

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

Volume 19, Number 3 September 2017



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The Northeastern Cave Conservancy News is published quarterly by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. The Northeastern Cave Conservancy promotes the study and preservation of speleologically significant properties in the northeastern United States. Annual membership is \$20 (Regular), \$5 (Additional Family), \$50 (Benefactor), \$100 (Institutional), \$125 (Family Life Membership), and \$400 (Life Membership). All checks should be made payable and sent to:

Northeastern Cave Conservancy Inc. · P.O. Box 254 · Schoharie, N.Y. 12157
www.necaveconservancy.org

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Next Board Meeting

Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 10:00 am
Visitor Center - John Boyd Thacher State Park
Voorheesville, New York

Winter Board Meeting

December 3, 2017 at 10:00 am (Speleobooks)

The Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC) is a not-for-profit corporation committed to the conservation, study, management, and acquisition of caves and karst areas having significant geological, hydrological, biological, recreational, historical, or aesthetic features.

To these ends, the NCC combines the resources and expertise of affiliated cave explorers, educators, scientists, landowners, and conservation officials.

The NCC programs are focused mainly on the preservation of caves and karst. Outreach includes education in schools and local communities, establishment of park spaces on karstlands, and educational messages about the significance of groundwater pollution on this sensitive underground ecosystem.

NCC members assist in the exploration, survey, and protection of these natural resources, and manage them so you

NCC logo design by Christa Hay



IMPROMPTU TRAIL MAINTENANCE AT CLARKSVILLE CAVE

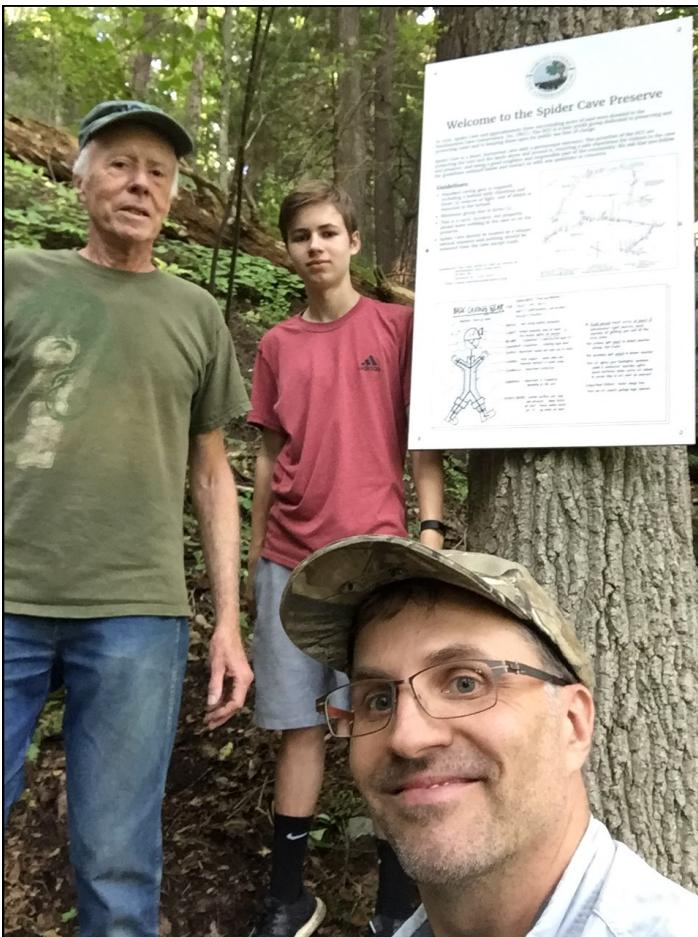


Photos by Bill Folsom

A NEW SIGN GOES UP AT THE SPIDER CAVE PRESERVE



On September 3, an informational sign was put in place at the Spider Cave Preserve by preserve manager Kevin Dumont. The sign is printed on aluminum laminate and mounted to a piece of plywood using tamper-resistant screws. The plywood backing was affixed to the tree using coated wood screws, so as not to cause undue harm to the tree. The sign itself should hold up well. Photos by Kevin Dumont. Additional information about the Spider Cave Preserve can be found in the June 2016 issue (vol.18 No.2) of the *Northeastern Cave Conservancy News*.



