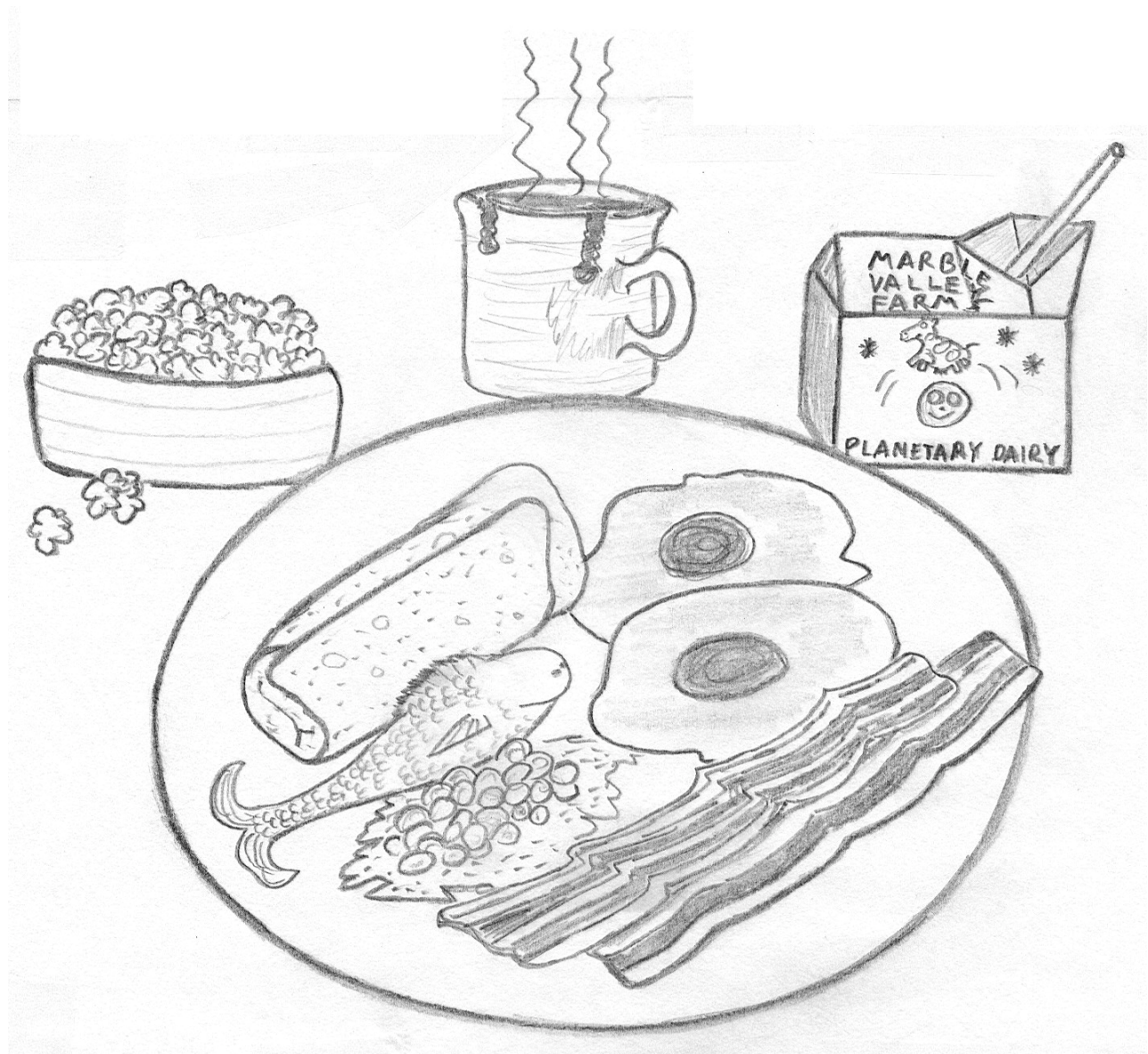


SAGRAG

MARCH-APRIL 1997
National Speleological Society

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 2
Shasta Area Grotto



Special: Cave Vandals Breakfast. Fine for eating. Includes two strips of cave bacon, two fried eggs (stalagmite side up), one blind fish with cave pearl onions in Arizona peppersauce, and a breakfast burrito, Lechuguilla style. Beverages: hot chocolate remelt and a carton of moonmilk served with a soda straw. Popcorn on the side.

