



## INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

# ISCA Newsletter

September  
October  
2022

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# It's Congress time!

In three weeks' time, many of us will be celebrating the [ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention](#) in San Antonio (Texas). Hosted by [Natural Bridge Caverns](#), we are looking forward to meeting y'all and enjoy a wonderful time together.

The last few months have been a really exciting period and the organisation has worked very hard to create an unforgettable event.

The following pages include all the information related to the event, which can also be found on the [congress website](#). There, you will be able to find [FAQs](#) and learn more about the [registration](#), [trips](#), [conferences](#) and [itinerary](#).

We also wanted to thank our incredible [sponsors](#), who played a key role in the fulfillment of this project.



Nevertheless, there are many other news and events which also deserve our attention and which can be found in the next pages.

It is very important for us to know your opinion and share anything which you may consider of interest. Send us your **feedback!**



### JOIN ISCA NOW!

Would you like to become a member of the [International Show Caves Association](#)? Info [here](#).



### 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 enthusiasts,

I hope all of you are having a great season! I know many locations around the world have experienced a significant rebound in travel during this post-COVID pandemic era.

And speaking of travel, I know many cave enthusiasts recently traveled to France in July to attend the [UIS \(International Union of Speleology\)](#) Congress. I want to congratulate our friends at UIS on their well-attended and successful congress. I also want to thank the retiring UIS bureau members for their service, especially my friend George Veni who is now the immediate past president of UIS. It's been a pleasure for me to have worked with George on numerous issues of common interest between ISCA and UIS and to strengthen the bonds between our two wonderful organizations that care so much about the stewardship and protection of our precious caves and karst landscapes. I also want to congratulate the newly elected UIS bureau. Your show cave friends look forward to working with you!



*Brad Wuest. ISCA President.*

The ISCA & NCA Congress 2022 is almost here! We are really looking forward to hosting as many of you as possible this September in San Antonio, Texas, USA! My team has organized an incredible event for you with excellent presentations, tours, networking opportunities, and social events. I promise that if you attend this Congress and open your minds to the possibilities, you will take home new knowledge and relationships that will provide great value for your show caves, which will pay for the trip many times over! Check out the list of Congress presentations below and on the website. We carefully selected presenters and topics that can be applicable to a diverse audience of show caves. Whether your show cave has 10,000 or 1 million visitors, a little budget or big budget, privately owned and operated or government, and no matter where you are in the world -- you can find value in many, if not all, of the presentations.

If you haven't already, all you need to do is register, and book your hotel room and travel. It's not too late! Below, in this newsletter, you will find lots of great information about the Congress activities and presenters. You can also check out the Congress [website](#) here to learn all about the Congress and register. If you have questions, please email us at [isca\\_nca2022@naturalbridgecaverns.com](mailto:isca_nca2022@naturalbridgecaverns.com).

Our pre congress fieldtrip to the Caverns or Sonora and Carlsbad Caverns is full, but we still have some room available on our post congress fieldtrip to Cave Without a Name, Longhorn Cavern State Park, Inner Space Cavern, and the Gruene Historical District. I'm looking forward to this fieldtrip!

Plans are coming together for hosting all of you at my family's show cave, [Natural Bridge Caverns](#) (one of the largest show cave operations in the USA) where you will experience our cavern tours, attractions, retail and food and beverage operations, and other behind the scenes aspects of how we manage our show cave. The development project for our new Hidden Wonders tour and special event facilities are not yet complete, so you will have the unique opportunity of touring this area in a partial state of completion. My cave development and construction team members will guide the tours through this area and talk with you about the cave development, lighting, and construction process. 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 in our Discovery Village.

I want to thank all our [sponsors](#) who are helping make this Congress not only more enjoyable but much more affordable. San Antonio, Texas has many wonderful attributes that also makes it a costly venue. Our sponsors' generous support reduced the registration costs for every attendee by more than (€)\$500 per person truly making this Congress affordable. So, yes, our sponsors are awesome!!

Sponsors like [RCI Adventure Products](#) and [Sandy Creek Mining Co.](#) Check all of them out on the [sponsors tab](#)! These are all companies that do business with show caves, and some sponsors are show caves who want to help out to make this Congress even better and more affordable for their fellow show caves to attend.

At each Congress, during our General Assembly meeting, the members will vote to approve future ISCA Congress locations. I'm happy to report that we have already received a proposal for Congress 2026! But, I'm not going to tell you where because it's a surprise and will be presented at the upcoming Congress! The opportunity to host other future Congresses, conferences, and meetings is available so please let us know soon if you are interested in hosting. You will find more information below in the newsletter about these opportunities.

Every four years at our ISCA Congress, 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. We need some new ISCA board members! If you have any interest in serving or if you know someone who you think would be a great board member, please let us know in advance! This is not just a status position; it's a working board of volunteers who want to serve the show cave industry and our members. Qualifications and more information can be found below in the newsletter.

I also want to let all of you know that I will be resigning from the ISCA Presidency at the end of this Congress. It has truly been an honor and pleasure to serve as your ISCA President for the past eight years. Prior to that, I served four years as a Vice President and four years before that as a director. It's been a wonderful 16 years of service on the board traveling the world, seeing so many wonderful show caves and places, and most of all meeting and working with so many wonderful people. Though we come from many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds, we all share a common love for the precious show caves of which we have the privilege of being stewards. I want to thank all of you for your support and friendship. And, no worries, I will not be riding off into the sunset (like they say cowboys do!) never to be seen again. I will remain active in our ISCA family and always ready, willing, and able to help any of you.

Thanks to Juanjo, our amazing editor, who publishes these wonderful newsletters and manages ISCA's social media platform. Please remember to share any content you have with Juanjo, so he can publish and share your news.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon at Cave Congress 2022 in San Antonio, Texas, USA!

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)





*Me on top of the summit. (Teide, Tenerife, Spain – July 2022)*

# From the editor

by Juanjo Tíscar

Dear ISCA friends,

I really hope you are having a wonderful summer.

Last month I visited the Canary Islands (Spain) and I wanted to share some pics from Mount Teide (highest point in Spain) and La Cueva del Viento (Wind Cave) in Tenerife.

We visited the islands in July and the people, locations and food were incredible, so I highly encourage you to go there. In addition, the weather is excellent all the year round, and that is why the Christmas period is also a perfect time to visit.

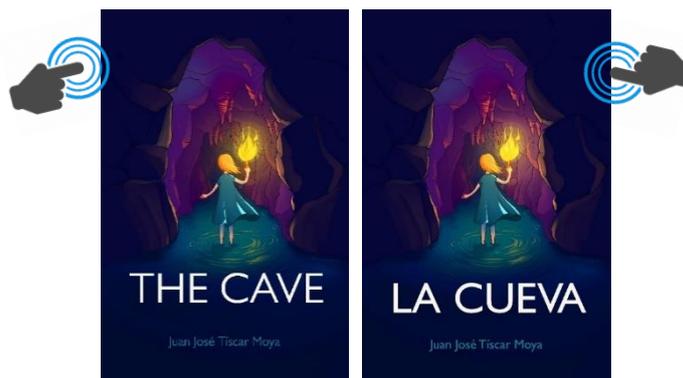
Obviously, volcanoes are present all over the place, and Mount Teide is not only the highest in the islands, but also the highest peak in Spain! I recommend asking for authorisation some months in advance because they only let a few people going on top each day, so we decided to get ours 3-4 months away. And we were really lucky! The views are absolutely stunning!

Located in the district of Icod de los Vinos (Tenerife), Wind Cave is a volcanic cavity formed 27,000 years ago just after an eruption from the Pico Viejo volcano, next to Mount Teide. The cave is one of the largest volcanic tubes in the world, and reservation is needed if you want to visit it, because places are also limited.

My girlfriend (Anna) and I had an amazing experience in our eight-day trip around the island, so make sure you add Tenerife to your wish list for future travels!



Oh, my book! Thanks, as always, to my family and friends, especially those at [NBC!](#)



# Reminder

Hello ISCA members,

A friendly reminder to complete your [ISCA membership renewals](#) and pay your dues if you have not already done so. We want all of our members to be in good standing before the Congress!

As you may recall, the 2020 dues were voluntary due to the COVID pandemic. Thank you to the members who chose to pay 2020 dues and support ISCA! Some members still owe for both 2021 and 2022.

If you are unsure of what you owe or have other questions please contact me.

Thank you for your membership and support.

Francesca Serpentinei,

ISCA Secretary/Treasurer

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

# ISCA Library



2022 Jul-Aug



2022 May-Jun



2022 Mar-Apr



2022 Jan-Feb



2021 Nov-Dec



2021 Sep-Oct



2021 Jul-Aug



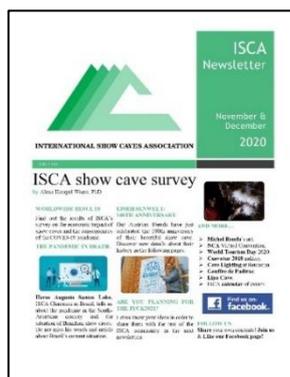
2021 May-Jun



2021 Mar-Apr



2021 Jan-Feb



2020 Nov-Dec



2020 Sep-Oct

# We Hope to See You at Congress!

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



**The good news is the first ever joint Congress of ISCA and NCA is less than a month away!** The better news is *it's not too late to register* for this year's event and attend this worldwide meeting of show cave leadership. Travel to and within the US is back to normal and our host city, San Antonio, is as welcoming as ever.

Presentation lineup includes renown speakers from around the world on everything from long range strategic planning to cave guest safety, to cave lighting and development to revenue maximizing strategies for ticketing, merchandising and more. For the full schedule visit our [Congress website](#).

