

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

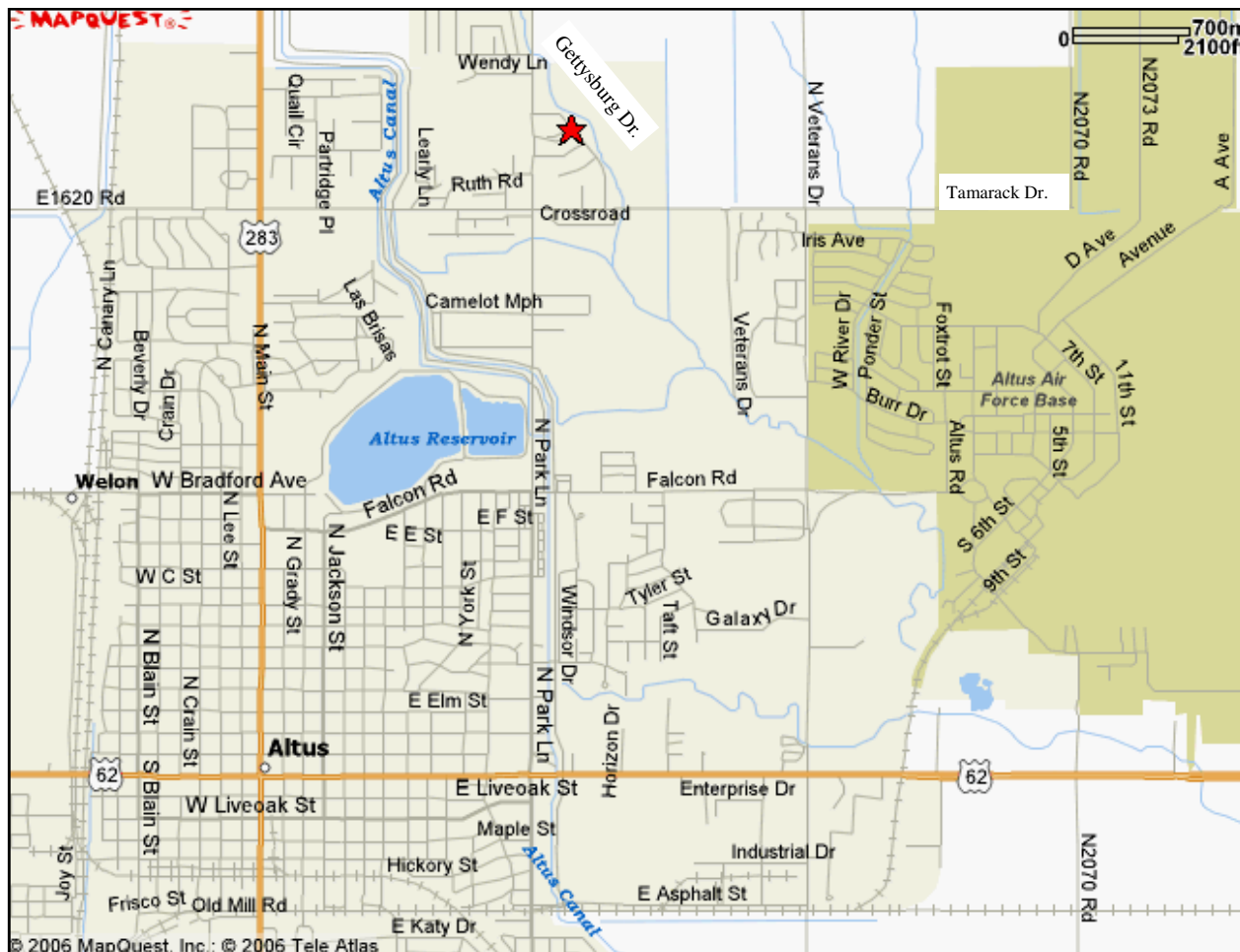
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Inside this Issue

Announcements	2
Minutes	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Trip Reports	
Jester Cave Bat Count (Feb. 12, 2006)	
written by Mark Miller	3
Potpourri	
FPL to fund Bat Conservation Projects	
copied from The Oklahoma WinCharger	3
Senators Back State Mammal	
copied from the Daily Oklahoman	3

The April meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, April 14, 2006. at the home of Dale and Lil Town. **Address:** 3205 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK: **Telephone:** 580-477-4027.

