

Welcome

Welcome to Arizona, to Tucson, and to the 2001 National Cave and Karst Management Symposium. This, being the first symposium of the 21st Century, will perhaps be the gateway to a new and renewed interest in the study, exploration, and protection of the varied resources existing within caves and karst, with an emphasis on education as a means of insuring that we preserve for all generations to come, what so many of us have come to realize the importance of and to appreciate.

The cave and karst regions of Arizona are found from lowland elevations of 1,000 feet to soaring snow-capped peaks over 12,000 feet, with cave temperatures ranging from 110° to 38° Fahrenheit. These diverse environments consist of solutional limestone caves, lava tubes, earth cracks, and ice caves. As the surface is no static, arid wasteland, neither are the caves that are still being formed and modified by active karst processes and where diverse and incredibly delicate minerals are being deposited. In a deceptively arid region we find caves and karst being developed, destroyed, decorated, dissolved, and quiescent.

We hope you will have time, either before or after the symposium, to further explore the magnificent "Sky Islands" areas of southeastern Arizona. Most of the staff are very familiar with this area and would be happy to recommend activities while you are here. Please also consult the pages in your program regarding half-day and day trips in the Tucson area.

We hope your experience with the symposium and your stay here is rewarding and pleasant, and that you will come back often to further enjoy this unique part of the United States and the friendly and laid-back atmosphere. If we, the staff, can in any way make your visit more memorable, please let us know.

Jerry Trout, Chairman
Jerry Orcutt, Co-Chairman
Sandy Trout, Co-Chairman