## **NEW: The Congress App**

Keeping up with all the activities and each other will be easier than ever with our Congress meeting app. This app will allow you to personalize your agenda, chat with other attendees, take part in group discussions, and more! We'll have instructions on how to install the app on your phone prior to Congress.

## **Around the WORLD Time**

We are excited to hear from everyone during one of our favorite sessions: Around the World. These videos are a great opportunity to share the great, the challenging, and the fun things happening at your cave. Here are the details you need to know to get started.

What to include: Share what your show cave is all about with images of your cave, visitors center, retail shop, café and attractions. You can introduce yourself and others from your show cave attending, include information such as where your cave is located, number of visitors annually, how many employees, is your cave private or government owned and managed. You can share what's new at your show cave, successes and challenges you are facing. These presentations help us learn more about our peers in the show cave industry and foster networking and collaboration.

It is time to gather your videos or photo slide shows so they can be organized before the Cave Congress. Please see the specifics below.

### **Around the World Presentations:**

Showcase what your cave has to offer above ground and below ground

Video or Photo Slide Show accepted

**3 minute MAXIMUM**

MP4 or MOV format preferred

Music or Voice Over is great or if your video has no audio you can stand up and talk while it plays

Use professional video or a video made on your phone is fine

Save your video/photos with your show cave name

Upload here: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/j6D3ZIAeO1xgsjkTVpU8>

DEADLINE for submission: Friday, September 16

Presentations must be uploaded to the Dropbox by September 16, 2022. Please contact us if you have trouble using the Dropbox or have other questions regarding the presentation.

See examples here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/s04rgs6fxfqbeo6/Ruby%20Falls%202021.mp4?dl=0>  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/2furlf6loim6ulv/Squire%20Boone%20Caverns%202021.mp4?dl=0>

## Sponsors

This event would not be possible if it weren't for all the incredible sponsors who have pitched in to keep our costs low and the fun BIG. Big thanks to all our sponsors:

[Assurance](#) is our premier sponsor and Patrick O'Sullivan is at the heart of this sponsorship. Patrick has been involved in the NCA Insurance Program since 2008. Having gone underground in over 50 show caves, his understanding of show cave operations and exposures is both extensive and unique. Patrick founded PRO Insurance Services in 1996 which was acquired by Assurance / MMA in 2021. Today, he partners with Keith Dobrolinsky to ensure all NCA Insurance Program participants have the necessary safety, loss control, and claims management services in place, while also addressing their insurance questions and concerns.

[PGAV Destinations](#) is our gold sponsor. They have helped attractions around the world expand, fine tune, and strategically plan for the future. Don't miss their presentations on planning and story telling!

[RCI Adventure Products](#) is our silver sponsor. RCI builds incredible outdoor attractions like ropes courses, climbing trails, zip rails, and mazes that add an element of fun and adventure.

[Cave Lighting](#) is also a silver sponsor. The crew of Cave Lighting beautifully lights caves around the world with state-of-the-art equipment and a focus on sustainability for the unique environment of caves.

Thanks to our bronze sponsors: Digonex, CaveSim, Groupon, The National Cave & Karst Research Institute, and Sandy Creek Mining Company.

And thanks to our Congress supporters too: L.W. Bristol Classics, Majestic Caverns, War Eagle Cavern, Squire Boone Village, Village Originals, SS Handcrafted Art, Blue Marble VR, Capital Farm Credit, Cave of the Mounds, Echo Location Grotto, Inner Space Cavern, Natural Stone Bridge & Caves, Seneca Caverns, Longhorn Cavern State Park, Cave without a Name, Caverns of Sonora, Stark Caverns

## Field Trips

Everyone is pretty excited about our Pre- and Post Congress field trips. We've got a full bus headed to Carlsbad (with a stop at Sonora) and we just received word that the Mayor of Carlsbad will address us at dinner. We're also putting a few extra touches on our Post Congress field trips and we can't wait to show you all the fun we have planned. Be sure to check out our weekly Congress update for more news.



## Presentations

At the heart of our Congress is a great line up of expertise! Here are just two of our presentations:

### Presentation Feature - Shaping your Future

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 karst landscapes, master planning is critical to achieving it. 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 it's potential. Start more than dreaming – start planning!

### Presentation Feature – No One is Immune to Cyber Claims

No one is immune to cyber exposure—phishing attacks to target C-level managers with intent of stealing dollars or data including credit cards, passports, and other personal data. Point-of-sales systems for day-to-day-running of businesses are very vulnerable. Matt Ross and Shawn Tuma will help you learn what you can do to protect your most critical asset (next to your cave) - your DATA!

### Registration, hotel and more!

If you haven't registered yet, there's still time. [Sign up online and book your trip.](#) We'll see you in Texas!



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION



# ISCA/NCA Congress information



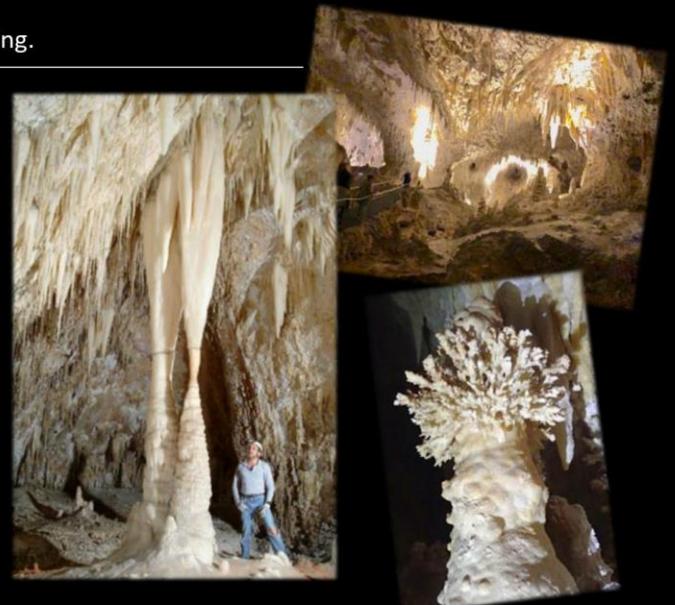
Step back from the day-to-day and dream. See beyond the cave entrance and queue lines see a whole new level of operational and entertainment excellence. Take time for strategic thinking about where you are - and where you could be. This is why it's important to make time to attend the International Show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

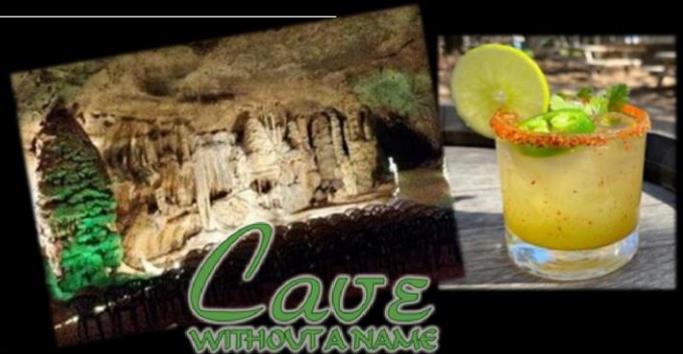


Western Theme Party, wear your coolest Western wear! Cowboy Hat and Boots! The Briscoe Western Art Museum celebrates the stories of the cowboy, the vaquero, Native Americans, and the vast beauty of the Western landscape through drawings, sketches, paintings, and sculptures. It's a fitting locale for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

## The Power of Story

**Tuesday, September 27 from 9:00-10:30AM - Located in the Navarro Room**

### Strategic Storytelling – Creating a Cutting-Edge Experience Through the Power of Story

The [PGAV](#) team has found one of the most powerful tools for elevating the visitor experience is Story. Brands as diverse as Universal Studios, Airbnb, Burt's Bees use story telling in strategic ways, and the fundamentals of storytelling are within your reach.



In this presentation, Mike Konzen will take you through the process of bringing story into your property. In some cases, it's using technology to aid in the telling of the story you already have or using the actual construct of a well told story – a beginning, a crisis, a resolution – as you develop your next tour, or blending the two to create a new experience for visitors that resonates long after they leave.

**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.

## No One is Immune to Cyber Claims

### Protect You, Your Guests, and Your \$\$\$ €€€

**Tuesday, September 27 from 10:45AM-12:15PM - Located in the Navarro Room**

No one is immune to cyber exposure—phishing attacks to target C-level managers with intent of stealing dollars or data including credit cards, passports, and other personal data. Point-of-sales systems for day-to-day-running of businesses are very vulnerable. Learn what you can do to protect your most critical asset (next to your cave) - your DATA!



**Matt Ross** is the National Cyber Claims Leader at Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA). He is responsible for providing cyber and data breach claim consulting to MMA clients at a national level. Matt works with insurers to improve cyber claim processes, outcomes, and communications. Matt acts as a resource by partnering with key stakeholders to develop best client outcomes. Prior to joining MMA in December 2021, Matt spent over 12 years working as both a Claim Consultant and Claim Director in a high-volume cyber claim environment. Matt earned his Bachelor's Degree in English Literature (Secondary Education) from Miami University and his Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University. He resides in Austin, Texas.



**Shawn Tuma** is an attorney internationally recognized in cybersecurity, computer fraud and data privacy law, areas in which he has practiced for over two decades. Shawn helps businesses protect their information and protect themselves from their information. He is Co-Chair of Spencer Fane LLP's Data Privacy & Cybersecurity Practice Group where he regularly serves as cybersecurity and privacy counsel advising a wide variety of businesses ranging from small and mid-sized companies to Fortune 100 enterprises, across the United States and globally. Shawn's practice covers three distinct areas: Cyber Risk Management, Cyber Incident Response, and Cyber and Data Breach-Related Litigation.

