September 22, 2020

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Dear Sample,

My name is Ron Ralph and I am the Fundraising Chair for the 23rd biennial meeting of the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS), to be held in San Marcos, Texas on 1–5 November 2021. I have created a list of possible co-sponsors and am working on gathering more complete contact information for each. I assume you may be that contact. If not, I would appreciate if you could pass this letter along to the appropriate person.

Karst is a type of landscape featuring caves, sinkholes, sinking streams, and springs. Roughly 20%, or 53,720 square miles, of Texas is karst, including the urban corridor of Waco through San Antonio. NCKMS meetings are scheduled at different locations across the United States in order to highlight local karst resources and management issues. The last (and only) one held in Texas since their beginning in 1975 was in New Braunfels in 1989. Our state’s population (and number of caves!) has grown rapidly since then, leading to inevitable management conflicts. Typical presentations and workshops during the week focus on research, resource management, stewardship activities, education communication, and sustainability. Sessions, field trips, and workshops often provide many examples in both show cave and wild cave resource management, and are open to the general public through day passes.

The National Cave and Karst Management Symposium relies on registrations and community support to run these meetings, and we are asking you to consider being a co-sponsor in the form of financial support, or through a contribution of goods and services. Sponsorship will provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about local businesses, products, and resources available in the Texas Hill Country, and to learn about businesses, products, and resources available within the cave and karst resource management community. There are three levels of support available, which are described below. Thank you in advance for helping us protect the underground resources of Texas and elsewhere.

I am appending a rough schedule of activities for the Symposium, as well as an outline of co-sponsorship levels and benefits, and an application for co-sponsorship. If you would like to know more about the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium please go to <https://symposium2021.nckms.org/>

The theme of the 2021 NCKMS is “Endangered Species, Endangered Caves, Endangered Aquifers.” I am sure you will agree that these are issues we see in the news on a monthly basis, and our organizing committee is excited to bring a national group of experts here to share our problems and solutions.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this request. As an environmental consultant working with endangered species, I can understand you might be interested in discussing different management strategies and perhaps having one or more of your personnel attend the symposium. If you want to talk in person, please contact me on my cell (512.797.3817).

Sincerely,



Ron Ralph, Archeologist

ronralph@austin.rr.com

**2021 NCKMS Co-Sponsorship Benefits**

The 23rd biennial meeting of the National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS) will be held in San Marcos, Texas on 1–5 November 2021. These important meetings are held at different locations across the United States in order to highlight local karst resources and management issues, and to allow members of the resource management community to meet and exchange ideas and solve problems.  The only other NCKMS to be held in Texas since these conferences began in 1975 was in New Braunfels in 1989, and our state’s population (and number of caves!) has grown rapidly since then, leading to inevitable management conflicts. Typical presentations and workshops focus on resource management and stewardship activities, education communication, sustainability, and research, and sessions often provide many examples in both show cave and wild cave resource management.

The National Cave and Karst Management Symposium relies on registrations and community support to run these meetings, and we are asking you to consider being a co-sponsor in the form of financial support, or through a contribution of goods and services. Sponsorship will provide attendees an opportunity to learn more about local businesses, products, and resources available in the Texas Hill Country, and to learn about businesses, products, and resources available within the cave and karst resource management community. There are three levels of support available, which are described below. Thank you for helping us protect the underground resources of Texas and elsewhere.

