



CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements	2
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report for March and May.....	3
Trip Reports	
Cave trip summaries for Cherybad Cavern and Bat count in Greene's Cathedral by Mary Hicks	3
Potpourri	
Lyme Disease-A Growing Concern	4
Determination based on desire to reduce potential disturbance at hibernation sites	4-5
Word Search with terms being with the letters I,J,K by Lil Town	5

The May meeting will be Friday, May 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Dale Amlee.



Cartoons can be found at the following site:
<http://www.angelfire.com/tx2/toons/1999feb.html>



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The May meeting will be Friday, May 13, 2016 at The home of Dale Amlee.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL, APRIL 2016

This is the latest formal revision of the national decontamination protocol to prevent spread of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. This document is the product of a collaborative effort with multiple federal and state agencies and several non-governmental organizations.

Go to this website to view the detailed suggestions listed to help stop the spreading of WNS.

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/news/national-white-nose-syndrome-decontamination-protocol-april-2016>

For the latest information about WNS visit this site:

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

(We also have the document on our COG Website - <http://www.okcavers.com>)

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

April 8, 2016

Hosts: Dale and Carole Town

Members Attending: Dale Amlee, John Van Dyke, John Talbot, Dale and Carole Town, Kelley and Jon Woltz, Duane Del Vecchio, John and Sue Bozeman

Meeting began at 8:30 after a fabulous repast provided by our hosts. We'll not make you drool by telling you what all was available!

Old Business:

1. We received information from BCI, but no one remembers any kind of agreement being transmitted -- like a sample MOU (Memo of Understanding) between BCI and Texas grottoes for our perusal. Duane and Sue will push for a resend if we missed it -- or a transmittal from Katie Gilles, BCI Director of the Imperiled Species Program.

2. We agreed to all read the email from Katie and pose questions in the intervening month, ready to agree or disagree by the next meeting.

New Business:

1. News has just been released of the finding of WNS in Washington state. It has been tested and shown to be an independent infection, not something transferred from the easterly-affected states. Sad news and it presents a quandary to all researchers. There are many unanswered

questions.

2. There was a report of a mastiff in Granfield -- is it or isn't it truly a mastiff? If it is, it's out of range

3. Fires in NW Oklahoma have temporarily displaced some of our landowners. All are safe and most have returned to their homes, but fire has killed several cattle and consumed hundreds of acres of rangeland. Duane is going up to Alabaster on 4/9/16 to attend the Bat Wingding - the annual Bat Education Day -- and is prepared to be turned away by cancellation because of the fire(s). He invited any and all of us to consider attending. It's a way to meet the public and teach a bit about our insect eaters.

Trip Report:

Jon, Dale and Sue told of their most recent Cherylbad Cave trip. The report was in the newsletter, but the mucky funstuff was shared. A postponement until next weekend was agreed on. Fire char is expected throughout the region.

Treasurer's Report:

(By John Talbot)

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Sue Bozeman



TREASURER'S REPORTS

MAY, 2016 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dividends	\$ 00.28	Postage	(\$7.50)
Publication Sale	\$ 32.00	Printing	(\$4.20)
TOTAL	\$ 32.28	TOTAL	(\$11.95)
CASH ON HAND	\$ 160.62		
CHECKING	\$ 312.84		
SAVINGS	\$ 2,138.04		
TOTAL	\$ 2,611.50		

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/5/2016
PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS # 30254RE

TRIP REPORT

CAVE TRIP SUMMARIES FOR CHERYLBAD CAVERN AND BAT COUNT IN GREENE'S CATHEDRAL

Written by Mary Hicks

I had the good fortune of returning briefly to the Central Oklahoma Grotto after spending four years away in Southern California. I got to join the team on two trips: a survey trip to Cherylbad Cavern, and a combination bat count in Greene's Cathedral and quick afternoon survey of Cherylbad.

Getting back underground in gypsum was a thrill and I rediscovered the joys of gypsum caving. The sculpted passages in Cherylbad were beautiful; the form of the cave itself felt like a wonder to behold. Scalloping was everywhere. What caught my attention the most was the beautiful crystalline structure of the cave walls- the walls changed colors constantly, as did the size and shape of the crystals.

What caught my attention the most was the beautiful crystalline structure of the cave walls- the walls changed colors constantly, as did the size and shape of the crystals.

I was continuously pointing out the beautiful things I saw to Dale Amlee as he gave me a rundown of the cave, and he either humored me or appreciated the beauty as well; I think the latter. I was full of questions and we felt the absence of John Bozeman, who would have been able to answer the majority of them. I should have written them down!

I got to do some good caving in California, but missed being in a grotto that's constantly surveying and pushing passage and finding awesome new cave. Hearing about what looked like the end of Cherylbad turning into an upclimb opening into a giant, light-swallowing room was so exciting. On the first survey trip we got to explore the father reaches of the room for what I think

was the first time. There's nothing like the feeling of crawling around in virgin passage not knowing where it'll go or what it'll do.

I loved getting to spend some time up close and personal with our Oklahoma bats. The northwest bat count was on an unusually warm weekend and the bats were very active. I enjoyed their screeching and dislodging themselves and flying around, despite it making the count more difficult. My favorite part of the count was helping Dale extricate a bat that had attached itself very firmly onto the webbing in his helmet, after a mat of bats happened to fall right on Dale's head. On survey trips to Cherylbad I enjoyed seeing the cute little "pips", now tricolor bats, apparently. They are SO tiny and adorable. I also had the pleasure of spotting a big brown bat hanging around.

