

Vol. 12 #7 PROPERTY OF WASHINGTON CITY GROTTO LIBRARY



The Cascade Caver

Official Publication of the
CASCADE GROTTO N. S. S.



Volume 12, no. 7 Editor: Dr. William R. Halliday Jly 1973

COMING EVENTS

- June 30-July 1. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Anderson, 938-2074.
- June 30-July 1. Mt. Hood climb. Call Brown, RO3-9094.
- July 7-8. Trout Lake area. Call Anderson.
- July 14-15. Paradise Ice Caves. Call Anderson.
Also Mt. Adams climb. Call Brown.
- July 16. Regular grotto meeting, Hallidays, 1117 36th Avenue E.
at East Madison. Doors open 7:55.
- July 28-29. Mt. Baker steam caves. Call Anderson.
- July 21-22. Dead Horse Cave. Call Curt Black, 564-0988.
Also Dock Butte. Call Anderson.
- August 11-19. Mt. Rainier steam caves. Call Anderson or Kiver.
Mt. Rainier conditioning climbs two previous weekends.
- September 3-13. Garibaldi Park. Call Anderson as soon as possible
as there may be changes in this one.
- Labor Day weekend. Northwest Regional Convention, Lovell, Wyo,
Call Brown.
- Week following above. Canadian Rockies. Call Brown.

CONGRATULATIONS

to Barbara MacLeod who not only received her long-merited fellowship in the NSS at the 1973 convention in Bloomington, Indiana, but stole the show at both the ballad contest and the banquet - the latter with both "The Grand Kentucky Junction" and "Plastic Justrite". The slides of the recent Cascade and Sligo Grotto field trips to Belize which she narrated after the Mexican Caving slide show were very well received also.

To Charley Anderson for having four slides accepted in the photo salon, in the face of the toughest competition ever.

Past and present grotto members at the Convention included yr editor and Ross, Barb McLeod, Bill Zarwell, Rick Rigg and Rob Stitt. It was good to see everyone again. Bill is planning on returning to Belize with a small crew when Barb returns about the middle of July.

AND OVER 1,000 registered! Wonder how many next year, in Decorah, Iowa? (In August, next year.)

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species of moth, the majority of which may be rather restricted in distribution. Thus, cave research involving this order of insects is virtually untouched, and countless new forms are to be expected.

COLLECTING. Most cave moths are closely associated with bats and typically are found living on or near moist but well drained bat or bird guano. Thus, the moths may occur anywhere from the entrance of the cave to as far back as a half mile from the entrance. The adults vary greatly in size and appearance depending on the species, but most are small, brownish moths with a wingspread of less than 3/4 inch. Frequently the moths may be observed flying a few inches over the guano or resting on nearby rocks and walls. The larvae of many species construct small blackish cases which may be found by sifting through the guano. Larvae may be killed and preserved, along with any cases, in 70% alcohol.

Adult moths may be easily collected with an insect net and should be killed in a jar containing some toxic agent as KCN. Great care must be taken to prevent the moths from losing their scales as these are important taxonomically. Use of cotton in the bottom of the killing jar to prevent excessive movement of specimens after death is necessary in this regard. If many moths are collected, then it is best to stun a few at a time in one killing jar and then transfer them into another killing jar (with cotton) where they are left until dead (usually 30 minutes). After death, the moths should be carefully pinned squarely through the thorax and transferred to a cork-bottom box. If rigor mortis has set in, then the specimens should be left in a damp relaxing container for a few hours before pinning. The moths need not be spread as I can relax them later and spread them to suit my needs. Insect pins and boxes can be furnished on request.

In addition to standard locality data, other kinds of information are desirable: i.e., distance of collecting site from the main entrance or entrances of cave, altitudinal data, description of cave, and species of bat or bird inhabitants. Any behavioral notes on the moths or photographs of the cave would also be deeply appreciated.

SHIPPING. Adult moths should be pinned firmly into a stout wooden box with good pinning bottom. Caution: a single pin working loose during shipment will often destroy all specimens in the box. Glass vials containing larvae should either be filled to the top with alcohol or have a plug of cotton inserted immediately above the specimens. Caution: an air bubble and/or loose label splashing around inside a vial can damage specimens within. Vials should be then wrapped with cotton and tape to prevent breakage, and should not be placed inside box containing pinned specimens. Mixing glycerine (about 3-5%) with alcohol will help preserve larvae in case of alcohol leakage. Pinning box and vials then should be placed inside a much larger cardboard carton for shipping. A space (to be filled with shredded paper, excelsior, etc.) of about 6 inches between the inner container and the outer box should be allotted for further protection. The packing box may then be addressed to me and labeled: "Dead dried insects for scientific study, no commercial value" and "Fragile".

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