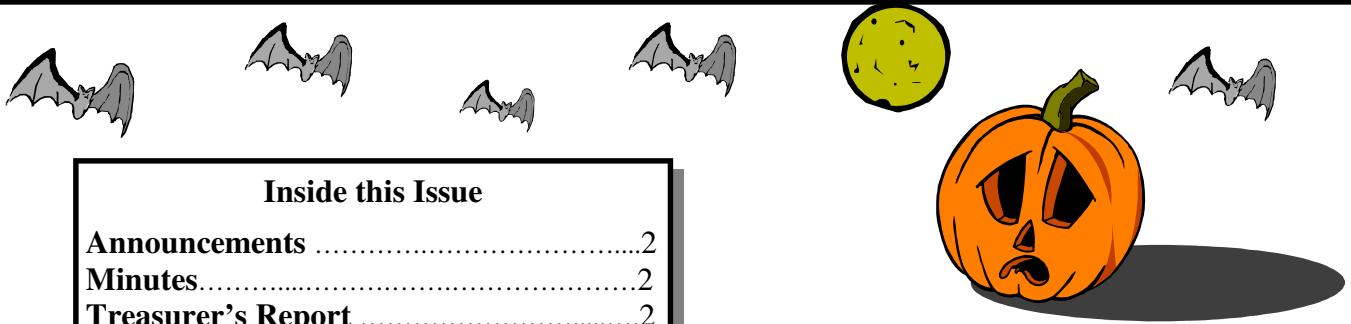




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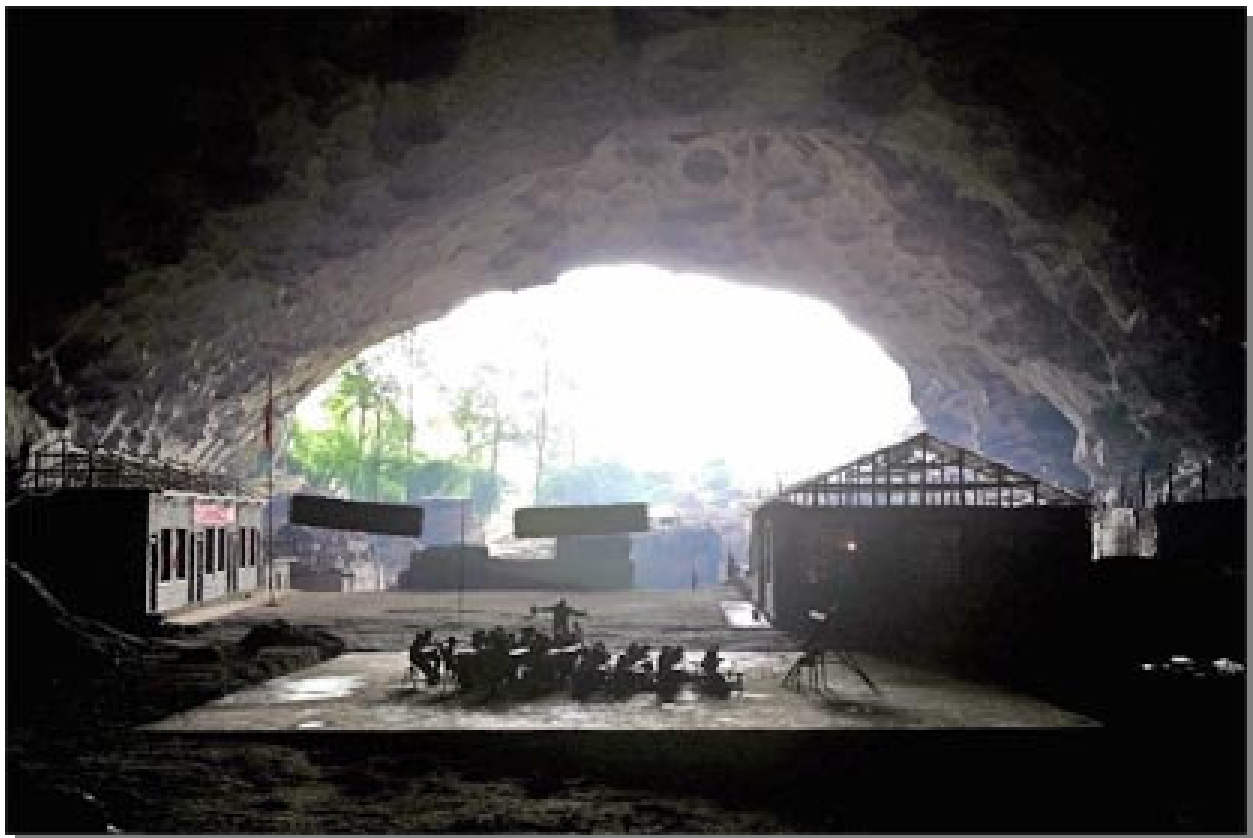
October, 2005



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The October meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at the Art Wallace's place at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, October 14, 2005.



More than 80 people live in Middle Cave located in the southern China's Guizhou region (article on page 4).

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 October meeting, will be at the home of Art Wallace, Friday, October 14, at 7:30 in the evening.



MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the meeting of September 9, 2005

Host: Jon Woltz at his home in Weatherford

Other members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, Nicole and Roy Diehl with Cassandra, John Talbot, John Van Dyke, S. Beleu

Chairman Roy Diehl began the meeting at 8:22:45

OLD BUSINESS

1. Roy noted on the issue of COG paying entrance fees to commercial caves for participating cavers that we will decide whether to do this or not on a per-cave basis.
2. John Bozeman noted that he successfully had a COG clinometer repaired.
Sue put out another call for contributions to the Cattle Cave issue of the upcoming, long-awaited *Oklahoma Underground*. We will need to get it published before old age sets in amongst us and we forget having ever been in Cattle Cave.
3. Roy noted this about the September 17 trip to Jester Cave that COG will host for members of Boston Mountain Grotto: at this time two members can come and five of us will meet them; and we must and will mail waivers to them for them to sign prior to the trip.
4. I inquired about the number of members who opted to get their *COGNizance* newsletters via e-mail rather than receive paper copies of it. Five of us have chosen this option of the future.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Steve read from *Human Rabies—Florida, 2004*, a report

from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is report specifically about a fatal rabies case in Florida and discusses rabies in general. It is important for us because there are two types of bats that caused 69% of bat-born rabies in 2004—and one of them is our familiar eastern pipistrelle bat. I stated that we might want to consider that COG officially recommend (*not* require) that cavers get rabies vaccinations. Sue noted that in the good old days of COG we had a member who gave us vaccinations at COG meetings. Rabies inoculations consist of a series of three shots with an annual booster shot. We had a general discussion about this, and I am to report on it at the October meeting.

2. Sue asked if anyone wanted to do a work trip in September. We didn't
3. Sue, John, and Anne had brought three cave paintings by Marc Barker to give away. We gave away three of his visionary painting quite easily.
4. Duane noted that Mike Caywood, formerly a ranger at Alabaster Caverns State Park, has been promoted park manager. COG congratulates him.

NOT PART OF THE OFFICIAL MINUTES We celebrated Lil Town's 29th birthday again this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT John Talbot read his report.

TRIP REPORTS

- Jon, Roy, and I reported about our trip to Arkansas.
- Several of us reported about our trip to Greene's Cathedral in July.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME

Dividend \$ 0.12

TOTALS \$ 0.12

CASH ON HAND \$ 45.44

CHECKING \$ 574.52

SAVINGS \$ 2,600.86

TOTALS FUNDS AS OF 9/7/05 \$3,220.82

EXPENSES

None

PREPARED BY TREASURER
JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

Unfortunately, there have been no cave trips this past month to report. (At least none that the editor remembers receiving!)



POTPOURRI

Geared-up Grotto

By GREG BAKER
Associated Press

Copied from *The Dallas Morning News*, Friday, Sept. 9, 2005: Page 10E

PURPLE CLOUD, China - The clamor of a kungfu cartoon echoes off the limestone walls that surround the village, where a few modern conveniences such as electricity and a telephone are preserving an ancient way of life: cave dwelling.

Some 83 people live in the rock hollow in southern China's Guizhou region.

Bats and swallows circle overhead and water drips from the ceiling of the eight-story-high hole known simply as Middle Cave that stretches 250 yards back into the mountain.

Families eke out a simple life from tending mountainside cornfields and by raising pigs, cows, goats, ducks and chickens.

At night, people use flashlights to find their way to the communal out house a few hundred yards down a rocky path. They collect water that drips from the rock for drinking and cook using firewood gathered on the mountain slopes.

Help from abroad

But there are surprising amenities - computers, satellite television, refrigerators and a telephone. They were financed in part by Frank Beddor, an 81-year-old businessman in Minneapolis.

Villagers say the donations helped them install a \$73,000 electricity system and enabled them to hire four more teachers at the cave's primary school.

"We are currently working on a program to get more English teachers to teach English to the students," Mr. Beddor writes in an e-mail response to questions.'

A newspaper article three years ago prompted Mr. Beddor and a friend to visit and then to offer financial help, he says. He and his family have visited two more times.

Cave comforts

In 2002, the local government provided money so villagers could build houses in the open air — but most people moved back, residents say.

"It's what I'm used to," says Wang Feng-guang, 57, who has lived his entire life in this cave and another one nearby.

"I like it here because we can keep firewood dry," he says. "If we live outside, it will get wet."

Eighteen thatched-bamboo homes, all roofless to let in more light, are clustered near the mouth of the cave. In the back is the primary school with three classrooms and an office.

Crowded school

More than 150 children from Middle Cave and the surrounding area attend the school. Eight live too far away to commute, so they live in a shack in the cave during the week.

The headmaster, 55-year-old Yang Zaide, says he has trouble keeping teachers and there aren't enough classrooms for all the kids.

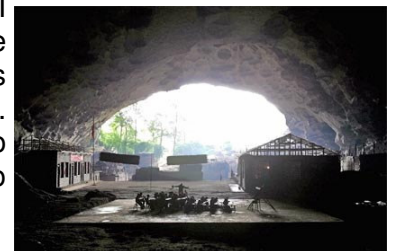
"Many young people come to teach, but most don't want to stay a long time," Mr. Yang says.

Those who stay tend to have roots in Guizhou, a region about 1,000 miles southwest of Beijing that is among China's poorest areas.

Wang Lian, 23, grew up in a village about five hours' walk from Middle Cave and has taught here for two years.

She says she tried life in the booming coastal province of Guangzhou but came back to the mountains of Guizhou to help others growing up poor the way she did.

"When I was young, I lived an even harder life than the children here. I went to school in bare feet," she says. "I was helped by other people. This is a chance for me to repay the people who helped me."



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@cablone.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!*



Central Oklahoma Grotto
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