



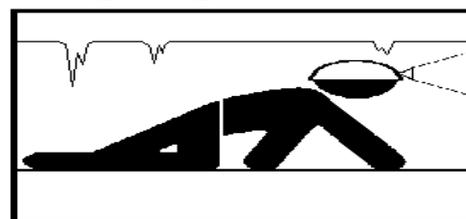
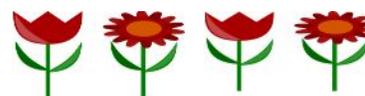
**CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO**
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The April meeting will be Friday, April 8, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Dale and Carol Town.



"I can never remember which is a stalagmite and which is a stalactite."



I just heard that caves are underground!

WHAT BATS TALK ABOUT

Lil 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The April meeting will be Friday, April 8, 2016 at The home of Dale and Carole Town.

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 DESTRUCTANS²:

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 GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2016
at the mansion of Anne Ault

We discussed our recent bat count of Jester Cave and Homestead Cave in the southwest, and Greene's Cathedral in the northwest.

NEW BUSINESS –

Katie Gilies presented a BCI power point show and discussion about the possibility of our gypsum caves becoming a transportation corridor for WNS to the western states. We had a long discussion about the level of information we're willing to share with BCI about the location of western gypsum caves. Sue concluded that she is willing to share township-range-section intel with BCI, but not specific locations. Jon Van Dyke then made the motion that we do so, seconded by Duane, and we voted yes by consensus.

Attendees: Anne, Dale Amlee, Sue and John Bozeman, John Talbot, John Van Dyke and family, Carol and Dale Town, Jon and Kelley Woltz, The Skillful Ogre.

And special attendees because we don't see them often: Becky Hunsinger from New Mexico and Duane Del Vecchio from Texas.

Guest: Katie Gilies, Bat Conservation International (BCI), Tulsa

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:00

OLD BUSINESS –

Jon displayed and explained the beacon that we authorized purchasing last month and how we will be using it.

TREASURER'S REPORT

We concluded the meeting at 10:00



TREASURER'S REPORTS

APRIL, 2016 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME

Dividends 00.02

TOTAL \$ 00.02

CASH ON HAND \$ 172.57

CHECKING \$ 280.82

SAVINGS \$ 2,137.78

TOTAL \$ 2,591.17

EXPENSES

Equipment \$258.94

TOTAL \$258.94

TRIP REPORT

Trip Report: Cherylbad cave survey

Date: March 19, 2016

Cavers: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz, Steve Belev

Report by Dale Amlee



Cave surveys tend to follow a predictable path over time. At first, you explore and survey the nice passages. The ones that are dry, have high ceilings, pretty stuff to look at. Everyone wants to survey those areas. But gypsum caves aren't made of all nice pretty passages. They inevitably have small, little wet muddy crawls

This left us with the little wet muddy sections for last. This is what we were looking forward to on this cool day in March.

that nobody really wants to get into. As it is with Cherylbad cave... after several months of hard surveying, most of the nice / dry portions had been mapped. This left us with the little wet muddy sections for last. This is what we were looking forward to on this cool day in March.

February in Oklahoma was far warmer than normal, and caving was easy, but on this particular March weekend a cold front moved in, driving the overnight temperatures below freezing. We knew from earlier survey efforts on this cave that there were essentially three areas remaining to survey: a dry section (the large room) at the far end of the western arm that might take 45 minutes of crawling just to get there, and probably finish that survey in 1/2 hour; a known wet passage about 1/2 way down that same arm; and a semi-unknown but probably wet survey down at the far southern end of the "main entrance" to this cave. We had explored the "known wet" passage several months ago and knew that it was typically waist deep water through much of it, and we were dreading the plunge into that icy water at this time of

year. But with not much else to choose from, we were steeling ourselves for the inevitable.

The four of us arrived at the ranch house that Saturday morning and quickly donned our cold-weather caving gear. Lots of polypro, layers, good gloves. Once at the cave itself we spent a little time doing some above ground surveys before getting down to the business at hand. We had decided to try pushing the southern end of the main entrance passage. This was one that we suspected was wet, but perhaps wasn't going to be as wet as the other "known wet" arm. As it turned out, we were very lucky. This area (past a very impressive rimstone dam feature) turned out to be only slightly wet, with various intervals of dry passage and relatively dry mudbanks to climb onto. We surveyed for several hours, and only got about knee deep into the water. This area of the cave turned out to be very complicated, with numerous intersecting cracks and crevices between adjacent areas that almost had Sue pulling her hair out trying to draw the map of these regions. We would peer through cracks in the rock into adjacent areas, try to imagine where those areas were compared to other passages, and figure out if there was any way to get into those areas without a wetsuit or maybe even scuba tanks.

After several hours of only slightly wet caving we decided to call it quits, coincidentally when the unmapped passage in front of us no longer afforded us any chance of dry ground. We headed back out to the surface and changed into dryer clothing in the middle of a cold Oklahoma wind.