The SAG RAG is published by the Shasta Area Grotto of the National Speleological Society, Grotto meetings are held at different locations the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Meeting locations are announced in the SAG RAG, Membership dues are \$6 dollars per year and include newsletter subscription. Original material not otherwise noted is copyright to the SAG RAG. Such material may be copied with credit given to the author and the SAG RAG. For use outside of the caving community, please seek the permission of the author or editor first. Send material for publication any time to Bighorn Broeckel, 2916 Deer Meadows Road, Yreka, CA 96097. Material intended for the next newsletter is due by the 10th of the even month.

EDITORIAL: You know you are a real caver when . . . you just automatically know which ones are stalactites and which ones are stalagmites. Since you are all real cavers, I will offer yet another memory gimmick that you can use when talking to your non-caver friends. It goes like this. First you have to remember the sexual theory that a woman's place is on top. Then remember that the women wear the tights (tites), and that the men are mighty (mites).

I see that it is time for all good NSS members to vote for the BOG (Board of Governors). Of course this is free democratic society, and each member gets to vote as they wish. However, I would personally suggest power voting for our Western Region candidates Rochelle Devereaux and Lynn Fielding. Also you might consider voting for your favorite western caver as a write in, as an interesting protest vote. That would be the strictly regional approach. The problem is that by and large, the eastern bloc is composed of a bunch great people too! But there is nothing wrong with a little regional loyalty in these matters.

Enjoy the SAG RAG, we have some different items this time. And there are some interesting caving opportunities around the corner with chances to get involved. So keep your ears open and cave gear ready to go. **BB**

CAVE CALENDAR – 1997

- | | |
|------------|--|
| May 9 | SAG meets at Roundtable Pizza in Mt. Shasta at 7:30 pm re: watershed analysis. From the central Mt. Shasta exit, go towards town and look into the first business area on the right, and you will see the Roundtable Pizza sign. |
| May 10 | Shasta Valley Lava Caves Tour. Spring clean-up and tour of Pluto, Barnum, and Sand Caves. Bring light, water, and food. Some primitive camping available if desired. Meet at 10 am. at the base of the Taco Bell sign, I-5 South Weed Exit. This is a Sierra Club trip led by SAG member Kyle Haines (541) 482-0675. |
| May 23-26 | NWCA regional at Shoshone, ID, hosted by the Gem State Grotto. Contact Wolff. |
| June 13-15 | SAG cave camp, location to be announced. Contact Jim Wolff (916) 964-3123 or Bighorn Broeckel (916) 842-3917 for more information. |
| June 23-27 | NSS convention, Sullivan, Missouri. Contact Pam Saberton (314) 772-6956. |
| Oct 6-11 | Cave Management Symposium, Bellingham, WA. Call Rob Stitt (206) 283-2283. |

