

**Vulcanospeleological Special Session sponsored by the NSS
Geology and Geography Section**

Call for contributions:

During the 1999 National Speleological Convention July 12-16th in Filer, Idaho, a Special Session is planned to cover concepts and exploration results in the rapidly developing field of Vulcanospeleology.

The session will start with lunch, Monday the 12th. A keynote speaker, tentatively Dr. Ron Greeley from the Arizona State University and one of the most eminent planetologists and cavers will open the afternoon session. The rest of the afternoon will be devoted to theme-contributions, reviewing specific aspects of vulcanospeleology. In the evening there is the Howdy Party during which Peter Fonda's "Idaho Transit" will be screened, a cult SF film featuring the lava landscape of Idaho's Crater of the Moon National Park. The morning session on Tuesday, the 13th of July, will be devoted to oral open topic presentations, covering recent discoveries of lava cave research. Posters can be displayed during the Geology & Geography Poster Session on Monday morning.

Chairpersons: Dr. W.R. Halliday, Dr. Stephan Kempe

Abstracts, not longer than 250 words, should be directed prior to May 21st to Dr. Stephan Kempe; Geological-Paleontological Institute; Techn. Univ. Darmstadt; Schnittpahnstr. 9; D-64807 Darmstadt; Germany; email: kemp@bio.tu-darmstadt.de Fax: 49 6151 16 6539 ; Tel.: 49 6151 16 2471.

Call for Geology and Geography Papers

The NSS Section of Cave Geology is accepting abstracts of papers for presentation at the Geology Session of the 1999 NSS Convention, to be held in Filer, Idaho, from 12-16 July 1999. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length (this limit must be strictly met). In addition to the text, the abstracts should contain the title of the paper, and the name(s) and address(es) of the author(s). The abstracts should be informative summaries that include the conclusions, and not lists of topics that "...will be discussed." Bibliographies and references should not be given in the abstracts. Papers may be submitted for either oral presentation as a poster.

Send any questions and your abstracts by mail, e-mail, disk, or fax to: George Veni; 11304 Candle Park; San Antonio, Texas 78249-4421; 210-558-4403 (phone and fax, but you must call before faxing); gveni@flash.net

The deadline for abstracts is 21 May 1999. Early submissions are encouraged. Confirmation notes will be sent to everyone sending an abstract.

Karst Modeling: A Symposium for Karst Professionals

An international symposium on Karst Modeling, held in Charlottesville, VA, February 24-27, 1999, allowed scientists and practitioners to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries to discuss conceptual, analytical, digital, scale, and statistical models for karstic aquifers. There were 108 participants, including guests from Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, and Guam.

Karst hydrology seems poised on the edge of a major advance. In the very early days, carbonate aquifers were tested and characterized by the same methods (mostly by drilling wells) and by the same models as aquifers in other kinds of rocks. In the 1970s, the importance of conduit systems became recognized and for the next 10-20 years, karst aquifer investigations focused on tracer tests, groundwater basin delineation, spring hydrographs, and other measures of the conduit system. Now, in the decade of the 90s, the emphasis is in putting it all together. Conduits are important, surface water/groundwater interactions are important, fracture and matrix flow is important. The current generation of models attempts to put all these aspects of the aquifer together.

Presentations at the meeting covered the entire range of modeling problems including the geochemical evolution of aquifer properties; groundwater flow mechanics in conduits and fractures, and their interactions; contaminant transport; and improvements in the technology of water tracing and groundwater basin delineation. A general model for karst aquifers is a formidable problem, but there was a sense of optimism that a model can be found.

The Karst Waters Institute organized the meeting with funding from the National Science Foundation, the Army Research Office, the American Chemical Society, and the Cave Conservancy of the Virginias. A 265-page proceedings was published; it is available from KWI, R.R. #1, Box 527, Petersburg, PA 16669-9211 for \$40.00 postpaid.

Elizabeth White

Conference on Microbial Marks in Mineralization

A Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogist research conference on Microbial Marks on Mineralization will be held in November 1999 at the Bahamian Field Station on San Salvadore Island. To add your name to the mailing list, contact: Dawn Sumner - sumner@geology.ucdavis.edu.

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