Welcome to the Spider Cave Preserve

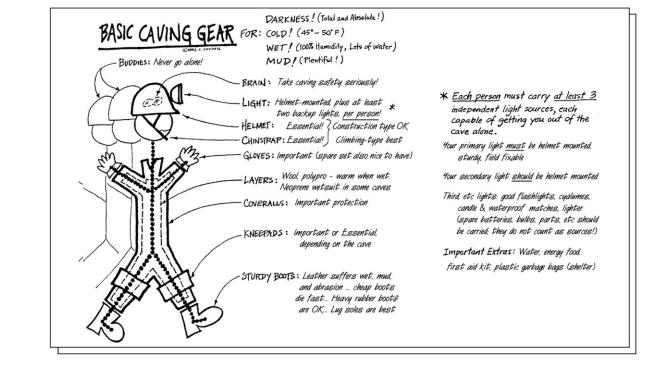
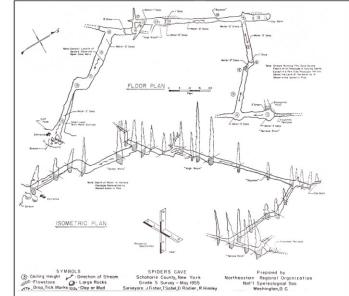
In 2016, Spider Cave and approximately three surrounding acres of land were donated to the Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. (NCC). The NCC is a non-profit group dedicated to preserving and protecting caves and to keeping them open for public use free of charge.

Spider Cave is a short, horizontal cave with a picturesque entrance. The priorities of the NCC are protecting the cave and the lands above and around it, ensuring a safe experience for visitors to the cave and preserve, and being a good neighbor and responsible part of the community. We ask that you follow the guidelines outlined below and contact us with any questions or concerns.

Guidelines:

- Standard caving gear is required, including a helmet with chinstrap and three (3) sources of light, one of which is mounted to the helmet.
- Minimum group size is three (3).
- This is a carry-in/carry-out property; please leave nothing in the cave or on the preserve.
- Spider Cave should be treated as a unique natural resource and nothing should be removed from the cave except trash.

Questions? You may write or visit us online at:
Northeastern Cave Conservancy
PO Box 254
Schoharie NY, 12187-0254
<http://www.necaveconservancy.org/>



Entrance to Spider Cave. Photo by Patrick Stephenson.

THE NCC AUCTION AT THE SPRING 2017 NRO/MAR



The always-popular NCC auction was a great success. An eclectic mix of equipment, artwork, and assorted cave-related odd-and-ends was available for people to bid on. Jose Martinez served as auctioneer, and was ably assisted by Bob Simmons, Vince Kappler, Emily Davis, Bill Folsom, Jacob Morris-Siegel, Mitch Berger, and Michael Chu. Considerable funds were raised to help support the Northeastern Cave Conservancy as it continues its important mission of cave and karst conservation.

Immediately following the auction, Emily Davis and Mike Warner gave an interesting and well-received lecture/slideshow on their adventures mapping caves and studying bats in Fiji.

A total of 169 cavers registered for the Spring 2017 NRO/MAR event. This included 138 affiliated with the NRO, 30 affiliated with the MAR, and one caver who identified himself as non-affiliated.

Photos by Norm Berg.

THE NCC AUCTION AT THE FALL 2017 NRO



From coveralls and helmets to books and binoculars, a wide variety of items were up for grabs at the NCC Auction during the recent Fall NRO in Vermont. Auctioneer Alan Traino and his seasoned team of NCC volunteers kept the auction running smoothly. Photos by Norm Berg.

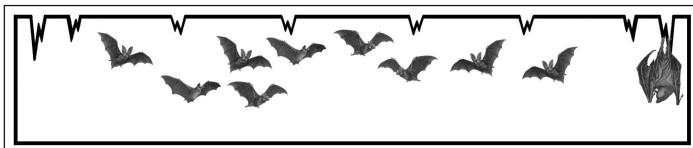




An opportunity to trim a lock off of Ken Moore's beard (\$10.00 a cut) was one of the unexpected highlights of the NCC Auction, raising several hundred dollars for the Northeastern Cave Conservancy and providing Ken with an all-expense-paid beard grooming. Photos by Norm Berg.