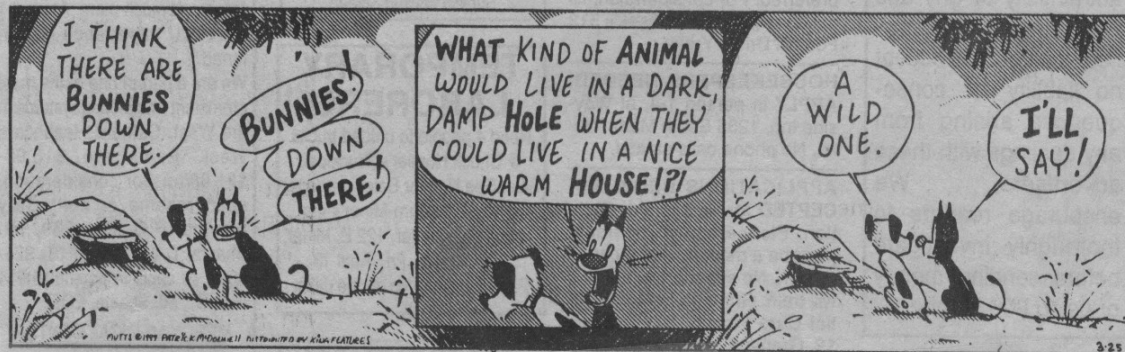


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Rogers, Bruce	6732	510-796-CAVE	37899 Los Arboles Drive, Fremont, CA 94536
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MUTTS

by Patrick McDonnell



SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 1997 8:15 – 9:01 pm

Present were Cheryl, Zane, and Bill Kenney, Ray Miller, Jim & Liz Wolff, Melanie Jackson, and Stan Lusk (guest), at the Wolff's home in McCloud. Minutes were approved as read. Treasurer's report: February balance is \$539.90.

Correspondence: Northwest Caving Association Regional is May 24-26, 1997 at Shoshone, ID, and is sponsored by the Gem State Grotto. A letter and disk were received from the NSS acknowledging receipt of our Annual Report. The Forest Service sent a request for input on the lower McCloud watershed analysis.

Old Business: Members may pick AV programs from the NSS catalog to be shown at the meetings.

New Business: THIS EVENING IS THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING FOR SHASTA AREA GROTTO! Both entrances to Christmas Tree Cave were gated by ACCA, Forest Service, and Fish & Game. The cave is used by bats as both hibernaculum and nursery. Jim Wolff already responded to the Lower McCloud watershed analysis. Meetings and post meeting cave trips were set. February – Ski weekend, and ridgewalking near Trough Creek. March – Meet at Kenney's in Klamath Falls, and cave at Lava Beds. April – Cave camp near Cecilville or Forest Glen.

Trip Reports: Jim Wolff, Liz Wolff, and B. Broeckel mapped Uncle Runts Cave near Hat Creek. Bill Kenney, Jim Wolff, Liz Wolff, Bill Broeckel, and Judy Broeckel participated on a Shascade Conservation Task Force project near Shasta Lake. **MJ**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING – MARCH 14, 1997 8:00 – 8:56 pm

Present were Ray Miller, Robert Nixon, Jim & Liz Wolff, Bill, Cheryl, & Lane Kenney, Melanie Jackson, Bill Broeckel & boys, and Kyle Haines, meeting at the Kenney home in Klamath Falls. Minutes were accepted as corrected. Treasurer's report: March balance is \$549.90.

Correspondence: A Forest Service memo re: Jim Wolff's letter said that cave management would be incorporated into the Lower McCloud watershed analysis. The '97 Karst & Cave Management Symposium in Bellingham, WA, Oct. 7-10, will include caving days on Vancouver Island and at Mt. St. Helens. Updates on Tongass caves were received. Oregon Grotto is requesting an exchange newsletter. Broeckel will send SAG RAGs and add them to the regular mailing list.

Old Business: Bat Cave – Jim Wolff is the Contacting Officer Representative. Gate may go in this April. Ray Miller notes that there is no time frame in the contract. Monitoring devices were discussed, and the possible need for a second gate. Ray Miller gave a presentation on bats in Redding on 3-3-97, and saw Albert and Phylis Henderson.

