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MCICSL Newsletter - September 2015

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September 2015 Highlights

Citizen Scientists Contribute Over \$46,700 of Labor to Mammoth Cave National Park

As the federal fiscal year wraps up, we want to thank everyone who participated in our citizen science projects this year. Citizen scientists working on Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) facilitated projects at Mammoth Cave contributed approximately 2,025 hours of labor equal to over \$46,700 during federal fiscal year 2015. These citizen scientists ranged in age from middle school students through adults, and they worked on 11 different projects at the park.



Federal Agencies Directed to Advance Citizen Science

On Sept. 30, the White House hosted a live webcast forum on citizen science and crowdsourcing. The workshop highlighted the value of citizen science and opportunities for federal agencies to become more involved with citizen science. In conjunction with the forum, the director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a memorandum directing federal agencies to take specific actions to advance citizen science/crowdsourcing and encouraging federal agencies to build their capacity for citizen science/crowdsourcing.



The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) is proud to already be helping Mammoth Cave meet these objectives. We are currently in various stages of developing, leading, and facilitating 10 citizen science projects specific to Mammoth Cave National Park. We are also developing an additional citizen science project that uses data from Coronado National Memorial in Arizona.

A blog about the White House forum and link to additional resources can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/09/30/accelerating-use-citizen-science-and-crowdsourcing-address-societal-and-scientific>.

MCICSL Strategic Planning – Your Help Needed

The Mammoth Cave International Center for Science and Learning (MCICSL) has been undergoing strategic planning since May. The primary challenge identified for MCICSL is finding funding to continue operating. MCICSL is currently funded through projects and grant money. Some of the funding sources we have used in the past will likely become unavailable within the next year.

We would like your help identifying new potential sources for long-term funding. If you know of a possible source, please email Shannon Trimboli, MCICSL Education Coordinator, at shannon.trimboli@wku.edu. Also, please forward these newsletters to others in your network and ask if they know of potential funding sources we should explore. The MCICSL strategic planning committee will continue to have this discussion and search for solutions over the next several months. Any suggestions or help you can give is greatly appreciated.



Research Highlights

Below is a sample of the many research projects occurring at MCNP this month.

- Freshwater mussel inventory in the Green River
- Sampling fish for mercury analysis
- Stonefly surveys
- Radio tracking of northern long-eared bats
- Fall population survey of bats
- Exit counts of bats
- Condition assessments of bats preparing to go into hibernation
- Acoustic and camera surveys
- Surveying for federally endangered diamond Darters
- Determining cave water discharge rates
- Cave surveying and mapping

Education Highlights

Below is a sample of the many educational activities that MCICSL facilitated or led this month.

- 3 sessions of a workshop on Eastern Bat Survey Techniques hosted by Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.
- Western Kentucky University semester-long honors class on Mammoth Cave National Park
- University of Kentucky Natural Resource class participated in mussel survey and learned about karst resource management
- co-presentation on citizen science partnerships at Northern Kentucky University's Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics workshop
- presentation on climate change related citizen science for a climate change workshop for teachers held at Mammoth Cave National Park
- Kent State University geology class in-depth educational experience focused on surface and subsurface karst geology and hydrology
- University of Western Ontario class learned about the surface and subsurface geology, biology, and hydrology of the area and participated in citizen science at Mammoth Cave National Park



Follow our activities on social media.

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