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MCICSL Newsletter

Mammoth Cave Intl. Center for Science and
Learning

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MCICSL Newsletter - January 2016

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January 2016 Highlights

Celebrating Research at Mammoth Cave National Park and Western Kentucky University

The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) will host Mammoth Cave National Park's 11th Research Symposium April 18 -20, 2016. The Symposium will feature 57 presentations highlighting current and recent research in fields as diverse as biology, geology, history, archeology, education, resource management, and social sciences.

The Symposium will also be one of WKU's Ogden College of Science and Engineering's Spring 2016 REACH (Research Experiences and Creative Heights) events. REACH events are designed to highlight the research and creative endeavors of Western Kentucky University (WKU) faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Ogden faculty, staff, or students are involved in 15 of the 57 Mammoth Cave Symposium presentations.

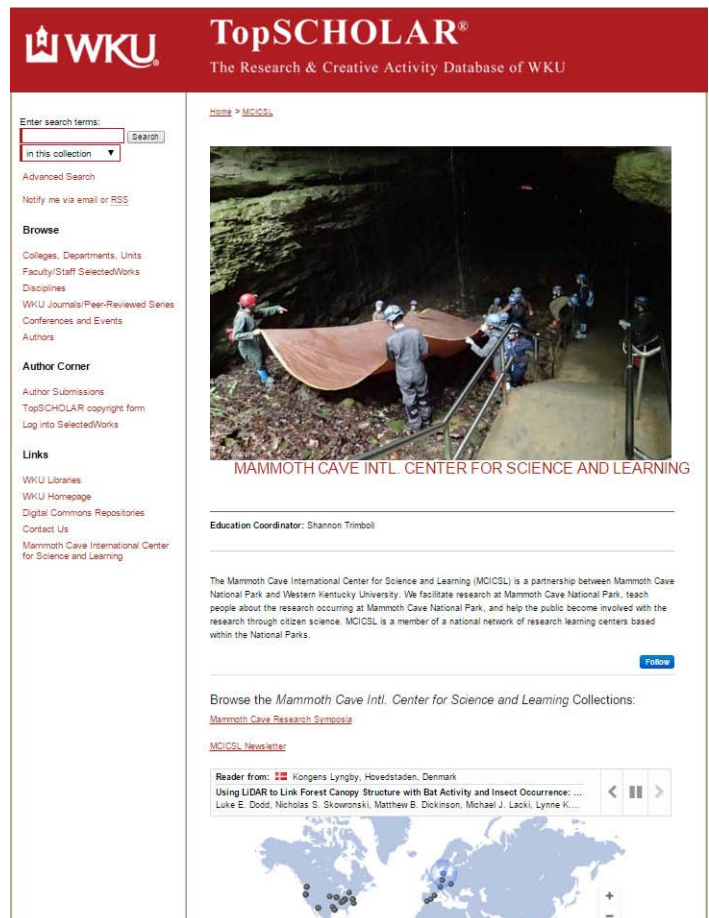
The Mammoth Cave Research Symposium will be free and open to the public. Daytime presentations will be held at Mammoth Cave National Park's Training Center. Two evening programs are also planned and will be held off-park. The Symposium schedule will be available online in early March. Watch our facebook page for more updates.



MCICSL Has a New Website!

The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) partnered with Western Kentucky University's Library Services, and TopScholar to produce a new MCICSL website. The new website (http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/mc_ic_sl/) provides access to MCICSL's publications.

Our newsletters and the Proceedings for Mammoth Cave National Park's 2008 and 2013 Symposia are already online. Information about the upcoming 2016 Research Symposium will be posted soon and the 2016 Proceedings will be posted in April. Many thanks to Todd Seguin, Western Kentucky University Library Services, for all his hard work in making this valuable tool a reality!



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MAMMOTH CAVE INTL. CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND LEARNING

Education Coordinator: Shannon Trimble


The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) is a partnership between Mammoth Cave National Park and Western Kentucky University. We facilitate research at Mammoth Cave National Park, teach people about the research occurring at Mammoth Cave National Park, and help the public become involved with the research through citizen science. MCICSL is a member of a national network of research learning centers based within the National Parks.

Browse the Mammoth Cave Intl. Center for Science and Learning Collections:

- Mammoth Cave Research Symposium
- MCICSL Newsletter

Reader from:  Kongens Lyngby, Hovedstaden, Denmark

Using LIDAR to Link Forest Canopy Structure with Bat Activity and Insect Occurrence: ...
Luke E. Dodd, Nicholas S. Skowronski, Matthew B. Dickinson, Michael J. Lacki, Lynne K. ...



Winter Bat Monitoring has Begun

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease that has killed millions of bats in the U.S. since its discovery in 2006. It was discovered at Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP) in 2013. One of the symptoms of WNS is increased bat activity during the winter when the bats would ordinarily be hibernating.

Beginning last winter, MCNP and the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning implemented winter bat monitoring protocols along tour trails and at the entrances of the main hibernacula on park. This year we have four interns monitoring bat activity along the trails and at the hibernacula entrances. The interns are also assisting with other winter bat research.



New Stonefly Species Described from Mammoth Cave National Park

Recently, Dr. Scott Grubbs, a biology professor at Western Kentucky University, discovered a new species of stonefly that lives in spring runs of central Kentucky. Although he didn't find the first one at Mammoth Cave National Park (MCNP), he suspected that the species would probably be here if he looked.

