



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements2

Minutes2

Treasurer's Report3

Trip Reports

 Cherylsbad Cave October 24, 2015 by Sue Bozeman.....3-4

Potpourri

 Offices to open Utah's ancient Danger Cave for Rare tour..4

 Remote cave study reveals 3000 years of European climate variation (reprint from Science daily) 5

 Batty Bats (cartoon by Lil Town) 2

 Caving terms that begin with 'S': word search 5

The November meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, November 13, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Matt Brasher.



"I think I'm going to watch this in Grog's cave. His cave drawings are in HD."



"If you see a stranger, you kill him — it's called 'Homeland Security.'"



"Kids today with all their technology."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The November meeting will be Friday, November 13, 2015 at the home of Matt Brasher.

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 50°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 GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2015

Host: the home of Art Wallace

Attendees: Art Wallace, Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, John Talbot, Carol and Dale Town, John and J.T. Van Dyke, Jon and Kelley Woltz, Steve Beleu

The Honorable Jon Woltz began the meeting at 7:50

OLD BUSINESS

We discussed our September caving trip.

NEW BUSINESS

- We decided to cave on October 24th rather than on the 3rd Saturday of October, the 17th.
- Sue reported about an inquiry she had from Don Kagele in Mayes County about whether there are caves on his land. Sue referred him to Bill Puckett.

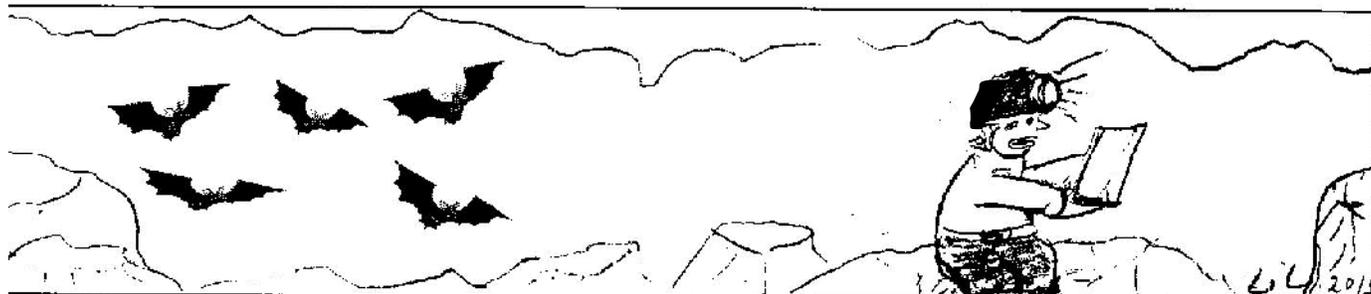
TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his report.

We concluded the meeting sometime after 8:17



BATTY BATS



Quick, while that biped isn't looking..... let's see what happens when we all land on it's head!

TREASURER'S REPORTS

OCTOBER, 2015 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME

Dividends 00.29

TOTAL \$ 00.29

CASH ON HAND \$ 113.09

CHECKING \$ 599.69

SAVINGS \$ 2,137.47

TOTAL \$ 2,850.25

EXPENSES

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 11/02/2015

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORT

October 24, 2015

Survey Trip to Cherylbad Cave

Personnel: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Matt Brasher and Jon Woltz; Guest: Ali Brasher (Matt's sister and a welcomed prospective member) -- Report by Sue Bozeman

The plan was to continue the survey up the 'new' passage, heading west. After we finished that, which prior scouting indicated wasn't very far, those who wished to explore the current waterway cutoff to the main stream passage would do so.

So off we went -- 4 electric cavers and one carbide caver with an electric backup tucked safely in a pack. Besides what Matt had told her in advance of the trip, Ali had been introduced to the safe caving concepts on the ride out. The 'rule of threes' for lights, number of cavers in a safe caving group and points of contact were explained. We were all looking forward to a quick survey and then some fun.

We got to our starting point and squirrelled our way through the breakdown, trying not to get wet too early in the day. Ali looked on, watching all the cavers do their various jobs. Dale was ahead, doing some exploring and figuring out where to set point; Matt was on backsight instruments at point; Jon was on foresight instruments; and, I was on book.

This part of the upstream lower arm carries intermittent water -- mostly rain runoff. There are pools that rarely dry up and most of those are easily bridged or a work-around can be found at the expense of body bruises. Your choice. Progress was slow, but we had gone a number of feet and about 6 survey points and there was more cave yet to do. I hadn't thought, from prior reports, that there was this much passage up in this direction.

I asked Dale, who along with Matt, had been the exploration team here, "How much further to that break-

down blockage, Dale?" He said, "Well, actually I don't remember there being this much passage here!"

We just kept plugging with some really nice little domes, occasional ceiling anastomose areas and pockets of sucky mud on the floor. Tree roots began appearing, so we know we're getting close to the surface, but no daylight was seen anywhere.

