CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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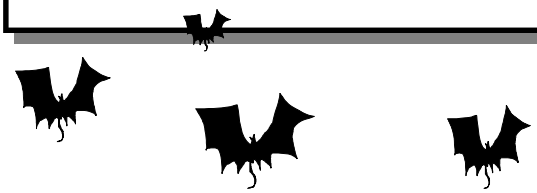
The Sept. meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, June 10, 2010. at the home of the Woltz's



Here is a brief summary of the letter that was written to Dr. Caire about the 75 mile restriction and his reply.

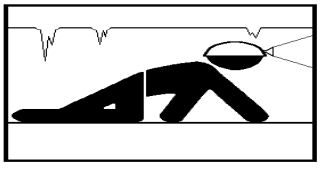
The COG questions the 75 mile radius restriction on caving proximity to a known WNS site. It worries us that such an arbitrary limit will prevent us from knowing if the bats in Broken Horn Cave have contracted WNS!

We have been give the 'go-ahead' to cleanse ourselves and our equipment per the Fish and Wildlife parameters, so we may continue our survey of Broken Horn. We will comply, readily.

Dr. Caire's response to our grotto email:

I do not have anything to do with the limits the USFWS set. They informed me verbally of that mileage when I was in Tulsa a couple of weeks ago. I do not understand the mileage either. As you indicated, it is the ODWC's call on the cave you are surveying. I cannot recall having been in it or knowing where it is. But I am getting old and it has been a while since I went looking for caves other than those at the SLL and Vickery. We have already instituted decontamination procedures for all of our cave work and we have shut the SLL caves down at least temporarily until we know more about what is going on with G.d. and WNS in Oklahoma. I am still a bit perplexed as to how it spread this far and there is nothing between this record and those to the east – a couple hundred miles. Then again it could possibly be in some other caves and we just do not know about it yet.

Please keep me posted as COG learns more.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The 7:30 Sept. meeting will be, Friday, 10, at the Woltz's house,

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the June 11, 2010 meeting

Host: the home of Duane Del Vecchio

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, Jeremiah and John Van Dyke, Kelley and Jon Woltz, and S. Beleu

Master Charcoaler Duane--he's certified to conduct grilling operations to ISO 9000 standards--grilled burgers and weiner dogs for us and had many other foodicular items for us to consume. He also encouraged us to harvest potatoes, onions, and lettuce from the garden o' plenty in his back-yard.

TIME THE MEETING BEGAN: 8:33

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS –

1. We talked about the possibility of WNS coming to the caves of northwest Oklahoma in more than just the one specimen that has tested positive for it. Jon said that the best way for us to check on the possible spread of WNS in our caves it to continue to cave and conduct bat count.
2. Duane told us that our website is paid for through July 30, 2012. As usual his gracious nature refused to be reimbursed for paying the website fees that make this possible.
3. We talked about the August "fun trip" to Horseshow Valley Cave. There might be a fatality.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Talbot gave his report.

TIME THE MEETING ENDED: 9:00

After the meeting we returned to eating and drinking. Wahoo!

TREASURER'S REPORTS

August, 2010

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	$ 0.15	TRAINING	$ 600.00
TOTAL	**$ 0.15**	**TOTAL EXPENSES**	**$ 600.00**
CASH ON HAND	$ 192.49		
CHECKING	$ 1,059.38		
SAVINGS	$ 2,110.57	PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT #30254RE	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/7/09	**$ 3,362.44**		

TRIP REPORTS

There hasn't been any trip reports because no one has been in a cave! Hopefully things will work out that folks will be able to cave the 3rd Friday in September.

POTPOURRI

Those that fall up through the sky

Steve Beleu, June 22, 2010

1
Swooping down nine feet in front of me
The bat catches in its wings a firefly
So swiftly that where I expected to see it
Only light flashes away from me
As it rises into the early night wind.
But the bat is long gone, disappearing
Then is back already and catching in its wings
Other fireflies as it feasts in a circle around me.

