CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements …… **1-2**
Minutes: Meeting May 2023 ……..……..……..……1
Treasurer's Report: May 2023 ……...……..……...…...…… **2**

Trip Reports: No trip reports this month

Potpourri:
Flying Creatures that fly and aren't Birds ……..…2-3
Prehistoric Cave Paintings went undetected for thousands of years then drones flew by ……..……..…4

Google Meet
Friday, June 9, 2023
At 8:00 p.m. central time
Becky will send you an invitation

See you Friday evening online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*No trips planned at the present time.
*Next meeting is June 9, 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)

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO MEETING, MAY 12, 2023

In attendance: Dale Amlee, Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, Becky Hunsinger—virtual meeting facilitator, John Talbot, Lil Town, Jon and Kelley Woltz. Noah Zinn, S. Beleu

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

OLD BUSINESS

COG's three surveyors have now gone on two surveying trips this year. COG has returned to doing what a grotto should do.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Duane noted that on the Saturday following our meeting the COG website would bite the dreamless dust. He's loaded 28 gigs of our website onto a drive on his computer for us to access as need be.
2. Dale reported on the survey trip to Grotto Cave and various sinkholes and other entrances that probably tie into that cave, many of them too small for human access. He displayed a Google Earth map that he created with notations of these sinkholes on it. Jon will enter his survey data into Compass to revise the final map. They noted encountering quite a few bat-mats in the cave.
3. At the meeting we expected the next survey trip to be in May but have subsequently learned that with Jon gone during May COG will only have two surveyors at the ready, not enough personnel to mount a survey.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Emeritus John Talbot delivered his report.

Meeting ended 8:54
Report by S. Beleu, Secretary

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

May 2023 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME		**EXPENSES**
Dividends	$ 0.01	
TOTAL	**$ 0.01**	
CASH	$ 106.05	
CHECKING	$ 341.90	
SAVINGS	$ 1,433.53	
TOTAL	**$ 1,881.48**	

6/6/2023

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254

TRIP REPORTS

No Trip Reports this month

POTPOURI

Flying Creatures that aren't Birds

http://www.interestingfacts.com/flying-creatures--that-arent-birds/YUKUzA55YwAH_LQ7

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a ... flying tree snake? Yes, that's correct. From flying fish to flying squirrels, there are plenty of unique aerodynamic animals around the world. Even more impressive, most of them don't have wings. Using special fins, large toes, or extra membranes, several surprising creatures are able to glide through the air at astonishing lengths.

Flying Fish: Although the concept of an airborne fish seems counterintuitive, there are at least 40 different flying fish species around the world. Primarily found in warmer climates in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, these ray-finned fish thrive in open waters, where they can use their large, rigid fins to "fly" through the air. After propelling themselves out of the water, their fins extend horizontally like wings, allowing them to glide up to 650 feet. Most researchers believe flying fish developed

(Continued on page 3)

650 feet. Most researchers believe flying fish developed this ability in order to escape underwater predators who did not exhibit the same aerodynamic capabilities.

Paradise Tree Snake: Found throughout Southeast Asia, the paradise tree snake is a unique reptilian predator. Sometimes referred to as the paradise flying snake, this species of serpent is both slim and agile. A highly capable climber, paradise tree snakes prefer to spend most of their time in coconut palm trees. When the flying snake wants to travel between treetops, it is able to flatten its ribcage until it becomes concave. At this point, the snake can propel itself out a tree and glide through the air, slithering in an S-shape as if on the ground.

Mobula Ray: Often called flying rays for their ability to leap out of the water, Mobula rays are a species of fish that are closely related to sharks. Shaped like a diamond, Mobula ray fins are useful both in and out of the water. With enough speed, the ray can launch six feet into the air, flapping its fins like wings before flopping back down. Often flying in groups, a school of Mobula rays is a spectacular sight to see. Scientists are unsure why flying rays exhibit this behavior, although it may be a form of communication between members of the species.

Flying Squirrel: Flying squirrels aren't able to take flight like a bird, although they may give off this appearance as they soar through the air. The extra flap of skin that connects their front and hind legs serves as a parachute for these quirky land mammals. When a flying squirrel leaps into the air, they use this special membrane to glide from tree to tree, thereby avoiding any predators who may be on the ground. Not only can flying squirrels travel up to 150 feet in the air, but they can also change both their speed and direction in flight by steering with their legs and braking with their tails.

Crab Spider: If they weren't already frightening enough, many spiders have the ability to fly. This is thanks to a common arachnid technique called ballooning. Ballooning occurs when a spider releases its silk and rides the wind like a kite. In this way, spiders can travel long distances to join a new colony, find food, or search for prospective mates. Crab spiders, in particular, have been researched for this ability; one study completed at the Technical University of Berlin revealed that crab spiders are "careful, deliberate fliers," who use their hairs on their legs to test wind conditions before take-off.

Bats: As the only mammals in the world born with the ability to fly — and the only animal on this list with wings — bats are some of the most intriguing fliers out there. Their ability to use echolocation to find objects in the dark, for example, has been researched for decades. As fliers, bats are maneuverable and nimble. In fact, the flexible skin and extra joints on a bat's wings make them more efficient in the air than birds.

Wallace's Flying Frog: Sometimes referred to as parachute frogs, Wallace's flying frogs live in tropical rainforests in Malaysia and Borneo. Named after 19th-century naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, the Wallace flying frog has a distinct appearance — gigantic webbed feet, boggling eyes, and an oversized mouth. When escaping a predator, this flying frog can glide up to 50 feet through the air, using its extra membranes as a parachute. Flying from tree to tree, the frog's gigantic toe pads provide an adhesive cushioning that allows them to stick the landing with ease.

Prehistoric cave paintings went undetected for thousands of years Then drones flew by

Brendan Rascius

May 22, 2023

http://news.yahoo.com/prehistoric-cave-painting-went-undetetected-182524979.html

Several ancient cave paintings were recently discovered along the coast of Spain by researchers using a pioneering new technique.

By flying drones into otherwise inaccessible mountain terrain, researchers were able to spot the paintings, which likely went undetected for thousands of years, according to a study published in the journal Lvcentvm.

In total, 18 caves in Alicante, a province along the Mediterranean Sea, were explored via drones equipped with cameras, according to the study.

The region is believed to have been one of the main areas on the Iberian Peninsula once inhabited by Neolithic people, and it is filled with unexplored rock formations that might harbor well-preserved art.

Of the caves searched, two were found to contain prehistoric artwork, researchers said. Raw images were analyzed in Adobe Photoshop, where the motifs could be seen more clearly after being enlarged.

The paintings portray what appear to be female archers and deer and goats, some of which are wounded by arrows, according to 20 Minutos, a Spanish newspaper. The artwork is believed to be around 7,000 years old.

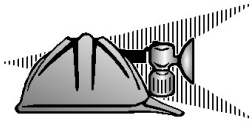
In the second cave, situated in a steep ravine and hidden by thick vegetation, another series of paintings were found, though they were in poor condition due to the presence of mushrooms.

The newfound paintings are some of the first to be discovered using unmanned aerial devices, researchers said.

In the future, drones could prove highly effective at quickly and safely carrying out similar field work in remote areas.

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
June 9, 2023
There will be a virtual meeting.
See you online!



Central Oklahoma Grotto
Low Crawl Press
2125 Holly Oaks Lane #105
Weatherford, TX 76087