

## WELCOME

I welcome you to Albany on behalf of your host, Northeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.

Thirty years ago in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the first National Cave and Karst Management Symposium was convened. This year we mark that anniversary, reflect on the past 16 symposiums, and meet once again in the pursuit of improved management for caves and karst.

Bill Elliott, who is indexing proceedings of the NCKMS and related meetings, reports that since 1975 there have been 617 papers and 3015 pages published in the NCMS and NCKMS Proceedings. This year we will add a considerable number of papers to that ongoing work.

Management, however, is about more than the amount of good information that is produced. It is also about understanding. Managers need to understand how studies can or should be used in management plans. Researchers need to understand how their work needs to be presented and reproduced. The NCKMS represent an opportunity for managers, scientists, and researchers to come together and discuss the important issues that both divide and combine their disciplines. This Symposium promises to be such a meeting. We hope you see this week as an opportunity for outreach, to the public and most critically to each other.

You will see many Northeastern Cave Conservancy members this week working as staff and in the audience around you. We are pleased to have everyone here, and expect all will take away new perspectives on the common issues faced by all karstlands managers and researchers.

Michael Warner  
Chairman 17th NCKMS

