CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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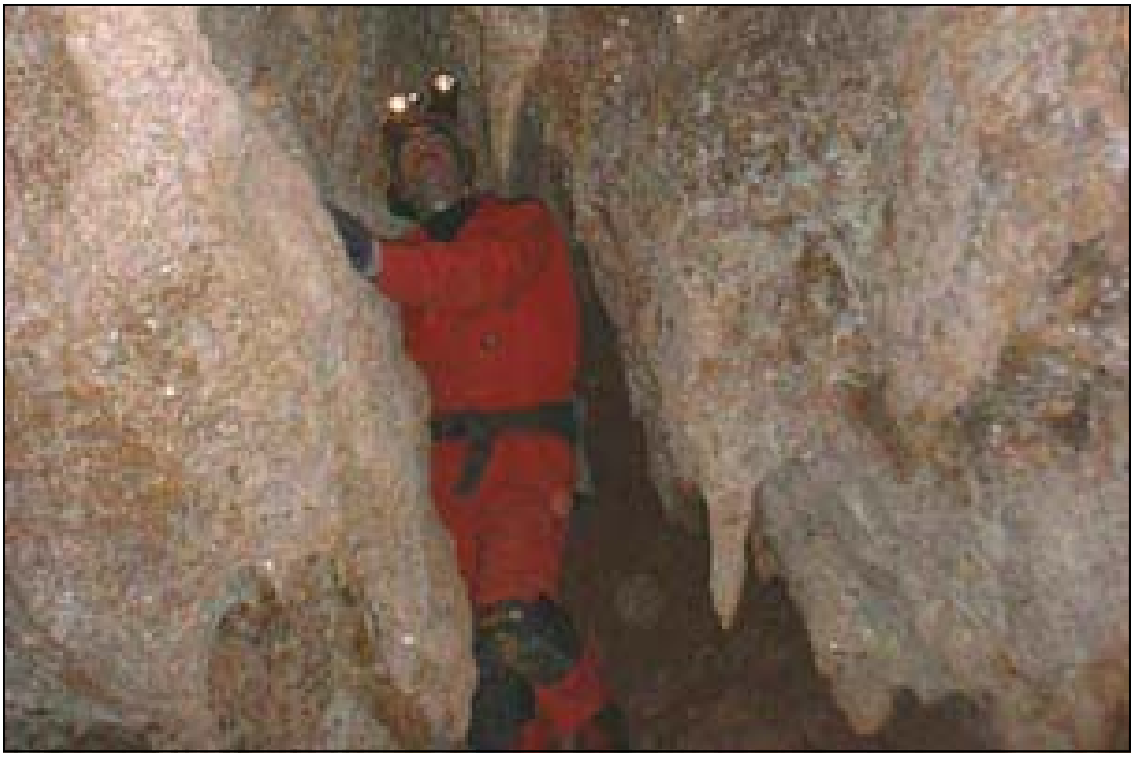
The April meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto was held at 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 13, 2012, at the home of Dale and Carole .



Passage somewhere in Greene's Cathedral! See more pictures in the December 2005 newsletter on the website. Not sure who this brave caver is!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The April meeting will be at the Town's house, Friday, April 13, 2012.

MINUTES

Minutes of March 2012 Meeting

Attending: **Dale Amlee, John & Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Dale & Carol Town**
Hosted by the Bozemans in lieu of Anne, who is recuperating comfortably but is sorely missed, the meeting began at 8:03:17 p.m.

Old News:

Bat Count 2012

The Washita Caves group mentioned that there is even more breakdown than last year in these caves. They did their count, but were in fear for their lives -- not from the collapsing caves, but from ?hunters? or ?drug purveyors? who were shooting in the nearby fields. Interestingly, they only shot when our people were on the surface!

There was some evidence of a meth lab functioning in the area with 5-gallon buckets hanging in trees and empty Nyquil bottles strewn about. Old campfire remains further suggested cooks at work -- not making stew either! They said that the shots sounded like those from an AK 47. Remnant .22 shells and 7.62 mm casings were noted. Watch your news for drug busts in the Corn and Weatherford area!! Our group may choose NOT to continue doing Washita in the future if this happens again next year.

