



C.O.G.nizance

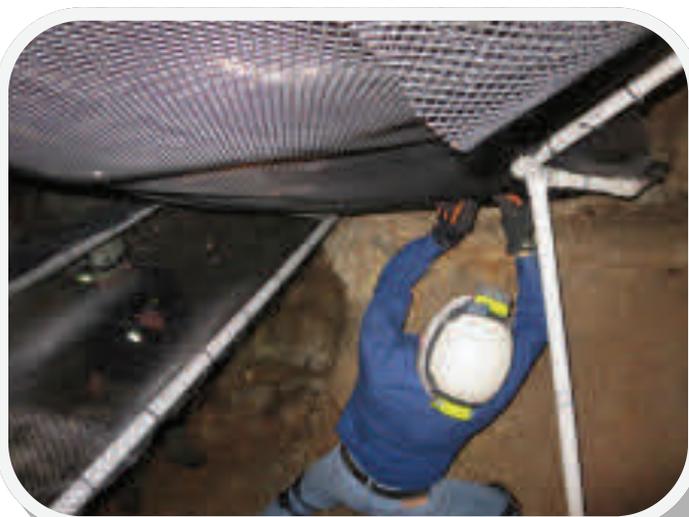
Inside this Issue

Announcements	2
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Trip Reports	
Greens Cathedral Bat Count; Feb. 15, 2014,	
by Sue Bozeman	3
Activity Report; Carlsbad Cleanup Trip; March 15, 2014	
by Duane Del Vecchio.....	3-5
Potpourri NONE	

The April meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, April 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Duane Del Vecchio.



Working on the Net at the bottom of the National Geographic Pit. Net was designed and is maintained by the Central Oklahoma Grotto.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contact Sue or John Bozeman for details.

*The April meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held in Lawton at the home of Duane DelVecchio. Friday, April 11, 2014.

National White-Nose Syndrome Decontamination Protocol - Version 06.25.2012

The fungus *Geomyces destructans* (*G.d.*) is the cause of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that has devastated populations of hibernating bats in eastern North America. Since its discovery in New York in 2007, WNS has spread rapidly through northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Midwest states and eastern Canada. It continues to threaten bat populations across the continent. For the protection of bats and their habitats, comply with all current cave and mine closures, advisories, and regulations on the federal, state, tribal, and private lands you plan to visit. In the absence of cave and mine closure policy, or when planned activities involve close/direct contact with bats, their environments, and/or associated materials, the following decontamination procedures should be implemented to **reduce the risk of transmission** of the fungus to other bats and/or habitats. For the purposes of clarification, the use of the word "decontamination," or any similar root, in this document entails both the 1) cleaning and 2) treatment to disinfect exposed materials.

Under no circumstances should clothing, footwear, or equipment that was used in a confirmed or suspect WNS-affected state or region be used in a WNS-unaffected state or region. Some state/federal regulatory or land management agencies have supplemental documents¹ that provide additional requirements or exemptions on lands under their jurisdiction.

I. TREATMENTS TO REDUCE RISK OF TRANSFERRING *GEOMYCES DESTRUCTANS*2:

Applications/Products:

The most universally available option for treatment of submersible gear is:

Submersion in Hot Water: Effective at sustained temperatures $\geq 50^{\circ}\text{C}$ (122°F) for 20 minutes

Secondary or non-submersible treatment options (for a minimum of 10 min.) include:

PRODUCTS: **Clorox® (6% HOCl) Bleach**
 Lysol® IC Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner
 Professional Lysol® Antibacterial All-purpose Clean

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO

Minutes of the March 15, 2014 meeting

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Duane DelVecchio, Dale and Carol Town, Jon and Kelley Woltz, and S. Belev

Location: Lucy's Mexicali Restaurant, Carlsbad, New Mexico

President Woltz began the meeting at 7:25

OLD BUSINESS

We discussed the bat count at Green's Cathedral in February, and COG's swabbing of bats for possible WNS detection in Jester Cave that same month.

NEW BUSINESS

We discussed the day of work that we had completed a few hours prior in Carlsbad Cavern, which consisted of removing mud, repairing catchment screens, and reflagging part of the trail, all in Low-

er Cave. After our work our host Shawn Thomas graciously took us on a tour of Left Hand Tunnel.

