CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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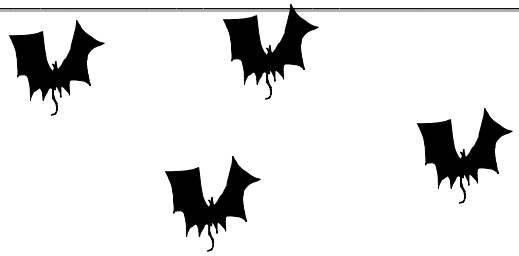
The May meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, May 10, 2013. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. and be at the home of Dale and Carol Town.



CAVE JOKES

TWO BATS

Two vampire bats are sitting in a cave… one looks at the other and says, "I'm hungry. Think I'll go get some blood." So he flew out of the cave.

About an hour later he returns with his face covered in blood. His buddy looks at him and says, "Wow! How did you get all of that blood?"

"Well…", he replies, "you know when you are flying out of the cave, you hang a right and then you see that tree in front of you?..."

"Yeah?", says his buddy.

He replies, "Well, … I didn't!"

Q & A's

Q: Why did the caveman invent the wheel from stone?

A: Because he wanted to rock and roll!

Q: What did the caveman give his wife on Valentine's Day?

A: Ughs and kisses!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The May meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, May 10, 2013 at 8:00 p.m, at the home of Dale and Carol Town.

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 April 13, 2013 meeting

Host: the home of COG member Anne Ault. It was a wondrous event to be there with our wondrous host.

Attendees: Anne Ault, Dale Amlee, Sue and John Bozeman, John Talbot, Carol and Dale Town, John Van Dyke, Jon and Kelley Woltz, Steve Beleu

His Grand Imperial Highness Woltz opened the meeting at 8:01

OLD BUSINESS

Jon told us how we could use Google Docs to digitize our trip reports, survey notes, map files, and other files. It would be a secure site. He would be the creator of content, and share administrative access with Duane. If this project is approved by COG members we will send files to Jon to posting. COG moves to The Cloud.

Dale updated a request from Boy Scout Troop 281, Wichita, KS for a trip through Nescatunga Cave. The troop will go on the standard tour of Alabaster Caverns on July 19, where they will also camp; we will meet them at Nescatunga on the following day, July 20. We can expect between 10 to 15 youth; we will charge them $10 per person. No sweat pants will be allowed.

NEW BUSINESS

Sue discussed her concerns about maintaining longitudinal data for the caves in which we have counted bats, but didn't count them this year because other concerns connected with Dr. Caire did. I made a motion that we continue our count in the Washita Bat Caves; the motion passed. We then decided by voice approval to continue counting bats in Jester Cave, and to continue counting them in Greene's Cathedral because the first time we counted them, this year, there were 10,000+ bats.

With the rain we've been having as of late in northwestern OK wedecided to not cave in Greene's in April, and possibly not in May, for this simple reason: the low passages that we're crawling through as we survey are probably flooded.

We talked about the new book about bats, Bats of Oklahoma Field Guide, that the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has just published. It will not be available for sale; copies will be sent out to contributors, or picked up in person by others for free, while the supply lasts.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot gave his treasurer's report.

The meeting concluded itself without our assistance at 8:51 and left the building.

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME			EXPENSES		
Dividends	$	0.27			
TOTAL	**$**	**.27**	**TOTAL**	**$**	**0.00**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**148.10**			
CHECKING	**$**	**342.10**			
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,134.69**			
TOTAL	**$**	**2,625.49**			

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/5/2013

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

TRIP REPORT

No reports submitted for this issue.

POTPOURRI

Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns to Hold Summer Camp for Kids

April 28, 2013 / Oklahoma, United States, North America

This summer Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns State Park will be holding a week-long camp for kids.

The camp, dubbed Mission: Exploration-A Science Experience, is being held to get kids, who are going into the 7th and 8th grades, interested in science and the things around them.

During the exciting week, students will have the opportunity to attend a number of field trips including visiting Salt Plains to dig crystals, Boiling Springs, and of course some caving at Alabaster Caverns.

In addition to the field trips, students will also attend classes led by professionals on a variety of subjects. Astronomy, macro-invertebrates, geology, bats, cave formations, safety, animal adaptation, and native plants are just some of the exciting topics.

The week-long camp, which runs from June 10th to 14th, will be based out of the University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Laboratory near Alabaster Caverns. For more information about the camp or to request an application form, contact Alabaster Caverns Park Manager Mike Caywood by phone at (580) 621-3381 or by e-mail at mike.caywood@travelok.com .

Alabaster Caverns sets summer camp [Woodward News]

Who Needs a bat roost? Maybe tile roofs are the answer. Check out this video on u-tube.

A Tile Roof in Riverside , California ... you have to watch this to believe it!Be sure to **watch till the end!**

www.videofantastica.com/view_video/111489

BOULDER CLUMBING CRAGS CLOSED TO PROTECT ROOSTING BATS

Denverpost; April 26, 2013 page 4A

By Erica Meltzer

BOULDER: Several climbing routes on Boulder open space will be closed until the fall to protect bat roosting areas.

