [IYCK 2021 & 2022](#) and [18th International Congress of Speleology 2022](#), among many other interesting topics. Don't forget to [follow the UIS on Facebook!](#)



UIS BULLETIN

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Volume 63-2 - December 2021



18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

FRANCE SAVOIE MONT-BLANC - 24-31 July 2022

DON'T MISS IT!

Scientific conferences, videos, bookshops, stands, equipped caves, the beaches of the Lac du Bourget as well, everything is there waiting for you!



The International Year of Caves and Karst at UNESCO
A historic moment for the UIS and the world's speleology

and much more...

Contents



18th International Congress of Speleology

You can now [register](#) for the [18th International Congress of Speleology](#), which will take place from **July 24** to **July 31, 2022** in **Savoie (France)**. The event is organized by the [Fédération Française de Spéléologie](#) and the [Union Internationale de Spéléologie](#).

Until **March 27**, tickets are **discounted!** Don't miss anything in their [latest newsletter!](#)

**18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
SPELEOLOGY**

**SAVOIE
MONT BLANC
FRANCE
2022**

24 AU 31 JUILLET 2022
JULY 24 TO 31, 2022

**CAMPUS
SAVOIE TECHNOLAC**

Informations : uis2021.speleos.fr

Fédération Française de Spéléologie

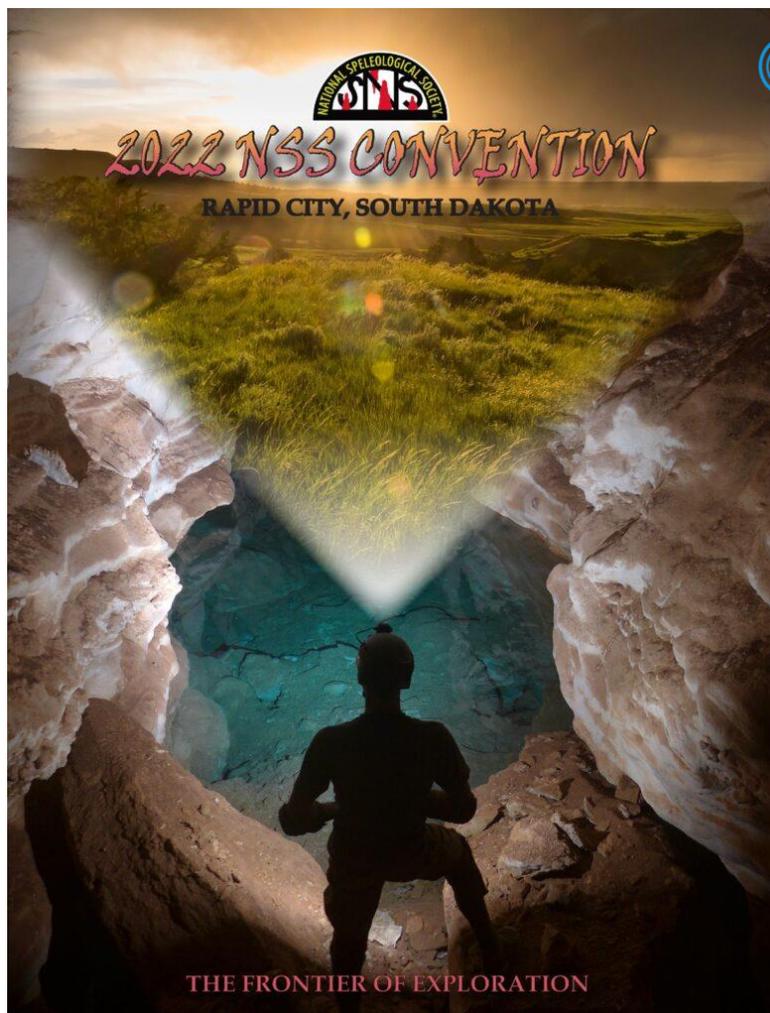
Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Illustration: Mathieu Fontenay JMS

NSS Convention 2022 (Rapid City, South Dakota)



Registration for the [2022 NSS Convention](#) is now open. The event will take place from **June 13 to July 17, 2022** in **Rapid City (South Dakota, USA)**. Following these lines, **Adam Weaver (NSS Administrative Vice President)** confirmed the dates of the event in a recently sent letter to all NSS members.



NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY, INC.



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Huntsville, AL 35810-1122
nss@caves.org | <https://caves.org>
Telephone 256-852-1300

DEDICATED TO THE EXPLORATION, STUDY, AND CONSERVATION OF CAVES

22 January 2022

To all NSS Cavers,

Recently there have been many questions coming from the NSS Membership about the status of convention. It is my pleasure to write you today to assure you that, all indications, and all plans are to hold the NSS 2022 Convention **in-person in Rapid City, SD June 13-17th this year!**

The NSS Convention is one of the most important events to US Caving and the NSS. It builds and maintains bonds of friendship between cavers who are spread across our nation and across the globe. We get to share in each other's triumphs of exploration, lessons of conservation, and are reminded of fun stories... both long forgotten and newly made as we run into folks we haven't seen for a while. It has been too long since we have met in person, this year we hope to see every member who is able at the convention.

Covid-19 and its variants of course remain a concern. There is no indication that the need for consideration of the threats posed by this virus is going away any time soon. For the foreseeable future it is likely that cases and variants will wax and wane, and we must each take the precautions that are best for us as individuals. We have seen the availability of vaccines against this virus increase over the last year, allowing for nearly anyone who chooses, to get vaccinated. The 2022 convention staff moved the convention location to its current venue, the Central States Fairgrounds, in Rapid City. This move gives us a convention location that is oversized for our needs, and will allow for social distancing to be easy to do both at the sessions as well as the campground and associated parties. It also has the rodeo arena needed for a very special type of Speleolympics, not seen since 1988! All in all, the City of Rapid City is excited to have you come and the convention staff are excited to make this event happen! In South Dakota, we are as ready as we are ever going to be to return to live events.

As for the event itself, there will be everything you know and love about conventions: Vertical contests, US and international exploration sessions, the evening parties, cave trips, JSS, Conservation Tuesday, vendors, geology field trips, the Salons, Awards, and all of the other great things we've missed. As well as some special additional features this year with an all-day cave paleontology session, paleontology field trips, cave beers, additional live music, some hands-on workshops, two of the longest caves in the world, and of course the Black Hills themselves which bring millions of non-cave visitors to the region each year to witness their dynamic landscapes and beauty.

Finally, because I consider all cavers extended family, I want to urge you to register for 2022 soon. The NSS deadline for the convention early registration discount is not for some time, but the travel industry has its own timetable. As I mentioned, the Black Hills are a tourist destination. There is so much to do and see. But, the longer you wait to make your travel plans, the more expensive these plans will inevitably become. So, make plans, pack your helmet, submit your abstracts for talks, and above all get excited! www.nss2022.caves.org

Sincerely,

Adam Weaver
NSS, Administrative Vice President
adam@caves.org

Brazilian Caves need our help



Brazilian Speleological Society

Founded in November 1st, 1969

Brazilian Representative at the International Union of Speleology (UIS) – www.uis-speleo.org
and the Speleological Federation of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEALC) – www.fealc.org
www.cavernas.org.br sbe@cavernas.org.br



To the international speleological community,

BRAZILIAN CAVES IN DANGER – CALL FOR HELP

Dear cavers, speleologists, and cave lovers around the world,

The Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE), on behalf of the entire Brazilian speleological community, hereby ask for your personal and institutional support to pressure the Brazilian authorities for the revocation of the Federal Decree N.º 10,935 that has just been published to facilitate the destruction of Brazilian caves.

Brazil's cave protection legislation was once a model shining to the world. The decree N.º 99,556, dated October 1st, 1990, provided relevant protection of natural cavities in the Brazilian territory. About two decades later, the Federal Decree N.º 6,640, dated November 7, 2008, weakened the protection of our caves. On that occasion, the few people from the speleological community who were called upon to give their opinion on studies promoted by the government, unfortunately, did not shared the SBE aims and did so on behalf of the mining companies, that is, in favor of the destruction.

Among other dubious points, such decree established criteria for the classification of caves according to their degree of relevance (maximum, high, medium, or low). Since "detailed studies" could prove, for example, that a cave is of low relevance, it could be destroyed without any environmental compensation. However, caves were classified as of maximum relevance, and their area of influence had their protection guaranteed.