The team, consisting of Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Duane Del Vecchio, Carol and Dale Town, and Jon Woltz, also spotted a four-foot long rat snake, making for very a interesting day.

New Business:

Cave Life of Oklahoma and Arkansas -- the book by G. O. Graening, Dante Fenolio and Michael E. Slay -- was passed around the group. It had been picked up by John Bozeman from Steve Beleu's ODL offices so that we could all see the newest effort done in some of our Oklahoma caves. Of course, most of the material concerned non-gypsum caves, but the decision was made not to purchase the book. [About 3 weeks later, Sue Bozeman received a complimentary copy for her efforts and assistance during in the book's development, but since much of this is grotto effort, present and past, this book will be donated to the grotto's membership and library.]

We discussed the Texans' and other Oklahomans' caving in Jester and it was determined that John Bozeman should contact the landowner(s) about possibly providing guidance to those asking for entry permission, restricting entry to those times of the year when the bats will not be adversely affected. Steele- and Harris-led trips do clean out as they go, and we know there are always tresspassers partying, spray painting and littering who can be cleaned up after. However, the best times of year to do no bat harm are from September to November (the bat young are old enough) and March to April or mid-May (before the bats have their young and as spring bugs/food become plentiful).

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13:21 p.m.

Submitted by Sue Bozeman, substituting for a Washington D.C. Conventioneering Steve Beleu

TREASURER'S REPORTS

March, 2012

INCOME		**EXPENSES**
Dividend	$ 0.01	
Dues	$ 36.00	
		none
TOTALS	**$ 36.01**	
CASH ON HAND	$ 89.10	
CHECKING	$ 376.71	
SAVINGS	$ 2,132.51	
AS OF 3/6/2012		
TOTAL FUNDS	**$ 2,598.32**	

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT
NSS#30254RE

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report to Broken Horn Cave
17 March 2012
Cavers: Sue Bozeman, Dale Amlee, Jon Woltz
Written by Dale Amlee

This promised to be the last cave surveying trip to Broken Horn cave. All of the human passable passages had been penetrated, measured and sketched over the past several years. This trip was done to try and address a few hanging questions, and the majority of the effort was anticipated to be surface investigations.

The weather was beautiful on this particular Saturday in March, with the temperature up in the 70's. The Oklahoma wind was making up for it though, with very windy conditions all day long accompanied by extreme gusts we estimated at roughly 60 miles per hour.

The last survey trip inside of the cave had mapped a passage that came tantalizingly close to an exit, but did not reveal light from inside. Taking measurements from the compass cave map software we figured out where on the surface this exit would be if there was one, and headed off in that direction. Based on the measurements we took we did manage to find a likely penetration spot on the surface, but it was not human passable. It was underneath a large tree with an opening large enough for a medium sized dog to get in but we would not have been able to get in further than about four feet. Still, it verified to us that there was an actual exit at that point, even if we were not able to get an official azimuth and distance to it from inside.

The second hanging question that we had before us dealt with the exact location of the resurgence. Several years before, we had mapped the cave's eastern arm all the way to an exit that became "Stick Exit." At another time prior to this John Bozeman had taken his GPS unit around and plotted all of the various surface features that he noticed. These surface features were converted to azimuth and distance, and entered into the compass mapping program. The result was that a feature John labeled as Resurgence-1 was fairly close to the Stick Exit, showing on the map as being about 200 feet apart. On this day we wanted to see how close these two features really were and attempt to survey between them. We made our way, based again on interpretations from the compass program, to where the resurgence should be. However, as we came along over the ridgeline, we found the Stick Exit instead. After spending the better part of an hour traipsing back and forth across the ridges and valleys that make up this area we finally came to the conclusion that the Resurgence John had found was the same feature that we had mapped as Stick Exit. The only thing we can surmise is that there were enough errors in the various GPS points, and possibly in the conversion mathematics that gave us azimuth and distance, to make it seem on the compass program map as if these features were 200 feet apart. Furthermore, it still left an unanswered question as to where the main water passage went from the southern central point in the cave. There is a large confluence of passages near the pancake room that leads to a fairly significant water passage that sumps immediately. However, on the surface we walked all over the southern boundary of the cave system and could see no sign that this water passages comes out there. The best guess is that it turns to the east, and re-joins the eastern arm near the resurgence.

