



Nightwing News



The Newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I am very excited to introduce to you, members of SBDN, the resurrection of Nightwing News, a bi-annual newsletter of SBDN. Those “old timers”, I mean, experienced bat biologists among us likely recall the original “Nightwing News” that provided vital information to SBDN members prior to the electronic age. By combining the newsletter concept with modern technology, SBDN is able to once again provide this newsletter to members at minimal cost. I believe this communication medium is another opportunity to enhance one of the primary goals of SBDN- facilitating interactions among biologists and bat enthusiasts within our region. A special thanks to J.D. Wilhide for graciously offering to be our first “new” editor of Nightwing News. I ask each of you to think about contributing information to our newsletter and suggest items you would like to see to either myself (darren.miller@weyerhaeuser.com) or J.D. Wilhide (jd_wilhide@cml.net).

It is very clear that the greatest, current threat to bat populations in our part of the world is white-nose syndrome (WNS), which has now been confirmed in 5 states within SBDN’s purview – Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. The spread of WNS to the south and west is indeed frightening as it seems it is only a matter of time until it affects cave and cave-dwelling bats across the eastern U.S. Given this threat, I thought it prudent to briefly update members on SBDN activities relative to WNS. First, the SBDN WNS Committee, chaired by Tom Risch, who recently replaced James Kiser as Chair (thanks to both!!), is actively addressing WNS issues and will continue to work to make sure members are up-to-date on developments and are given avenues to respond to this issue. This committee, with the leadership of Eric Britzke, organized an excellent WNS panel discussion at the 2010 SBND annual meeting. Go to the SBDN website (www.sbdn.org) to find to up-to-date WNS information. Additionally, the 2011 SBDN meeting (Feb. 23-25, 2011), to be held jointly with the Northeast and Midwest Bat Working Groups, in Louisville, Kentucky, will provide an excellent opportunity for dialog regarding WNS and I suspect this issue will dominate the meeting. Also, the SBDN Bat Blitz Committee has developed WNS protocols for use at Blitzes to help reduce the chance of spreading this fungal agent to new locations. Finally, SBDN worked with Bat Conservation International to encourage lawmakers to provide federal funding to continue to address WNS. Be assured SBDN will continue to do what we can to address WNS.

Probably the most significant other news for SBDN is the approved restructuring for SBDN governance. After input from members, the Board of Directors approved a plan to

reduce size of the Board and position SBDN to take advantage of the strength of our membership. These changes will basically go from a “Board heavy” governance system to a committee-driven structure that will enable greater participation in SBDN decisions by our membership, provide opportunities to develop institutional knowledge, and better reflect the needs of a growing membership. We are taking a risk by going this route. That is, this new structure will absolutely *require* greater membership involvement. But, given the passion our members have for our natural resources and bats in particular, I believe this risk is simply an opportunity that will be used by our members. For more details on the restructuring plan, go to our website.

In closing, our organization is only as strong as our membership. So, I encourage you to remain engaged with SBDN activities and perhaps encourage colleagues to join SBDN. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I also want to encourage each of you to provide input to SBDN regarding the organization’s activities, priorities, and opportunities for SBDN to properly engage other organizations and agencies for the advancement of bat conservation. I suggest that you consider reviewing the list of committees in this newsletter and decide if you can perhaps serve on a committee or recommend a new committee. Committee opportunities will become greater as we transform into the new structure, so keep your eyes open for this. The contact information for our Board members is located elsewhere in this newsletter and I welcome you to call or email us with questions, comments, concerns, or ideas. Best to all and thanks for all that you do to help conserve bats!!

Submitted by Darren Miller

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Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Asheville, NC 18 February 2010

Attendees:

Darren Miller, President
Tim Carter, Treasurer/BOD
Joy O'Keefe, Secretary/BOD
Brian Carver, BOD
Robert Currie, Outgoing BOD
Dennis Krusac, Re-elected BOD
Bree McMurray, BOD
Tom Risch, Re-elected BOD

Participating by telephone:

Mike Lacki, President-elect
Austin Trousdale, Outgoing BOD

Incoming BOD Members:

Michael Baker
Nikki Castleberry
Katrina Morris

Not in Attendance:

