CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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Google Meet
Friday, May 12, 2023
At 8:00 p.m. central time
Becky will send you an invitation

HAPPY SPRING!
See you Friday evening online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*No trips planned at the present time.
*Next meeting is May 12, 2023 on Google Meet. Becky will send out invitations.

You can register to attend the 2023 NSS CONVENTION IN ELKINS, WEST VIGINIA , June 26-30, 2023 AT
Convention Registration – National Speleological Society (caves.org)

Celebration of Life for Jean Ellis, age 83, of Mangum, Oklahoma will be at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, April 20, 2023, at the Red River Cowboy Church, 1001 N. Byers Avenue, Mangum, Oklahoma. Jean was married to Rance Ellis, owner of the land where we survey caves in southwest Oklahoma. She will be missed.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO MEETING, APRIL 14, 2023

In attendance: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Becky Hunsinger—virtual meeting facilitator, Lil Town, Noah Zinn, Steve Beleu.
Presiding: His Royal Majesty Dale Amlee
Start time: 8:10
FIRST AND FOREMOST! COG returned to caving last month! We honor the surveying team whose trip report you must read in this newsletter! Hooray!
OLD BUSINESS
Andrew and John Van Dyke were caving and camping in Alabaster Caverns on the very night of our meeting!
NEW BUSINESS
1. Noah discussed a caving trip that he made to Alabaster last month. He also reported that our survey team of he, Dale, and Jon will survey in Grotto Cave this month.
2. Becky noted that she and Mark will journey unto Carlsbad Caverns in June with their grandchildren. While there she will contact cave staff to find out more about their formal tours and will also ask about the possibility of our doing restoration work in the cave as directed by cave staff.
3. Sue reported that she's up to date with her mapping work of Grotto Cave as surveyed so far and that it has been digitized by Jon.
TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Emeritus John Talbot didn't attend to deliver his report.
Meeting ended 8:40
Report by S. Beleu, Secretary

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

APRIL 2023 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME		**EXPENSES**
Dividends	$ 0.01	
TOTAL	**$ 0.01**	
CASH	$ 106.05	
CHECKING	$ 341.89	
SAVINGS	$ 1,433.53	
TOTAL	**$ 1,881.47**	

5/8/2023

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report for April 22, 2023 -- Grotto Cave, maybe
Cavers: Dale Amlee, Jon Woltz, Noah Zinn
Written by Dale Amlee

Since this was only our second cave trip to the northeast part of Oklahoma after our long Covid-induced dry spell, we had a light schedule planned. Noah was still new to caving, so we needed to introduce him to the survey gear that we used for caving. This trip was also going to be part exploration, since there were a few sinkholes with possible entrances to the east of Grotto cave that had not really been pushed.

These sinks were far enough from the Grotto cave, at least the furthest east end of Grotto that we had mapped, that there was a possibility they were not really part of Grotto at all.

Noah and I drove to Jon's house early Saturday morning, and the three of us drove up to Alabaster caverns to change into our gear. The weather was a bit cool still. When we got to the cave area, the gate that led into the landowner's property had new locks on it, and we lacked the necessary keys. Not a real problem though, since the cave entrances that we were interested in were only a short walk from there anyway.

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Before hopping the fence, though, we decided to do some poking into various sinks that sat a little bit northeast of the gate. What we found were numerous steep-sided sinks clustered together in a small area, and we did find one opening that was enterable. We climbed into the new entrance, and found quite a jumble of breakdown boulders going every which way. There were no large areas, everything was tight and twisty. We continued into this cave probably only about 30 or 40 feet, but it took several minutes just to go that far.

There was a water passage down below our feet under the breakdown, but it looked very difficult to get to. Generally speaking it looked as if the water left the area going roughly southwards.

After we finished scoping out the interior, we turned around to leave, and realized we had lost track of the entrance. We were lost. It was a very small area, but with the tight breakdown boulders all looking the same from every direction, it took us about ten minutes before we finally located the entrance and left this spot.

Now we hopped the fence, and walked to the larger entrance that we had visited the previous month. Just for now, we're tentatively calling this Wellpad cave, but that's just intended to be temporary until someone can think up a better name.

Since this was a new survey, we sat outside of the entrance for a while, collected a GPS point, and taught Noah how to use our survey gear. Pretty simple stuff still, just compass, inclinometer, and laser distance meter. Jon chose to do book, and Noah and I did backshots/foreshots. Noah picked up the survey techniques very quickly, and most of our shots agreed within about 1-1/2 degrees with very little need to re-do shots.

