CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The February meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, February 8, 2013, at 8:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of John Van Dyke's

Congratulations to Steve for having a piece of music published in the January 2013 NSS!!!!

A Big Brown Bat hibernating in Alabaster Caverns State Park (Main Cave) right off of the tourist trail… discovered during bat count 2013 on Feb. 2, 2013—photo by ddv13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

***The February meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, February 8, 2013, at the home of John Van Dyke's**

***Here are the decision listings for 2013:**
Jon Woltz = Chairman
Dale Amlee = V Chairman
John Talbot = Treasurer for Live
Steve Beleu = Secretary (at Underarms)

Meeting places:
January 11, 2013 John Talbot
February 8, 2013 John Van Dyke
March 8, 2013 Dale Amlee
April 12, 2013 Dale/Carol Town
May 10, 2013 John/Sue Bozeman
June 14, 2013 Duane Del Vecchio
July - August No meetings
September 13, 2013 Jon/Kelley Woltz
October 11, 2013 Art Wallace
November 8, 2013 Steve Beleu
December 13, 2013 John/Sue Bozeman.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

DECEMBER 2012

INCOME		**EXPENSES**	
Dividends	$ 0.02		
TOTAL	**$ 0.02**	**TOTAL**	**$ 0.00**

CASH ON HAND	**$ 118.10**
CHECKING	**$ 371.02**
SAVINGS	**$ 2,134.12**
TOTAL	**$ 2,623.24**

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 11/08/2012 $2,623.24

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE

END OF THE YEAR

1/1/2012 BANK BALANCE	**$2,372.20**
CASH ON HAND	**$ 77.10**
TOTAL	**$2,449.30**

INCOME		**EXPENSES**	
Dues	$215.00	Postage	$ 69.92
Dividends	$ 2.13	Newsletter Printing	$ 42.00
Publication Sales	$ 32.00	Landowner's Gift	$ 24.04
Newsletter Sales	$ 18.00		
TOTAL	**$267.13**		**$135.9**

BANK BALANCE	**$ 2462.37**
CASH ON HAND	**$ 118.10**
TOTAL	**$ 2,580.47**

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 12/31/2012 $ 2,580.47

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE

JANUARY 2013

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.33	Printing	$	18.00
Due	$	24.00	Postage	$	25.08
			Landowner's Gift	$	24.04
TOTAL	**$**	**24.33**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**67.12**

CASH ON HAND	**$**	**118.10**
CHECKING	**$**	**327.94**
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,134.43**
TOTAL	**$**	**2,580.47**

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 2,580.80 as of 1/72013

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS#30254RE

MINUTES

THERE WEREN'T ANY MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER MEETING, WE WERE TOO BUSY HAVING A PARTY!

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the January 13, 2013

Host: the home of COG member John Talbot where we ate in excellence.

Attendees: John Talbot, Dale Amlee, John and Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, Carol and Dale Town, Jeremiah and J.T. Van Dyke, Jon and Kelley Woltz, S. Beleu

His Imperial Highness Woltz opened the meeting at 8:00

OLD BUSINESS – Ain't got none, us.

NEW BUSINESS

- We talked about bat count, most of which is being done by Dr. Caire and those with whom he networks. COG will count in several caves, but not all of our usual caves, some of which Dr. Caire's confederates are working. He asks that we count Nescatunga and Jester caves. Sue will have us also count Greene's Cathedral.
- Assistant Imperial Highness Amlee told us about an e-mail that he received from a Boy Scout troop in Wichita, KS that wants to wander through a cave. We will consider taking them through Nescatunga. Dale also noted that he has inquiries from two additional and similar groups about caving. We will need to decide if we merge the groups into one big cave-a-thon or deal with them individually. We would charge them $10 per attendee. Our target date is July 20. The importance of working with these groups is simple: our future COG members may hail from these groups as they grow older, and are our greatest hope of recruiting new members.
- Duane told us about the *Oklahoma Response Plan to White-Nose Syndrome* report of the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation http:// whitenosesyndrome.org/resource/oklahoma-response-plan-white-nose-syndrome-wns

All COG members should read it. The general page this is from http://whitenosesyndrome.org/resources

TRIP REPORT – Sue gave a report about our trip to Greene's Cathedral on December 15.

