CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,INC

C.O.G.nizance

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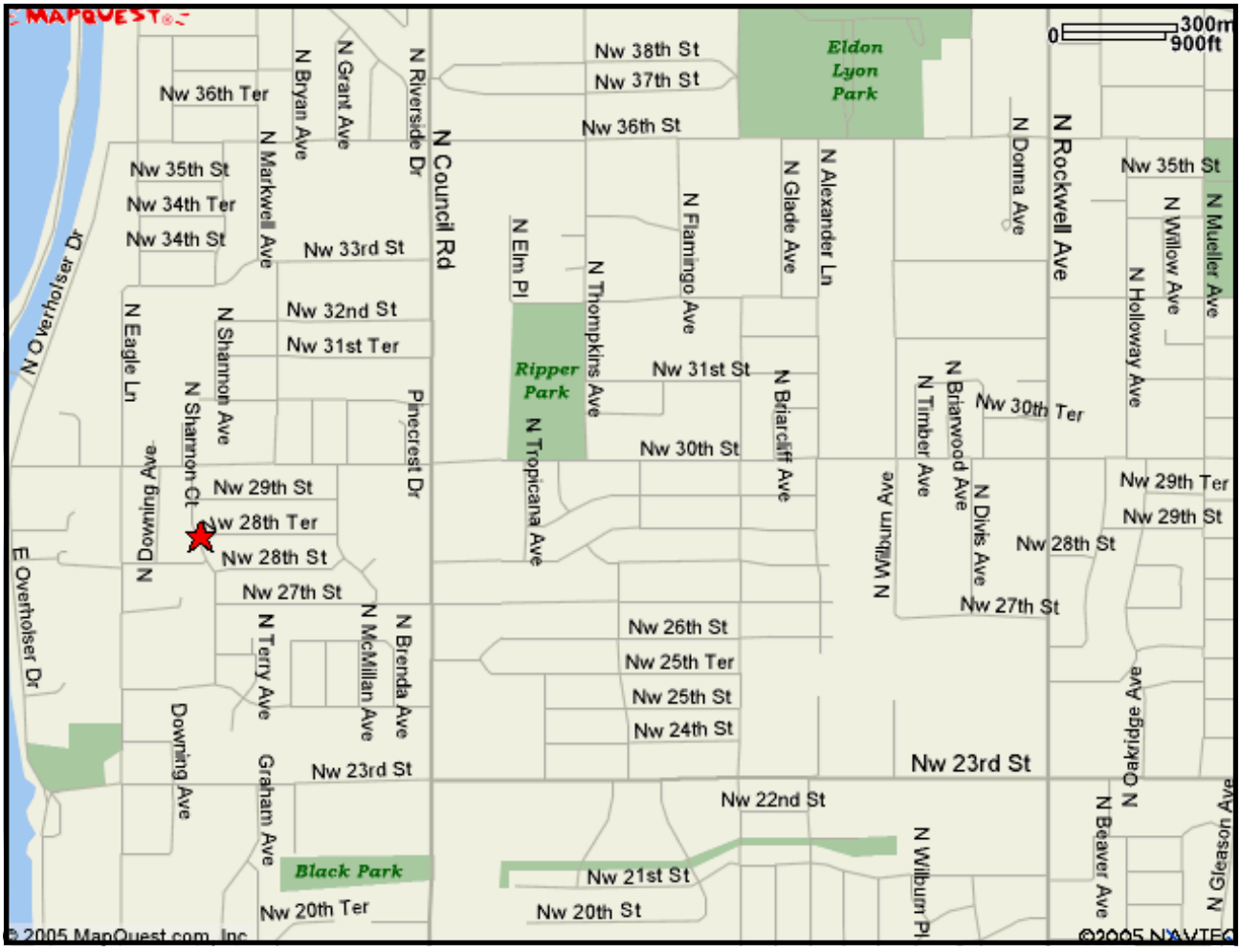
The January meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, January 12, 2007, at the home of John Talbot.

Address: 2902 Shannon Drive, Bethany, OK.

