CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

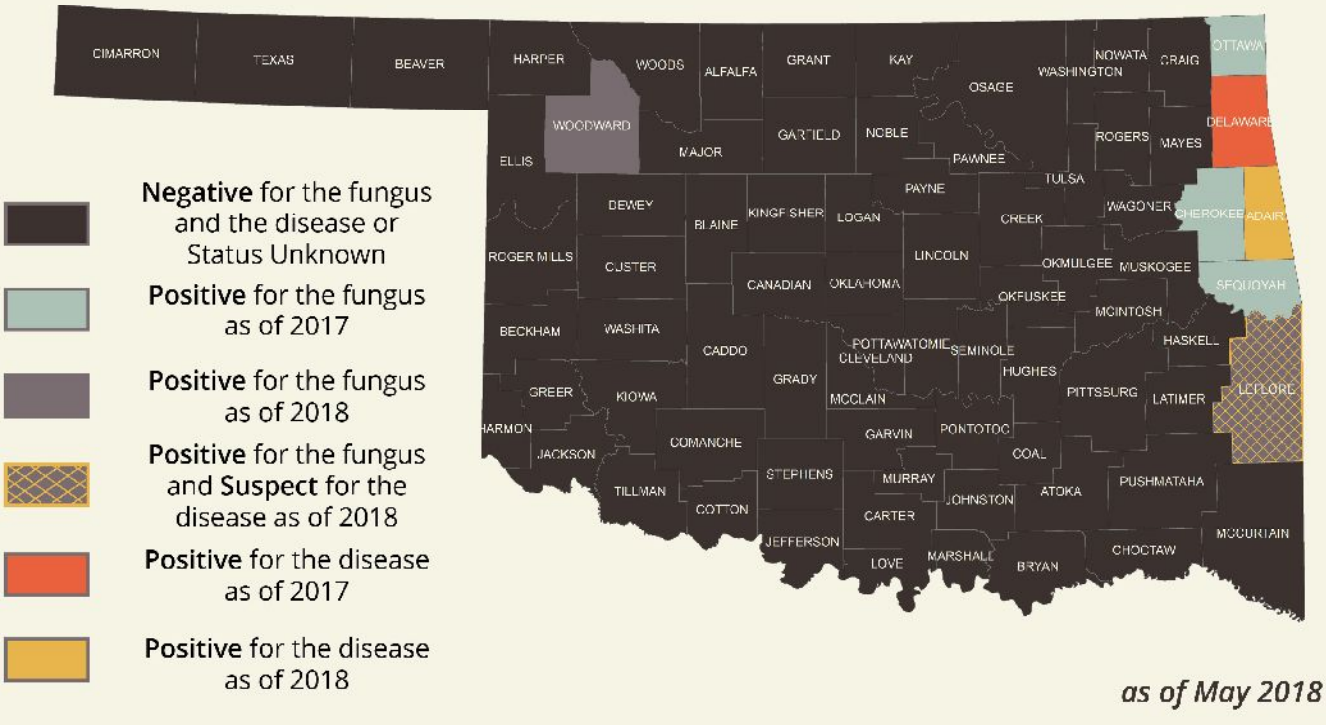
3Inside this Issue

Announcements ……..…...….....2
Minutes ……...……...…...……..……2
Treasurer's Report ……...……...…..2
Trip Reports
Remember? Cattle Cave SE Entrance 9/21/2002 …... 3
Potpourri
The ban of the cave bear ……..…….…… 4
Stalactite cave discovered 900 feet below Jerusalem...4
Minnetonka Cave ……...…..…….…… 5
Idaho's Deepest Cave is Set to Open for Tours This Weekend …...……..…… 5
Convention 2018 ……..…..…….…… 5

The June meeting will be Friday, June 8, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the home of Steve Beleu.

Local Alert: The status of WNS in Oklahoma was updated last month (May). Where as WNS is confirmed in the eastern part of the state, we have a confirm of Pd (Pseudogymnoasus destructans) in the Selman Cave Complex. A sample from a tri-colored bat in a Woodward County cave managed by the University of Central Oklahoma tested positive for the fungus although none of the bats present showed signs of the disease this winter. They, however, were using a different sampling device than we use (which brought up lots of debates AGAIN on setting a standard). So now we have it just to the north of us in Kansas and just to the west in the Texas pandhandle. We are all pretty sure it will be soon when we see it show up in Jester and our other western caves also. - Duane

The Status of White-nose Syndrome in Oklahoma



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*The June meeting will be Friday, June 12, 2018 at the home of Steve Beleu.

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 May 11, 2018

Host: the home of Dale Amlee
Attendees: Dale, John and Sue Bozeman, Mary Hicks, John Talbot, John Van Dyke, and The Skillful Ogre.

