CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements 2
Minutes (Sept. and Oct. 2011) 2
Treasurer's Report (June, Sept., Oct. 2011).....2
Trip Reports
Broken Horn Cave - Trip Report: It NEVER Rains Here!
September 19, 2011, written by Sue Bozeman **3-4**
Potpourri
Caves and Their Dripstones Reveal the Uplift of Mountains..... **5**
Yeti Evidence Found during Russian Cave Expedition .....**5**.

The November meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, November 11, 2011 at the home of Steve Beleu.

Address: 1609 E. Boyd St. Norman, OK
(the only house with a brick mailbox!)

Telephone: 405-364-0610

Decontamination protocols specific to WNS have been developed and will continue to be revised to incorporate the best available information. All current protocols will be available at the following website:
http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome
Source: DRAFT WNS Plan - v. 10.21.2010 from **A National Plan for Assisting States, Federal Agencies, and Tribes in Managing White-Nose Syndrome in Bats**
Duane has put the decontamination protocols in the COG website at http://www.okcavers.com/wns

Yeti Evidence Found in Russia!

Read Details inside!!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The 7:30 p.m. November meeting will be, Friday, November 11, at Steve Beleu's house, 1609 E. Boyd St. Norman, OK; 405-364-0610

In case you haven't heard, our Anne had a major stroke October 26th, 2011. She has lost the use of her right side and has trouble speaking. She is a strong and special lady determined to get through this. Anne has improved enough and will be on her way to Jim Thorpe, probably on Friday, 11/4. This Rehab center is considered excellent and will allow Anne to just head one building over and begin therapy immediately. That's great news. It also means she is interactive enough and cooperative enough to benefit from direct rehab, rather than needing some intervening time in a nursing home building up strength. Visit when you can, her son, John Schlichting, would appreciate it. She is very responsive and needs interaction with others as much as possible. If you want to send her anything, Anne's address is :

2516 Lancaster Lane, Oklahoma City, OK 73116

MINUTES

Central Oklahoma Grotto
September 9, 2011

Place: home of Jon and Kelley Woltz, Weatherford
Who was there: The Woltzes, Dale Town and Carol Buescher, Dale Amlee, John and Sue Bozeman, Anne Ault, John Talbot, Jon Van Dyke, S. Beleu

Began: 7:52

Old business: none

New business:

We talked about doing whatever we have to do to get back to visiting and doing a day of work in Carlsbad Caverns in either early spring or early fall. Chairman Woltz will ask our contact to the park's NPS personnel, Duane Del Vecchio, to contact them and begin asking for a visit next year.

Dale and Carol told us about their trip this summer on the tourist path through Lehman Caverns, Nevada.

Treasurer John Talbot presented his report.

End: 8:32

Central Oklahoma Grotto
October 2011

Held at the home of Art & Paula Wallace and Jamie Wallace Dale Amlee presiding.
Attending: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Dale and Carol Town and the Wallace family

Began at 8:20 p.m.

We went through Old Business and New Business.

Old Business:

Duane is keeping up the inquiry for us on Carlsbad Cleanup for 2012. Hopefully, the staff will have reorganized enough to be happy to have us work for free there!

New Business:

Sue Bozeman commented that new and younger blooded cavers need to be recruited. Dale Amlee offered to contact an Explorer Scout troop that might net us some members both male and female.

Trip Report:

There had been a trip in September, the report of which didn't get printed but would be in the November newsletter. Basically, the Amlee-S.Bozeman-Woltz team did get the Pancake Room to the Stream connection completed. They encountered about 200 Myotis velifer and endured an excited exodus rain of urine and fecal matter as they waited out the bat flight. There are still 3 leads to finish up.