Directions to the Town House: From Lawton: take Hwy 62 to Altus. Make a right at the first light, Veterans Drive, and continue north. Continue north thru the next light and you will merge into Tamarack. After the apartments take the 1st right, this is Gettysburg. We are on the far end, second house on the left before you get to Park Lane. From 40, go south to Altus on Hwy 283. Make a left at the first light, this is Tamarack. Make a left at the 4 way stop, this is Park Lane. Take the 2nd right onto Gettysburg, we are the 2nd house on the right, 3208 Gettysburg Drive. Phone: 580-477-4027.



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 March meeting will be at The Town House, house, Address: 3208 Gettysburg Dr., Altus, OK Telephone: 405-580-477-4027.



MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the March 10, 2006

Host: the house and home of Dale Amlee and family

Members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue Bozeman, Duane Del Vecchio, John Talbot, John Van Dyke, Jon Woltz, and Steve Beleu, Dale and Lil Town

Vice-Chairman Woltz began the meeting at 8:14

Lil Town, who is well on her way in recovering from a brain tumor operation, attended the meeting. We all wished her the best.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Duane, Lead Officer for our annual pilgrimage to Carlsbad Caverns, noted that the maximum number of cavers who can sign up to work in Carlsbad, eight, have now signed up. We had a general discussion about the nature of the catch-mesh-frame that we propose to build to replace the decrepit one now in place over National Geographic Pit. Many logistical questions remain to be solved, including one major question: do we simply measure and design it this year and return to install it next year, or measure and design it and return to install it in a few months? Any excuse to go to Carlsbad is a good one... . We will probably pay for all the

necessary materials ourselves, but the Carlsbad staff must approve of our work.

2. Bat Count 2006—not all of the bat count trip reports have been submitted yet. If you owe, to your computer go.
3. Duane noted that COG has successfully put off the Holdenville Boy Scout troop onto TROG. Since they want to cave in an eastern limestone cave, and we don't go there, TROG was only viable solution for them.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lil noted an advertisement for a cave rescue training workshop in Alabama.
2. We decided to journey forth unto a cave the following Saturday—Broken Horn Cave. Sue tried to con Dale Amlee into committing himself to drawing the Broken Horn Cave map; Dale is considering it.
3. Sue noted that we all need to sign new legal releases to continue to cave in D.C. Jester Cave.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Vice-Chairman Woltz concluded the meeting at 9:15 Minutes by The Skillful Ogre, whose enemies are without number.

TREASURER'S REPORTS

	INCOME	EXPENSES
Dividends	\$ 0.11	
Dues	\$ 36.00	
TOTALS	\$ 36.11	
CASH ON HAND	\$ 90.16	
CHECKING	\$ 599.39	
SAVINGS	\$ 2,614.47	

TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 3/6/06 \$3,304.02

PREPARED BY TREASURER JOHN TALBOT

TRIP REPORTS

Trip Report: Jester Cave: Southwest Oklahoma Bat count.
Date: Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006
Cog Participants: Duane Del Vecchio,
John Talbot, John VanDyke, Mark Miller
Trip Report: Mark Miller

It is always fun to cave when it is more comfortable in the cave than outside and this Sunday excursion was no exception. Outside, a howling, biting, north wind gave us plenty of incentive to get underground quickly and following a brisk walk through mesquite and cacti, we entered Jester at the south entrance. After gearing up, we proceeded northeast along the main passage for approximately 40 yards and began our survey. There were numerous large clusters of Cave Myotis interspersed with many singles and small groups. As we proceeded deeper into the cave, the temperature increased and we ran across a few individual Pipistrels. We stopped our count approximately 175 yards from the south entrance.

