

Northeastern Cave Conservancy News

Volume 20, Number 4 December 2018



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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 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, December 9, 2018 at 10:00 am
Speleobooks - Schoharie, NY

Spring Board Meeting (Date and location To Be Announced)

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 as 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 can explore them yourself.



40th NCC Anniversary logo design adapted by Eva Hunter

NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY 40TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER — Susie Pietsch —

On Saturday, October 20th, 2018, the Northeastern Cave Conservancy hosted their 40th anniversary dinner. The event was held at SUNY Cobleskill in the Champlin Building. There were sixty-two attendees at the event, including two of the NCC's founders, several committee heads, and many past and present officers. The gathering began at 6:00 PM with an hour of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and socializing. Then, Bob Simmons, president of the NCC, said a few welcoming words before a 7:00 buffet dinner. The menu included green salad, rice, mixed vegetables, chicken, and fish. Following the dinner, Art Palmer delivered a presentation called "Where are we, how did we get here, and where do we want to go?" At the conclusion of Art's program, Bob Simmons took the podium to recognize the NCC's founders, donors, board, officers, and volunteers. There was more time for attendees to mingle and socialize before the event's conclusion. Mike Martuscello and Stacy Ann Fonas graciously provided complimentary magnets and coasters with the NCC 40th anniversary logo. Everyone in attendance also received a handkerchief and pint glass with the NCC logo. In addition, one lucky winner from each table got to take the chrysanthemum centerpiece home. The event was a great success, and all of the attendees had a wonderful time!



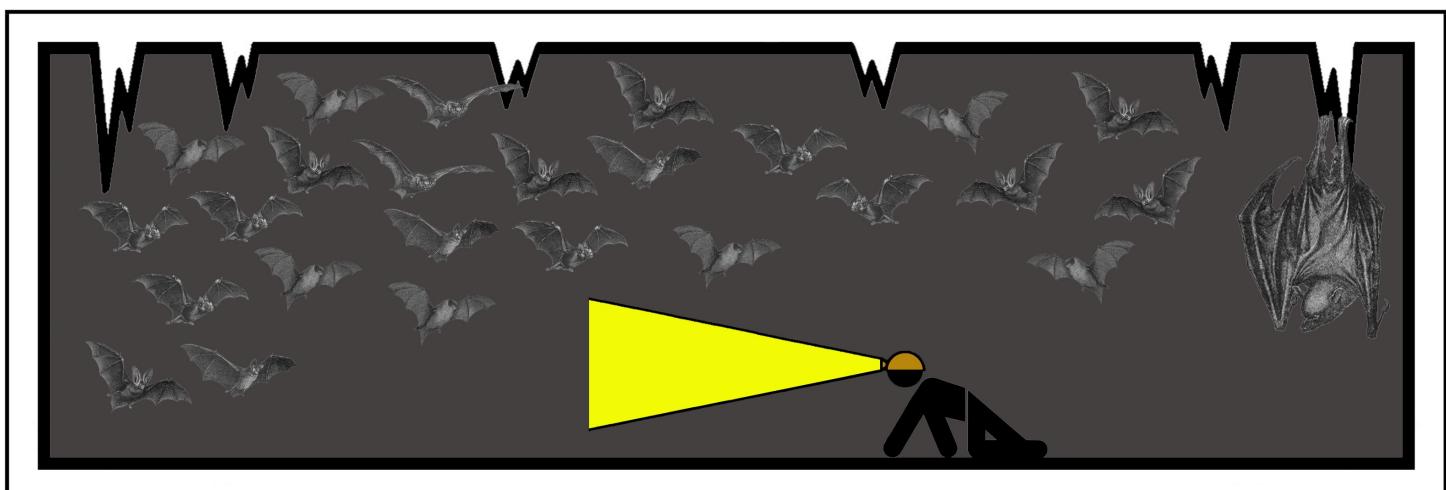
Complimentary gift items received by dinner attendees. Photo by Susie Pietsch.

NCC President Bob Simmons honors the NCC's founding members, donors, board, officers, and volunteers during the 40th anniversary celebration. Photos by Mike Martuscello.





Northeastern Cave Conservancy 40th Anniversary Dinner. Photos by Mike Martuscello.



TORY'S CAVE—GATING UPDATE — Carrie Davis —

On the last day of Bat Week, we wanted to share an update on Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust's Tory's Cave in New Milford, CT. In August 2017, Weantinoge installed a gate (with DEEP's assistance and USFWS funding) to restrict human access to encourage the return of bats to the Tory's Cave hibernaculum and allow their populations to recover.

This picture shows Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) Wildlife Biologists installing acoustic monitoring equipment. This fall the little brown bat (state-listed as endangered) and the big brown bat were detected. Although the Big Brown Bat is not currently a listed species, it is of Greatest Conservation Need according to the CT Wildlife Action Plan because of the ~40% population decline attributed to White Nose Syndrome.

Editor's Note: A detailed discussion of bat acoustic monitoring, cave-visitation studies, and gate installation to protect hibernating bats at Tory's Cave can be found in the March 2017 issue of the *Northeastern Cave Conservancy News*.



DEEP Wildlife Biologist Kate Moran (left) and Seasonal Assistant Snehal Mhatre (right) setting up acoustic monitoring equipment outside the entrance to Tory's Cave. Photo by Kate Losey.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND TREASURER OF THE NORTHEASTERN CAVE CONSERVANCY (NCC)

At the December 2018 NCC meeting, the Trustees will elect the Vice President and the Treasurer, each for a two-year term. If you would like to be considered for either of these positions, would like to nominate someone for a position, or would just like more information on the process and requirements, please contact the NCC Nominating Committee at nominating@necaveconservancy.org.

The last day to submit nominations is November 28, 2018. Then the Nominating Committee will present the nominations as “a slate of candidates” for consideration by the Trustees. For reference, the general duties and responsibilities of the Officer positions are described below.

Vice President:

The Vice President assumes the duties of the President in the event of his or her absence, incapacity, or resignation, 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.

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, Investment Committee, and Volunteer Value.

General Requirements:

Candidates need to be a current member of the Northeastern Cave Conservancy.

Please email a pdf file, as an attachment, with your contact information, relevant experience, and what you would bring to the NCC. You will receive a reply confirming receipt.

You may wish to review minutes from previous meetings of the Board at <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/minutes/> and the NCC Board Manual at <http://www.necaveconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NCC-Manual-2017-09-26.pdf>. A summary of the election process and terms can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ss-IJ4LfCXbCuopMyMYE6h0kJcYIPcaiEum-MxnSyDo/edit?usp=sharing>.

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