CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements ……..……...…….....2
Minutes……...…….……..……..……2
Treasurer's Report ……..……...……...……..2
Trip Reports
No reports this month
Potpourri
Significant Cave Discovered During Road Construction Project ……...……..…… 4
Significant Deposit of Ice Age Bones Found in Southern Indiana Cave ……..…. 4
Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns Held a 60th Birthday Bash …….. 4

The September meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, September 13, 2013, at the home of Jon and Kelly Wolz at 7:00 p.m.

You meet the most amazing creatures in caves!!!

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 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m, at the home of the Woltz's.

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 June 21, 2013 meeting

Host: the home of Duane Del Vecchio

Attendees: Sue and John Bozeman; John Talbot; Carol and Dale Town; John, J.T., and Jalynne Van Dyke; Kelley and Jon Woltz; S. Beleu

Master Charcoaler Duane grilled 100 pounds of food for us which we with all haste consumed as our duty as guests, offering us more varieties of grilled food than exist on this planet, which explained the Mars brats, Pluto burgers, and Venus dogs… Thank goodness he didn't have anything from Uranus!!!
BEGIN: 8:35, Assistant Grand Imperial Potentate Woltz presiding

OLD BUSINESS – we are all old now, so it was enough old business for us just to be there and not fall out of our chairs.
NEW BUSINESS

- Sue let us know that we have canceled the fun trip to Nescatunga Cave that we had scheduled for July 21 with various scout groups due to logistical problems. But the problems had nothing to do with anyone wearing sweat pants and tennis shoes to cave.
- We decided to change the mailing address for the few caving publications we receive via the exchange program with other grottos from Lil Town's address in Colorado to John Talbot's address in Oklahoma.

TREASURER'S REPORT
Treasurer John Talbot gave his report

THE MEETING ENDED AT: 9:00

TREASURER'S REPORT

INCOME		
Dividends	$	0.31
Dues	$	30.00
Publications Sales	$	110.50
TOTAL	**$**	**140.28**
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**108.18**
CHECKING	**$**	**453.53**
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,134.96**
TOTAL	**$**	**2,696.67**

EXPENSES	
Postage	$44.16
Printing	$25.76
TOTAL	**$ 69.92**

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 9/6//2013
PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT NSS #30254RE

POTPOURRI

Significant Cave Discovered During Road Construction Project

July 7, 2013
Reprinted from CAVING NEWS
20130707-cave-discovered-texas-rm-620-construction-project

A substantial cave, discovered last month along a road north of Austin, Texas, is causing problems for construction crews working on a road improvement project.

The cave was found along RM 620 on June 13th, when crews unearthed the entrance while clearing ground for storm pipes.

Although finding cavities is a common occurrence in the region, which sits upon the Edwards Aquifer, this cave is one of only a small percent that turn out to be significant.

Typically you get this kind of call and you find a little trench or cavity. About one percent of the time there is a cave you where you can't see the whole thing and you have to make a map and go in and look around. This is more like the one-tenth of one percent where it is an actual cavern. Kemble White, SWCA Environmental Consultant

Filled with all sorts of formations, the beautifully decorated cave, divided into a number of chambers, is about 30 meters (100 feet) long and 18 meters (60 feet) wide, with 6 meter (20 foot) tall ceilings.

So far, initial surveys of the cave have not turned up any endangered species, so the main concern is to determine how to limit the impact of construction on the Edwards Aquifer.

We are coming up with some plans about what steps we need to take. The choices include filling the cave up, which we may be able to do. If not, we may need to build an at-grade bridge over the cave. The other choice is to buy additional right of way and reroute [the road]. We're still evaluating all of those [choices] to see which one will be the right one. Lisa Birkman, Williamson County Commissioner.

Engineers from Williamson County, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the construction project team will be working together in the coming weeks to find a solution on how to resume the project.

Update: Both Houston's KHOU and Austin's KTBC have posted video footage of the cave on their websites.

Significant Deposit of Ice Age Bones Found in Southern Indiana Cave

May 7, 2013, Reprinted from CAVING NEWS
20130707-cave-discovered-texas-rm-620-construction-project

Besides facilitating easy access to visitors of the soon to open Indiana Caverns, the creation of a new entrance into Indiana's Binkley Cave has for the first time allowed a paleontologist to visit Big Bone Mountain.

Initially discovered in October 2010, Big Bone Mountain, as it was soon dubbed, was found when members of the Indiana Speleological Survey climbed up a nearly vertical slot into a room littered with bones.

As it was a strenuous 10-12 hour expedition to reach the room, the cavers couldn't get a palentologist to the site and for the time being had to suffice with sending photos to Ron Richards, Chief Curator of Science and Technology at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. From his initial impression of the photos they sent, he thought the bones may be from either Bison or Musk Ox.

With the drilling of a new entrance in early June 2012, the developers of Indiana Caverns created an easy to access route to the area and Ron Richards was finally able to come down to do a paleontological survey of the site on July 7th, 2012.

Richards had been only been in the cave some 20 minutes when he realized that Big Bone Mountain was a truly significant site for Pleistocene animal bones.

During that first visit he recorded the remains of the "extinct Flat-headed peccary (*Platygonus compressus*), an ancient pig-like animal. Skulls are exposed at the surface, and the deposit in the room may contain 20- 40 individuals at minimum." Besides the peccary bones, the remains of black bear, fisher, owl, other birds, a bison and even two snakes were visible on the surface.

Numerous bear beds were also found along the river passage, some with peccary bones inside.

Lacking any evidence of modern visitation, it is suspected that the natural entrance to Big Bone Mountain, once apparently used for shelter by herds of peccary, closed up sometime near the end of the last ice age, some 12,000 to 14,000 years ago.

With enough bones in at the site to keep several paleontologists excavating for years. It appears there remains much more to discover below the surface.

Thankfully, the developers of Indiana Caverns are making an effort to ensure the site is protected and available for future research.

Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns Held a 60th Birthday Bash

Oklahoma's Alabaster Caverns State Park celebrated its 60th birthday this Labor Day weekend with a weekend long birthday bash.

Purchased by the State of Oklahoma in 1953, Alabaster Caverns has the unique distinction of being the only gypsum show cave in the United States and the largest publicly accessible gypsum cave in the world.

To celebrate the decade when the state park was first opened, the weekend's festivities went back in time with activities from the 1950s including games such as hopscotch, four-square, marbles and jacks as well as live music, magic shows and other family friendly activities.

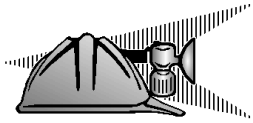
Even better, the tour prices reverted to their 1950s era cost of $1.20 per person.

Not complete without cake, the park served up ice cream and cake, and even hot dogs to visitors on Sunday.

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

Oh my It's Friday The 13th!

The September meeting will be At the Jon and Kelly's house, Friday, September 13, 2013.



Central Oklahoma Grotto
Mailing Division
1117 NW 74th St.
Lawton, OK 73505-4234