Despite this decree has been harmful to the Brazilian speleological heritage, on January 12, 2022, we were surprised and astonished by the publication of another one, the Federal Decree N.º 10,935, which revokes the previous one and makes the Brazilian speleological legislation even more fragile. Drafted "in secret" and without any dialogue with the speleological community and environmental civil bodies, it brings several setbacks to Brazilian speleological legislation, such as the possibility of a total or partial destruction of even caves classified as of maximum relevance, when the enterprise is considered of "public utility."

Another controversial point of this decree is that it gives the right to the Minister of Mines and Energy and the Minister of Infrastructure to interfere and modify the classification of a cave to facilitate the implementation of some enterprises without consulting the competent environmental agencies. Several other negative points are in this new decree. However, these two examples are enough to highlight why we say that Brazilian caves are in great danger.

At the beginning of the year 2022, we continue celebrating the International Year of Caves and Karst 2021, a worldwide project led by the *Union Internationale de Spéléologie* (UIS), which the main purpose is to teach the world about the importance and direct influence of caves and karst in the present and future of millions of people who live in karst areas and are supplied with groundwater. At a time when the whole world is embracing this cause and people are changing the way they see caves and karst, we cannot accept that Brazilian speleological legislation goes oppositely, placing commercial interests above the well-being of the population.

You who are receiving this letter written on behalf of the whole Brazilian speleological community, whether you are a UIS Delegate, current or past UIS Bureau member, a member of a speleological team or federation around the world, a student or professor at a university anywhere in some country, environmentalist, scientist or simply interested in caves and/or environment, please, we would appreciate you to join us in our struggle to have this decree revoked.

You can send a letter to the Brazilian authorities listed on the next page, stating your concern, disapproval, and repudiation with the Federal Decree N.º 10,935, dated January 12, 2022, which will contribute directly to destroying our speleological, geological, archaeological, paleontological, cultural, and historic heritage. You can either write your own text or you can use the suggested one on the next page.



Brazilian Speleological Society

Founded in November 1st, 1969

Brazilian Representative at the International Union of Speleology (UIS) – www.uis-speleo.org
and the Speleological Federation of Latin America and the Caribbean (FEALC) – www.fealc.org
www.cavernas.org.br sbe@cavernas.org.br



TEXT SUGGESTION FOR SUPPORT LETTER:

Dear Brazilian government officials,

After becoming aware of the publication of the Presidential Decree N.º 10,935, dated January 12, 2022, we hereby want to join the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE) and the whole speleological and environmental community to demonstrate our deep concern for the future of the Brazilian caves. Such decree represents a setback in the Brazilian protectionist legislation, which once was a model shining to the world.

As long as this decree is valid, all Brazilian speleological Heritage, as well as all biological, archaeological, mineralogical, paleontological, geomorphological, scientific, cultural, and historic heritages in the Brazilian karst (cave) regions will be in danger because this decree is a tool with high potential to destroy them. We recognize that good enterprises are necessary and important for the economic development and generation of jobs in any region or country.

However, when commercial interests prevail over the well-being of the population and such enterprises are located in areas of priceless natural and cultural heritage, good legislation is necessary to avoid their destruction and to stimulate sustainable development. Therefore, with all due respect and consideration for the Brazilian authorities, we hereby declare our repudiation and total disapproval of Decree N.º 10.935, which we do expect to be revoked.

Brazilian Speleological Society must be invited to help in the elaboration of a new law for the protection of caves and karst because they have the most competent Brazilian experts in this field with a very high international reputation. It is demonstrated by the fact that in 2025 Brazil will host the 19th International Congress of Speleology, which is the most important speleological event in the world, where participants from more than fifty countries will land in Brazil to share the state of the art of speleology, as well as to discuss the protection of caves and karst.

We will be there, for sure, and hope to meet a Brazilian law that takes into account sustainable development, focusing on preservation, not on destruction.

Sincerely,

LIST OF BRAZILIAN AUTHORITIES TO SEND YOUR SUPPORT LETTER.

Names are listed continuously to make your work easier. That way, you can just copy and paste it into the "TO" field in your message. In case you have problems, the same list is in the body of our message to you.

Please, include a copy to: presidente@cavernas.org.br, ja.labegalini@uol.com.br, nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br.