Finally, Dale announced a probable end. I had to get the 'end of survey' red flagging tape to him, so I showed Ali how to put the points in the book that the guys would shout out to her and I gingerly crawled toward Dale, and he carefully tied it around the final cairn -- just in case someone poked into the cave from a topside sink and found the way through. We would know that the cave had been surveyed and would be able to use that cairn as a tie-in point.

As we sat there, waiting for the instrument men to 'do their thing', I looked up and thought there might be a little ceiling passage coming in. Dale said he was going to squirrel through a hole ahead and see if there was anything doable. Once the readings were taken and the survey complete, suddenly it wasn't. Dale found more passage. Then Jon explored up to the ceiling and found a lead that went to a ceiling mini-room. We took some distance and angle readings to be able to let me draw that in the book, but it was too small to get a team in there, so we called that lead complete.

Dale had found a hole in the ceiling to see into a huge room above him. From where I was sitting, I saw a scramble-upable place which even I could get into, given time. (My knee is ok, but it does take awhile yet for climbs and such. Dale could do it ten times in the time it would take me to do it once!) So up he scrambled and reported, "This is a HUGE room. Easily 30 feet along above the lower passage and maybe 15-20 feet wide! I see the hole to the lower passage that I saw from down below!"

So. We have more surveying to do in this arm. We'll plot the survey and then do a straightline overland so we might be able to see where we are headed on the surface next time.

Now began the fun stuff: exploration. Ali wasn't sure she wanted to get all that wet. She did have some warm clothing on, but didn't know what to expect. I stayed behind because I thought it would entail a bunch of knee crawling and I don't do that happily yet. I suggested she go last so that if it didn't suit her, she could easily retreat. I told her I'd stay for 5 minutes or until I couldn't hear their voices and then slowly make my way down to where they would likely rejoin the main stream passage. She looked into the water passage and thought it would be fine -- and off they all went.

I went back to the main cave and very carefully made my way down to the rimstone dams, where I amused myself by sifting my remaining carbide while I waited. And waited.

If they couldn't get through -- would someone come get me? Surely someone would. Maybe they'd show Ali the rest of the cave and these cool rimstone dams over which the water gaily talked to me. Several times, I was sure I heard voices. Nope. Just the water talking.

Finally I heard Dale's voice behind me. They'd been stopped by low water and sumps. Jon had apparently gone as far as was possible, neck-deep in water, but on his knees in a sucky mud floor. Better part of valor was to retreat. Shucks. We'd had high hopes for a through-passage.

That was it for the day. Total surveyed passage was 138 feet in 10 shots. Survey time: noon to 3:30 p.m. We saw several barred tiger salamanders and a crayfish; several pipistrelles and a bunch of velifer, some in irritated clusters of 100 or so. Ali did great. Next time, perhaps she'll choose to learn one of the instruments or maybe wish to do the book. I was pleased to have another female along on the trip. It was nice to hear her chattering ahead with Dale, exploring, getting to see things that no other human has before her. Where else can you get this in Oklahoma except in cave exploration?! Ali -- welcome to caving!



POTPOURRI

Offices to open Utah's ancient Danger for rare tour Cave

Published on NewsOK Modified: October 21, 2015 at 3:12 pm
<http://newsok.com/article/feed/908104e>

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah state parks officials are preparing to host a rare tour of a remote west desert cave that holds evidence of human habitation dating back more than 11,000 years.

Danger Cave is considered an important archaeological site by experts around the country, said Justina Parsons-Bernstein, the state's heritage resources coordinator. It's gated and typically opened just once a year for tours. Officials added a second tour date this year because so many people were interested.

Located near Wendover, about 100 miles west of Salt Lake City, it's thought to have been used as a place to stay in the winter by many different groups of people over the millennia.

The cave was a welcome refuge because it stays relatively warm, about 50 degrees, all year long. There were once sources of fresh water and the cave was close to the ancient Lake Bonneville, a prehistoric body of water that has now receded and become the Great Salt Lake.

While the lake is now too salty for most aquatic life to survive, more than 9,000 years ago it had enough fresh water to provide ancient humans with a source of fish to eat, Parsons-Bernstein said.

As each group of people came through over the years, they left behind debris like plant material and ancient excrement that reveals clues about how they lived.

"One of the most interesting things about Danger Cave was people's diet kind of remained the same for

about 9,000 years," she said. Findings include tiny pickleweed seeds from a succulent plant that grows on marshes.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, well-known University of Utah archaeologist Jesse Jennings made one of the first known uses of radio carbon dating when he excavated the cave. His work shed new light on the ancient people in the area known as the Great Basin, and he confirmed that humans had been in the area longer than previously thought.

Jennings also used a pioneering technique to excavate the site layer by layer rather than digging down. The careful, painstaking process that allowed him to create a timeline of the site's history and perverse items for future analysis. People are still studying the cave for evidence of things like climate change, Parsons-Bernstein said.

The artifacts have been well-preserved because Danger Cave is very dry, and over the years the debris piled up so high that the cave was called "hands and knees" because people had to crawl to get inside.

It was renamed Danger Cave after a large chunk of an overhanging rock formation nearly fell on a crew working with the archaeologist Elmer Smith. The boulder crashed on a spot where they'd just been working before breaking for lunch.

