

BOOK REVIEW

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 15TH NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM. Tucson, Arizona. 16-19 October 2001. Published by the USDA Forest Service. 194 pages. Edited by Tom Rea. Details and purchasing: <<http://www.nckms.org>> **Reviewed by Kent Henderson.**

The National Cave and Karst Management Symposium (NCKMS) is held every two years, and brings together a range of North American cave and karst managers, and karst-interested people for a three day seminar.

They are always well organized and heavily events, and the 2001 NCKMS at Tucson, Arizona, was no exception.

The cave and karst regions of Arizona are found from lowland elevations of 1,000 feet to soaring snow-capped peaks over 12,000 feet, with cave temperatures ranging from 110° to 38° Fahrenheit. These diverse environments consist of solutional limestone caves, lava tubes, earth cracks, and ice caves.

As the surface is not static, arid wasteland, neither are the caves that are still being formed and modified by active karst processes and where diverse and incredibly delicate minerals are being deposited. In a deceptively arid region we find caves and karst being developed, destroyed, decorated, dissolved, and quiescent.

Aside from the Symposium itself, at which over fifty papers were presented, there was a pre-symposium workshop presented by 'Project Underground', and a post-symposium workshop presented by Bat Conservation International.

While there was plenty of pre and post symposium caving on offer, the main Symposium field trip was to the nearby Kartchner Caverns.

The Proceedings are grouped into five sections with a number of papers printed in each; namely Management of Karst Areas, Management of Specific Caves, Geology and Hydrology, Biological Resources, and Toxic Materials/Air Studies.

A good range of papers is to be found under each section. While some papers are somewhat American-specific, many are widely applicable.

A number of Australians were present at the Symposium, and presented papers. Sue White delivered *Management of Karst in Pleistocene Aeolianite*; Nick White delivered *Karst in Arid Australia*; and Elery Hamilton-Smith gave *A World Perspective on Cave and Karst Protection*.

Additionally several North American ACKMA members presented papers, including Tim Stokes and Paul Griffiths (*Karst Vulnerability Assessment Procedures and their Linkage to Forest Management Guidelines in British Columbia*), and Kriste Lindberg

(*Leonard Springs Nature Park: A Karst Property focusing on Conservation and Education*).

The proceedings editor is ACKMA member, Tom Rea who, in having thus far attending two ACKMA Conferences, is well known to many of us.

Overall, the papers in the 2001 NCKMS Proceedings are of excellent quality and breadth, and should be in the library of every cave and karst manager, and karst-interested person. Get yourself a copy!



NOTE: The 2001 NCKMS Proceedings are available in both Hard Cover and CD ROM versions.

The 2003 NCKMS is in Gainesville, Florida (13-17 October): "Protecting the Aquifer in Karst Regions". Go to <http://www.nckms.com/> for details and to register.