This left us with no surveying to do, other than to take a few shots from the best guesstimate location of the Stick Exit to the point where the most obvious resurgence location appeared to be. We had dressed up in our caving gear and had yet to even get the slightest bit of mud or dirt on them, and the day was still early, so we decided to poke into Greene's Cathedral for a simple refresher. It had been many years since we had been in there, and it is now planned that we will pick up the survey of Greene's now that Broken Horn is complete. Sue had surveyed a great deal of Green's in the past, but Jon and I were very unfamiliar with it. We drove down to Greene's, spent about a half hour wandering about inside, and decided to call it a day. There were several considerably sized bat clusters spotted inside of Greene's, and we talked about making Greene's one of our regular bat count caves in future years.

THE EDITOR: SINCE GREENE'S IS GOING TO BE WORKED ON NEXT, THOUGHT SOME REPRINTS WOULD BE FUN!

Cave: Greene's Cathedral
Date: December 17, 2005
Participants: Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman, Roy Diehl, Jon Woltz
Report by Sue

The number of participants dwindled throughout the week. Phone call and emails came pouring in with declining indications rampant and incredulous inquiries pace. "Have You SEEN the weather forecast? It could be a BLIZZARD out there!" Yes, that's true, and yet if you look at the actual weather map, it could just be an unpleasant spit of snow or a tad of sleet. Quite often the area around

(Continued on page 4)

Freedom just does not get much in the way of precipitation while the rest of the area floods.

Saturday dawned frosty and dreary. Jon had agreed to meet us at the ranch guest house at roughly 10:30; Roy and Steve have trooped in to the Bozeman home, willing to give it a go. We packed up the Bozemobile and headed out. Snow flurries started before Kingfisher and got heavier the farther west we drove. Not looking good, but we continued. The flurries stopped before we hit Seiling, although evidence of snow remained on the fields and dirt side roads. By the time we got to the guest house, weather was relegated to a non-issue. The trip continued smoothly and we were all glad to have made the 'correct' decision.Greene's Whitetail entrance had been floodedthe last time we'd been there. Our carefully scooped out dirt track had filled in again, but with easy fill and debris this time. Jon did a bit of scoping and with a flat piece of rock began scooping his way through in a modified breaststroke. He turned around and helped scoop a larger, deeper trough for the manly man to follow and then I went on through the low spot and turned around, calling for Steve to come on down from the high hot house dome and join in the fun. Barrel-chested Steve started through, dug some at the tight spot, and pushed dirt left, right, back and ahead. I hauled the 'ahead' part off to a free space and then got Steve's pack. Soon, we were able to call for slim-boy Roy, who had a cruise-through, and joined us in the Porcupine room, absent the porcupine.

From there, it is a half hour crawl and walk to the last survey point in this arm. The starting point is on a sandbar where a watery and very muddy side arm joins the main passage. The tape team of Jon and Steve headed into the side passage, loving every minute of the 50 degree water on their hands and knees.

Roy would pop in after tape readings were complete and do the necessaries with the compass. This lower passage had captured the current inflow water from an upper, parallel passage that was popcorn covered and vertical. When Jon and Steve came to a halt because of a sump, Roy and I pursued the upper lead. The passage was only wide enough for sideways progress, but about 4 feet tall. Catching clothing on the dry popcorn at every move, Roy pushed the passage in a strenuous series of maneuvers that looked downright hairy! We estimated the distance of the dry upper passage, which had several connections to the guys in the lower passage, and took a compass reading. Roy considered the place way too small to survey safely and surely inaccessible to Steve, so I drew in the details and we all retreated to the main passage.