Supreme Potentate Dale Amlee began the meeting at 8:12.

OLD BUSINESS
None.

NEW BUSINESS
1. Sue wants COG to be able to journey unto and work in Carlsbad Caverns again, citing the worth of our past volunteer work there. If park management approves our application we will avoid working there during the heat of summer, opting instead if possible for the cooler fall or spring.
2. We talked about our next trip to Prospect Cave on May 19.
3. Mary Hicks has returned to Oklahoma for the nonce; she renewed her membership that night. Welcome back intrepid caver!

UPCOMING BUSINESS
Our June 8 meeting will be held in the shack and lean-to of Steve Beleu in his fortified neighborhood in the eastern slum side of Norman.

TREASURER'S REPORT
John Talbot presented his April report.
We concluded the meeting at 9:04.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

JUNE 2018 TREASURERS'S REPORT

INCOME			**EXPENSES**
Dues	$	12.00	
Dividends	$	00.01	
TOTAL	**$**	**21.01**	
CASH ON HAND	**$**	**80.05**	Balance as of **6/4/2018**
CHECKING	**$**	**245.09**	
SAVINGS	**$**	**2163.96**	*PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT*
TOTAL	**$**	**2489.10**	

TRIP REPORT

FROM THE EDITOR: DUG THROUGH THE ARCHIEVES AND FOUND AN OLD TRIP REPORT FROM A WHILE AGO TO REPRINT. ENJOY!

Trip Report: Cattle Cave: SE Entrances
Date: September 21, 2002
Personnel: John & Sue Bozeman, Dale Town and Lil Town, Roy Diehl, and Dale Amlee.

This is the first Cattle Cave survey trip Dale and I have been on in a lonnnng time. This arm was a new experience for us, but then again, the others hadn't done much here either!

We decided to connect some of the entrances found on the SW part of the cave. Sue, Dale and Dale went in the entrance Nicole had named Blessed Relief during the May 18th survey trip. John, Roy and I went in the next entrance and were going to survey towards them. Our entrance looked pretty inviting.... more so than the other snake pits we had seen that day! So, lack of another name, we dubbed it Nice Entrance.

Sue had mentioned that the entrance we went in was real wet the last time they'd peeked in, so they went in the other one. We fooled them though, our entrance was dry...THEIRS was wet! Dale's comment about their entrance was it was a tight squeeze inside the entrance (just big enough for him) and scuzzy water at the end! He was heard to say, "Pui (spit–spit)!!! This water TASTES as bad as it LOOKS!" But after that point, they said it wasn't too bad.

We did meet them, but they didn't think we did our share (they did pull more tape than we did, but we wanted to be thorough). Actually, we were slow. The guys wanted to do back-sights and that takes longer, and I had severe light problems. My carbide wanted to keep catching on fire and I ended up using John's backup electric light.

The passage wasn't bad, it did get a little low, but at least our end of it was dry.

Once finished with this part, Sue's team came out Nice Entrance, (did I mention, this entrance was dry?) and we continued surveying from the entrance heading the opposite way. We didn't get far when we could see the others who had skipped over to the next entrance and shot back to us. With this finished, we went for the next entrance and they started surveying towards us. Kind of a leap frog survey from entrance to entrance! By the way, this entrance they surveyed from was also wet.

The next entrance we went it was not as friendly. This one does not have a name yet, but I'm sure it will not be nice! It was a small pit with a drain hole in the bottom. Roy climbed down and we did not. When he was just inside the entrance, he said he thought he heard a car door slamming.

Later we learned that Sue was trying to create a new exit with her lamp... the base of the lamp blew out and it was quite a THA-WUMP! Dale said he was going through a cookie press when she decided to blow the cave up... gave him quite a start! No one was hurt, no damage to the cave, but the lamp base is shot!

Anyway, while John and I pondered about whether or not we wanted to follow Roy About this time he saw the other team so we decided to wait on the surface. Roy stayed and finished the survey with them. Dale T. had had enough and came out to join John and me. Dale A. and Sue were nice to Roy, they didn't make him come through the water to join them, he waited on the shore for them to get to him! John was concerned that everyone would have problems crawling out of the drain hole so dropped a rope down in case someone needed a hand grip to exit.

The passage Sue tried to excavate by exploding her lamp had a stretch of water about 8 feet long and 9 inches deep. The passage was about 5 feet wide with 2 feet of airspace. It looked like a Halloween corridor with fine, 2 foot long roots hanging down from the ceiling that they had to keep ducking. They were only 60 feet from the entrance, but since they were taking back-sights it did take them a little longer to survey.

