

# Subterranean Ecology Institute, Inc.

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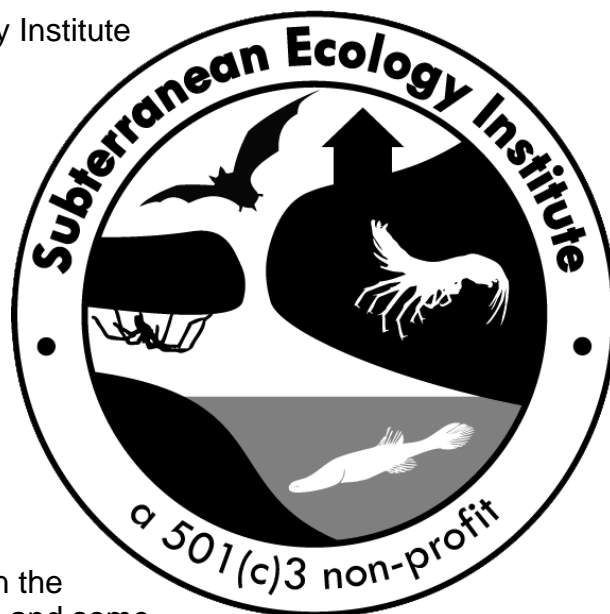


## 2018 Annual Report

Our eighth year (2018), the Subterranean Ecology Institute continues to support scientific research on subterranean ecosystems as well as assisting other resource managers with cave and karst issues.

Cover Photo: Covers Prepare to enter a cave in a Utah National Forest, to conduct bioinventories. Photo by Steve Taylor, 2018.

This is our first full year with our headquarters stationed in Colorado (our



registered agent, and nonprofit registration, remain in Illinois). As a part of our mission to study, document, and conserve subterranean ecosystems, SEI is providing financial administration for ongoing biospeleological work in Hawaii, support for research in the western USA, including projects in Utah and Colorado, and some continuing support for work in Illinois (including web hosting for the Illinois Speleological Survey and the Illinois Bat Conservation Program).

We're particularly excited about the Hawai'i initiative, spearhead by principal investigators Dr. Megan L. Porter (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa), Dr. Christy Slay (University of Arkansas) and Michael E. Slay (The Nature Conservancy) – their project has already resulted in a number of interesting discoveries, as well as the inclusion of other collaborators, notably Dr. Annette Engel (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), Dr. Aron D. Katz (U.S. Army Engineer Research & Development Center), and Dr. Rebecca Chong (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa). In Colorado, I've been working with Carly Bonwell and Jenna McDonald, students at Colorado College, to survey groundwater ecosystems in the Colorado Rockies. That work, funded primarily by Colorado College with additional funding from the Cave Conservancy Foundation and from the Subterranean Ecology Institute, has already resulted in several interesting new discoveries, and we're looking forward to continuing these studies.

In 2019, we look forward to continuing our efforts to study, document, and conserve subterranean ecosystems to the benefit of society through education and outreach. Check the Subterranean Ecology Institute website <<http://cavelife.org/>> for information on our 2019 activities.



Drs. Slay, Chong & Porter organizing the data from a day's fieldwork in Hawaiian lava tubes. Photo by Steve Taylor, November 2018.

*Steven J Taylor*

Steven J. Taylor  
President, Subterranean Ecology Institute, Inc.  
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Cave Conservancy Foundation

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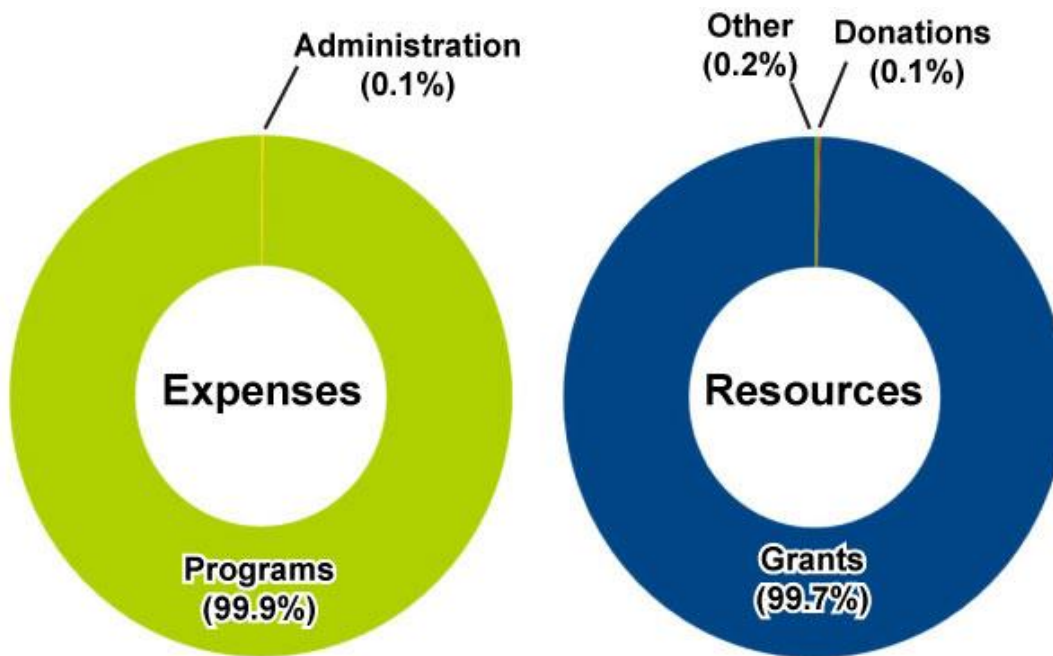
Bishop Museum, Honolulu  
Colorado Cave Survey  
Colorado College  
Dixie National Forest  
U.S. Forest Service Region 2  
The Nature Conservancy  
University of Arkansas  
University of Hawai'i at Manoa  
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## Volunteers

Gretchen, Emma, & Matthew Baker  
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Peter Bosted  
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Colorado College undergraduate student Jenna McDonald examining a vial containing cave amphipods that she and Carly Bonwell just collected from a Colorado cave. Photo by Steve Taylor, 30 July 2018.



Our 2018 funding was dominated by a grant from the Cave Conservancy Foundation for a study of the **Biodiversity, biogeography, and conservation of unique Hawaiian Island cave communities**, for which SEI is administering the funds on behalf of the principal investigators (Porter, Slay & Slay).

Our administrative expenses are successfully being held to a minimum, but 2019 may see the need to purchase new accounting software, allowing us to better utilize the funds secured through donations and grants to focus on programmatic activities.

With energies focused on the research activities of the Hawaii and Western USA projects, SEI did not support any international expeditions in 2018. Funding levels are sufficient to continue work in Hawaii and the western USA in the coming year, as well exploring other possible new areas and continued support for other ongoing work (Illinois, *Stygobromus*, etc.).



2018 Ozark Subterranea

Lava tube fieldwork in Hawaii. Photo © Mike Slay, 2018.