



INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER NO. 9

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INTRODUCTION

The objective of this newsletter is to update members of ISCA about the recent activities of the ISCA Board of Directors. All of the meetings of the Board, since the meeting in Liptovsky Mikulas in Slovakia in 2010, have been electronic. Electronic meetings have their limitations, but they do enable decisions to be made.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SHOW CAVES

On 31st October 2011, the ISCA Board of Directors resolved to form the "International Commission on Information Technologies in Show Caves" during its meeting Number 10.

The concept of this Commission had been presented to the ISCA Board during its meeting held in Slovakia during the 6th Congress in October 2010, where it met with unanimous approval. Since that meeting the Formation Document for this Commission has been developed. A copy of this document is reproduced at the end of this report.

The objectives of this Commission are broad, and cover an extensive range of items that fall under the category of information technologies. These objectives, in particular, include the development and management of a website for ISCA.

On 31st October 2011 the Board of Directors also appointed a Chairman and a Vice Chairman of this Commission. The elected Chairman was Peter Gazik (Slovakia) and the elected Vice Chairman was Brad Wuest (USA). Both of these two gentlemen have been greatly involved in the development of the ISCA website to date. It is safe to say that without the work of Peter and Brad our website would not be where it is today.



Peter Gazik will be well known to all members, through his role in leading the organization of the 6th ISCA Congress in Slovakia in October 2010. In addition to this Peter has been assigned the lead role in developing the ISCA website. Peter is a Director of ISCA.

Brad Wuest, who is the Second Vice President of ISCA, has worked with Peter Gazik in creating the ISCA website, and is also well known to all members.

The formation document of the International Commission on Information Technologies in Show Caves is set out below:

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN SHOW CAVES

1. FORMATION

By resolution of the Board of Directors of the International Show Caves Association (hereinafter “the Board”) of 31st October 2011, it was resolved to establish an International Commission to deal with all aspects of Information Technologies in Show Caves.

2. NAME

The Commission shall be named:

“INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES IN
SHOW CAVES” (hereinafter “the Commission”).

3. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To provide a knowledgeable source of information technology that has application to show caves.
- (ii) To promote innovation and the use of new technologies in the development and operation of show caves.
- (iii) To develop and manage an effective website for the International Show Caves Association.
- (iv) To advise show cave owners and managers on information technology matters.
- (v) To provide an international forum for study and collaboration about information technologies that are pertinent to show caves.



4. **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of the Commission, the following definitions shall apply:

- (i) Information Technology means the acquisition, storage and dissemination of vocal, pictorial, textual and numerical information by a microelectronics-based combination of computing and telecommunications.
- (ii) Website means a collection of related web pages containing information in the form of texts, images, videos or other digital assets, hosted on at least one web server accessible via a network.
- (iii) Show Cave means a natural occurring void beneath the surface of the earth developed and open to the public, both in existence and planned, and includes caves that have been open to the public that are now closed.

5. **STRUCTURE**

- (i) Composition
The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board.
- (ii) Number of Members
The number of members appointed to serve on the Commission shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- (iii) Ex-officio Member
The President of the International Show Caves Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission.
- (iv) Chairman
A member of the Commission shall be designated by the Board to serve as the Chairman of the Commission.
- (v) Vice Chairman
A member of the Commission may be designated by the Board to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Commission.
- (vi) Affiliation
Members of the Commission need not be members of the International Show Caves Association.



- (vii) Removal
Members of the Commission shall remain in office until they notify the Board of their resignation or are removed by the Board.

6. VOTING

- (i) Decisions
All decisions of the Commission shall be by a simple majority of votes.
- (ii) Casting Vote
In the event of a tie in voting the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.

7. MEETINGS

- (i) Form
Meetings of the Commission may be in the form of personal or electronic presence.
- (ii) Quorum
A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INTERPRETATION IN SHOW CAVES

On 7th November 2011 the ISCA Board of Directors resolved to form the “International Commission on Interpretation in Show Caves” during its meeting Number 11.

The concept of this Commission had been presented to the ISCA Board during its meeting held on 21st October 2010, in Liptovsky Mikulas in Slovakia, where it met with unanimous approval. Since that meeting the Formation Document for this Commission has been developed. A copy of this document is reproduced at the end of this report.

During the recent 6th Congress in Slovakia the need for quality interpretation in show caves was widely recognized. The topic of interpretation was the subject of a number of scintillating presentations in Slovakia.

There can be no doubt that good quality informative interpretation in show caves is critical and in recognition of this the Board of Directors has established this Commission. In addition to establishing this Commission the Board also elected a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and two Members for this Commission at its meeting on 7th November 2011.

Zsuzsa Tolnay of Hungary was elected as Chairman of this Commission. Zsuzsa, who is a Director of ISCA, has many years of experience in the field of interpretation in show caves.



