CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

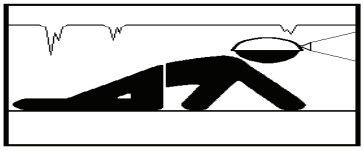
C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements ……..……...……...…....2
Minutes……...……..……..……...……2
Treasurer's Report ……..……...……...……..3
Trip Reports
Four days of camp, caving, and fun…
A trip report by Duane Del Vecchio (Mr. D) June 2012…. 3-4
Nescatunga Caving Trip by Jon Woltz. Saturday, Aug.8, 2012. 5

Potpourri

Let Me Go Down written by Steve Beleu ……..……...…...5
WARNING: SCAM ARTISTS AT WORK
Reprint from Bill Putnam Director ,
National Speleological Society Inc.…….…… 5



Intro to Kid Caving…. (See Story inside)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The September meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, September 14, 2012, at the home of Jon and Kelly Woltz.

National White-Nose Syndrome Decontamination Protocol - Version 06.25.2012

The fungus *Geomyces destructans* (*G.d.*) is the cause of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that has devastated populations of hibernating bats in eastern North America. Since its discovery in New York in 2007, WNS has spread rapidly through northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Midwest states and eastern Canada. It continues to threaten bat populations across the continent. For the protection of bats and their habitats, comply with all current cave and mine closures, advisories, and regulations on the federal, state, tribal, and private lands you plan to visit. In the absence of cave and mine closure policy, or when planned activities involve close/direct contact with bats, their environments, and/or associated materials, the following decontamination procedures should be implemented to **reduce the risk of transmission** of the fungus to other bats and/or habitats. For the purposes of clarification, the use of the word "decontamination," or any similar root, in this document entails both the 1) cleaning and 2) treatment to disinfect exposed materials.

Under no circumstances should clothing, footwear, or equipment that was used in a confirmed or suspect WNS-affected state or region be used in a WNS-unaffected state or region. Some state/federal regulatory or land management agencies have supplemental documents1 that provide additional requirements or exemptions on lands under their jurisdiction.

I. TREATMENTS TO REDUCE RISK OF TRANSFERRING *GEOMYCES DESTRUCTANS*2:

Applications/Products:

The most universally available option for treatment of submersible gear is:

Submersion in Hot Water: Effective at sustained temperatures ≥50ºC (122ºF) for 20 minutes

Secondary or non-submersible treatment options (for a minimum of 10 min.) include:

PRODUCTS: **Clorox® (6% HOCl) Bleach**
Lysol® IC Quaternary Disinfectant Cleaner
Professional Lysol® Antibacterial All-purpose Clean

COG has the latest links on WNS and Decon Protocols on its website: http://www.okcavers.com/wns

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the June 8, 2012 meeting

Host: the home of Duane Del Vecchio

Attendees: Dale Amlee, John Bozeman, John Talbot, Carol and Dale Town, John Van Dyke, Kelley and Jon Woltz, and S. Beleu

Master Charcoaler Duane grilled burgers, hot dogs, brisket, and bacon for us, and had no less than 100 pounds of other types of food for us and more beer than exists in the entire nation of Germany, whose young children even drink beer. Which is why the meeting…

…BEGAN AT 8:43, Grand Imperial President Dale Amlee presiding.

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

–we talked about finishing the survey of Green's Cathedral cave. Our trip there in May was to mark by GPS the entrances into the cave and set things up for our resumption of work there in September. Although Lil will create the map she depends on us to get to her the survey data that she needs. Dale Town volunteered to check some old computers that he has to see if they contain any survey data on them from the surveys done in the last decade for this cave. We need to determine not only what work remains to be done, but what work has been completed. We decided to not resurvey the cave under any circumstances.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Talbot gave his report.

TRIP REPORT

I gave a report about my visit to Eden Falls Cave near Ponca, Arkansas on June 4. This is a wild cave open to the public on federal land. The cave is about 300+ feet long; you enter the cave through a walk-in entrance but soon have to crawl over rocks to get back to a dome room about 35 feet high that has been created by a waterfall. On a 200 feet cliff above the area of the cave is a stream that has eaten through rock to create the dome room. There is second dome room just to the left of the entrance that is dry, and a stand-up overflow passage on the opposite side. So I crawled back into the cave and exited it via the overflow passage. So much water runs through this room that although it is in limestone it has none of the types of formations that we would expect of a limestone cave.