The city's Open Space and Mountain Parks Department announced this week that the east face of the climbing formation known as Der Zerkle will be closed until Sept. 1 to protect fringed myotis bats, and a buffer surrounding Mallory Cave will be closed until Oct. 1 to protect Townsend's big-eared bats.

The climbing routes on the east face of The Hand, the standard route on the Finger Flatiron and all of Shark's Fin will be open in October instead of being part of the permanent Mallory Cave closure.

Mallory Cave, Harmon Cave and Seal View Cave are closed permanently to human use to reduce the chance of introduction white-nose syndrome.

Since its discovery in New York in 2006 and 2007, white-nose syndrome has had a devastating impact on hibernating bats, with mortality rates reaching 100 percent in some sites.

Open Space and Mountain Parks volunteers and staff have been monitoring bat roosting areas since 1995.

Trespassing in violation of closures can result in up to 90 days in jail and fines up to $1,000.00.

March of the Cavers Out of Selman Cave

Croatian Rescuers Called Out to Retrieve a Bear

April 23, 2013 / Croatia, Europe
http://cavingnews.com/20130423-croatian-mountain-rescue-service-retrieve-bear-cave-pit

Rescuers in Croatia recently received an unusual call to retrieve a bear that had fallen into a deep pit.

The owner of a local tourist hunting agency requested help from the Croatian Mountain Rescue Service on Saturday April 20th after a bear they had been hunting disappeared into a previously unknown pit.

Arriving on scene, the pit was surrounded by anxious hunters, guides and foreign visitors. As bears are valuable hunting trophies in Croatia, and hunting them is hugely important to the tourist industry the team decided to do what they could to assist them.

As a first step, the team descended the pit to determine if the unfortunate bear was still alive. After an initial 25 meter (75 foot) steep slope, there was a 20 meter (65 foot) vertical climb as the cave rapidly began to bell out. Reaching the bottom, the now dead bear was found, as were many bones indicating that he was not the first to fall into the deadly trap.

Determining that it was safe to proceed, the rescuers then employed their special equipment and techniques to raise the carcass to the surface. After an hour and a half of effort, the rescuers had successfully brought the 90 kilogram (200 pound) bear to the surface for eventual display in the game room a rich foreign hunter.

The Croatian Mountain Rescue Service is a volunteer, not-for-profit and public organization that is specialized in rescuing in mountains, on rock faces, in caves and other unapproachable places.

Although they do not support hunting, this unique "rescue" was undertaken as a small way to contribute to the Croatian economy, of which hunting is an important part, during the presently difficult financial times.

Wearable Real-Time Mapping Device Developed at MIT

October 2, 2012
http://cavingnews.com/20121002-wearable-real-time-mapping-device-developed-at-mit

Researchers at MIT have developed a wearable sensor that automatically creates a digital map on the fly as the user moves through an area.

The system makes use of a laser rangefinder that sends a beam around a 270-degree arc. By calculating the time it takes the light pulses to return, an attached computer can calculate the walls of a room. In order to account for persons movement, a cluster of accelerometers and gyroscopes, a camera and a barometer were also installed to correct for changes in speed, angle and elevation.

Currently the whole system is contained in a backpack with a small chest plate containing the sensors. There is hope to eventually shrink the device to about the size of a coffee mug.

Although the prototype is envisioned as a tool to help emergency responders coordinate disaster response in buildings, once its smart enough to deal with imperfect situations this kind of technology could definitely have a future in cave mapping.

Cavers Cleaning Sinkholes Remove Tires by the Hundreds

April 26, 2013
http://cavingnews.com/20130426-missouri-cavers-clean-sinkholes-remove-tires-hundreds

Over two weekends, March 30th and April 13th, cavers from Missouri's Meramec Valley, Middle Mississippi Valley and Southeast Missouri Grottos came together to remove over 1,000 tires from a number of sinkholes in Perry County.

The sinkholes, near Running Bull Cave, are only a few of many in the region's Swiss cheese landscape which is home to four out of five of the states exceptionally long caves.

To remove the tires, which had been on the property for some 50–60 years, the cavers dug them out of the ground, chained them together and with the help of tractors, pulled them out.

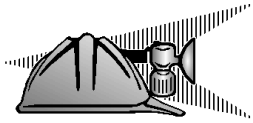
Then, as if that wasn't enough work, another team used sawzalls to cut the side walls of the tires open, in order to release all the heavy clay still trapped inside, before finally stacking them on a trailer and hauling them away.

As compensation for all their hard work, two small openings were discovered during the extractions. The first, an approximately 4.5 meter (15 foot) deep pit ending in a constriction, was described by SEMO Grotto Vice President, Chad McCain as tightest, most difficult rappel he'd ever done.

This is just the beginning, as there are still many other sinks on the property still requiring tire removal and an untold number of entrances still covered, however further efforts will likely have to wait until after farming season ends in the fall.

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: : 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 May meeting will be At the Town's house, Friday, May 10, 2013.



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