## Merchandising Retail, Food & Beverage

**Wednesday, September 28 from 9:00-10:30AM - Located in the Navarro Room**

Ever walked into a shop and been immediately drawn into a display? Ever walk out having bought something you had no intention of buying? Increasing merchandise and food sales aren't magic – but it is part art, part science. A panel of experts from the industry with international experience will discuss best practices for merchandising, procurement, pricing, managing inventory, choosing what to sell, where to order from and how to maximize sales with your displays.



**Michael Catcott** has led brands as diverse as Anheuser Busch Theme Parks and Schlitterbahn in theme park and resort development. He served as general manager and corporate head of merchandising for Sea World. After 25 years in the business Michael understands how to use strategic planning to increase the profitability of all parts of the business including operations, retail, marketing, and development.

**Lenny Freund** is a 40 plus year veteran of the amusement industry with a resume that includes Director of Food Service at Dorney Park, Director of Revenue Premier Parks and General Manager for Six Flags Theme Parks. Currently his company, Freund Family Foods, provides food and beverage to dozens of the country's largest fairs, festivals and special events. Lenny is also a Managing Partner of North Star Food and Beverage, which provides food and beverage consulting to the leisure industry. Lenny and his wife Sue have been married 35 years and have seven children.



**Claudia Yundt** is Park Director at Squire Boone Caverns and has been with the park since 1983. Squire Boone Caverns has a sister company, Squire Boone Village, a wholesale/manufacturing company producing gift shop items. Being involved in all aspects of retail products including developments, manufacturing, sales and retail has given Claudia a unique perspective. With over 39 year's experience, Claudia has a lot of knowledge to share and will be the first to tell you, she is still learning!

**Terri Adams**, General Manager of Natural Bridge Caverns will facilitate this discussion. She oversees the operation of the caverns with the Wuest family. Prior to that, Terri spent 41 years with Schlitterbahn Waterparks and Resorts, working her way up from lifeguard to spending the last 12 years as their Chief Operating Officer overseeing all parks and resorts. During Terri's lifelong career in the travel industry, she has served on many boards and been a member of a number of associations in various Texas cities. Terri is well known in the Texas travel industry.



## Loss Control Observations (NCA Only)

### Wednesday, September 28 from 10:45-11:45AM - Located in the Navarro "B" Room

Do you know what is walking out your door? Have you discovered things missing at the end of a season or shift? There are ways to keep firmer control on your assets. Adam Bryant, Senior Safety Advocate of the National Caves Association, will present on actual losses reported and advise on ways to prevent losses at your show cave as well as entertain us with his bag pipes!



**Adam Bryant** is a Senior Safety Advocate at Assurance, a Marsh & McLennan Agency LLC company. Adam provides clients with policy development, on-site and remote training for managers and staff, and onsite safety audits to identify safety hazards and provide solutions to help mitigate risk. He has consistently cut expenses for his clients by 20 to 40 percent. Prior to Assurance, Adam was a National Loss Control Consultant at AmTrust. While there, he developed and delivered risk management services for all lines of coverage including workers' compensation, general liability, auto, and professional liability. Adam graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Risk Management and Insurance and a minor in Finance.

### Thursday, September 29 - Morning Breakout Sessions

*The following sessions will be repeated, so you will be able to attend 2 of the 4 sessions.*

*The first set of breakout sessions is from 9:15-10:15AM.*

*These same sessions will be repeated from 10:30-11:30AM*

## Ticketing Trends: Are You Maximizing Revenue?

### Thursday, September 29 (9:15-10:15AM, 10:30-11:30AM) - Located in the Zapata Room

Curious how dynamic and variable pricing models can maximize revenue and the visitor experience? This session will be led by three industry experts: Harry Tomasides, Chief Revenue Officer with Digonex, Randy Josselyn, most recently with Gateway. Together they'll be covering everything from partnering with OTA's, timed ticketing, discounts, ticketing software, online ticketing, kiosks and other ticketing trends that work for both large and small caves.



**Harry Tomasides** has been the Chief Revenue Officer for Digonex since 2015 and is honored to speak again at this year's ISCA Congress. He is passionate about helping organizations transition to a more efficient and data-driven approach to pricing. Digonex specializes in providing automated dynamic pricing solutions for Attractions/Tour Operators, Performing Arts and Live Entertainment organizations. Today Digonex and serves almost 60 organizations in North America and the UK.

Harry and the Digonex team have worked closely with the Natural Bridge Caverns team since 2017 and he is excited to share their story with other operators. Prior to joining Digonex, Harry trained media executives and served in management roles with ABC/Disney, iHeart Radio and Citadel Broadcasting. When he is not evangelizing dynamic pricing, Harry enjoys playing guitar, cooking and listening to a wide variety of podcasts. Harry resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife Christine and 2 daughters Demi and Marki.



**Randy Josselyn** is an expert in ticketing systems, theme park marketing and waterpark design/operations. Randy joined Gateway Ticketing in June 2017 as Principal - Wildlife & Conservation working with a dedicated team to provide best practices to Theme Parks, Destinations, Museums, Waterparks, Zoos and Aquariums. Randy previously founded Team Trajectory, an attractions consulting company providing valuable insight, ticketing solutions, marketing, and hands on expertise for waterparks, theme parks, FECs and non-profits organizations such as zoos, museums, and aquariums. Randy is a regular speaker at IAAPA (International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions) and is a member of the IAAPA Finance and Technology Committee. Randy is a multiyear speaker at the WWA Annual

Convention and Symposium (World Waterpark Association) and his work was honored with the 2003 WWA Wave Award for Best Waterpark Website. Randy and his wife Bria reside in in Nashville, TN with their 4 children.



**Brian Vauter**, Director of IT, POS, Data & BI at Natural Bridge Caverns will be facilitating. Brian 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.

## Cave Lighting & Development

**Thursday, September 29 (9:15-10:15AM, 10:30-11:30AM) - Located in the Madero Room**

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 as well as ways to add to your cave with Wi-Fi, improving access and exits, and even the building of the BAT – the Belt Assisted Transport system.



**Alexander Chrapko** is the Managing Director and Project Director for Cave Lighting CL GmbH & Co. KG based in Germany. He is a geologist and IT Specialist with 10 years experience in lighting up show caves all over the world. He is a member of several professional organizations including the International Show Cave Association.

**Matt Carr** is Director of Cavern Development at Natural Bridge Caverns. Matt started working at Natural Bridge in 1991 as a seasonal tour guide. Over the years, he has served in a variety of leadership positions at NBC including tour guides, food and beverage, and human resources. Matt took

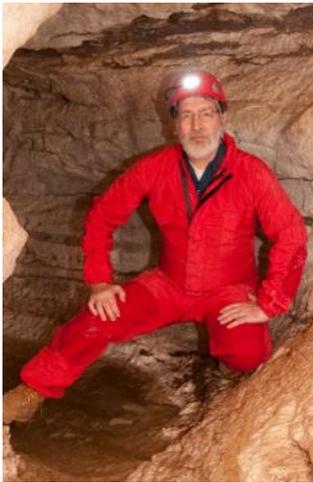
on his first cave development project in 2000, opening a 600-foot-long passageway that allows visitors and staff to bypass the lower sections of the cave when they are inundated with aquifer water. More recently, Matt has acted as NBC's liaison with Cave Lighting on re-lighting the Discovery Passages and Hidden Passages. Matt and his wife Liz live in nearby New Braunfels with their two kids, Kylie and Evan.



## Importance of Exploration & Cave Science

**Thursday, September 29 (9:15-10:15AM, 10:30-11:30AM) - Located in the Villa Room**

Exploration, Cave Critters, Paleontology & Archeology: From unique marketing opportunities to shaping changes in operations to guiding development, there's no question that knowing more about your cave impacts your success. This panel of experts will discuss the nuts and bolts of continued exploration, discovery, preserving, studying and interpreting your show cave's fascinating biology and historical treasures. Facilitated by experts in each field.



**Dr. George Veni**, is the Executive Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) and an internationally recognized hydrogeologist specializing in caves and karst terrains. Prior to NCKRI, he owned and served as principal investigator of George Veni and Associates, conducting multidisciplinary environmental karst management studies for more than 20 years. He has conducted karst research throughout the United States and in several other countries. He has been a member of the governing board of the International Union of Speleology since 2002 and served as its President since 2017, organizing the International Year of Caves and Karst in 2021-2022. He has served as an advisor for geological, geographical, and biological dissertations and theses at several universities in Greece and the USA, and has published and presented over 270 papers, including six books, on hydrogeology, biology, and environmental management in karst terrains.

**Liza Colucci**, Project Manager & Ecologist at Zara Environmental LLC, earned a Master of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of New Haven in West Haven, Connecticut, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Environmental Chemistry from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island. Liza's experience includes 15 years working with endangered species in central Texas as a conservation biologist with the City of Austin and biologist with Zara Environmental. She has extensively monitored *Eurycea* salamanders, karst invertebrates, and groundwater fauna throughout Texas. Her projects have also included restoring endangered species habitats and monitoring ecosystem health in karst systems. Liza's experience includes developing habitat conservation plans, biological assessments, and research projects with endangered species. Liza manages compliance of federal and state permits and has spent extensive time onsite for numerous construction and maintenance projects in federally protected habitat. She has been managing projects for nearly a decade. Liza has been a caver since 2005 when she was handed a carbide headlamp in upstate NY. Since then, she has been caving for fun, for science, and for work.



**John A. Moretti**, an anthropologist and PHD candidate at the Jackson School of Geosciences, at the University of Texas at Austin. For 18 years John has worked as a field archaeologist and researcher in museums and universities across the state. He has spoken on topics ranging from ancient animals of West Texas, the ice age in Texas, and prehistory of West Texas. A prolific contributor to dozens of papers, John has worked on various independent research projects and designed exhibits for local museums.