Space is limited because only 25 people can fit inside, but some of Danger Cave's important artifacts are on display at the Utah Museum of Natural History.

Tickets went on sale this week for a tour scheduled for Nov. 14. A high-clearance vehicle is required and the tour involves steep, rugged hiking.



"Remote cave study reveals 3000 years of European climate variation."

Science Daily, 15 June 2015.

<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/06/150615103959.htm>.

University of New South Wales Australia-led research on limestone formations in a remote Scottish cave has produced a unique 3000-year-long record of climatic variations that may have influenced historical events including the fall of the Roman Empire and the Viking Age of expansion.

The study of five stalagmites in Roaring Cave north of Ullapool in north-west Scotland is the first to use a compilation of cave measurements to track changes in a climate phenomenon called the North Atlantic Oscillation.

'Our results also provide the longest annual record of this important phenomenon, which has a big impact on the climate in Europe,' says study leader, UNSW Professor Andy Baker.

'It confirms that during the Medieval Warm Period between 1080 and 1430 the oscillation index was in an unusually prolonged positive phase, which brings increased rain to Scotland and drier conditions in the western Mediterranean,' says Baker, of the UNSW Connected Waters Initiative Research Centre.

'Our results also reveal there was another persistent positive phase between 290 and 550, which coincides with the decline of Rome and a period of intensified human migration in southern Europe during the Dark Ages.

'This was followed by a persistent negative phase between 600 and 900 which may have provided warm and dry conditions in northwestern Europe that made it suitable for westward expansion by the Vikings, although the precise timing of this event is contested.'

The study is published in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

The North Atlantic Oscillation climate index measures the air pressure difference between Iceland and the Azores islands off the Portuguese coast, and is a record of the strength of the westerly winds in the North Atlantic.

Roaring Cave, or Uamh an Tartair, in northwest Scotland, is a shallow cave beneath a blanket of peat that has accumulated during the past 4000 years.

Rainfall levels in this region closely correspond with the strength of the oscillation index in winter, with higher precipitation when it is positive. And the upward rate of growth of stalagmites in the cave is very sensitive to rainfall -- the more water in the peat, the more slowly the stalagmites grow.

'We painstakingly measured the thickness of each annual growth ring in five stalagmites taken from the cave, including one that provides a continuous annual record spanning more than 1800 years,' says Baker.

By overlapping the five stalagmites they obtained a proxy record of the climate at the cave during a 3000-year period from about 1000 BC to 2000 AD.

'Our research provides a climate context for some of the big human migration events in Europe and allows us to start building hypotheses about the impact of environment on societal change,' says Baker.

The team includes researcher from UNSW, the University of Lausanne in Switzerland and the University of Arizona in the U.S.



CAVING TERMS THAT BEGIN WITH 'S'

V	R	J	I	E	T	Y	Q	P	S	R	T	B	V	W	T	Q
F	T	L	T	C	A	L	A	T	S	P	O	M	V	W	P	Z
N	F	X	F	D	U	A	L	A	J	G	J	U	T	N	F	S
S	N	Q	V	N	L	O	F	S	S	H	H	R	W	Z	S	U
R	U	X	T	W	E	V	I	L	T	M	B	W	L	T	W	B
S	U	B	K	A	X	X	P	T	E	R	S	H	A	S	Q	T
I	T	C	J	T	C	N	O	L	Q	P	A	L	S	P	S	F
I	T	Y	O	A	A	S	O	G	F	V	A	W	E	E	S	R
E	L	G	G	O	C	H	T	L	Y	G	A	T	L	L	C	R
L	S	F	A	O	K	F	E	X	M	T	J	D	E	E	R	A
D	F	B	D	N	B	O	N	L	J	Y	S	A	N	O	O	N
W	L	R	T	A	L	I	T	T	E	N	M	X	I	L	G	E
E	C	S	F	O	Q	F	T	V	K	J	U	L	T	O	G	A
G	H	O	G	C	Z	E	R	E	T	A	I	I	E	G	I	N
D	H	T	H	V	U	U	M	N	P	L	R	T	N	Y	N	Q
Q	S	Z	Q	B	S	X	L	F	F	Z	B	S	M	G	Q	V
T	B	E	B	M	G	S	U	M	P	Q	B	G	T	C	L	A

- SCAT
- SCROGIN
- SELENITE
- SHIELD
- SINKHOLE
- SPELEOLOGIST
- SPELEOLOGY
- STALAGMITE
- STRAW
- STYGOBITE
- STYGOXENE
- SUBJACENT KARST
- SUBTERRANEAN
- SUMP
- STALACTITE
- SURVEY

WHICH WORD IS FOOD A CAVER TAKES WITH HIM WHEN GOING INTO A CAVE?

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 November meeting
will be
At Matt Brasher's,
Friday,
November 13, 2015.



**Central Oklahoma Grotto
Orcs Learning Letters Printing Pens
219 Holly Oaks Lane #283
Weatherford, Tx 76087**