



# ISCA Newsletter

July  
August  
2022

## INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

### CONTENTS

# Three months to go!

The **ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention** is round the corner. The event, which is taking place from **September 22nd to October 1st**, will be held in **San Antonio (Texas)** and hosted by **Natural Bridge Caverns**.

You can find all the information related to the event on the [congress website](#), which includes [registration details](#), [FAQs](#), [trips](#), [itinerary](#), and [conferences](#), among others.

It is expected that visitors from every corner around the world attend the Congress, and that is why it is an excellent place to meet new people and share knowledge and experiences which will be really useful for the caving community and associations.

Please, the **deadline for the early bird is on July 15th**, so make sure you **register in advance** in order to get all the benefits!



Besides, the following pages also include information about other interesting events and news related to our beloved caves and sow caves.

These topics of interest will be interesting for those who love caves and the underground. Let us know your **feedback**!



### 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](#).



### FOLLOW US!

Our [Facebook page](#) is the best place to share your materials! Do not forget to **like us**!



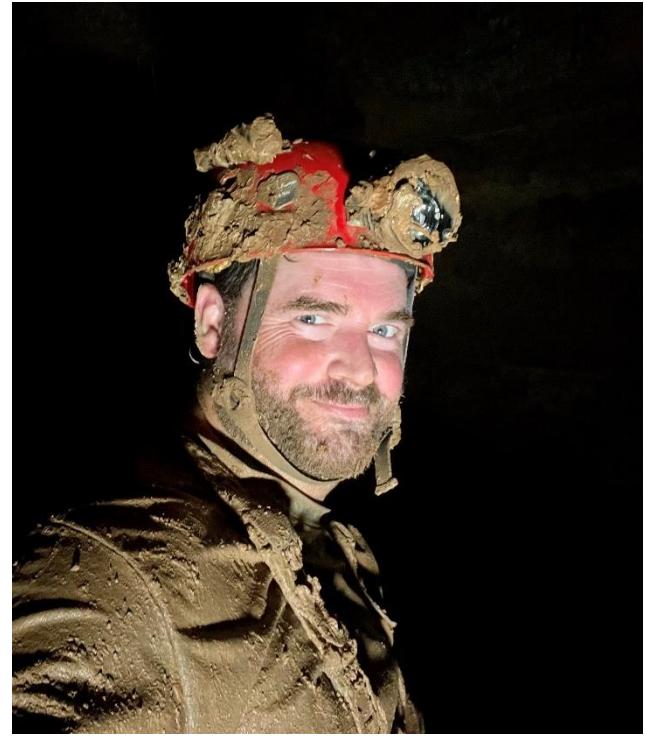
# Message from the President

by Brad Wuest

Hello ISCA members and show cave fans,

Happy summer to all of you in the northern hemisphere and happy winter to those of you down south! Here in the USA most kids are out of school at the end of May – beginning of June followed by summer break with its increased travel and visitation to show caves.

The timing of the [International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World \(a.k.a. International Cave Day for short\)](#) on June 6th each year is a perfect time to increase awareness about the importance of caves and karst landscapes and of course encourage people to visit show caves! Each year members of the ISCA, UIS, national show cave associations and speleological societies around the world join in the celebration. This year was special because we are still in the [International Year of Caves and Karst 2021-2022](#) which strengthened our message.



*Brad 'Muddy' Wuest. ISCA President.*

I hope all of you found the International Cave Day toolkit materials we provided helpful. Thanks to all of you who have shared with us how you celebrated #CaveDay and your PR successes. We would love to hear from more of you! Each year International Cave Day participation grows. Together our message is louder, farther reaching and more impactful so let us keep the momentum going!

As we do each year, ISCA sent out a news release to media around the world. This year's media exposure was the greatest ever thanks to our friends at the [National Caves Association USA](#) who matched funds with ISCA's public relations budget to effectively double our efforts! And a big thanks to our awesome communications director Winter Prosapio for producing the news releases and toolkits. Stay tuned for updates on future public relations efforts.

One of our greatest partner organizations is [UIS \(International Union of Speleology\)](#) who we work closely with on our common goals and objectives. I want to wish our friends in UIS the greatest success for their Congress that is taking place this month in France. I know the month of July is very busy for most of us in the show cave industry and it's hard to get away, but I hope some of you will be able to attend.

Speaking of Congresses, we are excited to host all of you for the ISCA & NCA Congress 2022 this September in San Antonio Texas USA! A friendly reminder that the early bird registration deadline is coming up soon on July 15th. So do not delay, register before July 15th, and save!! Check out the Congress [website](#) here to learn all about the Congress, [pre and post field trips](#) and for [Registration](#) which is really easy, just click on the registration tab and you can pay online with your credit card.

Do not forget to click on the [hotel](#) tab to find the link to book your room under our discounted group room block. If you have questions, check out the FAQs tab. If you don't find the answer to your question, please email us at [isca\\_nca2022@naturalbridgecaverns.com](mailto:isca_nca2022@naturalbridgecaverns.com).

During the Congress we will be bussing all of you to [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) (one of the largest show cave operations in the USA) for an afternoon of learning and fun where you will experience our cavern tours, attractions, retail and food & beverage operations and other aspects of how we manage our show cave. I am excited to show you our brand-new Hidden Wonders tour and special event facilities. You will enjoy a

Texas/Mexican charro cowboy horsemanship show by my friend and cowboy hall of famer, [Jerry Diaz](#) followed by dinner and drinks under the Texas stars.

We are working on a broad selection of speakers and topics to provide informative and valuable information that will make it well worth attending such as **Cyber Security**: Constantly evolving cyber threats are impacting everyone around the world. Real world examples of what we are facing and how to minimize risk for your show cave, employees, and guests. Another highly requested topic is **Master Planning and Strategic thinking**: How to figure your return on investment for a new tour, attraction, or product. Strategic thinking and planning for growth that is scalable for all sizes of show caves from less than 10,000 to millions of visitors.

A big thanks to all our [sponsors](#) who are helping make this Congress more enjoyable and affordable to attend. Sponsors like [Cave Lighting](#) who is the most experienced cave lighting manufacturing and installation company in the world that provides basic and affordable lighting systems all the way up to the latest technology in fully programmable and dynamic lighting systems. Check all of them out on the [sponsor's tab!](#) These are all companies that do business with show caves, and some are even fellow show caves who want to help support. If you are interested in being a sponsor, check out the opportunities under this tab.

We are looking for good people who want to volunteer their service to the show cave industry! Every 4 years at our ISCA Congress, during the general assembly our members elect a new Board of Directors. As with most boards, it is always nice to have some board members serve another term to provide continuity and experience, but it is also important to have new members who can provide fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and energy. If you have any interest in serving on the ISCA Board or if you know someone who you think would be a great board member, please let us know! Qualifications and more information can be found below in the newsletter.

We are also seeking hosts for future ISCA Congresses, Conferences and Meetings. At each Congress during our General Assembly meeting the members will vote to approve future ISCA Congress locations and 2026, 2030, etc. are available! Future Conference and Meeting years are available to. See below for more information.

Thanks to our amazing editor, Juanjo for another impressive newsletter and for his efforts in keeping ISCA's social media so active! Please remember to share any content you have with Juanjo so he can publish and share.

Amigos, please let me know if we can do anything to help you. Prayers for your safety, health, happiness, and prosperity.

God Bless,



Brad Wuest  
President  
International Show Caves Association

#### 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](mailto:bwuest@naturalbridgecaverns.com)



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



# From the editor

by Juanjo Tíscar

Dear ISCA friends,

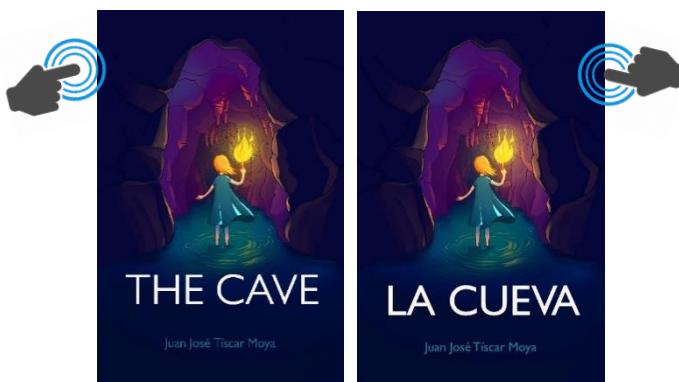
Many of you will be attending the ISCA & NCA Congress in September, and some may still be thinking about it. Over four years ago, we decided to embark ourselves in a project which would welcome people from different countries around the world (I'm sure many of you are reading this right now). Some of us still believe that CUEVATUR 2018 was a turning point for those who did not know about the importance of show caves and the number of people and associations behind these attractions. A few months later, the 8th ISCA Congress in Genga-Frasassi (Italy) proved that the growing community of cave lovers was growing faster and faster. I wanted to share some reasons which may convince you to be in Texas next September:

With my dear friend, Bernardo, at CUEVATUR 2018.

1. **You will meet wonderful people.** If I had to write the names of everyone, I'd end up missing many of you, so I'll just say that thanks to these event I was able to meet some of the nicest people I've met in my life.
2. **You will share knowledge...and anecdotes!** You will learn A LOT about caves, that's for sure. But in my opinion, one of the most important aspects of the event is social relations. You will get to know new people from Australia, Mexico, Slovakia...and you will still be able to share your experience and learn from them. In a few years, you will still be in touch and you will thank having been in Texas.
3. **You will visit incredible places.** Pay attention to the [itinerary](#) of the event! The field trips will be amazing, and Texas is a beautiful state with great landmarks and beautiful landscapes. And the animals! When I tell my friends about my experiences in TX, I compare them to our Spanish lifestyle. Here you may meet dogs and cats in the street, or rabbits while driving. In Texas, you get to see deers walking next to your front door and many other species I could not name. Forget about scorpions, those are only on TV! :) Or maybe not!??!

There are many other reasons you should take into consideration in order to decide yourself and attend the congress, but I'm certain you will never forget the experience. Once ready, do not forget to [register](#) and save some money before July 15th!.

And again! Thanks to those who supported my book, specially my family, friends, and [NBC](#)!



# ISCA Library

Don't miss any of our previous publications! Click on the images and download!



2022 May-Jun



2022 Mar-Apr



2022 Jan-Feb



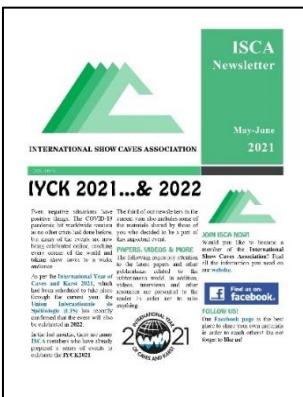
2021 Nov-Dec



2021 Sep-Oct



2021 Jul-Aug



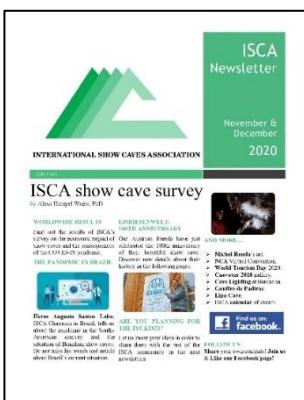
2021 May-Jun



2021 Mar-Apr



2021 Jan-Feb



2020 Nov-Dec



2020 Sep-Oct

# ISCA and NCA Congress Update

by Winter D. Prosapio, Director of Communications at Natural Bridge Caverns

We're closing in on the ISCA NCA Congress in September in San Antonio, Texas – we can't wait to see you there. Here's a quick update on everything you need to know:

## Be an Early Bird!

The deadline for saving on registration for the ISCA NCA Congress is fast approaching. **July 15<sup>th</sup> is the last day to save and there's no better time to sign up than right now.** Not only will you save money, you'll also have the peace of mind knowing you'll soon be gathering with colleagues from around the world.

We've never had a chance to learn from so many cave operators during a single event. Widening your circle of professionals you can call on for suggestions on dealing with challenging issues, learning new ideas, and even just commiserating is one of the biggest benefits of attending Congress.

So don't put it off. [Register now!](#)

## Sponsors help make Congress happen

Keeping costs low for Congress would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. Join us in thanking our signature sponsors Keith Dobrolinsky and Pat O'Sullivan with, Assurance MMA, they've been working with the show cave industry for decades and provide the National Caves Association's customized group insurance program for caves and natural attractions with Lloyd's of London. No one in the world is more experienced in minimizing risk for show caves than our friends Keith and Pat. Thanks for helping show caves for all these years with our insurance needs and for being our title sponsor! They are looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones at Congress 2022 in San Antonio!

