



C.O.G.nizance

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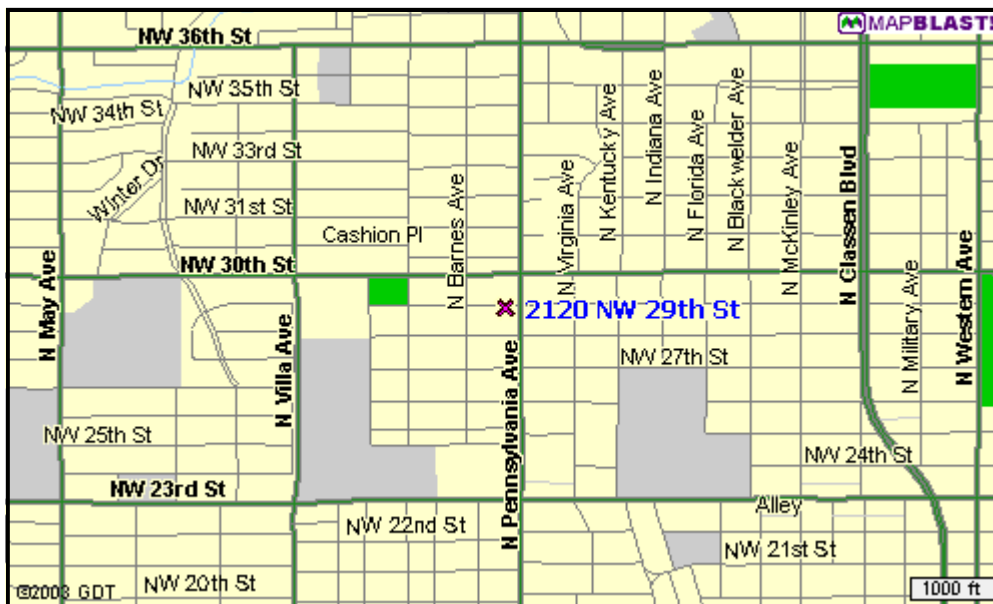
The October meeting of the Central Oklahoma Grotto will be held at 7:30, Friday, October 13, 2006, at the home of Art Wallace. (Yes, that’s Friday the 13th!)

Address: 2120 NW 29th Street, OKC, OK

TELEPHONE: 405-557-1056



Art's house is west of Pennsylvania Avenue on NW 29th Street. There is a Round-Up Cleaners on the NW corner to give you a clue. The Wallace home is on the south side of the street -- look for the COG Aluminum Bat (ha ha) sign in the yard!



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 Wallace house, 2120 NW 29th Street, OKC, OK. His phone number is 405-557-1056.



MINUTES

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA GROTTO

Minutes of the September 8, 2006 meeting

Host: Jon Woltz and Kelley Logan

Members present: Dale Amlee, Anne Ault, Sue and John Bozeman, Roy Diehl, Mark Miller, and Steve Beleu
Guest of Mr. Woltz: Kelley Logan, Weatherford

Chairman Diehl began the meeting at 8:08

OLD BUSINESS

• Dale reported on the Carlsbad project. He brought a sample of the webbing that he recommends that COG send to the park staff at Carlsbad for their approval. He believes that one layer of this type of webbing will suffice. If NPS approves of this material, our next problem will be the construction of a frame that will match the configurations of National Geographic Pit. Sue recommended that COG should pay all costs associated with this project even though NPS has offered to fund it; she believes that our coming up with the moolah will get the project approved more quickly.

CONTINUING BUSINESS, CONTINUING, CONTINUING...

• Whatever you volunteered to contribute to the future issue of the *Oklahoma Underground* that has been years in the making, go forth and work on it. The day will come.

NEW BUSINESS

• Sue passed out an issue of the Los Alamos National Laboratory *Newsletter* given her by Becky Hunsinger that contains a front-page article titled "Underground radio revolutionizes

subterranean emergency rescue capabilities" about a "very low frequency" (VLF) radio that works in the cave environment. The developer of this radio, a LANL workteam headed by David Reagor, calls it "Underground Radio". Here is the issue of the newsletter that contains the article—

<http://www.lanl.gov/news/newsletter/073106.pdf>

• Dale reported that, working with a local Boy Scout troop that wants to go caving, Alabaster Caverns State Park no longer allows wild cave tours after September. In order for this troop to cave COG agreed that we can loan some caving equipment to them. Dale and Mark have also agreed to help them through the rigors of their first exploration of the world below.

TREASURER'S REPORT

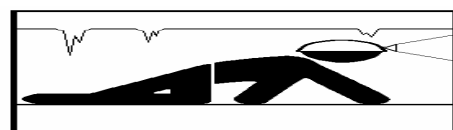
Sue read John Talbot's report, which is included in this newsletter.