New Business: The new Shasta-Trinity Forest map is out, with 14 caves removed. Remaining are Adams Homestead, Samwel, Jot Dean, Natural Bridge, and Sugar Pine Butte caves. A summer job as cave guide is available at El Capitan Cave in Alaska. \$9.35/hour and 25% for living expenses. April meeting – Cave camp near Cecilville. May meeting – Mt. Shasta Roundtable with guest Dusty Miller re: watershed analysis. June meeting – TBA. **MJ**

SHASTA AREA GROTTO MEETING – APRIL 12, 1997 8:15 – 9:01 pm

Present were B. Broeckel and children, Kyle Haines, Darrel Rasmussen, Bill Kenney, Jim & Liz Wolff. Minutes unavailable. Treasurer's report: \$10 more than last reported balance.

Correspondence: Information received regarding a Cave Management Symposium next October in Bellingham, WA. B. Broeckel received two notes of encouragement and with suggestions re: last editorial in the SAG RAG. The Double Head Ranger District of Modoc National Forest contacted the grotto. They are planning for 3-4 timber sales, a new powerline, and geothermal development. They would like our help in considering cave conservation, particularly with regard to bat habitat, but also with caves in general. Specific caves were discussed, and there may be others.

Old Business: Bat Cave – gate may go in this April. Labor, materials, snowmelt, and a window between bat hibernation and maternity must all coincide. BCI is involved and is asking for gate photo documentation. Sherpas will be needed as USFS volunteers. Contact Jim Wolff.

New Business: Kyle Haines is leading a clean-up trip to Shasta Valley lava tubes on May 10. B. Broeckel will bring some extra SAG RAGs to the May meeting. The road to Oregon Caves is open, with the bridge over Lake Creek repaired as of 4-10-97. Jim Wolff will be taping an oral history interview with Dave Dean. Dave Dean is the son of Jot Dean, of Jot Dean Cave fame. Jim also found an 1896 map showing a cave location one quarter mile down flow from Railroad Ballast Cave. Meetings: May 9 at Mt. Shasta Roundtable Pizza. Jim Wolff will make reservations. June 13-15 cave camp at Hat Creek (tentative).

Trip Reports: March 14-16, the Broeckels and Kyle Haines independently stumbled on an earth crack or fissure in Butte Valley., This was 20 feet deep, had snow on the bottom, and was quite long. Ray Miller thought this was probably Jerome Ice Cave. The grotto also toured Skull Cave and Catacombs out at Lava Beds. Jim, Liz, Matt, & Jenny Wolff, Zachery & Sheri Edmundson, Bill, Benj, & Benyam Broeckel, Bill & Zane Kenney, Kyle Haines, and Melanie Jackson all made it through Cleopatra's Tomb. The Broeckels returned later in March, and toured Valentine Cave, bringing in a six foot long hooked wire and retrieved a beer can maliciously ensconced behind a wall lining near the end of the cave.

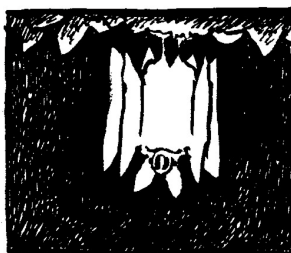
April 12-13, all those present at the April meeting toured Insanity Culvert. A bag of trash was collected. No bats were seen in the larger upper passage. Bill Kenney scouted another cave. This cave was mapped with 197 feet of crawly passage. Kyle and Darrel climbed up to an entrance higher on the cliff. This smaller cave connected to the 197 foot cave through subhuman holes. The next day, B. Broeckel and Rick Spaulding hiked up Canyon Mtn. and found some dark schist with marble banding. Kenney, Kyle, and Darrel scouted a limestone cliff, but only found a few very short crawl caves ending in vertical crevices. Bolted climbing routes were noted on the cliffs. **BB**

Mother Goose & Grimm

BATS NEED A COOL, DAMP,
DARK PLACE TO SLEEP,



THEY ARE VERY
HEAVY SLEEPERS...



