CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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Google Meet
Friday, January 12, 2024
At 8:00 central time
Becky will send you an invitation

See you Friday evening online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*No trips planned at the present time.

*Next meeting is January 12, 2024 on Google Meet.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO MEETING,
DECEMBER 8, 2023

In attendance: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Becky Hunsinger—virtual meeting facilitator, John Talbot, Lil Town, Dale and Carol Town, John, Tammy, and Andew Van Dyke, Steve Beleu.

Presiding: His Majesty Dale Amlee
Start time: 8:08

OLD BUSINESS

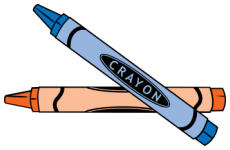
Dale Amlee reported that he has had no contact with Mr. Vogt about his caves, nor has he organized any caving trips to the Pearl Cave area.

Becky reported that she has had no contact with the Pecos Valley Grotto.

NEW BUSINESS

John Van Dyke proposed that we conduct bat count on January 27 to Jester Cave; more at our next meeting. He noted that Jester is a dry cave these days.

I proposed a "fun trip" to Blanchard Springs Caverns this spring. This cave is near the town of Fifty Six down in the Arkansas. We would take their wild cave tour, which I took in 2012. I will report much more about this proposed journey, and an additional visit to a wild cave in this area, at our next meeting.
TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Emeritus John Talbot delivered his report unto us.



Meeting ended 8:58

Report by S. Beleu, Secretary and Sergeant at Underarms

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL, September 2018

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/static-page/decontamination-information

Wildlife Health Bulletin 2022-01
National Wildlife Health Center
Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director
January 31, 2022

Winter 2021/2022 Bat Submission Guidelines and Highlights of the 202/2021 White-Nose Syndrome Surveillance Season

Summary

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center has released updated guidance for bat diagnostic submissions for the 2021/2022 white-nose syndrome (WNS) surveillance season.

During the 2020/2021 surveillance season, WNS was detected for the first time in Wyoming and Montana, increasing the number of states where WNS has been confirmed to 37.

Field testing of several vaccine candidates to prevent WNS in susceptible bat species is ongoing, and field vaccination has proven to be safe in WNS susceptible animals.

Updated guidance from the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) is now available for bat diagnostic submissions for the 2021/2022 white-nose syndrome (WNS) surveillance season. These guidelines are posted on the NWHC WNS web page and replace all previous NWHC bat submission criteria.

TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2023 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME		EXPENSES
Dividends	$ 0.19	
TOTAL	**$ 0.19**	
CASH	$ 106.05	
CHECKING	$ 112.41	
SAVINGS	$ 1,434.07	**PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254**
TOTAL	**$ 1,652.53**	

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
2023
TREASURERS'S REPORT

1/01/2023

BANK BALANCE	**$**	**1,778.69**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**106.05**
TOTAL	**$**	**1,884.74**

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.84	Printing	$	159.01
			Postage	$	74.04
Donations	$	3.00			
TOTAL	**$**	**0.84**		**$**	**233.05**

12/31/2023		
BANK BALANCE	**$**	**1,546.48**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**106.05**
TOTAL	**$**	**1,652.53**

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254

TRIP REPORTS

No Trip Reports this month

POTPOURI

Cave creature — with transparent fins — found swimming in China. It's a new species

BY ASPEN PFLUGHOEFT
DECEMBER 01, 2023 2:52 PM
https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/article282561958.html#storylink=cpy

Scientists found an "elongated" animal with transparent fins swimming in Xīniú cave and discovered a new species, a study said. In the shadowy waters of a cave in China swam an "elongated" creature. The scaly animal glided along the stony ground with see-through fins. Passing scientists spotted the cave-dweller — and discovered a new species. Researchers first visited the Xīniú cave in southwestern China as part of a wildlife survey in January and February, according to a study published Nov. 28 in the journal ZooKeys. This region is a "well known ... hotspot of biodiversity." Xīniú cave is a "vertical cave," about 160 feet long, and fed by an underground river, the study said. Those living in the nearby village use it as a "source of domestic water."

While surveying the cave, researchers said they found 11 fish with transparent fins living inside. The fish turned out to be a new species: Balitora anlongensis, or the Anlong stone loach. Anlong stone loaches have an "elongated" body and can reach about 2.4 inches in length, the study said. They have "blunt" heads, small eyes and "short" snouts with eight whisker-like barbels around their mouths. It has a sleek, brown body and see-through fins. This coloring seems to blend in with the cave's rocky ground.

Researchers said they named the new species after the area where it was discovered, Anlong County. This county is in Guizhou province and about 1,100 miles southwest of Shanghai. So far, Anlong stone loaches have been found only in Xīniú cave, the study said.

The new species was identified by its whisker-like barbels and its fin size, arrangement and color, the study said. DNA analysis found the new species had a "large" genetic divergence, between about 7% and about 12% divergence, from other stone loaches. The research team included Tao Luo, Zhi-Xia Chen, Xin-Rui Zhao, Jing Yu, Chang-Ting Lan, Jia-Jun Zhou, Ning Xiao and Jiang Zhou.

5 people rescued after being trapped in Slovenia cave for 55 hours

By Bill Hutchinson
January 8, 2024, 10:52 AM
http://abcnews.go.com/International /efforts-underway-rescue-5-people-trapped-s;pvemoa-cave/story?id=106171015

Rescuers said they are contending with low visibility inside the cave and near-freezing water temperatures.

Five people, including three from the same family, were rescued Monday from a cave in southwestern Slovenia after spending 55 hours trapped by rising water in the subterranean labyrinth, officials said.

The successful rescue operation unfolded at the Krizna Jama cave when six highly experienced divers were able to extract the stranded party from the cave at about 3:05 p.m. local time, Sandi Curk, commander of the Regional Civil Protection Headquarters for the Notranjska Region, told ABC News.

All five people, including two parents and their adult child, emerged from the cave in good shape and without the need for medical treatment, Curk said.

Rescue efforts had been underway since Saturday morning when the three family members, all from Slovenia, and their two guides went missing during a tour of the cave's myriad lakes, officials said. The group became marooned when torrential rains caused water levels to rise in the cave, cutting off exit routes, officials said.

Curk said heavy rain in the area caused the cave's lakes to rise, stranding the tour group about 1 1/2 miles from the entrance to the cave.

Rescuers waited until the water level receded to extract the group, according to Curk.

On Saturday evening, rescue divers located the group and moved them to a safe area where they could set up heated tents, officials said.

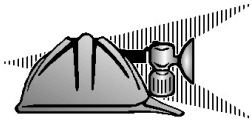
Another team of divers on Sunday delivered food, drinking water and warm clothes to the marooned cave explorers, and checked on their psychological state,

Curk told ABC News. A doctor, who is also a licensed diver, examined all five people and was satisfied with their condition.

During the rescue, divers contended with low visibility inside the cave and near-freezing water temperatures, Curk said.

Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), 6001 Pulaski Pike, Huntsville, AL, 35810-1122 USA. Phone (256)852-1300. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. publishes 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 an SASE with submission. All materials in this newsletter are available for reproduction, provided proper credit is given with the article when you print it. Trade publications are welcomed. *Cave softly and safely!*

Friday
January 12, 2024
There will be a virtual meeting.
See you online!



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