
From: IAH Karst Commission <bwtobin80@212577110.mailchimpapp.com>
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To:
Subject: June/July 2025 KC News



August 2025 KC News

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

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A Message from the Chairs

As our term as chairs ends, we are excited about the future of the commission with your new chairs in place and a range of exciting projects moving forward. We will be

working with Nataša, Bing and Abner to ensure a smooth transition. We appreciate their willingness to help our group continue to grow and prosper.

We would also like to thank the previous chairs, Augusto and Zoran in particular for their assistance and continued support throughout our tenure. Looking back on the last 4 years, it has been exciting to see the continued growth of projects supported by our members and we look forward to continuing to support the commission and it's new chairs.

We are finishing our term and are happy to tell you how large and impressive the group is: 92 full members, 11 associate members, 31 KC members, from 40 countries.

Ben, Avi, and Peter

Request for Volunteers

Our website needs an update!!! 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.

Congratulations Rafael Fernandez Rubio

In July, KC Member Rafael Fernandez Rubio at the 41st International Water in Mining Association meeting in Braga, Portugal, was recognized for his lifetime of work and dedication to the field. Rafael was a founding member of the IMWA in Granada which has spread to dozens of countries around the world.



Contaminant Transport, Risk Assessment, and Ecological Impacts in Karst: Special Issue call for papers

The journal “Water “ invites manuscript submissions for this upcoming special issue. Submission deadline is 20 September 2025.

For more information:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/water/special_issues/5D1T70HG52

Upcoming KC Events

Visual Karsys Courses

The next dates for Visual karsys & GeoModelling courses are:

- September 11 - 12, 2025 (Geomodelling)

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](https://www.visualkarsys.com) for their academic or applied projects. [visualkarsys.com](https://www.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 EuroGeo Surveys GMMEG Group Webinar, on October 12th, 2023:

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

International Association of Geomorphologists/ Romanian Association of Geomorphologists Regional Conference on Geomorphology

This conference, scheduled for September 16-18, 2025, is organized around 23 thematic scientific sessions covering a wide range of geomorphology-connected topics, including Karst Geomorphology: A modern perspective.

Session description: We seek integrated analyses of karst landforms, aquifers, and cave deposits addressing topics such as Quaternary paleoenvironments, neotectonics, modern investigation techniques, and geomorphological issues in karst management and karst-related hazards. By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and showcasing innovative approaches, this session aims to expand our understanding of karst systems and their significance in contemporary scientific and societal contexts.

We are also welcoming you to participate in the pre- and post-conference fieldtrips, which include visits to many interesting karst landmarks of Romania (Apuseni Mountains, Southern Carpathians).

You can find more details here: <https://rcg2025.geomorphology.ro/field-trips/pre-conference-2/>, <https://rcg2025.geomorphology.ro/field-trips/post-conference/>.

National Cave & Karst Management Symposium

The 26th National Cave & Karst Management Symposium will be held 6 – 10 October, 2025 in Ely, NV, USA. This conference will include a day of short courses, three days of talks, and a field trip. In addition, there will be an Orientation to Cave Rescue course hosted by the National Cave Rescue Commission the weekend before the conference. For more information see:

<https://ely2025.nckms.org/>

2025 Geological Society of America meeting

The 2025 GSA annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas on 19 - 22 October, 2025 (<https://connects.geosociety.org/>). There are numerous karst themed sessions as part of the conference. In particular, one session will be held in memory of KC member Alexander Klimchouk: session T109: Hypogene Speleogenesis: an overview of research in memory of Dr. Alexander Klimchouk.

For details on how to submit an abstract, go to <https://gsameetings.secure-platform.com/connects25>. To search for this special session, click on Topical Sessions, which will take you to a page with a search bar. Enter “Klimchouk” into the search and you’ll get the information you need to send your abstract for this session.

Please join us in honoring this great man and his great contributions to cave and karst science. And for those of you in central Texas, remember that the Edwards Aquifer is hypogenic, and as are many of the caves across the Edwards Plateau and in west Texas.

IAH 2025 congress

The website for the IAH-2025 conference to be held in Melbourne, Australia, is now open and invites participants to express their interest today. For details see:

<https://iah2025congress.com/>

Recent Publications

Y Li, L Shu, C Lu, B Liu, X Hu, 2025. Effect of karst conduit topological structure on the estimation accuracy of water storage variation, *Journal of Hydrology*, Volume 662, Part B, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2025.133941>.

Abstract: In this study, we systematically investigated how changes in the topological structure of karst conduits affect the accuracy of karst water storage variation (KWSV) estimation. As primary groundwater pathways, karst conduits significantly control groundwater flow dynamics and influence water resource assessment accuracy, especially in heterogeneous aquifer systems. We developed a coupled equivalent porous medium–conduit groundwater flow numerical model to simulate conduit topology variations typical of late-stage karst aquifer evolution. Two critical topological parameters—vertex degree and branch conduit angle—were selected to represent structural variations. Spring flow recession data were analysed using exponential fitting methods to characterize the recession behaviours under varying conduit structures. By comparing simulated spring recession curves with fitted results, we clarified the mechanisms by which conduit topology regulates groundwater dynamics and influences KWSV estimation accuracy. Our findings provide essential insights for improving the reliability of karst groundwater resource assessments and contribute to theoretical advancements in karst hydrology research.

E Kaminsky, B Funk, A Flores-Orozco, L Plan, 2025. The Role of Snowmelt on the Recharge Dynamics of a Vadose Alpine Karst, *Hydrological Processes*, 39:e70212. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hyp.70212>

Abstract: In Alpine karst aquifers, snowmelt plays a crucial role in groundwater recharge, yet the processes governing water flow through the soil and epikarst into the vadose zone and to the phreatic zone remain poorly understood. This study aims at shedding some light on paths and mechanisms for infiltration, flow, and accumulation of snowmelt in comparison to rainwater in karstic systems. In particular, we present results for the upper vadose zone of the Hochschwab karst massif (Eastern Alps, Austria), a crucial water source for the capital of Vienna. We combined geophysical and hydrological methods to distinguish different infiltration processes. Data were collected at a cave (1896m above sea level) over 3 weeks in March and April 2024, during which 12 infiltration events were observed—nine through diurnal cycles of snowmelt and three mixed with effective rain. Additionally, dry and wet conditions in the following summer were monitored to provide a seasonal comparison of infiltration dynamics. Monitoring included cave drip water at a V-notch weir (discharge, electrical conductivity, and temperature), soil moisture measurements at depths of 5–30 cm, and electrical resistivity tomography (ERT), utilizing 96 electrodes between the cave ceiling and the surface. Measurements at the weir in the

cave indicate higher flow rates during heavy precipitation than during snowmelt, while the ERT images show the highest saturation during snowmelt, especially in the bedrock. Hence, results show that snowmelt primarily leads to diffuse recharge, with an overall increase in the saturation of the epikarst and rock, while rain events demonstrate a quick recharge pattern. These findings emphasize the importance of snowmelt as a diffuse recharge source contributing to water storage and underline that the integration of multiple sensors is crucial for understanding the variability of recharge processes in Alpine karst systems under different meteorological conditions.

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