Once we started to map this cave, I realized it was larger than I remembered. It went more or less straight in generally to the south-ish, with a fairly large open area with about a 20 foot ceiling, and then the cave branched out left and right to follow the water course.

The water seemed to enter the cave in a small pool on the northeast point of the cave, and left the cave in roughly a southwest direction. The water level was perhaps ten feet below the rest of the cave, so we had to climb down and kneel in the wet gravel to do the last shots to see which direction the water was going. There was one area going high up that Noah had started to explore the previous month, but by the time we finished shooting the water course, we were all fairly worn out, hungry, and agreed to leave a little bit to finish up on a later survey trip.

We got out of the cave while it was still daylight and decided to head out for pizza. We managed to leave without getting a flat tire! Yay! That was considered an improvement over the previous caving trip. When Jon tallied up the survey book, he found that we had surveyed 261 feet!

POTPOURI

Spanish woman emerges after spending 500 days living alone in cave

Fri 14 Apr 2023 11.17 EDT

Spanish woman emerges after spending 500 days living alone in cave | Spain | The Guardian

After spending 500 days alone in a dark cave 70 metres below the Earth's surface, assailed by a plague of flies and the odd tantalizing vision of roast chicken, most people would be craving a wash and some company.

But after emerging from her subterranean lair in southern Spain a little after 9am on Friday and having a quick checkup with a doctor and a psychologist, Beatriz Flamini was treated instead to a 50-minute press conference in which she endeavored to explain the almost inexplicable.

"I was expecting to come out and have a shower," she told the room full of reporters. "I wasn't expecting there to be so much interest." That was one of Flamini's rare miscalculations.

On Saturday 20 November 2021 – three months before Russia invaded Ukraine – the elite sportswoman and extreme mountaineer entered her Stygian lodgings in the cave outside Granada, determined to learn more about how the human mind and body can deal with extreme solitude and deprivation.

Monitored by a team of scientists from the universities of Almería, Granada and Murcia, who kept in touch through special, limited messaging technology, the 50-year-old athlete from Madrid is now thought to have broken the world record for the longest time a person has spent alone in a cave.

Flamini told the media that she had lost track of time after day 65. Asked how she had succeeded in keeping herself sane for so long, Flamini pointed to her extensive experience and mental preparation, adding: "I got on very well with myself."

Yes, she had talked to herself – but never out loud. After all, the silence of the cave ("it wasn't my

(Continued on page 4)

house") had to be respected. The key, she added, was consistency.

"For me at least, as an elite extreme sportswoman, the most important thing is being very clear and consistent about what you think and what you feel and what you say," she said. "It's true that there were some difficult moments, but there were also some very beautiful moments – and I had both as I lived up to my commitment to living in a cave for 500 days."

Flamini said she passed the time calmly and purposefully by reading, writing, drawing, knitting – by enjoying herself: "I was where I wanted to be, and so I dedicated myself to it." Put bluntly, the trick was living in the here and now: "I'm cooking; I'm drawing … You have to be focused. If I get distracted, I'll twist my ankle. I'll get hurt. It'll be over and they'll have to get me out. And I don't want that."

She had managed to keep fit, plough through 60 books and use two cameras to chronicle her experiences for a forthcoming documentary.

But surely there had been some unpalatable moments – times when she was tempted to hit the panic button and head back into the light?

But surely there had been some Unpalatable moments – times when she was tempted to hit the panic button and head back into the light?

Flamini thought for a moment and then remembered one particular insect incursion.

"The flies! The flies! The flies!" she said. "There was an invasion of flies. They came in, they laid their larvae and I didn't control it and so I suddenly ended up enveloped by flies. It wasn't that complicated, but it wasn't healthy … but that's just what it was."

While she fell victim to an intense craving for roast chicken with potatoes, the solitude was less of a problem. Before she entered the cave, she told her team that she did not want to be told what was going on outside, even if it involved the loss of a loved one.

"The people who know me and love me respect that," she said. "There's no problem."

Flamini sounded ever so slightly irked when recounting how she felt when the moment came to leave the cave. "I was sleeping – or at least dozing – when they came down to get me … I thought something had happened. I said: 'Already? No way.' I hadn't finished my book."

Nor was she dazzled by the daylight of the Andalucían spring. And it hadn't just been the dark glasses she wore.