As part of our visit this year we tried to change some timebounded and timehounded traditions since traditions are only good for breaking—everyone drove there and back separately; we tried to meet and eat Saturday morning at a restaurant far superior to Happy's, which is Pecos River Cafe, but alas it wasn't open as early as 7:00 a.m.; and Dale and I left Sunday morning without meeting to eat at Denny's or any other joint in Carlsbad. During our meal at Lucy's we came to the conclusion that Lucy's isn't a good enough joint to dine at again and that we had waited far too long for the mediocre food they served us.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Talbot was not present to give his report.

President Woltz concluded the meeting at 7:34

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dividends	\$ 0.02		
Dues	\$ 42.00		
TOTAL	\$ 42.02	TOTAL	\$ 0.00
CASH ON HAND	\$ 104.04		
CHECKING	\$ 525.65		
SAVINGS	\$ 2,135.55		
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS	12.00		
TOTAL	\$ 2,777.24		

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 3/13/2014

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

TRIP REPORT

Trip Report: Greene's Cathedral BAT COUNT

Date: February 15, 2014

Personnel: Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman and Jon Woltz

Written by Sue Bozeman

We left OKC happily and speedily in the Jeep, stopping for our usual breakfast burrito. All went well until we turned north, heading for Mooreland. I had to break hard at the one-lane bridge stoplight (bridge under repair) and then backed up to 'my' white STOP line. Once we started up again, we began to have problems. The Jeep started shuddering at anything over 42 mph. It takes a long time to get anywhere at that speed.

Arriving at the East guest house, everyone excepting Steve looked under the vehicle to look for an obvious problem. Nothing jumped out. I hoped letting it cool down while we counted bats would resolve the problem, so Jon made room for us in his (Thanks, Kelly!) Element and we set out for the Narthex Entrance.

Temperatures were 35 to 39 degrees F at the back of the entrance room. Clumps -- that is, small clusters of 20 or so -- dotted the ceiling. Once through the first hard right turn, temperatures increased to the 40's and the bats disappeared for a bit. Farther in, a few pips/tri-colors hung contentedly, solo. Then started the large mats of Myotis velifer. They were very tightly packed, packing rates varied from 16 x 17, 18 x 18, and up to 20 x 21 per square foot.

Steve suggested we break up into two pairs of counter/notetakers. We hopscotched through the main cave and were finished by 1:10. Our totals were 13,430 myotis and 5 pips.

Since we had extra time, we picked up survey gear and headed for the resurgence. By the time we got everyone ready and in the best order for the mucky water crawl, it was getting toward 3 pm. Steve's lights didn't want to work in the cave, although they played nicely outside. We gave up, especially as Dale observed, "With Sue's truck having problems, it might be best to call it for

the day."

Oh yeah. The truck. It never did get straightened out. Sometimes I managed to get way up to 60 mph, but mostly it was 42 mph, driving on the shoulder with emergency lights flashing. Great fun. Long day. Found out later that all tires were misaligned and one tire was so out of round, the repair guys said they'd never seen one so bad. So there was nothing wrong that \$700-worth of tires wouldn't fix, John later quipped. All good to go now! 🐉

Trip Report / Activity Report

Central Oklahoma Grotto

Participants: Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Duane Del Vecchio,

Carole & Dale Town, & Jon & Kelly Woltz

Date: Saturday – March 15, 2014

Location: Lower Cave

Cave Resources Contact: Shawn Thomas

Report by: Duane Del Vecchio

After a three year hiatus Central Oklahoma Grotto (COG) was able to return to Carlsbad Caverns National Park to work on a cave restoration project. There was a period where Cave Resources didn't have adequate staff to allow grottos to participate. That was finally fixed back up with the addition to Shawn Thomas to the office. He contacted the club to see if we were still interested in coming down for some projects... heck yeah we do!

We decided to attend at the start of Spring Break rather than the first weekend in June. The weather was wonderful and we didn't bake coming across the desert.

We all arrived at the CRF hut 6 to find nametags and our "tools" to clean the cave (buckets, spray bottles, and sponges). A few went up to Cave Resources office as we were quite early and wanted to get the paperwork completed. We got to see Stan Allison again (he was one of the guys way back when who was our contact). We met Shawn and got the paperwork and went down below

(Continued on page 4)

to have it all filled out. The rest of the group got to meet Shawn when he arrived at the hut.

