



**CENTRAL
OKLAHOMA
GROTTO**
OF THE NATIONAL
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

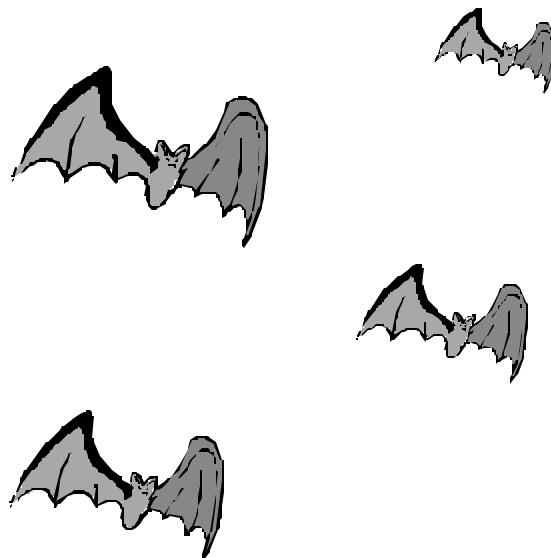
C.O.G.nizance

October, 2004

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The October meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at Art Wallace's place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 8, 2004.



**October's
meeting is at
the Wallace
house**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

*Southwest trips are scheduled the first Saturday of

every month. Contact Lil Town for details.

*The 7:30 October meeting will be at Art Wallace's house.

MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the September 10, 2004 meeting

Host: Jon Woltz in his new house!

Members present: Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, Roy Diehl II, John Talbot, Lil and Dale Town, John Van Dyke, Steve Beleu

Chairman Diehl began the meeting at 7:58

OLD BUSINESS

1. Roy promised each and every one of us that he would have his article for the upcoming *Oklahoma Underground* written in no more than 16 days from the day of our meeting. So by Sunday, September 26 editor Sue Bozeman will be sure to have received it from him. Count the day down!

2. Duane reported that he found a cheaper host for our website. Its current address is okcavers.com (although he said that this will probably soon change back to okcavers.org, where it has been before). Duane still refuses to let COG compensate him for costs associated with the website, but we are equally determined that he shall not bear the brunt of these virtual costs himself, and we continue to press him for an invoice.

3. Sue reminded us that COG has promised to give forth a talk unto First Unitarian Church of OKC about caving in Oklahoma, scheduled for Tuesday, 12:30 -1:30. At this time volunteers included Sue and John Bozeman for sure, and Roy for maybe.

4. Roy passed around copies of the release

form for Broken Horn Cave for us to sign. Most of this cave is actually on the property of Betty Selman, but a smidgen is on OK Department of Wildlife Conservation land.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Duane asked if COG wants him to make copies of his "Texas Show Caves" cd-rom, which he distributed free to meeting attendees. This cd-rom contains the photos of our trip to the Caverns of Sonora, Cave Without a Name, Cascade Combo Caverns-Sewer, and Inner Space Caverns. His plan is advertise its availability via the COG website; he would burn a copy from his master to fill orders. The cd-rom will have a copyright notice and will sell for \$10, shipping and handling included. We approved his action.

2. Sue cast about for cavers for the September 18 trip to Cattle Cave.

3. We reminisced about our summer fun trip to the caves of southwest Texas.

4. We voted to reimburse Duane for his webmaster work, and Duane finally agreed to produce an invoice for us!

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Talbot read his report, which is included in this newsletter.

Chairman Diehl concluded the meeting at 8:48
Minutes by The Skillful Ogre.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES
DIVIDEND	\$.09	None
TOTALS	\$.09	
CASH ON HAND	\$ 68.47	PREPARED BY TREASURER
CHECKING	\$ 407.14	JOHN TALBOT
SAVINGS	\$ 2,581.05	
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 9/3/04 \$ 3,756.66		

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Cattle Cave
 Date: September 18, 2004
 Personnel: John & Sue Bozeman, Nicole & Roy Diehl
 Written by: Sue Bozeman

About all I could say is that Roy, Nicole, John and I went into Cattle Cave to work on finalizing the cave map and a bit of geology. We got inside the entrance and began having second thoughts and remembrances of past Septembers. Lots of smell of fresh guano, which equals lots of *Myotis velifer* in residence. Sure enough, just beyond the notch, we started being buzzed by flies and midges. After a few get in your ears and eyes, you think about the smart-

ness of the upcoming bat room traverse; after you inhale a couple, you decide: OUT. We'll come back after the bats have departed and the flies are gone. No need to be really unsafe about things.

We went to look at the Cimarron bluffs overlooking the salt making ponds and then revisited the field of 65 wind farm machines. They are being fenced off and not as accessible as when Anne, Steve, John and I first visited them. They do have a series of information boards up now, telling about all the electricity that is being created. Didn't see any dead birds or bats around, which was good. 🦇

POTPOURRI

More bats may provide relief from pesky mosquito bites

Reprint from the Mountain Guide
 Wednesday, July 7, 2004
 By Susan Tweit

I've already got a mosquito bite," complained a friend, one evening.

She held out her hand to show the swollen, pink bump.

"How come I always get bitten?"

"Because they like you," I said.