We rested for a bit and then began the slog into the watery crawl. At this point, the passage is 8 ft. wide, but only 15 inches tall. You have a choice of rolling over rocks in the water or clinging to soupy, sandy muds. We only did two shots for less than 20 feet total, when Jon announced that we'd be immersing if we went further. Complete immersion -- in winter -- to survey? Hmm. Doesn't seem smart since we were NOT in water gear enough for THAT purpose. We called a halt to the survey and Roy played 'go look'. What Roy found was that after a 6-foot ear-in the-water stint, one got to a "Lil Room" -- namely, a slight rise in the ceiling that allowed you to get your chest out of the water. Ahead, however, was breakdown that would require reconnoitering. It was not going to be easy finding one's way through this, especially at the pace of a survey with gear in hand. "Another day," we all agreed.

It took us 30 minutes to boogie out of there into the chill winter air. No more snow had fallen, so the ride home would not be bad. We cleaned up at the guest house and then went over to share some homemade cookies and hot cider that Betty had prepareChristmas repast. We all talked for a bit, I talked with Barbara, and Roy showed Betty how to Google for information on the internet -- our gift to her for Christmas.

The ride home was on wet, but not ice-slick, roads and uneventful. Glad we went, even if we didn't accomplish much in the way of survey. We now know that we should do other areas until the summer heat and perhaps pursue future surveys from the Resurgence upstream rather than continue from the Whitetail section.

Those who went on Carlsbad restoration trip will remember the "Fact or Crap" game at *The Jersey*, the restaurant we ate at in Carlsbad. Roy, Dale, and Duane won a beer or a desert for their correct answers to the five questions that were given. they had to say if each question was a fact or if it wasn't true and was crap! The following trip reports are Anne's version of "Fact or Crap". Which trip report is fact and which one is crap?

DATE: May 21, 2005
CAVE: Greene's Cathedral, WhiteTail Entrance
PERSONNEL: Steve Beleu, Sue and John Bozeman, Anne Ault

Written by Anne Ault

I highly recommend this particularly pleasant arm of Greene's Cathedral. It is almost all walking passage leading to a large room. Just a bit before reaching the large room, another side passage was discovered. Looks like it will 'go' and again, may be almost entirely walking passage. Can you believe it? At the back of the large room, shyly hiding behind a mass of breakdown, is a water passage, not accessible to human entry unless you are gill gifted. Yet all is not lost! Just to the left and over the water is a canyon slot! And it goes! The canyon is a little narrow, but again, walking passage. Isn't that great?

Time constraints prevented completing the survey of the canyon corridor and the new discovery. So, there is still some work to be done in the canyon plus the bonus of being offered a chance to survey the virgin passage. For those who have missed out on this rare treat of going through the WhiteTail walkway, let me be the first to offer my spot on the survey team to you. It is so unusual to find such accommodating and "caver-friendly' passage,

I want everyone who has not been through it, to share in this delightful experience.

Is this story fact or crap? Now you decide.

(continued on page 5)

DATE: May 21, 2005
CAVE: Greene's Cathedral. WhiteTail Entrance
PERSONNEL: Steve Beleu, Sue and John Bozeman, Anne Ault
Written by Anne Ault

It had been a long time since I first encountered WhiteTail.

But all the memories returned very quickly. WhiteTail is a hunky-dory name for the entrance and the entrance only. What comes after could be called by those who aren't pencil thin, "Compression Death", or "Terminal Hug." It almost immediately drops to a nice and wide, but vertically challenged passage. It took Steve Beleu a long time to try and dig his way through since he was chipping at bedrock. Finally he, with great determination and no helmet, got through. Most of the passage is 6 to 7 inches in height.

