CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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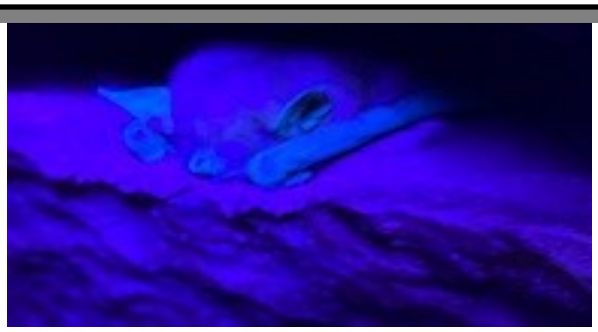
The Next Meeting will be on Friday February 14, 2020 7:30 p.m. at the home of John VanDyke.



An Ultraviolet picture of a myotis in Jester

C.O.G. cavers swabbing myotis for presence of White Nose Syndrome: Top Left Clockwise: Sue, Jon, Bats, Andrew, & John

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The Next meeting will be Friday, February 14, 2020 at home of John VanDyke..

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

MEETING PLACES FOR 2020

Feb - John Van Dyke	June - The Skillful Ogre	October - Bozeman
March - Bozies	July/August no meetings	Dec - Bozeman – Christmas Party
April - Dale Amlee	Sept - Jon Woltz	
May - John Van Dyke	Nov - John Van Dyke	

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2020 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES	
Dues	$	36.00	**POSTAGE**	$ 65.55
TOTAL	$	36.00	**PRINTING**	$ 78.96
CASH ON HAND	$	106.05	**TAX**	$ 0.51
CHECKING	$	81.74	**TOTAL**	**$151.02**
SAVINGS	$	1,916.13		
TOTAL	**$**	**2,103.93**		

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS#3054RE 1/13/2020

END OF THE YEAR TREASURERS'S REPORT

1/1/2019

Bank Balance	**$**	**2,208.99**
Cash on Hand	**$**	**16.05**
TOTAL	**$**	**2,225.04**

INCOME			EXPENSES	
Dues	$	202.00	**POSTAGE**	$ 65.55
Dividends	$	1.14	**NEWSLETTER PRINTING**	$ 76.96
			DONATION	$ 100.00
			FLOWERS	$ 109.23
			TAX	$ 6.51
TOTAL	**$**	**203.14**	**TOTAL**	**$ 360.25**
BANK BALANCE	$	1,997.88		
CASH ON HAND	$	70.05		
TOTAL	**$**	**2067.93**		

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS#3054RE 1/13/2020

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO MEETING
Date of meeting: January 10, 2020

Host; John Talbot
Attendees: John Talbot, John Van Dyke, Jason Talbot, Dale Amlee, John and Sue Bozeman, S. Beleu
Guest: Crystal Warren
Start: Supreme Potentate Amlee began the meeting at 7:49

OLD BUSINESS

We discussed the possible dates to take our fun trip to the salt mine in Kansas and chose the first week of August for this 2-day trip.

NEW BUSINESS

1. We talked about the pending bat counts north and south.
2. Sue talked about ending our current website and beginning a new, cheaper Facebook website. We will ask our web guru Duane Del Vecchio to be the lead officer for this endeavor. John Van Dyke volunteered to work with him in technical matters regarding this transfer to Facebook. She also wants for COG to reimburse him for his spending on our current and now overpriced website, with which we all agreed without vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT - John Talbot gave his report.
I forgot to write down when we ended our meeting.

TRIP REPORT

Jester Bat Count 2020, pretrip report
Date: February 1, 2020
January 18, 2020
Written by Duane DelVecchio

Howdy y'all! Good news and bad news on the Jester Bat Count this year.

Location: Same ol' parking lot (if you need directions, give Duane a holler)
Time: 11:00 a.m. (We start walking at 11!!)
Good news: Once again Ron Harris (owner of the property) is allowing us on his land (and cave). Talked to Jim Heatly (his ranch hand on the property) and he is aware of us being on property that day too. Other good news? We were able to obtain testing swabs for WNS again this year. USGS is limiting testing to only 50 sites across the USA. Oklahoma applied for three 'exceptions' to that ruling and won three kits out of it. They will be used in Selman, Jester, and a cave up in NE Oklahoma (All of which are right next door to WNS sites but have been negative in past results).
Bad news: As of this e-mail, I have still not been able to get hold of the new property owner. Sent an intro letter in December and a more urgent letter this week asking for permission to enter his property. Unless he responds, we will not be going in the entrances of Jester for the 2nd-part of the bat count. Jim Heatly does not know the people that well either and couldn't help and owner Ron doesn't know them at all. Just keep fingers crossed that this letter (which should get to him by this weekend) is answered yea or nay.
Either way: The annual after bat count event at Lugi's in Blair is still on! <grin>

Anybody that wants to be part of the trip, give me a holler. We will all have to sign a waver (like past years) for Ron Harris. I will have that on site.