Those who attended the Congress in 2010 will recall her informative paper on Interpretation in Cave Tourism.

Dan Cove of Australia was elected as Vice Chairman of this Commission. Dan is also a Director of ISCA. In addition, Dan is an enthusiastic promoter of quality interpretation in show caves. Attendees at the 6th Congress in Slovakia will recall his popular presentation on The Essential Role of Interpretive Guiding in Ensuring Understanding and Conservation of Caves and Karst.

Ann Wescott, the Manager of the Cave of the Mounds in the USA, was elected as a Member of this Commission. Ann is a strong advocate of the importance of interpretation in show caves.

Hein Gertsner of Cango Caves in South Africa was also elected as a Member of this Commission. Hein is a Director of ISCA, and is also a fierce supporter of quality interpretation in show caves.

The formation document of the International Commission on Interpretation on Show Caves is set out below:

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INTERPRETATION IN SHOW CAVES

1. FORMATION

By resolution of the Board of Directors of the International Show Caves Association (hereinafter “the Board”) of 7th November 2011, it was resolved to establish an International Commission to deal with all aspects of Interpretation in Show Caves.

2. NAME

The Commission shall be named:

“INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON INTERPRETATION IN SHOW CAVES”
(hereinafter “the Commission”).

3. OBJECTIVES

- (i) To provide a knowledgeable authority on interpretation in show caves.



- (ii) To promote the enhancement of the experience and satisfaction of visitors to show caves.
- (iii) To encourage an active interest in advancing the quality of interpretation in show caves, while achieving management goals particularly in heritage conservation.
- (iv) To advise show cave owners and managers on matters pertaining to interpretation.
- (v) To provide an international forum for interpretation in show caves.
- (vi) To make recommendations regarding interpretation in show caves.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of the Commission, the following definitions shall apply:

- (i) Interpretation means a mission-based communication process designed to forge emotional and intellectual connections between the audience and meanings inherent in and issues related to a show cave and its setting.
- (ii) Show Cave means a natural occurring void beneath the surface of the earth developed and open to the public, both in existence and planned, and includes caves that have been open to the public that are now closed.

5. **STRUCTURE**

- (i) Composition
The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board.
- (ii) Number of Members
The number of members appointed to serve on the Commission shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- (iii) Ex-officio Member
The President of the International Show Caves Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission.
- (iv) Chairman



A member of the Commission shall be designated by the Board to serve as the Chairman of the Commission.

(v) Vice Chairman

A member of the Commission may be designated by the Board to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Commission.

(vi) Affiliation

Members of the Commission need not be members of the International Show Caves Association.

(vii) Removal

Members of the Commission shall remain in office until they notify the Board of their resignation or are removed by the Board.

6. VOTING

(i) Decisions

All decisions of the Commission shall be by a simple majority of votes.

(ii) Casting Vote

In the event of a tie in voting the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.

7. MEETINGS

(i) Form

Meetings of the Commission may be in the form of personal or electronic presence.

(ii) Quorum

A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SHOW CAVES

The International Commission on Sustainable Development in Show Caves was formed by the ISCA Board of Directors on 13th October, 2008. A copy of this formation document is reproduced at the end of this report.

At its meeting of 21st November 2011 the Board of Directors resolved to elect Heros Lobo of Brazil, as the Chairman of the International Commission on Sustainable Development in Show Caves.

Heros is an extremely well educated individual. He has earned a Doctoral in Geosciences and Environment. A Masters in Geography. A Post-Graduate degree in Environmental



Management of Forestry Systems and has a Bachelors degree in Tourism. Throughout his studies he has focused on tourism in natural areas, with a particular emphasis in caves. At the present time he is developing his researches about carrying capacity and management of cave and karst systems, and also about tourism in karst areas.

Heros is an Associate Member of ISCA and is the first South American to hold such a position in ISCA. He is Chairman of the Speleotourism Section of the Brazilian Society of Speleology.

The International Commission on Sustainable Development in Show Caves is a very important entity in ISCA, and the Board is now focusing on considering the appointment of the members of this Commission, in conjunction with Heros. In doing this the primary objective will be to ensure that there is good representation from around the world.

The formation document of the International Commission on Sustainable Development in Show Caves is set out below:

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SHOW CAVES

1. FORMATION

By resolution of the Board of Directors of the International Show Caves Association (hereinafter “the Board”) of 13th October 2008, it was resolved to establish an International Commission to deal with all aspects of sustainable development in show caves.

2. NAME

The Commission shall be named:

“INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
SHOW CAVES” (hereinafter “the Commission).

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (i) To consider ways and means by which show caves can achieve sustainable development.
- (ii) To propose long term plans by which the world’s show cave community can deal more effectively with the achievement of sustainable development.



- (iii) To recommend ways that the concern for the achievement of sustainable development in show caves can be translated into recognition and greater co-operation among the different countries of the world.

