CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

Inside this Issue

Announcements ……..….....2
Minutes ……...……...….....……..…… 2
Treasurer's Report ……....…….....2
Tribute to Joe Looney ……...3-4
Trip Reports
No Reports submitted …….. 4

Potpourri

Ice cave in Transylvania yields window into region's past …...……...4-5
Word search; U.S. caves beginning with letters M-P …… 1

UNITED STATES CAVES BEGINNING WITH THE LETTERS M-P

M Q S C N J V F H H T P J E U E C T Y V E W X P P W C O C N
Z A M N U E M E R C E R C A V E R N S F V R J N A E U L K K
O Z R J R X F G I N J F U A S K W E S L A P C Y I R K S H R
A D F T A E X F N Y M G C I M O L M K A C E O B S C N F E L
Q T F S I Y V S S Q L Y Q A P Q V U J A O Y G J L R J U G C
K L G F U N C A M C T A M P E P C N E M J F X E E P C X I V
I P K E V A R P C T A M B V Q L C O W Q E R B V Y I O D F K
Q M Z S V D Z I U O O V A Q S J P M Y Z D H A E C D Q K S U
V I M E Z Y Y P D T I C E Q H A C L N E N C F V A X P Q U N
U T E B H D Y M H G L H P P R M P A S B E F L A V K U X A Z
E C L M T T T C J E E X O A W G N N U G P Q C C E T H Z Y A
F H Z R T W A Z V B L C D T W A E O D D L N B A S H N W Q X
Y E X U S V L R D D Y I A M O Q U I C A V E D K H J J W K G
H L N S E E A G N K S G Z V R C R T U N W Q G N C M T H G N
O L F S V M Q G E E V U P U E B S A H S F F Q O G D T D N D
W C V R G V C O I A U Z A N L T P N W F H Q Z T H B L M C V
Z A O B R I A C M L H N M A B M G S R Z C L I E Y R R X N E
P V B N B K E N S W Z Y R O K N E E A E G V F N N J D K S R
O E C X M C C W R G E U B K A R J V H O V I B N P Q S Z C R
A R W G A B T I C B T H I N R N Z A W R K A U I O S G N X N
V N B V Q E G Q P A L G P B O T I C W G I P C M K V T O X C
U S E E C U L N N L X W F X E F S N X A Y X X C P H Y Y J O
M M A R Y C A M P B E L L C A V E O G N H Q D W E B V G R Q
E V A C E C U A S R E P P E P S H G B C K T D O Y M E A V I
E V A C O G N E R A M P L X P P E E M A A S D B O P A H J L
L H B W I T R E Y G C H W D A I Q R I V A V W P V S K R M C
G U R Y Y G K H K R L T K P W Y S O I E D I E N K J D P E C
D U G N Y H A L Q B H C O X E J D H W C U W X R Y W H A X M
D B B V H A F P T S H V S G T S P E I F P W L M N J B N K H
N V O Q D J K H B Z L N L A F Z Z U W E B T N Y A O M G O N

Mammoth Cave
Marengo Cave
Martin Ridge Cave
Marvel Cave
Mary Campbell Cave
Meramec Caverns
Mercer Caverns
Minnetonka Cave
Mitchell Caverns
Moaning Cavern
Moqui Cave
Natural Bridge Caverns
Neffs Cave
Nutty Putty Cave
Ohio Caverns
Organ Cave
Paisley Caves
Paradise Ice Cave
Pendejo Cave
Penns Cave
Peppersauce Cave

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The April meeting will be Friday, April 13, 2018 at the home of Dale and Carol Town..

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOL, APRIL 2016

This is the latest formal revision of the national decontamination protocol to prevent spread of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome. This document is the product of a collaborative effort with multiple federal and state agencies and several non-governmental organizations. Go to this website to view the detailed suggestions listed to help stop the spreading of WNS.
https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/news/national-white-nose-syndrome-decontamination-protocol-april-2016

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2018

Host: the home of John Talbot. We thank him for volunteering to host the meeting twice and so soon after his previous hosting.
Attendees: Dale Amlee, John and Sue Bozeman, Jason Talbot, John Talbot, Jon Woltz, Carol and Dale Town, the One-Eyed Dog Beleu

Field Marshall Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:00

OLD BUSINESS
We talked about Lil Town joining the survey of the previous month and how well she did. She had made the pilgrimage to Oklahoma from Conifer, Colorado. Then we reminisced about caving trips of the good old days and how everything was easier back then that it is now.

NEW BUSINESS
None.

TREASURER'S REPORT
John Talbot presented his February report.

We concluded the meeting at 8:15.
Post-meeting we continued talking about caving trips of good old days until we got tired and had to go home and sleep.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

MARCH 2017 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME			**EXPENSES**
Dividends	$	00.01	
Dues	**$**	**39.00**	
TOTAL	**$**	**39.01**	
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**226.62**	
CHECKING	**$**	**228.12**	
SAVINGS	**$**	**2,138.88**	
TOTAL	**$**	**2,593.62**	

Balance as of **04/3/2017**

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIBUTE TO JOE LOONEY
November 7, 1936 – March 29, 2018

The knitted blanket Joe is wearing below, (The Community Blanket) that was created by Amanda. She calls Joe "The Man with a Million Stories" and found him delightful these past few years when she visited him. He lived in Bartlesville. She is a community aide and helped those who had need – one of whom was Joe.

