CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The November meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday November 8, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Steve Beleu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The November meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held Friday, November 8, 2013, at the home of Steve Baleu

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 Meeting

Notes from the meeting 11/9/2012

Minutes of the October 11, 2013 meeting

Host: the home of Art Wallace

Attendees: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, Dale and Carol Town, S. Beleu.

His Imperial Vice Highness Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:03

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

- We discussed the ongoing resurvey of Greene's Cathedral.
- I passed out copies of a new poster about bats found in Oklahoma that the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation has just published.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer John Talbot wasn't available to give his report.

We concluded the meeting at 8:15

HI HO,
HI HO,
IT'S OFF
TO A CAVE
WE GO!

TREASURER'S REPORT

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 11/0_/2013**	**$**	

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORT

Greene's Cathedral
September 21, 2013
Cavers: Dale Amlee, Steve Beleu, Sue Bozeman, and Jon Woltz
Written by Sue Bozeman

The day's target was the resurgence. Find it again and survey towards our impossibly far-distant 'last tied-in survey point' several hundred feet north.

Dale, Steve and Jon had done a whole bunch of reconnaissance work GPS-ing poke hole entrances, collapse sinks, seeps and honest-to-goodness entrances. They finally got me reoriented and into the bowels of the resurgence we went. Water striders skated around and tree roots lay like streetcar rails on the floor of the quietly flowing spring entranceway.

Jon led the way into the watery muck held back by a debris dam about 7 feet inside the entrance. We did a few high angle shots and finally got to the meat of the passage. Right after that, kneeling in water lapping his chest, Jon said, "I think the passage sumps up ahead." Oh, great. Well, he found a shoot-through to the surface and later found an up-and-around loop to get past the sump, but nobody wanted to pursue him. Dale had jiggered a way for the water to get past the dam and waterfall while Steve and I urged the water and junk downstream more freely. Like kids playing at the seashore, we were. I wasn't convinced this was "THE" correct water resurgence for Greene's. It is one heck of a ways from the last point of internal survey from Whitetail. So, we made a few notes and headed back to the vehicles.

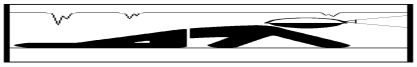
Some food and water later under our belts and we voted to go try one of the other 'openings' -- one that John and I had explored way back when this area was just opening up to us. It is a maze of junk jumbles. We had worked our way up about 30 feet and got nowhere. This time, using that knowledge, we didn't bother squeezing up -- Jon squeezed down! And he found his way into a lower maze -- and again, went nowhere. Well, that is not technically true: he did go EVERY which-a-way, but threaded his way back to us with no sense of 'through-ness'. There is no definable water route -- nothing to follow in to a meeting with the passageway coming south from Whitetail. So far.

Regardless, we surveyed OUT from the point where Jon found his way through and will plot it on the master GPS map.

It was a day of fun and frustration. These caves out here have many intervening slump areas which means that the chances of humans traversing through to the resurgence are slim. We will keep trying.

NOTHING we did this day is directly tie-into -able to the master cave called Greene's Cathedral.

Welcome to gyp caving in northwestern Oklahoma!



POTPOURRI

Inside Er Wang Dong's Cloud Ladder Hall

October 3, 2013
http://cavingnews.com/20131003-inside-er-wang-dongs-cloud-ladder-hall

Photos of Er Wang Dong, a cave with a room so large it has its own weather system, have recently been featured by the Daily Mail.

Photographed last year during a month long expedition to the Chongquing province of China, Er Wang Dong surprised cavers when a cloud was discovered obscuring the roof of one particularly large room.

"The roof is well over 250m above and completely hidden amongst the cloud and although it can't be seen due to the thick cloud that lingers around I could hear my echo reverberate around and several seconds later, remind me of the volume of empty space and my remote location. " Robbie Shone, Cave Photographer

Measuring about 51,158 square meters (550,660 square feet), with a roof well over 250 meters (820 feet) above, the appropriately named Cloud Ladder Hall is one of the largest cave chambers in the world.

"Thick cloud and fogs hangs in the upper half of the cave, where it gets trapped and unable to escape through the small passage in the roof." Robbie Shone, Cave Photograph

Er Wang Dong, along with its neighboring San Wang Dong, are some of the longest caves in China.

The cave so huge it has its own weather system: Explorers discover a lost world with thick cloud and fogs trapped inside [DailyMail]

New Eyeless Fungus Beetle Found in Cave

Posted by Mollie Bloudoff-Indelicato in Weird & Wild on September 25, 2013
http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2013/09/25/new-eyeless-fungus-beetle-found-in-cave/

Scientists have discovered a new species of fungus beetle that dwells in a single cave in Arizona.

Like Gollum in The Lord of the Rings, tiny Ptomaphagus parashant has evolved to cope with life in the darkness. The insect once had wings and eyes, but after spending millennia inside such tight quarters, its ancestors eventually began to lose the now frivolous appendages, according to a new study that will be published in the Coleopterists Bulletin (a coleopterist is a beetle scientist).

