



Texas Speleological Association **2006 Spring Convention**

May 19, 20 & 21, 2006

John Knox Ranch
near Wimberley, Texas



Join the Texas Speleological Association and cavers from all over Texas for the 2006 TSA Spring Convention. The TSA, founded in 1956, has been bringing cavers from around Texas for 50 years.

The TSA Spring Convention will be held at the John Knox Ranch. Located in the heart of the Hill country, near Wimberley, John Knox Ranch is one of the most unique and beautiful camp and retreat centers in Texas. Covering 300 acres, John Knox Ranch lies on the banks of the Blanco River. The Ranch has its own 30-foot deep artesian, spring fed Blue Hole surrounded by limestone cliffs. The Blue Hole feeds lovely Carpers Creek, which winds among Pecan, Walnut, and Bald Cypress trees until it meets the Blanco River.

More information about the convention and the Texas Speleological Association can be found at: www.cavetexas.org

Details about John Knox Ranch can be found on the ranch website at: www.johnknoxranch.org

Attend the Spring Convention:

All registration will be conducted at the convention. Registration will open at 4 pm on Friday, May 19, 2006.

- Individual Registration; \$25.00
- Family registration: \$45.00 (plus \$8 for each 5-18 year olds for the meal.)

The registration fee covers:

- Camping sites. The ranch has full facilities.
- And a full weekend of caving talks about various exploration projects and other cave related topics.
- Saturday evenings banquet and auction of cave related items by the TCMA. The proceeds of the auction will benefit the Deep Cave Preserve.
- Map Salon and Photo Salon. Enter your best map and that great photo!
- Speleo-vendors selling the latest in caving gear.
- The TSA Spring Business Meeting.
- The spring business meetings of the Texas Cave Management Association and the Texas Speleological Survey.
- Speleo-vendors offering various caving gear, publications and other assorted cave related widgets, gadgets and gizmos.
- \$1.00 of your registration fee goes into the TSA Land Fund Trust.

About the Texas Speleological Association:



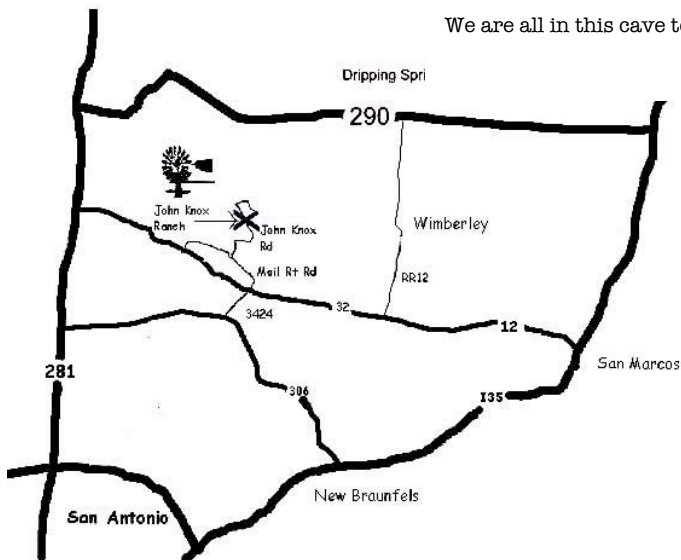
The TSA is a not-for-profit organization that supports cave exploration and cave studies by cavers in and around the state of Texas. It is comprised of individual members and clubs (called Grottos). It is an internal organization of the National Speleological Society (NSS).

The Texas Speleological Association was formed in 1956 to bring the widely dispersed cavers and caving organizations in Texas together as an Association in order to promote cooperation and to coordinate the caving activities within the state. The cavers and organizations have changed over the years; both have increased in number and diversity. But the importance of the TSA as an Association has never been greater. If you are interested in preserving or exploring Texas Caves, or if you are interested in the latest discoveries and explorations. If you are interested in mapping, conservation, safety and techniques, meeting other cavers; then you should attend the TSA Spring Convention and join the TSA.

The TSA Spring convention offers cavers a unique opportunity to learn more about caves and caving in Texas. In addition to presentations on the latest discoveries and techniques; there are photo and map salons. There is the opportunity to learn more about the various TSA caving projects and to meet cavers from around the state.

If you are interested in the amazing world of Texas caves, we hope you will join us at the John Knox Ranch for the 2006 Spring Convention.

We are all in this cave together!



exit east on 500. FOLLOW 500 for approximately 12 miles. Take a left onto 3424 and follow this road for 1.5 miles. This road ends at Ranch Road 32. Cross over RR32 onto Mail Route Rd. Do not turn left or right onto 32. Follow Mail Route Rd. for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto John Knox Rd. Travel 1.5 miles to the gate of John Knox Ranch. Signs will be posted directing you to the TSA Convention registration areas.

