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Chairs: Peter Malik (Europe/Africa, 9/21 -12/22); Avi Burg (Asia/Oceania, 1/23 - 4/24); Benjamin Tobin (Americas. 5/24 -8/25)

In this Issue:

- IUGS Geoheritage sites named
- Website assistance request
- Geotrip 2025 (Last Call for interested attendees)
- Upcoming KC events

IUGS Announces “The Second 100” Geoheritage Sites

The IUGS announced the newly designated International Geoheritage sites during the 37th International Geological Congress this week. This round includes a number of sites that are focused on hydrogeology and the first of these are three major karst springs: Wakulla, Fontaine de Vaucluse, and Vrelo Bune. Their inclusion is a result of our friend Zoran and his KC project, MIKAS.

There are also several other karst sites included from around the world such as the Cockpit Karst of Jamaica, Guilin Karst in China, Ha Long Bay-Cat Ba Archipelago in

Vietnam, and Mammoth Cave in the United States. The full list of sites and the associated books for the first and second 100 sites are available online at <http://www.iugs-geoheritage.org/>



Request for Volunteers

As a volunteer organization, we are currently looking for assistance in updating and maintaining our website. If any members are interested in assisting with this effort and are proficient in WordPress, please reach out to the co-chairs for information.

Last Call for Participation - Geotrip 2025

General intention

Following the discussion at the KC Annual Meeting in Rome, held in June 2024, the next Geotrip will take place in the Ozarks, Missouri, USA, tentatively scheduled to start at the beginning of June 2025, probably from Monday, 2 June.

When scheduling Geotrip 2025 we have in mind our previous field trip experience, the academia timetable at most universities, and traveling during the weekend prior to the trip. The starting point will be in Saint Louis, Missouri, at the Lambert International Airport, which is well connected to most US cities and has flights to Canada, Mexico and several times a week to Europe (Germany).

The general plan is to visit the amazing nature of the area for 6 days. The transportation will be carried out in rented vehicles. Each vehicle will include max 4 people. ***Traditionally, we try to make the Geotrip as cheap as possible (to allow young scientists to join) and we intend to maintain this tradition in this Geotrip as well.*** This means cheap accommodation and simple restaurants (but with good drinks...). Regarding accommodation, once we fix the final list of sites for the overnight stay we shall advise all attendants to make the reservation by themselves. However, this should be done as early as possible considering the well-known fact that accommodation costs increase over time.

After these 6 days, there will be an opportunity for those who want and have the time (and money) to continue the tour to natural sites and famous karst springs in Northern and Central Florida. The trip to Florida will include an overnight stop and hopefully a short visit of a place or two along the way.

3 people will organize the Geotrip on a voluntary basis: Neven Kresic will plan the sites to visit, the walking routes, and the places to stay and have meals. Zoran Stevanovic and Avi Burg, who have gained experience in organizing Geotrips, will take care of all the envelope requirements, such as calls for participation, selection of attendees, the arrangement of smaller groups for rental cars, collection of funds for incidentals and collective meals, communication between the participants, etc. Each participant will be responsible for arriving on time at the meeting point and for the costs of individual accommodations in hotels/motels.

For the Florida Springs: although this part of the trip is optional, the same level of engagement for the organization of the trip will be provided by Zoran Stevanovic and Avi Burg, while Todd Kinckaid will plan the sites to visit, the walking routes, and the places to stay and have meals.

To encourage you to join see the following pictures:



The next organizing step

The first step is to know how many people want to join either trip, and the current announcement seeks to examine, still without a final commitment, the number of candidates who wish to participate. The Geotrip is open to no more than 30 people, so if one sees himself/herself as a candidate he/she should respond as soon as possible and send his/her name, whether alone or with a companion and specify if interested in continuing to Florida as well. We are going to build an initial list with a waiting list and depending on the degree of responsiveness we will make the necessary calculations and inform the candidates of the approximate cost of the Geotrip, and the final dates. In the next step, we will ask the participants to commit because we have to reserve all the necessities (cars, group discounts for accommodation, meals).

The KC has some funds to support students to participate in the Geotrip, so those who intend to request financial support are welcome to do so. For the criteria for receiving the support, you should look at the KC website.

Those who want to be included in the list of the Geotrip participants, please send an email to Avi Burg (burg@gsi.gov.il) or Zoran Stevanovic (zstev_2000@yahoo.co.uk)

For those who participated in the previous Geotrip or the last two, you should know that Eleni Zaggana intends to participate!!! This means a lot of joy (as well as daily arguments about breakfast time)... Accordingly, see the Geotrip 2025 logo below!!!



Upcoming KC Events

IAH World Groundwater Congress 2024

The IAH World Groundwater Congress 2024 will take place from 8 to 13 September 2024 at the renowned Davos Congress Centre, Switzerland. For more details about the conference see: www.iah2024davos.org

The 4th European Regional Conference of IAEG (EUROENGEО 2024)

The conference will be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, between October 8 - 12, 2024, and will include lecture sessions and excursions.

For more details see: <https://www.euroengeo2024.com/>

Visual Karsys Courses

The next dates for Visual karsys & GeoModelling courses are:

- September 25th, 2024 - Visual karsys "Advanced" - Online course,
- October 16-17th, 2024 - Visual karsys - Online course,

The courses are aimed at geologists and hydrogeologists working on "complex" geological environments or "heterogeneous" aquifers. They provide access to the online tool visualkarsys.com for their academic or applied projects. visualkarsys.com has over 1,400 users and a large network of specialists worldwide.

For more details on the courses see: <https://www.visualkarsys.com/courses>

Contact for registration / questions: info@visualkarsys.com

In addition, you are invited to have a look at the visual karsys webinar, which was recorded during the EuroGeoSurveys GMMEG Group Webinar, on October 12th, 2023:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5892kiqPA5g>

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