FERNANDO WANDSCHEER DE MOURA ALVES / Secretário Executivo do Ministério do Meio Ambiente se@mma.gov.br; agendase@mma.gov.br;
DANIEL PICOLO CATELLI / Secretário-Executivo Adjunto do Ministério do Meio Ambiente agendase.adjunto@mma.gov.br; **EDUARDO FORTUNATO BIM** / Presidente do Ibama presidencia@ibama.gov.br; **JÔNATAS SOUZA DA TRINDADE** / Diretor de Licenciamento Ambiental (DILIC) do Ibama dilic.sede@ibama.gov.br; **MARCOS DE CASTRO SIMANOVIC** / Presidente do ICMBio presidencia@icmbio.gov.br; **MARCOS AURÉLIO VENÂNCIO** / Diretor de Pesquisa, Avaliação e Monit. da Biodiversidade do ICMBio marcos.venancio@icmbio.gov.br; **JOCY BRANDÃO CRUZ** / Coordenador do Centro de Pesquisa e Conservação de Cavernas—CECAV jocy.cruz@icmbio.gov.br; **BENTO ALBUQUERQUE** / Ministro das Minas e Energia gabinete@mme.gov.br; **JOSÉ ROBERTO BUENO JÚNIOR** / Chefe de Gabinete do Ministro das Minas e Energia chefiagm@mme.gov.br; **MARISETE FÁTIMA DADALD PEREIRA** / Secretária-Executiva do Ministro das Minas e Energia secex@mme.gov.br; **BRUNO EUSTÁQUIO FERREIRA CASTRO DE CARVALHO** / Secretário-Executivo Adjunto do Ministério das Minas e Energia secexgab@mme.gov.br; **MARIA CEICILENE ARAGÃO MARTINS** / Chefe da Assessoria Especial de Meio Ambiente do Ministério das Minas e Energia aesa@mme.gov.br; **RITA ALVES SILVA** / Coordenadora-Geral de Articulação Institucional em Meio Ambiente do Ministério das Minas e Energia rita.silva@mme.gov.br; **VERÔNICA E. SILVA SOUSA** / Coordenadora-Geral de Avaliação Ambiental e Acompanhamento de Licenciamento do Ministério das Minas e Energia veronica.sousa@mme.gov.br; **PEDRO PAULO DIAS MESQUITA** / Secretário de Geologia, Mineração e Transformação Mineral do Ministério das Minas e Energia sgm.gab@mme.gov.br; **FREDERICO BEDRAN OLIVEIRA** / Diretor do Departamento de Geologia e Produção Mineral do Ministério das Minas e Energia frederico.oliveira@mme.gov.br; **EDUARDO ROCHA PRAÇA** / Assessor Especial do Ministério da Infraestrutura eduardo.praça@infraestrutura.gov.br; **MARCELO DE CANOSSA MACEDO** / Assessor Especial do Ministério da Infraestrutura marcelo.macedo@infraestrutura.gov.br; **ALAN DE OLIVEIRA LOPES** / Chefe de Gabinete do Ministro das Minas e Energia chefiadegabinete@infraestrutura.gov.br; **FRANSLEY SOUSA BEZERRA** / Coordenador-Geral do Gabinete do Ministro das Minas e Energia fransley.bezerra@infraestrutura.gov.br; **IZABELA OLIVEIRA RODRIGUES** / Assessora do Ministro das Minas e Energia izabela.rodrigues@infraestrutura.gov.br; **SABA CORDEIRO DE MONTEIRO CHAGAS FILHA DE OLIVEIRA** / Chefe de Gabinete da Casa Civil agendacasacivil@presidencia.gov.br;

For any question you may have, please, be free to contact us.

Our many thanks in advance for your kind and important cooperation.

José Roberto Cassimiro
SBE President
presidente@cavernas.org.br

José Ayrton Labegalini
SBE and UIS Past President
ja.labegalini@uol.com.br

Nivaldo Colzato
SBE Past President/UIS Adjunct Secretary
nivaldo@karinaetiquetas.com.br

ISCA supports the Brazilian Speleological Society



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

February 9, 2022

Re: Presidential Decree N.o 10.935

Dear Brazilian government officials,

I am writing you on behalf of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA) which represents the show cave industry globally.