During the CCG caving weekend in Schoharie, NY, grotto members Amanda Cooper, Jeff Lydic, and Norm Berg participated in the NCC work day at John Boyd Thacher State Park. They assisted Tom Engel in checking out various karst features in the park, and also briefly explored Daddy Long Legs Cave. Bottom Right - Campground at the Schoharie Caverns Nature Preserve at sunrise. Photos by Norm Berg.



NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY WORK DAY - JOHN BOYD THACHER STATE PARK



OLD TIME BARN DANCE

AT

KNOX CAVE

9th
Year!

Knox, N.Y. - Octagon Barn, Middle Rd.

Sat. September 30

Dancing 7 to 10PM, Doors open @ 6:30

Featuring Paul Rosenberg & Tamarack

Live fiddle band playing traditional early American, Celtic,
French-Canadian, Old-time and original fiddle tunes

Easy to learn step-by-step contras, squares and folk dances.

No experience necessary, all dances are taught.

Raffle & Door Prizes!



Sponsored by
Northeastern Cave Conservancy

\$10 per person (\$5 for students), \$20 per family, children under 12 free
Refreshments and light snacks will be served

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.
June 4, 2017 Minutes - Summary
Melrose, New York

NCC Election Results - Norm Berg

Three candidates ran for the three open trustee positions. Fifty NCC members voted. The results, with the votes received, are:

Michael Chu46
Morgan Ingalls...44
Wayne Russell...36

The Board thanked retiring Trustee Tom Rider for his service to the NCC and welcomed new Trustee Wayne Russell.

Devon Hedges was appointed manager of the Bentleys Preserve.

The Bylaw amendment to change the Officers' terms to two years was approved on its second reading.

The Board thanked:

- Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. thanks Thom Engel for his outstanding work and financial contributions towards incorporating the NCC's educational mission into the Thacher Park Center.
- Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc. thanks Christine Young for her outstanding work on attaining funding for the acquisition of the Spider Cave Preserve.

The NCC adopted the new Land Trust Alliance Standards.

The NCC appointed representatives to the following national and regional caver events:

2017 NSS National Convention - Mitchell Berger and Jacob Morris-Siegel
2017 North American Symposium on Bat Research - Morgan Ingalls
2017 OTR - Robert Simmons

The next EC meeting will be July 16, 2017 at 10:00 am in Newton, New Jersey.

The next Board meeting will be September 24, 2017 at 10:00 am. Location TBD.

The NCC Annual meeting will be December 3, 2017 at 10:00 am at Speleobooks.

Simmons moves to thank Mike and Christina Chu for hosting this NCC meeting.

From Committee Reports:

Office of the President:

- The NCC received a NYDEC/LTA Grant of \$4,700 for the acquisition costs associated with the Spider Cave Preserve. Hats off to Christine Young for spearheading this effort. Christine and I attended the award ceremony in Garrison, NY on April 26. It provided good visibility for the NCC.
- The NCC's Thom Engel was a seated guest at the opening ceremony of the new Thacher Park Visitor's Center on May 4. Nice work Thom! Also present were Bob Simmons, Mike Warner, Emily Davis, and Christine Young of NCC. We made some additional introductions to fellow land trusts and Thacher Park, and NYS Parks staff that were present. Thacher is very interested in our assistance with opening caves in the park to recreational activities.
- The NCC and our Caves were well represented to the recent NRO/MAR event in Pattersonville, NY, over the June 2 - 4 weekend. Many thanks to all who helped out and represented the NCC well. Between the auction, swag sales, and donations, we took home over \$1,200 for the weekend. I received numerous comments from the attendees, including many from the MAR Region about how great our preserves were. Mike Warner and Emily Davis gave a fantastic presentation on Bat Research and Cave Mapping in Fiji on Saturday night.