Treats were great. Decorations beyond compare for Halloween -- as per usual. Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Report submitted by Sue Bozeman

TREASURER'S REPORTS

JUNE, 2011

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dividend	$ 0.02	Equipment	$487.40
		Postage	$ 26.40
		Printing	$ 13.80
TOTALS	**$ 0.02**		**$527.60**
CASH ON HAND	$ 59.09		
CHECKING	$ 206.93	PREPARED BY TREASURER	
SAVINGS	$ 2,128.72	JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 5/13/2011	**$ 2,394.74**		

No meetings in July or August

SEPTEMBER, 2011

INCOME		EXPENSES
Dividend	$ 1.37	NO EXPENSES
Dues	$ 30.00	
Publication Sales	$ 37.00	
TOTALS	**$ 61.37**	
CASH ON HAND	$ 77.10	
CHECKING	$ 255.97	PREPARED BY TREASURER
SAVINGS	$ 2,130.05	JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 9/6/2011	**$ 2,463.12**	

OCTOBER, 2011

INCOME		EXPENSES
Dividend	$ 1.35	NO EXPENSES
TOTALS	**$ 1.35**	
CASH ON HAND	$ 77.10	
CHECKING	$ 255.98	PREPARED BY TREASURER
SAVINGS	$ 2,131.39	JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 10/16/2011	**$ 2,464.47**	

Should now be caught up on treasurer's reports!

TRIP REPORTS

Broken Horn Cave - Trip Report: It NEVER Rains Here!
September 19, 2011
Jon Woltz, Dale Amlee and Sue Bozeman
Written by Sue Bozeman

While waiting for Jon to arrive, I chatted with Jay and looked at the darkly looming clouds with some dismay. Jay assured me that, "It never rains here. Rain goes west and south of us, but it just doesn't rain here so don't worry about it."

Oh, those famous words: never, won't, can't.

So we suited up and crawled in Jay's Tree Entrance -- or whatever that groady hole is named. The skunkupine was not in residence and the puddles and pools were almost bone dry. We clambered down to stream level and headed downstream toward the Pancake Room. There are a couple of mop-up areas left to survey and we hoped to get those done quickly and only have the northwestern areas to complete.

We saw a corn snake high on the right wall as we chuntered down the passage. We had been checking the walls for bats to see if we had any with WNS noses, so we were looking closely instead of just booking down passage. At the By-pass Loop, we encountered about 200 Myotis velifer! We'd never seen a cluster of bats in this cave, although their spoor has provided soft carpeting for us to crawl through in several places. *(continued on page 4)*

These very healthy looking bats were not pleased at seeing us, either, and they left with a flurry of urine and guano rain. After they'd departed, we followed some of them through the Loop. I kept up a nearly constant "Hooooooooooo" to warn bats flying back to please avoid my head as I was lead crawler.

These very healthy looking bats were not pleased at seeing us, either, and they left with a flurry of urine and guano rain.

We easily found the survey point left several years ago at the top of the mudbank in the Pancake Room and started surveying toward the water connection. We expected a quick few shots to the water. Ha.

There are a bunch of high angle pitches that are difficult to handle with Suuntos. You really need a good Brunton person for these kinds of passages and we didn't have one along -- sigh. So these 177 (128 counting for length) feet took us five hours!

We did get to the sump connection, noting two frogs along the way. We also spotted a possible connection with an overhead passage, which we then went back to scope out. So we did find a new 'dome' of sorts; unfortunately, it was probably a sink entrance at one time and it has now filled in except for access by small critters and seeping water. IF we can find this sink from the surface, it would be best explored, excavated or simply acknowledged from above. We did leave a piece of red DANGER tape that would be visible if the sink was ever penetrated.

The dome is named "Salamander Dome" because our surveying antics were watched constantly by a 7 inch barred tiger salamander. It was surprising to find this beautiful specimen high in the dome. Salamanders need water in order to reproduce and there was no easy way to clamber down and up this mudbank. Either it knows a secret passage or it is a very determined climber. I fed it some of my jerky. It snapped at the first piece, but just spat out the second piece! I thought that a smart move -- except by the time we left the area, that rejected piece was gone. Jon suggested that in this place, you just can't turn your nose up at protein wandering by.

When we got back out of the cave, the ground was not only wet, it was puddly! Puddles? My oh my -- it had not only rained, it had stormed! When we got back to the ranch, the rain guage showed 6/10 of an inch. That could have caused us some problems in the western part of the cave, but it had not bothered us at all where we were. Knowing the cave as well as we now do, the berm at the Trident is probably now holding back water. Lovely. We've lost our chance to make a mucky connection and will now have much worse to contend with for our future western 'mop up' surveying.