Green's Cathedral Bat Count 2020
Date: January 18, 2020
Personnel: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Jon Woltz, Steve Beleu
Written bu Sue Bozeman

2019:	6382	myotis	4	pips/tricolor
2020:	5562	myotis	7	pips/tricolor

Warm and dry this winter. Temperatures 38-40 inside. External temperatures 33-45.

Thursday's ice and Friday's rains had made the unpaved county section lines mucky, soupy and treacherous. We did the road to Green's, but forwent the attempt to get to The Grotto Cave for survey. The day was sunny, cold and windy.

Picture taken by Jon Woltz in Green's Cathedral 2020

Jester Bat Count 2020—Part I
Date: February 1, 2020
Personnel: Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, Andrew & John VanDyke, Jon Woltz
Report by Duane Del Vecchio

We all met in our usual prairie parking lot, donned the gear and headed to the cave about 11 a.m. Our goal today was to do just the south of Jester Cave as the new owners at the northern side had not responded to our letters for permission, so we were not going to trespass on their property. Sue and John had actually driven to their house in a last-minute ditch effort to obtain permission, but no one was at him. This was kind of hard to swallow as 30 years of data getting messed up when we could only do half of the cave. But it was so, and we made the best of it. Nice thing about the trip was there was no rush to get this done as we didn't have the other side to also do.

We got to the entrance and found out our 'steppingstone' to get into the cave itself at the small pond crossing was gone… it was in the pond! This made getting in much more difficult than usual. Once we were got in, we took temps of the air, dirt, and soil along with the relative humidity at the entrance. We entered at 11:50. The cave was a bit drier than in the past. Starting in the twilight zone was when we encountered small groups of bats. John ran book while Sue, Jon and Andrew counted. Since we had adequate number of counters, Duane was able to take lots of pictures for the biologists that look at them afterwards. We saw no signs of any WNS. Duane even brought a UV light which we played with seeing the grafitii in a 'new light'! (It glows in a phosphoresce brightness!) We finally had a mat that was a bit larger than 1-foot x 1-foot so we took a packing density. That number came out to be 225. We finally got to the big room next to Pip Hall and the water was way down. Even in the deepest part it was only to the knees. Everyone crossed on the west bank for the first time in many years! The room was almost void of tricolors. Usually we get most of our count for this section of the cave right here, this time there was only four to be found. Pip Hall was also just about void of tricolors. Duane set up shop at the usual junction getting ready to swab tricolors while the rest of the group continued on to the rest area where we stop the count. After a while Duane noticed that the voices were gone and went to investigate. They had moved pass the rest area and were working back into the main passage. (lots of crawling and hunching over). D called them back as our data from at least the past 15 years had stopped at the rest area and we didn't need to skew the data any more than possible along with not doing the North side. We took a break at the rest area then started swabbing tricolors. John and Andrew were one team and Sue and Jon were the other. Duane kept book for the swabbing. We got our minimum ten Tricolors (it was pretty difficult to find ten) and then went into the main passage to get the last 15 in myotis. We completed the swabbing, packed up and left the cave at 2:10. It was about 50 degrees when we went in and an awesome 70 when we came out! We were definitely over dressed for the hike back!

We got back, changed out of wet, muddy shoes and clothes, and jumped into the cars and headed for Blair for the celebratory bat count victory dinner at Lugi's. But wait, here's the fun part! We were about 40 minutes on our way, Blair just about in site when Jon flashes his lights and we all pull over to the side of the road. Sue got a call from husband John who said the landowners on the north just called and gave their permission! Whoo hoo! But then we looked at each other, looked at the time, and thought, it would be 45 minutes back to the area, 20 minute walk in, another 2 hours in the cave, walk back out… it was already 3:30 p.m. AND all of our wet gear was already in trash bags and we were in clean clothes. (That was the part that kinda pushed us over the edge – we really didn't relish getting into wet, COLD, soggy gear again) Plus, John V. said he was hungry <grin> so we all agreed and the decision was to do north Jester on the 3rd weekend that is usually reserved for survey trips. Onward to a great calzone and after count discussions at the table. Fun trip and had a good time!