As a very nice finish to a slightly uncomfortable day, the landowner gifted us with some wonderful Irish themed adult beverages in honor of St. Patty's day, and we headed out to enjoy some hot pizza as a traditional end to a good caving trip.



POTPOURRI

Bat with white-nose syndrome confirmed in Washington

state<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/153ce3967503c9c8>

March 31, 2016

OLYMPIA – White-nose syndrome (WNS) has been confirmed in a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) found near North Bend – the first recorded occurrence of this devastating bat disease in western North America. The presence of this disease was verified by the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center.

WNS has spread quickly among bats in other affected areas, killing more than six million beneficial insect-eating bats in North America since it was first documented nearly a decade ago.

WNS is not known to pose a threat to humans, pets, livestock or other wildlife.

On March 11, hikers found the sick bat about 30 miles east of Seattle near North Bend, and took it to Pro-

gressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) for care. The bat died two days later, and had visible symptoms of a skin infection common in bats with WNS.

PAWS then submitted the bat for testing to the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, which confirmed through fungal culture, molecular and pathology analyses that it had WNS. "We are extremely concerned about the confirmation of WNS in Washington state, about 1,300 miles from the previous westernmost detection of the fungus that causes the disease," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Director Dan Ashe. "Bats are a crucial part of our ecology and provide essential pest control for our farmers, foresters and city residents, so it is important that we

(continued on page 4)

First seen in North America in the winter of 2006/2007 in eastern New York, WNS has now spread to 28 states and five Canadian provinces. USGS microbiologist David Blehert first identified the unknown fungus, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, which causes the disease. WNS is named for the fuzzy white fungal growth that is sometimes observed on the muzzles of infected bats. The fungus invades hibernating bats' skin and causes damage, especially to delicate wing tissue, and physiologic imbalances that can lead to disturbed hibernation, depleted fat reserves, dehydration and death.

"This finding in a far-western location is unfortunately indicative of the challenges we face with the unpredictability of WNS," said Suzette Kimball, director of the USGS. "This underscores the critical importance of our work to develop tools for early detection and rapid response to potentially devastating wildlife diseases."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leads the national WNS response effort, working with state and federal partners to respond to the disease. The Service's National White-nose Syndrome Coordinator Jeremy Coleman said the first step will be to conduct surveillance near where the bat was found to determine the extent of WNS in the area. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for bat management and conservation in Washington and will coordinate surveillance and response efforts.

WDFW veterinarian Katie Haman said the disease is transmitted primarily from bat to bat, although people can carry fungal spores on their clothing, shoes or caving gear.

"The bat found near North Bend most likely had been roused from hibernation and was attempting to feed at a time of very low insect availability," Haman said. "At this point we don't know where the infected bat may have spent the winter, but it seems likely that it was somewhere in the central Cascades."

Haman said Washington state has 15 species of bats that benefit humans by consuming large quantities of insects that can impact forest health and commercial crops.

WDFW advises against handling animals that appear sick or are found dead. If you find dead bats or notice bats exhibiting unusual behavior such as flying outside during the day or during freezing weather, please report your observation online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/wns> or contact the WDFW Wildlife Health Hotline at (800) 606-8768.

To learn more about WNS and access the most updated decontamination protocols and cave access advisories, visit www.whitenosesyndrome.org.

Contact(s):

Katherine Haman, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, katherine.haman@dfw.wa.gov, 360-870-2135
Catherine Hibbard, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, catherine_hibbard@fws.gov, 413-531-4276
Marisa Lubeck, U.S. Geological Survey, mlubeck@usgs.gov, 303-526-6694

Developer sees potential in abandoned cave

Saturday, July 18, 2015

By [Rebelander S. Basilan](#)

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/cebu/lo>

FOR DECADES, a cave near the foot of the old Mactan-Mandaue Bridge served as a place of worship for followers of a religious group.

The cave has been abandoned for years, but remnants of religious activities can still be found inside: broken religious icons, balusters, two well-like structures catching drops of water—believed to be sacred—from stalactites.

An idea has surfaced to develop the cave—located on a property owned by the General Milling Corp. in Sitio Seaside, Barangay Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City—into a new tourist attraction in the city, whose beaches and seas already attract hundreds of thousands of visitors every year.

Pajo Barangay Captain Junard Chan said the private firm that develops the lot raised the idea of turning the cave into an ecotourism site.

"They are going to make the design but they are still collecting ideas," Chan said, referring to the developer of the Mactan Grain Terminal.

Religious site

Because of the cave's history as a place of worship, Chan said the place can be developed into a religious site.

"Maybe we can put up a huge statue of Birhen sa Regla (Virgin of the Rule) outside the cave. But we have to ask for permission from the parish priest," he said.

Chan said they will seek advice from experts of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned agencies.

Abandoned for years, the cave has attracted lovers, martial arts trainees and even drug users, Chan said.

