CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The October meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, October 12, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be.at the home of John Van Dyke's.

Happy Hollowcave-enn!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The October meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, October 12, 2012, at the home of John Van Dyke.

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

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the September 17, 2012 meeting

Host: the home of COG members Jon and Kelley Woltz

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, John Van Dyke, the Woltz', S. Beleu

The Honorable Dale Amlee began the meeting at 7:48

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dale noted that he was asked by an OKC-based Venture Crew group of older boy scouts (the youngest member is 15) if COG can give them a tour of an Oklahoma cave. Dale didn't want to contact them back until he had discussed this venture with the Ventures with us. We decided to offer to take them to Nescatunga Cave and charge them $5 per person.
- We discussed an idea I had about videoconferencing the meeting via computer to those who can't attend it in person. We will continue to investigate this technology.

TRIP REPORTS

- Sue reported about the trip taken to Nescatunga Cave, whose report in the last issue of COGnizance you should read if you are a supporter of salamanders as you should be.
- I passed around photographs that I had taken of Eden Falls Cave, a wild cave in northwest Arkansas that I had wandered through in June and reported about at the last meeting and in the last issue of COGnizance.
- I reported about taking the Wild Cave Tour of Blanchard Springs Cavern on September 1st.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer-for-Life John Talbot gave his most recent treasurer's report from the last few months.

We concluded the meeting at 9:12, two minutes earlier than we ended the meeting at the Woltz's house last year on September 10. Then we returned to eating. Fine dining is an important component of caving.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.54	Postage	$	7.00
TOTAL	**$**	**12.02**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**7.00**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**118.10**			
CHECKING	**$**	**371.00**			
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,134.12**			
TOTAL	**$**	**2,623.22**			

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 10/04/2012 $2,623.22

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORT

Greene's Cathedral
September 22, 2012
Jon Woltz and Sue Bozeman
Written by Sue Bozeman

Yup. At it again. The notes for the multi-year survey for Greene's are lost or misplaced and we are off and running on yet another assault on a very pretty -- in parts -- and very nasty -- in parts -- gypsum cave in northwestern Oklahoma.

The largest entrance is called The Narthex, named by Lil Town because of the cave's cathedral aspect. The narthex precedes the nave, the central approach to the high altar. Enough religious architecture. Greene's has a lofty arched ceiling for the first 60 feet. Thereafter, you get to crawl a bit because of the interfering breakdown, which then opens up into sculpted ceiling pendants, which you can ping with your fingernail, eliciting pleasing musical tones.

Jon and I had grandiose plans to begin our resurvey. I had brought some of Duane's orange and yellow flags (from utility companies that flag their lines before you dig in your yard -- of the "Call Okie" variety). We used orange for the known entrances and yellow inside for junctions and 'last point surveyed' locations.

We had planned to orange flag the GPS locations and survey to the drip lines of the Narthex, Pin Cushion, Little Cedar (not yet cave-connected, but it HAS to contribute water inflow somewhere!) and Whitetail entrances. Then we would survey overland from GPS point to GPS point and plot it on the old survey. IF the points tracked reasonably accurately to the currently "points" map we DO have, all we would then need to do is have a notetaker/passage drawer walk/crawl through the cave along with a couple people taking photos. We are hoping to NOT have to totally redo the survey that was initiated in 1999!!!

It was a beautiful day -- not too hot, not TOO windy, but very sunny. Have you ever tried to use a Fluke in sunlight? It's a nso-go. You cannot see the laser light in sunlight. I had to squirrel around and "create" shade with my body and helmet. Even at that, we couldn't get more than 15 feet from each other or the bounceback was not received by the Fluke sending device. So, since neither of us had brought a tape, we were frustrated in our desire to survey overland from entrance to entrance.

We set up the GPS points at each of the 4 entrances and then just started a resurvey at the Narthex. We got in some 200 feet, placing 7 points. It took six hours to accomplish this piddly amount of work, but it was a pleasant outing for a change. We also got a chance to catch up with our dear landowner, Betty, and exchange people-news.

By the way, the flag at the Narthex's GPS point is stuck in the root system of a soon-to-be-eroded Hackberry. That poor tree has most of its feeding system above ground! Amazing tree.

POTPOURRI

The 2013 NSS Convention website is LIVE and can be accessed from the NSS homepage!
http://www.caves.org

The 2013 NSS Convention will be August 5-9, 2013 at Shippensburg University, Pennsylvania.