We outlined what our plan was to be today... first and foremost we wanted to check on our catch net on the bottom of the National Geographic Pit to see how it was doing. We then said we'd help with muddy trails or whatever need be done. We had 7 so we had just enough people to do both projects. We headed down to Lower Cave where we were shown which section of the lower cave trail was getting muddied up and to get it clean before it flowed onto clean sections.

We marked the start of cleaning the trail and the ending with the big buckets and then the original four (Dale A, Duane, Dale T, and Jon) continued on to the National Geographic Pit. We built the catch nets on June of 2007 and have not checked on them since so weren't sure what repairs were needed. We brought additional pipe, connectors, zip ties and cement in case. When we got to the area we were quite surprised to see that it was still completely intact. We found 4 holes in the plastic mesh/netting all of the holes made a "L" shape in the net... same tear distance on each side of the L. The biggest one was a 4 in x 4 in hole, followed by a 3x3 and then two little 2x2's.

There was not too much trash on the net... a water bottle, a battery, a coin or two and a few rocks. We believe bigger rocks fell and just punched through to make the holes. The holes were patched together with zip ties much like a doctor would suture a wound. We went in one of the holes on one side of the tear and then back across to the other side to be wove though to be tied together (or in this case, zipped together). Then the ends would be clipped off and carted out of the cave. The large catch net is made in two parts. One can stand on the ledge above and pick up the net and lower it down into the pit for two people to do the repairs. While Jon and Dale A worked on the repair part, Dale T when down into the lower section to clean up. When we did this back in 2007 the bottom part was under water and we couldn't get items out of the water (didn't want to disturb it). Now it was dry and Dale got out about 20 old crusted and in some cases green coins. After the net was fixed we check all fasteners and pipe connections. We found one pipe connection that we never cemented (it didn't even have the purple primer on it). So that was fixed. Whereas the netting material stood up quite well, it was the black zip ties that didn't stand the test of time. We must have replaced 20 of them all together to retie the netting to the poles.

When the netting was repaired and the nets back in place, we then did some algae removal on the formations near the light and cleaned the trail right by the pit that had become mud covered (and quite slick!).

Meanwhile back on the trail from the ladder to the pools the others (Steve, Carol, and Kelly) were scrubbing, wetting down, sponging, and de-mud-ifying the trail in the area that was indicated as needing cleaning. They did a remarkable job and ended up with 2 of the buckets half filled with water and mud... those were left to settle back by the ladder.

Shawn was on and off with us during the morning hours... he would check in with both groups but was busy re-flagging parts of lower cave that the flagging had become brittle. He later told us he had done every trail in Carlsbad during his first year on staff. Wow... that's a lot of flagging! □ He headed up to his office to get work done about 11:30 ish but would meet us at 3:30 p.m. to take us into Left Hand Tunnel as he had to place some instruments back in the back of the tunnel. Kind of a little thank you treat to us as none of us had ever been down that-a-ways!

The pit crew finished their area and went to help out the mud crew... after about 30 minutes we all decided that our stomachs were on Oklahoma time still and it was time for lunch. We moved down the trail until the first light that shines out on lower cave – right out of sight of the overlook from the Big Room of Lower Cave. After lunch, we split up again and some returned to the mud trail and others took the rolls of flagging that Shawn left us to replace as much as we could (which wasn't much with just three rolls). While flagging we found our favorite photo shoot location... a giant breakdown right on the trail with flow formations at a 45 degree angle... (remember, we're gypsum cave people... limestone is awesome to us!) <grin> After we ran out of flagging we returned to the mud crew and they were just finishing up too. We thought we'd return to the elevator room rather than wait for Shawn to come to us (plus... a whole LOT of us had to go to the bathroom!!)

Exited Lower Cave and got to the main staging area below (cafeteria, t-shirt sale, elevator, and bathrooms) where some just sat and waited for Shawn while some did a fast tour of the big room as we're usually down in Lower Cave and don't get to see the big stuff anymore.