James Kiser, BOD
Chester Martin, Outgoing BOD

- Tim will investigate interest rates at a local credit union
- Mike Lacki will check for banking files Tim sent him (co-sign agreement, records, CD with backup data).
- Tim will send Mike Lacki another backup dataset after the annual meeting.
- Tim/Darren will talk to Troy Best and Mike Kennedy about publishing Colloquium abstracts in Bat Research News.
- Dennis will investigate whether Forest Service employees could serve on the SBDN Board if MOU existed. Someone will check with FWS with same question.
- Darren will contact Nina Fascione (new BCI Director) about finalizing a MOU between BCI and SBDN.
- Everyone on the SBDN Board should review the draft MOU attached to the meeting agenda. Send comments to Darren within 2 weeks (by 5 March 2010).
- Blitz Committee needs to work on developing a **protocol** for WNS decontamination.
- Darren will bring committee reports to Board for approval votes via email.
- Darren will talk to David Saugey about filling the role of SBDN Historian.
- Darren will ask Mylea Bayless about status of Rare Bat Conservation Plan
- Darren will talk to Mary Kay Clark about the potential for a Rare Bat Committee (if created) to move the CORA/MYAU plan forward.
- Dennis will talk to people about possibility of using Dept. of Defense funds to pay a consultant to work on the CORA/MYAU plan (ala gopher tortoise plan).
- Nikki Castleberry to chair Bylaws Committee. First task: find simple and consistent web and letterhead taglines and make sure Bylaw's mission statement is accurate.
- Darren will modify the Board restructure document so that newly elected officers continue to serve until Feb. 2012.
- On page 2 of BOD Restructure doc, Darren will change the words "limit power of the Board of Directors" to "increase membership involvement."
- Joy will modify date on minutes from the February 2009 SBDN Board meeting.
- Darren will send SE TWS verbiage about email voting to Nikki (Bylaws Chair).
- Darren/Joy will send SBDN Board Aug 2009 meeting minutes so they may be reviewed and approved.
- Mike Baker will talk to BCI about the possibility of funneling credit card payments for SBDN transactions through the BCI website.
- Bree will staff Bat Coordinator committee and write PD by July 1.
- Darren will put out the call to the membership for a newsletter coordinator (with potential stipend). Goal is to have a newsletter by June 2010.
- Darren called the meeting to order at 8:34 am EST.

Tim made a motion to approve the minutes from the Aug 2009 BOD meeting held at the Missouri Bat Blitz. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor

Treasurer's Report:

Tim reports that we had 102 transactions in the past year. We brought in ~\$26,800 and paid out ~\$26,200. In our general account, we brought in ~\$1,500, mostly from membership and we paid out ~\$1,442 for general operations, including \$900 in awards and ~\$500 in tax preparation fees. In 2009, we had 93 paid members and about 400 subscribers to the mailing list. There is \$5,200 in SBDN's general account and we have \$29,808 in all. Tim moved \$10,000 to a 30-day CD in 2009 (interest rate is 0.25%).

Joy raised concerns about the interest rate on the 30-day CD. We discussed other options and **Tim agreed to investigate interest rates at a local credit union that could possibly house SBDN funds.** Darren asked about using an ING account, but Tim noted that he could not walk into a bank to handle transactions with this type of account.

Mike Lacki is on the accounts as a co-signer and has same rights and privileges as Tim. **Mike L. will check to make sure he has all the banking files that Tim sent him (co-sign agreement, records, CD with backup data).** Tim

will send Mike Lacki another backup dataset after the annual meeting (to be continued in subsequent years).

Dennis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report with 2 changes to the text (\$500 in tax preparation fees and summary is for 2009). These changes are reflected in the summary of the treasurer's report above. Tom seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

Incomplete Action Items/Old Business:

T. Carter to discuss publishing Colloquium abstracts w/ T. Best and M. Kennedy

Tim has tried but not been successful. Tim and Darren will talk to Troy Best and Mike Kennedy about publishing Colloquium abstracts in Bat Research News.

USFWS Representative to SBDN

Bob says the original intention was to have federal folks be able to participate. This might require a formal MOU between SBDN and FWS or other agencies. We discussed the option of having a liaison (non-voting) for federal agencies, but problems with this are that we don't know who the liaison would be and we might end up with a lot of different agencies wanting to have liaisons (do we want this to be exclusive to a few agencies?). With an MOU, SBDN's President might be able to appoint a liaison and having an MOU does not require agency folks to participate. **Dennis will investigate whether Forest Service employees could serve on the SBDN Board if there was an MOU between the FS and SBDN. Someone will then check with FWS to see if the same solution would apply.**

Draft MOU with BCI (see Appendix III provided by Darren with meeting agenda)

Mylea Bayless (BCI) suggested this to Darren last year in conjunction with her work on the conservation plan for *Myotis austroriparius* (MYAU) and *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* (CORA). We discussed how having an MOU with BCI could benefit SBDN: BCI can more easily transfer money to us, this would be a big partnership for SBDN, and this is a good time to form such a relationship. Darren reviewed the responsibilities for BCI and SBDN in the draft MOU. **Darren will contact Nina Fascione (new BCI Director) about finalizing a MOU between BCI and SBDN. Everyone on the SBDN Board should review the draft MOU attached to the meeting agenda. Send comments to Darren within 2 weeks (by 5 March 2010).**

[Mike Lacki left the meeting (conference call) at 9:12 am EST.]

Bat Blitz Committee review of "bare hands" policy

Joy reported that the Blitz Committee is adding the following to the Media section of Blitz Guidelines: "For media events, bat handlers being photographed or filmed by the media must wear gloves so that bats in photos/film are held by a gloved hand." The following was added to the Safety section of the Blitz guidelines: "Blitz participants that handle bats must have a current rabies vaccination (titer checked within past 2 years). We suggest including a request for this information on the registration form." The Blitz Committee did not want to require Blitz participants to wear gloves.