Bensons Preserve:

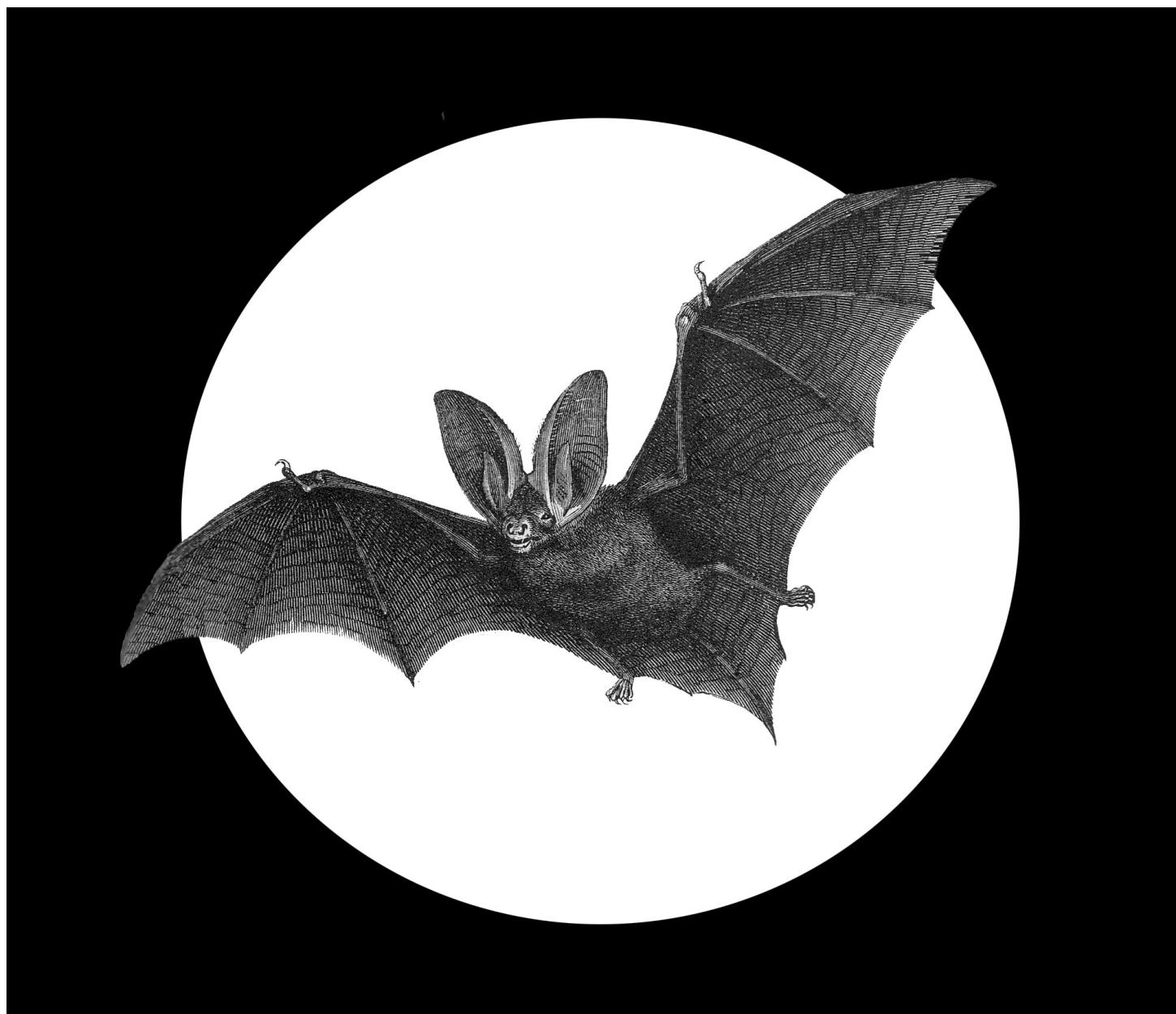
On April 17, the NCC hosted a very successful sinkhole cleanup with an AmeriCorps NCCC team at the Bensons Cave Preserve. Eighteen 55-gallon contractor bags of trash, as well as tires and other objects, were hauled out of two adjacent sinkholes not far from the Bensons Pit entrance. Approximately 800 pounds of garbage were removed. After an initial round of effort put forth when the preserve was first acquired in 2014, this is the last area of the preserve requiring trash removal, and significant progress was made towards its completion.