**Travis Wuest**, Vice President & 3rd generation co-owner of Natural Bridge Caverns, will be facilitating this session. He is a graduate of Texas A&M University's Department of Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences. Travis has served as Chairman on the Texas Nature Tourism Council and Chairman on the Comal County Regional Habitat Conservation Committee. He was also a member of Governor Rick Perry's Tourism Advisory Committee. Currently, Travis serves on the New Braunfels Food Bank Advisory Board, the San Antonio Visitor's Alliance's Executive Committee, and the Visit San Antonio Leisure Advisory Committee. He is a member of Oakwood Baptist Church. Travis is married to his college sweetheart, Jennifer Wuest. They are working to raise 3 children, Morgan, Ryan, and Logan, who they hope will one day carry on the family's legacy of conservation, nature-based adventure, and family fun.

## Events at Show Caves? How unique!

**Thursday, September 29 (9:15-10:15AM, 10:30-11:30AM)**

### Located in the Villa Room

Show caves offer a wonderfully unique venue for events. Learn how to plan, promote and execute successful special events at your show cave including seasonal events, corporate meetings, parties, weddings, reunions, concerts, team building experiences and more! This panel of experts will share their experiences and best practices with you.



**Dempsey Warren's** mission in life is to help others feel celebrated and important, and that extends to her clients and their audiences. She received her B.B.A. in sports, event, and tourism management and her M.B.A. from UTSA while serving as captain of both their NCAA volleyball and NCAA basketball teams. Those leadership roles gave her the interpersonal communication and organization skills that she applies to all her projects. She currently is a Event Senior Manager at The CE Group with some of her notable projects including the NCAA 2018 Men's Basketball Final Four, the NCAA 2021 Women's Basketball Tournament, Majesty Outdoor Clay Shoot & Gala, San Antonio Express News High School Sports Awards and many others. She has a special place in her heart for non-profits and organizations with philanthropic missions. Although her collegiate athletic days are over, she still loves staying active through cycling and other group exercise classes so that she can keep up with her growing family.



**Steve Thompson** is the Vice President of Bridal Cave Development Co. Inc. in Camdenton Missouri. Steve has been with the park for 45 years after starting as a tour guide fresh out of High School and working his way up the ranks. During his time at the cave Steve has doubled the tour route via man made tunnels, overseen construction of a new visitor's center, made numerous land acquisitions that include a new event center and warehouse facility. Bridal Cave has become famous as a unique place to "tie the knot"!



**Kara Van Brunt**, Executive Director of Ruby Falls, brings over two decades of commercial cave operations experience to her role. Kara's expertise in administrative and operational efficiency, management of award-winning events, strategic development, leadership team oversight, and risk management ensure operations perform at their peak, meeting business objectives. Actively involved in the advancement of the tourism industry, Kara is the current President of Southern Highlands Attractions and was named Tennessee Tourism Manager of the Year in 2016. Kara resides in Lookout Mountain, GA with her husband Jeremy and their two daughters, Emery and Ellie.

## Master Planning - Shaping Your Future NOW

**Thursday, September 29 from 1:00-2:30PM - Located in the Navarro Room**

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 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 it's potential. Start more than dreaming – start planning!

**John Kasman**, Vice President & Senior Designer at PGAV has over 25 years of Destination expertise with specialties in guest experience and interpretive design for a multitude of project types such as museums, historic sites, and brand destinations. As Vice President at PGAV Destinations and a licensed architect by trade, John provides effective management of large-scale projects and multifaceted project teams. He also has extensive on-site experience including stakeholder engagement.

### Thursday, September 29 - Afternoon Breakout Sessions

*The following sessions will be repeated, however NCA will attend first sessions (2:45-3:45PM) during ISCA's General Assembly meeting and ISCA will attend the second sessions (4:00-5:00PM) during NCA's business meeting.*

*The first set of breakout sessions is from 2:45-3:45PM.*

*These same sessions will be repeated from 4:00-5:00PM.*

## Marketing & Public Relations: FREE & paid

**Thursday, September 29 (2:45-3:45PM and 4:00-5:00PM) - Located in the Madero Room**

Hear how to promote your cave and stay connected with the public all year long, best practices for social media platforms, insights on marketing trends, and the importance of tracking your advertising returns.



**Trevor Wood**, is President of The Wood Agency, a full-service marketing & advertising agency. Trevor was “born and raised” in the advertising biz – literally walking from grade school to the agencies his parents managed. He graduated from the University of Texas with a B.S. Degree in Advertising, and immediately joined the agency full-time. Trevor has held positions as Copywriter/Producer, Account Executive, Account Supervisor and Vice President – Account Service. Over that time, he developed strong beliefs about what makes advertising effective, which eventually informed a new strategic approach for creative development called Connections. One of Trevor’s favorite pastimes is debating attribution models.

**Winter Prosapio**, heads up communications for Natural Bridge Caverns and is also an award-winning novelist and humor columnist. She has over 30 years of experience in communications, working in tourism, public affairs, finance, and has led trainings across the country on a variety of marketing, social media, and PR topics. She's also a big fan of caves, small dogs, waterparks, wooden rollercoasters, and funnel cake, not necessarily in that order. You can learn more about her, read some funny stuff, and even hear from her on her website at [wprosapio.com](http://wprosapio.com).



## Cave Rescue & Tour Guide Training

**Thursday, September 29 (2:45-3:45PM and 4:00-5:00PM) - Located in the Navarro Room**

Best practices in staff training, working with cave rescue teams and first responders for commercial tours, adventure tours and explorations.



**Carrey Bull**, is an instructor and serves on the Education Committee for the National Cave Rescue Commission (NCRC) for the NSS. She started taking NCRC classes in 2015, which is also when she found caving. She joined the Underground Texas Grotto and the NSS and gets underground as much as her work schedule will allow. Carrey is Fire Specialist (driver) with the Austin Fire Department/Special Operations. In addition to teaching cave rescue, she also teaches rope rescue and confined space rescue for R.E.S.E.T, a regional training.

**John Young** is an Adventure Tour Guide trainer at Natural Bridge Caverns. He assists training guides in rope and vertical skills, rescue techniques for guests on caving tours, and is part of our Cavern Expedition Team. In addition to his work at Natural Bridge Caverns, John is a Lieutenant in the Bulverde Spring Branch Fire Department and has been a Firefighter/Paramedic for 15 years. During his time in the fire department, he developed a passion for caving and is an active member of the Bexar County Grotto, the TSS (Texas Speleological Society), and the Comal County Cave Data Manager for the TSS. He is also an adjunct instructor for the Colorado Bend NCRC Regional Training. John often takes part in educational events at the Caverns, showing guests the more technical aspects of cave exploration including advanced rope techniques and proper equipment use. Most recently he rigged a new tour, the St. Mary's Adventure Tour, at Natural Bridge Caverns to enable guests to complete various climbs and traverse a pit area.



**Valentine (Val) Hernandez**, has been part of Natural Bridge Caverns for ten years. He worked as a tour guide when he was 16, then enlisted in the army where he served in Afghanistan as an artilleryman in the 82nd Airborne Division in Operation Enduring Freedom. Val rejoined the caverns when he returned and now serves as Tour Guide Operations Manager. He leads a crew of 60 tour guides for four separate tour products. His focus is training, safety, and events. Val is also an avid outdoorsman, enjoys hiking, kayaking, breakfast tacos, and cold beer.

**Nicole Ridlen**, was finishing her Bachelor's in Business when she decided her new hobby, caving with a Missouri grotto (caving club), was more of a passion. She went straight from graduating with her first college degree to earn her Bachelor's (Central Missouri) and Master's (Mississippi State) degrees in Geology, specifically studying cave & karst geology. She has spent a lot of time traveling, having been to caves in 22 of the U.S. states and 5 countries, long being a believer that experience is just as important as education. When she left her PhD program at Vanderbilt, she found herself in the unique opportunity to use both fields of study and experience; she was hired as a cave manager for a SW Missouri Cave. Nicole has been actively involved with multiple caving organizations like the National Speleological Society, Cave Research Foundation, Missouri Caves & Karst Conservancy and six different grottos. Today Nicole is the General Manager for Cumberland Caverns, the longest cave in all of Tennessee open to the public.



Find all the details about the Congress speakers on the [Congress website](#).



# 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



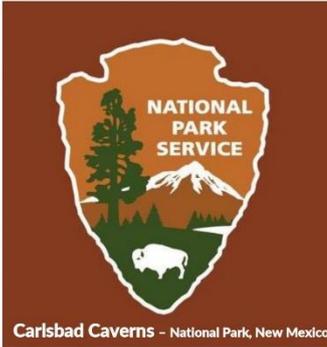
**Caverns of Sonora - Texas**

Located on a working ranch, the Caverns of Sonora is a World-Renowned show cave, a National Natural Landmark and recognized as 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 - Dr. George Veni** is the Executive Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) and an internationally recognized hydrogeologist specializing in caves and karst terrains. Prior to NCKRI, he owned and served as principal investigator of George Veni and Associates, conducting multidisciplinary environmental karst management studies for more than 20 years. He has conducted karst research throughout the United States and in several other countries. He has been a member of the governing board of the International Union of Speleology since 2002 and served as its President since 2017, organizing the International Year of Caves and Karst in 2021-2022. He has served as an advisor for geological, geographical, and biological dissertations and theses at several universities in Greece and the USA, and has published and presented over 270 papers, including six books, on hydrogeology, biology, and environmental management in karst terrains.

