



C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements	2
Meetings for 2016	2
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Trip Reports	
Cherylsbad Cavern	
January 16, 2016 by Ali Brasher	4
Potpourri	
Wordsearch: Spelo and caving terms beginning	
with 'F'	3
Scientists Unlock the Mystery of Chauvet Caves	
Painting in France	4-5
The Grand Scheme of Rattler, Bat, and Salamander	
Poem written by Steve Beleu	5

The January meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, January 8, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of John Talbot Van Dyke's



The editor would like to apologize for the misprint in the January 2016 newsletter. The table of contents didn't include the song Gypsum Caving Bagatelle 23 written by Steve Beleu.

NSS 75TH ANNIVERSARY 2016 NSS CONVENTION WILL BE IN ELY, NEVADA JULY 16-23, 2016

Our Diamond Anniversary

The year 2016 marks the [75th anniversary](#) of the [National Speleological Society](#). Our responsibility to produce a truly amazing convention has been the focus of our efforts over the last several years. Respecting the heritage and ethic of the NSS is integrally woven into the production plans we are pursuing.

While milestone events tend to focus on retrospectives, we also plan to gaze forward into the future of caving. Some of the sessions in development for the 2016 convention will speculate on where speleology may go over the next 75 years. Of course, we'll also deliver the sessions that cavers have endorsed and come to expect at NSS conventions. Covering topics from geology to exploration to artistic presentations, the 2016 convention hopes to offer something for everyone in our wide family of cavers.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The February, 2016 meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at John Van Dyke's, Friday, February 12, 2016 at 8:00 p.m..



2016 MEETING PLACES:

John Van Dyke	February	Steve Beleu	June	Art/Paula Wallace	October
Anne Ault	March	No Meeting --	July and August	Matt Brasher	November
Dale/Carol Town	April	Jon/Kelley Woltz	September	Bozemans	December
Dale Amlee	May				

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 Cleaner

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTTO

Minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2016

Host: the home of John Talbot, Master of All Chili

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue

Bozeman, Jason Talbot, Jon and Kelley Woltz,

and The Skillful Ogre

Guest: Mary Hicks

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:05

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

- We discussed upcoming bat counts in February for Greene's Cathedral and Jester Caves.
- We planned the upcoming caving trip of January 16.
- Kelley and Sue discussed inquiries from 2+ possible people who are interested in new caves or at least going on one cave trip.
- Jon proposed that COG buy a "Personal Locater

Beacon" to take on caving trips. We would leave it outside the cave close to an entrance not blocked by significant rock or overhanging brush that would obscure its sending a help signal to an overhead satellite. He said that these devices are easily found on Amazon for around \$255. Our having such a device would serve the role of emergency medical alert backup in the event of our having a caving or related emergency. We had discussion of it yea and nay, but the yeas predominated.

- Jon stumbled across a Master's thesis about Alabaster Caverns.

Although Matt Brasher has caved with us several times he hasn't joined COG yet; he needs to attend an upcoming meeting, be voted in as a member, and pay his dues.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his latest monthly report and his annual report.

His Honorable Amlee concluded the meeting at 9:15



TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	\$ 24.00	Postage	\$ 88.20
Publication sales	\$ 07.00	Printing	\$ 71.84
Dividends	\$ 00.33		
TOTAL	\$ 31.33	TOTAL	\$ 160.04
CASH ON HAND	\$ 110.57		
CHECKING	\$ 446.72		
SAVINGS	\$ 2,137.78		
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS	\$ 24.00		

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2015
 PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

COG YEAR END REPORT

1/1/2015	BANK BALANCE	\$2,674.16
	CASH ON HAND	\$ 149.04
	TOTAL	\$2,823.20

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	\$ 153.00	Postage	(\$ 90.72)
Dividends	\$ 1.38	News Letter Printing	(\$ 71.84)
Publication Sales	\$ 19.00	Equipment	(\$114.95)
TOTAL	\$ 173.38	TOTAL	(\$277.51)

12/31/2015	BANK BALANCE	\$ 2,584.50	
	CASH ON HAND	\$ 110.57	
	UNPOSTED FUNDS	\$ 24.00	
	TOTAL	\$ 2,719.07	PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

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

SPELEOLOGICAL AND CAV- ING TERMS BEGINNING WITH 'F'

- FACIES
- FENGLIN
- FLOWSTONE
- FOIBE
- FAULT
- FISSURE
- FLUORESCIN
- FORMAMINEFERA
- FENGCONG
- FLATTENER
- FLUVIAL
- FORMATION
- FOSSIL
- FROSTWORK
- FUNGUS

Which word above is a Chinese term for an isolated limestone hill in an alluvial plain?

