

Dear Friends,

This week I have received notices of some interesting cave and karst related conferences that will be held in 2012. Information on them is included below. If you have questions, contact the people or organizations listed, and please distribute this message to anyone you think might be interested.

George

SPELEOBATS
CAVE-ROOSTING BATS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
20-23. September 2012.
Miskolc – Bükk Mountains
Hungary

The conference will pay special attention to the legislative and practical conservation of the bats and their cave habitat, to the effects of cave tourism on bats, and to research on the WNS and other bat diseases; but any paper related to cave-roosting bats are welcome. The program of the conference includes a field-trip to the Bükk Mountains.

Detailed information will be available in the First Circular, as well as on the website: www.barlang.hu and at e-mail: mkbt@t-online.hu in February 2012. For smooth organization, potential participants are kindly requested to send a notice of interest by 2012 January 20 to either of the following addresses:

Magyar Karszt- és Barlangkutató Társulat
1025 Budapest, Pusztaszeri út 35.
Hungary
or
mkbt@t-online.hu

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPELEOLOGY IN ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES
“Classification of the typologies of artificial cavities in the world”

Dates: 18-20 May 2012
Location: Torino (Piedmont Region, Italy)
Organized by: - Commissione Nazionale Cavità Artificiali SSI
- UIS Artificial Cavities Commission
Chairman: Mario Parise m.parise@ba.irpi.cnr.it
Secretary: Carla Galeazzi carla.galeazzi3@alice.it

UIS Commission on Artificial Cavities

President: Mario Parise (Italy) - m.parise@ba.irpi.cnr.it
Vice President: Joep Orbons (Netherlands) - j.orbons@xs4all.nl
Secretary: Carla Galeazzi (Italy) - carla.galeazzi3@alice.it
Members: Roberto Bixio (Italy)
Martin Dixon (Great Britain)

Hakan Eđilmez (Turchia)
Jean Francois Garnier (France)
Jérôme Triolet (France)
Laurent Triolet (France)
Luc Stevens (Belgium)

What's the purpose of the Cadastre of Artificial Cavities?

The purpose of the Cadastre of Artificial Cavities (AC) is:

- the inventory and the cataloguing of the AC in accordance with procedures established and accepted at an international level;
- geographical documentation of each territory and its peculiarity;
- support and coordination during scientific research and exploration;
- to contribute in developing proper land management, integrating the tools and codes of the local governments;
- the protection and enhancement of the urban environment and the cultural heritage.

As an example of existing Cadastre of Artificial Cavities, link to the Italian website: <http://catastoartificiali.speleo.it/applications/1.0/>

Why do we need to compare typologies?

The variety of underground man-made architecture is extremely wide and diverse. It is very frequent that different uses of the same cavity are overlapped in different epochs of time. The Commission on Artificial Cavities of the Italian Speleological Society (SSI) started several years ago the cataloguing and inventory of the underground man-made structures throughout the country. In the '90 of the last century, to obtain consistent statistical data at the international level, criteria were defined for conventional codification of the typologies and of the ages of realization of each structure. Since then, other explorations led to the discovery of further typologies of artificial cavities, and to a "critical reading" of others. After 20 years, we think it is important to establish a new opportunity of comparison at the international level, in order to define a classification of the Artificial Cavities.

How will be the workshop organized?

The idea is to put together for the first time the members of the new UIS Commission, in order to share the respective experiences and to compare the different ways to inventory and cataloguing Artificial Cavities. Some keynote lectures will be presented by renown experts in the field, and large space will be given to open discussion (in a quite informal way) to allow the best opportunity to share experiences and working practices. The presence of UIS delegates would be particularly welcome, to give a good start to the Commission, as well as to include in the best way the activities of the UIS Artificial Cavities Commission within the larger framework of the UIS programs for the next years. For any further information, and for being included in the mailing list with the second circular of the workshop, please contact Mario Parise m.parise@ba.irpi.cnr.it

GHOST-ROCK KARST SYMPOSIUM
Different points of view on karstogenesis
Fundamental and applied aspects
Han-sur-Lesse, Belgium
From 7 to 11 October 2012

<http://sites.google.com/site/ghostrockkarstsymposium/>

In the paleokarsts from Hainaut (Belgium), you can find weathering features similar to soil features: an “in situ” limestone weathering with residual weathered-rock (“*ghost-rock*”) that keeps its initial volume. Geological features like chert beds, stratification, and joints filled with calcite veins, remain although they present higher porosity. The weathering follows the joints and moves laterally by weathering fronts which can isolate intact blocks. We have given the name of “ghost-rock” to those features. The morphological expressions of ghost-rocks consist in corridors situated on vertical joints which have conducted aggressive water in a quiet phreatic zone and pseudoendokarstic features totally inserted in the unweathered bedrock.

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