TREASURER'S REPORT—John Talbot gave his treasurer's report.

The Sergeant-At-Underarms concluded the meeting at 9:17 when he'd had enough ugh.

TRIP REPORT

TRIP REPORT: Greene's Cathedral
DECEMBER 15, 2012 and January 20, 2013
Survey Personnel: Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman, and Jon Woltz
Written by Sue Bozeman

We have been continuing the quickie resurvey of Greene's, working on getting enough drawings to complete a final map of the cave as well as finishing up the incomplete survey.

Our December trip was eventful in several ways. First, we did make a connection between Li'l Cedar Entrance and the main cave. It was a voice connection, however, since there appears to have been a slump or cave-in since that lower internal passage was initially surveyed in 2005! Dale and Jon were finishing up the lower passage resurvey. Jon slithered through the lower channel and managed to ooch between iffy-looking breakdown, trying to reach Steve and me, digging and surveying in the Li'l Cedar crawlway above him.

Once we heard Jon say that he could not make it to us, we stopped trying to dig any further and told him we'd head over to Whitetail Entrance and begin digging it open again.

Steve and I finished up our survey and moved over to Whitetail. We took turns digging until Jon and Dale joined us. This passage is 4 to 8 feet wide and had about 6 to 8 inches of traversable passage. The floor, however, is

(continued on page 4)

fill and removable. We had dug it open back in 2008; we began the redo, knowing that this was the first of two digs that this entrance requires.

With a good bit of effort from Dale and Jon, we got through to the dome room. This is nothing to put on your 'must see' list, but it is a 10 foot high mud dome that is 6 feet wide and affords a warm-ish stand up area. We looked at the passage ahead of us, noting a great quantity of porcupine scat on the floor. We also saw some beady black eyes staring back at us! The resident from 2005, or his/her descendant, has continued homesteading.

As it was late in the day, we all voted to quit and head for home. Once outside, the sun was low in the sky. Clothes changed, we were ready to head for the landowner's home to say hello, tell her our results and head for pizza. My Jeep had other ideas. It would barely crank and once started, died when I let off the gas pedal.

The guys said to keep the gas going and my other foot on the brake and try to get to the ranch house. I did that -- sort of like a wild amusement park ride over the bumpy land. We did get to the ranch and parked it facing out -- let my foot off the gas and it died. We pushed it to the side and there it sat. Saturday night. No easy fix available. Lovely.

Jon, who lives an hour west of OKC, agreed to take us all back to Oklahoma City, bless his heart. Two days later, my dear spouse and our friend, Tom, went up to fetch the car. The ranch foreman, Jay, suggested cleaning off the battery terminals. That done, John was able to get it going and discovered that once it was warm, it would idle without dying. He got it home and we got a new battery the next day. Exciting times.

JANUARY'S TRIP

January's trip was on a Sunday due to conflicts on Saturday. We continued digging in the porcupine crawlway, taking turns. It is a windy passage and very cold. We dug in twos, with two going back outside into the sunshine and warming fingers and toes, returning once the shivers and shakes had stopped. We had to dig about 15 feet this time, but the passage is about 8 feet wide so there is more room to shove debris.

Once the crawl was finished, we surveyed through to a previous survey point -- blue flagging high on the left. I had assured the guys that this area was tall enough to stand up in and that beyond was walking passage. Sure. Yes, it is a sit-up room, but no, few adults can stand up in it. It reminded me of Lil's "Jumping Jack Room" in the Selman System. It's only big when you have come from a squishingly small passage. In this case, we'd come out of Linguini Crawl. Almost ANYTHING would have seemed huge in comparison.