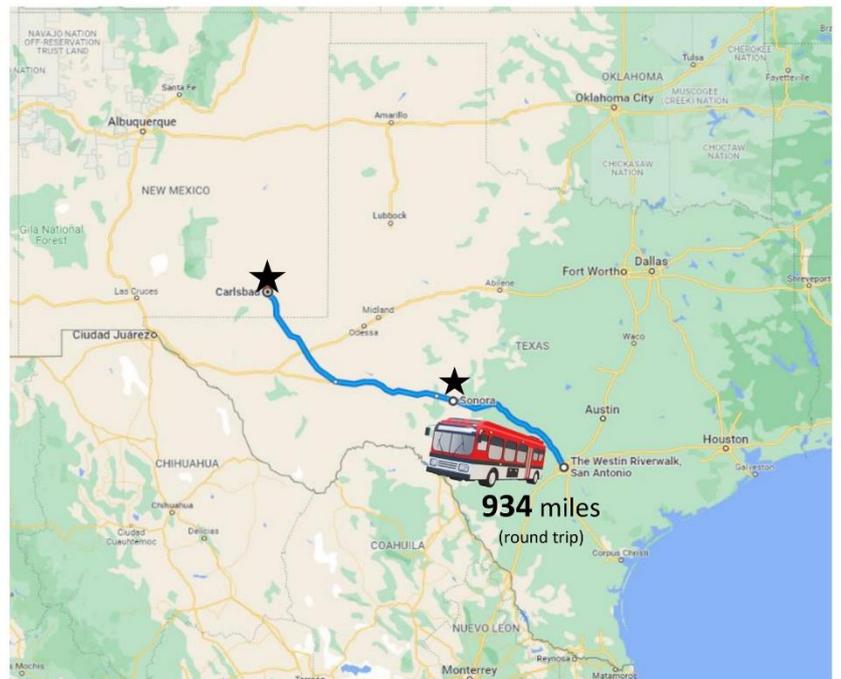


**Travel Host - Brian Vauter** began working at Natural Bridge Caverns in 1986 as a tour guide in high school. He graduated from Baylor University with a degree in Geology. He worked for the United States Geological Survey in Nevada for the Yucca Mountain Project looking specifically at groundwater and 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**

Rattlesnake Springs, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, is a lush oasis in the desert. This riparian ecosystem features a natural spring and a large grove of cottonwood trees planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps. It's an ideal place for bird watching year-round.



**Stevens Inn**  
CARLSBAD, NM

**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

# Congress sponsors

<p><b>Premier Event Sponsor \$30,000 +</b></p>	 <div data-bbox="943 349 1426 472"> <p><b>KEITH A. DOBROLINSKY, Senior Vice President</b> Assurance, a Marsh &amp; McLennan Agency LLC 20 N. Martingale Road, Suite 101   Schaumburg, IL 60173 p 847.463.7345   f 847.440.9127   m 630.417.5918 Keith.Dobrolinsky@MarshMMA.com</p> </div> <div data-bbox="943 501 1426 618"> <p><b>PATRICK O'SULLIVAN, CIC, CRM, CSRM, Account Executive</b> Assurance, a Marsh &amp; McLennan Agency LLC company 20 N Martingale Road   Suite 100   Schaumburg, IL 60173 p 847.463.7777   m 708.655.5444 Patrick.O'Sullivan@MarshMMA.com</p> </div>  <p>Patrick has been involved in the NCA Insurance Program since 2008. Having gone underground in over 50 show caves, his understanding of show cave operations and exposures is both extensive and unique. Patrick founded PRO Insurance Services in 1996 which was acquired by Assurance / MMA in 2021. Today, he partners with Keith Dobrolinsky to ensure all NCA Insurance Program participants have the necessary safety, loss control, and claims management services in place, while also addressing their insurance questions and concerns. A long-time public servant, Patrick sits on his local school board and also serves as his hometown's Village Clerk.</p>
<p><b>Gold Sponsor \$18,000 +</b></p>	
<p><b>Silver Sponsor \$9,000 - \$17,999</b></p>	 
<p><b>Bronze Sponsor \$3,000 - 8,999</b></p>	    
<p><b>Congress Supporter \$500 - 2,999</b></p>	                

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 \(swoogo.com\)](https://www.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 Second Vice President)  
[Francesca Serpentine](#) (ISCA Secretary/Treasurer)

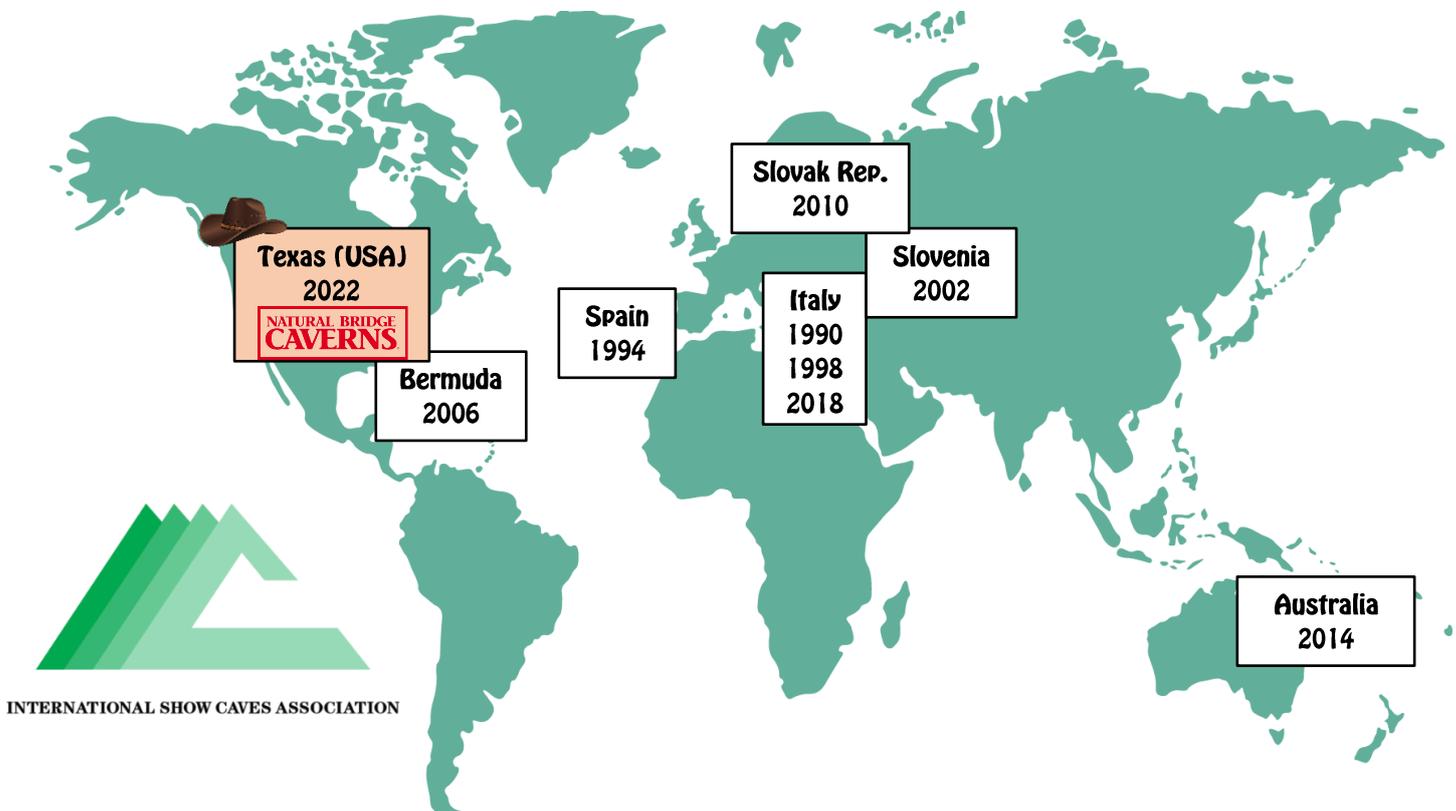
# Ready to host future ISCA Congresses, Conferences and Meetings?

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.
- **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



Would you like to host an ISCA Congress, Conference or Meeting? [Contact us](#) and let us know!

# 18th International Congress of Speleology



In July, the [18th International Congress of Speleology](#) took place in Savoie (France). The event was organized by the [Fédération Française de Spéléologie](#) and the [Union Internationale de Spéléologie](#).

This year, the Congress paid special attention to the International Year of Caves and Karst, which is also organised by the UIS.

The 20 symposiums dealt with topics such as karst, speleology, geomorphology, hydrogeology, climatology, biology, archeology and paleontology, topography, mapping, 3D, glacier, firm and ice caves, artificial formations, volcanic caves, cave rescue or cave diving, among other interesting topics which attendees enjoyed.

As explained in the following pages, the event also served to elect a new UIS Bureau.

The event was a success with over 1,200 participants, 536 papers and visitors from over 50 countries.

[The 19th ICS will take place in Brazil in 2025.](#)

Don't miss the [final movie](#) of the Congress! Congratulations to UIS and those who have worked hard in order to guarantee the celebration of an amazing event.



*18th International Congress of Speleology final movie. Source: UIS YouTube channel.*



Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie

# Introducing the new UIS Bureau

The new UIS Bureau was elected at the Second General Assembly during the 18th ICS. The International Show Caves Association wants to congratulate the new members of the Bureau and looks forward to cooperating in future projects. We also wanted to thank those who have contributed for the growing of the association in the last years. Big **THANKS** to everyone!



