



June 1999

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Volume 14 Number 6

THE MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PERMIAN BASIN SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Next Meeting: PBSS

The next official meeting of the Permian Basin Speleological Society will be held on **Tuesday, June 8**, around 7:00 PM in the back meeting room of Murray's Delicatessen. Murray's is located at 3211 West Wadley, Midland, Texas.

Our Agenda:

Meeting

We now have a limited supply of Texas Bat Stickers



If you need more directions or information call our official contact person, Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or (915)559-3297, or E-Mail: <waltfeast@marshall.com> or <wfeaster@caver.net>.

"The Hole News" is the monthly publication of the Permian Basin Speleological Society. Articles and cartoons maybe reproduced by cave oriented publications that exchange newsletters with PBSS, as long as proper credit is given to the author. Items for this newsletter can be sent to the Chief Editor, "The Hole News", c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. Regular membership dues are only \$10.00 and includes one voting right, associate membership is \$ 5.00 and does not include a newsletter. Dues should be sent to PBSS Treasurer /Secretary, c/o Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard Ave., Midland, Texas 79703-4847. If you're interested in caving or even if you think you might like to try it, then contact Kerry Lowery @ (915)394-4230 or <lowery4@crcom.net>. Or if you are not from this area and some how through circumstances beyond you're control or ours found a copy of "The Hole News" then you should contact the National Speleological Society at 2813 Cave Avenue, Huntsville Alabama, 35810-4431.

"PBSS Home Page"

<http://www.caver.net/pbss/pbss.htm>

Web space donated courtesy of Bill Bentley & Caprok.net ISP.



Future Cave Trips and Events:

12 & 13 June--Fort Stanton Bat Cave Dig:--New Mexico. Contact: John J. Corcoran III at <john_j_corcoran_iii@msn.com >.

18-20 June--Marneldo Ranch:--Northern Uvalde County--Jim Kennedy 512-443-8198 or <jkennedy@batcon.org>.

25-27 June--Powell's Cave Project:--Contact Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 or <trhli@sprynet.com>.

26-27 June, 31 July, 25 September, 30 October, 25-28 November, 31 December--High Guads Restoration Project: Contact Dave Jagnow 505-662-0553 <djagnow@roadrunner.com >.

1-5 July--Fort Stanton Bat Cave Dig:--New Mexico. Contact: John J. Corcoran III at <john_j_corcoran_iii@msn.com >.

July 12-16, 1999--NSS Convention: Twin Falls County Fairgrounds, Filer, Idaho. Contact: David W. Kesner, PO Box 1334, Boise, ID 83701; (208)939-0979; e-mail <drdave@micron.net>.

7-8 August--Fort Stanton Bat Cave Dig:--New Mexico. Contact: John J. Corcoran III at <john_j_corcoran_iii@msn.com >.

*****21 August- - PBSS Rock Hauling @ CACA:** Limit of 12 people. Contact Ruel Metcalf to sign up. His ph. # (915)263-4890 or <rue1gto@webtv.net>. *Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labour: People are always available for work in the past tense!******

3-6 September--TSA Labor Day Project:--Gruta del Palmito, Bustamante, Nuevo Leon--Once again the emphasis will be on clean-up and restoration. Step work will continue. Camping at the warm springs in the canyon with a Banquet on Sunday night. Precipicio rigged??? Trips to other area caves and attractions. Watch the TSA Newsletter for further announcements. See maps and info @ TSA website for access to Mexico.

*****25 September- - PBSS Trip to Ft. Stanton Cave:** Contact Walter Feaster @ (915)694-1824 or <waltfeast@marshall.com>. *****

8-10 October--Colorado Bend SP Project: Resumes activities. Contact: Terry Holsinger 512-443-4241 <trhli@sprynet.com >.

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From the Editor:

If you missed the note on the front page, we have a limited supply of Texas Bat Stickers. Eight stickers to be exact. More are on the way when the TSA library receives them.

Tom Florer has sent me his new e-mail address from San Antonio. It is listed on the membership page (next page). Please check this page and make sure all information is correct.

Editor's note: The following story is not exactly about caving. I have had a negative trip report flow lately and have had to use what ever I could get. At least we may get an insight into Mr. Bill's tormented child hood. Enjoy.

Shrimp Alive in Midland, Texas?

Being a bored preteen child and having been tortured by having the luxury of being forced to grow up in the the lower confines of the Llano Estacado or the upper regions of this great Chihuahuan Desert in a place called Midland, Texas, (Once called the home of nothing to do) there was not a heck of a lot to do in the blistering 100 degree plus days of summer. One Summer along about 1972 or 1973, I am not real sure as to when, and it really does not matter. I was bored and looking for something to do so I had got a hold of the kids that lived down the street and we had decided to take a journey to a place that we all called the "Caliche Pits". It was about 2 miles and our only transportation was to walk.....

After getting some canteens filled and some grub as we called it for food, we set off and spent the better part of the day there as I recollect all these years later... It had rained and there were lots of small shallow pools of water only about 6 to 7 inches deep... I remember seeing them filled to the brim with tadpoles.

We wanted to catch some and bring them home, so we scooped them up and we noticed that there was some strange looking things swimming around in the water with the normal everyday common tadpoles. These things had a hard shell and a long tail with whiskers on the end and a million legs that they used in a swishing motion to move through the water.... Gee there must have been a thousand of them there. The water in the pools was a complete frenzy of these new discoveries and the tadpoles. I am not sure how we transported them from the pools to my parents house, but non the less we got them there. I had an old aquarium that we used to put these things. They did not survive very long in the aquariums. It probably had something to do with not getting enough oxygen or something like that.

My dad had come home from work and we showed him our new discoveries..... I remember very clearly the look on his face when he said " I think you have just discovered a Trilobite!" and I said "What's a Trilobite?" He said that they had been extinct for millions of years and only fossils remained today and that we would all be very famous if it was a Trilobite. He contacted a friend who worked as a biologist or paleontologist for the Shell Oil Company and he came by to look at these little creatures. He said that he did not know and that he would contact a friend at The National Geographic Society. The man from National Geographic Society did some research after being sent a photograph and determined they were either "Fairy Shrimp" or "Tadpole Shrimp" Years later we discovered the were in fact "Tadpole Shrimp".

Below is information taken from October 1975 National Geographic Society story about them...

It says the microscopic eggs can remain dormant for a season or for hundreds if not millions of years, and can survive temperatures of extremes of over 124 degrees F and below zero, the eggs are strewn with the wind and will hatch only after a certain amount of water pressure is present thus ensuring a new generation lives on, but not all eggs will hatch every time. The desert shrimp as they are called live in the potholes of Utah's, Canyon Lands region.... Later new discoveries have been found in the country of Iraq and of all places, Midland, Texas.

Funny now some 27 years later I live just 3 to 4 blocks from the old "Caliche Pits", and I have often wanted to go there in search of these amazing "Tadpole Shrimp"

Bill Bentley

Tadpole Shrimp pictured below:



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* denotes new members

Please send all exchanges, correction, and updates to Walter Feaster, 4307 Harvard, Midland, Texas 79703-4847-71. Use of this list is for members and cave related functions only and should not be used for commercial purposes. This includes e-mail addresses.

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