

During the week I am a research scientist at the University of South Florida's College of Marine Science in St. Petersburg, Florida. My work uses elemental analysis of fish bones to track the migration patterns of groupers in the Gulf of Mexico. On the weekends I'm either diving one of north Florida's beautiful cave systems or home in my garage preparing gear for the next weekend's diving activities. I got hooked on cenote diving in 2004 while in the Yucatan on a research expedition. My wife and I both started our cave training in Mexico and earned our full cave certifications by 2010 in Florida. My background in diving includes science diver/dive master certifications with NOAA and the America Academy of Underwater Scientists (AAUS). I'm also a founding board member of Reef Monitoring, Inc. and a former chapter scientist for the SCUBAnauts. Last year I stepped up my volunteer efforts with the NSS-CDS when I began tracking down interesting authors to contribute science and exploration based articles for our journal, Underwater Speleology. When I learned of vacancies on the CDS's Board of Directors I thought it was a good time to volunteer even more and run for a position. My background as an underwater research scientist affords me a unique perspective and skill set that I believe will help bring the NSS-CDS into the 21st century. I'm particularly interested in injecting more science into our organization to: (1) afford members more opportunities to participate in cave science education and research projects; (2) arm the CDS with science-based knowledge and facts in its endeavors to open access to dive sites; and (3) increase our influence in the decision-making process involved with spring, cave, and water conservation and management issues. Help me help you make the NSS-CDS the best cave diving training, education, safety, and exploration organization it can be!

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