Thanks to all our sponsors:



**War Eagle Cavern**  
On Beaver Lake

**Natural Stone Bridge & Caves**  
Family Owned for Over 200 Years!

## Session highlight

Sessions are shaping up! The agenda will be packed with great strategies and ideas to inspire you to achieve great things or solve sticky problems. Here's one we think will be of particular interest:

### ***Master Planning – Shaping Your Future NOW***

There's tremendous value in stepping back from your day-to-day operations and thinking through your future. Whether your goal is increasing revenue or creating advocacy for protection of caves and karst landscapes, master planning is critical to achieving it.

In this session John Kasman with PGAV outlines the process of effective master planning. From identifying your goals, to understanding your audience, to exploring your assets, each phase informs the next and sets your cave on a path to realize its potential. This session will be applicable for show caves anywhere in the world and of every size from less than 10,000 visitors to millions of visitors each year. Start more than dreaming – start planning!

You can see the schedule of sessions, excursions, and more on our Congress website [here](#) – and while you're there, go ahead and [register!](#)

### **Fun beyond the Congress - Let's head to the Alamo!**

See the cradle of Texas liberty come alive at the Alamo. The Alamo is one of the United States most beloved historical sites and is undergoing a massive transformation. We'll be visiting this iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site where the dramatic story of the historic battle comes alive. Part museum, part guided tour, it is the single most visited battleground in the country.

### **Who's coming to Congress**

#### ***John and Rod Graves, Luray Cavern***

"Attending ISCA Congress/ NCA Convention is most rewarding particularly the aspect of building relationships therefore having the availability to reach out to the membership for operational suggestions. The friendships that evolve from attending the Congress/ Convention are invaluable to the success of the cave tourism industry. We thank and congratulate the Wuests and the staff there for all the hard work and dedication that this represents. We look forward in attending and representing the Luray Caverns."



*John and Rod Graves, Luray Caverns. Photo: Luray Cavern.*

## Congress Hotels

Take advantage of discounted rates, click on the link shown on the Congress webpage to access the group room block and reserve your room now! If you have questions regarding the hotel or your reservations, please contact (210) 224-6500.

### Pre-Congress Field Trip:

The Stevens Inn, Carlsbad NM – Please call +1 (575) 887-2851 or email [frontdesk@carlsbadnm.com](mailto:frontdesk@carlsbadnm.com) to make your reservation.

### Post-Congress Field Trip:

Comfort Inn & Suites, Boerne TX – Take advantage of discounted rates, click on the link shown on the Congress webpage to access the group room block and reserve your room now! If you have questions regarding the hotel or your reservations, please contact (830) 249-6800 or email [comfortinn.suitesboerne@gmail.com](mailto:comfortinn.suitesboerne@gmail.com)

Embassy Suites by Hilton, San Antonio TX - Take advantage of discounted rates, click on the link shown on the Congress webpage to access the group room block and reserve your room now! If you have questions regarding the hotel or your reservations, please contact (210) 525-9999 or email [liz.rivera@hilton.com](mailto:liz.rivera@hilton.com)

### Book NOW

Remember, July 15<sup>th</sup> is our early bird deadline! [Click here to register NOW.](#)



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE: JULY 15**



# THE CONGRESS UPDATE

Weekly News on ISCA and NCA World Congress

## PRESOLUTION FEATURE: **STRATEGIC STORYTELLING**

CREATING A CUTTING-EDGE EXPERIENCE  
THROUGH THE POWER OF STORY



Brands around the world use storytelling in strategic ways, and the fundamentals of storytelling are within your reach. In this presentation Mike Konzen, Principal and Chair at PGAV, will share the power of a well-told story to elevate the visitor experience – and how you can embed it in your cave.

## EXCURSION FEATURE: CAVERNS OF SONORA

The Caverns of Sonora has a beauty that can not be exaggerated (not even by Texans). This National Natural Landmark is densely packed with formations, and the collection of beautiful helictites



and delicate formations are amazing. Two miles of the seven-mile cavern is open for tours and 95% of the formations are still growing. Located in the wide open country that's a quintessential western landscape .

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT



PGAV Destinations creates business-results-oriented master plans, pilots in-depth industry research, and designs beautiful, innovative products for destinations around the world.



## FROM LURAY CAVERNS:

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having the availability to reach out to the membership for operational suggestions. The friendships that evolve from attending the Congress/ Convention are invaluable to the success of the cave tourism industry."

- John and Rod Graves, Luray Caverns

> REGISTER NOW



SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2022 • SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

# ISCA/NCA Congress information



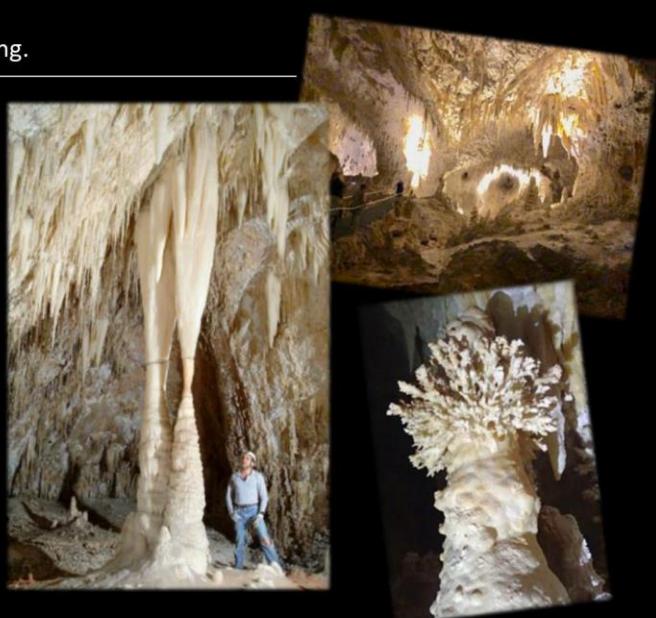
Step back from the day-to-day and dream. See beyond the cave entrance and queue lines see a whole new level of operational and entertainment excellence. Take time for strategic thinking about where you are - and where you could be. This is why it's important to make time to attend the International Show Caves Association and National Caves Association Congress 2022.

We've packed the agenda with incredible opportunities to learn from entertainment professionals and some of the top cave operators in the world. When you attend International Show Caves Association and National Caves Association Congress 2022 you will:

- Discover how to maximize operational efficiency and drive results in a competitive entertainment and attraction landscape.
- Uncover exciting revenue opportunities in marketing, retail, and food and beverage.
- Learn how to better entertain and educate guests about cave formations and the subterranean world.
- Find solutions that have plagued you by connecting with others who have grappled with the same (or similar) challenges. Or talk to vendors for news on the latest products and solutions for your cave.
- Explore ways to better maintain and manage your property or expand your expertise.
- Identify effective staff trainings with proven results and learn how tour guides are increasingly finding ways to better connect with guests.
- Network with colleagues from around the world and welcome new friends at an exciting series of events designed just for you.
- Learn about the latest in cave development and cave lighting.

## Join us on the Pre-Congress Field Trip -September 22-24, 2022-

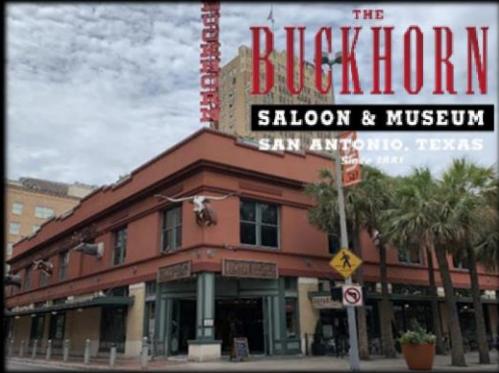
One of the most spectacular and highly decorated caves in North America. The deepest cave in the US. The heart of cave and karst research. This incredible pre-congress field trip is one of the most spectacular ever offered!



**Stunning. Breathtaking. Phenomenal.**  
Those are the only words worthy of describing the caves on our pre-congress field trip.

**-Monday, September 26, 2022-**

It's time to connect and be inspired! Share all that is happening at your property and hear other news from show caves around the world. After opening ceremonies and business meetings on Monday, we'll enjoy lunch while viewing updates from caves around the country and around the world about operations, new developments, exploration, and expansions. A catalog vendor show will take place on this day as well. That evening we'll spend time together in a saloon!



The Buckhorn Saloon takes a little of old school Texas and plays it up in an engaging and delightful atmosphere. Soak up the cowboy culture at the oldest running saloon in Texas.

**-Tuesday, September 27, 2022-**

Join us for an insightful keynote address by Mike Konzen, Chairman and CEO of PGAV, a multidisciplinary planning and design firm. Mike has led PGAV in work for UNESCO World Heritage sites, major museums, national parks, theme parks, show caves and resorts. Today, PGAV Destinations is the largest independent creator of attractions and destinations in the industry, with projects on five continents. Mike will speak about seeing the potential beyond your cave and how you can bring a level of immersive design to everything you do.



Join us at our host show cave, Natural Bridge Caverns. Showcasing recent multi-million-dollar cave lighting and development projects featuring a full range of above and below ground entertainment, you will experience all this property has to offer. Cavern leadership will be available to share stories and give insight into one of the largest show cave operations in the United States.



You haven't experienced true Texas horsemanship entertainment until you see Jerry Diaz' family Charro show! Jerry is a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and is recognized around the world for his expertise in horsemanship and dedication to the Charro traditions.

**-Wednesday, September 28, 2022-**

After meetings and lunch, we will jump on a river barge for a guided tour of The Paseo del Rio before touring the iconic Alamo. After the tours, you will have free time to explore the world-famous San Antonio Riverwalk on your own – dining, shopping, and entertainment of your choice.



-Thursday, September 29, 2022-



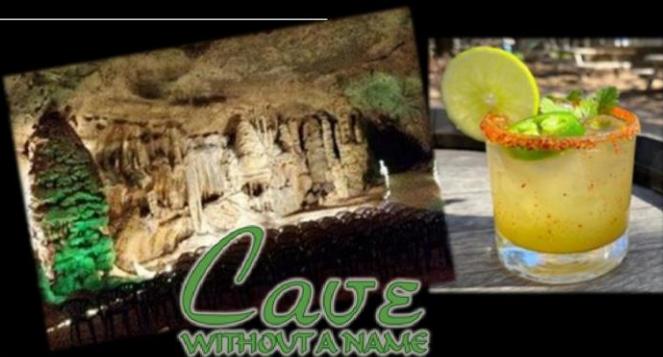
After decades of touring groups through a cavern, you think you know it better than anyone – until you light it with state-of-the-art systems that change your perspective completely. That's what happened when the Natural Bridge Caverns team walked back into the Hidden Cavern after the Cave Lighting Team lit up the room. "We gasped. Literally." Hear from Alexander Chrapko from Cave Lighting and Matt Carr, Director of Cavern Development about the recently completed lighting project and the dramatic impact on the tour experience.



Western Theme Party, wear your coolest Western wear! Cowboy Hat and Boots! The Briscoe Western Art Museum celebrates the stories of the cowboy, the vaquero, Native Americans, and the vast beauty of the Western landscape through drawings, sketches, paintings, and sculptures. It's a fitting locale for our Congress dinner.

### Join us on the Post-Congress Field Trip -September 30 – October 1, 2022-

Join us for two days of exploration of our spectacular local show caves, incredible entertainment, and delightful Texas hospitality in the beautiful Hill Country. From a concert in a cave to some serious dance hall time, we're filling your final days in Texas with the perfect blend of wonder, fun, and hospitality.



# Congress Speakers

Tuesday, September 27, 2022



Join us for an insightful keynote address by **Mike Konzen**, Chairman and CEO of [PGAV](#), a multidisciplinary planning and design firm. Mike has led PGAV in work for UNESCO World Heritage sites, major museums, national parks, theme parks, show caves and resorts. Today, PGAV Destinations is the largest independent creator of attractions and destinations in the industry, with projects on five continents. Mike will speak about seeing the potential beyond your cave and how you can bring a level of immersive design to everything you do.



Thursday, September 29, 2022



After decades of touring groups through a cavern, you think you know it better than anyone – until you light it with state-of-the-art systems that change your perspective completely. That's what happened when the [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) team walked back into the Hidden Cavern after the [Cave Lighting](#) Team lit up the room. “We gasped. Literally.” Hear from **Alexander Chrapko** from Cave Lighting and **Matt Carr**, Director of Cavern Development about the recently completed lighting project and the dramatic impact on the tour experience.



We are working on adding new speakers and topics for the presentations. The [Congress website](#) will be updated and new information will be shared with members as soon as there are new participants.

# Congress itinerary



Attendees will not only learn more about caves while meeting other cave enthusiasts, but they will also enjoy some of the most beautiful locations in San Antonio and its surroundings. Please, visit the [itinerary page](#) in order to learn more about the different activities which are included in the Congress schedule.



