CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The May meeting will be Friday, May 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Dale Amlee.

Dale & Carole Town are moving to North Carolina and won't be able to cave with us too often (hell of a commute). Dale's been with the grotto for over 25 years and will be sorely missed. Safe travels to the Towns on their new journey!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The May meeting will be Friday, May 11, 2018 at the home of Dale Amlee..

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL, APRIL 2016

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/news/national-white-nose-syndrome-decontamination-protocol-april-2016

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2018

Host: the home of Dale and Carol Town. This was their *Farewell Meeting* since by the time you read this they will have moved to within an MRE's throw away from Camp Lejuene in North Carolina.

Attendees: Dale and Carol, Dale Amlee, John and Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Jon and Kelley Woltz, and Short-Time Beleu.

Obengruppenfuhrer Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:25.

Dale and Carol called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS
Sue, Dale A., and Jon talked about their March survey trip to Prospect Cave.

NEW BUSINESS
We memorialized Joe Looney's passing as a *True Son of the Caves*.

UPCOMING BUSINESS
Our May meeting will be held at the abode of Dale Amlee.

TREASURER'S REPORT
John Talbot presented his March report.

We concluded the meeting at 9:00.
Dale gaveled the meeting closed.

Fare Thee Well Both of You!

Will ye no come back again?
Will ye no come back again?
Better loed ye canna be;
Will ye no come back again?

TREASURER'S REPORTS

MAY 2018 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME			**EXPENSES**
Dividends	$	00.28	
TOTAL	**$**	**00.28**	
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**68.05**	Balance as of **4/30/2018**
CHECKING	**$**	**245.07**	
SAVINGS	**$**	**2164.22**	*PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT*
TOTAL	**$**	**2477.34**	

TRIP REPORT

NO TRIP REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR THIS MONTH.

POTPOURRI

Fungus Causing White-Nose Syndrome Spreads into Central Texas

First Ever Detection in Popular Mexican Free-Tailed Bat

AUSTIN -- The fungus that causes white-nose syndrome (WNS) in bats, detected for the first time in Texas in early 2017 in the Panhandle, has now spread into Central Texas.

Though no bat deaths have been attributed to WNS in Texas, the syndrome has killed millions of bats in the eastern parts of the United States, raising national concern. A coalition of groups in Texas is continuing work to monitor the spread of the disease.

The fungus was detected at several sites in four new counties this year including: 2 sites in Blanco County, 1 site in Foard County, 2 sites in Kendall County, and 1 site in Wheeler County. This brings the total number of counties where the fungus has been detected in Texas to 10. The fungus was detected on cave bats, tricolored bats, Townsend's big-eared bats, and on a single a Mexican free-tailed bat. No signs of WNS were reported. Biologists say it usually takes a few years after detecting the fungus for the disease to manifest.

The detection on a Mexican free-tailed bat was at Old Tunnel State Park in Central Texas. This is first ever detection of the fungus on this species.

"While Mexican free-tailed bats are not expected to be susceptible to WNS, we are concerned because they migrate in large numbers and may help spread the disease further into the western United States or into Mexico," said Jonah Evans, a mammologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department who oversees the agency's bat program. "Kendall County is now the southernmost county with the fungus in the United States."

White-nose syndrome is caused by the fungus Pseudogymnoascus destructans and has been rapidly spreading since its discovery in New York in 2007. In some areas there have been declines in winter bat numbers of greater than 90 percent. Because bats usually produce just one offspring per year, researchers are concerned it could take many decades for some populations to recover from a major decline.

Skin swabs that test for presence of the fungus on bats' wings and muzzle were collected between December 2017 and March 2018 by biologists from Bat Conservation International (BCI) and Texas A&M University's (TAMU) Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and Natural Resources Institute. Analyses were con ducted by the Northern Arizona University and the National Wildlife Health Center as part of ongoing research projects. BCI is currently testing an experimental treatment for WNS on bats in the Texas Panhandle.

"Treating white-nose syndrome is extremely difficult as bats can spread the fungus long distances, the fungus can persist for in the environment for long periods of time, and cave ecosystems are sensitive and frequently contain rare species that may be impacted by certain treatments," Evans explained. "TPWD is supporting treatment development and field trials when possible while working to ensure potential impacts to caves and non-target species are minimized."

Bats play an important role in the ecosystem by consuming large numbers of insects. Recent studies have shown that the value of insect control by bats to agriculture is $1.4 billion annually in Texas alone. This value includes reduced crop loss to insect pests, reduced spread of crop diseases, and reduced need for pesticide application

The May meeting will be at the home of Dale Amlee

on Friday, May 11, 2018

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.

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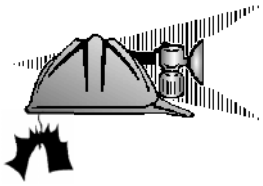

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