Telephone: 405-789-6944

Directions to John Talbot's House: From Rt. 66 go south on N. Council Road. Turn west on NW 36th to Shannon.

Map to John Talbot's house



ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Change of phone for Joe Looney in Bartlesville: 918-338-2730. He has offered to take any of our group caving to a day's worth of eastern OK caves (limestone) if you'll come get him first (as he is unable to drive).
*Northwest trips are scheduled the third Saturday of every month. Contract Sue or John Bozeman for details.
*The 7:30 January meeting will be at John Talbot's, house, 2902 Shannon Drive, Bethany, OK. His phone number is 405-789-6944. This will be the first meeting of the new year! Plans will be made for the February bat count.

MINUTES

There weren't any minutes taken at the Christmas party that was at the Bozeman's house in lieu of a December meeting. Sorry if you weren't able to make it, a good time was had by all.

Thanks again for your hospitality, Sue and John!

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME

CARBIDE SALES	$ 3.00
NEWSLETTER SALES	$ 24.00
DIVIDEND	$ .11
PUBLICATION SALES	$ 9.25
TOTALS	**27.13**
CASH ON HAND	$ 29.30
CHECKING	$ 588.15
SAVINGS	$ 2,634.07

EXPENSES

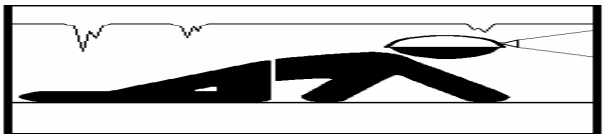
POSTAGE	$ 15.19
DONATION	$ 50.00

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 11/14/06 $ 3,277.38

TRIP REPORTS

No caving in December and no reports! Happy New Years to all and let's look forward to a great year of caving in 2007!



POTPOURRI

Cave snot carves out its home:
Biofilms work together to shape their own habitat

By Jeanna Bryner, Staff Writer
Updated: 12:45 p.m. CT Dec 13, 2006

SAN FRACISCO - Cave-dwelling Bacteria are interior designers of sorts, forming mucus-like chandeliers that hang from cave ceilings and coat the floors with thick mats. Now scientists are finding the tiny critters can also help turn a meager underground residence into an ever-expanding dark palace.

By rappelling into the Frasassi cave system in Italy, for the first time, scientists have revealed clearly the role of cave bacteria in actually forming caves, as reported this week here at the meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

"We really are able to implicate microorganisms in speeding up cave formation," said Jennifer Macalady of Pennsylvania State University.

Here's how the cave-forming story goes, without any bacteria:

As oxygen-rich rainwater seeps below the ground's surface it mixes with water that's been sealed off from the air above and is full of hydrogen sulfide — the stuff known for its rotten-egg smell.

The oxygen turns this hydrogen sulfide into sulfuric acid, which begins dissolving surrounding rocks. Over time, this acid carves out big chunks of limestone rocks to form and expand cave systems.

Add so-called biofilms, or layers of sulfur-consuming bacteria, to the mix and the story gets more complex.

Within just about a millimeter, multiple layers of microbes reside, each tucked into its own niche. The outer layer comprises microbes that thrive by transforming oxygen and hydrogen sulfide into energy.

Cave End

Written by Steve Beleu

When a cave collapsed here into breakdown
This ravine was created, broken spine
Of the cave that was here once
Whose ceiling continued to fall
As its overburden became so thin
That dirt and mud began to surge in,
Roots growing into dome rooms,
Between sky and darkness only a few feet.

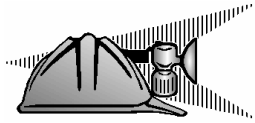
The cave began to collapse, not at once
But gradually; light fought its way in
Overcoming the weakening dark until
What had been one cave became three,
All fragments. And then one deep winter
As snow and ice sank their teeth
Through the thin rock that was ceiling
One section after another collapsed.
Ceiling and floor became one rock.

This ravine is an echo of the cave once here—
As water flows down this rough-cut ravine
A future cave begins its life-journey.

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 January meeting will be at John Talbot's house, Friday, January 12!

Happy New Year!



Central Oklahoma Grotto
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