

John Knox Ranch address: **1661 John Knox Rd., Fischer, TX 78623**

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE. To register for a tour or a workshop, email leonore.lec@gmail.com

SATURDAY

8 to 9am : If you purchased the meal pass: breakfast at the Dining Hall

TOUR (20 people max):

Meet at 9am sharp at the Meeting House to go for a sinkhole restoration tour at the gorgeous **Inspiring Oaks** property. It will be a combination of driving and walking under towering oaks to discover the restoration efforts done on 10 of the properties largest sinkholes. This is a surface tour and will take 2h on site (travel time 25 min). No gear needed. Rich Zarria is leading this tour.

WORKSHOPS

9:30 to noon Sketching (10 people max) FULL: David Ochel, Chelsea Dau and Ben Hutchins– Come and learn how to sketch or ask questions to improve your sketching. At Karst Canyon Preserve = off site. Exact location will be communicated to signed-up folks when they check-in.

9- 10:30am Rigging 102 workshop (12 people max): FULL. Cruz St Peter and Megan Necessary. Beyond simple anchors. Come and learn more sophisticated rigging.

9-10:30am Rescue practice – raises (10 people max) :FULL. Tom Evans and Allison. Come and learn how to raise someone in trouble out of a pit.

11- 11:45am Mitchell system (5 people max)- Chris Lafferty **1 spots left.** The frog system isn't working for you? Come try the Mitchell.

11-12:30am Rescue practice -lowers (10 people max) 1 spot left: Tom Evans and Allison. Sometimes, the fastest way to safety is down. Come and learn how to lower someone inside a pit.

Photo Salon, chaired by Ethan Perrine: Enjoy pictures displayed in the breezeway around the Meeting House. Saturday all day. A crowd's favorite will be selected and a prize awarded.

Mapping Salon, chaired by Marvin Miller: Enjoy maps displayed in the breezeway around the Meeting House. Saturday all day. Prize will be awarded by the end of the day. ([Map Salon Rules](#))

TCMA silent auction, Saturday all day, outside the Meeting House.

12pm TCMA meeting outside the Meeting House. Bring your lunch.

Please note swimming time at the Blue Hole is from 2:30pm from 5pm.

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE AND ABSTRACTS.

No need to book a spot to attend the talks. All talks at the Meeting House.

1pm- Dr Jay Banner *21st Century Texas: Climate, water, science, and society*

Climatological and geopolitical forces converge in Texas and have the potential to put extreme stress on natural resources and public health. Climate science can be used to project the consequences of increasing greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere for our state. Reconstructing past climate changes in Texas using the analysis of tree rings and speleothems provides context for unprecedented drought and heat risks to come, and the associated impacts on our economy, well-being, and social equity. Are there paths forward to a resilient Texas and reasons for optimism?

1:40pm – Chuck Stuehm and Phil Winsborough awardees (JT Shelley (GHG) and Mowgli (UTG)). *Where are they now, what have they done since?*

Mowgli went to Jamaica, in part thanks to his exploration grant:

"Wah Gwan" is a native Patois phrase said in Jamaica translating into, "what's going on?". Let's take a high dive splash into the culture and immerse ourselves into this tropical world from a caver's perspective. Come enjoy a taste of the many flavors of geological wonders and find the hidden Karst within the vast diversity of landscapes this remarkable island country has to offer.

JT will talk about Honey Creek.

2:20pm- Bryce Smith and Kara Posso: *Cave of the Madonna Resurvey Project, Guadalupe Mountains, Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico.*

Cave of the Madonna is located in the Guadalupe Mountains in Lincoln National Forest, New Mexico. It is well known for having one of the largest single rooms in the Guadalupe Mountains and is incredibly decorated with what we would call world class formations. This cave has a rich history of visitation by cavers and while there have been several previous attempts to map the cave, a detailed plan and profile view of the cave still has not been produced. Therefore, a group of cavers led by Aria Mildice began remapping the cave under a permit issued by Lincoln National Forest in 2023. This presentation will give a status update on the resurvey project from trips

held March 2023, November 2023, and December 2024. We will also discuss some of the side objectives completed during "off-days" from the resurvey project and show a video made by Bryce Smith.

3pm - Dr. John Moretti: New discoveries in Inner Space Cavern reveal the animals of Ice Age Texas.

Since its discovery in 1963, Inner Space Caverns has been famous for its rich abundance of Ice Age fossils. Those fossils represent mammoths, extinct horses, saber-tooth cats, and other animals that went extinct over 11,000 years ago. I am exploring the Ice Age archive preserved in Inner Space Cavern for lessons about how animal communities change over time and how changes in the past led to the animal community of today. My investigations have recovered new fossils of bats, giant jaguars, and tiny antelope-like pronghorn. Research and analysis of those fossils are providing new insights about the origins of the native fauna of Texas and revealing that Inner Space Caverns contains one of the oldest, longest, and most important troves of Ice Age fossils anywhere in Texas. Come learn more about this famous cave and the ancient history of the Texas Hill Country!

3:40pm -Peter Sprouse: Veracruz 2024 Expedition

Two weeks of exploring caves near Orizaba. Eighteen caves were mapped for a total of 3.5 kilometers.

4:20pm -Jef Frank: Beneath Del Rio: Updates from East and West San Felipe Spring Systems

Go deep—literally—into the underwater world of Del Rio's spring systems. With updated maps, breakthroughs, and video footage from within the passages, this one's a must-see for cave divers and adventurers alike.

5 to 6pm BREAK

EVENING FESTIVITIES

6 to 7pm : TCMA live auction at the Meeting House

7 to 8pm: Charlie Savvas Memorial film by Richard Zarria at the Meeting House.

8 to 9pm: Dinner at the Dining Hall

9 to 9:20pm : Recent Carlsbad rescue

9:20pm TSA Awards, followed by Storytelling followed by dancing once the story well dries up, also at the Meeting House.

Sunday 9:30am- TSA Meeting at the Meeting House.

