



Cave exploration in Fort Stanton's Snowy River Passage, summer 2012. Photo courtesy of FSCSP

Grants and Awards

Folk Art to Go Is a Winner

The Mountain-Plains Museum Association awarded first place in its annual publication design competition to the Museum of International Folk Art for its Folk Art to Go brochure, which promotes educational opportunities at the museum. The winning brochure was designed by Monica Meehan, a graphic designer in the Museum Resources Division of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs who works on a variety of projects for the department including publications, advertisements, and exhibitions. Meehan's recent projects include graphic design for the exhibition It's About Time: 14,000 Years of Art in New Mexico, at the New Mexico Museum of Art.

Triassic Hall Wins Publishing Award

Triassic Hall: Building the Triassic Exhibit from the Ground Up, by Jaenet Guggenheim and Dr. Spencer Lucas, Chief Scientist at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science, has won the 2012 Independent Book Publishers Association Benjamin Franklin Award for teen nonfiction (13-18 years). The award is named in honor of America's most cherished publisher/printer and recognizes excellence in independent publishing. The book is published by Santa Fe's Azro Press.

Grants for Fort Stanton Cave Study Project

The Fort Stanton Cave Study Project has been awarded \$100,000 via the BLM Challenge Cost Share program that will allow the researchers and scientists to continue and broaden their valuable exploration and mapping of Fort Stanton Cave. This grant was given in part because the FSCSP cavers provide well over \$100,000 worth of volunteer work sometimes adding up to more than 10-12,000 hours annually. These volunteers include physicists, software and microwave engineers, educators, historians, micro and bat biologists, geologists, and hydrologists. Their research assists the BLM in management of the cave and the karst region on the National Conservation Area known as the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave NCA, a designation much like that of a National Park.

In other good news for Fort Stanton, \$111,000 has been expended by the Government Services Division of the state of New Mexico to help upgrade, re-roof, stabilize, and repair or replace walls and windows, and insulate the Fort Stanton Cave Study Project headquarters and the BLM offices near the Fort. According to public outreach liaison, Lynda Sánchez, this will be a major improvement and allow the group to expand operations throughout the winter and early spring. FSCSP fields three major expeditions a year to continue exploration, survey, DNA analyses, and bat research. It assists students in these fields and provides detailed reports and data for the BLM. This partnership has been ongoing for many years and has progressed rapidly since the incredible discovery in 2001 of the famed Snowy River Passage, a calcite formation that is now more than ten miles long.