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, April 12, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Anne Ault.

Jester bats during 2013 Bat Count

And here comes Duane out of Jester during the 2013 Bat Count!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The April meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, April 12, 2013 at 7:30 p.m, at the home of Anne Ault.

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 March 8, 2013 meeting

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

Grand High Imperial Potentate Woltz began the meeting at 8:10

OLD BUSINESS

We talked about our various current bat counts and reminisced about our past bat counts.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue wants to digitize and post survey notes on the website with a security protocol that allows only current COG members to access them. Jon said that we could alternately store survey notes on Google Groups/ Google Docs and it would be stored in The Cloud. They would also have a high level of security, and wouldn't be lost as they might if the COG website went down into the virtual grim dirt. Jon will investigate this.

·Dale noted that he had re-contacted some of the Boy Scout troops that had contacted him about caving this summer. He got no replies.

· We talked about caving freeware, mainly *Compass.*

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Talbot gave his report.

The Grand High Imperial Potentate concluded the meeting at 9:03

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.27			
TOTAL	**$**	**.27**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**0.00**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**148.10**			
CHECKING	**$**	**342.97**			
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,134.69**			
TOTAL	**$**	**2,625.49**			

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/52013

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORT

No reports submitted for this issue.

POTPOURRI

Absolute Darkness: Canadian Brewery Launches Caving Themed Beer

April 1, 2013 / Canada, North America

http://cavingnews.com/20130401-absolute-darkness-canadian-brewery-launches-caving-themed-beer

Vancouver Island Brewery's new beer, Absolute Darkness India Dark Ale.

Early last month, Canada's Vancouver Island Brewery released a new beer with a caving connection.

To create the India Dark Ale, cleverly dubbed Absolute Darkness, the brewery teamed up Vancouver Island's Horne Lake Caves to try to capture the dark, mysterious and exhilarating essence of caving.

Their result; a prominent flavour of roasted malt with a solid hop presence and an aroma of roasted coffee and chocolate.

The label on the 650ml bottle features a caver with a glowing headlamp on a black background with logos and lettering that glow in the dark. The perfect solution to drinking with the lights out.

Vancouver Island has the highest density of caves in Canada and some of the longest and deepest caves in the country. We have always had a strong connection with our Island environment and it tends to influence our brewers and our beers. Rob Ringma, Vancouver Island Brewery General Manager

Crafted in small batches the beer is available for purchase at local beer stores and at Vancouver Island Brewery's own on-site beer store.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Deep Zone

By James M. Tabor

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"Potentially the worst threat since Pearl Harbor" is how the president describes a mysterious epidemic killing American soldiers in Afghanistan—and now poised for outbreak in the States and beyond. Millions will die unless Hallie and a hastily mobilized team can recover the ultrarare organism needed to create a new antibiotic. The good news is that Hallie knows more about the organism than anyone else on the planet. The bad news is that it can be found only at the bottom of Earth's deepest cave.

Hallie's team is capable—especially the mysterious Will Bowman, who knows as much about high-tech weaponry as he does about microbiology—but the challenge appears insurmountable. Before even reaching the supercave, they must traverse a forbidding Mexican jungle populated by warring cartels, Federales, and murderous locals. Only then can they confront the cave's flooded tunnels, lakes of acid, bottomless chasms, and mind-warping blackness. But the deadliest enemies are hiding in plain sight.

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Drawn to Darkness

Caver/author Hubert Crowell has just released his newest book, Drawn to Darkness. It is a fictional take on his experiences growing up in the mountains of Tennessee in the 1950′s.

This book is about exploration and adventure, about young people having fun and getting to know each other. The book follows Jimmy, the main character and his friends, John, Clair, and Joann as they explore the world around them.

The Hunt for Antibiotics in New Mexico's Lechuguilla

Cavehttp://cavingnews.com/20130303-antibiotics-new-mexico-lechuguilla-cave-hazel-barton
March 3, 2013

A Large Room in the Recently Discovered Munchkin Land Section of Lechuguilla Cave.

Last week, Bloomberg ran a story on the global hunt for new antibiotics to combat the spread of drug-resistant superbugs.

In the article they feature caver Hazel Barton, a microbiologist working with Cubist Pharmaceuticals, who discovered a drug-resistant bacteria in New Mexico's Lechuguilla Cave, part of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

There is hope that this new discovery may one day help extend the life of Cubist's best-selling antibiotic, Cubicin.

As bacteria develop resistance to available medicines, modern methods of antibiotic development in labs have failed to keep pace with an emerging crop of superbugs. Many drug makers have dropped out of the market because of regulatory hurdles and the poor return on investment.