TIME THE MEETING ENDED: 9:32.

After the meeting ended we resumed eating and drinking. We made sure that John Bozeman took the leftover deviled eggs back to Sue.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.02	Postage	$	37.84
			Printing	$	24.00
Dues	$	12.00			
TOTAL	**$**	**12.02**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**61.84**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**107.10**			
CHECKING	**$**	**314.93**			
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,133.04**			
UNDEPOSITED FUNDS	**$**	**12.00**			
TOTAL	**$**	**2,567.07**			

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 6/7/2012 $2,567.07

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORT

Four days of camp, caving, and fun…

A trip report by Duane Del Vecchio (Mr. D)
June 2012

As many in COG know I haven't been to many meetings in the past two years due to the fact that I was a Director of Lawton Public Schools Camp LuJo—a 24 hour science camp in which 5th grade students come to camp on Friday at noon and leave the next day at noon. During that time they attend 50 minute classes on science until dinner time and then learn what a camp experience is like with a trust walk (blindfolded hike in the dark), capture the flag, and cooking smoores along with games and songs, followed by a short 6 hour sleep and having classes again until the busses pick them up to take them back to their schools. During the year we selected a 'best camper' from the group of approx. 100 that would attend each camp. The best camper then was notified in May that they were eligible for a free four day trip to NW Oklahoma which we called Underground Oklahoma, courtesy of a science grant from the Dept. of Defense.

Twenty-one were selected and a final group of 16 went on the trip. But before the trip the students had to attend Saturday classes learning about bats, venomous reptiles of Oklahoma, and caving safety along with a full day excursion at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge where they got their 'practical' test crawling, twisting and squeezing though some of the rock rooms in Charon's Gardens Wildness Area.

On the first Monday of June, we loaded a school bus (with Mr. D driving) in the rain and drove up to our destination for the next day and a half, Alabaster Caverns State Park. There we would get a private cave tour of the caverns by one of the park tour guides, get a reptile show by the Park Manager (Mike Caywood), hike the various trails around the park, and the highlight of the day, sleep in one of the park caves!! We rented Water Cave for our overnight and made smoores outside the cave in a little picnic area and then sat around the fire to tell stories until bedtime (11 p.m.). We moved into the cave (which had pallets on top of rock shelves) and the students proceeded to roll out their sleeping bags in an area that was roughly 2 to 3 foot high. When everyone was settled in, most crashed pretty hard as it was a physical day. A few stayed awake to hear the flutter of bat wings as bats flew in and out throughout the night.

Sleeping in Water Cave

The next morning was our big day where we got to go wild caving in the park caves. We weren't sure how many of the caves we would be able to do as it had rained over 10 inches a month ago and Bear Cave was sumped big time. But our guide was sure we could get enough mud time in! We first had a review of caving safety with the park director Mike, then every kid got their own hel-

(Continued on page 4)

met, put on their light, put one in their pocket (Mr. D got to carry the spares (that's a LOT of lights!!) and we were off on the trial to Bear Cave.