In the fall of 2015, he received a research permit to search MCNP's springs for the new species. He found it in several locations on the park and used one of the MCNP specimens to write the official description of the new species. The paper Grubbs wrote describing the new species was published in Dec. and can be downloaded at <http://illiesia.speciesfile.org/papers/Illiesia11-12.pdf>. Congratulations Dr. Grubbs and thanks for granting MCNP this scientific honor.



Partner receives national recognition

Mercy Academy High School in Louisville, KY was recently named the first STEM certified school in Kentucky and the first all-girls school certified in the nation. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. We are very proud of their accomplishment and look forward to continuing to work with their students to conduct research at Mammoth Cave National Park. More information about their accreditation can be found in this WLKY news story. <http://www.wlky.com/news/girlpower-mercy-academy-1st-all-girls-accredited-stem-school/37823206>



Now Hiring: Summer Bat Assessment Interns

Mammoth Cave National Park and the Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning are searching for 2016 summer bat assessment interns. The interns will be hired through the Student Conservation Association. A complete description and link to the application process can be found here: <https://www.thesca.org/serve/position/summer-bat-assessment-interns/po-00696025>.

Research Highlights

Below is a sample of the many research projects occurring at MCNP in Dec. and Jan.

- Monitoring winter bat activity along tour routes and at major hibernacula.
- Research on the fungus that causes cave crickets to turn into marshmallow crickets.
- Continued work on understanding and interpreting the geology of Mammoth Cave
- Cave surveying and mapping.
- Hydrology research and monitoring.
- Cave survey and mapping

Call for Cover Art Submissions

We are now accepting submissions of photographs or drawings for the cover of the Symposium proceedings and schedule. Please check our facebook page for submission guidelines or email Shannon Trimboli, MCICSL Education Coordinator, at shannon.trimboli@wku.edu.

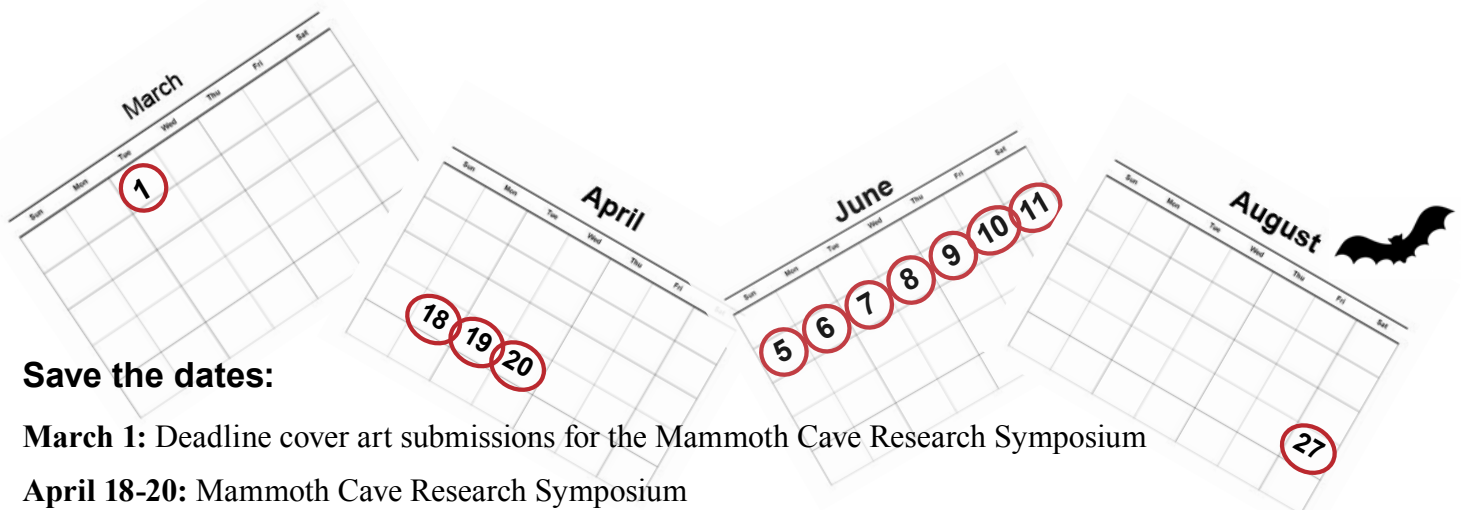
Education Highlights

Below is a sample of the many educational activities that MCICSL facilitated or led in Dec. and Jan.

- Miami University (OH) geology class learned about the geology of Mammoth Cave. Thanks, Dr. Chris Groves (WKU) for leading this class for us.
- Western Kentucky University semester-long honors class on Mammoth Cave National Park.
- Preparation for Mammoth Cave Research Symposium
- Training for Mammoth Cave staff and contractors about winter White-nose syndrome related protocols.

**Don't forget to check out
our new website!**

http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/mc_ic_sl/



Save the dates:

March 1: Deadline cover art submissions for the Mammoth Cave Research Symposium

April 18-20: Mammoth Cave Research Symposium

June 5-11: National Collegiate Honors Council Partners in the Park at Mammoth Cave National Park

August 27: Bat Night



Follow our activities on social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mammoth-Cave-International-Center-for-Science-and-Learning/842046972539082>