4. **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of the Commission, the following definitions shall apply:

- (i) **Sustainable Development** means that the environment meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- (ii) **Show Cave** means a natural occurring void beneath the surface of the earth developed and open to the public, both in existence and planned, and includes caves that have been open to the public that are now closed.

5. **STRUCTURE**

- (i) **Composition**
The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Board.
- (ii) **Number of Members**
The number of members appointed on the Commission shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- (iii) **Ex-officio Member**
The President of the International Show Caves Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission.
- (iv) **Chairman**
A member of the Commission shall be designated by the Board to serve as the Chairman of the Commission.
- (v) **Affiliation**
Members of the Commission need not be members of the International Show Caves Association.



- (vi) Removal
Members of the Commission shall remain in office until they notify the Board of their resignation or are removed by the Board.

6. VOTING

- (i) Decisions
All decisions of the Commission shall be by a simple majority of votes.
- (ii) Casting Vote
In the event of a tie in voting the Chairman shall have a second casting vote.

7. MEETINGS

- (i) Form
Meetings of the Commission may be in the form of personal or electronic presence.
- (ii) Casting Vote
A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

ISCA WHITE NOSE SYNDROME WORKING GROUP

On 5th December 2011 the ISCA Board of Directors resolved to form the “ISCA White Nose Syndrome Working Group,” during its meeting Number 13.

The White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was previously a problem in the United States of America. However, following the migration of the scourge into Canada, the problem has become an international problem. It is now time for our worldwide membership to become more aware of the problem than they might have been previously.

A working group has been formed, as opposed to a commission, as it is hoped that it will not need to exist as a permanent entity. It is envisaged that the primary role of the White Nose Syndrome Working Group will be the dissemination of information about WNS. We all need to know more about this horrendous problem.

On 5th December 2011 the Board of Directors also appointed a Chairman and three members of this Working Group. The elected Chairman was Brad Wuest (USA) and the members were Dr. Natálie Martinková (Czech Rep.), Nina Frascione (USA) and Dr. Greg Beckler (USA).

All members will know Brad Wuest, who is the Second Vice President of ISCA. Brad represents Natural Bridge Caverns of the USA and he has been working on the WNS



problem for some time. Those of you who were able to attend the last Congress in Slovakia will remember Brad’s very informative address to us all on the WNS situation in the US.

Those who attended the last Congress in Slovakia will also remember Dr. Natália Martinková, who fascinated us all with her scintillating paper asking whether WNS was a threat to bats in European Caves. Natália is an acknowledged authority on WNS in Europe, and is very much involved in the scientific study of this problem.

Nina Frascione is on the international frontline on WNS, as the Head of Bat Conservation International, having succeeded Dr. Merlin Tuttle as President. Nina has a huge responsibility as President of Bat Conservation International, and is discharging these responsibilities in a most competent and capable way.

Dr. Greg Beckler is the President of the National Caves Association (NCA) of the USA, and is also Chairman of the NCA WNS Committee. Greg represents Natural Stone Bridge and Caves, a Full Member of ISCA. Greg attended the last ISCA Congress in Slovakia and is well known to all of those who attended that Congress.

The purpose of this Working Group is to monitor the spread and the impact that the WNS disease has on bats, with a special emphasis on bats that hibernate in show caves, and update the members of ISCA regarding this problem.

The composition of this Working Group has a purposeful US bias, as this is where the scourge is presently rampaging. Natália brings a very scientific and intriguing European perspective. We will be well served by this knowledgeable group.

The formation document of the ISCA White Nose Syndrome Working Group is set out below:

ISCA WHITE NOSE SYNDROME WORKING GROUP

1. FORMATION

By resolution of the Board of Directors of the International Show Caves Association (hereinafter “the Board”) of 5th December 2011, it was resolved to establish a Working Group to monitor all aspects of White Nose Syndrome (*Geomyces destructans*) in Bats.

2. NAME

The Commission shall be named:



“THE ISCA WHITE NOSE SYNDROME WORKING GROUP” (hereinafter “the Working Group”).

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Working Group shall be to monitor the spread and the impact that the disease has on bats, with special emphasis on bats that hibernate in show caves, and update the members of ISCA regarding this problem.

4. STRUCTURE

- (i) Composition
The members of the Working Group shall be appointed by the Board.
- (ii) Number of Members
The number of members appointed to serve on the Working Group shall be at the discretion of the Board.
- (iii) Ex-officio Member
The President of the International Show Caves Association shall be an ex-officio member of the Working Group.
- (iv) Chairman
A member of the Working Group shall be designated by the Board to serve as the Chairman of the Working Group.
- (v) Affiliation
Members of the Working group need not be members of the International Show Caves Association.
- (vi) Removal
Members of the Working Group shall remain in office until they notify the Board of their resignation or are removed by the Board.

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