Joy gave the rest of the Blitz Committee report (results of 2009 Blitz in MO, upcoming Blitz in GA at the end of July 2010, and the Wings Across the Americans 2010 award from the USDA Forest Service due to a nomination by Dennis Krusac). We discussed permits for capturing listed species at blitzes and decided this should be first priority for a Blitz host. Sandy Tucker (USFWS) is helping Katrina to secure a permit for the 2010 Blitz in GA. Options for 2011 Blitz sites include east TX (good opportunity to involve BCI), MS, FL, and AL. Bree says there are new nets leftover from the 2009 Blitz that could be donated to GA for 2010. Darren suggested that the **Blitz Committee needs to work on developing a protocol for WNS decontamination.** Tim noted that the current FWS protocol is ambiguous as to timing of decontamination procedures.

Other Committee Reports

Darren did not have reports from other committees. **Darren will bring committee reports to Board for approval votes via email.** He noted that Tom Risch is the new WNS Committee Chair.

Historian appointment

David Saugey is (self-appointed) historian for SBDN. Good fit for David, as he has already taken over the duties of managing material on the SBDN website and working with the Webmaster. No definition for the position, however. **Darren will talk to David Saugey about filling the role of SBDN Historian.**

Rafinesque's big-eared bat working group as SBDN Committee

This idea faltered when Allison McCartney stepped down as Raf Bat Working Group Comm. Chair. Bree noted that the group is sort of dormant and expect to meet again in Feb. 2011. We discussed merits of creating a Rare Bat Committee and how that fits with CORA/MYAU conservation plan that was started in Nashville. **Darren will ask Mylea Bayless about status of the Rare Bat Conservation Plan (CORA & MYAU).** Dennis noted plan could be an overlapping effort for SBDN, NEBWG, and the newly formed MWBWG. **Darren will talk to Mary Kay Clark about potential for a Rare Bat Committee (if created) to move the CORA/MYAU plan forward.** Darren could establish an ad-hoc committee to move plan forward. Discussion about potential funding sources and who has time to work on plan.

[Austin joined the meeting (via conference call) at 9:50 am EST.]

Discussion about final product (report to Fish and Wildlife Foundation, who funded the original effort). **Dennis will talk to Susan Gibson, Rick Gooch (sp?), or Shawna Ginger about the possibility of using Dept. of Defense funds to pay a consultant to work on CORA/MYAU plan (ala gopher tortoise plan).** DOTS are another option for funding.

Strike a By-laws Committee and Common SBDN Mission Statement

Appendix IV of this meeting's agenda has statements regarding the purpose of SBDN but these are not consistent. Need a committee to deal with this and other bylaws issues. **Nikki Castleberry volunteered to chair a new Bylaws**

Committee, with Brian and Tim as members. First task is to find simple and consistent web and letterhead taglines and to make sure the Bylaw's mission statement is accurate.

Service Award Nomination for Susan Murdock

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell did nominate Susan for a Service Award, but another nominee was chosen by the Awards Committee.

SBDN Proposed Structure Change (Appendix II)

Darren reviewed issue for new BOD members. He only received comments from 6 SBDN members when this was presented to the voting members via email. He will also discuss with members at SBDN Business Mtg. The BOD will vote on this via email. Joy raised concerns about the wording of the timeline because newly elected (Feb 2010) BOD members would not be able to serve a 2-year term. After discussion, we decided **Darren will modify the Board restructure document so that newly elected officers continue to serve until Feb. 2012.** Tim noted that formal changes to bylaws will need to happen before Nov 2010 when the next elections take place. **Some discussion, which led to the suggestion that, on page two of the document, Darren change the words "limit power of the Board of Directors" to "increase membership involvement."**

During discussion, we realized that the minutes in Appendix I are not from the August 2009 BOD meeting; rather they are the minutes from the Feb 2009 BOD meeting, but the date on the Feb. 2009 minutes is wrong. Dennis made a motion, which Tim seconded, to accept the February 2009 meeting minutes as long as the date is changed from Oct 2008 to Feb 2009. The motion passed with all in favor. **Joy will modify date on minutes from the February 2009 SBDN**

Board Meeting. Darren/Joy will send Aug 2009 meeting minutes to SBDN Board so they may be reviewed and approved.

Tim made a motion to rescind the earlier motion to approve the Aug 2009 BOD meeting minutes. Brian seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

The Bylaws Committee will need to change the bylaws to reflect the changes to the structure of the BOD. The bylaws should also allow email voting. **Darren will send SE TWS verbiage about email voting to Nikki (Bylaws Chair).**

New Business

Credit Cards for Payment

The fact that SBDN does not accept credit cards is a problem for some attendees (Forest Service employees). We discussed other options, including using PayPal or BCI's webpage. **Mike Baker will talk to BCI about the possibility of funneling credit card payments for SBDN transactions through the BCI website.**

Covering SBDN's Administrative Costs

During the Blitz Committee meeting on 2/17/10, Bree authorized moving \$300 from the 2009 Blitz funds leftover to pay for tax preparation fees and other administrative costs. BOD discussed ways to cover the ~\$500 that we incur in tax

preparation fees each year. Dennis made a motion that, in years where there is an SBDN Bat Blitz, \$300 of SBDN Bat Blitz funds will be used for SBDN's administrative costs and in years where there is a joint SBDN meeting/Mammal Colloquium, \$200 will be used for SBDN's administrative costs. Bree seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

