

karst. The emphasis will be on the karst hydrology and geomorphology of Randolph and Pocahontas counties. The trip will visit some of the state's most spectacular surface karst features in the Elk River Basin, where exploration and research have been going on for some 30 years. There also will be stops at some of the large karst springs in nearby drainage basins and several cave entrances. All stops will be near the road and will require little hiking. No caving gear is required.

The geology field trip will leave the campground at 8 a.m. Sunday, June 26, and return before dark. A preregistration deposit of \$20 is required and will be adjusted at the start of the trip when exact costs are known. Bus transportation and lunch are included in the cost.

Publication Sales

Articles for sale by IOs and individuals will

be sold in the Publication Sales room by Russ Kennedy. A 10% fee will be charged on all items sold. If unsold items are to be returned, the cost of shipping will be charged to you. All items must be plainly marked with price and name. If you don't wish to mark each item, you may man a sales area and give a sales slip to buyers . . . all monies must be paid to a designated person. Russ needs to know by June 10 your space requirements and if you want a separate table. His address: 240 Manor Circle No. 4, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Sales begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, June 27, and end at noon on Friday, July 1. Items to be sold should be brought to the Publication Sales Room in the Labs of the Science Center Building Monday morning for registering and set-up. Items may be shipped to Davis and Elkins College after June 4. All packages should be addressed to the 1983 NSS CONVENTION,

and clearly labeled PUBLICATION ROOM. Unsold items and money from sales must be picked up Friday, July 1, from 3-5 p.m.

**CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE
SEEKS VOLUNTEERS**

The children's program committee for the 1983 Convention is looking for workshop leaders. Workshops may be held just one day, or for several. They could be anywhere from one hour to six. And they could be on just about anything that appeals to kids. You choose the topic, times and age group; we'll supply space, kids and materials. We'd like to provide some good experiences for our younger (6-16) convention-goers.

Any interested bodies should contact Nancy Hamm, 493 Third St., Madison, WV 25130, 304-369-6647.

1983 Convention Program Schedule

	Monday June 27	Tuesday June 28	Wednesday June 29	Thursday June 30	Friday July 1
Morning	BOG Caving Class	Geology Cave Mgmt. Publicity on Caves & Caving Photo Class	Exploration Secrecy in Caving	Stream Tracing Archeology & Paleontology	BOG Diving Session Women's Session
Lunch Mtg.	COG Set Up BOG	Geo ² NCRC mtg.	Biology Section Cave Mgmt. Section	Computer Section	
Afternoon	COG Cave Ballads Caving Class	Rescue Session Geology Negotiating to Acquire Caves Awards Comm	Biology History Safety & Techniques Large Cave Projects Cave Map Symbols	Hydrology Computer Session Vertical Session NSS Organization Workshop	Social Science Photo Class Review
Evening	WV Social	Howdy Party	Open slide Show	Photo Salon	Banquet

Vertical contest will be all day Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
Child care will be available during the sessions, the Photo Salon and the Banquet.
The NCRC mini-class will be held Friday through Sunday, June 24-26

LETTERS

The NEWS welcomes letters on any caving-related topic. To be acceptable for publication, the writer's name and full address must accompany the letter. Letters in excess of 350 words will be subject to editing.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING IN CAVES

In a recent letter (December 1982, NEWS), Mr. N. Hook makes some remarks about an ad which has been published in this journal since last October. Basically, that letter states that "requesting cave fishes for scientific studies (. . .) goes clearly against the grain of cave conservation." As a professional biologist who uses living animals for scientific purposes as well as an individual concerned on cave conservation, I find that such statement can provoke a misunderstanding on what scientific collecting is and how it can affect cave conservation.

The ad was conceived primarily in order to get in touch with people who in some way know about cave fishes, not only in the United States but also abroad. When those people reply, I clearly state the nature of my work — evolution of behavior in cave fishes — and mail instructions of how to send the fish to me. These instructions must be followed carefully

since I work with living organisms. The individual fishes must be anesthetized and sent to my lab by some overnight service. The instructions I mail indicate that I need no more than nine individuals (given the statistical purposes of my work). When necessary, these instructions are accompanied by a letter from my department chairman as a public statement of the seriousness of my scientific research, and it includes petition for collecting permits with scientific purposes. So, no collecting can be done without the permission issued by the federal, state or local authorities in charge of that matter which, based on my scientific qualifications and the nature of my work, grant the collecting permit . . . When the species to be collected and studied are an endangered one, such authorities are pleased that someone with the required scientific qualifications conducts such studies since these are the kind of species which need to be monitored constantly . . .

Regarding the NSS conservation policy which discourages collecting biological material in caves, I believe that such policy was generated to avoid amateurs to collect cave organisms just for the pleasure of that, and was not intended to make of biospeleology an

almost impossible science to develop.

Regarding the level of seriousness of my scientific research, I have to say that funds for my current research on cave fishes have been granted by numerous institutions which support research based on peer review recommendations. I am proud to say that among those institutions I can mention the National Speleological Society, which has always been supportive for the scientific study of caves. The results of my research are submitted to international scientific journals which also follow peer recommendation prior [to] publication of the articles. Finally a research committee composed by faculty members of different U.S. universities, periodically reviews my research progress.

. . . . Any scientist knows that in order to conduct studies samples have to be made, but he or she also knows that the sample must meet two basic requirements: representativeness and minimal. This is why we know of no cases in which a scientist, following the correct procedure, has exterminated a species, because a thing one keeps in mind when planning sampling is to be sure that next time, one is going to find basically the same population composition (either biological or geological). In conse-