Please take some time to look it over - what is available on the website. We are still waiting for the pricing on the new air-conditioned dorms which will be completed in February. We anticipate the price will be ~$30 per day per person. Each room has two beds and a bathroom. There are also suites with four beds, two bathrooms and a common kitchen/sitting area. The rates for rooms and meal passes will be posted as soon as we receive an update from the university. Don't let this stop you from registering! Register now and you can update your registration with these additions later.

Many of you may have heard that you will not be allowed to have your vehicle at your tent site. This is true. Camping will be on the student athletic field and the ground is soft. In the unlikely event of rain, we would not want you to get stuck. Your vehicle will be in one of three lots very close to the field. If you are "tin tenting," spaces along the grassy apron will be available to you for setting up a canopy. We will have carts & volunteers to help you transport your gear to and from your vehicles. Once your camp is set up, you will be within a five-minute walk of all the daily events.

There is a misconception going around that we will not have adult beverages at the 2013 Convention. You know how rumors can get out of control, and this one did with a vengeance. That being said, there are a few caveats: If you are lodging in a dorm, you can have them in your rooms, but not in the hallways. If you are camping, no one will be checking on what you have at your campsite. However, they are not permitted on the campus property. These are university rules and they are nothing new to us; we have had this sort of restriction at a lot of previous conventions. The campus food service will be providing the adult beverages in permitted areas and at the evening events.

A meal pass will be for sale. This will get you 10 total meals, which includes breakfasts and lunches - for a rate less that those without the tickets. The cafeteria will have both hot and cold meals. They can also cater to Vegans. Once in the food hall you can have all you care to eat.

Only service animals will be permitted on campus.

The staff is looking forward to seeing you at the 2013 NSS Convention and we all are planning for a great event.

-Craig Hindman, NSS 2013 Convention Co-Chairman

Luminary Series, videos online
2012 Convention, Greenbrier Valley, WV
http://www.caves.org/luminaries/index.shtml

The National Speleological Society is pleased to unveil the initial presentations in its long-awaited "Luminary Series" — featuring pioneering cave explorers, karst scientists, and other long-time NSS members. These talks are designed to give young and old cavers alike the opportunity to learn from some of the true superstars in our Society.

This program is the brainchild of AVP Geary Schindel, and is produced by Dave Socky and Webmaster Alex Sproul. Recommendations for future speakers are encouraged.

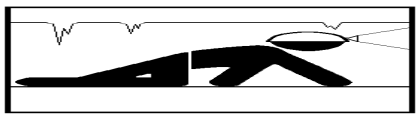
If the video **won't play in Internet Explorer? Please use Firefox, Chrome, or Safari**.

These are three speakers you can watch on the website.

Jeanne Gurnee is one of the most accomplished women in the history of American speleology. In addition to having served the NSS in many ways, including as president, Jeanne is Vice President and Trustee of the National Speleological Foundation, and for a number of years was a member of the board of the National Caves Association. Somehow, all of these administrative duties have not prevented Jeanne Gurnee from enjoying more than a half-century of adventure underground.

Dr. Will White is one of the most prolific, famous, and well-loved cave scientists on the planet. Will's career has taken him to an expansive array of dark, scary, and far-away places while coaxing secrets out of the earth. A long and distinguished career at Penn State University has given Dr. White the occasion to pursue significant ground-breaking science, supervise numerous excellent students, and enjoy a lot of interesting, challenging, and humorous adventures along the way.

DWIGHT "DIRTDOC" DEAL In addition to being a rock-climber, a mountaineer, a hiker, a scuba diver, a canoeist, a white- water river runner, a pilot, an engineer, and a scientist, Dwight Deal has enjoyed a great life as a cave explorer. Loaded with funny anecdotes, fabulous photography, and a great store of tales and skills, Dwight Deal's presentations are always popular features at caving events. Dwight's talk here explains a thing or two about calcite—and also employs the double-refraction property of calcite as a metaphor for his lifetime of adventure both above and below the ground.



NEW RESEARCH SHOWS MOST BATS REALLY DO LIKE THE DARK

By Matt Bardo reporter for BBC
Naturehttp://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19719986

Moonlight scares bats into hiding in the shadows, new research suggests.

Scientists in Mexico collated studies of bat behaviour from all over the world and analysed them for evidence of "lunar phobia" or "fear of the moon".

The study found that the activity of bats in moonlit habitats decreased on bright nights compared with bats that live and forage in darker places.

This may be explained by a higher risk of predation and lack of feeding opportunities in moonlight, it found.