MAPPING EXPEDITION FOR SENIOR PROJECT

By Jacob Wilson

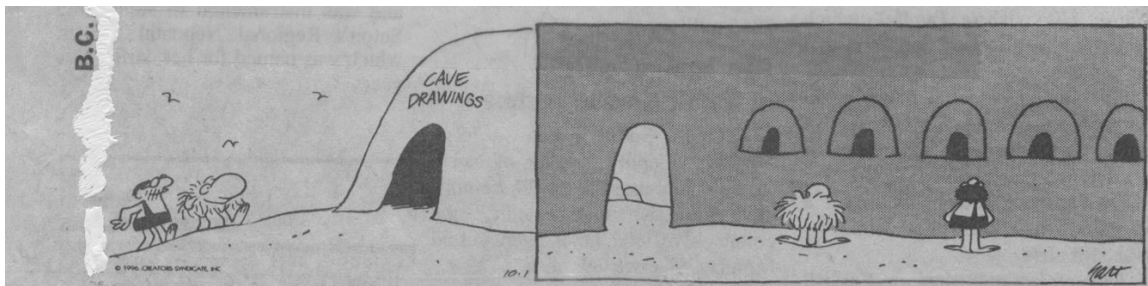
On November 3, 1996, Bill Broeckel, my mentor for senior project, led an expedition out to the Mt Lassen area where we surveyed two caves. The team consisted of four members. My mentor, Bill Broeckel, took the inclination and azimuth readings. Matt Henderson and Daniel Williams took tape measurements between survey stations, and I recorded the data and made a preliminary sketch of the cave.

We surveyed Trail Cave and Pink Coat Cave, and took a short surface survey from Flashlight Cave to the entrance of Pink Coat Cave. Pink Coat Cave was the main object of the survey trip. We surveyed about 525 to 530 feet of passage.

Inside of Pink Coat Cave, we found a lot of breakage. Most of the rubble is in two large piles, one in the southeastern most chamber, and the second near the northeastern entrance. There is some rubble between those two areas and a little in other parts of the cave as well. Two bats were found in a large chamber near the northeastern entrance.

Due to school work and sports, I have not been able to complete the actual map. I plan to continue working on the map in the near future. The survey trip was a lot of fun and we got a lot done. I am looking forward to future expeditions.

Jacob will be graduating from his senior year at Etna High School. He has caved at Lava Beds, and is a veteran of cold November cave camps at Medicine Lake. He has been to Three Level Ice Cave, Adams Homestead, through the Wabbit Entrance to Sentinel, around the far end of Catacombs, and others. He has done some caving with his father, Wes Wilson, as well. Last November, he was able to experience wild limestone caves at Marble Mountain Quarry, No-name, and Lake Caves. It is good to see Jacob has been able to turn his interest in Caves into a senior project. He did a good job keeping book in Pink Coat Cave. We are looking forward to seeing his completed map in a future issue of the SAG RAG. Ed.



All About Bats REPRODUCTION By Ray Miller

Bats live a surprisingly long time for such little animals. Many species weigh about as much as one or two U.S. quarters, yet they live for 20, and sometimes 30, years. Most are fully mature and reproductive by the second year.

Mating takes place in the fall of the year for the species that hibernate. However, it is not unknown for males to arouse from hibernation and mate with nearby torpid bats. Sometimes these matings are homosexual, but it seems to be accidental. With their depressed alertness they are unaware of the sex of their partners.

The females store the sperm and are impregnated prior to awakening in the spring. The gestation period is only a few weeks, but the babies are enormous. They sometimes weigh more than a quarter of their mother's weight. This would be equivalent to a 130 pound woman giving birth to a baby weighing 35 pounds.

Bats do not have a nest. The female gives birth while hanging upside down, and she catches her baby in her wings. One local species of bats often has twins, but most have just 1 offspring per year. The young cling to their mother while she forages, but she is clumsy with the added weight. Within a few days the baby stays in the roost. The young start flying in about 5 weeks, and they stay with their mothers until fall, improving their flying skills and learning to hunt.