TRIP REPORT

Trip Report: Cherylbad Cavern

Date: January 16, 2016

Personnel: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Matt and Ali Brasher, Jon Woltz, Mary Hicks, Sue Bozeman, Steve Beale the Skillful Ogre
Report by Ali Brasher

It was a cold Saturday morning when Dale Amlee, Matt Brasher, and I (Ali Brasher) met up at Sue's house for the caving trip. After leaving a little a bit later than expected we headed out on our routine: stop and get gas, and make a quick trip to Sonic.

Once Mary Hicks and Jon Woltz joined us at the ranch house we quickly changed into our gear, took a last look at the map and made our way to the cave. At the cave entrance Sue decided that it would be best for her to stay at ground level, given her trip to the hospital was not so long ago. I admired her wisdom and was glad that she was listening to her gut instinct. Hopefully next time she will feel better and will be able to head into the cave with us.

At first we did some exploring through the far right passage where we encountered several "hangouts" of about 40 bats or so, but eventually stumbled upon a group of several *hundred* bats. It became

...where we encountered several "hangouts" of about 40 bats or so, but eventually stumbled upon a group of several hundred bats.

clear that our presence was starting to disturb the sleeping critters so we turned around and headed back to the area in which we were going to survey.

We entered the cave around noon, explored for about an hour or so then began surveying. We went through a few tricky areas that had stagnant water and I believe I was the only one who lost the battle to stay dry, surrendering one foot to the cool water below. Matt and I used the instruments and Dale documented everything in the book. It was my first time using the instruments so the others taught me how and I eventually got the hang of it and started to enjoy my new role. Dale

was a little reluctant to be in charge of the book, but he did a great job.

One particular passage had a slanted floor made of mud, making things very slippery. It was at this time during our survey that Mary ate a peanut butter sandwich. The delicious scent wafted throughout the passage and we decided to call this area "Peanut Butter Passage", both for the scent of her sandwich and the

...The delicious scent wafted throughout the passage and we decided to call this area "Peanut Butter Passage", both for the scent of her sandwich and the consistency of the mud...

consistency of the mud. There were also passages in which the inclination of the floor allowed for a nice place to relax. Jon laid down and enjoyed the calmness of the cave.

The total length of the area surveyed was 205.7 feet and the time was 2.5 hours. After some time it we decided to finish up our surveying and head back to check on Sue. We were saddened that she wasn't down here with us but we all agreed that she made the right decision. Once we got toward the entrance of the cave we made a quick trip to see the water falls that I had heard so much about. The gentle trickle of water was incredible flowing from one area to another, the gently moving water really revealed the true beauty and uniqueness of the cave. After gazing and admiring the handful of waterfalls, we headed back out to meet up with Sue and see how she was doing.

When we got to the cars, we removed a layer of muddy, guano- covered clothing, and Sue filled us in on what she had been up to during our time in the cave and we shared our stories about what we had encountered, including our name "Peanut Butter Passage" for the new area we had surveyed.

POTPOURRI

Scientists Unlock the Mystery of Chauvet Caves Paintings in France

Henri Neuendorf, Monday, January 11, 2016

Following a new discovery, the abstract details in France's Chauvet Caves paintings, created by early humans 36,000 years ago, are thought to depict a volcanic eruption, scientists say.

Although the paintings were discovered back in 1994, a recent geological survey conducted in the Bas-

Vivarais region in France, where the cave is located, has led to a new interpretation of the paintings.

Scientists discovered that a volcanic eruption took place in Bas-Vivarais at around the same time as the paintings were created between 30,000 and 40,000 years ago.

The findings give new significance to the abstract daubs of red and white pigment which were found next to figurative depictions of lions, woolly mammoths, and other

(Continued on page 5)

animals, and provide new insights into the level of understanding that early humans had of their surroundings.

