

CAVE SCIENCE NEWS

NEW LIFE SCIENCES EDITOR APPOINTED

The *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* welcomes Dr. David Ashley as our new Associate Editor for Life Sciences. Ashley is a Professor of Biology at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri and holds a Ph.D. in Life Sciences from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He is a Regional Vice President for Beta Beta Beta, the National Biology Honor Society, and a fellow in the Missouri Academy of Science.

Ashley serves on the Board of Directors and the Research Council of the Missouri Speleological Survey, Inc. He pursues an interest in cave ecology and has published papers about webworms, snails, coliform, and general ecology in Missouri caves. In addition to various speleological publications, his papers have been published in *Journal of Parasitology*, *Ohio Journal of Science*, *The Science Teacher*, *Journal of the American Veterinary Association*, and *American Journal of Veterinary Research*.

MEDVILLE JOINS JOURNAL STAFF

The *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* is pleased to announce that Douglas M. Medville has joined the Editorial Board as Associate Editor for Exploration. Medville is well-known in cave exploration circles and received the Lew Bicking Award in 1971. The Lew Bicking Award is given for outstanding lifetime achievement in cave exploration. The NSS also presented Medville with an Outstanding Service Award in 1993.

Medville recently retired from a 26-year career with The MITRE Corporation in McLean, Virginia as a manager and industrial engineer. He now devotes nearly full-time caving-related projects in Virginia, Colorado, and Hawaii.

During his professional career, Medville frequently wrote and edited technical reports and articles as well as presented conference papers. He has also been principle author for three articles in the *Journal's* predecessor, the *NSS Bulletin*. His most recent contribution was "Structural and stratigraphic influence on the development of solution conduits in the Upper Elk River Valley, West Virginia", co-authored with Bill Storage.

GSA FEATURES TWO CAVE-RELATED SESSIONS

The annual meeting of the Geological Society of America held in Denver, Colorado in late October featured two sessions involving caves. The Archaeological Geology Division hosted a symposium on "Geoarchaeology of Caves and Cave Sediments." The fifteen minute presentations covered a broad range of topics and cave types including Maya utilization of resources in extensive caves in Central America to mechanisms of rockfall in shallow sandstone shelters in the midwestern US.

A paper presented by B.A.B. Blackwell described a leg bone of an ancient, juvenile cave bear with four precisely drilled holes. The artifact was closely associated with a hearth and other tools in a Slovenia cave. The paper speculated that the object was a Neanderthal flute and several wire services and National Public Radio picked up the story.

James Dixon presented another paper in the same session announcing a 9700+ years BP age for a human mandible removed from a cave in southeast Alaska. This is the oldest known human remain in northwestern North America, according to Dixon.

Cavers in the audience visibly squirmed at times during a presentation and follow-up discussion by leading cave archaeologist, James Brady, on the Maya use of speleothems. The audience raised questions and discussed the difficulties in carving and making fresh breaks in speleothems.

The Hydrogeology and the Engineering Geology Divisions cosponsored a special symposium on "Evaporite Karst: Origins, Processes." Session Chair Kenneth Johnson and NSS Honorary Member Derek Ford gave introductory, overview talks on evaporite karst in the United States and Canada, respectively.

At least 14 other papers specifically on caves are karst were presented at other session during the four days. In addition, Undersecretary of Agriculture James Lyons cited the White River National Forest cooperation with the Ute Nation in deciding how to manage Hourglass Cave in Colorado as an outstanding example of agency-Native American collaboration during an Environmental Geology session.

As always, the Friends of the Karst gathered on Monday night to informally discuss topics of mutual interest and share libations. The geologists discussed a planned, upcoming issue of the *Journal* on Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico, and the possibility of working on an environmental karst slide show.

UNDERWATER CAVE SCIENCE STUDY GROUP MEETS

In an attempt to improve communication between cave divers, cave scientists, and cave diver/scientists, the Underwater Cave Science Study Group (UCSG) has been formed. With the advent of new technology and new skills, cave divers have been able to penetrate farther and deeper into active cave conduit systems, as in the famous Florida karst springs, or into flooded cave systems, such as Bahamian blue holes. Their discoveries offer new insights into how cave systems form and develop, and the unique biological and chemical environments that exist at depth. The UCSG met in Branford, Florida, May 25, 1996, to begin the initial planning for the organization and its intent to bring cave scientists and cave divers together. Persons interested in more information about the UCSG should contact Chris Elmore, 3916 Linbrook Drive, Columbia, SC 29204 USA, 803-787-2216 (before 9 pm

ET), <chris@otis.cla.cs.edu> Taken from *The KWI Conduit IV* (2), fall 1996.