SE Bat Coordinator Position

Bree is chairing the committee and Joy and Kim Livengood are members. Discussion about how to pay for a bat coordinator position in the future (maybe SWG funds). [Austin left the meeting (conference call) at 11:08 am EST.] **Bree will staff Bat Coordinator comm. and write position description (PD) by July 1.**

SBDN Newsletter

Bob asked about putting out an SBDN newsletter (ala Nightwing News - started by David Saugey but no longer published). Darren suggested newsletter could be done in fashion of the SE TWS newsletter (reports from each state plus a President's address). TWS newsletter is sent to the membership via email and archived on the website 6 mo. later. We decided that we should pay someone to publish the newsletter. **Darren will put out the call to the membership for a newsletter coordinator (with potential stipend). Goal is to have a newsletter by June 2010.** Bree agreed to work with the newsletter person to include state reports.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM EST.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Two new members were added to the Committee in March – Nikki Castleberry and Chris Comer. We felt we needed additional members to aid in deliberations among award nominees. The Committee now consists of Stephen Burnett, Nikki Castleberry, Chris Comer, Lisa Gatens, and Susan Loeb (chair).

There was one application for the 2010 SBDN Lifetime Achievement Award. The applicant was highly qualified and the Committee forwarded this name (Troy Best) to the Board for approval.

There were two nominations for the SBDN Service Award. The Committee unanimously voted on Mary Kay Clark as the recipient of the award.

There was one application for the Student Travel Award. The Committee agreed that the applicant (Leigh Stuemke) was highly qualified for the award. Leigh presented an excellent talk at NASBR entitled “Estimating occupancy of Rafinesque’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) and southeastern myotis (*Myotis austroriparius*) in East Texas.”

The committee is conducting a silent auction at the Annual Meeting in Asheville to raise funds for the Student Travel Award. Items have been contributed by BCI, Speleobooks, Dennis Krusac, Chester Martin, and others.

BAT BLITZ COMMITTEE

2009 SBDN Bat Blitz, Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri

The 8th annual SBDN Bat Blitz was August 9-13, 2009 in southeastern Missouri, benefiting 4 public land agencies in a 6-county region. Valuable data were collected for Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) and Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Lake Wappapello Project Office and initial baseline data for Mingo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). Two endangered species (*Myotis sodalis* and *M. grisescens*) and 3 state species of concern, *M. austroriparius*, *Lasiurus seminolus* and *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, were captured during the Blitz. Fifty-five participants from 15 states, assisted by 25 local support staff members, pooled their efforts to make the Bat Blitz a huge success. Thirty-five sites were surveyed, and 620 bats representing 12 species were captured during the Blitz. Radio telemetry was used to locate roost trees for a post-lactating female *M. sodalis* and a building roost for a *C. rafinesquii*. The highpoint of the event was capturing 342 bats (55% of the total captures) from 6 sites at Mingo NWR. Captures at the refuge, where bottomland hardwoods are

interspersed with seasonally and permanently flooded forest and open land, were dominated by *Nycticeius humeralis* (215 bats), *Lasiurus borealis* (84 bats), and *Perimyotis subflavus* (35 bats). Tissue and hair samples were collected for molecular genetics and stable isotope analyses. The data collected at the 2009 SBDN Bat Blitz will be used to drive management decisions and build research and monitoring programs for the MTNF, ACOE, Mingo NWR, and MDC.

2010 SBDN Bat Blitz, Fort Mountain State Park, northeast Georgia, July 25-29, 2010

The 9th annual SBDN Bat Blitz will be held in northeast Georgia at Fort Mountain State Park (www.gastateparks.org/FortMt) on July 25-29, 2010. The blitz is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service and SBDN. Fort Mountain will serve as blitz headquarters and is situated in the Chattahoochee National Forest, close to the Cohutta Wilderness area. Netting sites will be located in the park, surrounding national forest, state lands and other sites. Sites will be in areas that include oak-hickory-pine forest and southern mixed forest along mountain streams, trails and road corridors. Hiking, mountain biking, tubing, horseback riding and historic site tours are a few of the activities that will be available to participants in their free time. Sunday, July 25th will include a media night featuring kid’s activities, netting and AnaBat demos and presentations. Registration for this event will open in April. Please see the SBDN website (http://www.sbdn.org/blitz_info.html) for event and registration information. For more information about the blitz, please contact Trina Morris at 770-918-6411 or katrina.morris@dnr.state.ga.us.

BY LAWS COMMITTEE

The Bylaws committee has been working on updating the Bylaws to reflect the changes in organizational structure that were discussed at the SBDN meeting in Asheville. These changes will replace the existing Board of Directors with an Executive Committee and will give the membership more of a voice in the SBDN. These changes will also update the bylaws with things like electronic voting and sending out meeting announcements and other important information via e-mail. The changes are almost ready to go to the Board for approval and then once approved by the Board will go to the membership for comments before a final vote by the Board.

