



Week of June 14-20



Roth's Forest Snail on moss at Oregon Caves National Monument

Special Events This Week

Ranger Programs

Many diverse and friendly faces appear this week as the NPS trains the Monument's new summer crew. Cave tours will continue, and free Ranger programs around the historic district will be offered each day for visitors' enjoyment. Check the blackboard in the visitor center to choose from fascinating topics at various times. Candlelight tours, which present a unique perspective of the caves, will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. Lastly, reservations for the adventurous off-trail tours, which begin in late June, are now being accepted.

Chateau Programs

Entertainment at the Chateau is in full swing with "Le Club," a cabaret style entertainment, every day this week. Monday is "Artist's Adventure," and Tuesday evening features classical pianist Lindsey Brown. David Hodges, an NPS personality, brings poetry to life on Wednesday, and Chateau Artist-in-Residence, Jennie May Donnell tells intriguing stories in the Lobby on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitors at Sunday brunch can enjoy the Celtic harpist, Bob Clark, at 1:00 p.m. Ask the Chateau's front desk for the finer details of these hotel events.

Pacific Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*)

While driving the mountainous Monument road this week, visitors may notice patches of white gracing the greening trees and wonder if they belong here in Oregon. Pacific Dogwood is indigenous to the Pacific Northwest, filling in the understory of dense forests.

The hard wood of this low-lying tree was helpful to both American Indians and early settlers in creating wooden tools. The many uses of the Pacific Dogwood include treating malaria, fevers, and stomach problems, increasing appetite, and

purifying blood. The bark also has an antiseptic quality and can be used to treat sores and inflammations of the skin.

The Dogwood's four-inch white flowers are actually bracts, or modified leaves. Open and lacy, these broad white bracts seem to glitter in the filtered light of the understory. Visitors can look for a delightful specimen halfway down the exit trail after a cave tour. Rangers wager that this one will bloom within the week.



Roth's Forest Snail (*Monadenia fidelis* subspecies *rothii*)

Be careful where you step as you hike the beautiful forest trails at Oregon Caves. The hardy, but not invincible, Roth Forest Snail might be gliding along beneath your feet. This unique subspecies of land snail is, so far, only known to be found at the Monument.

Like other forest snails of this region, it feeds on moss, decaying plants, algae, and fungus using a rasp-like tongue with thousands of scraping hooks. It senses light with two upper tentacles

and smells using all four. The spiral shell it keeps for life and its slime protects the soft body. On warm, dry days it will retreat into its shell ('estivate') for protection.

Named after John Roth, the Chief of Resource Management at Oregon Caves, this subspecies' durable shell requires a constant extraction of calcium from the Monument's marble rock (CaCO₃). This snail exemplifies the biodiversity found here.