Final Counts Resurgence:

Myotis 6,877 – Tricolor 29

POTPOURRI

We Need Your Help to Save Cyclops Cave

Amber Lehmann

Hello Fellow Cavers,

I am writing to ask for YOUR help to save Cyclops cave in Virginia. We have until May 1, 2020 to raise $150,000 to purchase and protect Cyclops Cave in Russell County, Virginia. Recently, cavers have discovered trash, broken formations, disturbed rigging, and graffiti in the cave. Cyclops deserves better and with your help, SCCi can save Cyclops. We have received pledges from RASS and other organizations and hope you can ask the same of your grotto and its members.

To date, the cave has been surveyed to 7.1 miles ranking it #126 on the US longest cave list and #11 on the Virginia longest cave list. You can go to savecylops.org to help us reach our goal to save this beautiful cave. Please feel free to share this news with your members and friends.

Cyclops contains sporting climbs, tight spots, borehole, and miles of passage. There are outstanding formations and a lot of photographic potential. Cyclops has the possibility of holding additional surprises in the way of unsurveyed passage.

Protecting and providing caver access to Cyclops will give additional cavers a chance to visit this resource. SCCi has more than 25 years' experience balancing conservation with recreation. Please help us save Cyclops today!

savecyclops.org
Amber Lehmann
Board Director/Marketing Manager
Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc.
337-501-3278 - Cell

At SCCi, we protect and preserve caves through conservation, education, and recreation. When caves are safeguarded, fragile ecosystems are protected, historic artifacts are preserved, and endangered species thrive.

About The Hot Springs Vapor Caves

https://yampahspa.com/caves/

The Yampah Spa Vapor Caves are natural underground hot mineral water steam baths located in the historic hot springs mountain retreat of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Hot mineral waters flow through the cave floors at 125 degrees F. to create our natural geothermal steam baths. The Vapor Caves consist of three adjoining underground rock chambers. Visitors descend a stairway inside the main building and pass through a stone corridor into the caves. An atmosphere of well-being pervades throughout the soothing stillness of the caves. Relax on slab marble benches in the rocky alcoves, and inhale the natural steam vapor in the warm, dimly lit cave chambers. Stress and tension melt away effortlessly. Cave temperatures average 110 -112 degrees F., allowing repeated visits of 10-12 minutes separated by brief rests in a nearby cooling room, or upstairs in the spacious solarium. Cold water and small tubs are also available for cooling off in the caves.

The hot springs source is in the hillside behind the spa. The natural, untreated therapeutic water contains 34 minerals and trace elements, and is especially high in sulfate, nitrate, zinc and potassium. The hot springs water flows through the caves at a simmering 125 degrees F. by way of narrow, shallow channels. Visitors to the 120 year old Yampah Spa and Vapor Caves continue to experience a long tradition of healing and rejuvenation. The caves and a wide range of excellent spa treatments combine to purify body and spirit as they soothe away aches and pains.

In addition to the Vapor Caves, we now offer a full range of contemporary health and beauty treatments: massage, facials, herbal body treatments, private natural mineral baths and salon services. Yampah Spa Vapor Caves are easily accessible from Interstate 70, we're located just east of the Hot Springs Lodge and Pool complex.

The Historic Vapor Caves are open everyday except Thanksgiving and Christmas from 9am to 9pm. You do not need a reservation to use the caves, but it is highly recomended You may click here to go to our reservations page, or call us at 970-945-0667. And be sure to check our monthly special page for this month's treatment package special.

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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**

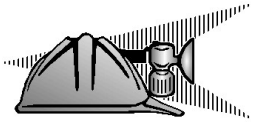
2020 National Park of American Samoa Collection

Web Site Address:

https://catalog.usmint.gov/enrollments/america-the-beautiful-quarters-program/?cm_mmc=ExactTarget-_-Campaign-_-20200128P2EATBNationalParkSamoa_Lapsed-_-Hero

The America the Beautiful Quarters® Program coin celebrating the National Park of American Samoa features a unique design that's as charming as it is significant. The coin's reverse imagery, which showcases a Samoan fruit bat mother hanging in a tree with her pup, also raises awareness of the Samoan fruit bat's status as a threatened species. A wonderful gift for America the Beautiful Quarters collectors and animal-lovers young and old, the collection includes a selection of rolls and bags, a five-ounce silver uncirculated coin,

The February meeting will be Friday, February 14, 2020 At John VanDyke's.



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