We have been made aware of the publication of the Presidential Decree N.o 10.935, dated January 12, 2022, and we hereby want to join the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE), the entire speleological and environmental community to demonstrate our deep concern for the future of the Brazilian caves. Such a decree represents a setback in Brazilian cave and karst protection legislation, which used to be an excellent example to the world.

As long as this decree is in place, all Brazilian speleological heritage, as well as all biological, archaeological, mineralogical, paleontological, geomorphological, scientific, cultural, and historic heritages in the Brazilian cave and karst regions will be in danger because this decree creates a high potential to destroy these precious resources. We recognize that good enterprises are necessary and important for the economic development and generation of jobs in any region or country.

However, when commercial interests prevail over the well-being of the population and such enterprises are located in areas of priceless natural and cultural heritage, good legislation is necessary to avoid their destruction and to stimulate sustainable development. Therefore, with all due respect and consideration for the Brazilian authorities, ISCA hereby expresses our disappointment and total disapproval of Decree N.o 10.935, which we respectfully request be revoked.

2021 and 2022 are being celebrated around the world as International Years of Caves and Karst which is raising awareness about the world's important cave and karst resources and why they are critically important to protect. The revocation of Decree N.o 10.935 would send a message to the world that Brazil still wishes to be a shining example of how to protect caves and karst.

We also suggest that the Brazilian Speleological Society be included in the creation of a new law for the protection of caves and karst. They have the most competent Brazilian experts in this field with an excellent international reputation. It is demonstrated by the fact that in 2025, Brazil will host the 19th International Congress of Speleology, which is the most important speleological event in the world. Participants from more than fifty countries will travel to Brazil to share and learn about the latest best practices in cave and karst management, the state of the art in speleology and to discuss the protection of caves and karst globally.

Members of the International Show Caves Association will be in attendance and hope to see a Brazilian law that takes into account sustainable development and focuses on the preservation of Brazil's precious caves and karst landscapes.

Sincerely and Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Wuest
President, International Show Caves Association (ISCA)
President/CEO & Co-Owner, Natural Bridge Caverns, Inc.

26495 Natural Bridge Caverns Road
San Antonio, Texas 78266
bwuest@naturalbridgecaverns.com

CUEVATUR VIII: International Congress on tourist caves and mines



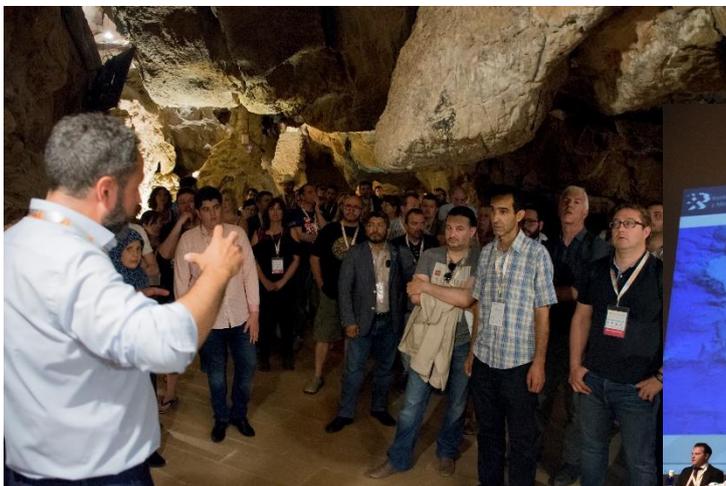
cuevatur 2022

VIII CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE
CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS

CUEVATUR, the Spanish Congress on show caves and mines, will be celebrating its 8th edition in **Pulpi (Almeria, Spain)**, from **October 19-23**. Four years after the celebration of the VII Congress on tourist caves and mines in La Vall d'Uixó (Spain), this event will again be marked in the calendar as a key date in which experts can share and exchange experiences about subterranean tourism. This sector has become the spearhead of innovative and sustainable tourism, especially in rural regions and thanks to its natural and cultural heritage.

The [first CUEVATUR circular is now available to download](#), and new information is expected to be announced soon for those interested in attending such an important event.

In addition to the wide number of representatives attending the event, the Organizing Committee will be made up by some of the most recognized members of the [Spanish Show Caves Association \(ACTE\)](#), including **Manuel Duran Hidalgo (President)**, **Juan Jose Duran Valsero (Vice President)**, **Rafael Pages Rodriguez (Vice President)** and **Ovidio Altable Argüelles (Secretary)**.