STATE WORKING GROUP REPORTS



The Alabama Bat Working Group was formed in February 2009 to bring together individuals, organizations, and agencies interested in conserving the state's bat species. In summer 2009 the group formed a committee known as the Alabama White-nose Syndrome (WNS) Management Team to develop a management strategy for this fungal pathogen and its deadly effects. The plan is nearing completion. It has five broad objectives, including slowing the spread of WNS in the state's bat populations, expanding surveillance and monitoring efforts, conserving genetic diversity of all bat species (including tree bats), developing and implementing a communications strategy, and obtaining the permits and resources needed for plan implementation. Chairs/Co-chairs of five subcommittees which will oversee implementation of the objectives have been designated and these are looking for qualified members. In addition, the team plans to use volunteers to help with implementation. Assistance will be needed with summer and winter monitoring programs and in other ways once specific action plans have been developed.

The Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association (WWRA), a private nonprofit group that supports the refuge, is accepting donations for management of WNS in Alabama. Checks can be sent to the WWRA at P.O. Box 239, Decatur, Alabama 35602. Write "WNS" on the subject line to earmark funds for this purpose. Point of contact for further information is Bill Gates at William_Gates@fws.gov.

No News Reported



No News Reported



Other Bat Updates: In 2009 we hired two interns with funds from BCI to do surveys for Rafinesque's Big-eared bats in the southern portion of the state. The interns did cavity searches and found several new location records for the state. This summer two new interns were hired with DNR SWG funds. The interns will be helping with a yellow bat project, Bat Blitz activities, AnaBat routes, summer cave monitoring, and other activities during the summer.

White-nose Update: So far we have no signs of white-nose in the state. Our state white-nose plan is complete and awaiting final approval and cave closures on state lands are still being considered. We just received a no-match State Wildlife Grant (SWG) for \$15,095.00 to complement our existing bat SWG and aid in WNS surveillance and pre-emergence data collection. Trina Morris attended the WNS meeting in Louisville, KY this spring and will attend the annual WNS meeting in Pittsburgh, PA the week of May 24-28th. This winter we surveyed two previously unknown winter hibernacula and found over 5,000 bats at one site and over 2,000 bats at another.

2010 Georgia Bat Blitz: The 9th annual SBDN Bat Blitz will be held in northeast Georgia at Fort Mountain State Park (www.gastateparks.org/FortMt) on July 25-29, 2010. The blitz is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service and SBDN. Fort Mountain will serve as blitz headquarters and is situated in the Chattahoochee National Forest, close to the Cohutta Wilderness area. Netting sites will be located in the park, surrounding national forest, state lands and other sites. Sites will be located in areas that include oak-hickory-pine forest and southern mixed forest along mountain streams, trails and road corridors. Hiking, mountain biking, tubing, horseback riding and historic site tours are a few of the activities that will be available to participants in their free time. Sunday, July 25th will include a media/public education night featuring kid's activities, netting and AnaBat demos and presentations. Registration for this event closes June 1st. Please see the SBDN website (http://www.sbdn.org/blitz_info.html) for event and registration information. For more information about the blitz, please contact Trina Morris at 770-918-6411 or katrina.morris@dnr.state.ga.us.

No News Reported



No News Reported



No News Reported



The Mississippi Bat Working Group (MBWG) held its 8th annual meeting on 13 April 2010 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science (MMNS) in Jackson, MS. Chester Martin (Chair; US Army Engineer Research and Development Center – retired) and Alison McCartney (Vice-Chair; US Bureau of Land Management) presided and served as coordinators for the meeting. A welcoming address was given by Charles Knight, Assistant Director, MMNS, and meeting objectives were stated by coordinators. Martin made a presentation on activities and accomplishments in 2009 and recommended 2010 goals and objectives. McCartney presented on the 2009 MBWG summer mist-net event and discussed considerations for a 2010 summer activity. Stephanie Steele (USDA Forest Service) gave a Secretary-Treasurer’s report and Kathy Shelton (MMNS) reported on the joint meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society and MBWG in 2009.

The business meeting included election of new officers and board members, revisions to the MBWG Charter and By-laws, affiliation with the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN), reorganization of ad-hoc committees, status of the MBWG website, new emphasis on education and outreach, announcement of 2010 events, planning for the 2011 annual meeting, the Mississippi White-nose Syndrome action plan, the need for guidelines on bridge replacement and procedures for bat exclusions, and future direction of the working group.

Eric Britzke, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) gave an update on White-nose Syndrome and outlook for the future, and Alison made a presentation on bat surveys conducted in 2009 along the Pascagoula River Basin.

Chester Martin and Alison McCartney stepped down as Chair and Vice-chair in keeping with revisions to the by-laws which now require that officers and board members serve only two consecutive two-year terms. Darren Miller (Weyerhaeuser Company) and David Richardson (FWS) also completed their terms on the Board of Directors. Martin will serve a term as Immediate Past-Chair. New officers are Chair - Becky Rosamond, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and Vice-Chair – Sandie Kilpatrick (FWS). Stephanie Steele will serve another term as Secretary-Treasurer. New Board members are Kathy Shelton and Eric Britzke (ERDC). Monica Walters will serve another term on the Board. Committee chairs were assigned for the following ad-hoc committees: Annual meeting, mist-net event, bat house/exclusion, bridge replacement, awards, and website. Darren Miller will serve as SBDN coordinator for the working group.