You can view Jon Woltz's YouTube videos and photos at Bats:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpasQpsP1As

Salamander:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJIye6-snzs

Even though Jay was wrong that time, he's probably happy to have the rain. We're still in drought conditions -- I just wish we'd finish this cave before the next real downpour!

Picture compiled by Lil Town

POTPOURRI

Caves and Their Dripstones Reveal the Uplift of Mountains

ScienceDaily (May 2, 2011)http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/05/110502110618.htm

— Singer Bob Dylan once asked "How many years can a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea?" -- an intriguing geological question for which an accurate answer is not easily provided.

Mountain ranges are in a constant interplay between climatically controlled weathering processes on the one hand and the tectonic forces that cause folding and thrusting and thus thickening of Earth's crust on the other hand. While erosion eventually erases any geological obstacles, tectonic forces are responsible for piling and lifting up rocks and thus for forming spectacular mountain landscapes such as the European Alps. In reality, climate, weathering and mountain uplift interact in a complex manner and quantifying rates for erosion and uplift, especially for the last couple of millions of years, remains a challenging task.

In a recent *Geology* paper, Michael Meyer (University of Innsbruck) and colleagues report on ancient cave systems discovered near the summits of the Allgäu Mountains (Austria) that preserved the oldest radiometrically dated dripstones currently known from the European Alps.

ancient cave systems discovered near the summits of the Allgäu Mountains (Austria) that preserved the oldest radiometrically dated dripstones currently known from the European Alps

"These cave deposits formed ca. 2 million years ago and their geochemical signature and biological inclusions are vastly different from other cave calcites in the Alps," says Meyer, who works at the Institute of Geology and Paleontology at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. By carefully analysing these dripstones and using an isotopic modelling approach the authors were able to back-calculate both, the depth of the cave and the altitude of the corresponding summit area at the time of calcite formation. Meyer and colleagues thus derived erosion and uplift rates for the northern rim of the Alps and -- most critically -- for a geological time period that is characterized by reoccurring ice ages and hence by intensive glacial erosion.

"Our results suggest that 2 million years ago the cave was situated ~1500 meters below its present altitude and the mountains were probably up to 500 meters lower compared to today," states Meyer. These altitudinal changes were significant and much of this uplift can probably be attributed to the gradual unloading of the Alps due to glacial erosion.

Dripstones have been used to reconstruct past climate and environmental change in a variety of ways. This latest study is novel, however, as it highlights the potential of caves and their deposits to quantitatively constrain mountain evolution on a timescale of millions of years and further shows how the interplay of tectonic and climatic processes can be understood. Key to success is an accurate age control provided by Uranium-Lead dating. This method is commonly used to constrain the age of much older rocks and minerals but has only rarely be applied to dripstones -- i.e. only those with high Uranium concentrations -- and luckily this is the case for the samples from the Allgäu Mountains.

Yeti Evidence Found during Russian Cave Expedition

October 12, 2011 / RussiaAsia
http://cavingnews.com/20111012-yeti-evidence-found-during-russian-cave-expedition

While on a recent research expedition to Azasskaya cave, a multinational team of Russian, American, Canadian, Swedish and Estonian researchers made a discovery that provide "indisputable proof" of the existence of yetis.

The news was unveiled by the official administration of the Kemerovo region in southern Siberia in a press release.

"They found his footprints, his supposed bed, and various markers with which the yeti marks his territory," – Official Kemerovo press release

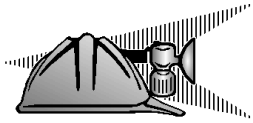
Yetis or Abominable Snowmen are more often associated with the Himalayas, but some believed that a population of Snow Men also exists in remote parts of Siberia.

With the news breaking that they are indeed likely to exist, the area is now looking to "create a special research center to study the Yeti" in the regional university and to start a yeti scientific journal.

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 Town, 25692 Mosier Circle, Conifer, Colorado 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!* Web Site: http://www.okcavers.com

The November meeting will be at the house of Steve Beleu

Friday, November 11, 2011.



Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 1117 NW 74th Street
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505-4234