

CENTRAL  
OKLAHOMA  
GROTTO  
OF THE NATIONAL  
SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC

# C.O.G.nizance

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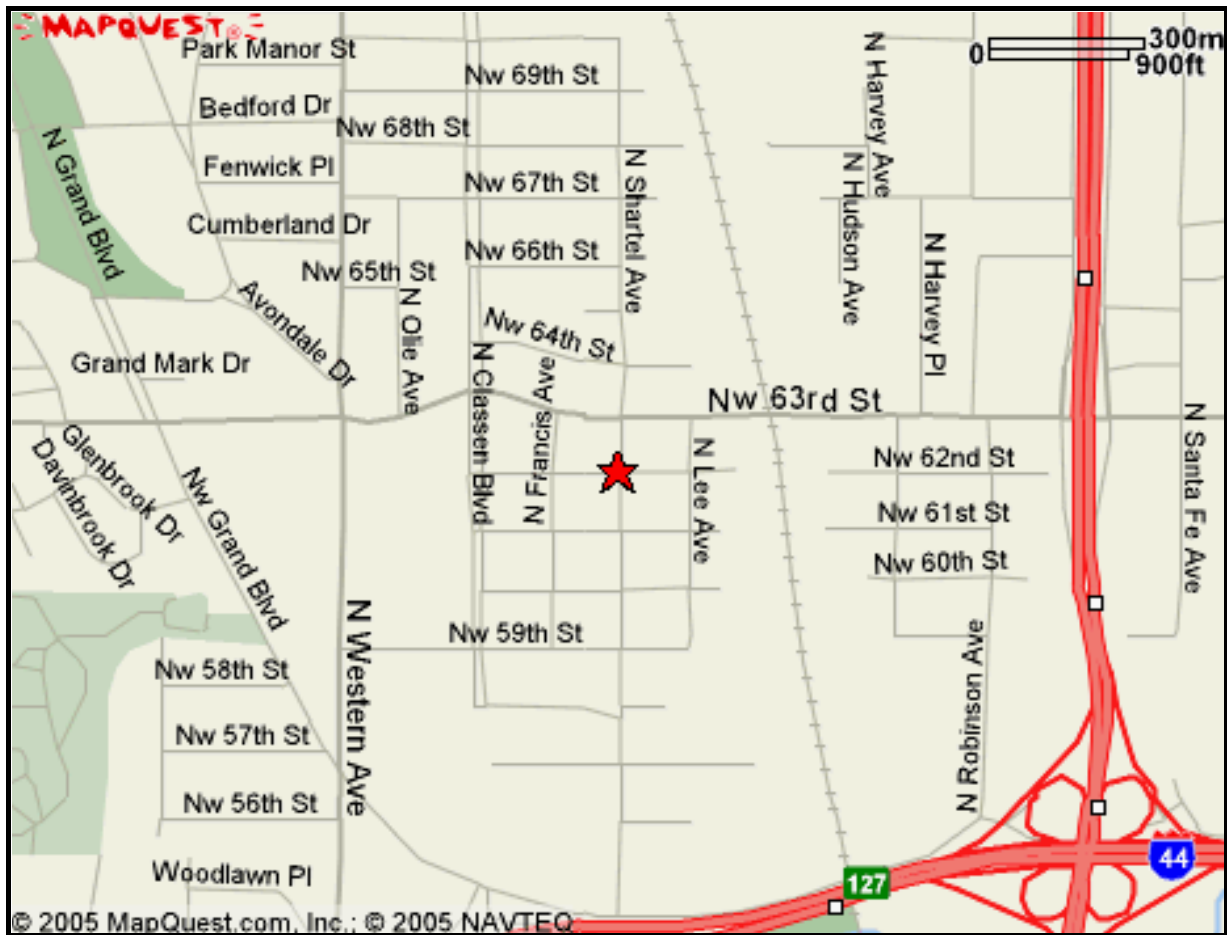
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The May meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, May 12, 2006, at the home of Anne Ault.

**Address:** 812 NW 62nd, OKC OK

**Telephone:** 405-842-0460

**Directions to Anne’s House:** Directions to Anne’s House: Anne’s house is on the south side of NW 62nd, and one half block off of 63rd Street. Her house is east of Classen Blvd. and west of Shartel.



## 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 May meeting will be at Anne Ault's , house, 812 NW 2nd, OKC, OK. Her phone number is 405-842-0460.

Plans for the Carlsbad trip will be planned.

## MINUTES

### CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of April 14, 2006

Host: the house and home of Lil and Dale Town, Altus

Members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, John and Sue Bozeman, John Talbot, John Van Dyke, Jon Woltz, and Steve Beleu

Acting-Chairman Woltz began the meeting at 8:15

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Annual pilgrimage to Carlsbad Caverns. We had a general discussion about the assessment and work that we propose to accomplish in the National Geographic Pit, or rather, over it. Dale Amlee proposed that we take several samples of mesh with us, see how well they work or not, let park staff evaluate them, and decide what type of material(s) we will construct our two mesh screens from. We have decided to construct a big mesh screen above a small mesh screen, and that the square for the small mesh screen would ideally be the size of one-quarter inch.