No News Reported



In 2009 the Eastern Band of Cherokee conducted summer Indiana bat presence/absence surveys through consultants for four proposed housing and commercial development projects on Tribal lands. No species of conservation concern were found. Assuming their permitting moves through FWS, they will be conducting additional project clearance surveys this summer internally. They also plan to continue annual summer monitoring efforts at sites that have historically produced good bat numbers and high species richness to assist in monitoring bat population changes due to WNS etc.

The Third Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Bat Working Group, held 23 September 2009 at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro, had 29 attendees. Discussions included WNS preparations, baseline data collection, and a quickie AnaBat crash-course. A summary of the NCBWG bat blitz held at the NC Zoo, September 22-23: despite ~30 volunteers, captures totaled one eastern red bat, one evening bat, and plenty of rain.

North Carolina’s WNS Surveillance and Response Plan has been drafted by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission in coordination with other agencies and organizations. The

NCWRC Wildlife Management Division Chief presented the plan to the commission on February 9th and 10th for their review. A WNS fact sheet has already been released.

The Indy Blitz II (for Indiana bats in western NC) brought together 29 bat biologists from NC, SC, NY, MI, and TX to survey 9 sites in Cherokee and Clay counties on 3 June 2009. Captures totaled 24 bats, including male silver-haired and Seminole bats. No Indiana bats were captured.

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell and her students have continued working on the coastal plain looking at bat forest interactions in collaboration with Weyerhaeuser Co. Students who worked on this project are Matt Marshall, Kim Briones, and Rada Petric.

Recent publications:

Use of Forest Edges by Bats in a Managed Pine Forest Landscape. A.D. Morris, D.A. Miller, M.C. Kalcounis-Rueppell *Journal of Wild. Manage.* 74(1):26–34; 2010

Use of Modified Water Sources by Bats in a Managed Pine Landscape M.A. Vindigni, A.D. Morris, D.A. Miller, M.C. Kalcounis-Rueppell *Forest Ecology and Management* 258 (2009) 2056–2061

Macrohabitat factors affect day roost selection by eastern red bats and eastern pipistrellus in the southern Appalachian Mountains. O’Keefe, J.M., S.C. Loeb, J.D. Lanham, H.S. Hill, Jr. 2009. *Forest Ecology and Management* 257:1757–1763.

Relationship between urbanization and bat community structure in national parks of the southeastern U.S. Loeb, S. C., C. J. Post, and S. T. Hall. 2009. *Urban Ecosystems* 12:197-214.

Clemson University and the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station conducted a 2 month study on distribution and roost habitat selection by Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Captures totaled 330 bats, including 47 Indiana bats from 12 sites (8 were new distribution records). Both species roosted mainly in dead pines; further analysis will reveal if bats roosted in multi-species roosts and how bats selected roosts at multiple spatial scales.

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station has initiated a 3-year landscape-scale project on the effects of prescribed fire on roost habitat selection by Indiana bats in the southern Appalachians. In fall 2009/winter 2010, they began a study on snag population dynamics by marking and measuring >1000 snags in burn and control plots in the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Other research that the Southern Research Station is doing in NC: a study of the effects of silvicultural treatments on bats and insects in the Cold Mountain Gamelands. 2009 was the

2nd year of the study which will continue for at least 2 more field seasons. A publication that includes data on NC national parks (Carl Sandburg National Historic Site and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park) was listed above.

NCDOT completed surveys for a highway project in Graham County, with 230 bats captured from 2008-2009. No Indiana bats were captured, but a couple of Indiana bat calls were recorded and four small-footed bats were captured. Three rocket boxes were constructed and installed at a wetland mitigation site in Graham County at Tulula Bog.

Copperhead Consulting conducted their 6th year of surveying for bats on Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall (army bases). They netted at 17 different sites including 6 sites not previously netted. In addition to mist-netting, 100 searches were conducted at 33 anthropogenic structures which resulted in some hand-captures. The results were 120 bat observations of 9 species. They radio-tagged 2 MYAU (1 male and 1 female). The female could not be found. The male was found and the location of his roost tree was added to the 3 other roost trees found in the past. Two adult CORA were radio-tagged (1 male and 1 female) resulting in 1 new structure roost and 3 new tree roosts. Copperhead Consulting working with Eric Britzke (US Army Engineer Research and Development Center) collected base-line acoustic monitoring data for MYAU. A total of 40 sites were sampled 1-2 times each using AnaBat II bat detector system. MYAU were recorded at 18% of the sites. These sites were clustered in 3 distinct areas of Fort Bragg. In addition to the work contracted to Copperhead, Fort Bragg Endangered Species Branch biologists and volunteers collected acoustic data using Sonobat. Six transects were visited every month from April - Oct.