She was not amused.

I wasn't kidding. Blood-sucking insects like mosquitoes practice discrimination— they clearly prefer certain people..

Carbon dioxide is apparently the deciding factor for mosquitoes. Humans off-gas carbon dioxide in our breath and through the pores in our skin, but some of us produce more of the gas than others—and thus are more attractive mosquito bait.

Larger people, for instance, produce more carbon dioxide, as do warmer people and people and people with quicker metabolisms.

(continued on page 3)

Physical activity increase production of carbon dioxide, but don't think you can avoid being bitten by adopting a couch potato lifestyle—you exude carbon dioxide even when you sleep.

The good news is only female mosquitoes bite, and only after mating. Males are the sensitive ones. They sip flower nectar and fly about listening for mates with antennae that discern the distinctive buzz of a female of their species.

A mated adult female mosquito must eat protein to nurture her eggs. Her protein of choice—mammalian blood.

She flies about sampling the air with sensors on her antennae and her three pairs of legs. When the sensors locate a stream of carbon dioxide, she tacks her way upstream until she reaches the source.

The annoying whine—which varies from species to species—is produced by the action of her wings.

Her flight is a marvel of strength and agility, writes Richard Coniff in his book, "Spineless Wonders." She can hover, loop-the-loop speed up suddenly or slow down, dart in and out between slapping hands, even fly upside down, sideways, and backward.

Her wings beat at speeds from 250-600 strokes per second, depending on her species. (By comparison a western tiger swallowtail butterfly beats her wings only about eight times per second.)

Unusual muscles in female mosquito's midsection power her rapid wingbeat. When "switched on" by a nerve signal, these muscles automatically contract and relax at eye-popping speeds, powering her two pair of wings.

The annoying whine—which varies from species to species—is produced by the action of her wings, by the vibration of those powerful wing muscles, and by the female mosquito's breathing.

Once she reaches her target, the hungry mosquito settles, light as a feather, on her unsuspecting victim's skin.

She quickly and deftly insets her phlebotomist's toolkit—a sheath containing two

tubes, two lancets and two serrated knives, each finer than a human hair.

The serrated knives saw their way under the skin, making an opening for the lancets to pierce a capillary; the smaller tube dribbles a bit of mosquito saliva into the hole to keep the blood from coagulating, while the larger tube pumps up enough blood to swell her abdomen nearly to the bursting point.

The whole process takes just a minute or so, and then our huntress is off, lumbering with difficulty into the air, weighted down by her meal.

The victim usually doesn't notice the itch of the anticoagulant until after she is safely away.

After feeding, the female mosquito spends several days resting while her hundred or so eggs develop. Then she flies off to find a bit of water - a cup is plenty - in which to lay her eggs and begin the next generation of mosquitoes.

Along with their itchy saliva, mosquitoes inject pathogens that cause some of the deadliest of human diseases, including West Nile virus, malaria, and yellow fever.

In the past, humans have tried to eliminate mosquitoes with an arsenal of dangerous chemicals, including DDT. Mosquitoes, however, evolved resistance to the pesticides.

Now we focus on eliminating the aquatic habitats of the wriggling larvae and on killing the larvae with a naturally-occurring bacteria. We might also consider providing habitat for another

We might also consider providing habitat for another animal that we have tried to eliminate—bats.

animal that we have tried to eliminate—bats.

Some bat species eat as many as 600 of the blood-sucking insects an hour, making them ideal for mosquito control. But the pesticides that couldn't eliminate mosquitoes have killed bats by the score; habitat loss and harassment have further hurt their populations.

Bringing bats back would restore a misunderstood mammal to our night skies and prevent a lot of bites.



Ecstasy of the Crazy Caver

by Steve Beleu

I feel the caves calling,
They're calling to my blood!
I can wait to crawl
Through water and mud!
Wet up to my neck
With cave water and sweat,
Back to the caves
I can't wait to go get!

Complaint of the Bad Caver

by Steve Beleu

"Because this cave exists only for my profit
I mine it for the most reputable collectors
Who give me top dollars for speleothems and 6.2 beer
As my tips for minning jobs well done.

With these gypsum crystals I'll finance a splendor
Such as the trailer park rarely sees: satellite tv!
With this black alabaster I'll spend a weekend in Vegas,
The woman by my side the dirtiest I can buy.

So with hammer and pick, human cunning and chisel,
I'll head out to the ranches at midnight,
Sledgehammer slung at my side, determined
Not to leave without a sackful of selenite.

And if I have to lie to the landowners
I can tell the truth as well as any lie
And then change my world to fit it
And get what I want—endless acres

Of land to explore in gypsum cave money country.
Friendly cavers who show me sinkholes,
Friendly cavers who take me to entrances
I would never have found otherwise."

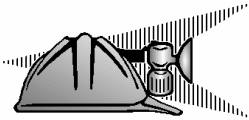


Remember to come to
the October Meeting at Art's house.
He will be supplying all his
great Halloween treats!



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: Email: 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!*

Don't forget to come to the October meeting
at Art Wallace's place, Friday, October 8.



Central Oklahoma Grotto
C/o 3208 Gettysburg Drive
Altus, Oklahoma 73521