*The itinerary includes San Antonio Riverwalk, the Alamo, and caves such as Cave Without a Name, Natural Bridge Caverns, Inner Space Cavern, Carlsbad Caverns, Longhorn Caverns and Caverns of Sonora.*

# Field trips



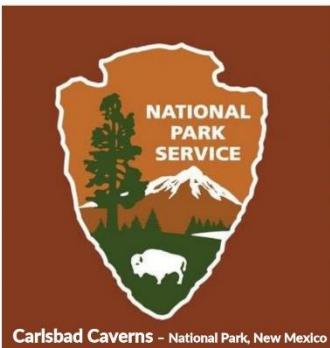
Caverns of Sonora - Texas

Located on a working ranch, the Caverns of Sonora is a World-Renowned show cave, a National Natural Landmark and recognized one of the most beautiful show caves on the planet. Experience some of the most beautiful and rare formations in the world in an incredible setting that is 98% actively growing.



Carlsbad Caverns - New Mexico

Carlsbad Caverns National Park is in the Chihuahuan Desert of southern New Mexico. It features more than 100 caves. The Natural Entrance is a path into the namesake Carlsbad Cavern. Stalactites cling to the roof of the Big Room, a huge underground chamber in the cavern. Walnut Canyon Desert Loop is a drive with desert views. Rattlesnake Springs, a desert wetland, attracts reptiles and hundreds of bird species.



Carlsbad Caverns - National Park, New Mexico

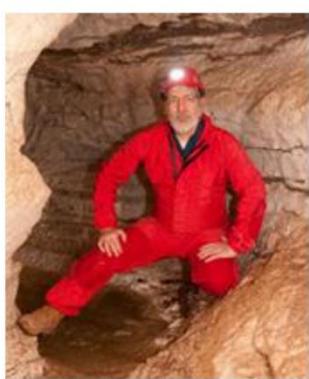


National Cave and Karst Research Institute - New Mexico

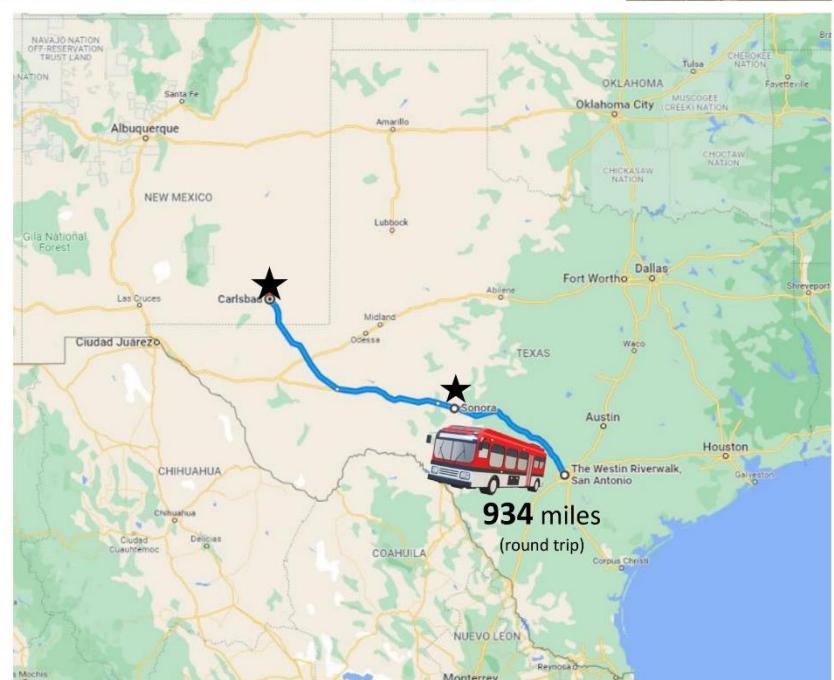
The National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) is a non-profit government-supported institute headquartered in the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico. It was created by the US Congress to conduct, support, facilitate, and promote programs in cave and karst research, education, environmental management, and data acquisition and sharing.



**DropZone - NCKRI, New Mexico**  
Immerse yourself in vertical cave exploration at the Cave Exploratorium's DropZone, our first permanent exhibit. Through hands-on and interactive exhibits, you can learn about how theories developed by Newton and Galileo are applied to cave exploration and rope work. The use of vertical skills helps cavers explore our subterranean world. For the very brave, you can experience what it is like to be a vertical cave explorer by climbing and descending 9 m on a simulated cave wall.



**Travel Host - Brian Vauter** began working at Natural Bridge Caverns in 1986 as a tour guide in high school. He graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Geology. He worked for the United States Geological Survey in Nevada for the Yucca Mountain Project looking specifically at groundwater and water vapor flow through the volcanic rocks. He returned to Natural Bridge Caverns as the Staff Cavern Geologist. In addition to Geology, he works extensively with ticketing systems and business intelligence software.



Rattlesnake Springs - New Mexico

## Registration Fee: \$225.00

Registration Fee does NOT include hotel accommodations. Please book your hotel by contacting the Stevens Inn – Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Phone: +1 (575) 887-2851

**Stevens Inn**  
CARLSBAD, NM



# Congress sponsors

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A big thanks to our generous sponsors who are helping make the Congress more affordable for everyone! If you are interested in being a sponsor, please click here and check out the Sponsor Opportunities and Sponsor Packages. [Sponsors: ISCA & NCA Congress 2022 \(swoogo.com\)](http://Sponsors: ISCA & NCA Congress 2022 (swoogo.com))



# ISCA Elections to take place during the 2022 Congress



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Dear ISCA friends,

We would like to remind you that elections for the ISCA Board of Directors will take place during the ISCA/NCA Congress in September. Consequently, a Nominating Committee made up by three members attending the General Assembly shall be elected by the General Assembly on the first day of the Congress. For this reason, it is very important and helpful to know in advance if there is anyone interested in becoming a member of the ISCA BoD or participating in the Nominating Committee.

- **Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors (hereinafter “the Board”) shall consist of the President of the Association, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and ten Directors. The same person may hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. The Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee shall be an ex officio non-voting member of the Board. **To be eligible to serve as a member of the Board**, with the exception of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee, the member must hold a position of responsibility and/or involvement in the organization of a Full Member. Associate Members, who are elected as Directors, are exempt from this provision. Two of the ten positions of Director may be held by Associate Members. With the exception of the Secretary, the Treasurer, Associate Members elected as Directors and the Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Committee **each member of the Board shall belong to a different country**.
- **Nominating Committee.** Members of the Nominating Committee shall be Full Members or Associate Members of the Association who are in good standing. The Nominating Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of nominating a slate of Officers and Directors for the ensuing four year period. The Nominating Committee shall meet during the Congress. The Nominating Committee shall submit its recommendations to the General Assembly not less than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled election of the Officers and Directors.

Please, download and read the [ISCA Constitution](#) and learn more about the requirements to become a member of the ISCA Board of Directors or be a part of the Nominating Committee.

**Are you interested in becoming a member of the ISCA Board of Directors?  
Contact us!**

[\*\*Brad Wuest\*\*](#) (ISCA President)  
[\*\*Fritz Oedl\*\*](#) (ISCA First Vice President)  
[\*\*Rafael Pagés\*\*](#) (ISCA First Vice President)  
[\*\*Francesca Serpentina\*\*](#) (ISCA Secretary/Treasurer)

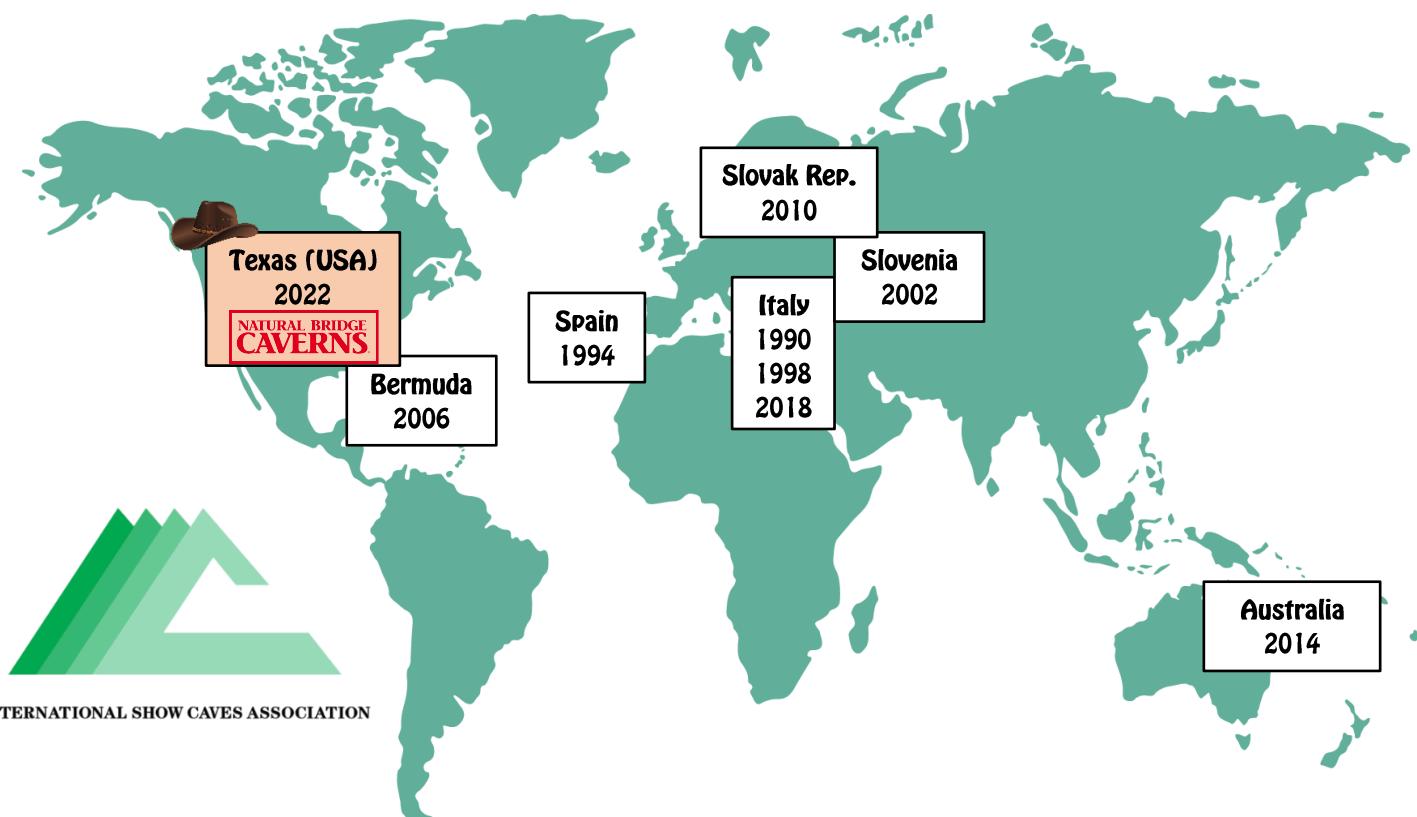
# Ready to host future ISCA Congresses, Conferences and Meetings?

As you know, the ISCA/NCA Congress 2022 is one more event in our calendar. But soon we will have to decide where our future Congresses, Conferences and Meetings will take place. If you have a proposal which you think could be interesting, please, let us know. We are open to suggestions!

- **ISCA Congresses.** They are held every four years, preferably during the months of October and/or November. The venue for future congresses shall be determined in the General Assembly of the preceding Congress. General Assemblies take place during each ISCA Congress and they are expected to be held over a period of one day.
- **ISCA Conferences.** They shall be held two years after the celebration of a Congress, preferably during the months of October and/or November. Applications for sanction to hold a Conference shall be received by the Secretary not less than six (6) months before the proposed Conference is scheduled to commence.
- **ISCA Meetings.** Meeting may be held in the intervening year between a Congress and any Conference. No more than one ISCA Meeting per year may be sanctioned. Applications for sanction to hold an ISCA Meeting shall be received by the Secretary not less than six (6) months before the proposed ISCA Meeting is scheduled to commence. Applicants must be made by a Full Member of the Association.

Please, download and read the [ISCA Constitution](#) and learn more about these events.

## ISCA CONGRESSES



# Visibility Report on the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World

thanks to Winter D. Prosapio, Director of Communications at Natural Bridge Caverns



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Last May, the International Show Cave Association send out a news release supporting the celebration of the International Day of Caves and Karst (#CaveDay) on June 6th. Thanks to **Winter D. Prosapio, Director of Communications at Natural Bridge Caverns**, for her outstanding work. We can now pay a deeper look at the PR successes achieved.

Press Release Pick Up – You can now [download](#) the report from **Cision** which indicates we reached an audience of 90M with 274 click throughs and 1,847 release views from media. Solid pick up for a wire release!

