



Week of June 21-27



Douglas-fir on the Monument's "Big Tree Trail" (note ranger hat for scale)

Special Events This Week

Ranger Programs

Look for many diverse and friendly faces this week as the NPS trains the Monument's new summer crew. Free Ranger programs will be offered each day. Check the blackboard in the visitor center for fascinating topics and times. Candlelight tours that present a unique perspective of the caves will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings. Reservations for the adventurous off-trail tours are now being accepted.

Chateau Programs

Entertainment at the Chateau is in full swing this week. Monday is "Artist's Adventure," featuring local artists Dave Kendall and Jean Robertson. David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday, and Chateau Artist-in-Residence, Jennie May Donnell reads intriguing stories in the Lobby on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Visitors on Sunday afternoon can enjoy the Celtic harpist, Bob Clark. Inquire at the Chateau's front desk for the finer details of these hotel events.

Pseudoscorpion

Oregon Caves has many natural ecosystem niches for extraordinary life to call home. The Pseudoscorpion occupies the cave niche as one of its troglobites, which must live their entire life underground. Pseudoscorpions look like tiny scorpions but lack the prominent tail. They live off of other small cave life.

Pseudoscorpions arrived initially in the caves' environment by hitchhiking on the legs of flies, spiders and other insects. In order to survive underground, they made special adaptations for the dark surroundings and developed into one of the cave's eight known endemics, creatures found nowhere else in the world. Oregon Caves' endemics intrigue scientists as living evidence of evolutionary processes. Find pictures of other endemics in the Monument's Visitor Center.



Close up of pseudoscorpion

Actual size

Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Spring arrived late to Oregon Caves this year and late snows hindered the traditional blooming times of plants and trees. Douglas-firs are taking the opportunity to brag to visitors about their new growth with flashy lime green tips and distinct cones throughout the Monument this week.

After their neighbors, the Coastal Redwoods, Douglas-firs are the second tallest conifers in the world. The Monument's preserve of old growth is comprised of many Douglas-firs, including some hundreds of years old. Look for the largest in Oregon at over 41 feet in circumference, on the originally named "Big Tree Trail."



Douglas-fir cone and needles