2. Sue passed out new legal release forms for Jester Cave that we signed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. We had a general discussion about the proposed gating of Selman Bat Cave that Dr. Caire has received a grant to fund from Florida Power and Light, Inc. We decided to not

volunteer to help construct the gates because we have no experience in building such gates; our state's gate experts, TROG, will probably be asked to do this work. TROG does a world-class job.

2. Sue and John reported that they received a phone call from the new co-owner of Cedar Cave, which is a cave that senior cavers like them remember starting but not finishing a survey of due to a change in land ownership way back when. This cave is in the southeast part of the state around Lost Lake Cave and Connors Bat Cave. The owners want have received a government grant to develop the land that the cave is under for non-agricultural uses, and would like to develop a wild cave tour along with other above-ground programs. The co-owner who contacted us, Jacque Newton, asked if COG would consider leading trips through this cave. We must decline as a grotto, but as individual COG members you may be interested (contact Sue for contact information if you are). The owners have invited COG to finish our survey of Cedar Cave, which we will certainly do. We might begin our work soon.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Acting-Chairman Woltz concluded the meeting at 9:22.

Minutes by The Skillful Ogre, whose enemies are without number.

## TREASURER'S REPORTS

### INCOME

DIVIDEND	\$	6.58
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6.58</b>
CASH ON HAND	\$	90.16
CHECKING	\$	599.52
SAVINGS	\$	2,620.92

**TOTAL FUNDS AS OF 4/8/06      \$ 3,310.60**

### EXPENSES

PREPARED BY TREASURER  
JOHN TALBOT

## POTPOURRI

### Cave 'almost like hallowed ground'

Written by Terry Rombeck  
Lawrence Journal-World

A naturalist and former teacher has been visiting a bat habitat for more than 40 years.

SUN CITY – Stan Roth drives his SUV down a washboard dirt road, keeping a watchful eye out for birds in the sky and critters on the ground.

It's overcast, but the Gyp Hills still glow red from the gypsum rock that gives them their name.

Roth loves this land.

After opening a cattle gate and driving over a trail of beaten-down tallgrass, he stops the truck.

He gets out, then leads a group of students from West Texas A&M University down a steep hill and into what seems to be another world: the entrance to Big Gyp Cave, one of the largest caves in Kansas. It's home to some of the bats that Roth has grown to love over more than four decades.

"This is a special place for Stan," says Kyle Gersterner, a Lawrence nature photographer who has accompanied Roth on several trips. "I think he just loves to breathe the air in here it's almost like hallowed ground."

Roth, 70, has been fascinated with the land since the mid-1950's, when he helped with a film project that focused on the Ozarks in Missouri. He switched his major to biology at Emporia State University.

"My whole world just started coming together at that point," he says.

He started teaching biology at Lawrence High School in 1959 and eventually started planning frequent field trips to Barber and Comanche counties, which have estimated 400 caves. The students often camped in caves among the bats.

During the trips, Roth started a regular census count of free flying Mammals in the area, a practice he continues to this day. He makes trips every two to three years.

Roth retired in 1999, but he still is finding ways to teach, such as the recent trip with the Texas students.

Midway into Big Gyp Cave, a student shines his flashlight at a brown speck in the distance.

"Is that one?" he asks.

A dozen spelunking headlamps swing to reveal a single big-eared bat, hanging from the rocky ceiling.

The bats' numbers in Kansas seem to have remained steady during the past couple of decades, Roth says. The numbers plummeted in early years during his census counts he says, because the animals were disturbed by annual visits by humans. When he scaled back the visits to every two or three years, the bats returned to the caves.

Colleagues say Roth knows more about Kansas bats than anyone else. Asked why he keeps studying them after all these years, he doesn't hesitate.

"The questions," he says.

Why, for instance are some bats solitary while others are found in clusters? And why do some leave caves to give birth in barns and other structures?

Bats—perhaps because of their negative image in popular culture, perhaps because they're not easily accessible — don't draw large numbers of researchers, even though remote-sensing technology is making research easier.

"The things I'm doing with bats are simple, but they're long-term," Roth said. "I'm watching the numbers over the years."

Roth isn't sure how his field notes will be used in the future. He's filled 28 field journals with his observations in the Red Hills.

State wildlife officials say they could use the data to help decide whether the animals should be placed on endangered-species lists.

Eric Rundquist, a student of Roth's in the 1960's who has gone on to a career in zoos and research -animal care, figures Roth will be in the field as long as he possibly can.

He's one of those unique sorts of characters who's happiest when he's in the field," says Rundquist, who still makes trips to the area with Roth. "If he happens to keel over when he's out there, he'll be happy." 🦇

**IF A WORK OF ART 100 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING  
TAKES YOUR BREATH AWAY, YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT  
HAPPENS WHEN YOUR LIGHT QUITS.**



(COPIED FROM AN AD FOR SUREFIRE FLASHLIGHTS)

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](mailto: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 May meeting will be  
at Anne Ault's house,  
Friday, May 12!*



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