Once out, we decided to call it quits. Roy wanted to head straight back home to study for exams and the rest of us went to on to Woodward to have pizza before going our separate ways.

POTPOURRI

First, I want to thank you and the Central Oklahoma Grotto again for sponsoring CaveSim at the 2017 Convention. As you'll see on the first 3 slides of the attached presentation, your sponsorship helped us to reach over 600 non-cavers at post-Convention events, and roughly 200 cavers enjoyed CaveSim during Convention. I can only do this kind of work with your help, and I so appreciate COG being a sponsor of CaveSim in 2017. You'll see that the COG logo (with a link) is shown about mid-way down this page, along with pictures from Convention.

Even though the NSS Convention is a few months off, I'm once again working on plans to bring CaveSim to Convention. Again, I so appreciated COG's sponsorship of CaveSim in Rio Rancho, and I thought I would reach out to see if you Thank you again, and have a great week,

The ban of the cave bear
April 5, 2018
Universitaet Tübingen
https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/04/180405100145.htm

At 3.5 meters long and with a shoulder height of 1.7 meters, the cave bear was one of the giants of the Ice Age. Yet few appear to have survived until the last glacial maximum 24,000 to 19,000 years ago. Researchers from Germany, Italy and Canada have conducted analyses to find out what likely caused the extinction of these large herbivores. It is believed that the renewed cooling of the climate and hunting by humans – added to the bears' purely vegetarian diet – increased the pressure on this megafauna species. Professor Hervé Bocherens of the Senckenberg Center for Human Evolution and Palaeoenvironment at the University of Tübingen took part in the study, which examined cave bear bones using the latest methods. The results of the study have been published in *Historical Biology.*

Cave bears (*Ursus spelaeus*) lived in Europe during the Ice Age some 400,000 years ago and died out some 24,000 years ago. They were much larger than their closest remaining relatives, the brown bears, yet they were far less of a threat to humans. In an earlier study, the researchers analyzed the isotopes in collagen extracted from cave bear bones to show that the bears followed a vegan lifestyle. But it remained a mystery as to why they disappeared just as the climate was cooling again. Paleogenetic investigations showed that a population decline of cave bears took place around 50,000 years ago, coinciding with the replacement of Neanderthals by anatomically modern humans in Europe. Together with findings of cave bear bones with butchery marks made by humans or even stone spear heads embedded in their bones showing evidence of hunting, this suggested that cave bears declined and became extinct because of human exploitation.

In several regions of Europe, cave bears disappeared well before the start of the last glacial maximum. However, some cave bear populations seem to have survived until 24,000 years ago -- with one in northeastern Italy whose more recent dates suggest it was the last to die out. The researchers used bones from that location for the current study. They dated the bones using the latest methods and compared the bears' diet with that of older populations. They also looked for signs of hunting and butchery by humans.

The new radiocarbon dating confirmed that these cave bears lived as late as 24,000 years ago, after the start of the last glacial maximum. The bones also revealed evidence of hunting and butchery by humans. Isotopic analyses showed that the bears still did not eat meat, despite the colder climate. Hervé Bocherens suggests this lack of adaptability and the pressures of hunting by humans may have increased the stress on the cave bears – such that they could no longer survive in a harsher climate. "It was likely this combination of climatic and anthropogenic factors which led to their extinction," he says.

Stalactite cave discovered 900 feet below Jerusalem
By TOI staff 25 May 2018, 2:53 pm
https://www.timesofisrael.com/underground-stalactite-cave-discovered-near-jerusalem/

Workers digging route for new water pipe to Jerusalem and the West Bank find 46-foot-long subterranean cavern

Stalactites are formed by the slow dripping of water that deposits tiny amounts of material — in this case limestone and dolomite — in underground caves over many thousands of years, forming beautiful cones along the ceilings and floors of caves.

In the case of the newfound cave, the water dripping through it was clean and fresh, workers reported. The television report showed one worker drinking from a puddle on the floor.

The tunnel is due to be completed in 2020 and will supply water to Jerusalem and the Palestinian Authority for the next 50 years.

The cave was found while digging a 13.5 kilometer (8.4 mile) section of the tunnel between Ksalon, near Beit Shemesh, and Ein Kerem in the capital's southwest.

"On Sunday, while digging, we found this large cavity," the project supervisor told Hadashot news. "We knew we could not continue."

Digging has been halted while the Nature and Parks Authority and other agencies document and explore the stalactite cave.

Work crews digging a new uphill water pipeline to Jerusalem chanced upon an unusual and ancient underground stalactite cave, Hadashot television news reported Friday.

