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# BENEFIT FOR THE CAVES

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## THE MISSION

The Tri-State Speleological Society, a non-profit cave conservation group, presents an evening of ecological awareness as it brings the Benefit for the Caves; a concert experience designed to bring about awareness about conservation for our caves along with the preservation of migratory bats afflicted with White Nose Syndrome. This concert will be presented at the Widow Jane Mine in Rosendale, NY starting at 8:00PM, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Come support this green ECO event helping preserve some of our hidden caves and mines throughout the area. All proceeds from the event will help cover costs by affording the group a chance to maintain and protect local caves and mines. The event will also be preserved onto DVD and included in a new documentary produced by Galileo Productions, a NJ based media production firm.

## CURRENT

White Nose Syndrome or simply "White Nose" is a name given to an as yet unidentified agent or agents that are causing mass mortalities of bats in and around NY. Bats help the ECO by consuming mosquitoes and larvae that otherwise might cause disease such as West Niles Virus. February of 2006 marked the first scientific observations taking place at Howe Cave, New York. In March of 2007, standard winter surveys of Hailes Cave, New York detected thousands dead. White Nose was detected on half of the survivors. To better understand the depth of the problem in just one Tri State area mine in 2005, Hailes mine was home to 15,584 surveyed and as of early reports in 2008; the population has decreased to 1400 due to White Nose. This represents a decrease of 91% according to Al Hicks from the Department of Ecological Conservation. Today there still is no answer as to what is causing the fungus. The extinction of these mammals could lead to increased diseases to humans and a huge imbalance in the food change and eco already affected enormously by global warming.



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New York and last used in the early 1900 by the Rosendale Cement Company where limestone was excavated. It is an enormous venue that goes roughly 3 miles underground and has been used by the Campbell Soup Company to harvest mushrooms and fresh water trout. Miners working there, early on struck, water while excavating and had to abandon the project due to water erosion. It is now a safe haven for music and entertainment fitted with its own staging area and electrical AC (alternating current). Today, the mine is managed by the Snyder Estate and has its own foundation that makes maintenance and preservation decisions.

### **THE BENEFIT FOR THE CAVES**

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 8:00PM, The Widow Jane Mine will celebrate earth and ECO Preservation for an evening of music. Headline musicians and conservationists will come together to expand on this mission. Tickets for the event will be sold through the Tri-State Speleological Society and plan to be available on-line and through various ticket representatives. The venue is situated very much like an outdoor amphitheater with strategic locations mapped out for camera and media positioning. The mine is designed to hold over 300 people comfortably. The mine stays at a constant temperature of 50 degrees throughout winter and summer. Humidity levels are low considering the size of the great lake situated behind the stage. Each limestone pillar carries lights on it to illuminate the common areas of the mine through an array of circuit breakers set back behind the audience area of the mine. Bats do not inhabit the mine.

The Widow Jane Mine will have sponsors providing large company banners hanging from the mine walls and outside. Companies will have a chance to post their logos and corporate messages for all to see. Two full 16x9 flat screen monitors will be situated at both stage right and stage left. Company branding will be displayed on these monitors along with bat footage showing them flying from one monitor to the other. The video loop will run in full as patrons enter the cave at the beginning and end of the show. These monitors will offer additional streams of revenue for the shows caving community allowing additional sponsors. The concert will feature 3-5 bands starting at 8:00PM and concluding no later than 10:00PM. There will be short 15 minute change overs for each band and an MC will introduce each musical guest concluding the show with a half hour routine of entertainment.

Parking will be onsite on the mine property. Patrons walk from the parking area to the mine for the events. Port-a-Johns will be placed throughout the property while food concessioners setup on higher ground outside the mine.

### **THE VIDEO--THE CONCERT IN THE MINE: SAVE THE BATS, SAVE THE CAVES**

Galileo Productions, LLC, a multimedia firm based in New Jersey for over 20 years, will produce a half hour documentary presentation highlighting the behind the scenes efforts of two cavers, Wayne Russell and Julie Roselius from The Tri State Speleological Society, a NJ non-profit. Their efforts to put this concert together have been documented with over 30 hours of footage. The documentary will show their efforts along with interviews to include members of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation and other ECO scientists from around the region who are battling White Nose Syndrome, a deadly fungus killing migratory bats in many of our eastern state caves. Over 15,000 dead bats have been reported so far. To date, no answers have yet been found as to what causes this fungus to spread and grow. Wayne and Julie have been supporting whatever efforts there have been within the caving community to assist in finding answers to WNS. The Benefit Concert for the Caves will culminate at Widow Jane Mine as artists, cavers and the



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and education helping bring about awareness. The concert will be  
ic from the show.

The video will have some special purposes the evening of the show as well. Along with recording the concert live onto DVD the night of the show, audience participants will have the choice to purchase a copy of the show on DVD before they leave The Widow Jane Mine. During the final MC announcements and caver raffles—50/50's, duplication will begin from the DVD master at side tables running DVD duplicators. Each person who purchases a DVD voucher at the beginning of the show will be able to exchange the stub for their very own raw and unmixed copy of the show recorded live onto DVD. Another option will be to purchase the mastered and authored DVD by mail or on the event website.

### **THE WEBSITE: WWW.BENEFIT4THECAVES.COM**

A website for the concert and the documentary has been created in Beta Test form to be launched 6 months before the show and to extend another 6 months afterwards. The goal of this website is to help disseminate information to the public regarding, the show, The Tri-State Speleological Society, research and discoveries regarding bat preservation—white nose syndrome and cave preservation. This site will provide the latest breaking news on these ECO subjects and also give visitors the chance to purchase tickets for the show on-line and offering ways to purchase an authored copy of the documentary for their own collections. Each copy of the Concert at Widow Jane Mine may be also autographed by the artists for collectors. Shirts and stickers will be available too for purchase over the site. All proceeds from sales are intended for an event fund that will be created for use by the cavers to purchase a cave to preserve and also 5% to be donated to the National Speleological Society (NSS) Cave Acquisition Fund and 5% to be donated to one of the NSS's White Nose Syndrome funds used in the efforts to eradicate White Nose Syndrome. Mission statements and disclaimers will also be displayed here along with any other legal concerns that arrive during the planning and execution of the show. It will be used as an open forum for all questions and answers.

### **THE PUBLIC RELATIONS CHALLENGE**

Bats and limestone mines are not exactly attractive to everyone. We will have a public relations challenge presenting this event to the public by making these two topics viewer friendly. We will most likely seek out a firm that can help us turn around the scary and mysterious image of bats and caves so that people aren't afraid to attend the show. Additional concerns about the mine safety itself have been Beta tested at the site for the past year in Rosendale. A sample of that beta test is available to view at: [www.galileoproductions.com/newscurrent.html](http://www.galileoproductions.com/newscurrent.html). We have tested a variety of music in the mine concluding that there is no danger of a cave-in or any obstacles that would make the concert unsafe to attend. Galileo Productions will provide a certificate of insurance for the event to benefit the Widow Jane Mine Conservation Group who oversees the venue. It will be provided in return of certification from the Tri State Speleological Society as a 501(c)(3) event to assist in the production costs. Galileo Productions will have complete and total rights of the DVD and merchandise available at the show for purchase. Ticket sales will benefit the cavers and their Tri-State Speleological Society. All ticket proceeds will cover production costs and operational fees. Galileo Productions documentary proceeds will benefit the cavers and the society at Widow Jane Mine once costs for production have been covered.



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