Joe Looney, The man with a million stories. The community blanket, February 28, 2017
Amanda Simpson(Bilby) Simple Reflections Photography 918-235-7149

Joe Looney Remembered

Our best memory of Joe Looney involved caving. John and I came to Oklahoma in early January, 1973, and finally found the Central Oklahoma Grotto in September. Joe answered my inquiry phone call and was most disheartened discovering I was married. Female cavers were rare and Joe was unattached. Nevertheless, we were welcomed to the group which included his mother, Mary, and her husband Murray, who had adopted the boys, Nick and Joe, after he married into the family.

Joe loved to cave. He enjoyed all facets of caving and offered to teach us to survey and make maps. He did all the note taking and map drawing for several years and John and I did the grunt work. That was OK with us. John was a petroleum geologist, hardrock-educated in Chicago, but when transplanted into sedimentary country, he reoriented well. Gypsum country was new and interesting. We enjoyed being led to any holes, previously entered or not, and accompanied Joe several Saturdays a month. We were working on the Whitlaw Ranch and eventually surveyed every cave on the property. One outing, I boldly asked Joe if I could take notes and do the map 'this time'. He seemed pleasantly surprised and showed me the tricks. I treasured his help and encouragement. It made up for the many times he'd go scrambling off into some side passage and then say, "Oh, Wow!" followed by silence. Maddening. We'd have to inquire, "What's 'wow', Joe?" He'd say something like, "Gorgeous crystals. You gotta see for yourself!" And of course, he seemed to have left his pack behind --- hmmm, guess who ended up hauling his pack through the cave? It was worth every minute of hauling time. He regaled us with stories: of people we'd not met, of caves we'll likely never see and of caves we would eventually see when we went fun caving/spelunking. He was a chatterbox and entertained us on the three hour drives to and from Oklahoma City to the northwestern Oklahoma caving area in which we spent most of our time surveying and exploring.

We appreciate having known Joe and will remember him with a smile.

John and Sue Bozeman
NSS 15175-6

Memories of Joe Looney

by Vivian Wilson Edersheim

I met Joe in 1973 when he became editor of the Edmond Sun & Booster, as it was known then, in Edmond, Oklahoma. One of the first things that impressed me about him was when a pretty young woman came to apply for a job. Our office was open, with the editor's desk immediately inside a swinging half-door beside the business counter. Two reporters – myself (the "women's" reporter at that time) and the sports reporter – shared a double-sided desk just a few feet from the editor. The bookkeeper and office manager also had desks in the open area.

The young woman applying for a reporting job had supplied him with samples of her writing and eagerly told Joe she would do "anything, anything at all" to get a job at the newspaper. "Anything at all?" he asked. "Yes," she said with growing excitement. "Then learn how to write," he told her. She didn't get the job.

One of my first dates with Joe involved a long ride to western Oklahoma and a day-long trek through a gypsum cave. It was my first experience caving, and almost everything I wore or used for the trip was borrowed: coveralls that were too large, a hard hat that didn't fit, and a headlamp that caused the ill-fitting hat to slip down, pushing my glasses painfully *(Continued on page 4)* against my nose. We were in the cave 8-10 hours, and came out of there the way all caving trips

ended: Dirty and tired. It was the first of many, many caving trips that I learned to enjoy.

We often went caving with John and Sue Bozeman of Oklahoma City, along with other cavers in the Central Oklahoma Grotto (COG). While we usually caved in gypsum country in Western Oklahoma, occasionally we ventured into limestone caves of Eastern Oklahoma as well. A couple of my favorite caving memories were when Joe and I caved by ourselves.

In a couple of cases, we were in bat caves at dusk and saw hundreds of thousands of bats take flight into the night. In another, we found a cave that apparently had never before been explored; in it, we found access to a small room. Being the smaller person, I was the only one who could fit through the entrance to the room where I found rare cave pearls – round droplets of calcification formed by water tumbling the stones around a small bowl in the earth. I cried at the uniqueness of it.

Joe's parents, Mary and Murray, were instrumental in getting COG started and continued as mentors long after they gave up caving actively. The elder Looney's home near Colcord, Oklahoma, continued as a central meeting place for cavers across the nation. Their property included a cave that supplied their home with fresh water. Their home is now the Mary and Murray Looney Educational Center of the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge. Work continues there to preserve a crayfish unique to that area as well as bat populations common to Oklahoma caves.

In the late 1970s, when we were working in Delaware County, Oklahoma, Joe convinced me that the two of us could edit and publish the NSS News, monthly publication put out by the National Speleological Society. We did this for about two years. I think this was one of the happiest periods of Joe's life, combining his talent and passion in two central activities of his life, journalism and caving.

Joe and I were married Feb. 2, 1974, in Will Rogers Park, Oklahoma City. For the next 12 years we did a lot of caving along with writing and editing for Oklahoma newspapers as well as the NSS News. We parted in 1986 and went our separate ways.