CLIMATIC CHANGE—THE KARST RECORD CONFERENCE IN NORWAY

The Climatic Change—The Karst Record conference was held in Bergen, Norway, August 1-4, 1996, under the joint sponsorship of the University of Bergen and the Karst Waters Institute. A total of 72 participants from 22 countries presented 48 talks and 24 posters, mostly dealing with interpretation of climatic records from speleothems. Some papers discussed clastic sediments, paleomagnetic analysis of cave deposits and paleokarst, paleontology, and speleothem luminescence.

Regional comparisons were made between the climatic signal determined from cave deposits, and those determined from the deep sea core oxygen isotope record, the ice core record, pollen studies, and other surficial records. A trend emerged in which cave scientists no longer seek to fit their data to the existing climatic data records mentioned above, but instead, argue that the cave record is more accurate and precise than the records determined from surface environments, and it is the other data sets that should be fit to the cave data.

NEW BOOK ON THE DELAWARE BASIN

The Permian Basin Section of the Society for Sedimentary Geology has announced the impending release of their Publication 96-39, *Geology of the Delaware Basin, Guadalupe, Apache, and Glass Mountains; West Texas and New Mexico* by Carol Hill. This comprehensive study covers all aspects of the geology of the Delaware Basin and the surrounding mountains including stratigraphy, structure, tectonics, petroleum geology, geology of economic minerals, geochemistry, diagenesis, and geochemical clues to the processes of dissolution and cave formation. The book can be ordered from PBS-SEPM, P.O. Box 1595, Midland, Texas 79702.

PROTECTING KARST BIOTA

The Karst Waters Institute is sponsoring a conference on Conservation and Protection of the Biota of Karst to be held February 13-16 in Nashville, Tennessee. The conference will focus on both surface and subsurface karst biota. Sessions of invited papers will include Biodiversity in Karst, Demography and Genetics of Karst Biota, Sampling Subterranean Fauna, Biodiversity Hotspots in Karstlands, and Karstlands Protection. Thomas Hemmerly and Thomas Barr, Jr., will lead field trips to Cedar Glades in Tennessee and Mammoth Cave National Park, respectively. More information can be obtained at <http://www.uakron.edu/geology/biota.html> or by writing Dr. David Culver at Karst Waters Institute, P.O. Box 490, Charles Town, West Virginia, 25414 or at dculver@american.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS KARST-WATER ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM & WORKSHOP October 30-31, 1997 Roanoke, Virginia, USA

Karst aquifers are a major source of drinking water supplies and stream baseflow in certain regions of North America and other parts of the world. Prevention of groundwater pollution, land use and water source management, and preservation of ecosystems in karst terrane are a major challenge to scientists, regulators, industry, local officials, and land managers. The objective of the symposium is to provide a multidisciplinary forum for scientists, engineers, agency personnel, and others to discuss current and applied research, technical and regulatory issues, case-studies, and solutions to the water source protection and water quality problems in karst terrain.

Abstracts are solicited for presentation and possible inclusion in the symposium proceedings on the following topics:

- karst hydrology (flow characteristics, measurement, monitoring, modeling, surface-subsurface flow interactions, and drainage mechanisms)
- characterization of karst-water quality
- contaminant fate and transport
- land use impacts on karst-water quality (septic systems, spills, landfills, agricultural impacts, etc.)
- water quality impacts on biodiversity
- water source development and management
- water quality protection and land use planning
- monitoring system design
- remediation technology
- federal and state regulations and case studies
- local ordinances, conservation easements, and wellhead protection
- emergency response and contingency planning
- vulnerability of karst terranes

The deadline for a 300-500 word abstract is December 1, 1996. Include the name, title, complete mailing address, telephone number, FAX number, and e-mail address for the corresponding author. Successful abstract authors will be notified by January 1, 1997 and will receive the author guide for the symposium proceedings. The deadline for submission of a complete paper for inclusion in the symposium proceedings is July 1, 1997. Please mail the abstract to:

Dr. T. M. Younos
Virginia Water Resources Research Center
10 Sandy Hall
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia, 24061-0444
Phone: 540-231-8039; FAX: 540-231-6673; e-mail: tyounos@vt.edu.

LAMOREAUX HONORED BY AGI

Noted hydrologist, Philip E. LaMoreaux, recently received the William B. Heroy, Jr., Award For Distinguished Service by the American Geological Institute. LaMoreaux is the founder of P.E. LaMoreaux and Associates, a firm actively consulting on karst hydrology problems. The award cited LaMoreaux's more than three decades of service to the Institute and his recent work in establishing an active Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee.