"Their eruption in the caves seemed unusual and anachronistic because they were not figurative" team leader Jean-Michel Geneste wrote in the scientific journal PLoS One, explaining that his team's findings solved the mystery of the abstract depictions that appeared alongside those of animals. The strange red daubs had long confused paleontologists.

"It is very likely that humans living in the Ardèche river area witnessed one or several eruptions," Geneste said. "We propose that the spray shape signs found in the Chauvet-Pont d'Arc cave could be the oldest known depiction of a volcanic eruption."

The theory suggests that these cave paintings are indeed the earliest depiction of a natural disaster in the world. They are 28,000 years older than drawings found in Catalhoyuk, central Turkey, which were previously thought to be the oldest.

The closest Vivarais volcano is only 22 miles from the Chauvet caves. According to experts, the Vivarais eruption reportedly resembled a fireworks display, bearing a similarity to the depiction in the cave paintings.

What's more, according to the Independent the drawings could challenge the meaning of early cave paintings and commonly held conceptions of both art history and science relating to the meaning of such drawings.



THE GRAND SCHEME OF RATTLER, BAT, AND SALAMANDER

Rattler spoke to Bat and Salamander: "Lure one
To this part of the cave, Bat, with your sleek brown fur;
You lure it too, Salamander, with your skin
Shiny yellow and black, then I'll bite and drop it
And we'll divide among us what it carries."

So past the twilight zone they stationed themselves,
Bat and Salamander, where a carbide lamp's dim light
From an oncoming caver would illuminate fur and skin
So the prospective victim of their ambitious plan
Would walk closer and Rattler would lunge and sink
His fangs into the caver's exposed ankle as it
Bent down to check on two cave dwellers
Who would normally flee from its presence
Fast as bats can fly and salamanders can amble.

Soon Bat could hear, and Salamander and Rattler
Feel, a caver squat down before the cave entrance,
Crawl on hands and knees through it, then stand up
To continue her journey to where she and two others
Had stopped their survey the month before.

Her light suddenly revealed Bat and Salamander
Who fighting every instinct they had looked up,
Still, silent, forcing themselves to seem friendly,
Happy and carefree, and worst of all...*cute*.
Both of them choked down bile from their bellies.
The caver bent down on one knee to look at them
Even though they'd begun to shiver in fear.

Then Rattler flung himself out from the darkness
He'd hidden within and sank both fangs deep
Into the caver's ankle who screamed and jumped,
Pulled back and away, and cursed the entire second
She took to turn and scramble out the entrance
Knocking aside two cavers behind her. But so
Frenziedly she fled she dropped what she'd carried

In an outstretched hand to attach to her helmet --
A carbide lamp, its first flame of the day already lit.
She left as well her cavepack that Bat and Salamander
Climbed into and rummaged through, each emerging

With a mighty trophy: pulling backwards, Salamander
Dragged forcefully a cloth survey tape in its mouth
While Bat clutched a survey book and pencil.

But Rattler took nothing from the caver's pack
But bags of carbide rocks, for what he wanted
Was the carbide lamp he'd wrapped his tail around.
Then he joined his co-conspirators as into the cave
Each dragged the spoils of their ambush home.

In time they each became the leaders of their kind
In that cave that sprawled beneath gypsum ridges
And held court among their citizens once a year
On the anniversary of their great deed to tell their story
To the young who became frightened, the middle-aged
Whose males acted tough as if they too had faced
A human foe, and the aged who nodded their heads
In wise approval.

The caver's spoils they'd taken
From her cavepack they put to good use.
Salamander carried the tape to the higher level of the cave
Then unrolled it to reach the floor below
So salamanders could climb up and down it with ease
From one passage to the other. Rattler lights his lamp
In coldest winter so he and his kind will be warm enough
That they don't hibernate or need to but instead
Eat the mice they'd hunted that fall and stored for later.

And Bat, clumsily holding pencil in wings and paws,
Recorded in drawings the story of The Grand Scheme
As the epic tale of those three heroes of the cave
That all bats, salamanders, and rattlers of the future
Will measure their deeds of braveness against.

(c) Steve Beleu, 2015



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 February meeting will be
At John Van Dyke's
Friday, February 12, 2016*



**Central Oklahoma Grotto
Cavern of Printing
2119 Holly Oaks Lane #283
Weatherford, TX 76087**