## Overview

| TOTAL PICKUP | 113          | TOTAL POTENTIAL AUDIENCE | 90M           |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Exact Match  | 112 postings | Exact Match              | 90M visitors  |
| Twitter      | 1 Tweet      | Twitter                  | 860 followers |

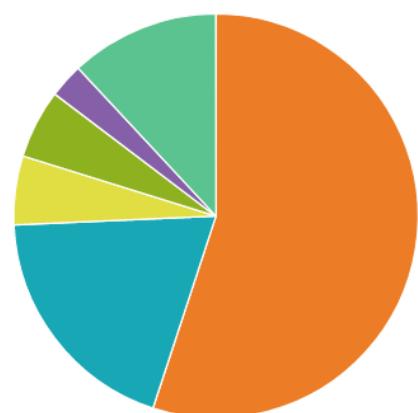
Hashtags were used by members 34 times on IG. A good start but hopefully we can do better next year.

We created an extensive kit for members including templated news releases, art, and educational materials. You can review it [here](#). In order to assess its success, it would be great to get your feedback to determine if it was helpful and what other tools would be welcome. With this nice strong base, we can definitely provide it early next year and hopefully that'll drive usage.

Our goals for next year include a shorter release (with linked fact sheet), a Webinar for members with presentations from caves doing exciting events and a kit for members out very early (April 1).

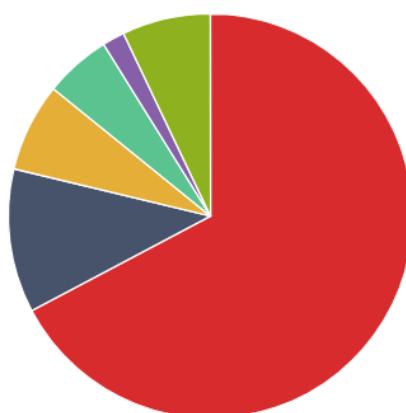
We look forward to reviewing these results and discussing possibilities for IYCK 2023!

Total Pickup by Source Type



■ Newspaper (60/55.0%)  
■ Online News Sites & Other Influencers (21/19.3%)  
■ Blog (6/5.5%)  
■ Industry Association Sites (6/5.5%)  
■ Broadcast Media (3/2.8%)  
■ Other (13/11.9%)

Total Pickup by Industry



■ Media & Information (76/67.3%)  
■ Travel & Leisure (13/11.5%)  
■ Financial (8/7.1%)  
■ Retail & Consumer (6/5.3%)  
■ Entertainment (2/1.8%)  
■ Other (8/7.1%)

## Overview

### RELEASE VIEWS & HITS

2K

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Release Views            | <b>1K</b>  |
| Public Views             | <b>1K</b>  |
| Partner Sites            | <b>145</b> |
| PR Newswire Properties   | <b>1K</b>  |
| Release Web Crawler Hits | <b>292</b> |

### MULTIMEDIA

1K

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Image Views        | <b>581</b> |
| Image Web Crawlers | <b>444</b> |

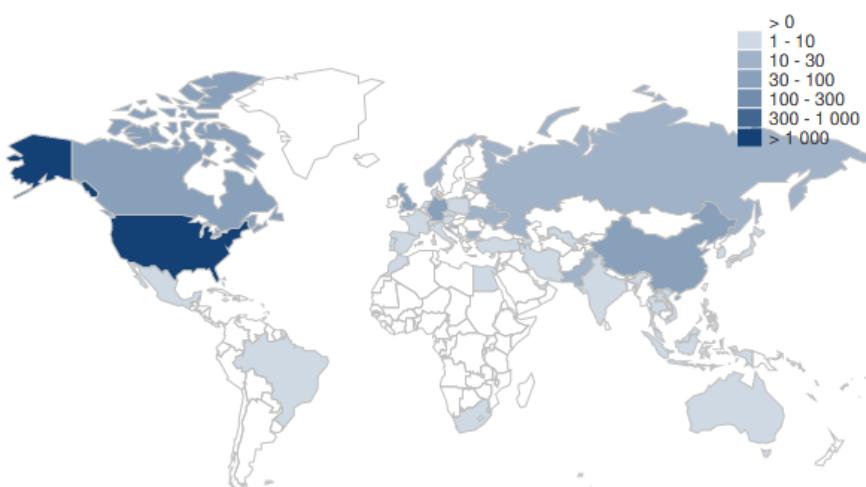
## Audience Summary

### Geo-segmentation

See where views of your release originated. Hover over map to see totals by location.

Select a region:

World View



# Celebrating the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

The International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World has been a success one more year. Hundreds of caves, show caves and associations organised different activities in order to celebrate an event organised by the [National Association of French Caves](#) (ANECAT), the [French Federation of Speleology](#) (FFS) and the International Show Caves Association.

The following pages include information about the events and activities which have been offered. Big thanks to those who collaborated and we look forward to celebrating a new #CaveDay in order to show the importance of show caves and show cave management.

Association Nationale des Grottes de France & Fédération Française de Spéléologie  
présentent

**Journée Internationale  
des Grottes Touristiques  
et du Monde Souterrain**  
International Day of Caves and Subterranean World

**REGARDS CROISÉS**

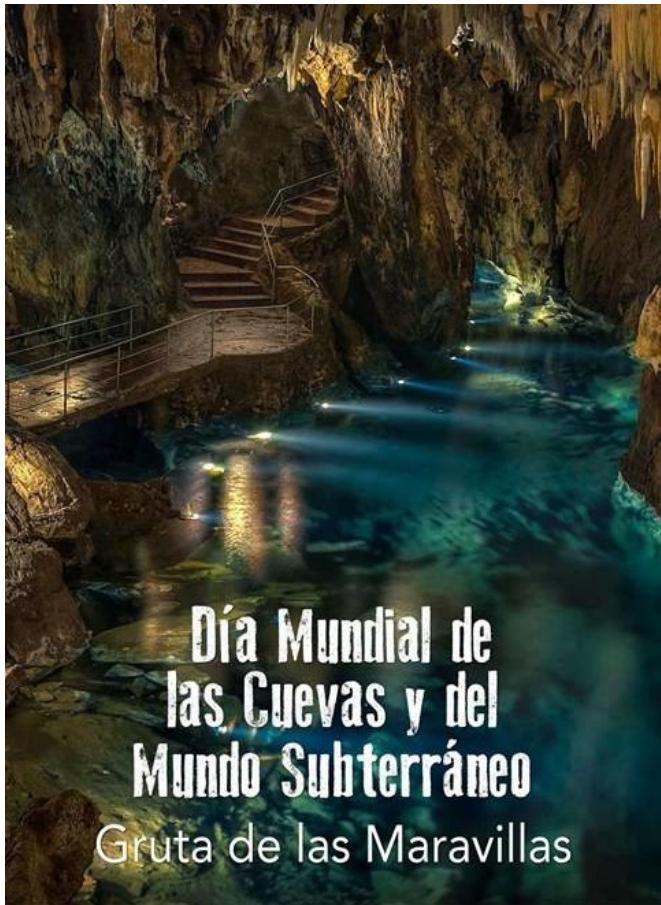
Lun. 06  
juin 2022  
6<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Regards croisés sur le monde souterrain  
Converging Views on Subterranean World  
[www.grottesdefrance.org](http://www.grottesdefrance.org) / [#jigt2022](http://www.ffspeleo.fr)

INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

Grottes de France  
ANECAT

Fédération Française  
de Spéléologie



Gran Salón, Gruta de las Maravillas (Aracena)



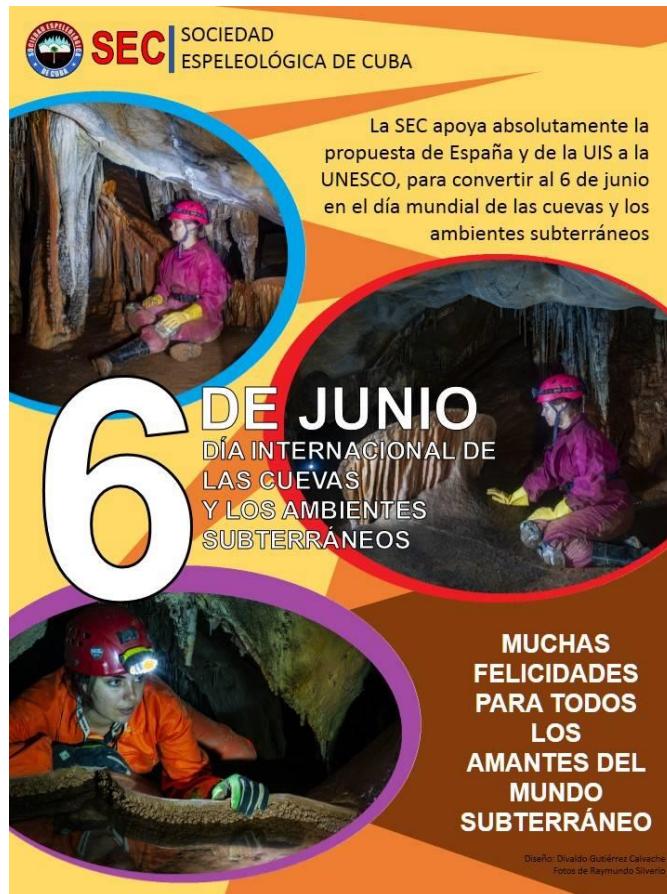
#ARACENA

In Spain, [Gruta de las Maravillas](#) offered special discounts (2x1), and children under 12 were given free tickets in order to visit one of the country's most beautiful show caves. Besides, visitors were also given a special souvenir on June 6<sup>th</sup>.



*Gruta de las Maravillas celebrated #CaveDay with visitors.  
Photo: Ayuntamiento de Aracena Facebook Page*

The [Cuban Society of Speleology](#) also supported our aim of declaring June 6th as the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World.



In Mexico, [Gruta Atepolihui](#) also shared the experience of their visitors to celebrate #CaveDay.

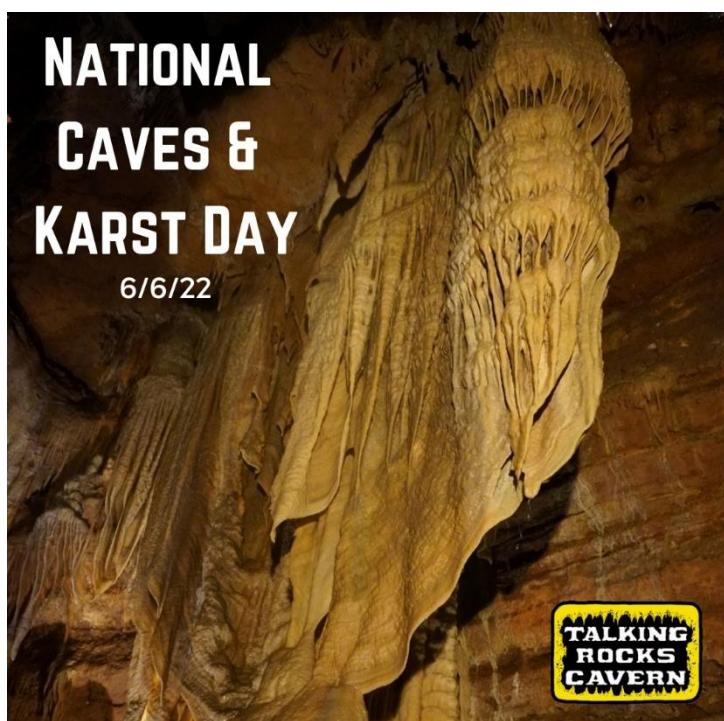


*Visitors exploring Gruta Atepolihui (Mexico). Photo: Gruta Atepolihui Facebook Page*

June 6th was celebrated by [Monumento Natural Cueva Castañar](#) (Spain), [Talking Rocks Cavern](#) (Missouri, USA) and [Ngilgi Cave](#) (Australia), where Paul, one of those tour guides you would always love to have, shared a video showing some of the most beautiful cave formations.



Celebration of June 6th. Photo: Monumento Natural Cueva Castañar.



Talking Rocks Cavern on June 6th. Photo: TRC Facebook Page.



Paul, from Ngilgi Cave, celebrating Junne 6th. Photo: Ngilgi Cave Facebook Page.

The [Spanish Show Caves Association](#) (ACTE) shared [a letter by its President](#), Manuel Durán Hidalgo, highlighting the union of international associations in order to urge UNESCO “to declare June 6th as the International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World”. The President also focused on the celebration of [CUEVATUR 2022](#), the 8th International Congress of Show Caves and Mines (also known as International Congress of the Subterranean World), which will take place next October in Geoda de Pulpí (Almería, Spain).

### **Seis de junio, el gran día para las Cuevas Turísticas. Carta del Presidente de ACTE, Manuel Durán Hidalgo**

6 Junio 2022

La carta de Manuel Durán Hidalgo, Presidente de la Asociación de Cuevas Turísticas, pone en valor el seis de junio como Día Internacional de las Cuevas y del Mundo Subterráneo e insta a la UNESCO a promulgar esta fecha de manera inminente.