NSS-AGI JOINT PUBLICATION PLANNED

The NSS Board of Governors approved a proposal for a joint karst publication with the American Geological Institute (AGI). The book will be part of a series of the AGI's Environmental Awareness Series primers. The Geology and Geography Section of the NSS will oversee the project with Section's Executive Secretary, Dr. George Veni, acting a co-editor.

The AGI serves 29 member societies and the geoscience community of ~80,000 geologists, geophysicists, and other earth and environmental scientists. Member societies include the National Speleological Society, Association of Petroleum Geologists, American Institute of Hydrology, Association of American State Geologists, Geological Society of America, and International Association of Hydrogeologists. Their home page is <<http://agi.umd.edu/agi/agi.html>>.

The NSS representative to the AGI and its Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee is Harvey DuChene of Englewood, Colorado. NSS membership is based on the professional membership within the Geology and Geography Section. The Section pays half of the Society's dues in AGI and the general NSS membership pays the rest.

AGI REVISES GLOSSARY

The American Geological Institute (AGI) is revising their *Glossary of Geology*, a reference that sits on nearly every earth scientist's desk. Editor Julia Jackson has been working with Harvey DuChene and other NSS members to update the karst and speleological terms.

AGI JOINS IUGS

The American Geological Institute (AGI) was recently accepted as an Affiliated Organization of the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). Founded in 1961, the IUGS is one of the largest and most active scientific, non-governmental organizations in the world. The National Speleological Society is an Affiliated Member of the AGI.

"The American Geological Institute adds to a distinguished list of international affiliates covering the world and all areas of the geological sciences," said IUGS President Robin Brett. "Geology by necessity has always been a global science. Now,

with vastly increased communications and accessibility, a new era of international cooperation awaits us. AGI has already shown its willingness to be a leader in that cooperation."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The special theme issue on Belize (*Journal of Cave and Karst Studies* 58(2)) is a truly notable contribution. However, both the historical overview and the "Bibliography of Belizean Speleology" overlook the important contributions of the NSS' Cascade Grotto and its members *per se*. Along with the cited contributions of the Sligo Grotto, these were particularly important at the beginning of organized speleology in Belize in the early 1970s. Some are documented in the following issues of *The Cascade Caver* (publication of the Cascade Grotto of the NSS, Seattle, WA) not included in "Bibliography of Belizean Caving":

- Albert, D. 1971. Belize Speleological Survey Progressing. *Cascade Caver* 10(12): 75, December. Narrative of field work in St. Herman's Cave and others. Terms himself and Barbara MacLeod "the southern extension of the Cascade Grotto."
- Halliday, W.R. 1973a. Cascade Grotto Speleoarchaeological Field Trip. *Cascade Caver* 12(5): A3-A6, May. Narrative of field work in Caves Branch and Rio Frio areas.
- Halliday, W.R. 1973b. *Cascade Caver* 12(5): 3-4 (pages not numbered), June. Seven photographs (uncredited) of Petroglyph Cave, St. Herman's Cave, Caves Branch, and Blancaneaux Cave.
- MacLeod, B. 1972. Belize Speleological Survey Needs Help. *Cascade Caver* 11(4): 25-26, April. Narrative of field work in St. Herman's Cave, Mountain Cow Cave and Caves Branch System.
- MacLeod, B. 1973. Progress in Mayan Speleoarchaeology. *Cascade Caver* 12(1):3, January. Narrative of recent field work, without details of caves.
- MacLeod, B. 1974a. Belize Speleological Survey Progress. *Cascade Caver* 13(1): A-10, January. Short narrative of mapping and archaeological studies in Bancaneaux Cave.
- MacLeod, B. 1974b. Belize-Chiapas Caving/Rafting. *Cascade Caver* 13(5): 4, April. Brief mention of mapping in St. Herman's Cave and Caves Branch System; also first mention of discoveries on Mountain Pine Ridge by John Hudson.
- Miller, T.E. 1973. Tom Miller's Extension of the British Honduras Field Trip. *Cascade Caver* 12(12): A-7, December. Contains brief mention of new discoveries in Petroglyph Cave.
- Zarwell, W. 1973. Bill Zarwell in British Honduras. *Cascade Caver* 12(12): A-6. Brief mention of field work in Petroglyph Cave, Mountain Cow Cave and Blancaneaux Cave.

Barbara MacLeod is one of two Honorary Members of the Cascade Grotto, and all the writers cited above were members at this crucial period (Cascade Grotto, 1972. Current Grotto Membership. *Cascade Caver* 11(2): 13-14, February).

William R. Halliday, PO Box 1526, Hilo, HI 96721