Great Moments in Caving Literature

The following info is taken as a quoted item from page 90 of *Bats – A Natural History*, by John E. Hill and James D. Smith, and printed by the University of Texas Press in 1984. This brings new meaning to the term “sleeping together”.

“In these bats, the prepuce also is erectile. The function of this specialized arrangement is not well understood. It has been demonstrated in the Little Brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) that the prepuce becomes erect after the penis has been inserted into the vagina of the female. This post-intromission erection causes the mating pair to be “locked” in coitus. These vespertilionids frequently enter hibernation while copulating and it has been supposed that this holds the mating pair together in the torpid state. Some rodents, carnivores (canids), and other mammals have locking coitus; all are caused by similar erectile tissue in the prepuce.”

Mother Goose & Grimm



BOOK REVIEW By B. Broeckel

This is not primarily a cave book, and is meant to be a mountain reference. As such, it makes for a rather odd read. "Place Names of the Canadian Alps" by Putnam, et al, presents an alphabetical recitation of the names for the high mountains of the Canadian Rockies, with derivations for each. Reading straight through, some themes emerge, such as ships lost in the Battle of Jutland, dead soldiers from World War II, great politicians of Canada, imported Swiss guides, railroad tycoons, riverboats, chess pieces, Egypt, mythology, books by Melville, etc.

I was pleasantly surprised by the strong thread of understated humor running through the derivations. For example, here is the explanation for Cairn Peak. "This is the Scots word for a pile of rocks. Mountaineers have long been in the custom of building them as trail markers, summit adornments, landmarks, and for no useful purpose at all. Some of the biggest and most striking fall into the latter category. Anyhow, they are to be found in all mountain areas and definitely signify something." Similar humor may be found under Blockhead, Pyriform, and Snowcrest.

I know you are waiting for the cave connection. Well, some of the entries were cave related, and I jotted them down for you. Cave Mountain is an obvious example. "The (survey) applied this name south of Og Pass because there is 'near the skyline a colossal cave entrance.'" Nakimu Caves is another noticeable one. "This word is believed to be from the Cree for 'spirit sounds' and was applied by prospector Charles Henry Deutschman (1875-1962) in keeping with the noise made by the subterranean flow of Cougar Creek through the caves he had developed into a tourist attraction."

So you get the idea. The other cave related items are Catacombs, Castleguard, Cory, Cougar, Grotto, Horeb, Limestone, Marble, Niflheim, Ravelin, Shaft #7, Silent, Slump, Toadstool, and Turbine. To look them up, of course, you will have to get the book.

This is a very attractively constructed book, with fine drawings and color photography. It is hardbound, and is currently available from Chessler Books, POB 399, Kittredge, Colorado, 80457 for \$7 plus a \$4 zap for shipping. Chessler is a mountain book catalog, but they do sometimes carry caving titles.



The following article by Steve Mark appeared in Nature Notes From Crater Lake (1994) and is reprinted with permission from Crater Lake Natural History Association.

An Overlooked Legacy at Oregon Caves

By Steve Mark

Virtually all of the structures at Oregon Caves National Monument are sheathed in bark of the Port Orford-cedar, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*. This detail is part of a site design aimed at blending buildings with their surroundings. Port Orford-cedar (the name is hyphenated because it is not a member of the genus *Cedrus*, or true cedar) occurs from the eastern Siskiyou Mountains to the coast. Although its relative abundance at one time has been greatly reduced by disease, fire, and logging, a number of stream drainages in the vicinity of Oregon Caves contain enough cedar to draw tree lovers.



All buildings at Oregon Caves National Monument are sheathed in cedar bark, including the Chateau, seen here in this 1937 photo by Francis Lange.

