CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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The September meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, September 8, 2006, at the home of Jon Woltz.

Address: 1312 Jefferson Street, Weatherford, OK 73096

Telephone: 580-774-2235

This is the first meeting since May, so be sure to come see when the next trip is and find out what's happening!

Directions to Jon's house: From OKC: Go west on I-40. Get off at Exit 82. Turn right onto N. Washington Ave. Turn right onto Saber Lane. Turn right onto Jefferson St.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contract Sue or John Bozeman for details.
*Southwest trips are scheduled the first Saturday of every month. Contact Lil Town for details.

*The 7:30 September meeting will be at Jon Woltz's house, 1312 Jefferson Street, Weatherford, OK. His phone number is 580-774-2235.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO
Minutes of the May 12, 2006 meeting

Members present: Duane DelVecchio; John VanDyke; Sue Bozeman; John Bozeman; John Talbot; Lil Town; Dale Town; Dale Amlee; Roy Diehl; Anne Ault; Jonathan Woltz; Kelley Logan (guest).

The June meeting of 2006 was held in the home of Duane DelVecchio. As per tradition, Mr. DelVecchio provided enough food to feed an army. The Great Door to his beer keep was unlocked and all were invited to help themselves. COG members thanked him then and we thank him now.

There was no Old Business.

New Business: Those of us, who had gone to Carlsbad for the annual pilgrimage, gave brief reports on the work assignments we received from Ranger, Tom Bemis. Dale Amlee took measurements of the pool that lies at the bottom of the National Geographic pit. There was discussion concerning the possibility of using a polyethylene mesh for the new cover. Mr. Amlee has written to several companies who manufacture this material, requesting samples. The more gifted members of COG, in physics and engineering, had an in-depth scientific discussion concerning mesh tension, or the Woo-Woo Factor.

Those of us who were able to attend the Carlsbad event this year, unanimously agreed that it was one of the best experiences there we have ever had. However…those of us in this group may invoke the "What Happens In Carlsbad Stays In Carlsbad" rule at our discretion.

Mr. DelVecchio requested that all trip reports be sent to Mrs. Town for the newsletter and to him for inclusion on the COG website.

June 17th was set for another survey trip to Broken Horn Cave.

A 'fun trip' to Cedar Cave this summer was discussed.

Show And Tell: Mr. Woltz brought his new vulcanized rubber backpack and Mr. Diehl brought his new knee pads that he will be using during his kayaking trip of the Channel Islands. He plans to explore Painted Cave, a sea cave in the islands.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		**EXPENSES**	
DIVIDEND	$ 0.12	POSTAGE	$ 11.31
		INK	6.24
TOTALS	**$ 0.12**		**$ 17.55**
CASH ON HAND	$ 72.59		
CHECKING	$ 599.54		
SAVINGS	$ 2,620.92		
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/8/06	**$ 3,293.05**		

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

POTPOURRI

Bats' reputation better since invading Austin

Written by staff writer David Zizzo
Reprinted from the Daily Oklahoman, August 17, 2006, pages E1-2

In Austin, Texas, in the 1900s, an army of diseased, blood-sucking, hair-infatuated demons invaded the underside of bridges. At least that's the way many people saw the appearance of 1.5 million Mexican Freetail bats.

"The city went berserk," Bob Locke said.

It's still a reaction common among generations raised on Dracula movies and tales of the critters getting tangled in people's hair.

"Bats are easily the most misunderstood and negatively mythologized mammals in the world," said Locke, director of publications for Bat Conservation International, headquartered in Austin.

Fortunately for Austin's bats, the largest urban community of bats in North America, residents learned enough about the animals to tolerate them and even set out the bat welcome mat. Bats are gentle and fragile, Locke said. Fewer than ½ percent, about the same rate as some other wild animals, have been found to have rabies. They don't like to tangle with people's hair, as one myth suggests. They eat lots of annoying bugs. And they're good for business.

Millions of tourists now flock, so to speak, to the city to watch the bats swarm from beneath the Congress Avenue Bridge. One study concluded the bats generate up to $9 million a year for the city. And the city calls itself the Bat Capital of America, Locke said.

Texas is kind of America's Bat Central. Bat conservation International promotes conservation of the animals around the world. Also, in a cave near San Antonio lives the largest community of mammals in the world, about 20 million Mexican freetails. Each night, the bats consume an estimated 200 million tons of bugs, Locke said.

And Mineral Wells, Texas, has Bat World. The center is the only place where you can learn to rehabilitated insectivorous (insect-eating) bats, the kind common in the United States, founder Amanda Lorrar said. It's apparently a popular skill, since people line up to pay $595 for the "bat boot camp".

"We get people from all over the world," Lollar, 50, said.