By teaming with Barton, Cubist is hoping that nature, long abandoned by many other drug makers, may hold the key.

Cave full of weapons discovered by California deputies

By Matthew DeLuca, Staff Writer, NBC News
http://usnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/02/14/16962764-cave-full-of-weapons-discovered-by-california-deputies?lite

An arsenal of more than 100 firearms, cash and armor has been found in a cave in northern California. NBCNews.com's Dara Brown reports.

Deputies in northern California have discovered a massive cache of drugs, cars, and weapons, including a belt-fed machine gun and more than 100 pounds of marijuana, the Humboldt County Sheriff's department announced on Wednesday.

A deputy uncovered the firearms on the 55-acre property of Ryan Floyd. They said 111 of them were stashed in a cave that had been camouflaged with rocks and brush; at least 20 of the weapons have been confirmed stolen, according to the sheriff's office.

Among the weapons, many of which were loaded, was a fully automatic, World War II-era MG 42 caliber machine gun, along with a full belt of ammunition. Also in the cave were several assault-style rifles including Colt AR-15s, as well as sawed-off shotguns and Tech Nine and SKS assault weapons.

A number of the weapons are thought to be fully automatic, according to the sheriff's office, and were fully loaded when found by a deputy.

"It was like enough for a small militia out there," said Lt. Steve Knight of the Humboldt County Sheriff's office. "As far as why he was holding onto this large quantity of weapons, that's the one million dollar question."

Spider Version of Bigfoot Emerges from Caves in the Pacific Northwest

Aug. 14, 2012
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/08/120817092604.htm

The forests of the coastal regions from California to British Columbia are renowned for their unique and ancient animals and plants, such as coast redwoods, tailed frogs, mountain beavers and the legendary Bigfoot (also known as Sasquatch). Whereas Bigfoot is probably just fiction, a huge, newly discovered spider is very real.

Trogloraptor (or "cave robber") is named for its cave home and spectacular, elongate claws. It is a spider so evolutionarily special that it represents not only a new genus and species, but also a new family (Trogloraptoridae). Even for the species-rich insects and arachnids, to discover a new, previously unknown family is an historic moment.

Reference

A team of citizen scientists from the Western Cave Conservancy and arachnologists from the California Academy of Sciences found these spiders living in caves in southwest Oregon. Colleagues from San Diego State University found more in old-growth redwood forests. Charles Griswold, Curator of Arachnology, Joel Ledford, postdoctoral researcher, and Tracy Audisio, graduate student, all at the California Academy of Sciences, collected, analyzed, and described the new family. Audisio's participation was supported by the Harriet Exline Frizzell Memorial Fund and by the Summer Systematics Institute at the Academy, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Trogloraptor hangs beneath rudimentary webs on cave ceilings. It is about four centimeters wide when its legs are extended -- larger than the size of a half-dollar coin. Their extraordinary, raptorial claws suggest that they are fierce, specialized predators, but their prey and attack behavior remain unknown.

The anatomy of *Trogloraptor* forces arachnologists to revise their understanding of spider evolution. Strong evidence suggests that *Trogloraptor* is a close relative of goblin spiders, but *Trogloraptor* possesses a mosaic of ancient, widespread features and evolutionary novelties.

The true distribution of *Trogloraptor* remains unknown: that such a relatively large, peculiar animal could elude discovery until 2012 suggests that more may be lurking in the forests and caves of western North America

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Description: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Adult Trogloraptor have six eyes and a body length of about 7 to 10 mm (0.28 to 0.39 in) in males and 8 to 10 mm (0.31 to 0.39 in) in females. With its legs outstretched, the spider can reach up to 3 in (7.6 cm) in length.

The spiders are unique in the flexible and teethed hook-like claws on the last segments (tarsus) of their legs. These elongated claws resemble those of spiders in the family Gradungulidae of Australia and New Zealand, but the two families are only distantly related. Hooked tarsal claws are also present to a lesser extent in the unrelated genera Doryonychus of Tetragnathidae, Hetrogriffus of Thomisidae and Celaenia of Araneidae.

Gypsum Caving Bagatelles 12

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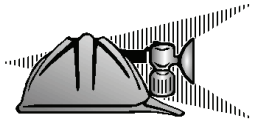
Central Oklahoma Grotto is a non-profit organization and a chapter of the NSS (National Speleological Society), Cave Avenue, Huntsville, AL., 35810. Dedicated to cave conservation and safety, C.O.G. published general information in a monthly newsletter ($6.00/year) and detailed cave surveys and related 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 April meeting will be At Anne Ault's house, Friday, April 12, 2013.



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