Joe was a remarkable writer, editor and caver. He was virtually fearless in everything he did, a trait that I did not share. One year on a vacation to the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, he stood at the unfenced edge of the canyon and looked over at the bottom, a mile down. I was many feet behind him and frozen in place. I convinced him we couldn't camp there that night; my fear was that I'd get up in the middle of the night to find the outhouse only to step off into the canyon.

His memory and recall amazed me, traits he shared with his mother. He could talk for long periods on all sorts of things – politics, history, birds and bats and flowers and all things natural. Once, on our way to an Audubon bird count in southwestern Oklahoma, he talked for 20-30 minutes about hoarfrost. He was a walking Google before there was a Google.

Joe should be remembered for the many good things he did: He had four children from a previous marriage who are doing their own amazing things; inspiring entire communities with his sometimes off-beat journalism; nurturing others in the world of writing, editing, photography and – always – caving. That is his legacy.

TRIP REPORT

NO TRIP REPORTS SUBMITTED FOR THIS MONTH.

POTPOURRI

Ice cave in Transylvania yields window into region's past

Scientists conduct ancient climate research on oldest cave glacier in the world
April 27, 2017
National Science Foundation

Ice cores drilled from a glacier in a cave in Transylvania offer new evidence of how Europe's winter weather and climate patterns fluctuated during the last 10,000 years, known as the Holocene period.

The cores provide insights into how the region's climate has changed over time. The researchers' results, published this week in the journal *Scientific Reports,* could help reveal how the climate of the North Atlantic region, which includes the U.S., varies on long time scales.

The project, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Romanian Ministry of Education, involved scientists from the University of South Florida (USF), University of Belfast, University of Bremen and Stockholm University, among other institutions.

Researchers from the Emil Racoviță Institute of Speleology in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and USF's School of Geosciences gathered their evidence in the world's most-explored ice cave and oldest cave glacier, hidden deep in the heart of Transylvania in central Romania.

With its towering ice formations and large underground ice deposit, Scărișoara Ice Cave is among the most important scientific sites in Europe.

Scientist Bogdan Onac of USF and his colleague Aurel Perșoiu, working with a team of researchers in Scărișoara Ice Cave, *(continued on* sampled the ancient ice there to reconstruct winter climate conditions during the Holocene period.

Over the last 10,000 years, snow and rain dripped into the depths of Scărișoara, where they froze into thin layers of ice containing chemical evidence of past winter temperature changes.

Until now, scientists lacked long-term reconstructions of winter climate conditions. That knowledge gap hampered a full understanding of past climate dynamics, Onac said.

"Most of the paleoclimate records from this region are plant-based, and track only the warm part of the year -- the growing season," says Candace Major, program director in NSF's Directorate for Geosciences, which funded the research. "That misses half the story. The spectacular ice cave at Scărișoara fills a crucial piece of the puzzle of past climate change in recording what happens during winter."

Reconstructions of Earth's climate record have relied largely on summer conditions, charting fluctuations through vegetation-based samples, such as tree ring width, pollen and organisms that thrive in the warmer growing season.

Absent, however, were important data from winters, Onac said.

Located in the Apuseni Mountains, the region surrounding the Scărișoara Ice Cave receives precipitation from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea and is an ideal location to study shifts in the courses storms follow across East and Central Europe, the scientists say.

Radiocarbon dating of minute leaf and wood fragments preserved in the cave's ice indicates that its glacier is at least 10,500 years old, making it the oldest cave glacier in the world and one of the oldest glaciers on Earth outside the polar regions.

From samples of the ice, the researchers were able to chart the details of winter conditions growing warmer and wetter over time in Eastern and Central Europe. Temperatures reached a maximum during the mid-Holocene some 7,000 to 5,000 years ago and decreased afterward toward the Little Ice Age, 150 years ago.

A major shift in atmospheric dynamics occurred during the mid-Holocene, when winter storm tracks switched and produced wetter and colder conditions in northwestern Europe, and the expansion of a Mediterranean-type climate toward southeastern Europe.

"Our reconstruction provides one of the very few winter climate reconstructions, filling in numerous gaps in our knowledge of past climate variability," Onac said.

Warming winter temperatures led to rapid environmental changes that allowed the northward expansion of Neolithic farmers toward mainland Europe, and the rapid population of the continent.

"Our data allow us to reconstruct the interplay between Atlantic and Mediterranean sources of moisture," Onac said. "We can also draw conclusions about past atmospheric circulation patterns, with implications for future climate changes. Our research offers a long-term context to better understand these changes."

The results from the study tell scientists how the climate of the North Atlantic region, which includes the U.S., varies on long time scales. The scientists are continuing their cave study, working to extend the record back 13,000 years or more.

Central Oklahoma Grotto is a no -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 relatec peleological 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 mont '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!*

Visit our Website: http://www.okcavers.co

The April meeting will b

At the home of Dale and Carol Town

Friday, April 13, 2018

Central Oklahoma Grotto
Creepy Cave Publishing
2119 Hilly Oaks Lane #283
Weatherford, TX 76087