El seis de junio es el **Día Internacional de las Cuevas Turísticas**. Una iniciativa que da comienzo en 2016 con la solicitud formal ante UNESCO para la aceptación de este día como la fecha oficial del mundo subterráneo.

En 2021, la celebración de este día coincidió con la del **Año Internacional de las Cuevas y del Karst**, promovido por la Unión Internacional de Espeleología. Durante doce meses, las principales asociaciones con presencia local y global, entre las que se incluye la Asociación de Cuevas Turísticas Españolas, llevaron a cabo congresos, comunicaciones científicas e informaciones para la preservación de estos entornos.

En 2022, continuamos con esta labor, volviendo a organizar **CUEVATUR 2022**, el Congreso Internacional de Cuevas Turísticas, que en octubre celebra su octava edición. En esta ocasión, las actividades se desarrollarán en el entorno más próximo a la Geoda de Pulpí, en Almería, la segunda más grande del mundo, la primera visitable, que fue descubierta en 2015 en el municipio del que lleva su nombre.

Es importante recalcar esta fecha, 2015, porque, a pesar de lo que se cree, todavía queda mucho mundo subterráneo por descubrir. Responsable del **abastecimiento del 1% del agua dulce del planeta**, estos espacios han de continuar reclamando su espacio en la divulgación y en el estudio científico. También en el espacio cultural y turístico, dado que las Cuevas y las Minas Turísticas aportan un legado imprescindible en la historia natural y social de nuestro planeta.

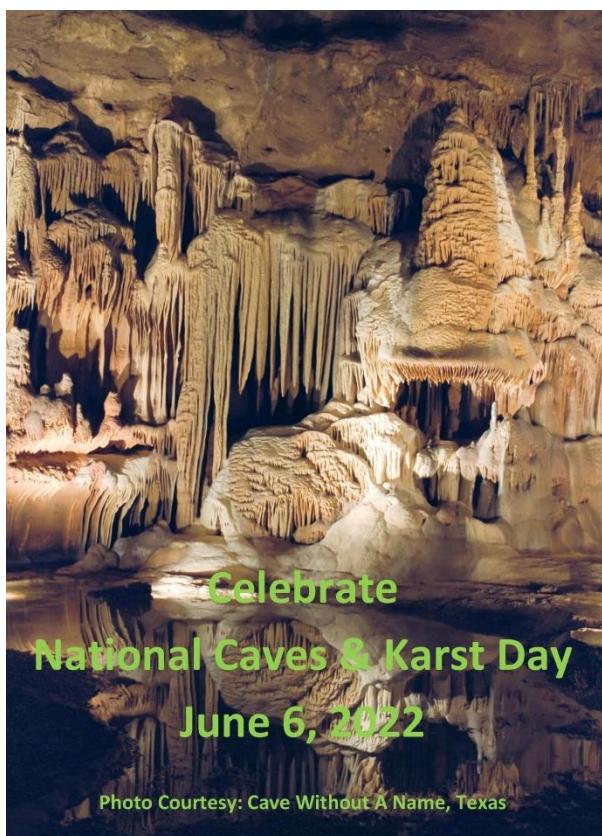
No obstante, no siempre estos espacios han estado bien valorados. A lo largo de los siglos, las **cuevas han servido de cobijo, de culto y de reunión**, pero también de sobreexplotación e incluso de vertedero. No es hasta la segunda mitad del siglo XX cuando las cuevas comienzan a considerarse como un bien natural de los países, siendo ahora, en la época actual, eslabones fundamentales para comprender el desarrollo de las formaciones kársticas y de las primeras comunidades humanas.

En 2022, es impensable que se destruyan las **cuevas y las minas** que conforman nuestra identidad geológica. Por ello, dada la implicación de todos los agentes sociales y económicos en su preservación, pedimos una vez más a la **UNESCO** la confirmación de este día como el de las Cuevas y del Mundo Subterráneo. Apostemos por la sostenibilidad con la protección de nuestros espacios más valiosos.

Manuel Durán Hidalgo,

Presidente de la Asociación de Cuevas Turísticas Españolas

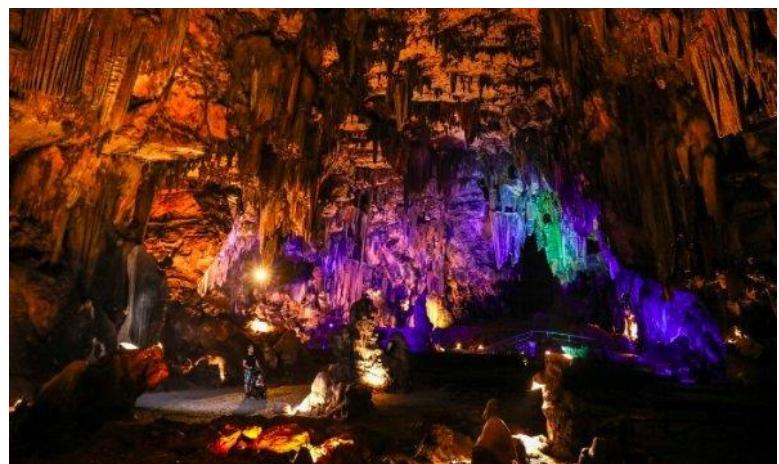
*Letter by ACTE President, Manuel Durán Hidalgo, celebrating Caveday. Source: ACTE website.*



*Cave Without a Name, on #CaveDay. Source: Cave Without a Name.*

[Cave Without a Name](#), a natural, living cavern filled with some of the most incredible cave formations in the Texas, also celebrated #CaveDay!

[Majestic Caverns](#) (Alabama) also offered a discount (25% off) for visitors who used the code “celebrate” to purchase tickets for June 6th!



*Majestic Caverns. Source: Majestic Caverns.*

# 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves in Liptovsky Mikulas (Slovakia)

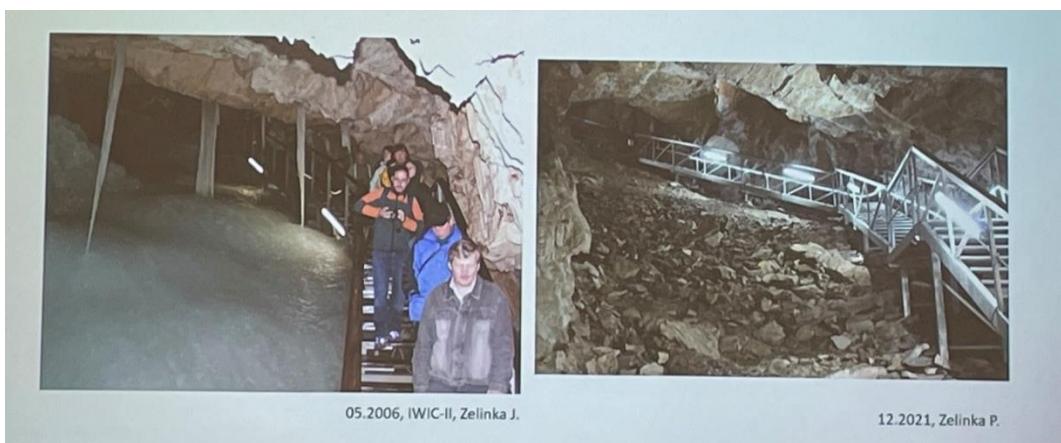


*Field trip to Dobšinská Ice Cave. Photo: Fritz Oedl*

The **9th International Workshop on Ice Caves** was celebrated on **May 9th-13<sup>th</sup>** in Liptovský Mikuláš (Slovakia). The event was organized by the [State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic](#), the [Slovak Caves Administration](#) in cooperation with the [International Union of Speleology](#) (UIS), the [Slovak Museum of Nature Protection and Speleology](#), and the [Slovak Speleological Society](#). You can download the [programme](#) and check the different activities.

Thanks to **Fritz Oedl**, our beloved **ISCA Vice President**, who provided us with a brief description (diary) of this amazing experience in Northern Europe.

“After about 8 hours by train I reached the town of **Liptovsky Mikulas** in the middle of **Slovakia** the night before the workshop began. On the first day, the workshop included about 20 lectures, mainly concerning the sharp decline of ice in the European ice caves but also reports on ice in lava caves or even ice caves in Hawaii.”



*Vivid documentation of the ice retreat at Demänova Ice Cave/Slovakia between 2006 and 2022. Photo: Fritz Oedl.*

“On the second day there was an excursion to the **Dobsina Ice Cave** (show cave) where the movement of the ice masses was clearly shown. Then we visited the **Selinca Ice Cave** (natural cave), where comprehensive series of measurements on the weather conditions in the cave are carried out. On the third day there were new and really interesting lectures, and the presentation of versatile scientific posters. Finally, we were invited to an excellent restaurant for a farewell dinner which we enjoyed together until late in the evening.

Without completeness under about 35 participants it might be mentioned the presence of the following well-known cave personalities: **Pavel Bella, Peter Gazik and Jan Zelinka** (Slovakia), **Aurel Persoiu and Bogdan Onac** (Romania), **Christoph Spötl** and **Gabriela Koltai** (Austria), **Nadia Zupan-Hajna** (Slovenia), **Zoltan Kern** (Hungary), and many more.

At Silicka icecave I had the pleasure to meet Alena Gessert (Secretary of FSE-European speleological federation).

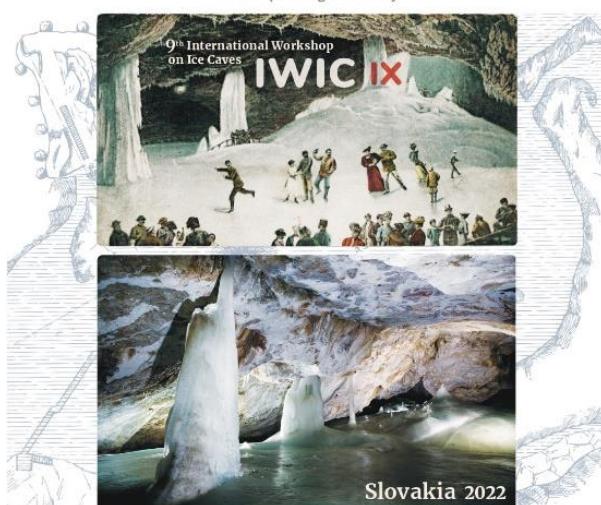
The next (tenth) **IWIC workshop** is expected to take place in two years (**May/June, 2024**) in **Werfenweng**, near Salzburg (Austria) under the organization of the **University of Innsbruck**.



*Fritz Oedl and Alena Gessert (Secretary of FSE-European speleological federation) at Silicka icecave. Photo: Fritz Oedl.*



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



**9<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX)**  
under the auspices of International Union of Speleology (UIS)

May 9 – 13, 2022 Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia

# A Global Perspective on Sustainable Show Cave Tourism

published online

## Authorship

V. Chiarini, J. Duckeck, & J. De Waele. (2022). A Global Perspective on Sustainable Show Cave Tourism. *Geoheritage* 14, 82. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12371-022-00717-5>

## Abstract

“Caves are among the most visited geological features in the world, attracting over 70 million people every year in more than 1,200 caves worldwide, and amounting up to 800 million Euros in entrance fees alone. The global business of show caves employs roughly 25,000 people directly (management, guides), and at least 100 times more people if we consider the connected tourist activities (souvenir shops, local transport, travel agencies, restaurants, and bars). It is estimated that the whole show cave business has a global commercial value of roughly 2 billion Euros, a number that is increasing constantly. Show caves are generally fragile ecosystems, and care should be taken in their management to safeguard their value for future generations. The international scientific (speleological) community has issued international guidelines for the sustainable development and management of show caves eight years ago, but their application is still far from being applied globally, especially in developing and least developed countries. Cave tourism is expected to increase, especially in countries where caves are abundant but not yet considered as tourist attractions, and where economic and political instability slow down the development of tourism. There are still a lot of possibilities for the opening of new show caves, especially in countries with low Gross Domestic Income (GDI), but their management needs to be sustainable, so that caves become a means of sustaining local economies, educating people on these fragile geo- and ecosystems, and protecting contemporarily their scientific and cultural heritage for future generations.”