## UIS BUREAU 2022-2025

NAME	COUNTRY	POSITION
Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>President</i>
Zdenek MOTYCKA	<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Vice-President of Administration</i>
Nivaldo COLZATO	<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Vice-President of Operation</i>
Johannes MATTES	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Secretary General</i>
Mladen GARASIC	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
José Maria CALAFORRA	<i>Spain</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Marc MENTENS	<i>Philippines</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Mario PARISE	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Nathalia UASAPUD	<i>Colombia</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Patricia SEISER	<i>USA</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Gerard CAMPION	<i>United Kingdom</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>
Bärbel VOGEL	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Adjunct Secretary</i>



### UIS BUREAU 2022-2025 AT THE 18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

Le Bourget-du-Lac, France, July 31, 2022

**Left to right:** José Maria CALAFORRA (*Spain, Adjunct Secretary*); Patricia SEISER (*USA, Adjunct Secretary*); Mario PARISE (*Italy, Adjunct Secretary*); Johannes MATTES (*Austria, Secretary General*); Mladen GARASIC (*Croatia, Treasurer*); Gerard CAMPION (*United Kingdom, Adjunct Secretary*); Zdenek MOTYCKA (*Czech Republic, Vice-President of Administration*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Slovenia, President*); Bärbel VOGEL (*Germany, Adjunct Secretary*); Nivaldo COLZATO (*Brazil, Vice-President of Operations*); Nathalia UASAPUD (*Colombia, Adjunct Secretary*), and Marc MENTENS (*Philippines, Adjunct Secretary*).

Photo by José Ayrton Labegalini (*Brazil, UIS Past President*).

# UIS Bulletin 64-1 now available

You can now download the latest UIS Bulletin. Among other relevant topics, the volume 64-1 brings information about the 18th International Congress of Speleology, the 36th Brazilian Congress of Speleology, the Cave Time Capsule 2091 Project and the International Year of Caves and Karst.



**UIS BULLETIN**  
Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Volume 64-1 - June 2022

**18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY**  
SAVOIE MONT-BLANC FRANCE 2021

**18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY**  
FRANCE SAVOIE MONT-BLANC - 24-31 July 2022

**Le Bourget-du-Lac is ready to welcome you!**

- A remarkable karst to be explored
- Special activities and celebrations
- 536 papers (communications and posters)
- The major event of the International Year of Caves and Karst
- The Cave Time Capsule 2091 Project – Call to All Countries

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

- Reports of Commissions
- Cave and karst legal status worldwide assessment
- France Habe Prize: 2021 winner
- EU Nature Protection Award 2021 goes to German Speleological Federation
- Mladen Garašić, UIS Bureau Member, is doubly honored
- Cave Data Sharing Guidelines, the new UIS project for you to participate *and much more...*

Contents

# 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.**

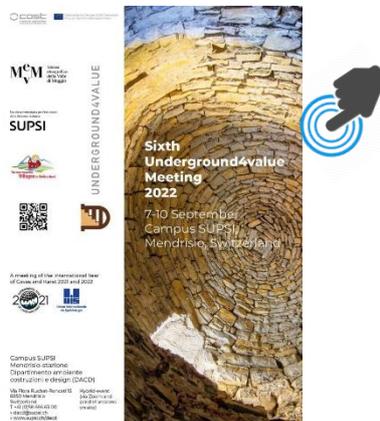
Your announcement will be highly appreciated and it will be shortly included on the **events section**. Check it out in order to learn more about some of the confirmed events taking place worldwide to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst.

## 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:** September 7th -10th, 2022
- **Location:** Campus SUPSI, Mendrisio, Switzerland
- **Event name:** International Colloquium “Discovering and Activating Underground Built Heritage”
- **Event description:** The colloquium is part of the VI Meetings of the COST Action CA18110 “underground4value”. Organised by Mark Bertogliati (MEVM) and Christian Ambrosi (SUPSI-IST), the event is structured in three parts: 1. Context and introduction: an underground walk across Southern Switzerland; 2. Talks on: scientific importance of Karst landscapes and caves in the Generoso area; identification of the social values of the Muggio Valley’s snow cellars; Underground heritage and tourism in the region of Mendrisiotto; Research projects related to Underground Heritage. 3. A final round table.
- **More information**

# Biological Survey Underway at Natural Bridge Caverns: Continued exploration of Natural Bridge Caverns yields new biological finds of cave adapted species

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



*Amphipod Stygobromus russelli* was found during a recent biological inventory at Natural Bridge Caverns. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns

**San Antonio** August 5, 2022 -- A new expedition is set for August 6th in [Natural Bridge Caverns](#), and this time the effort is focused on developing a better understanding of this unique environment. A biological inventory, conducted by Texas-based [Zara Environmental](#), began earlier in 2022 so far has produced a picture of a thriving ecosystem in the cave and discovered six new species not found in the caverns previously. The search is now on to find more in a newly discovered hidden stream of water deep below the surface and follow it to where no person has ever been.

Among the thriving cave-adapted species the researchers have found so far are non-endangered top predators including *Chinquipellobunus madlae*, an orange cave-adapted harvestman, as well as tiny snails that live in the groundwater deep within the cave and are the size of sand grains.

The six new species recorded for the cavern and a few species collected required taxonomic work under the microscope to identify. Two of the new species to Natural Bridge Caverns were groundwater crustaceans; a Cirolanid isopod and an amphipod (*Stygobromus russelli*) that looks like a small shrimp without eyes and pigment. Hundreds of snails were collected and sent to Dr. Kathryn Perez at U.T. Rio Grande Valley, an expert in aquatic snails. Dr Perez identified a groundwater snail, *Phreatodrobia plana*, collected amongst mostly freshwater snails, *Phreatodrobia nugax*. The team at Natural Bridge Caverns plans to showcase these new species, as well as others previously found in the cavern system, in a new educational exhibit scheduled to open in 2023.

“Our guests are fascinated by the adaptations necessary for animals of all types to live in a cave,” said Brad Wuest, president of Natural Bridge Caverns. “As stewards of this cavern system we know the more we understand about the species that inhabit the cave, the better we’re able to track our efforts in safeguarding the environment all around it. A biological sampling is one step in that effort. As cave explorers we’re also fascinated by life in these beautiful, dark places.”



*Expedition conducted by Texas-based Zara Environmental at Natural Bridge Caverns. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

In the world of cavern dwelling species, the cave adapted *Chinquepellobunus* in Natural Bridge Caverns is the equivalent of a grizzly among the tiny creatures of the cave world. It looks to us like a thin-legged spider with a body smaller than the end of a Q-tip, but when scientists look closely, they can see arm-like mandibles that have a row of long spiny teeth. *Chinquepellobunus* is not a spider at all - it is a different group of arachnids altogether. This is one of the cave-adapted species guests could be lucky enough to see during a public tour of the caverns. The *Cicurina varians* and *Araneae* are two types of spiders found in the cavern along with a common cave insect, the *Texoreddellia*, which is a subterranean silverfish. In the water within the cave the team found two types of springtails: *Collembola* and *Symphyleona*. Biologists also snapped a photo of an eyeless amphipod that is yet to be identified.



*Cave adapted species at Natural Bridge Caverns.  
Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

“It’s important to understand the biodiversity of the cave system because a healthy cave means healthy groundwater,” noted Liza Colucci, project manager and ecologist from Zara Environmental. On August 6th, the team plans on pushing into newly discovered areas to determine if identical species to those found in earlier expeditions exist there as well and also to see if additional aquatic species exist in the new areas. The team is also considering conducting a dye trace to confirm the water flow throughout the cave. Surveys indicate that the newly discovered Popcorn Pit River is upstream of the River Styx and other locations, but a dye trace will prove it definitively.

For more information about adventure caving tours, walkable public tours, and above ground adventures at Natural Bridge Caverns, visit [NaturalBridgeCaverns.com](https://www.naturalbridgecaverns.com).

# A traditional cave house in San Antonio

full article published on [Realtor](#)

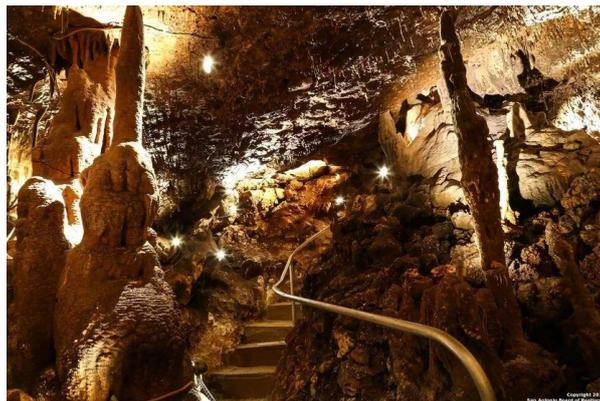


*An ideal house/cave in San Antonio. Source: Amanda Terry - San Antonio Board of Realtors*

A house in San Antonio (Texas) has become of interest after an unusual secret was revealed. Down a set of stairs taking visitors 30 feet below the Earth's surface, a huge natural cavern can be found. It measures about 30 by 26 feet and some of the spectacular speleothems found include stalagmites. There is a second and well-connected chamber which is 7 square feet. The owners decided to dig it some years ago and both students and professionals from the area helped with the excavation. It is believed that larger chambers are hidden underneath, and even though the house has recently been sold, it would not be weird to admit that future studies could take place someday.



*Source: San Antonio Board of Realtors*



# The Cave Research Foundation celebrates its 65th anniversary



On August 12th, the Cave Research Foundation celebrated its 65th anniversary! The CRF was established in 1957 as a group dedicated to the conservation, research, and interpretation of caves and karst. It is a private, non-profit organization which appeared thanks to the hard work of cave explorers in the Mammoth Cave area of Kentucky (USA) in the late 1940's.

The International Show Caves Association wanted to congratulate the Cave Research Foundation on their 65th anniversary. Congratulations!



*Photo: CRF Website*



*Photo: CRF R. Olsen*

# CUEVATUR VIII: International Congress on Show Caves and Mines



## cuevatur 2022

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, the place where experts from different corners will share ideas and experiences about the subterranean tourism, a sector which has become the spearhead of innovative and sustainable tourism.

The second newsletter is now available in both [Spanish](#) and [English](#), and new information about the Congress itinerary and activities have been included. More news is expected to be announced soon for those interested in attending the Congress.