Cuevatur 2018 (Spain). Photo: Cuevatur



9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (Slovakia), 9-13 May 2022

The International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC) is held every two years. Download the [latest circular](#)!



ŠTÁTNA
OCHRANA PRÍRODY
SLOVENSKEJ REPUBLIKY



UIS
Union Internationale
de Spéléologie



State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, Banská Bystrica
Slovak Caves Administration, Liptovský Mikuláš
UIS Commission on Glacier, Firn and Ice Caves
Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology, Liptovský Mikuláš
Slovak Speleological Society



9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX)

under the auspices of International Union of Speleology (UIS)

May 9 – 13, 2022 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

15th European Cave Rescue Meeting



**EUROPEAN
CAVE
RESCUE
ASSOCIATION**

The [15th European Cave Rescue Meeting](#) will take place in **Rudice (Moravian Karst, Czech Republic)** from **September 29 until October 2** (Pre-Meeting on September 28-29). The meeting is organized by the **Cave Rescue Service (CRS)** of the **Czech Speleological Society (CSS)** on behalf of the **European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA)**. You can [download the first circular here](#).

**15th European Cave
Rescue Meeting**

Rudice, Moravian karst, Czech Republic

Organized by the **Cave Rescue Service**
of the **Czech Speleological Society**
on behalf of the **European Cave Rescue Association**

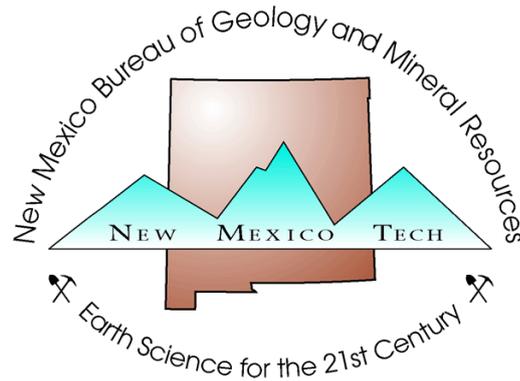
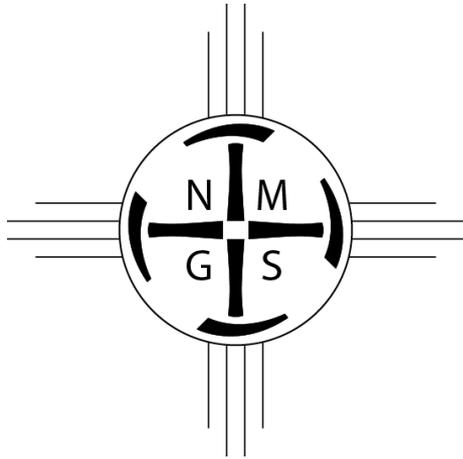
Pre-Meeting
28. – 29.9.2022

ECRA Meeting
29.9. – 2.10.2022

2022

1st Circular

New Mexico Geological Society Annual Spring Meeting & Ft. Stanton Cave Conference (Macey Center, Socorro, NM)



This year, the **NMGS Annual Spring Meeting** will be held **alongside** the **Fort Stanton Cave Science Conference**, which focuses on the world class cave in Lincoln County in celebration of the **20th anniversary of the discovery of the Snowy River passage**. The meeting will be focused on **geoscience research** in New Mexico and adjacent areas, as well as in Ft. Stanton Cave.

The event will take place from April 7-9 in Macey Center, Socorro, NM, and following the previous details, the topic of the meeting will be *“Karst in New Mexico in recognition of 2022 being the International Year of Caves and Karst”*.

Call for abstracts

Abstracts related to the special theme session, or to the geology of New Mexico and adjacent areas, are invited for posters or oral presentations. Abstracts on non-regional topics of interest will also be considered. [Abstracts should be submitted online](#) or **may be accepted in other formats in special cases** (contact the Program Chair for details). Please view the [help page](#) for formatting guidelines.

Note that abstracts focused on Ft. Stanton Cave will be presented on April 7th, while other abstracts, including those related to our special theme, will be presented on April 8th (see schedule below).