Technology Committee Report:

Received new website from website developer in April and am putting the final touches to it. It should be up and live by the 6/11 board meeting. Undoubtedly there will be additional tweaks/corrections to be made to it. If you notice anything, please send me an email at michaelhkchu@gmail.com

Volunteer Value Committee:

Year-to-date totals: 925 hours of volunteer work for NCC projects for a total value of \$26,372.00. Members also reported traveling a total of 3,277 miles to work on NCC projects.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR OFFICER POSITIONS

Each year at the Annual Meeting in December, the Trustees elect the four Organization Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Each year, the Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates for these four positions for consideration by the Trustees. Nominations are also solicited from the Trustees. The Nominating Committee is looking for potential candidates for the Officer positions at this time. If you would like to be considered for a position, would like to nominate someone for a position, or would just like more information on the process and requirements, please contact the nominating committee at nominating@necaveconservancy.org. For reference, the general duties and responsibilities of the four Officer positions are described below.

President: The President is the Chief Executive Officer of the NCC, and supervises the activities of the NCC within the scope provided by the bylaws. The President presides at meetings of the Board of Directors. The following committees report to the President: Acquisitions, Preserves, Nominating, and Risk Management, as well as any ad hoc committees established for specific purposes.

Vice President: The Vice President assumes the duties of the President in the event of absence, incapacity, or resignation of the President, and presides when the Board meets as a Committee of the Whole. The following committees report to the Vice President: Bylaws, Education, Science, Special Use, Surprise Cave, and Thacher Park.

Secretary: The Secretary keeps the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee, and maintains the membership roll. The Secretary also carries on all organizational correspondence as delegated by the President and sends out notices of meetings. The Secretary is responsible for editing and publishing the Board Manual. The secretary may appoint assistants, as required.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for the safekeeping of organizational funds; maintaining and reporting financial records and statements to the Board of Directors; and filing all financial documents required by local, state, or federal regulations. The following committees report to the Treasurer: Technology, Fundraising, Membership, Office, Publications, and Volunteer Value.



CURRENTLY OPEN OFFICER POSITION

PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.

Application Deadline

Open until filled.

Summary Description

This position can be based anywhere in the Northeast.

As leader of the organization, the President and oversees the following committees: Executive, Acquisitions, Cave Preserves, Nominating, Risk Management, and several Ad Hoc Committees.

The President is responsible for providing dynamic leadership for the planning, development, implementation, assessment, and improvement of mission-related programs, revenue-generation and financial-management strategies, partnerships, community relations, legislative relations, marketing/public relations, strategic and annual planning, and other key areas.

The President serves as the primary spokesperson for the organization with funders and stakeholders. As part of the President's responsibilities, s/he will formally and informally present reports, updates, and results to the Board of Trustees on a periodic basis, which will include regular Board meetings and specific committee meetings of the Board.

The President will be responsible for supporting the development of and advancement of a vision for the NCC's impact in the region, for its continuing growth, for ensuring financial viability, and for building collaborative relationships in the Northeast.

Specific Responsibilities

As chief executive officer of the land trust, the President is responsible for the efficient operation of the land trust.

This shall include performance of, or timely delegation to the Vice-President or other officer the following duties:

Chairs quarterly Board and Executive Committee meetings.

Facilitates the orderly transaction of land trust business and the attainment of land trust purposes, including the proper functioning of standing committees.

Signs policy and fiscal documents with prior authorization from the Board of Trustees.

Signs routine administrative documents, such as reports on behalf of the land trust Board, and letters relating to fund-raising and similar activities.

Is the principal representative of the land trust at public functions.

Seeks, obtains, and transmits regular reports from land trust committees.

Sets overall land trust priorities, including short-term and long-term goals, with other members of the Board.

Actively works together with the Acquisitions Committee on acquiring new cave preserves.

Actively works together with the Cave Preserve Committee on stewardship matters.

Performs other duties at the request of the Board of Trustees.

Proactively cultivates and solicits donors and prospects, and works toward annual fundraising goals.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree or higher desired.

Demonstrated ability to provide forward-looking leadership to the organization to enhance its impact, while growing and maintaining effective partnerships.

Significant experience working with volunteer boards and/or other groups.

Superb verbal and written communication skills.

Leadership, diplomacy, and negotiation skills required.