The Before Picture

We took a BEFORE picture (nice and clean) before getting into a creek and wading after our path was washed out in locations. We got to the mouth of Bear and had our guide in front, two counselors in the middle, and Mr. D in back. It was a VERY muddy cave but as they were already wet from the creek it didn't seem to matter to the kiddos. Of course, it was one of the noisiest cave trips I've ever been on <grin>. (lots of oohs and ahhhs along with a startled scream when they spotted frogs and even a salamander). Then after about 25 minutes I heard a ruckus ahead. Seems we hit the sump! You had to climb up on breakdown, then slide down into 40 degree water and whereas it was no longer sumped, it was a 30 ft. crawl with helmet sideways on rock roof, 6 inches of air with 2 1/2 feet of water to rocky floor. If I was in front, I probably would have vetoed it, but by the time I had got there over half of the kids had already fully submerged their body and with nose scraping rock had already successfully made the passage The yelps (or screams from the girls) was dropping into 40 degree water...the shock basically takes your breath away. IF you've never had the opportunity to submerge in that cold of water, the cold almost squeezes you and you have to keep up your nerve to crawl with just enough air space while keeping your head above water. Amazingly, all but two could do it… one was scared to death of water (and didn't admit to us until then) and the other was just getting a bit too spooked to continue. I had one of the counselors take those two back and I went though to find the entire group had left me in this big room with about 12 openings… and being in gyp, no sound what so ever! Finally about 10 minutes later the guide came back for me. He said he wanted the kids to keep moving since they were wet and until they took a break down in another room, they didn't see that I wasn't with them. I met with the rest and the entire group continued for another 15 minutes when we came to a large room. It was definitely warmer in this room. Then I heard the same squeaks and yells as they were dropping into another water hole. Then word came back that the entire way was full and they'd have to swim for it to find the exit. I called a halt and climbed to the top of the room where there was air flow and just about 60 feet over and up was twilight in the distance (the exit). The guide was down in the lower tunnel that lead to a long crawl that ended up at another exit in the north. The kids by that time had had just about enough of water in a cave <big grin> and all were happy to find the giant exit going into the canyon on the north of the park. We came out, climbed over a mountain and were dry before we got to Owl Cave. We went in and after 20 minutes hit breakdown and came back out. By then we had over three hours of caving and everyone was hungry! We thanked our guide, loaded the bus and headed for Boiling Springs

The after picture

State Park which would be our HQ for the next 3 days.

During the rest of the trip we got to see the transit of Venus across the sun at the Selman Living Lab, night constellations, dig crystals at Great Salt Plains, got to see a newborn fawn (in which I almost stepped on at the Selman Bat Cave), got to see a million Mexican Free Tailed Bats flying from Selman Bat Cave, and swimming at the state park before heading for home Thursday afternoon.

It was a great trip—probably THE best trip I have taken in my whole career with kids (and I've been doing them my whole life). When asked the best part of the trip over 3/4 of the kids said it was the caving that they liked the best. One of our girls upon seeing her shirt wasn't as dirty as one of the other girls wallowed in the mud in Owl to outdo the other! And another put on her helmet—I <heart> mud… now there's a future COG'er if I ever saw one! <grin>

A full report is available at:
http://ddvdude.com/oklaunder12/index.htm

Nescatunga Caving Trip Report
Date: Saturday, Aug. 18, 2012
Participants: Sue Bozeman, Bryan Braden, Ralph Manganiello, Ryan Manganiello, Matt Moser, Sam Moser, Jon Woltz
Written by Jon Wolts

This was my second trip to Nescatunga. Back in February Sue, Beck, and I counted bats from the south entrance to the Crawdad Hole, with a side trip into the Jewel Box passage. On this trip, we planned to go with Sam's group through the entire length of Nescatunga from the south entrance to north exit.

On the way to our rendezvous point at Bouse Junction, Sue and I both drove through torrential thunderstorms -- exactly the wrong kind of weather for a day of caving. Fortunately, the major storms cells were quickly moving off to the east. It was still cloudy and raining sporadically when we got to the Whitlaw Ranch, but the heaviest rainfall seemed to have skirted the ranch. We met Sam and his group at the ranch gate, and we caravanned down to a flat area next to an old pump jack to park.

As we'd planned, we entered Nescatunga through the south entrance. Compared to some of the gyp caves around Alabaster Caverns, the primary passage through Nescatunga doesn't have tight squeezes or a lot of lengthy muddy crawls. That's not to say it's show-cave easy; there are plenty of short sections where muddy crawls are mandatory -- and there's definitely no way to get through Nescatunga without getting wet at least to the knees (or higher!). To me, the most awkward section was an area called The Ford. At The Ford, a low ceiling, knee-deep wall-to-wall water, and uncertain footing made avoiding a chest-deep dunking a challenge.

Despite decades of rock-hound vandalism, Nescatunga still a lot of very pretty layered selenite crystals embedded in the walls. Other areas of the cave are decorated with elaborate ceiling channels and a pair of deep pools that must be skirted on narrow ledges. The wildlife highlight of the trip was seeing a number of axoloti in the cave's streams and pools. It's not uncommon to see salamanders in caves, but this was the first time in nearly a decade of caving that I've seen axoloti. The cave also had an active healthy population of myotis velifer; we saw nothing that would indicate the presence of WNS in the cave.

