## *"Calcite in Caves"* Dr. Jeffrey Dorale,

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Stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstones are some of the most recognizable and beautiful components of many cave systems around the world. In limestone caves these formations are generally composed of the mineral calcite, and they are commonly laminated and preserve a record of Earth history in the details of their chemistry. We will take a look at how cave calcites are dated, the types of environmental signals that may be preserved in their fabrics and chemistry, and the ethics involved with collecting in caves.



Photograph of a split and polished stalagmite showing scale used in sample drilling