Ability to work effectively as part of a team and without daily supervision.

Ability to work quickly, meet deadlines, and multitask.

Organized and attentive to details.

Willingness to travel extensively.

Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including occasional weekends.

Computer proficiency, especially with Microsoft Office and email.

CURRENTLY OPEN OFFICER POSITION, cont'd**PRESIDENT OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**

Passion for saving land, caves, and karst features is a must. Knowledge of private land-conservation techniques and/or land trusts highly desirable.

An understanding of the landscape and culture of New York and New England is strongly preferred.

Development experience in individual major gift fundraising, including significant experience with face-to-face solicitations.

Compensation

This is a volunteer position and does not provide any compensation. However, reasonable expenses incurred while attending external meetings, conferences, and seminars relating to official land-trust business, and expenses related to land-trust projects may be reimbursed if approved by the Board.

Category

Officer

How to apply

Send resume, cover letter, and three references to nominating@necaveconservancy.org

CURRENTLY OPEN OFFICER POSITION**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.****Application Deadline**

Open until filled.

Summary Description

This position can be based anywhere in the Northeast.

The Secretary is an officer of the NCC who actively participates in the Executive Committee, Board meetings, and other meetings as needed. S/he is an integral part of the leadership of the organization, responsible for managing and recording internal and external communications and assisting with coordination between various committees.

Specific Responsibilities

The Secretary is responsible for the following:

Attend Board meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and other meetings as needed.

Prepare the Secretary's Report and Board-meeting agenda, collect committee reports and minutes, and circulate them to all Trustees at least one week prior to the quarterly Board meetings.

Maintain the schedule for preserve management-plan reviews and advise the appropriate managers accordingly.

Announce committee vacancies and bylaw votes to the general membership.

Attend Board meetings, take minutes, circulate draft minutes to Trustees for edits and corrections, make edits and corrections to minutes, and post final minutes on the website.

Take minutes at Executive Committee meetings and participate in decisions on the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Edit, update, and publish the Board Manual on the website after each Board meeting.

Prepare and disseminate all official organization correspondence.

Initiate an email discussion with Board members and others, should there be any urgent business between regularly scheduled meetings requiring immediate attention. Manage and record any votes taken by the Board on such issues.

CURRENTLY OPEN OFFICER POSITION, cont'd**SECRETARY OF THE BOARD, NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY, INC.**

Send out notices of meetings.

Work proactively to achieve fundraising goals.

Perform other duties at the request of the Board of Directors.

Qualifications

Bachelor's degree or higher desired.

Demonstrated ability to provide forward-looking leadership to the organization to enhance its impact while growing and maintaining effective partnerships.

Significant experience working with volunteer boards and/or other groups.

Superb verbal and written communication skills.

Leadership, diplomacy, and negotiation skills required.

Ability to work effectively as part of a team and without daily supervision.

Ability to work quickly, meet deadlines, and multitask.

Organized and attentive to details.

Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including occasional weekends.

Computer proficiency, especially with Microsoft Office and email.

Passion for saving land, caves, and karst features a must.

Compensation

This is a volunteer position and does not provide any compensation. However, reasonable expenses incurred while attending external meetings, conferences, and seminars relating to official land trust business, and expenses related to land trust projects may be reimbursed if approved by the Board.

Category

Officer

How to Apply

Send resume, cover letter, and three references to nominating@necaveconservancy.org

CURRENTLY OPEN COMMITTEE CHAIR POSITION**FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE CHAIR**

The Fundraising Committee Chair coordinates all fundraising activities for the Northeastern Cave Conservancy. The fundraising committee may be authorized by the Board to research and apply for grants to generate funds for specific projects, including cave acquisitions. If interested in this position, please contact the nominating committee at nominating@necaveconservancy.org

NCC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

Cavers can get involved with many volunteer opportunities offered by the Northeastern Cave Conservancy. These include work on various committees or assisting with one of the cave-preserve management teams. Volunteers contribute to the maintenance and preservation of unique underground environments and help to support various NCC educational and outreach activities. If interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities with the NCC, please contact Vince Kappler at volunteervalue@necaveconservancy.org. You can also speak to any NCC Board member or officer. Don't pass up the chance to give something back to the caves that are so important to us all.