[- Read the full article -](#)

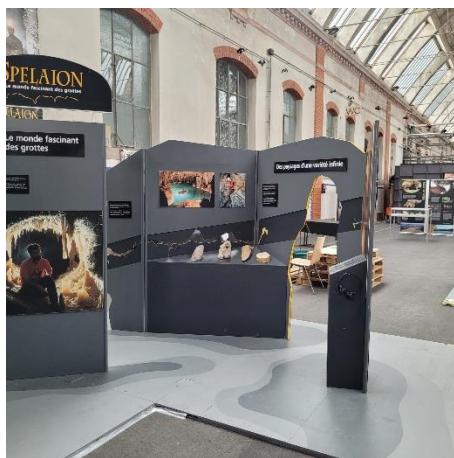


*Signatures of visitors in (a) the “Speleovivarium” of Postojna Cave, Slovenia, where visitors left their signs at least since the sixteenth century, and maybe even earlier (photograph by Jo De Waele); (b) seventeenth-century signatures in the Grotta di Santa Lucia superiore, Toirano (northern Italy), massively visited by pilgrims since the fifteenth century. Photograph: Jean-Yves Bigot.*

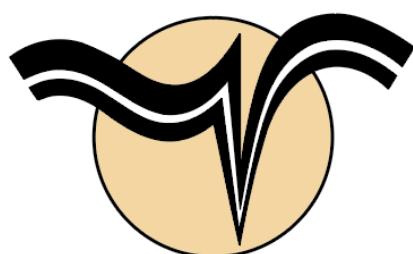
# Spelaion Forum 22



Organised by the [Swiss Institute for Speleology and Karst Studies](#), Spelaion Forum22 has been celebrated from in La Chaux-de-Fonds (Switzerland) from June 9th through June 28th, 2022. The event has been the perfect place for visitors to deal with aspects related to speleology, tourism, and cave art, among many other topics of interest.



*Spelaion Forum22. Source: Swiss Institute for Speleology and Karst Studies Facebook Page.*



# NSS Convention 2022



From June 13th through June 17th, the NSS Convention 2022 was celebrated in Rapid City (South Dakota), and it was a success with over 800 registrants. Among many other activities, attendants enjoyed a speleo-rodeo, auctions, signing of books...and beer! Don't miss their [daily newsletter!](#)



*The NSS Convention 2022 on Facebook. Source: NSS Convention Facebook Page.*

# EuroKarst 2022, Málaga (Spain)



The university of Málaga (Spain) was chosen as the venue for the celebration of [EuroKarst 2022](#) from June 22nd to June 25<sup>th</sup>. Specialists from all over the world joined the event and gathered in the European bi-annual conference on the Hydrogeology of Karst and Carbonate Reservoirs.

The forum was organised by the Centre of Hydrogeology of the University of Málaga (CEHIUMA) and the Geological and Mining Institute of Spain (IGME-CSIC), with the collaboration of the University of Franche-Comté (Besançon, France) and the University of Neuchatel (Switzerland).



*EuroKarst 2022 conference at University of Málaga (Spain): Photo: University of Málaga Facebook Page.*

# Kristine Ebrey, appointed as new NSS President



National Speleological Society Press Release *For Immediate Release*

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**The National Speleological Society**

**6001 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, AL 35810**

**Amanda Willis, NSS PR Division Chief**

**PR@caves.org**

**RELEASE DATE:**

**June 9, 2022**

## National Speleological Society Appoints New President, Kristine Ebrey

**NSS Headquarters, Huntsville, AL** — The National Speleological Society (NSS) appointed Kristine Ebrey as the new President of the society, effective March 19, 2022. Kristine succeeds Geary Schindel who served as NSS President until early March 2022. Kristine was unanimously voted into office during the Fall 2021 Board of Governors meeting and will oversee all activities under the [Department of the President](#).

President Ebrey became a member of the NSS in 2007. She has more than 18 years of volunteer experience within the society and her local grotto. Before assuming the role as President, Kristine served as the Secretary-Treasurer where she oversaw NSS finances. She has also served the society as Membership Chair, Director, Chair of the Directorate, and the 2019 NSS Convention Treasurer. Geary Schindel states, "It is clear, in working with Kristine as a Director, Chair of the Directorate, and as Secretary/Treasurer, that she will also make an outstanding President. Few are more dedicated to the NSS."

"While serving as the NSS Treasurer, Kristine reformed the financial status of the organization, and left that office being in the healthiest financial shape in our history. I'm excited to see her take the reins as President. With her new ideas and energy, it's an exciting time for the NSS," stated Administrative Vice President, Adam Weaver. Notably, Kristine has assisted the society by halting the decline of membership, created an effective financial workflow for budget management and streamlined ongoing finances. As National Speleological Society President, Kristine will assume responsibility for membership, fundraising, logistics, conservancy initiatives, and internal and external communications.

"The community is what makes the National Speleological Society standout among other organizations. We explore, study and protect such an unusual and unique environment that allows us to create a very tight-knit atmosphere," stated President Ebrey. In the short-term, Kristine will establish new initiatives and focus much of her attention on increasing and retaining membership to grow this passionate community of like-minded cavers. Looking towards the future, she plans to work with the Executive Board and the Directors to hire an Executive Director.

National Speleological Society members understand that the future of caves and karst depends on the strength that comes from many individuals working together. "Cavers help cavers and only cavers save cavers; which I believe to be unique for any community or circle," explains Ebrey, "we are a huge family brought together by a desire to conserve this playground for future generations."

###

For over 70 years, the National Speleological Society has promoted safe and responsible caving practices, effective cave and karst management, speleology, and conservation. Our members are bound together by their love of caves, their desire to learn about the underground wilderness, and their commitment to protect it for future generations.

NSS membership offers worldwide caver camaraderie, networking opportunities, and access to information about discoveries and developments in caving, speleology, equipment, and techniques through our publications, annual conventions, grottos, internal organizations, and NSS-sponsored projects, expeditions, and surveys.

With 7,000+ members and more than 200 grottos (chapters), the National Speleological Society is the largest organization in the world working every day to further the exploration, study, and protection of caves and their environments, and foster fellowship among cavers.

# Grutas de Mira de Aire: an ultra trail...and wine!

## CAVE DETAILS

**Cave name:** Grutas de Mira de Aire  
**Location:** Mira de Aire, Portugal  
**Email address:** geral@grutasmiradaire.com  
**Phone number:** +35 12 44 44 03 22  
**Type of member:** Full member  
**Website**



Grutas de Mira de Aire (Portugal). Source: Nuno Jorge (GMA)

Despite [Grutas de Mira de Aire \(Portugal\)](#) already is the most visited tourist attraction in the villages of Mira de Aire and Minde, the number of visitors in the upcoming dates is expected to increase due to a series of different reasons.

The first one is the [Limestone Ultra Trail](#), which will be hosted by the cave on July 23<sup>rd</sup> and whose longest distance will cover 55km of karst area, even though there are two more trails covering 28km and 15km each.

Around five hundred trail runners will participate and they will gather at Grutas de Mira de Aire at the beginning of the race. Besides, the same exact place will be the finish line for those who reach it!



Limestone Ultra Trail at Grutas de Mira de Aire.

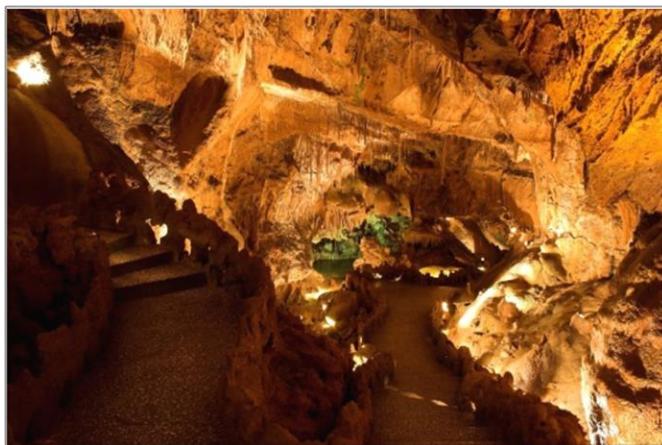
But do not worry. You do not have to run 55km through the mountains if you visit this incredible landscape. In fact, for those who are not into sport or prefer to enjoy views from a more relaxing perspective, Grutas de Mira de Aire has another perfect plan: “Vinho das Grutas” by Casa Ermelinda Freitas, winners of over 1,500 awards.

Thanks to the cellar inside the cave, which keeps a constant temperature of 18°C, this wine can now be acquired at three different locations, being one of them Grutas de Mira de Aire. Long live the wine!

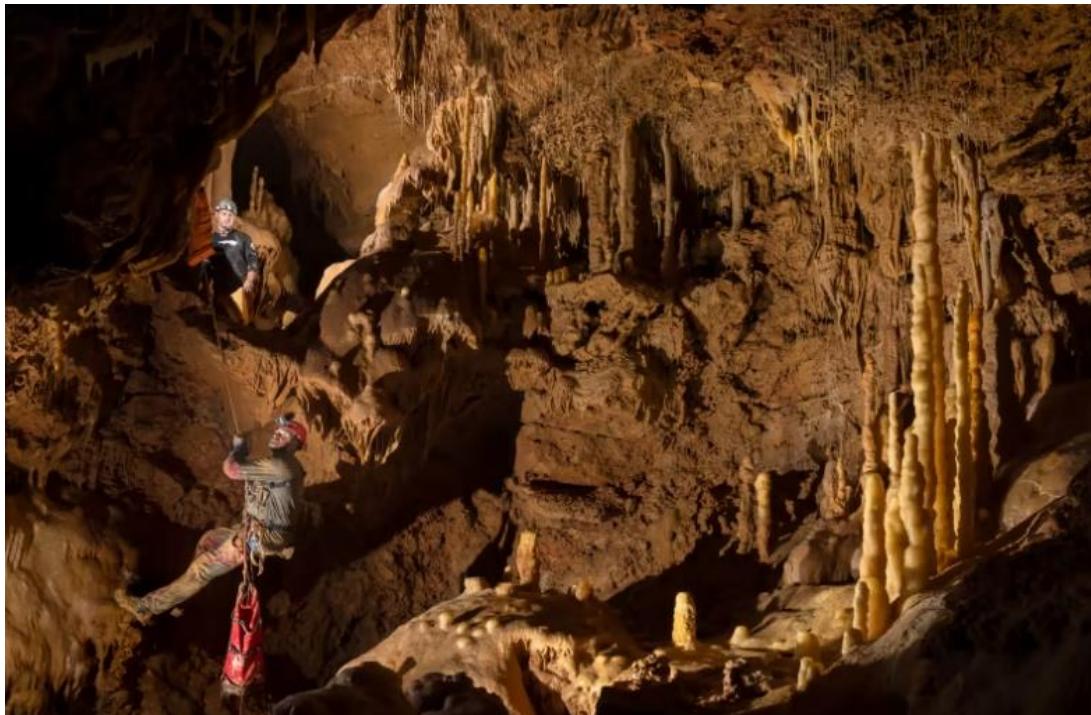


*Grutas de Mira de Aire is now famous for its wine, too!*

*Photographies by Nuno Jorge (GMA)*



# Natural Bridge Caverns aims at growing even bigger after a 16-hour expedition



*Brad Wuest and Travis Wuest, President and Vice President of Natural Bridge Caverns, explored a new area together with other experienced cavers.. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

The team at [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) (San Antonio, Texas) keep catching us by surprise. In 2021, Brad and Travis Wuest, the President and Vice President of the cave, decided to explore Wild Cave, an area which came up after the discovery of a narrow crack by T. Dexter Soechting back in 2019. Now, a new exploration has taken place in order to connect Natural Bridge Caverns with another cave system which is only 300 feet away. By joining both parts, NBC would become the sixth longest cave in Texas (now they hold the eighth position).

After seven hours of hard caving, the team found a beautiful room. However, they could not make it through an area filled with flowstone formations and breakdown rubble. Brad Wuest indicated that they could feel airflow showing a small connection somewhere through all that breakdown. “In all we were able to close the gap by 50 feet this time, so now the two caves are only 250 feet apart”, he concluded.

**NATURAL BRIDGE  
CAVERNS®**

# DeSoto Caverns are now known as... Majestic Caverns!

# MAJESTIC CAVERNS

DeSotoCaverns (Alabama) recently announced that they will now be known as [Majestic Caverns](#). In words of Joy Sorensen, President of Majestic Caverns, “when our team first discussed changing the name, we wanted to name it something that truly depicted the physicality of the caverns, the experience visitors have/can expect to have and something that would resonate with national and international audiences. The word “majestic” has been used to describe the caverns by visitors for years and simply put, there is no other word that better describes it. It IS a majestic cavern.



*Majestic Caverns. Source: Majestic Caverns website.*

# 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](mailto: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.**

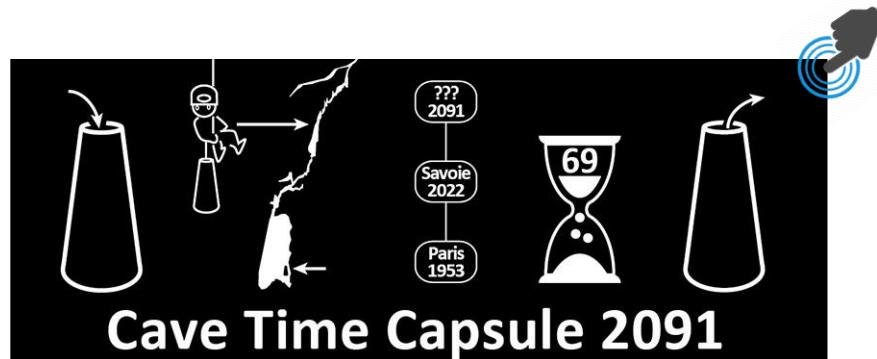
Your announcement will be highly appreciated and it will be shortly included on the [events section](#). Check it out in order to learn more about some of the confirmed events taking place worldwide to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst.