No bird flies like this, changing direction
Rapidly as human thought changes.

Perhaps after human life no longer dominates
This human-scarred planet or exists hidden
Anywhere these bats will become not only
The rulers of the sky but the dominant species
Of the night as they hunt among the ruins
We'll leave splattered across our battlefields,

Good breeding grounds for vermin, source of meat
For the millions of bats that will roost here.

2
Symbol of happiness in China, we know their philosophers
Believed the perpetual smile on bats, even in hibernation
That we know as a natural feature of their physiology
Evidence that bats rejoice in their lives of hunting and killing
And that their claws turned up as they sleep support
Not only their cave ceilings but Earth itself and not as a symbol
But as the real strength of bats everywhere and that whoever
Doubted this was a heretic, an unbeliever, and a graceless creature.
3
Life above, death below in the maternity cave.
young bats hang from their mothers and later
From the ceiling, but should they fall immediately
They're surrounded by parasites and eaten,
Only their bones left on the floor. In the wager
Between death and life those bones are dice
That won't be played again: playing themselves
They rolled the wrong number and lost and lay there
Being dissolved and absorbed by the cave
That eats them. So we realize this: the cave of life
Is no philosophic symbol but life itself living, growing, dying,
And that each bat has a fate different from each other
As we also each have a fate different from each other.

4
"No, that's no raincloud rising up from the damp soil
But a million bats flowing into the night to eat.
Those grey clouds are swift wings, alert ears,
Razor teeth flashing open and shut as they feast."

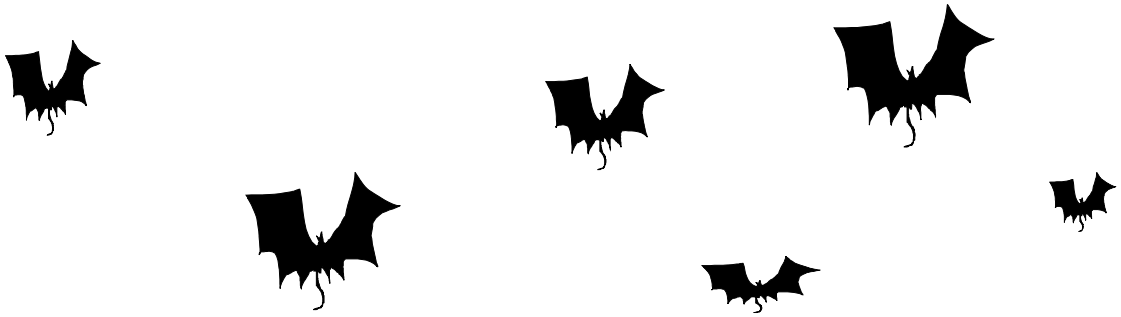
"No, that's no thunderstorm hurtling down from the north
But bats returning to roost after their night's feast,
Bellies swollen with insects; and that's why
Every bat we see seems to be smiling as it thrusts
Its feet up onto the cave's ceiling so their claws catch
And they dream about the coming return of night
That floods down from the dark sky of space beyond Earth."

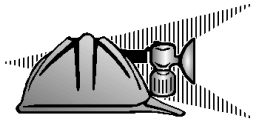
"No, that's no tornado knifeblading through a sky
Torn apart by wild clouds but bats returning home
From a night of filling their teeth and bellies full,
Already sleepy as the earth grinds into dawn
And insects that survived the hunter's onslaught
Rest in the hours of the day to awake at sundown
And perhaps survive and perhaps not."

5
When you can't hear the bats coming
They've already passed by you and are gone
Flying so swiftly they leave behind them
Minuscule vacuums that air rushes into
That last only a fraction of a millisecond.

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 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, Oklahoma, 73521. All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil or Dale Town, 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK 73521: Telephone: (580)477-4027: E-mail: oklmt@cableone.net. 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!*

The September meeting will be at Jon's house, Friday, September 10, 2010.





Central Oklahoma Grotto
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