The cave, some 280 meters (900 feet) below ground, is 14 meters (46 feet) long and was found earlier this week by Water Authority workers just outside (and under) the capital's city limits.

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Minnetonka Cave
https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/ctnf/recarea/?recid=70736

Minnetonka Cave in Southeastern Idaho is a living cave, meaning that it's continually changing and grow-

ing. It's also the deepest cave in Idaho and a great spot to get out of the heat during the warm summer months, although you might still want to bring a jacket, no matter how hot it is, because the constant temperature of the cave is about 40 degrees all year long.

A couple of other things to keep in mind, according to Only in Your State, is that the cave has over 440 stairs, so you will be doing a lot of climbing and your tour will take about an hour and a half. Prices for the tours are $8 for adults and $6 for kids and children 5 and under are free, with all proceeds going to the Forest Service to help with preservation and upkeep of the cave and its facilities.

Minnetonka Cave, in beautiful St. Charles Canyon northwest of Bear Lake, offers a half-mile of fascinateing stalactites, stalagmites, and banded travertine in nine rooms. From mid-June until Labor Day, over 20,000 people visit the Cave and take the guided tours. The cave stays a brisk 40 degrees all year so bring your jacket! Minnetonka is one of two caverns administered by the Forest Service. Within St. Charles Canyon are campgrounds and a large group use areas with fishing and hiking nearby. Keep an eye out for resident wildlife such as moose and deer.

Attention! In an attempt to keep White Nose Syndrome (a bat disease) from spreading into Minnetonka

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Idaho's Deepest Cave is Set to Open for Tours This Weekend

Mike Kasper

May 25, 2018

http://mix106radio.com/idahos-deepest-cave-is-set-to-open-this-weekend/

Over 20,000 people visit this cave every year. Have you toured the deepest cave in Idaho yet?

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If you are going to take the road trip and head to St. Charles Canyon, just north of Bear Lake to take a tour, keep in mind that the cave is in the forest, so there are no phone services and they are not able to take credit or debit cards, so it's cash or check only...just like the good old days, back when the mine was first developed for tours in the 1930s.

Tours of Minnetonka cave begin Memorial Day weekend and continue through Labor Day with tours available from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. seven days a week.

Happy spelunking!

Cave, please DO NOT wear clothing or hand carried items into Minnetonka Cave that you have worn or carried in any other cave or mine. These things include – shoes, hats, belts, jewelry, cameras, backpacks, cell phones, purses, etc. Any individuals who bring items with them that have been in another cave or mine will not be able to take the tour. We appreciate your cooperation and hope you enjoy your tour.

Due to the westward spread of White Nose syndrome (WNS), restrictions on clothing and items that have been in other caves are currently in place at Minnetonka Cave to prevent introduction of this bat disease into Idaho. It is possible for humans to spread the disease between caves if clothing or equipment has been exposed to the fungus. Leaving clothing or other items that have been in another cave at home, will help protect bat species inhabiting Minnetonka Cave. Introduction of this disease into Minnetonka Cave would devastate local bat populations, and in the event of a cave closure, greatly impact local economies. For more information on WNS and its current impacts to bats in North America visit http://whitenosesyndrome.org/

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Happy spelunking!

Welcome to NSS Convention 2018

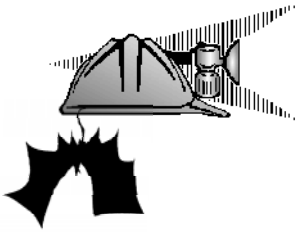
Montana's first NSS convention is scheduled to occur in our state capital, Helena, July 30th - August 3rd and boy are we excited! Attendees can plan to arrive at our beautifully scenic and historic 30-acre campround, just at the edge of town, starting on Saturday, July 28th. Our main event center, Capital High School, is just 2 miles down the road! You can look forward to:

-Amazing Presentations from Cave Explorations Across the World
-Academic Presentations from Some of Cavings Most Renowned Scientists
-Dozens of Hands-On Caving Workshops
-Caving Gear Vendors with all the Newest Gear
-Connecting with Cavers from Across the Globe
-Selling Your Old Gear, or Buying Someone Else's at the Caver Consginment
-Exquisite Cave Art Salons
-Two Nights of Campground Parties and a Campground Dinner
-A Formal Dinner and Awards Banquet
-Dozens of Caving (and a few canyoneering) Trips
-and so much more!

Following a week of speleogasms, we expect attendess will hit the open range for their next Montana adventure by Sunday, August 5th. We're looking forward to sharing the Big Sky State with you, and we think you're going to especially love our capital city!

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 May Meeting will be held at the home of Steve Beleu on Friday, June 12, 2018



Central Oklahoma Grotto
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