Some places might go as high as 10 inches. (Wow!) The passage does let you go to crawling on hands and knees for awhile, but guess what? Another low belly crawl. This is not a caver-friendly cave. Finally a reasonably large room is reached. Steve checked out a very low water passage at the back of the cave and pronounced it as a water only route. But up to his left, he could see into a canyon slot. So he, Sue and John continued surveying through the canyon slot. I decided I was going to stay where I was because I had begun to think I couldn't breath.

There does seem to be very little air flow at the back of this room and in the canyon. The survey does need to be completed. But you can't take a canary with you.

The survey team returned, retrieved me and we headed back the same way we came in. The return went okay until that final low crawl. Steve was just using sheer will-power to get through. Since he couldn't wear his helmet, he got a nice gash on the back of his head. Of course, Dr. Sue got him fixed up. The gash only needed a couple of stitches. Steve was a manly-man and just screamed once or twice…but not real loud.

I have another name for that passage. You've heard of the "Death By A Thousand Cuts"? By the time you get out of this passage, your body will begin to think it's experiencing death by a thousand bruises. Oh, I suppose one could say the bruises were just cave tattoos…

Anyway, the survey of the canyon slot and survey of the new passage that was found, need finishing.

Is this story fact or crap? Now you decide.

Bat Counts for 2012

Here is a summary of bats counted in the following caves:

Vickery Bat Cave

Submitted by Sue Bozeman;

3 *Myotis velifer*
2 *Corynorhinus townsendii* (big-eared bats)

Rock was 46 degrees F; air was 43 degrees F by the bats
At the entrance the air was 44 degrees F and the water was 43 degrees F

Nescatunga Cave

Submitted by Sue Bozeman;

10,406 *Myotis velifer*
14 *Pipistrellus subflavus*

Packing rates varied: 240 and 306 per square foot
Weather outside 44 degrees F
Water at dripline of Resurgence: 45 degrees F
Air at dripline of Resurgence: 43 degrees F

At The Window: Air was 38 degrees F and there was ice at that dripline!
It got progressively colder as the day went on. It was 33 by 5 p.m.

Temperature of the rock at the Jewel Box T-Junction was 60 degrees F!
Soil temperature there was 52 degrees F.

Jester Cave

Submitted by Duane Del Vecchio

Counts WWWWAAAAAYYYYY down!!!
Totals for Jester Cave - SW Oklahoma - Feb. 11, 2012

	Myotis	Pips	LE	Totals
Resurgence	865	16	0	881
Train Tunnel	17	0	0	17
Glade/Homestead	5755	22	3	5780
TOTALS	6637	38	3	6678

COLD!!! The temp outside was 23-25 with 25 mph north winds!!

Washita Bat Cavex3. Date: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012
Submitted by Steve Beleu

East Cave, begin: 11:29; end: 12:21
83p, 54v
Central Cave, begin: 12:24; end: 2:33
0p, 1723v
West Cave, begin: 2:48; end: 4:01
3p, 2560v

POTPOURRI

The Eagle
Drought could hurt bat population
By MICHAEL GRACZYK
Wednesday, October 05, 2011 12:02 AM

BRACKEN -- The historic drought in Texas is changing the behavior of the stars of one of the state's natural summer marvels, raising fears the spectacle next year may be less spectacular.

A depleting insect population has forced millions of bats around Texas to emerge before nightfall for food runs, making them more susceptible to natural predators. *(continued on page 5)*Some experts have already noticed fewer bats emerging from caves and have seen evidence that more infant bats are showing up dead, hinting at a looming population decline.

"The drought makes for good bat viewing but is hard on the bats," says Fran Hutchins, coordinator at Bracken Cave, home to the world's largest concentration of bats, about an hour's drive northeast of San Antonio.

The cave holds some 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats that emerge for food runs every evening from March into November in numbers so great they show up on weather radar. The major difference this year is they're emerging much earlier, as much as two hours before darkness, because they need to travel farther to find the drought-depleted insect populations such as moths that infest corn and cotton plants.