Below the cave entrance area, Port Orford-cedar can be seen on Cave Creek as you leave the monument and follow the trail toward Cave Creek Campground. The remaining trees are along the fringe of several clearcuts, but there are enough of them to make a worthwhile walk. In this part of the Siskiyou National Forest, Port Orford-cedar is found in riparian areas or places where seepage is a foot or less below the surface. The tree can be identified by elegantly sweeping boughs and lacy foliage, as well as by a red brown fluted bark that can weather to a slight silver tinge with age. In this setting, Port Orford-cedar is often associated with an attractive understory of Pacific rhododendron, *Rhododendron macrophyllum*, or western azalea, *R. occidentale*.

Many visitors to Oregon Caves are unaware that they can see Port Orford-cedar on the trail to Big Tree. The “cedar” occurs throughout this part of the monument’s mixed conifer forest, though many visitors focus on the large Douglas-fir, *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, such as Big Tree or sugar pine, *Pinus lambertiana*. A young stand of cedar can be seen

amid the Douglas-fir and Bigleaf maple, *Acer macrophyllum*, in Panther Creek downslope of Big Tree with some off-trail hiking. More impressive stands can be seen by taking the longer segment of the loop trail to Big Tree. Although sometimes steep, this route also provides access to Mount Elijah or a return to the cave entrance area.

The most serious threat to Port Orford-cedar's survival throughout its range is the pathogen *Phytophthora lateralis*, a root rot fungus. It has infected several stands just three miles from Oregon Caves, killing a number of trees. The cedar is particularly susceptible to *Phytophthora*'s waterborne spores because its roots intermingle with those of other trees in drainages downslope of where infection has occurred. U.S. Forest Service researchers hope that Port Orford-cedar's genetic variability may allow for some resistance to the disease even in heavily infected areas.

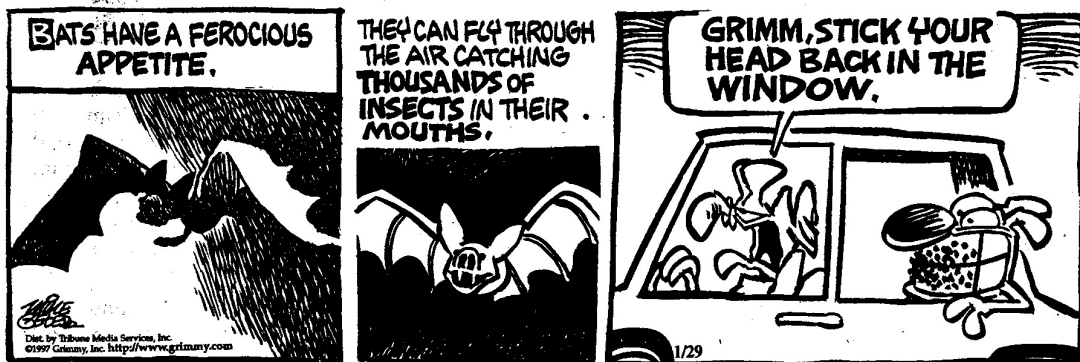
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Phytophthora has considerably less chance of infecting Port Orford-cedar in summer, but another threat – wildfire – increases as fuel moisture levels drop. Catastrophic fires can occur throughout the cedar's range wherever the explosive combination of low fuel moisture, high winds, fuel loads, and an ignition source occurs. Although mature Port Orford-cedar can survive low intensity fire with its thick bark, it was only prompt action by fire crews that stopped the Caves Fire of 1989 from engulfing the monument.

If the Caves Fire had not been contained, more than the commercial and aesthetic qualities of a forest with some Port Orford-cedar component would have been lost. Oregon Caves National Monument has some of the finest rustic architecture in the national park system. One structure, the Oregon Caves Chateau, is a national historic landmark. It and four others comprise a district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The bark on these and other structures has proven to be exceptionally durable, requiring only occasional replacement after 50 or more years. Port Orford-cedar's durability and past availability are factors in the survival of some pioneer cabins in the Illinois Valley. With age, the wood bleaches white and is why the tree is sometimes called "white cedar." Several examples of cabins that utilized white cedar are on display at the Kerbyville Museum.