## 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.**

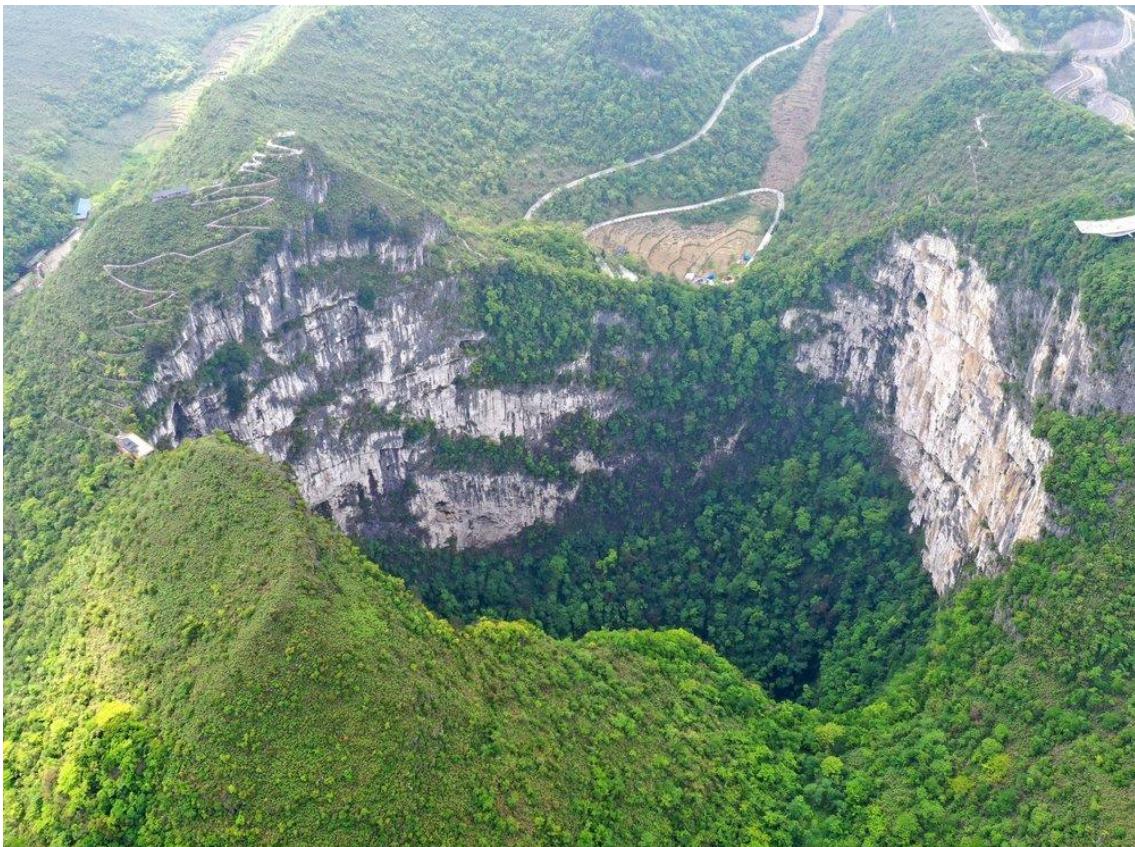
The **International Show Caves Association** would also like to promote your events, so we will be picking some of them in order to be posted both on our Facebook and in future newsletters.



- **Date:** July 31st, 2022
- **Location:** Savoie, France
- **Event name:** Cave Time Capsule 2091
- **Event description:** The Cave Time Capsule 2091 project is preparing a time capsule that will be closed during the 18th International Congress of Speleology and taken down to -200 in the largest underground network of the Bauges massif (Savoie). This capsule will be opened in 2091. All UIS member countries are invited to deposit an object (max 0.5 l) in this capsule. It will be a gift from the cavers of the present to the cavers of the future.
- [More information](#)

# Discovery of an ancient forest in Chinese sinkhole

first published by [Smithsonian Magazine](#)



*Similar karst sinkhole in the in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Source: Xinhua/Zhou Hua (Getty Images)*

A well-preserved forest has been found at the bottom of an enormous karst sinkhole in China. According to researchers, new species unknown to scientists could be found inside the huge cavity. The hole is almost 200m deep and there are trees which can be up to 40m high. Chen Lixin, leader of the team, explained that they met undergrowth which reached their shoulders. South China Karst is a Unesco World Heritage Site due to its unique karst features and landscapes.

Here's a video of the discovery!



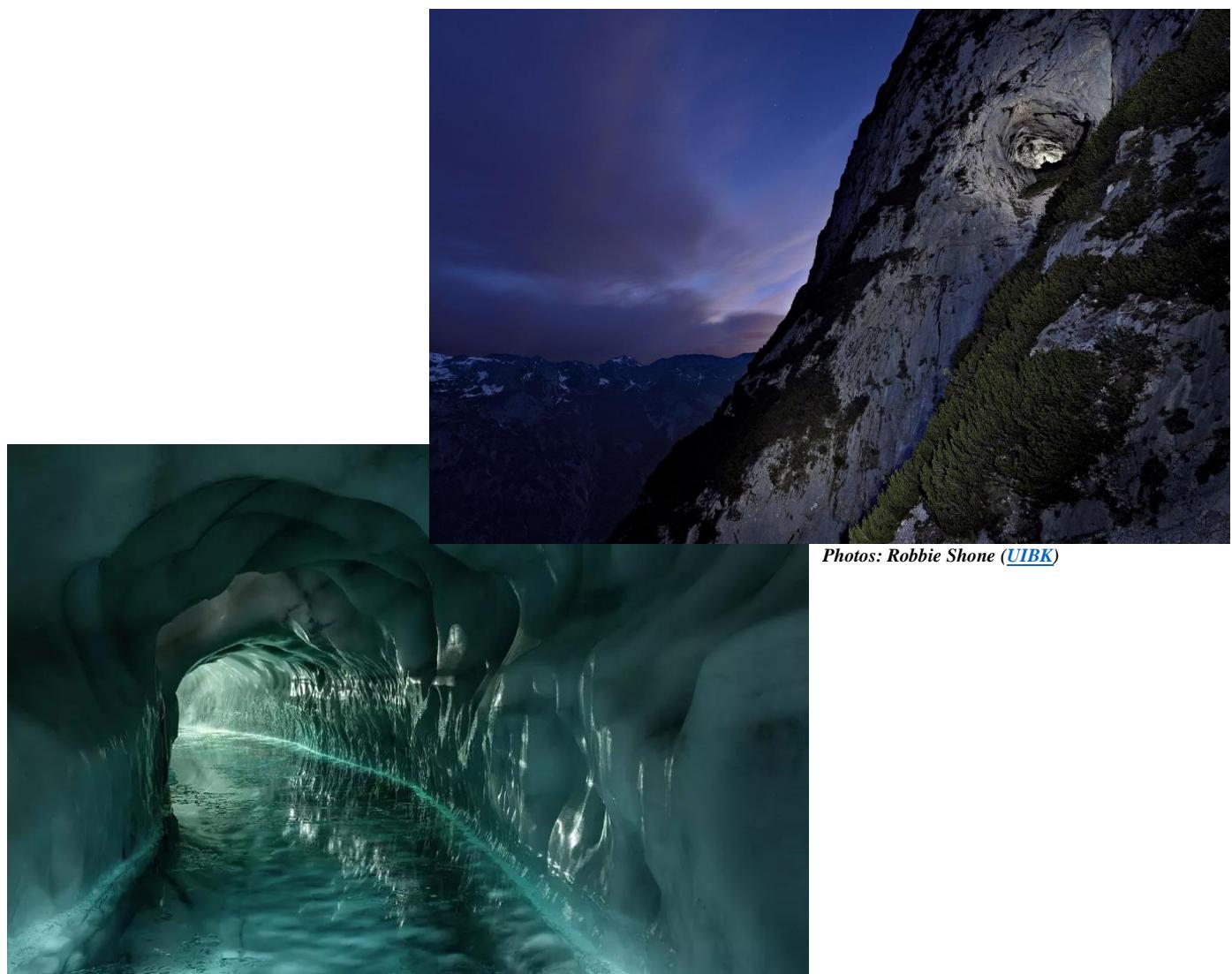
# Two weeks to celebrate Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference!



The [Karst Record IX \(KR9\) Conference](#), which will be held from July 17th to July 20th at the University of Innsbruck (Austria) will bring together scientists and students to share the latest progress in the rapidly developing field of cave- and karst-based (palaeo) climate research.

In addition, peripheral activities will be taking place between July 15th and 21th, including visits to [Spannagel Cave](#) and [Nature's Ice Palace](#), as well as [Eisriesenwelt](#).

More info about the event and all the activities and workshops can be found [here](#).



Photos: Robbie Shone ([UIBK](#))

# 18th International Congress of Speleology

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

French caving clubs are offering the possibility of discovering the wonders of French karst both the week before and after the Congress. Photography, topography, Berger Abyss, and La Pierre Saint Martin some of the most interesting activities.

Check out their [program](#) and don't miss anything in their [latest newsletter!](#)



# CUEVATUR VIII: International Congress on Show Caves and Mines



## cuevatur<sup>2022</sup>

VIII CONGRESO ESPAÑOL SOBRE  
CUEVAS Y MINAS TURÍSTICAS

The 8th Spanish Congress on Show Caves and Mines, CUEVATUR VIII, will be celebrated in Pulpi (Almeria, Spain) from October 19 to October 23. Four years after its celebration in La Vall d'Uixó (Spain), a new meeting will be taking place in the South of this Mediterranean country.

At the event, experts from different corners will meet in order to share ideas and experiences about the subterranean tourism, a sector which has become the spearhead of innovative and sustainable tourism, especially in rural regions and thanks to its natural and cultural heritage.

After the publication of the first [CUEVATUR newsletter](#), the [second](#) has been published and will be available in English shortly. New information about the Congress itinerary and activities have been included, and more news 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). Photos: Cuevatur

# Il Buco (The Hole): an Italian production to the centre of the Earth

Produced by Michelangelo Frammartino, *Il Buco* (The Hole in English) is an Italian drama film set in the southern part of the Mediterranean country in the early 1960s, a young of northern speleologist aim at exploring an unknown cavity in order to find more about its hidden secrets. What this group of enthusiasts did not know was that one of the world's largest cave formations was awaiting beneath them.

The film was recently awarded the Special Jury Prize at the 78th Venice International Film Festival.

As written in Robbie Collin's review on The Telegraph, "this is a film as delicate as dripping water, with depths that are quietly waiting to be plumbed."



*Italian landscapes. Photography: Film Stills.*

Click below and watch the official trailer:



*Il Buco: official trailer*

# The Cave Lighting ‘Dream Team’: Tudor Rus, ‘The Manager’

Tudor Rus joined Cave Ligthing in 2011, together with Adrian Kondacs, and worked under the direction of Viorel Lascu on the construction of the light installation in Fundata Cave (Romania). Since 2013, Tudor has been part of the company projects worldwide, including Germany, Belgium and the USA.

Caves are Tudor's passion, he has a very good eye for the special features of each one of them and consequently has a sense for beautiful light stagings to showcase these special features in the best possible way. His experience as a cave guide and rescuer not only ensures his expertise in rope techniques, but also that he enjoys carrying out installations in places that are difficult to access.

Through his work at Cave Lighting he found his way to show caves and today he is the show cave manager of Meziad Cave in Romania.

Have you checked Cave Lighting’s 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!](#)



# 15th European Cave Rescue Meeting: Second circular now available!



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). The second circular is now available to download [here](#).