"Last year, when it was really wet and there were good crops and good for pests, the bats were emerging just about dark," said James Eggers, education director at the Bat Conservation International, which manages Bracken Cave. "That's when they prefer to emerge because they can avoid all different kinds of predators."

Mexican free-tailed bats, the most common species in Texas, are targeted by hawks and falcons that dive into the swarm emerging from the black mouth of the cave, an ancient collapsed sinkhole where tons of excrement gives off an ammonia-like scent. They're also hunted by raccoons, owls and snakes that sometimes dangle from the top of the cave entrance, snatching bats as they come out in a whirring, corkscrew-like funnel that darkens the sky. Eggers said the declining insect population will also affect the bats' survival rate, though it will be difficult to determine the severity of the problem until 2012.

"We can stipulate that more than most years, the old, the infirmed and the young are suffering more, so bat populations will be lower next year," Eggers said.

The dark brown or gray bats are about 15 grams each -- the weight of two 25-cent coins -- with wingspans of 8 to 10 inches. They are among the slowest reproducing mammals, producing each year a single pup, whose life is in jeopardy if the mother bat can't provide sufficient food.

These factors have experts concerned about other colonies across Texas where the bats are also beginning their food runs before nightfall. This includes the 1.5 million bats in Austin -- the world's largest urban bat population -- which entertain people with nightly departures from under a city bridge.

Activity at another well-known Texas bat site may be foreshadowing next year.

Nyta Brown, who manages the Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area near Fredericksburg, said while her bat emergences are earlier this summer, the 3 million bats that normally inhabit the abandoned train tunnel is down considerably. Nightly shows that should be 40 minutes to an hour at this time of the year have dwindled to six to 10 minutes.

Cave Fossil Find: New Human Species or "Nothing Extraordinary"?
For National Geographic News By James Owen
Published March 14, 2012
http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2012/03/120314-new-human-species-chinese-plos-science-red-deer-cave/

A previously unknown type of human—jut-jawed, heavy-browed, deer-eating cave dwellers—may have been identified via Stone Age bones from southern China, according to a controversial new study.

The "mystery human fossils" might even represent an entirely new species that existed alongside our own as recently as 11,500 years ago, according to a team of Chinese and Australian researchers.

Or the fossils might represent an especially early migration of so-called modern humans out of Africa and into East Asia, the team suggests.

Or—as some critical scientists have said—the evidence may tell us something we already know: People come in all shapes and sizes.

Primitive Humans Held On Past Heyday?

"We have discovered a new population of prehistoric humans whose skulls are an unusual mosaic of primitive features, like those seen in our ancestors hundreds of thousands of years ago," evolutionary biologist Darren Curnoe of the University of New South Wales, said via email.

"In short, they're anatomically unique among all members of the human evolutionary tree," added Curnoe, a co-author of the new study of the "Red Deer Cave people," published online today in the journal *PLoS ONE*.

The study was principally based on the remains of at least three individuals from Maludong (or Red Deer Cave) in Yunnan Province (map)—fossils that had been excavated in 1989 but hadn't been studied until now.

Among the human remains was an abundance of bones from an extinct species of giant deer—suggesting the cave people were hunters with a taste for venison.

Stone and antler tools were also found, some of which were likely used to prepare the deer for dinner, researchers say.

(continued on page 7)

The team also analyzed a partial skeleton found in 1979 in neighboring Guangxi Province.

That human specimen had been encased in stone until the study team removed and reconstructed it.

The Red Deer Cave Look

The Red Deer Cave dwellers' unusual features included a flat face, a broad nose, a jutting jaw that lacked a chin, large molar teeth, a rounded braincase with prominent brow ridges, and thick skull bones, the researchers say.

Their brains were "moderate in size," Curnoe added.

Despite this seemingly primitive human design, radiocarbon dating of charcoal from the fossil deposits suggests the Red Deer Cave people lived just 14,500 to 11,500 years ago, the team says—a time by which all other human species, such as Neanderthals, are thought to have died out. That date would make the Red Deer humans even more recent than the famous *Homo floresiensis* from the Indonesian island of Flores—itself a disputed potential human species. Discovered in 2003, the Flores "hobbits" are dated to no later than 13,000 years ago.