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*

# Natural Bridge Caverns Newest Off Trail Experience: St. Mary's Adventure Tour NOW OPEN

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



*Climbing among formations during St. Mary's Adventure Tour. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

**San Antonio** Friday, July 15, 2022 -- St. Mary's Adventure Tour, the newest adventure tour at [Natural Bridge Caverns](#), is a unique caving expedition through a beautiful wild cave area of the Discovery Cavern. Sections of these passages, never seen by guests, include rare formations including black calcite and beautiful box work. Guests will learn and use some professional rope techniques used by cavers when traversing, ascending, and descending within the cave, necessary skills for this exciting new adventure tour experience. Knowledgeable guides provide the training and no prior caving experience is needed.

"This wild area in our cavern has always been one of our favorites," said Brad Wuest, president of Natural Bridge Caverns. "The challenge has been that experiencing it also requires some specialized equipment and training. Now, thanks to the work of our Expedition Team we have the equipment and rigging in place to make the experience accessible to guests who are ready for adventure."

With the addition of this new off trail tour, Natural Bridge Caverns will now have two Adventure Tours available, both of which are great for people with no previous training or experience in caving. The new St. Mary's Adventure Tour is a more technical tour with no crawling, more climbing, and takes 2.5-3 hours. The Discovery Adventure Tour is a more physically demanding, involves muddy and tight crawlways and takes 3.5-4 hours. Prior to both adventure tours, specially trained Adventure Tour Guides (ATs) ensure guests are properly outfitted with everything from gloves to helmets and headlamps – guests bring their own clothing and footwear. ATs take each guest through a detailed training on how to navigate the unique environment of the wild area of the cave.

An all-day adventure is also available as a premium combo experience: guests can take St. Mary's Adventure Tour in the morning and, after a lunch break, a Discovery Adventure Tour in the afternoon.

There is evidence that this area of the cave was explored by cavers as far back as the 1950s. This area is filled with formations that cannot be seen on other tours at Natural Bridge Caverns. Several areas of flowstone and delicate crystals along with stalagmites and stalactites decorate this area. Beautiful lace-like calcite formations exposed by ancient waterflows at the end of the passage is known as "box work" and has been long considered the finest example of this type of formation in the state according to famous caver James Reddell.



*Looking over the Fairy Pit. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

"Experiencing these passages just expands your appreciation for the astonishing wonder of the natural world," said Travis Wuest, vice president of Natural Bridge Caverns and fellow expedition team member. "Our hope is these experiences will inspire our guests to learn about and then advocate for protection and responsible stewardship of these delicate environments."



*The Expedition Team. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns*

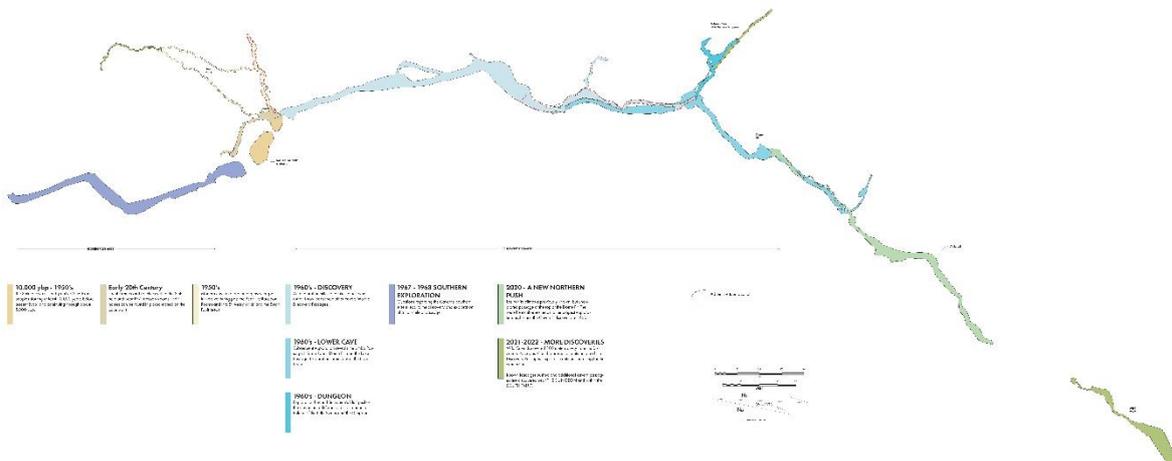


Stunning box work at the end of the passage (left) and cave formations (centre, right). Source: Natural Bridge Caverns



The Expedition Team. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns

DISCOVERY TIMELINE OF NATURAL BRIDGE CAVERNS  
A history of exploration



Discovery Timeline on Natural Bridge Caverns: A History of explorations. Source: Natural Bridge Caverns

# Thirteen Lives: A drama about the rescue of a Thai youth soccer team

*Thirteen Lives* is a 2022 U.S. survival film based on the true events during the Tham Luang cave rescue. It is directed and produced by Ron Howard and stars Viggo Mortensen, Colin Farrell, Joel Edgerton, and Tom Bateman.

On June 23, 2018, twelve boys of the junior football team "Wild Boars" and their assistant coach Ekkaphon Chanthawong visited the Tham Luang cave in order to explore it. Their families headed to the caves after they missed a birthday party, and they found out that they boys had gone missing after a heavy rain and consequent flood. The film tells the story of their dramatic rescue.

You can already watch the movie on Amazon Prime.



*Film scene. Credit: Vince Valitutti / Metro Goldwyn Mayer Pictures*

Click below and watch the official trailer:



*Thirteen Lives: official trailer*



# 15th European Cave Rescue Meeting: download the second circular!



**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). 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**

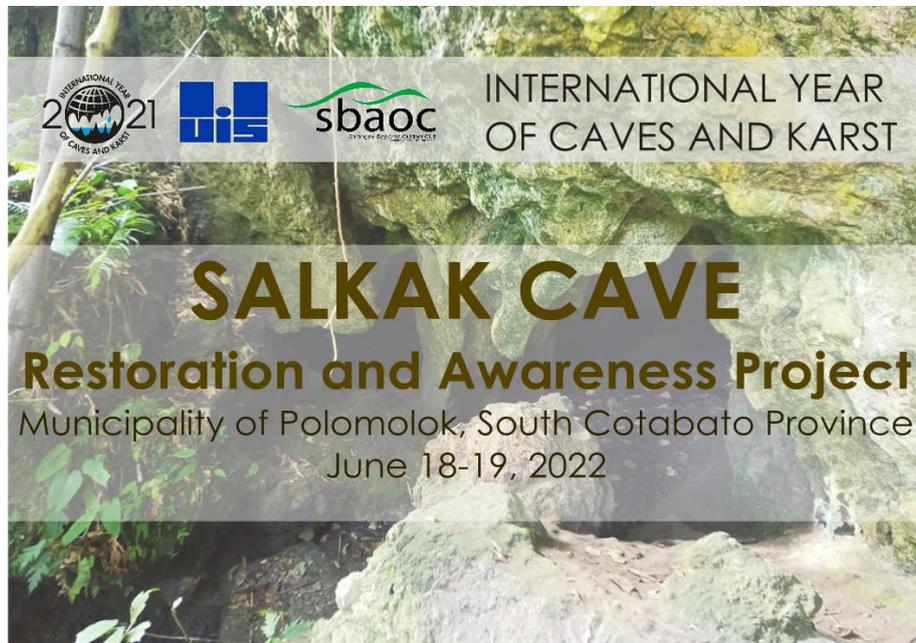
<b>Pre-Meeting</b>	<b>ECRA Meeting</b>
28. – 29.9.2022	29.9. – 2.10.2022






# Salkak Cave Restoration and Tree Planting Activity

by Maria Luisa Non-Cabrera



47 volunteers heeded the call for a cave restoration in Salkak Cave, including a tree growing activity. Among them, old timer club members, first-time cave visitors, young guests, seasoned outdoor enthusiasts, beginners, students, professionals, self-employed, and volunteers from diverse backgrounds.

Caves are natural wonders which are attractive to thrill-seekers, adventurous, curious, and those with great interest in enjoying picturesque views of caves' natural and interesting beauty. Salkak Cave (Philippines), a class II cave based on the DENR cave classification, is located in Brgy Landan, Polomolok, South Cotabato and is one of the side trip destinations of adventure-seeking locals. Its access is free, given that no tourism management exists. Without cave management or even overseers, the cave has been exposed to the inappropriate activity of visitors. Over the years, its wall and formations became filled with graffiti with a few pieces of rubbish left inside.

From the entrance extending 15 meters towards the dark zone, graffiti were found vandalized on walls and speleogens of the cave. After more than 3 hours of rotational work by volunteer groups, most of the graffiti was successfully removed using soft brushes, pails, and spray bottles with water collected from the stream flowing inside the cave.

The group also planted along the cave vicinity 50 seedlings donated by several sponsors. Fruit-bearing trees of rambutan, santol, jackfruit, and native forest trees of Narra and Dao were prioritized to ensure a good ground cover of vegetation and for local biodiversity to flourish above-cave the surface and vicinity.

To cap the event, SBAOC members had a lecture on cave conservation awareness, games, and socials during the camp night.

Thank you volunteers and partners (LGU Gen Santos, LGU-Polomolok, BDRRM Poblacion Polomolok, Arvie's Kakanin, Camp Bien Outdoor, Chard Hammock Outdoor, UST-General Santos, Mulatto, Mofus Wear) for making this event a success!



*Congratulations to the volunteers and partners for such a beautiful event. Photos: Maria Luisa Non-Cabrera & Mikko Cuevas*

# Limestone Ultra Trail at Grutas de Mira de Aire

## 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)*

Following last month's news, where we talked about [Grutas de Mira de Aire \(Portugal\)](#) and the events taking place nearby during the summer season, the [Limestone Ultra Trail](#) was successfully hosted by the cave on July 23rd. The longest covered a distance of 55km, but there were two additional trails which covered 28km and 15km each. Thanks to our dear friend, Nuno Jorge, who sent us some pictures of the event.