Abstracts must be submitted by Sunday, March 27, 2022 and be 500 words or less.

You can find more information about the event [here](#).

The Cave Lighting ‘Dream Team’: Tudor Marin, ‘The Specialist’

As a pioneer of Romanian speleology, Tudor was one of the first cavers with a full speleo training just before becoming an instructor in Romania. There he taught the **SRT technique** to hundreds of cavers.

Four years ago, Cave Lighting needed someone to carry out a tricky task and climb over ice to install lights in the **Dachstein Giant Ice Cave**. Tudor joined the team in Austria to accomplish this task together with **Adrian Kondacs**. Since that project, Tudor has been involved in almost every one of the **projects**, and this year he has demonstrated his **foresight and solution-oriented thinking** in **Martelange (Luxembourg)**, **Grotte de Han (Belgium)** and the **Hidden Passage (Texas, USA)**. His expertise as a speleologist and climber made him an ideal cave lighting **specialist**.

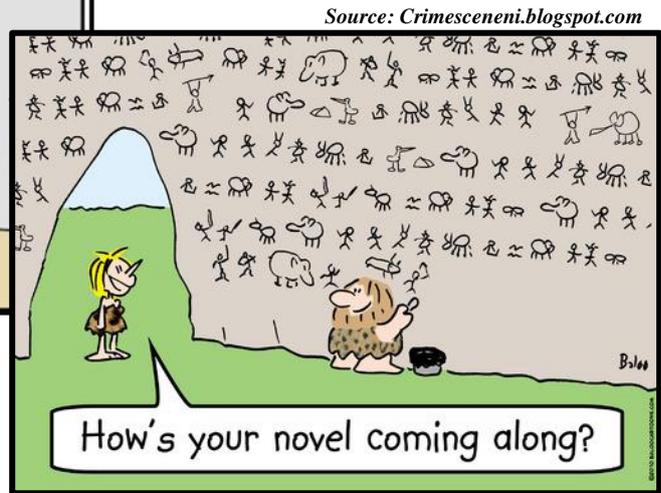
Do y’all already know Cave Lighting’s lighting projects? Visit their [website](#) for more info. And learn more about the postponed [Cave Lighting’s Workshop in 2023](#) here. By the way, [they are looking for new employees!](#)



The funny side of life



Source: Webdonuts.com



Source: Crimesceneni.blogspot.com



Source: Cartoonistgroup.com



Email: TheresOne@aol.com

Articles of interest



Academic Open Access Publishing
since 1996

The Microvertebrates of Shanidar Cave: Preliminary Taphonomic Findings

Tilby E, Miracle P, Barker G. The Microvertebrates of Shanidar Cave: Preliminary Taphonomic Findings. *Quaternary*. 2022; 5(1):4. <https://doi.org/10.3390/quat5010004>

[- Read the full article -](#)

An Introduction to the Special Issue “Geochemical Processes of Karst and Karst Paleoenvironments” as Part of the International Year of Caves and Karst

Veni G. An Introduction to the Special Issue “Geochemical Processes of Karst and Karst Paleoenvironments” as Part of the International Year of Caves and Karst. *Water*. 2022; 14(1):91. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w14010091>

[- Read the full article -](#)

Latest publications



Thanks to the **NCA** and its Executive Director, **Bob Holt**, for bringing us the latest updates:

[Cave Talk: March 2022](#)

[Cave Talk: February 2022](#)

Learn more about the **NCA** on CAVERN.COM



Fédération Française
de Spéléologie

Don't miss the latest issue of **Spelunca** (FR), which is published every three months by the **Fédération Française de Spéléologie**.

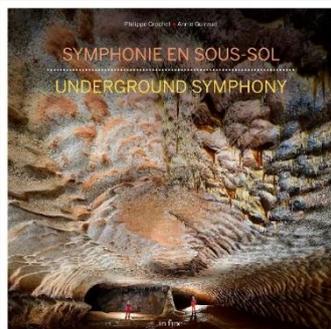
[Find all FFS publications and order them!](#)

More about the **FFS** [HERE](#)



The latest **European Speleological Federation (FSE)** newsletters:

[EuroSpeleo February 2022](#)



Philippe Crochet and Annie Guiraud have recently published their new book: *Underground Symphony*.