"I didn't feel anything when I saw the light because to me it felt like I'd only just gone in there, so I didn't have that sensation of missing the light and the sun and all that's out there," she said. "I'm being honest – I'm not going to lie."

Flamini at the press conference: 'I could go another 500 days.'Just as revelations and insights were beginning to appear elusive, someone plucked up the courage to ask the question on everyone's mind. What about the, er, toilet arrangements down there?

Flamini, to no one's surprise by that point, was unflappable, explaining that she had left her bodily waste at the collection point "every five poos". A round of applause rang out.

"There was no other way and five was my limit," she said. "You have to get the waste out. I left my offerings there, as if to the gods, and the gods left me food."

She was equally phlegmatic about the long-delayed wash: "I still haven't showered. But then, I'm an extreme sportswoman. I could go another 500 days."

The defiant athlete – and, pending official confirmation, record-breaker – had appeared baffled by her questioners only once. Why had she looked so happy when she emerged from the cave?

"How would you feel if you had a dream and you fulfilled it?" she replied. "Would you come out crying?"

What is the world's rarest cave formation?
http://www.americascavemcom/cave/

The fifth level of Meramec Caverns includes a "Wine Room." The Wine Room is home to the world's rarest cave formation, The Wine Table. The onyx table stands six feet high and is supported on three natural legs. Known as an aragonite formation, this structure was composed almost entirely underwater.

Happy International Bat Appreciation Day!

From: **Fullerton, Matthew R**

International Bat Appreciation Day and "State of the Bats" Report just sent out by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) - see below!

Mon, Apr 17, 2023 at 1:13 PM

StateOfTheBats.org

Washington D.C. (April 17, 2023)- Today, the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) published the first ever State of the Bats in North America report, highlighting the importance of bat conservation, not only for their biodiversity value, but for the ecosystem and economic services bats provide in terms of pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, ecotourism, and their contributions to innovation and science. The report also indicates that 47% of the 154 known bat species across North America are at risk of severe population decline in the next 15 years.

"State fish and wildlife agencies are at the forefront of conservation and protecting our nation's fish, wildlife and natural resources," said Curt Melcher, Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. "Bats are essential to our ecosystem. We look forward to working with our partners in collaborative conservation efforts that will change the current trajectory for bats."

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies have designated nearly 100 different kinds of bats as species in greatest conservation need in State Wildlife Action Plans. The bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (S1149), which was recently reintroduced by Senators Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Tillis (R-N.C.), would provide states with the resources needed to help reverse the decline of bats.

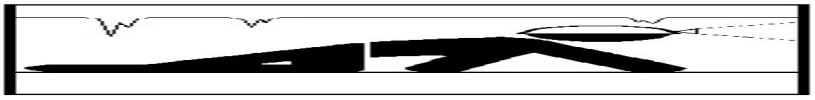
Highlights from the report include:

Bats are threatened. The forces of global change threaten bats worldwide. In North America, some of the top threats to bats include climate change, habitat loss, and White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS), which has killed millions of hibernating bats in the United States and Canada.

Bats need our help. There are many ways to support bat conservation. Create and protect bat habitat in your own backyard, explore nature responsibly by avoiding disturbance of bats and spreading of pathogens, make climate-friendly choices to reduce your carbon footprint, and speak up for bats by sharing the importance of bats and bat conservation with others and supporting conservation efforts and policies that protect nature and wildlife.

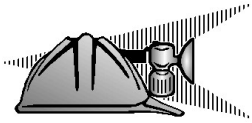
Bats are diverse and beneficial. Bats provide economic benefits to agriculture by consuming insect pests, improving crop yields, and reducing pesticide use. Bats contribute to forest health, and nectar-feeding bats pollinate plants. Each year, bat research leads to new scientific discoveries and technologies, and watching masses of bats emerge from caves and bridges generate ecotourism dollars in places like Austin, Texas and Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

The 2023 State of the Bats in North America report was produced by the North American Bat Conservation Alliance, representing a consortium of government agencies in Canada, the United States, and Mexico as well as private organizations committed to bat conservation. Major contributors to this report include scientists from Bat Conservation International, the North American Bat Monitoring Program; the White-nose Syndrome Response Team; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment and Climate Change Canada); and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.



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!* Website: http://www.okcavers.com

Friday
May 12, 2023
There will be a virtual meeting.
See you online!



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