TRIP REPORT

Roy told us about his recent Pacific Coast kayaking trip that included venturing forth into some sea caves. He also brought trip photos with him.

Chairman Diehl concluded the meeting at 8:48.

Minutes by The Skillful Ogre as recorded by purple crayon on Big Chief Tablet



TREASURER'S REPORTS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
DIVIDEND	\$ 0.12	POSTAGE	\$ 11.31
		INK	6.24
TOTALS	\$ 0.12		\$ 17.55
CASH ON HAND	\$ 72.59		
CHECKING	\$ 599.54		
SAVINGS	\$ 2,620.92		
TOTAL FUNDS AS OF		PREPARED BY TREASURER	
4/8/06	\$ 3,293.05	JOHN TALBOT	

TRIP REPORT

Trip Report: Broken Horn Cave
Date: September 16, 2006
Personnel: Sue and John Bozeman, Anne Ault
Report written by Sue Bozeman

Two Bozemans and an Ault went on a windy assault -- of the surface from Jay's Entrance of Broken Horn toward the Trident's two insurgence entrances. Two of our group had managed to truly hurt their backs the prior week and so chose to stay outside where crawling was at a minimum.

The leafy, soggy crawl entrance was blowing bat-smelly cold air, but the 'cold' was still preferable to the 100+ degree day and the 40 mph wind on the plateau tops! We had a

The leafy, soggy crawl entrance was blowing bat-smelly cold air, but the 'cold' was still preferable to the 100+ degree day and the 40 mph wind on the plateau tops!

hard time leaving this little sheltered pit -- sheltered by trees, not by overhang -- and heading for the other, more major insurgence. The high winds prevented the normal 100 foot shots that are usually associated with overland surveys.

Sometimes we could go no more than 15-20 feet in order to keep our tape from sailing away in the howling gale.

Finally, we got to the insurgence with only one in our group having had to dive to the nearest shade to recover from the incessant wind and dehydration. There we found oil field chemical barrel trash in the entrance, but shoved it out of the way and shucked off enough cave clothing to get COLD -- for 5 minutes. Thereafter, cold became the norm and we began to get hot again! Out of water as we had drunk most of our carbide lamp liquid along the way topside, we decided to head back to the car and visit with the landowner.

There, we recuperated nicely, ingested gallons of ice water, and then went out to pick the proffered apples from three lovely and overburdened trees! Boughs so full of apples that they were touching the ground and some were breaking! We happily relieved the trees of the bountiful harvest and then went inside to watch the infamous OU-Oregon game (the one in which the replay official became inexplicably blind! TWICE!!!) until the rest of the cave crew came to feast on our hostesses cake and ice cream! (Thank you Mrs. S!) 🍷

POTPOURRI

Vast cave discovered in national park

MSNBC Updated: 8:56 a.m. CT Sept 26, 2006

Ancient animal skeletons found inside, new invertebrate species possible

A cave network with large passages and rooms — many more than 50-foot wide and some containing ancient animal skeletons — has been discovered within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in central California, the National Park System announced.

It's still unknown how far the network goes, but the find is "so significant," the agency said in a statement Monday, that park staff believe that if the cave were not already within the National Park System it would certainly qualify.

"We are all very excited about the discovery of this beautiful new cave," Park Cave Specialist Joel Despain said in the statement. "It will add to our knowledge of the parks, park wildlife, and park features. Knowing that the cave exists will help us manage the area around the cave with its protection in mind."

Researchers affiliated with the Cave Research Foundation found the cave last August, the park service said.

The formations discovered include "long and graceful cave curtains, fragile soda straws up to 6 feet in length, and large areas of multicolored flowstones," the park service said. "Crystals in the flowstone produce brilliant sparkles across the cave's floors and walls."

The network includes a cave lake estimated at 100-feet wide, and vertical drops that can be traversed only with ropes.

The park service added that "ancient animal skeletons were found in the cave including one that resembles a bear."

Park staff also believe that based on observations the cave could contain new species of cave-adapted invertebrates.

The cave will remain closed to the public "pending evaluation and scientific study," the park service stated. "Park cave management staff are conducting a series of trips with subject matter experts to create an accurate and detailed map of the cave, inventory its features, conduct a biological inventory, photo document cave features and formations and gate the cave entrance to protect it."

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URL: <http://msnbc.msn.com/>



Bats what I'm talking about

By David Zizzo, staff writer

The Oklahoman, Aug 17, 2005; pages E1-2

Every evening at dusk, Beverly Wallace walks her yard and makes the "leaves" come alive.

