

SBSC Weekly Highlights, November 9-16, 2006

SBSC Packrat Research in New York Times: Kenneth Cole of SBSC was interviewed by New York Times reporter Elizabeth Svoboda about packrat middens serving as clues to global climate change. Middens, which can last 10,000-20,000 years, are analyzed through carbon dating to determine plant species prevalence in an area over time and offer insight into current global warming trends. (Kenneth Cole, 928-556-7466 ext 230, www.usgs.nau.edu/global_change).

From the Exotic and Invasive Plant Mapping Front Lines: The Southwest Vegetation Management Association (SWVMA) consisting of federal, state, county, and tribal land managers interested in invasive plant management issues held their annual meeting November 1-3, 2006 in Casa Grande, Arizona. USGS SBSC ecologist Kathryn Thomas provided an update on the status and findings of the Southwest Exotic Plant Mapping project and announced the initiation of the 2007 SWEMP update. Thomas also displayed a poster on the SWEMP program explaining how to contribute to the update and how to use the host web site to find information on invasive plants in the southwest. (Kathryn_A_Thomas@usgs.gov, 520 670-5534).

SBSC to Collaborate with NASA-Goddard and Department of Army: SBSC Speleologist J. Judson Wynne and NASA-Goddard engineers will be conducting overflights of caves in northern Arizona and western New Mexico, 26-29 November 2006. Air support will be provided by the U.S. Department of Army. The purpose of the mission is to capture thermal signatures associated with cave entrances as part of Phase 1 of the Earth-Mars Cave Detection Program. Contact: Jut Wynne (928.556.7466, x 238).