



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Mount Rushmore National Memorial News Release

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An Afternoon with Jan Conn, Climber & Caver

Keystone, SD: Cavers, adventurers and armchair pioneers are invited to experience the thrill of initial cave exploration through a presentation by climbing and caving pioneer Jan Conn. Sunday April 14, 1:00 – 4:00 PM in the Aldo Leopold room at the Outdoor Campus West, Jan Conn will present a narrative slide show on caving.

Jan and her husband, Herb Conn, were pioneer cavers exploring and mapping what is now recognized as the third longest cave in the world with more than 165 miles of mapped and surveyed passages. In 1959 Jan and Herb began exploring what was thought to be a small cave and ended up mapping an additional 60 miles and logging thousands of volunteer hours during their Jewel Cave adventures.

Prior to caving both Jan and Herb were known for pioneering climbing routes across the country including multiple routes in the Needles. Jan was a member of the first all-female team to complete a technical ascent of Devils Tower. Both Jan and Herb were inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame in 2011 for their pioneering exploration endeavors.

Jan will hold a question and answer session after her presentation. The Outdoor Campus West is located at 4130 Adventure Trail off Sturgis Road in Rapid City for driving instructions go to <http://gfp.sd.gov/outdoor-learning/outdoor-campus/west/documents/map.pdf> or call 605-394-2310.

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