**15<sup>th</sup> European Cave Rescue Meeting**

Rudice, Moravian karst, Czech Republic

**2022**

10 Years ECRA    40 Years CRS CSS

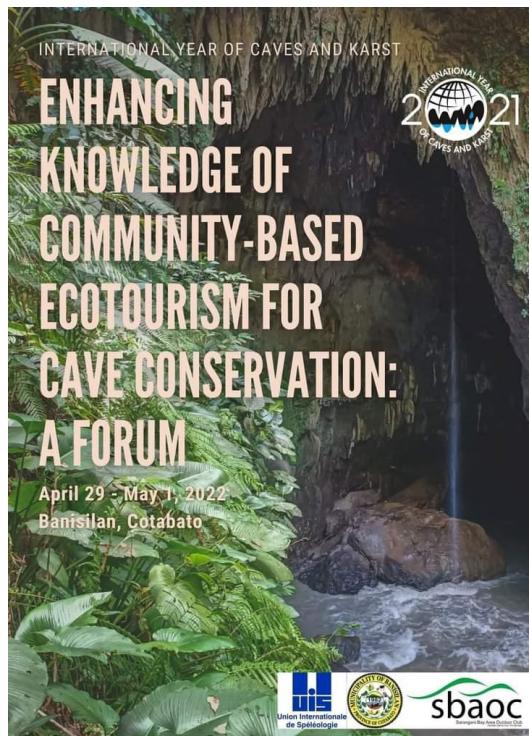
Organized by the **Cave Rescue Service**  
of the **Czech Speleological Society**  
on behalf of the **European Cave Rescue Association**

**Pre-Meeting**  
28. – 29.9.2022

**ECRA Meeting**  
29.9. – 2.10.2022

# Philippines: Forum on Ecotourism and cave conservation

by Maria Luisa Non-Cabrera



Located in the Bukidnon (Philippines) block karst area, the local Tourist Development Department consider caves and rivers in this karst landscape as a potential offer of ecotourism.

However, tourism in this town is a minor economic activity, as its population mainly relies upon agriculture, especially on corn, rice, rubber, sugar cane, and fruit trees. But the Local Government Unit of Banisilan (Mindanao, Philippines) is preparing the town for cave ecotourism.

In line with the advocacy of IYCK (Explore, Understand, and Protect), Team SBAOC (Sarangani Bay Area Outdoor Club) travelled 4 hours up north to Central Mindanao in November 2021 to assess their underground river cave.

The assessment was part of the requirements of the Government's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and it is necessary as a prior step to any future plan of cave use (Republic Act 9072 Cave Act Law of the Philippines).

With forged partnership with LGU-Banisilan, a second visit took place in April 2022. The team was warmly welcomed and treated with sumptuous meals during the two-day stay. Personnel from the Municipal Tourism Office, Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and a few barangay representatives participated in the forum *Enhancing Knowledge of Community-based Ecotourism for Cave Conservation*, whose topics focused on the appropriate, sustainable and safe use of caves for ecotourism to guide the local cave stakeholders.

The program started with the rationale of IYCK and the necessity to understand the importance of caves and karst, and it was followed by a series of topics which aimed at engaging the rest of the participants. Philippine laws, including international codes on environmental conservation and preservation related to cave conservation and management, gave participants the idea of new policies and procedures that would help formulate a management plan which could ensure sustainable cave ecotourism.

A lecture on *Introduction to Caves and Karst* led the participants to see the connection and interrelationships of karst surface, caves and water; to see the value of the various resources found in the karst landscape as well as how vulnerable karst landscape is to various threats.

*Cave Hazards and Safety* focused on the do's and don'ts in caving and how to safely and efficiently navigate inside a cave. Basic and more technical questions were raised by the participants, including the meaning of karst and the legal actions (and legal basis) which can be taken against those who deliberately create any sort of major disturbance in our caves.

Finally, issues related to cave use, ecotourism, and safety were also dealt with.

Big thanks to Mikko Cuevas and Maria Luisa Non-Cabrera for the information and photos provided.

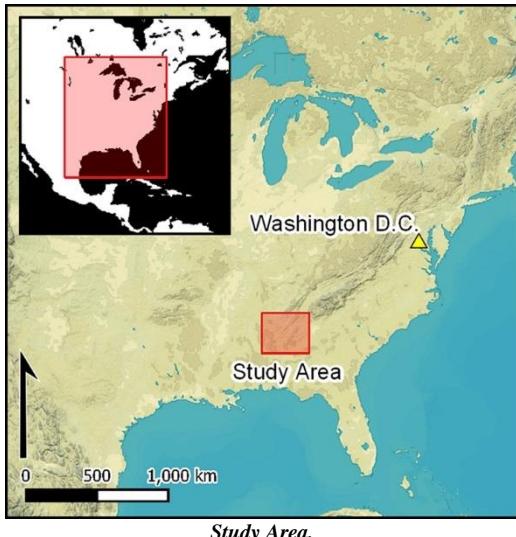


# Discovering ancient cave art using 3D

published online by Cambridge University Press

## Authorship

Simek, J., Alvarez, S., & Cressler, A. (2022). Discovering ancient cave art using 3D photogrammetry: Pre-contact Native American mud glyphs from 19th Unnamed Cave, Alabama. *Antiquity*, 96(387), 662-678. doi:10.15184/aqy.2022.24



*Study Area.*

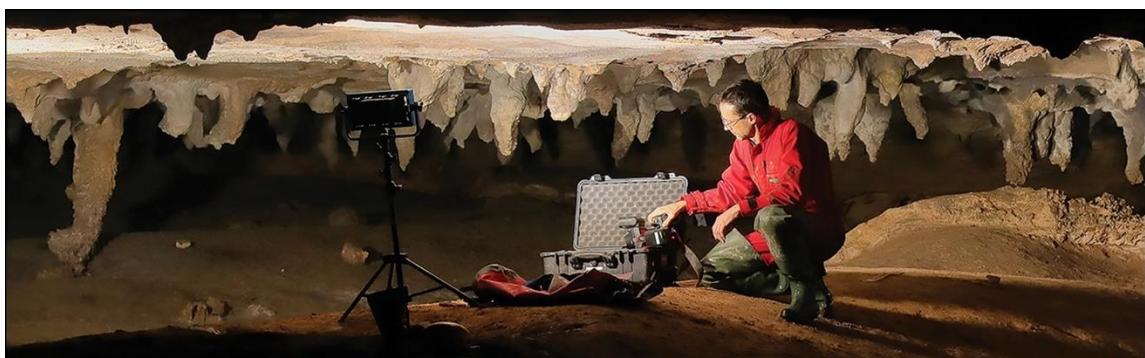
## Abstract

“Since 1979, when the first cave art was documented in North America, dozens of other examples have come to light. Among these, 19th Unnamed Cave in Alabama contains hundreds of pre-contact Native American mud glyph drawings. In 2017, 3D modelling of the glyphs was initiated, ultimately enabling digital manipulation of the chamber space and revealing images that could not be perceived prior to modelling. Most surprisingly, the cave’s ceiling features very large anthropomorphic glyphs that are not apparent in situ due to the tight confines of the cave. We argue that photogrammetry offers untapped potential for not simply the documentation but also the discovery of a variety of archaeological phenomena.”



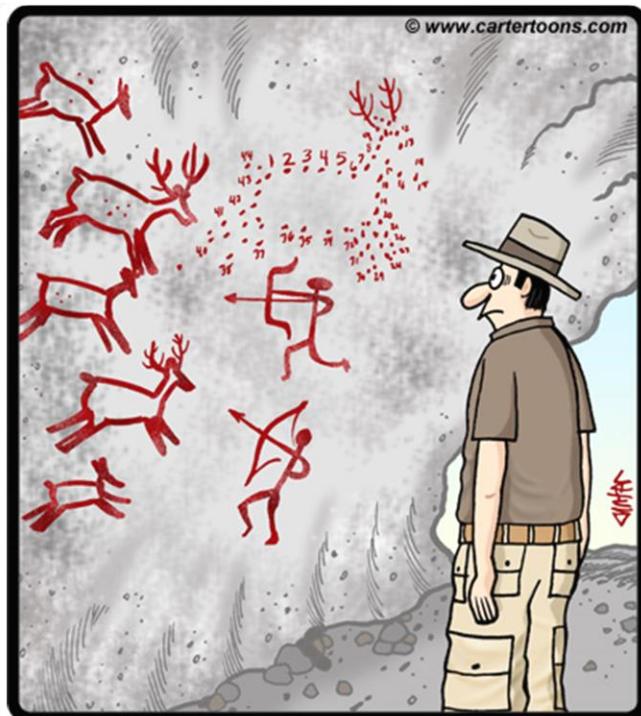
*Mud glyph owl from Mud Glyph Cave, Tennessee.  
Photograph by A. Cressler.*

[- Read the full article -](#)



*Stephen Alvarez in the glyph chamber, 19th Unnamed Cave, Alabama. Photograph by A. Cressler.*

# The funny side of life



Source: Arts, Artists, Artwork (Facebook group)



Source: Cartertoons.com



Source: Hubriscomics.com



Source: Thecomicstrips.com

## Articles of interest



**Academic Open Access Publishing**  
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### The Sustainability of Rock Art: Preservation and Research

Zerboni A, Villa F, Wu Y-L, Solomon T, Trentini A, Rizzi A, Cappitelli F, Gallinaro M. The Sustainability of Rock Art: Preservation and Research. *Sustainability*. 2022; 14(10):6305. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14106305>

- Read the full article -

### Early Detection of Phototrophic Biofilms in the Polychrome Panel, El Castillo Cave, Spain

Jurado V, Gonzalez-Pimentel JL, Fernandez-Cortes A, Martin-Pozas T, Ontañon R, Palacio E, Hermosin B, Sanchez-Moral S, Saiz-Jimenez C. Early Detection of Phototrophic Biofilms in the Polychrome Panel, El Castillo Cave, Spain. *Applied Biosciences*. 2022; 1(1):40-63. <https://doi.org/10.3390/appbiosci1010003>

- Read the full article -

# Latest publications



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

**Cave Talk: July 2022**

**Cave Talk: June 2022**

Learn more about the NCA on [CAVERN.COM](http://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!**



The Union Internationale de Spéléologie recently published the latest **UIS Bulletin (63-2)**. The most interesting contents in their latest publication deal with the **IYCK 2021 & 2022** and the **18th International Congress of Speleology 2022**. Don't forget to follow the UIS on Facebook!



Find the latest newsletters by the **European Speleological Federation (FSE)**.



**Underground Symphony**, by Philippe Crochet and Annie Guiraud, who share their passion for the underground world and photography. [Contact](#) for 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](mailto:juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org) and we will publish your materials as soon as possible



# What caves are these?



Photo: tourismeoutaouais.com

## CAVE #23

### Hint 1:

The temperature of the cave is constant and on average 4°C. Wear a nice jacket!

### Hint 2:

It's only 40 minutes from Ottawa.

## CAVE #24

### Hint #1:

These caves were discovered in 1861!

### Hint #2:

The region where they are located is called Matanzas.



Photo: havana-live.com

## SEND YOUR ANSWERS

Can you guess the name and location of the caves above? Last month's:

Cave #21 was **Crystal Cave (Bermuda)**  
Cave #22 was **Coves d'Artà (Spain)**

Send your answers to [juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org](mailto:juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org)



# ISCA Calendar

## 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](mailto:juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org)



## 2022 International Year of Caves and Karst

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

**5th – 8th September, 2022 – 14th EuroSpeleo Forum 2022 Pre-Congress (Cantabria, Spain)**

**5th – 8th September, 2022 – 14th EuroSpeleo Forum 2022 Congress (Burgos, Spain)**

**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)**

**8th – 10th November, 2022 – Int. Gift Exposition in the Smokies 2022 (Sevierville, Tennessee)**

**9th – 12th November, 2022 – Int. Gift Exposition in the Smokies 2022 (Pigeon Forge, Tennessee)**

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

## 2023...and more!

**17th April, 2023 – International Bat Appreciation Day**

**6th June, 2023 – International Day of Tourist Caves and Subterranean World**

**14th – 17th November, 2023 – IAAPA (Orlando, Florida)**

**2023 – Cave Lighting Workshop**

**2023 – NCA Convention 2023 (Lake Shasta Caverns, Redding, California)**

**2023 – NSS Convention 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia)**

**2024 – NCA Convention 2024 (Niagara Cave, Harmony, Minnesota)**

**2025 – NCA Convention 2025 (Luray Caverns, Harrisonburg, Virginia)**

### Deadline!

If you would like to contribute in upcoming publications,  
 please send an e-mail **before August 25th, 2022**

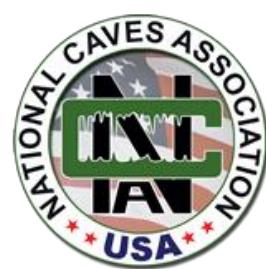


Contact: [juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org](mailto:juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org)

# Links of interest



## INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



**GRAN  
ACUÍFERO  
MAYA**



# 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 Serpentina

ISCA Secretary & Treasurer

*Contact: [iscasecretary@i-s-c-a.org](mailto:iscasecretary@i-s-c-a.org)*

**Join us and become an ISCA Member**  
Visit [www.i-s-c-a.org](http://www.i-s-c-a.org) for details.

**There are many membership benefits!**





## INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

### ABOUT INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOTIATION

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.



*Special thanks to  
everyone who collaborated.*

**Editor:** Juan José Tíscar Moya – **Contact:** [juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org](mailto:juanjotiscar@i-s-c-a.org)  
**Issue:** July & August 2022