From I-35

Take exit 205 in San Marcos. Go west on RR12. Follow the signs to Wimberley. Ten miles outside of town RR12 turns right (North) to Wimberley. Keep going straight towards Blanco on RR32. After about eight miles, turn right on Mail Route Rd. Follow Mail Route Rd. for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto John Knox Rd. Travel 1.5 miles to the gate of John Knox Ranch. Signs will be posted directing you to the TSA Convention registration.

A few more details:

- o Please camp in areas designated for TSA camping.
- o We are sharing the ranch with a wedding on Saturday afternoon. Lets be good neighbors!
- o The **public** consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the ranch; please respect their rules. And if you decide to enjoy your favorite beverage, please drink responsibly.
- o Swimming in the Blue Hole without a lifeguard being present is prohibited. The TSA is soliciting qualified volunteers to serve as lifeguards.
- o Swimming in the Blanco River is permissible, but is discouraged by the Ranch.
- o Entrance into any caves on the ranch is not allowed without permission. Please check with registration for details.
- o The Ranch requests that **dogs** be well behaved and must be kept on a leash at all times.

The TSA encourages everyone to be safe, considerate and responsible.

Help the Texas Cave Management Association! Cave Acquisition Fund Raising Auction:

Saturday night at the TSA Spring Convention, Texas Cave Management Association will once again have a fund raising auction for the Cave Acquisition Fund. Continuing last years successful auction, Bill Steele has agreed to serve as auctioneer emeritis. A silent auction set up during the day where people can bid at their leisure followed by a live auction on Saturday evening. All proceeds go to the TCMA Cave Acquisition fund to help pay off the Punkin and Deep Cave Preserve. Please bring cash or checks to pay for auction items.

This year, the TCMA have a great selection of extraordinary items. Donations of items will be accepted until the time of the auction. Items up for auction from past years have included:

Devils Sinkhole Bat Flight Tickets	Photographic Equipment	Miscellaneous Caving Gear	Love Slaves
Caving DVDs	Artwork	Caving Trips	Caving Books
Caving Trips	Caving Secrets	Many more items...	Personal Assistants



If you have items to donate for the auction or need further information, please contact Allan Cobb at ac@oztotl.com or 512-694-5433.



Why support the TCMA?

The Texas Cave Management Association is dedicated to preserving and protecting caves with unique features or endangered species AND caves with recreational value. The TCMA purchased, with the help of cavers, a 220-acre tract of land in Edwards County. That property is now known as the Deep and Punkin Cave Preserve. Access to the property and caves is available to cavers for recreational caving. For more information on visiting the preserve contact the Geary Schindel or a TCMA officer. The TCMA will have a table set up at the convention with information about our organization and our Preserves. We encourage cavers to join the TCMA and help preserve caves for cavers in Texas. Dues are only \$15 per year and that money supports the work of the organization. TCMA is a non-profit organization. All dues and donations are tax deductible. For more information, please visit the TCMA website at: www.tcmacaves.org

Join or donate to the TCMA:

	MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION INFORMATION		TCMA DONATION LEVELS <input type="checkbox"/> Caver: \$25 <input type="checkbox"/> Explorer: \$100 <input type="checkbox"/> Trip Leader: \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> Patron: \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Patron: \$1000 <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____  ← Check to specify donation for Cave Acquisition Fund Donations of Caver level and above receive a free TCMA T-shirt!
	<p>The Texas Cave Management Association invites you to be part of a statewide conservation effort by participating as an active member. TCMA needs your generous contributions and your help in its management activities and for cave acquisition. Your contributions are tax deductible and are used to support caves, cave science, conservation, and educational activities. Caves are a unique and non-renewable resource. We urge you to join with the Texas Cave Management Association to protect our Texas caves and karst.</p>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular: \$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Associate: \$10.00 (Students under 21) <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$22.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Business: \$100.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Institutional: \$50.00 (Non-profit) <input type="checkbox"/> Please send me TCMA mailings including our newsletter, the <i>Passages</i> . <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Contribution for lifetime members: \$10.00			
Name _____ E-mail _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ NSS# _____ Phone# _____ Date _____			
Make checks payable to: TCMA / Mail to: P.O. Box 202853, Austin, TX 78720-2853			



Join the Texas Speleological Association:

For more information on the Texas Speleological Association, please visit the TSA website at: www.texascavers.org

Membership categories and annual dues:

<input type="checkbox"/> Single membership	\$ 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (includes two votes in TSA elections)	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Library Subscription	\$ 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount enclosed	

Membership Application

Name:					
Address:					
City:		State:		Zip code:	
E mail					
NSS #					
Grotto Affiliations					

To support Texas Caving and join the TSA: Please out this form and mail it with a personal check to the following address:

Texas Speleological Association
Box 8026
Austin, TX 78713

- Membership in the National Speleological Society is **not** required for membership in the TSA. But we highly recommend and encourage you to consider joining the NSS. For more information on the NSS; please visit the NSS website at: www.caves.org
- You may also join the TSA by visiting our website. There is an on line membership form and you can pay via pay pal.