"Where's mama's babies?" she calls,

That's when some of the critters she has nursed back to health rouse from their perches in the oak, pecan and elm trees on her rural acreage, where they hang upside down by one foot.

"They look like dead leaves," she said,

Before they get mature and aloof, the young red bats recognize and react to her voice. They take to die air, circling above her to begin harvesting a dinner of bugs on the wing, says Wallace, 62, "the bat lady" to those who know her.

"Those babies come flying over. They swoop down," she said. "They're like, 'Hey, Mom, look what we can do.'"

Wallace is one of Oklahoma's few bat rehabilitators, volunteers who take abandoned, injured and immature bats, help them recover and mature, then release those that can survive back into the wild. Those that can't fly and feed themselves often are raised as educational aids.

Bats needing rehabilitation are found on lawns, in attics and on eaves of homes, on rafters of abandoned buildings, under ceiling tiles or on outside walls of businesses, rehabilitators say.

"People find them all over the place," Carol Bunday said. The Norman woman, a special education teacher at a prison in Lexington, became interested bats because of her work with the Wildcare Foundation, an organization that provides health care for all wild animals.

Marilyn Murphy went bats 15 years ago. That's when a resident who "excluded" some baby bats from a home where they were roosting felt guilty and brought the creatures to the Tulsa Zoo, where Murphy was docent. Murphy took the bats to Bat World, a Mineral Wells, Texas, center for bat rehabbing and for training people to help bats. Now considered the dean of Oklahoma rehabbers, she's been handling bats since.

"I didn't really pick them," she said. "They picked me."

Many of the bats that rehabilitators see have been injured in attacks by dogs, cats, blue jays or crows. Some are just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Some get blown out of trees. Some are adults who have fallen to the ground, exhausted by the weight of pups – what young bats are called – hanging on for a ride.

"Sometimes the mothers will just be drained," Bunday said.

Bats are amazing, delicate and graceful but misunderstood animals, bat fans say. Sure, three species of vampires found in Central and South America drink blood. But at about the size of your thumb, they're more mosquito than Dracula. Even in a full moon, bats don't morph into bloodthirsty demons with thick accents.

Most either munch fruit or, in this part of the country, insects. The only mammal that achieves sustained flight under its own power, bats use sophisticated sonar to track, analyze and capture bugs in the dark in mid-flight. Unless you're a mosquito fan, bats are good to have around. Each night, a bat can consume half its weight in bugs.

Mosquitoes led Wallace to her web-winged "babies." Wanting to rid her property of the biting bugs that besieged her, she didn't want to use pesticides. So, she looked into bats. And she fell hard.

"I love the bats. I absolutely love the bats," she said. Wallace also loves talking with the many groups of children who visit her bat sanctuary.

As a precaution against the rare incidence of rabies in bats, Wallace, who has been vaccinated against the disease, doesn't allow others to touch the bats.

Wallace's husband, Weldon, A maintenance supervisor and electrician, outfitted Wallace's "Bat-Mobile" the cargo section of an old milk truck. She used it for three years and a makeshift infirmary and dormitory for bats of misfortune that were fortunate enough to be rescued.

Two years ago, Wallace moved to a larger, 200-square-foot insulated metal building next to the Bat-Mobile. Inside on one wall of this "Bats Landing" are stacks of "reptariums," cages lined with soft walls and towels, perfect hangouts for the red, bat brown, little brown and evening bats Wallace usually handles.

Walls are covered with a bat-feeding charts, a certificate from "Bat Boot Camp, training at Bat World, bat cut-outs, bat toys, bat everything. On a table are syringes with tiny curved plastic tubes, tweezers, slivers of sponges and magnifying glasses to see the tiny mouths of bats – a cafeteria for feeding patients milk, mealworms, and mealworm paste Wallace makes in a blender.

For most new patients low on fluids, Wallace administers lactated ringer's solution under the skin. She provides other treatments for upset stomach, bloat or intestinal problems. Craft sticks serve as tiny splints. She cleans bats with sponges and brushes their fur with a tiny interdental brush.

Sometimes, Wallace takes her guests across the lawn to a small gazebo covered with soft screening so they can get some open-air flight time with little danger of injuring themselves. But she hopes to soon have a large open-air, soft-screened "flight barn" connected to Bats Landing.

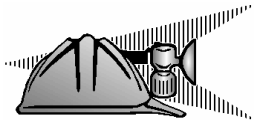
When they're ready, bats that can fend for themselves will leave Bats Landing, some joining a colony about a mile away. A few will head for nearby perches.

And every day at dusk, the trees and the bat lady's spirit will come alive. 🦇



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 October meeting will be at
Art Wallace's, Friday, October 13th.*



Central Oklahoma Grotto
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Altus, Oklahoma 73521