Our trip ended with all vehicles functioning properly. Anticlimactic, but welcomed.

POTPOURRI

Check Out the New Cave at the Canadian Museum of Nature

CAVING NEWS; January 30, 2013 / Canada, North America
http://cavingnews.com/20130130-new-cave-at-the-canadian-museum-of-nature-vale-earth-gallery

Children enjoying the cave in the Vale Earth Gallery. Photo by Jamie Kronick/Canadian Museum of Nature
A new cave was opened recently at the Canadian Museum of Nature, Canada's national museum of natural history and natural sciences located in Ottawa.

The new exhibit was added as part of the new Vale Earth Gallery which re-opened on November 30, 2012.

The result of two years of planning and three months of renovations, the Vale Earth Gallery aims to present how the Earth formed, how powerful forces have changed and shaped our planet, and how geology and mineralogy connect with everyday life.

We wanted to provide the visitor with an immersive experience where the young and young at heart could explore and discover features in an environment that is not typically accessible to most. The cave provides us and opportunity to show a geological features in context suggesting an environment that would be required for these features to grow. — Marc Beck, Canadian Museum of Nature Vale Earth Gallery Project Manager.

Built by Research Casting International, the main structure of the cave – the walls and ceilings – were first framed in steel. Once complete, the steel skeleton was covered by a metal mesh, which was then sprayed with concrete to make the fake limestone. To add realism, several sections of the cave were actually cast from an actual limestone rock face.

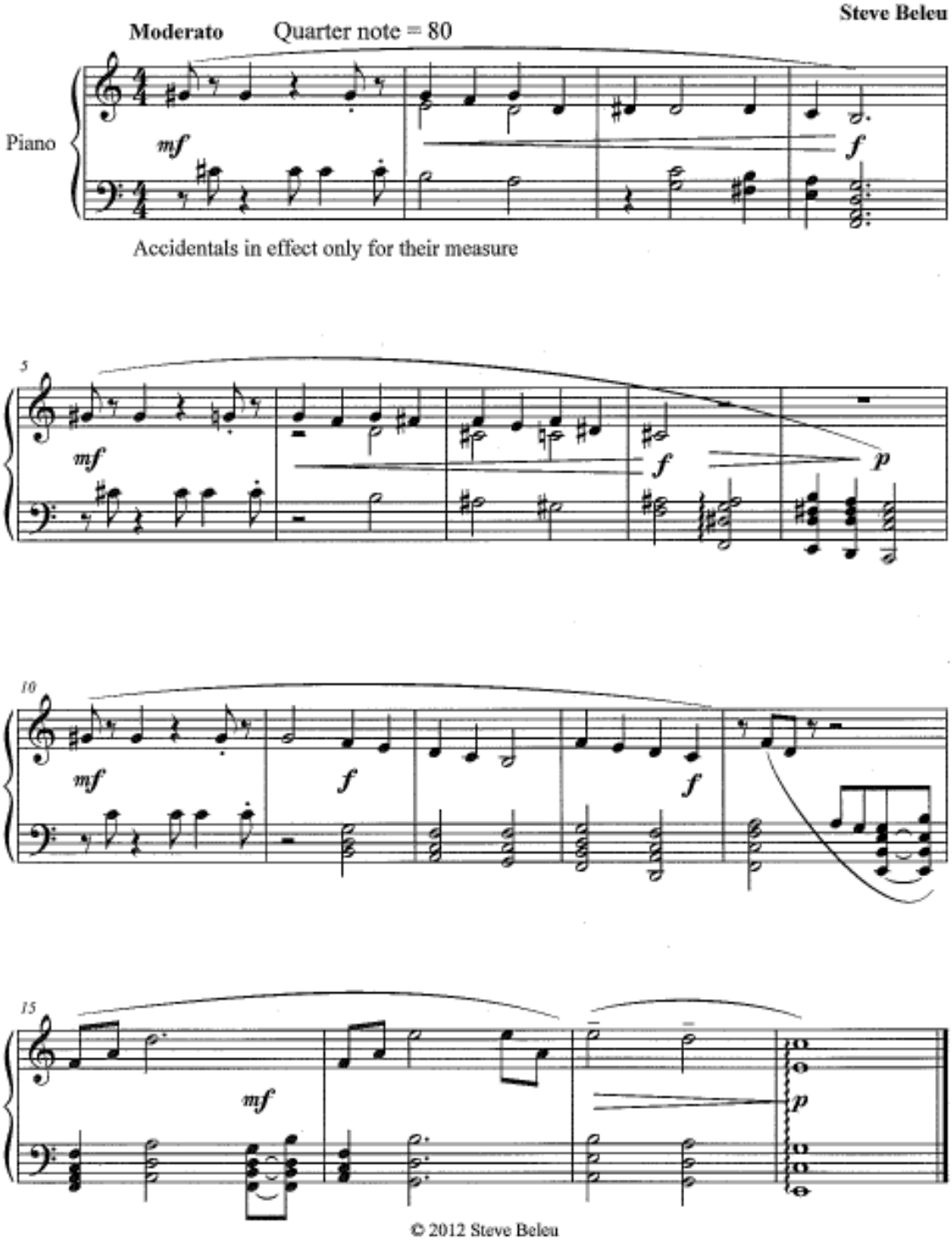
Entrance to the new cave at the Canadian Museum of Nature. Photo by Jamie Kronick/Canadian Museum of Nature