"Obviously, the eyes don't fall off in a 24-hour period," said study co-author Jut Wynne, an ecologist at Northern Arizona University.

"With these types of animals, they're really shedding those features … over evolutionary time. This animal likely entered caves about 200,000 years ago."

Most cave-dwelling animals subsist in an absolute or at least partially dark environment, which means eyesight is not much of an asset. And since the cave is only about 260 feet (80 meters) in length and just tall enough to crawl through, flight is not much of an advantage to a beetle, either.

So the bug traded in its outer-world traits for longer legs and extended antennae, which help it navigate in the gloom.

Cave Cutie

Wynne began exploring the limestone cave in Arizona's Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in 2005. Compared with the Grand Canyon's many caverns, this particular grotto is rather unremarkable, he added.

"It's a crawly cave with a low ceiling," Wynne said. "When I first set foot in that cave in '05, I had no idea we were going to find several new species." (Explore an interactive of the world's largest cave.)

The scientist set bait traps of chicken livers and sweet potatoes to attract bugs, which he then collected and froze for later examination. One of them was the newfound fungus beetle—which, as its name suggests, likes fungi.

Though the fungus beetle isn't Wynne's only claim to fame—he's also discovered the state's first cave-adapted centipede as well as a new genus of cricket—he said it's his cutest.

"I think they're cute little beetles," Wynne said. "They're a nice chestnut-brown color, and they have an elongated antennae and cute, long legs. They have a very peaceful existence if you think about it."

The next step is to figure out how these bugs interact with other animals within the cave, which is still replete with mysteries. The bait traps have captured hundreds of animals and may lead to further discoveries.

Prehistoric cave prints show most early artists were women

http://www.nbcnews.com/science/prehistoric-cave-prints-show-most-early-artists-were-women-8C11391268
Nidhi Subbaraman, NBC News
Oct. 15, 2013 at 3:25 PM ET

The Panel of Hands in El Castillo Cave near the village of Puente Viesgo.

Alongside drawings of bison and horses, the first painters left clues to their identity on the stone walls of caves, blowing red-brown paint through rough tubes and stenciling outlines of their palms. New analysis of ancient handprints in France and Spain suggests that most of those early artists were women.

This is a surprise, since most archaeologists have assumed it was men who had been making the cave art. One interpretation is that early humans painted animals to influence the presence and fate of real animals that they'd

(Continued on page 5)

find on their hunt, and it's widely accepted that it was the men who found and killed dinner.

But a new study indicates that the majority of handprints found near cave art were made by women, based on their overall size and relative lengths of their fingers.

"The assumption that most people made was it had something to do with hunting magic," Penn State archaeologist Dean Snow, who has been scrutinizing hand prints for a decade, told NBC News. The new work challenges the theory that it was mostly men, who hunted, that made those first creative marks.

Another reason we thought it was men all along? Male archeologists from modern society where gender roles are rigid and well-defined — they found the art. "[M]ale archaeologists were doing the work," Snow said, and it's possible that "had something to do with it."

In National Geographic, Virginia Hughes explains Snow's finding, published this month in American Antiquity. The new paper includes details from 32 stencils found in 11 caves in Spain and France, where some of the hand prints date back almost 40,000 years. Of the 32 stencils, 24 were likely female.