From the ground, two concrete stairways lead into the cave.

Larry Cutamura, 46, who lives near the cave, said there were tales that Datu Lapu-Lapu—the Mactan warrior who killed foreign explorer Ferdinand Magellan in 1521—used to come to the cave to pray.

Cutamura said the cave was used as a place of worship by members of the God of Doctrine Church from 1977 to 2011. A follower of the church who serves as the president of its chapter in Lapu-Lapu City, Cutamura said their group adheres to Roman Catholic doctrines.

Sacred

"*Daghan kaayong mga santos gipamutang diha* (There were several religious icons placed inside the cave)," he said.

The cave, he said, was also a mystical place frequented by traditional healers and even curious foreigners.

Sightings of snakes forced the group to block three passageways leading to as far as Barangay Punta Engaño in Lapu-Lapu City and Barangay Guadalupe in Cebu City, said Cutamura.

He said the place was sacred to them. "*Amo gyud ibilin among sapatos ug tsinelas una mi musulod* (We would remove our shoes and slippers before going in)," he said.

Cutamura said he welcomes the plan to develop the cave into a tourist attraction, but he hopes their group can take part in the process.

Published in the Sun.Star Cebu newspaper on July 19, 2015



Piece of New Mexico history destroyed by vandals, revived by volunteers

By Claire Mena Published: July 8, 2015, 5:50 pm Updated: July 9, 2015, 8:55 am
<http://krqe.com/2015/07/08/piece-of-new-mexico-history-destroyed-by-vandals-revived-by-volunteers>

ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) – The Sandia Man Cave near Albuquerque, which bears petroglyphs and evidence of mammoths, has turned into a place frequented by taggers.

“When you have folks that are coming up and leaving trash and leaving water bottles, clothing and material in the cave that shouldn’t be here, it’s not good,” said Kevin Lorms, Chairman of Sandia Grotto.

There is a lot of history being hidden there by layer after layer of spray paint. The years of vandalism are slowly being wiped away by people who care including members of the cave group, the Sandia Grotto. They have been working nonstop over the last few weeks.

There are petroglyphs still there and ancient hand prints which are faded and covered. Using a special photography process, the team has found and marked them, making sure, as they erase paint, they’re not erasing history.

“There’s plenty of fossils and coral and croinoids and those kind of things,” said Lorms. “The debate is, do we gate this, do we gate the cave and keep people out of it? It’s this close to Albuquerque everyone should come see it.”

“The national speleological society has a motto, it says ‘you take only pictures, you leave only footprints and you kill only time’” said Lorms.

The cave sits above Los Huertas Canyon, half an hour from Albuquerque.

“In here you can see a lot of the formations in the cave and how it was done and there’s plenty of fossils and things that you can see in the wall,” said Lorms.

They date back from 10,000 years and possibly as far as 25,000 years. It was all discovered back in the 1920’s and 30’s.

“They found a lot of bones, of tools, of scrapers, of artifacts, that would lead them to believe this was visited many times,” said Lorms.

The cave has been closed for the cleanup. It should reopen next week.



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SPELEOLOGICAL AND CAVING TERMS BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER ‘H’

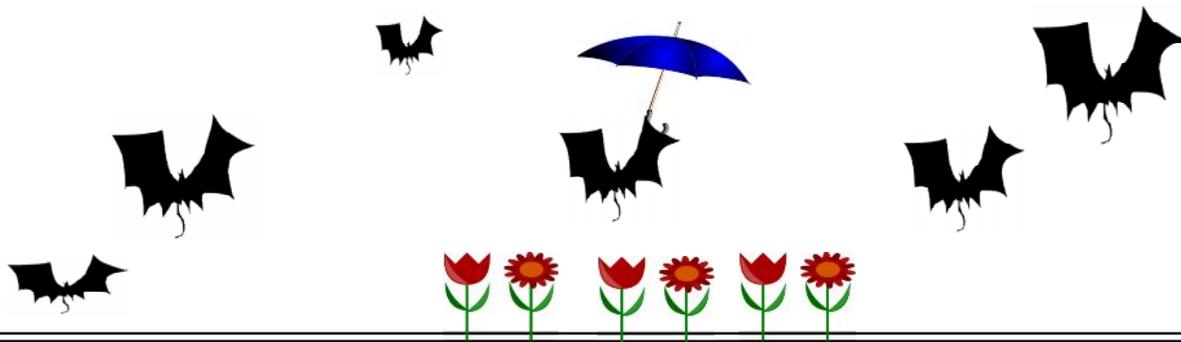
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- HOLOKARST
- HORIZONTAL ANGLE
- HUMIDITY
- HYPOGEAN
- HYPORHEOS



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 Dale and Carole's house,
Friday, April 8, 2016



Central Oklahoma Grotto
Cave Cricket Scratching Print
2119 Holly Oaks Lane #283
Weatherford, TX 76087