Interestingly enough, the landscape architect who proposed that the monument's buildings make use of cedar bark also was concerned about the rapid cutting of Port Orford-cedar on the Oregon Coast as early as 1925. He and other proponents of a state park

Mother Goose & Grimm

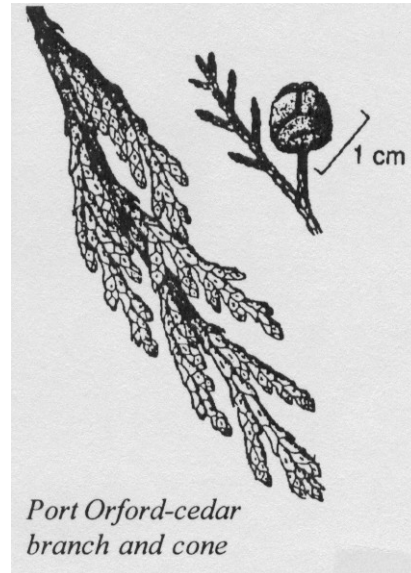


thought it to be as distinctive as coast redwood, *Sequoia sempervirens*, and knew that the Port Orford-cedar shares some similar attributes with redwood. Efforts to establish a state park stalled, so the U.S. Forest Service set aside two areas on the Coquille River in Coos County as research natural areas in 1938.

Feasibility studies for a Port Orford-cedar national monument by the National Park Service were the impetus for attempts to expand Oregon Caves National Monument in the 1940s. A fine sample of Port Orford-cedar existed along the ridge line from the national monument to Grayback Campground, but logging during the 1960s and 1970s dealt a severe blow to hopes for a larger park. Nevertheless, part of Grayback Creek is still lined with Port Orford-cedar, as any adventurous motorist will discover if they take the road toward Low Divide and Williams.

Stands that Elijah Davidson would have seen on his way from Williams to discover Oregon Caves in 1874 persist, but in dwindling numbers. The cumulative impacts of disease, fire, and logging are compounded by the practice of replacing Port Orford-cedar in managed forest with other conifers. Consequently, the perpetuation of the tree in its native habitat will be difficult because its standing volume has been reduced to 15 percent of what it was estimated to be in 1850.

Although timber cruisers are quick to recognize Port Orford-cedar's value because it has commanded the highest stumpage price of any commercial softwood for the past 40 years, it remains relatively unknown by the public. Unlike the coast redwood, Port Orford-cedar does not dwarf its surrounding conifers and rarely occurs in pure stands. In addition, Port Orford-cedar and Incense-cedar, *Calocedrus decurrens*, are often confused with each other. Indeed, the Port Orford-cedar is so highly imitative in adapting to a wide range of environments that many tree lovers do not suspect that it occurs among the coast redwood of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. As a result, Port Orford-cedar's significance has been largely overlooked. It can only be hoped, however, that the tree does not become a lost legacy.



*Port Orford-cedar
branch and cone*

Mother Goose & Grimm

THE VAMPIRE BAT IS AWAKENED FROM HIS WINTER NAP BY A LOUD RUMBLE DEEP DOWN IN THE CAVE.



HE FEELS THE GROUND SHIFTING BENEATH HIM. INSTINCTIVELY HE KNOWS THERE IS DANGER.



HE RACES TOWARD THE CAVE'S OPENING TO TRY TO ESCAPE.





(Left to right) Jennifer Gould, Paul Showalter, Ron Osbourne, Cheryl Kenney, Robert Nixon, Bill Kenney, Pam & Carl (Osborne's friends), and Tom Kline on the marble exposure above Scorpion Cave on July 20, 1996, photo monitoring trip. (Southern Oregon Grotto.)

SAG RAG
524 Annie Street
Yreka CA 96097

STAMP

TO:

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Cover: You can get any thing you want at Alice's Restaurant,
and you can have your cave and eat it too.

Remove Staple For Inspection