Potential New Human Species?

The study team is so far reluctant to call their find a new human species.

"One of the major ongoing questions for scientists studying human evolution is the lack of a satisfactory biological definition of our own species, *Homo sapiens,"* Curnoe said.

"This is one of the main reasons why we have been cautious about classifying the Red Deer Cave people at this time," he said.

Even so, Curnoe thinks "the evidence is slightly weighted towards the Red Deer Cave people representing a new evolutionary line.

"Their skulls are anatomically unique. They look very different to all modern humans, whether alive today or in Africa 150,000 years ago," the anthropologist said.

"Second, the very fact they persisted until almost 11,000 years ago—when we know that very modern-looking people lived at the same time immediately to the east and south—suggests they must have been isolated from them," Curnoe added.

"We might infer from this isolation that they either didn't interbreed or did so in a limited way," which would have staved off their "absorption" into the mainstream human lineage.

Alternatively, if these people *were* members of the wider Stone Age population in East Asia, they may represent an early and unknown dispersal of modern humans from Africa, the study team argues.

"The Red Deer Cave people might then sample an early migration to East Asia: people who interacted in a limited way, perhaps didn't contribute at all, to the founding populations of living East Asians," Curnoe said.

"Nothing Extraordinary" About Mystery Humans

The team's suggestion that the Red Deer Cave people are somehow evolutionarily unique is receiving a skeptical reception from other scientists.

Physical anthropologist Erik Trinkaus described the findings as "an unfortunate over interpretation and misinterpretation of robust early modern humans, probably with affinities to modern Melanesians"—indigenous peoples of Pacific islands stretching from New Guinea to Fiji

"There is nothing extraordinary" about the newly announced fossil human, added Trinkaus, of Washington University in St. Louis, via email.

Philipp Gunz, of Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, isn't convinced by the study team's interpretation either.

"I would be surprised if it really was a new human group that was previously undiscovered," said, Gunz, also a physical anthropologist.

Responding to the criticism, study co-author Curnoe said, "That's fine. I would expect a mixture of comments."

It Takes All Kinds

The odd appearances of the Red Deer Cave people probably "just tells us that modern humans are a very diverse species," Max Planck's Gunz suggested.

"Modern humans are exceptionally variable, especially if you compare modern humans to our closest fossil relatives, the Neanderthals," who seem to have had a comparatively narrow range of appearances, he said.

While unusual, the skull features detailed in the new study "plot very close, or even within, the modern human range of variation," Gunz added.

"I would say it's not completely unexpected for a modern human at that age, so my gut feeling is that this is not a new species."

Gunz does, however, think the Chinese fossils might be evidence of multiple migration waves out of Africa that involved different populations of modern humans.

Missing Code

To make a convincing case for their new human, the study team will need genetic evidence, Gunz said.

"It should be fairly easy to extract DNA from these fossils, and then we will know for sure how related they are to us as a modern human species," he said.

Attempts to obtain DNA from the Red Deer Cave remains haven't been successful to date, however.

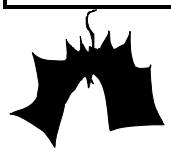
New attempts are under way, "involving three of the world's major ancient DNA laboratories and cutting-edge techniques," according to study co-author Curnoe.

"We'll just have to wait and see."

DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE APRIL MEETING. REMEMBER ANNE LIKES RECEIVING MAIL!

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 Central Oklahoma Grotto, 1117 NW 74th St. , Lawton, OK 73505. 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!* Website: http://www.okcavers.com

Decontamination protocols specific to WNS have been developed and will continue to be revised to incorporate the best available information. 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 http://www.okcavers.com/wns



The April meeting will be held at The Town's Friday night, April 13th, 2012.

Central Oklahoma Grotto
1117 NW 74th St.
Lawton, OK 73505-4234