**Host Organization**: *Austin Water, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve*

* Organization listing on NCKMS Web Page and Facebook
* Recognition in Program and Proceedings
* Extended Space in Exhibit Hall
* Inclusion of promotional or other material in registration packages
* Signs/Banner (if provided) displayed throughout event
* Four Symposium registrations

**Sponsors**: The NCKMS Steering Committee, comprised of the following

*National Speleological Society*

*American Cave Conservation Association*

*Cave Research Foundation*

*Karst Waters Institute*

*National Caves Association*

*National Cave and Karst Research Institute*

*The Nature Conservancy*

*National Park Service*

*U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

*U.S. Forest Service*

*U.S. Geological Survey*

* Recognition in Program and Proceedings
* Basic Space in Exhibit Hall

**Co-sponsors:**

***Texella* – Bone Cave Harvestman**  ($250–$499)

* Organization listing on NCKMS Web Page and Facebook Page
* Recognition in Program and Proceedings
* Single table space in Exhibit Hall
* One Symposium registration

***Eurycea* – Texas Blind Salamander**  ($500 to $999 Level)

As above, plus:

* Extended Space in Exhibit Hall
* Signs/Banner (if provided) displayed throughout event
* One additional Symposium registration (total of two)

***Prietella* – Mexican Blindcat**  ($1000+)

As above, plus:

* Inclusion of promotional or other material in registration packages
* Premium Space in Exhibit Hall
* Two additional Symposium registrations (total of four)

*Signs, Banners, and Promotional Material:* Must be provided by sponsors and co-sponsors and may be displayed at multiple venues (registration, banquet, field trips, etc.). Promotional materials or other items to be included in registration packages must be received well before the opening day of the event.

**Ask us about sponsoring specific activities (Social, Howdy Party, refreshment breaks, Banquet, *etc*.)!**

**2021 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium**

**Co-sponsor Application**

Deadline: To be determined

Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Co-sponsor Levels (select one of the three longest caves in Texas):**

 ⃝ *Prietella* – Mexican Blindcat ($1000 and above)

 ⃝ *Eurycea* – Texas Blind Salamander ($500 to $999)

 ⃝ *Texella* – Bone Cave Harvestman ($250 to $499)

Make checks payable to: **2021 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium**

and mail to:2021 NCKMS, 148 Gruene Haven, New Braunfels, TX 78132-3397

(Please Print) Exhibit Space Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Display Space: ⃝ at Registration ⃝ in Exhibit Hall ⃝ both Registration and Exhibit Hall

Audio/Visual Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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High-res logo graphic: ⃝ enclosed ⃝ locate on web at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Other Special Requirements: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**2021 NCKMS Symposium Schedule**

**November 1 – 5, 2021**

**Third Approximation, April 2021**

The following rough schedule is for planning purposes, and may be refined closer to the actual even dates.

**Saturday‒Sunday**  Pre-Symposium field trips

**Monday**

Noon Registration opens at the San Marcos Activity Center

All day Workshops (currently unscheduled) — requires separate registration

5:00 pm Meet-and-greet Social at Meadows Center and glass-bottom boat rides on Spring Lake

**Tuesday**

8:30 am Welcome, announcements and introductions by Coordinator and Chair – San Marcos Activity Center

9:00 am Sessions begin at the San Marcos Activity Center with refreshment break

Noon Lunch

1:30 pm Sessions with refreshment break

5:00 pm Meeting of the Steering Committee

6:00 pm Howdy Party and cave tours at Natural Bridge Caverns

**Wednesday**

9:00 am All day field trips: Cave Restorations on the Urban Frontier Tour, From Recharge to Rivers: Groundwater Fauna Sampling Tour, South Austin Wild Cave Management Tour, Finding Filled Caves in North Hays County Tour, Central Texas Scenic Cave Tour, and Cave Without A Name Scenic Cave Tour (initial offering – may change). Reception and Presentation at Bracken Bat Cave

**Thursday**

9:00 am Sessions with refreshment break

Noon Lunch

1:30 pm Sessions with refreshment break

5:00-6:30 pm Questions and answers for poster authors

6:30 pm Banquet and announcement of upcoming Symposia, featured speaker ([Dale Pate](https://symposium2021.nckms.org/info/program/banquet-speaker-dale-pate)), and closing ceremonies

**Friday**

9:00 am Sessions

Noon Close

**Saturday‒Sunday** Post-Symposium field trips

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