The findings are published in the journal Mammalian Biology and represent what scientists have called "the first reliable evaluation of the lunar phobia phenomenon".

The study brought together a wide range of research concerning how these nocturnal animals behave and interact with the light of the moon.

"Evidence that the activity of bats decreased with increasing intensity of moonlight was contradictory, so that's why we decided to conduct this research," said the study's lead author, Mr Romeo Saldana-Vazquez, a biologist at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

"The effect of moonlight on the activity of bats had not been revised despite the existence of information accumulated over 20 years in different parts of the world," he said.

Drawing on data about 26 species from 11 studies, scientists modelled the activity of bats at different latitudes and in different habitats against the phases of the moon.

The analysis concluded that lunar phobia is "common among bats" and showed that the reduction in activity in moonlight differed depending on habitat type.

"Habitats where light enters more easily causes more bat-activity decreases compared with bats that forage in the darkest places," said Mr Saldana-Vazquez.

Species that forage over water and beneath the forest canopy showed considerably more lunar phobia than those in sheltered habitats, according to the study.

Scientists suggest that this may be because out in the open, the moonlight means these bats can be more easily spotted by predators.

Another factor could be that the bats' prey becomes more scarce when there is more light.

The scientists also linked bats that lived closer to the equator to a stronger form of lunar phobia, though this may have been caused by differences between bat species and their ecosystems, rather than the brightness of the moon in tropical regions.

Bats' lunar phobia depended on their foraging habitats

One exception was found to be bats that fly above the treetops. These species did not tend to decrease their activity on brighter nights.

Mr Saldana-Vazquez said it is possible that this is because these bats tend to fly fast and live in temperate climates where bats have fewer predators.

"We think that this study will help to re-open the debate about the existence of a widespread pattern," added Mr Saldana-Vazquez. He now hopes that the questions raised by the study will be investigated further.

"For example assess[ing] the density of predators and prey in studies of bat foraging activity... could provide more insights into the mechanism behind the reduction in activity of bats, and the possible mechanisms behind the evolution of [these] behaviour patterns," he said.

. **Syrian Schools Operate in Caves to Escape Violence**

October 7, 2012 / Syria, Asia
http://cavingnews.com/20121007-syrian-schools-operate-in-caves-to-escape-violence?

To escape the ongoing violence of Syria‘s civil war, many schools have been left abandoned. While some students go into hiding with their families, other schools have been driven to operate underground, in caves.

With the now daily use unguided bombs and imprecise artillery and mortars being used in residential areas, the number of civilian casualties is significantly increasing.

In some cases, schools are even being targets, as the Syrian government claims that rebels have used them as bomb-making factories and for weapon storage.

As a result, this past September the Syrian government confirmed that over 2,000 of the country’s 22,000 schools have been damaged or destroyed.

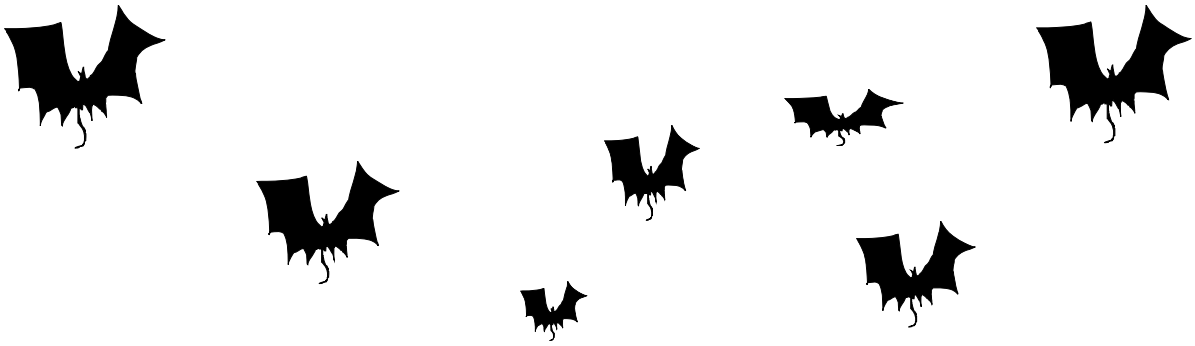
Despite the lack of supplies, the small blackboard and the dim lighting of the cave classrooms, the students are eager to learn while they wait for the violence to end.

Children in a war-torn Syrian town hold school in a cave [CNN

Syrian Schools Operate in Caves to Escape Violence.

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 October meeting will be
At John Van Dyke's
Friday, October 12, 2012.



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