No News Reported



No News Reported





TN WNS Monitoring Efforts, Dave Pelren USFWS Cookeville

The Tennessee WNS "cooperators" developed the "White-nose Syndrome Cooperative Monitoring and Response Plan for Tennessee" during summer and fall, 2009. The plan focuses primarily on monitoring efforts. During summer 2009, the cooperators gathered a significant amount of bat population data in preparation for entry of WNS into the state. Thermal infrared technology was used to estimate gray bat cave roosting populations, AnaBat routes were initiated across the state, and banding of endangered and common bat species was increased. Banding continued during winter 2009/2010 cave surveys, which were conducted in an effort to determine the possible presence of WNS. The cooperators surveyed approximately 38 caves. During late winter, white-nose syndrome was detected among bats at six caves: Worleys Cave (Sullivan County), Grindstaff Cave (Carter County), Dunbar Cave (Montgomery County), Camps Gulf Cave (Van Buren County), East Fork Saltpeter Cave (Fentress County), and White Oak Blowhole Cave (Blount County). The cooperators will continue monitoring efforts during summer 2010 and determine the most efficient methods for monitoring of the spread of WNS in the state during winter 2010/2011. The group is anxiously observing the progress of research regarding possible WNS treatment options.

Tennessee Bat Working Group Meeting Info, George Wyckoff

The seventh annual meeting of the Tennessee Bat Working Group (TNBWG) will be held on Thursday, November 18th at the Stones River Hunter Education Center in Nashville, TN. The TNBWG was formed in the summer of 2004 in recognition of the need for cooperation among various groups and individuals to help coordinate the conservation of bat species in Tennessee.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the status of bat conservation efforts, participate in discussions regarding the current and future needs of bat species, and present any work you're doing with bats in Tennessee. Anyone with an interest in bat conservation is encouraged to attend.

In order to insure availability of materials and space, please notify George "Richie" Wyckoff, the current Chair of the TNBWG, by phone (931-454-4856) or email (george.wyckoff@arnold.af.mil) if you plan to attend or if you would like to speak. We have an exciting agenda already, but there are still plenty of time slots available, so contact George "Richie" Wyckoff if you would like to present.

No News Reported



No News Reported



No News Reported



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



SBDN RECOGNIZED FOR BAT BLITZES

On March 25, 2010, SBDN was recognized by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), receiving the 2010 Wings Across the Americas Award for bat conservation. This award was conferred on SBDN for the Bat Blitzes. Darren Miller, President of SBDN, accepted the award on behalf of SBDN from Tom Tidwell, Chief of the USFS. In addition to recognizing SBDN, the USFS honored 10 “Partners” with awards. These partners have played a significant role in Bat Blitzes and include Jackie Belwood, Tim Carter, Mary K. Clark, Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Dennis Krusac, Susan Loeb, Darren Miller, Joy O’Keefe, Blake Sasse, and David Saughey. In addition, numerous Bat Blitz participants will receive certificates from the USFS. Information about the award, including photos from the ceremony, can be viewed at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/wings/birds/awards.htm>.

Special thanks to Dennis Krusac for nominating SBDN for this award and for all the volunteers and leaders that have made the Blitzes such a success!!



SERVICE AWARD - MARY K. CLARK



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - TROY BEST

2010 15th SBDN and 20th Mammal Colloquium

On February 18th and 19th 2010 the 15th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN) and 20th Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern United States (Mammal Colloquium) was held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Asheville, N.C. Both meetings were well-attended, bringing to the Appalachian Mountains a wide diversity from state and federal agencies, academic institutions, private business, non-governmental organizations, tribal environmental agencies, and caving groups. Registration for both meetings totaled 152.

SBDN Meeting-Thursday, 18 February 2010

The events began on Thursday morning with an SBDN Board meeting led by President Darren Miller. In the afternoon at the regular annual meeting over 120 attended the presentations. A special session on White Nose Syndrome attracted 25 members of two local caving grottos (Flittermouse Grotto and Mountain Empire Grotto) and likely boosted attendance from regular members.

The annual meeting began with the business session led by Darren Miller who called on officers and committee members for reports. Treasurer Tim Carter's report was followed by accounts of activities from the following committees: Awards (Susan Loeb), Bat Blitz (Joy O'Keefe), Bat Database (Eric Britzke), SE Bat Coordinator Position (Bree McMurray) and White Nose Syndrome (Tom Risch). Activities by state were summarized by Bree McMurray.

Two awards were presented to members. Troy Best, Auburn University professor and Curator of Mammals, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for decades of research and conservation work with bats in the southeast and other areas. His educational efforts have produced many fine biologists and conservationists and his work with professional and conservation organizations have significantly furthered bat and mammal research, education and conservation in the Southeastern states and elsewhere. Mary K. Clark received an SBDN Service Award for commitment to SBDN spanning the 15 years of the existence of the group and in the years of group formation.