Our group left Nescatunga cleaner than we found it, thanks to Matt. By the end of the trip his burlap garbage bag was bulging with broken bottles, cans, and other trash that had been dumped or washed into the cave.

All total, I think it took us about three and half hours to four hours to travel the length of the cave. Sam was waiting for us when we climbed out of the north exit. We piled into his truck and he drove us back to the parking area. We'd traveled a good distance underground so we were all glad to have a ride back to our cars and trucks. After cleaning up and saying our goodbyes, Sue and I headed to Fairview for the traditional after-caving pizza. I really enjoyed this trip; if we go back next summer and you've never seen Nescatunga before, don't miss it!

POTPOURRI

Let Me Go Down

written by Steve Beleu

Let me go down into the deepest cave
And stay, leaving above me forever the sun,
Leaving forever the music of the winds,
Abandoning life on the world's surface
For the life beneath.

Why remain here above
Lost within a species at war with itself
And everything else when I can dwell
Among guileless bats and salamanders
Who have no burden of the past
And no dread of the future?

Cavers, we will go down into the deepest caves
Leaving our fellow creatures behind us
And learn to live off the thick air of the caves
Breathing it deep and feasting upon it.

We will live there 300 years or more.

WARNING: SCAM ARTISTS AT WORK

Bill Putnam Director ,National Speleological Society Inc.
NSS Information Technology Committee
Larry Matthews, Author NSS#6792-F

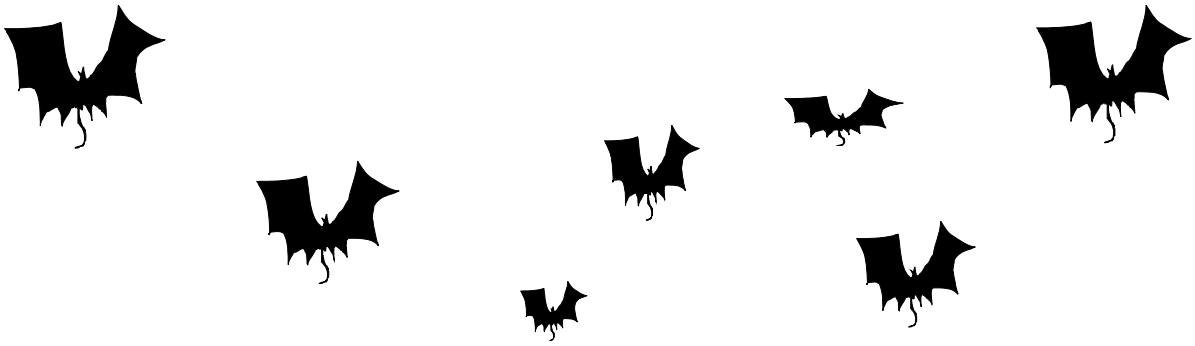
A group called "Bookvika Publishing" has listed the "Snail Shell Cave" book for sale on Amazon.com.

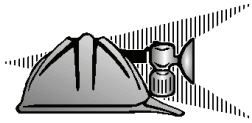
They are asking you to pre-order. They show the wrong cover, list the wrong I SBN number, and give the wrong size. The only thing they havec orrect is the title of the book (Snail Shell Cave) and the names of the authors (Larry E. Matthews and Bob Biddix). They are listing a price of$19.95, which is also incorrect. The NSS has yet to even announced a price.

This is an ad for a fake book created by hackers who illegally gained access to another user's Amazon account. Do not order the book - your money will go to criminals in Russia and you will get nothing back. The title and authors (Biddix and Matthews) are stolen from an upcoming release published by the National Speleological Society (NSS). This has been reported to Amazon, but they have been reluctant to take it down. We are working on that, but until the listing is removed we would like to warn you of this deception. The NSS has no connection with this ad or its publishers.

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. *Cave softly and safely!* Website: http://www.okcavers.com

The September meeting will be
September meeting will be at Jon and Kelly Woltz
Friday, September 14, 2012.





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