Shawn showed up on time and took us toward Left Hand Tunnel. Just before the gate are these enormous six foot high spools of giant electrical wire. Shawn explained they were replacing all of the wiring in the caverns over the next couple of years and convert all bulbs to LEDs in the future. We then headed down for our private tour – which was better than a tour as we had a better knowledgeable guide that understood us a cavers rather than tourists... and thus... we were given a much more scientific explanation of areas... Rather excellent tour! <grin>

We parted company up on the top after a group picture with Shawn as he had another group to bring down at 4:30 p.m. Man... that's long hours there Shawn!!!

While we were down in the cave and doing the flagging we noticed that, yes indeed, the flagging needs to be replaced. We will ask for next year's project to do two things: 1) National Geographic Pit repair (if needed) and 2) to do the reflagging of the trail system (or at least as much as we can do in a full day).

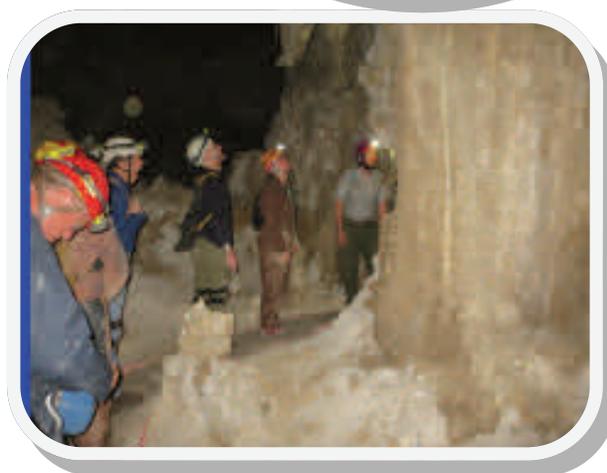
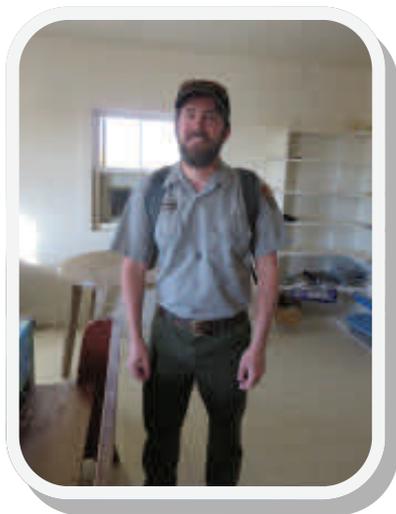
We figured that with 2 teams of four each, we could tackle both Left Hand Tunnel (2 on the right side of the trail and 2 on the left side) and Lower Cave (2 people on right and 2 on left). Also Shawn was saying he knew of
(continued on page 5)

another place where a pit could use a catch net like we did... maybe go and look at it, measure it out and the next year build a net there.

Thanks to the Cave Resource office for allowing us to participate again in some of the cave restoration. Glad to see you letting grottos back in and we'll see you next year!!!! Thanks Shawn for all of your help!!

Full web report complete with pictures (90 of them) at our web page:

<http://www.okcavers.com/trip%20reports/carlsbad14/index.htm>



Top Row Left, Shawn Thomas; Center, Steve Beleu, Right, Duane Del Vecchio; Center left, Jon, and Kelley Woltz; middle; Dale Amlee; right, Carole and Dale Town; Below bottom left, the COG crew finished & out of the cave, and bottom right, COG getting a tour of Left Hand Tunnel.

Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter (\$6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related Speleological items in a yearly publication, *The Oklahoma Underground* (\$3-\$8/issue) Membership is by sponsor and is \$12 per year for adults, \$6 for spouses and students, and \$3 if under 18. Central Oklahoma Grotto meets once a month on the second Friday of each month. For information, write Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, CO 80433: Telephone: (580)471-1238: E-mail: cavemoose@gmail.com. The deadline for submissions for any particular month's issue is the 20th day of the previous month. If you wish material returned. Please include a SASE with submission. All materials in this newsletter is available for reproduction, provided proper credit is given with the article when you print it. Trade publications are welcomed. *Cave softly and safely!* Website: <http://www.okcavers.com>

***The April meeting will be
At Duane's house
April 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.***

Bring empty bellies and be thirsty my friends!



**COG Monks in chains Duplication Services
1117 NW 74th St.
Lawton, OK 73505**