Although not modeled after any particular cave, the 46 square meter (550 square foot) museum cave contains many common features such as stalactites, stalagmites, columns, draperies, popcorn, and even cave pearls.

To help bring the cave to life, the exhibit also has a dripping waterfall as well as some of the cave critters commonly found underground such as bats.

It's still early for us to have gathered any feed back relating specifically to the cave, but from what we have seen and experienced on the floor, it does seem like the cave is a hit. — Marc Beck, Canadian Museum of Nature Vale Earth Gallery Project Manager.

3 Preludes to Caving: The Mystery, The Unknowable. #2

Steve Beleu

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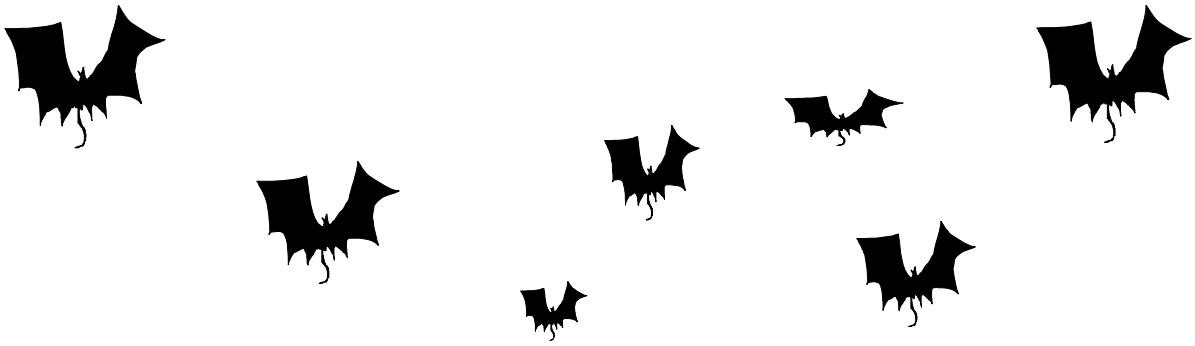
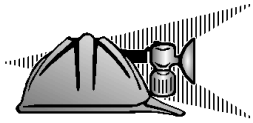
Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter ($6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related 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 February meeting will be
At John Van Dyke's
Friday, February 8, 2013.





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