I'm happy to have had the chance to get underground again with COG. There were a couple of trips and meetings that I was sad to miss due to interviewing for jobs in Austin and other obstacles. I've accepted an offer in Austin and am moving shortly, and wish I had gotten more time with the grotto. Thanks for taking me back for this brief but lovely reunion!



POTPOURRI

LYME DISEASE...A GROWING CONCERN

Information shared by Sue's Cousin, Lynne Goodridge

Having recently had a church member die of misdiagnosed Lyme Disease, and knowing another whose life has been forever changed by its long term effects & complications, I wanted to share this info with you all.

No doubt you have heard that there has been a drastic increase in the number of deer ticks carrying Lyme disease, and that it is no longer confined to heavily wooded areas. They can now be found urban areas & backyards as well. I had no idea of its magnitude until I began to research it...and I would like to do my part to increase awareness & to help keep you all safe!! I have pasted 3 links below for you. One with prevention info, one with basic background info & the other with symptoms & diagnosis.

Please take a few minutes to check it out. In this day & age, the possibility of this occurring is so much greater than many of the other dangers plaguing our world today. This even makes poison ivy look more desirable!!! Awareness is always the first step to prevention & I care too much about you all to allow this to happen to you!! And, please feel free to share with others.

<https://www.lymedisease.org>

<https://www.lymedisease.org/lyme-basics/lyme-disease/about-lyme/>

http://www.tickcounter.org/prevention/top_ten_things_lists/lyme-disease/symptoms/

Determination based on desire to reduce potential disturbance at hibernation sites, habitat requirements of species, and acknowledgement of white-nose syndrome as primary threat

April 25, 2016

Contact(s):

Georgia Parham 812-334-4261 x 1203, Georgia_Parham@fws.gov

Given the nature of the primary threats facing the species and the potential harm of publishing its hibernation locations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that designating critical habitat for the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not prudent. The Service's determination does not affect the bat's threatened status, which it received in 2015 due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease impacting cave-dwelling bats.

Critical habitat is a designation under the ESA for lands that contain habitat features that are essential for the survival and recovery of a listed species, which may require special management considerations or protections. The ESA requires the Service to consider which areas are needed for a species' recovery and to designate critical habitat accordingly, unless it determines that doing so is not prudent for the species.

In making its determination, the Service conducted an in-depth analysis of the bat's seasonal habitat needs, which include mines and caves for hibernation in winter and forested areas for roosting and raising young in summer. Because designating critical habitat requires identification of specific tracts of land, the Service determined it is not prudent to designate hibernation sites as critical habitat. Doing so would increase the risk of vandalism and disturbance to bats at hibernation sites and

could hasten the spread of white-nose syndrome.

For the bat's summer habitat, the Service determined that designating critical habitat would not benefit the species. Northern long-eared bats use a wide variety of forested areas in summer to find food and raise their young and are highly flexible in how they meet these needs. As such, there are no specific physical habitat features essential to its conservation. In addition, the bat's summer habitat is not limited or in short supply, habitat loss is not a predominant threat, and there are no areas that meet the definition of critical habitat.

"While critical habitat has a fundamental role to play in recovering many of our nation's most imperiled species, in the case of the northern long-eared bat, whose habitat is not a limiting factor in its survival, designating it could do more harm than good," said Tom Melius, the Service's Midwest Regional Director. "Today's finding will ensure we don't put the bat at greater risk by drawing people to its hibernation sites. It also enables the Service and our partners to focus our efforts where they clearly can do the most good, finding a solution to the primary threat of white-nose syndrome."

In the United States, the northern long-eared bat is found from Maine to Alabama on the Atlantic Coast, westward to eastern Oklahoma and north through the Dakotas, reaching into eastern Montana and Wyoming. The species is also found in Canadian provinces from the Atlantic Ocean west to the southern Yukon Territory and eastern British Columbia. Bats are critical to the nation's ecology and provide billions of dollars in economic benefit to farmers and foresters through the consumption of tons of insects nightly. Since its discovery in New York State in the winter of 2006-2007, white-nose syndrome or the causative fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus de-*

(continued on page 5)

structans) has spread to 32 states and five Canadian provinces, killing more than 5.7 million cave- or mine-hibernating bats.

The Service's determination can be found in the April 27, 2016, *Federal Register*. For more information on the northern long-eared bat, go to <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nleb/index.html>. For more information about white-nose syndrome, visit <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>.

water on which they depend for habitat. The ESA has saved more than 99 percent of the species listed from the brink of extinction and has served as the critical safety net for wildlife that Congress intended when it passed the law 40 years ago. The Obama Administration has delisted more species due to recovery than any other administration: those species include the Oregon chub, Virginia northern flying squirrel and brown pelican.

The ESA is an essential tool for conserving the nation's most at-risk wildlife, as well as the land and

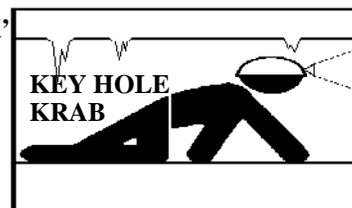


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**SPELEOLOGICAL AND CAVING TERMS
BEGINNING WITH THE LETTERS 'I', 'J' AND 'K'**

ICE CAVE
 IGNEOUS ROCK
 INFLOW CAVE
 INORGANIC
 INVERTEBRATE
 JOINT

JOINT PLAIN CAVE
 JUG-HANDLE
 JUMAR
 KARABINER
 KARRIN
 KARST



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.co>

The MAY meeting will be
At Dale Amlee's house,
Friday, May 13, 2016.



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