The book shares their passion for the underground world and photography.

[Contact](#) for more details!

Please, forward the above documents as widely as possible.

Share yours, too! Is there any other publication you would like to include?

Send it to juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org and we will publish your materials as soon as possible

What caves are these?



Photo: Mapachetours.com

CAVE #19

Hint 1:

This cave was mentioned somewhere in this newsletter.

Hint 2:

It's located in Costa Rica.

CAVE #20

Hint #1:

It is located at the heart of the very first Belgian UNESCO Global Geopark.

Hint #2:

It proudly wears 3 Green Michelin Stars.



Photo: Valoniabelgicaturismo.es

SEND YOUR ANSWERS

PAVEL GEJDOŠ, A REAL CAVE ENTHUSIAST, WAS THE FIRST TO ANSWER LAST MONTH'S 'WHAT CAVES ARE THESE?'

Cave #17 was Caves of Nerja (Spain)

Cave #18 was Gouffre de Padirac. (France)

Send your answers to juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org



Coming soon: International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

The [International Day of Caves and Subterranean World](#) is celebrated on **June 6** and aims at exploring, studying, protecting and preserving international caves and karst landscapes. **More information will soon be provided** as regards one of the major events of the **International Year of Caves and Karst**.



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference, rescheduled to 17-20 July 2022

This **conference** will bring together scientists and students to share the latest progress in the rapidly developing field of **cave- and karst-based (palaeo) climate research**. More info [here](#).



ISCA Calendar 2022-2023

PLEASE NOTE

Some of these events may suffer variations.
You may contact the organization for confirmation.
Do you want to add or modify an event?
Contact us! juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org



2022 International Year of Caves and Karst

Spring 2022 – 14th International Symposium of Pseudokarst

7th – 9th April – New Mexico Geological Soc. Annual Spring Meeting & Ft. Stanton Cave Science Conference

17th April – National Bat Appreciation Day

20th – 23rd April, 2022 – 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology

9th – 13th May, 2022 – 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (Slovakia)

6th June – International Day of Tourist Caves and Subterranean World

9th – 28th June, 2022 - Spelaion Forum22

13th – 17th June, 2022 - NSS Convention 2022 (Rapid City, South Dakota)

15th June, 2022 - Science in the Underground – Speleology in Dialogue

22nd – 25th June, 2022 – EuroKarst 2022 (Malaga)

24th – 31st July, 2022 - 18th Int. Congress of Speleology

12th – 17th September, 2022 - Man and Karst 2022

22nd September – 1st October, 2022 – ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention (San Antonio, Texas)

19th – 23th October, 2022 – CUEVATUR 2022 (Pulpi, Almería, Spain)

15th – 18th November, 2022 – IAAPA 2022 (Orlando, Florida)

2023

2023 – NCA Convention 2023

2023 – NSS Convention 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia)

2023 – Cave Lighting Workshop

Deadline!

If you would like to contribute in upcoming publications,
please send an e-mail **before April 28th, 2022**

📧 Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org

Links of interest



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



Would you like to be part of us? Join ISCA!



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ISCA Membership Application

Not a member of the International Show Caves Association yet? We would be delighted to receive a **Membership Application** from you!

Visit [our website](#) and find out more about the **Membership Renewal form** and **Membership Application**.

Become an ISCA member now!

Francesca Serpentine

ISCA Secretary & Treasurer

Contact: iscasecretary@i-s-c-a.org

Join us and become an ISCA Member

Visit www.i-s-c-a.org for details.

There are many membership benefits!





INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

The [International Show Caves Association \(ISCA\)](#) was founded in 1990 and is headquartered in [Frasassi/Genga, Italy](#),

ISCA is an international organization of persons, associations, corporations, and government agencies who own, manage or operate [show caves](#) that are open to the public. ISCA provides a critical forum for show caves to network and collaborate on matters that pertain to their caves. ISCA aims to promote, encourage, and support the cooperation of show cave operators, speleologists and cave enthusiasts through the sharing of information and to promote the preservation and conservation of caves, while increasing public interest in the world of show caves by way of unique marketing and the evolution of methods to enhance the show cave experience.



Thanks to everyone who collaborated.

Editor: Juan José Tíscar Moya – Contact: juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org

Issue: March & April 2022