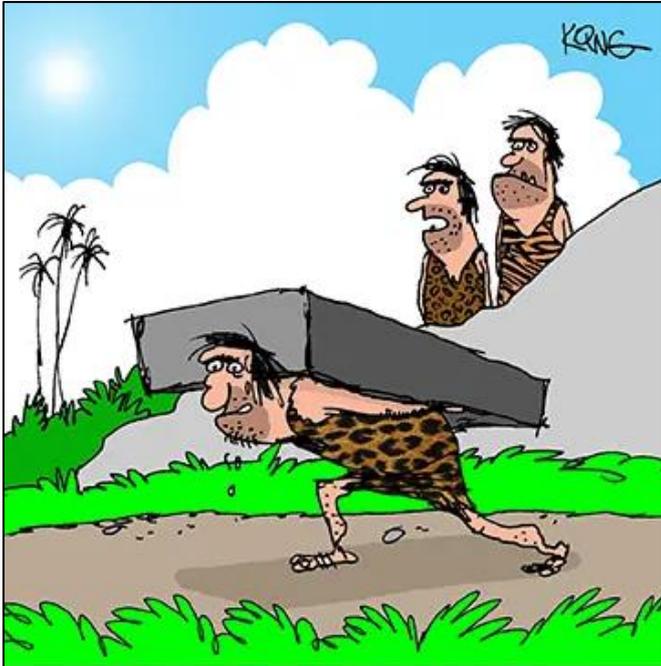


*Limestone Ultra Trail at Grutas de Mira de Aire.*



*Limestone Ultra Trail at Grutas de Mira de Aire.  
 Photos: Nuno Jorge (GMA)*

# The funny side of life



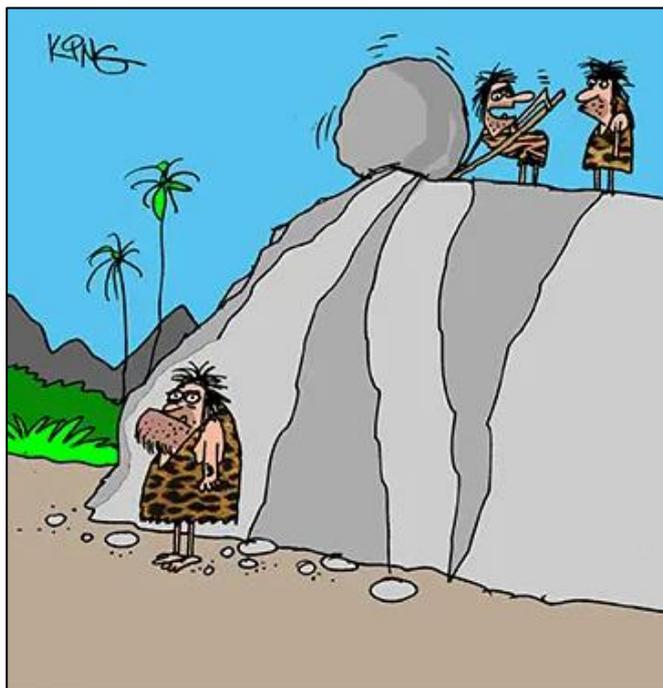
*"Looks like Nug has invested in one of those new mobile devices. He always was on the forefront of new technology."*

Source: howtogeek.com



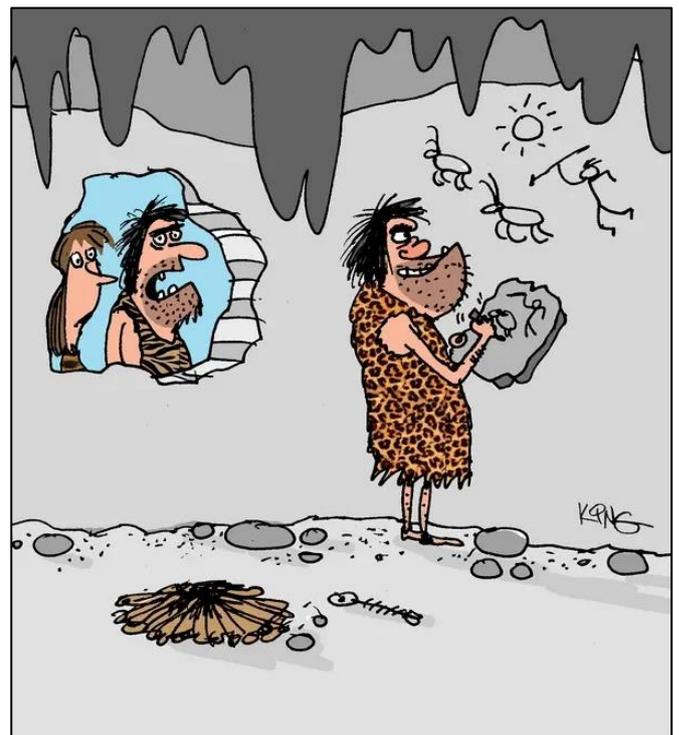
*The Early Days of Phone Tag Were Tough.*

Source: howtogeek.com



*"Thanks to new technology, I'm now able to send Gug large files."*

Source: howtogeek.com



*"That guy is stealing my data!"*

Source: howtogeek.com

## Articles of interest



**Academic Open Access Publishing**  
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### **Two Novel Species of Talaromyces Discovered in a Karst Cave in the Satun UNESCO Global Geopark of Southern Thailand**

Nuankaew S, Chuaseeharonnachai C, Preedanon S, Somrithipol S, Saengkaewsuk S, Kwantong P, Phookongchai S, Srikitikulchai P, Kobmoo N, Wang X-C, Zhang Z-F, Cai L, Suetrong S, Boonyuen N. Two Novel Species of Talaromyces Discovered in a Karst Cave in the Satun UNESCO Global Geopark of Southern Thailand. *Journal of Fungi*. 2022; 8(8):825. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof8080825>

[- Read the full article -](#)

### **Deterioration Processes on Prehistoric Rock Art Induced by Mining Activity (Arenaza Cave, N Spain)**

Cañaveras JC, Muñoz-Cervera MC, Sánchez-Moral S. Deterioration Processes on Prehistoric Rock Art Induced by Mining Activity (Arenaza Cave, N Spain). *Geosciences*. 2022; 12(8):309. <https://doi.org/10.3390/geosciences12080309>

[- Read the full article -](#)

# Latest publications



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

**Cave Talk: September 2022**

**Cave Talk: August 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 [latest bulletin](#) by the **Union Internationale de Spéléologie**. Don't forget to follow them on Facebook!



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

The **Cave Research Foundation** has recently published their latest newsletter: **August 2022!**



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: capri.com

## CAVE #25

### Hint 1:

Tourists line up on boats before entering the cave.

### Hint 2:

The cave can be found in Italy.

## CAVE #26

### Hint #1:

With over 6,000 metres discovered, only the first 600 can be visited.

### Hint #2:

It is also called Gruta da Tapagem and Cave of the Hedge.



Photo: revistamarcozero.com.br

## SEND YOUR ANSWERS

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

Cave #23 was **Lafèche Cave (Canada)**

Cave #24 was **Bellamar (Cuba)**

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

- 1st – 4th September, 2022 – 27th International Cave Bear Symposium (Golling an der Salzach, Salzburg, Austria)
- 5th – 8th September, 2022 – 14th EuroSpeleo Forum 2022 Pre-Congress (Cantabria, Spain)
- 9th – 11th September, 2022 – 14th EuroSpeleo Forum 2022 Congress (Burgos, Spain)
- 12th – 17th September, 2022 - Man and Karst 2022
- 21st September – 1st October, 2022 – ISCA 9th Congress and NCA Convention (San Antonio, Texas)
- 29th September – 2nd October, 2022 – 15th European Cave Rescue Meeting (Czech Republic)
- 19th – 23th October, 2022 – CUEVATUR 2022 (Pulpi, Almería, Spain)
- 21st – 22nd October, 2022 – Importance, State of the Art, and Prospective of Utilization and Protection of Resources in Karst (Belgrade, Serbia)
- 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)
- 22nd – 26th November, 2022 – 20th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (Dak Nong, Vietnam)

## 2023...and more!

- 27th – 31st March, 2023 – 17th Multidisciplinary Conference on Sinkholes and the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst (Tampa, Florida, USA)
- 17th April, 2023 – International Bat Appreciation Day
- 20th – 25th May, 2023 – Clay Minerals Society Conference: Karst Trip and Session (Austin, Texas, USA)
- 22nd – 26th May, 2023 – 14th International Symposium on Pseudokarst (Sudetes, Poland)
- 6th June, 2023 – International Day of Tourist Caves and Subterranean World
- 26th – 29th July, 2023 – 37th Brazilian Congress of Speleology (Curitiba, Brazil)
- 26th – 30th July, 2023 – NSS Convention 2023 (Elkins, West Virginia)
- 14th – 17th November, 2023 – IAAPA (Orlando, Florida)
- 2023 – Cave Lighting Workshop
- 2023 – NCA Convention 2023 (Lake Shasta Caverns, Redding, California)
- 2024 – NCA Convention 2024 (Niagara Cave, Harmony, Minnesota)
- 2025 – NCA Convention 2025 (Luray Caverns, Harrisonburg, Virginia)
- 2025 – 19th International Congress of Speleology (Belo Horizonte, Brazil)

### Deadline!

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

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



*Special thanks to everyone who collaborated and to those sending your valuable feedback and materials.*

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

*Issue: September & October 2022*