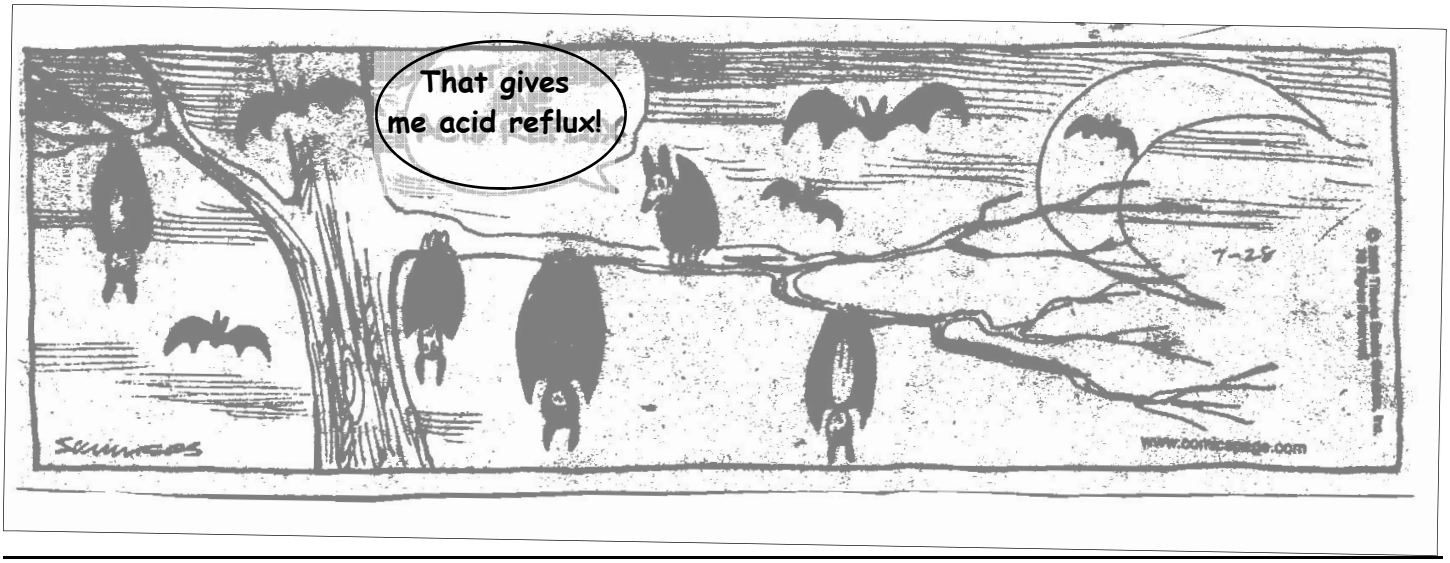
And others send injured or otherwise ailing bats from around the world so they can be nursed back to health and released to the wild. One was sent from England.

"He apparently got lost on a cargo ship," Lollar said. "American Airlines flew him back for us."

Lorrar got involved with bats after finding one on the sidewalk by a furniture store her family owned in Mineral Wells, Texas.

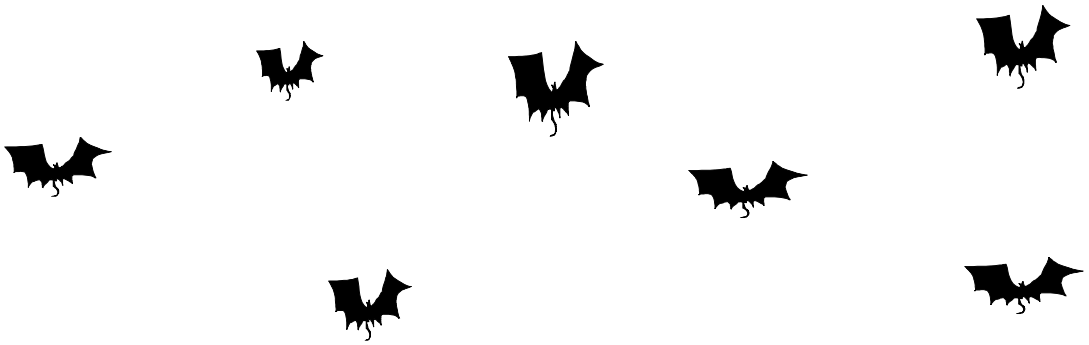
Now, the building serves as headquarters for Bat World. Another building her family owns, a former office supply store and apartment building, is abandoned and is home to a colony of 30,000 bats.

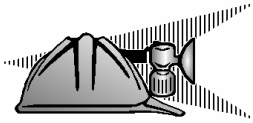
"I basically fell in love with bats," she said.



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 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, Oklahoma, 73521. All submissions to the newsletter should be sent to the editor: Lil or Dale Town, 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK 73521: Telephone: (580)477-4027: E-mail: oklmt@cableone.net. 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!*

Remember, the September meeting will be at Jon Woltz's house, Friday, Sept. 8!





Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/O 3208 Gettysburg Drive
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