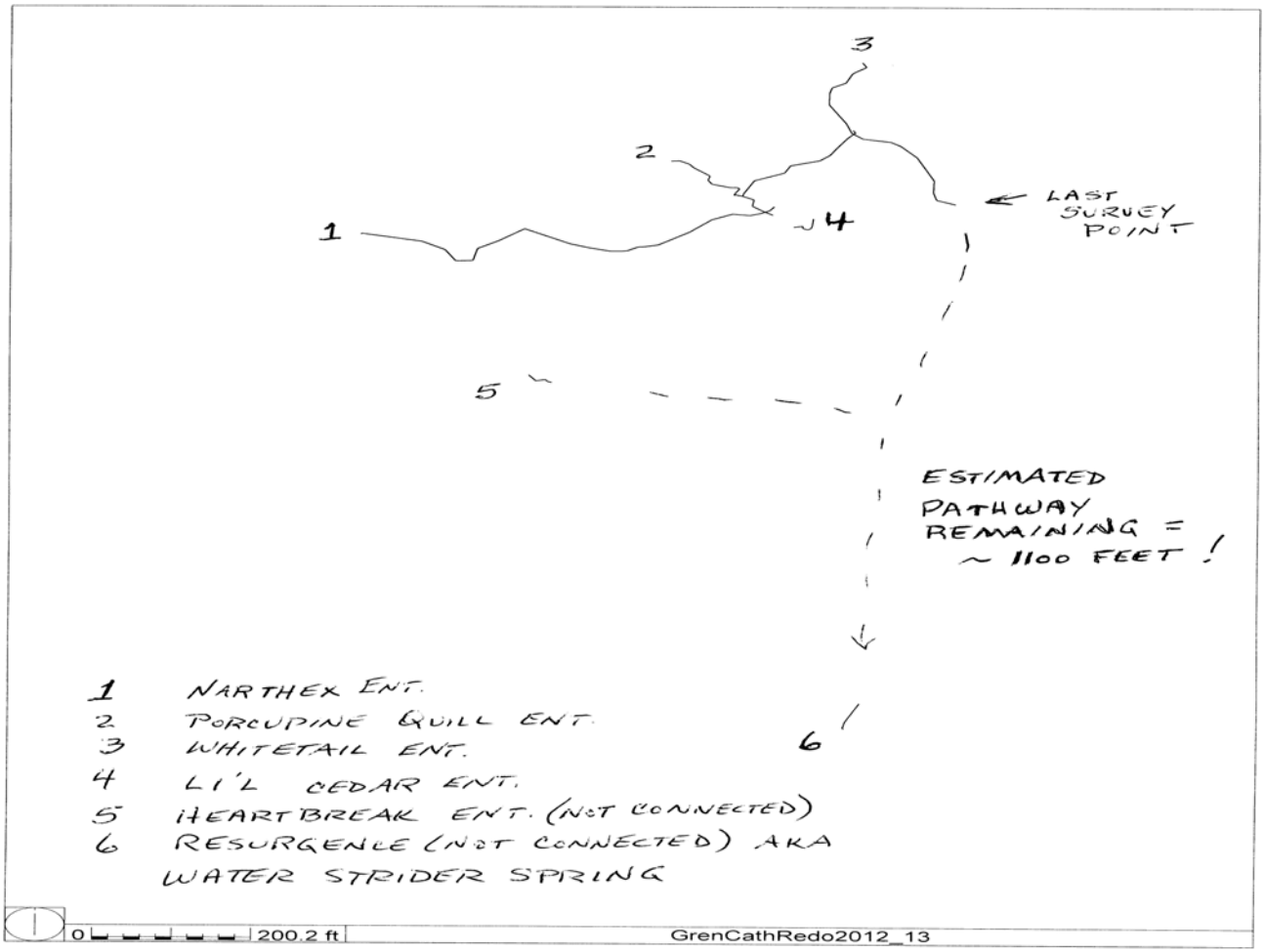
The new reading of the stencils "provokes a whole series of other questions," Snow said.

"What was the role of women in producing these," and, where else did they paint? "It may be that all we're seeing is the fraction of the art that survived," he said — paintings on exposed stone surfaces would almost undoubtedly have worn off over tens of thousands of years.

Over the last decade, Snow has been building evidence to show how the size of handprints and the relative lengths of fingers can tell us the sex of the artist who made them. He has also co-developed algorithms that can let computers scan and analyze prints quickly, and help identify the sex of the painters.

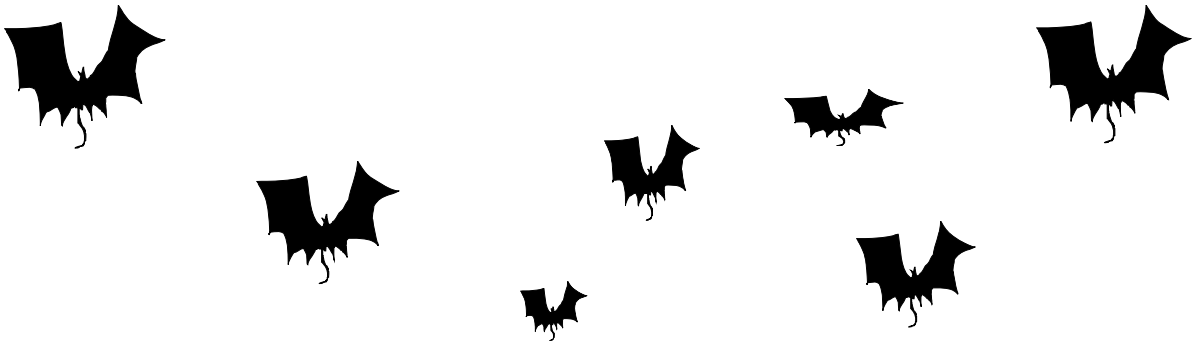
Other recent work on cave paintings has brought up the possibility that some early European cave art wasn't made by homo sapiens, but by our hominid cousins, the Neanderthals. Recent dating of the El Castillo cave in Spain, where some of Snow's prints came from, indicates that the very earliest cave paintings were made 40,000 years ago, when Neanderthals were still thriving in Europe.

New evidence and new research methods continue to alter and fill in our understanding of ancient societies. But one thing's for sure: As long as humans have been making art, we've been printing signatures by its side.



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 November meeting will be
At house Steve Beleu
Friday, November 8, 2013.



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