After another brisk hike, we entered Jester at the Train Tunnel entrance, hoping to pick up some

Long Ears that have wintered near that entrance in the past. We were unsuccessful but did stumble across a lot of porcupine debris and fortunately, no porcupines.

Our last foray into the cave started at the Homestead entrance and ended when we exited at the Stoveleg entrance. We started the count with a single long ear just inside the Glade entrance. Along the main passage we again saw many large clusters of Cave Myotis and by the time we reached the Catfish Dome Bat Room, had spent an hour counting and enjoying the wonderful scenery. I was extremely impressed by this room, and by the quantity of bat guano we found in it.

This was my first bat count and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I want to extend my thanks to Duane, John, and John for making my trip thoroughly enjoyable, educational, and well worth the time and effort getting there. Jester is a wonderful cave and I appreciated having the opportunity to explore even the small portions we ventured into. I will look forward to making a more thorough tour in the future.

POTPOURRI

FPL to Fund Bat Conservation Projects

Copied from **The Oklahoma WinCharger:**
 Jan./Feb. vol.6, vol. #1

The University of Central Oklahoma's Selman Living Laboratory is proud to be one of the two bat conservation projects picked for funding from Florida Power & Light (FPL). The laboratory, through the work of Dr. William Claire, will create and install bat-friendly gates in a winter roosting cave where tens of thousands of Oklahoma's largest winter population of bats resides.

The project will carry out tests to see that the bats are not harmed with the new structure. Beginning in 2006, the project will be complete, after two summers. The second bat conservation project chosen was from the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station in West Virginia.

Tom Gray, AWEA deputy executive director commented that, "Wind energy is already one of the cleanest, most environmentally-friendly sources of electricity in the world today, but no energy generation source is free of impacts to the

environment, and the wind energy industry takes the responsibility of environmental stewardship seriously. Since shortly after considerable bat mortality was discovered at a wind project in 2003, AWEA and the wind industry have been working collaboratively with the Bats & Wind Energy Cooperative with the goal of understanding and mitigating impacts of wind farms on bats."

Editor's Note: The above is a summary from AWEA's Wind Energy Weekly #1175.

Senators back state mammal

Copied from The Daily Oklahoma
 John Greiner and Jennifer Mock, Capitol Bureau

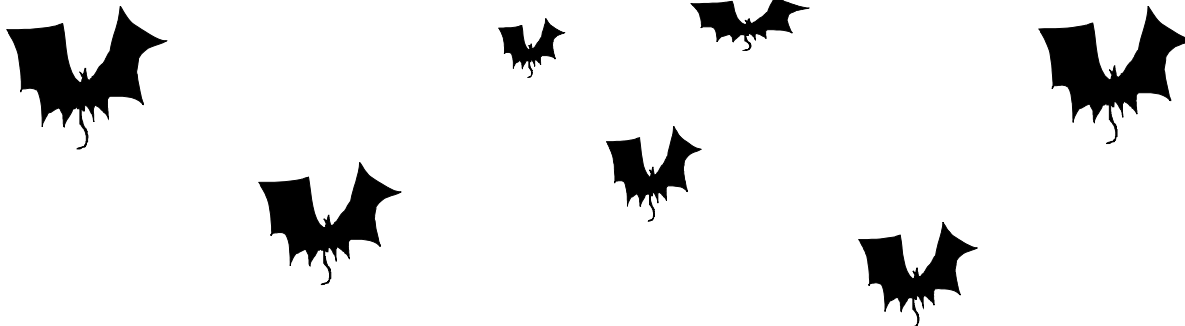
Senators voted to make the Mexican free-tailed bat the official state flying mammal, despite a suggestion that a flying squirrel would be a better candidate for the title.

The bats inhabit the Selman Bat cave by Alabaster Caverns State Park near Freedom.

Senators voted 42-2 for the bill and sent it to the House of Representatives.

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!*

*Don't forget to come to the April meeting
at The Town's House, Friday, April 14.*



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