The annual business meeting concluded with a discussion about re-organizing the leadership structure for the SBDN. Members were asked to comment about changing the organizational structure; all comments were positive regarding changes proposed. An announcement was made that the defunct SBDN newsletter, *Nightwing News*, will be resurrected and a call for a volunteer editor was made. After the break the remainder of the annual meeting was devoted to a special session on White Nose Syndrome (WNS) organized by SBDN member Eric Britzke. Presentations included an update on the spread of WNS (Jeremy Coleman, WNS coordinator, US Fish and Wildlife Service), decontamination procedures (Hazel Barton, Northern Kentucky University), current lab investigations (Kevin Keel, Assistant Research Scientist, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, University of Georgia), a review of the Kentucky response plan (Brooke Slack, Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), and documentation of baseline data using

acoustic surveys (Eric Britzke, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center). The 15th annual SBDN meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. after a panel discussion between the audience and the WNS session speakers.

Social and Silent Auction- Thursday evening, 18 February 2010

On Thursday evening a Social for attendees of both the SBDN annual meeting and the Mammal Colloquium was held in the Top of the Plaza at the Renaissance Hotel. Friends and colleagues mingled and enjoyed abundant food and beverage from 7:00 p.m. until midnight. Susan Loeb, chair of the SBDN Awards Committee, arranged a silent auction during the Social to raise funds for the student awards program. The auction was a huge success, winning bids totaled \$604.50. Auction items were contributed by Speleobooks, Bat Conservation International (BCI), Chester Martin (original artwork – a roosting Rafinesque's big-eared bat), Dennis Krusac (2 handcrafted pens), Elizabeth Evans (handmade longleaf pine needle basket), Jennifer Rae Atkins (3 *Myotis* prints), and Steve Mitchell (bat boxes plus other items). Many thanks to BCI, Speleobooks and all of the other donors that provided items for the silent auction.

Mammal Colloquium-Friday, 19 February 2010

The meeting convened at 7:50 a.m. A total of 24 oral and 8 posters were scheduled for the Colloquium on Friday, February 19th. Twelve students entered the oral presentation competition, four entered the poster competition. Two poster sessions were held, one in mid-morning and one mid-afternoon. Friday morning the two sessions of oral presentations primarily featured students entered in the student awards competition.

The first session after lunch was composed of invited speakers and organized by local committee members Joy O'Keefe (USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station) and Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (University of N.C. Greensboro). This *Symposium on the Summer and Winter Ecology of Three Cave Myotis in the Southeast* featured five research and conservation presentations related to the *Myotis* known to have been affected by White Nose Syndrome at that time- *leibii*, *lucifugus* and *septentrionalis*. These species are not receiving federal conservation protection, but are likely to experience substantial population declines throughout the southeast region due to White Nose Syndrome. The session concluded with a group discussion.

Student Award Winners

Colloquium Best Student Oral Presentation:

Michelle Gilley, Auburn University. Characterization of ultrasonic calls in two species of gliding mammals: *Glaucomys sabrinus* and *G. volans*.

SBDN Best Student Oral Presentation on Bats:

Michael Bender, University of Georgia. K-nearest-neighbor classification to identify bat calls: Performance with a suite of

Coastal Plain forest species and comparison to discriminant function analysis.

Best Poster Presentation:

***K. E. Lucia* -- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.** Effects of diet quality on the activity patterns and gut morphology of the white-footed mouse, *Peromyscus leucopus*.

Acknowledgements

In addition to registration fees we received substantial financial contributions from members that allowed us to provide plentiful break food and beverage and a large reception with free beverages. Many thanks to Copperhead Consulting (Mark Gumbert, Paint Lick KY), Mountain State Biosurveys LLC (Keith Johnson, Lesage WV), Moonlight Consulting (Mary Clark, Raleigh NC) Nightwing Consulting (David Saugey, Jessieville AR) and the N. C. Bat Working Group (Mary Frazer, Raleigh NC). Clark Bros. LLC (Elizabethtown NC) and Clearwater Enterprises (White Lake NC) provided computer, internet, copy and printing services. The N. C. Dept of Transportation assisted with program printing. Steven Mitchell (N. C. Dept. of Transportation, Raleigh NC), Ben Hess (N. C. State Museum, Raleigh NC) and Ed Corey (N. C. State Parks, Raleigh NC) did a stellar job of registering participants and selling conference T-shirts. Mary Kay Clark chaired the local host team that consisted of members of the N. C. Bat Working Group – Mary Frazer (N. C. Dept. of Transportation Raleigh NC), Lisa Gatens (N. C. State Museum, Raleigh NC) , Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell (University of North Carolina – Greensboro) and Joy O’Keefe (USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station, Clemson SC). Suzanne Escovitz, Lois Davis and Dennis Donnelly of the Asheville Renaissance Hotel worked with us to create affordable lodging rates and ensure that our that all meeting space was adequate and events at the Renaissance went smoothly. Thank you to all the presenters, to those who arranged special sessions and to the moderators and AV personnel that kept the sessions going. Members of the Flittermouse Grotto and Mountain Empire Grotto networked to get White Nose Syndrome session information to local grotto members. This was one of the largest annual meetings of the two groups and we are appreciative of the effort made to attend the 2010 bat and mammal meetings in these tough economic times.

END of overview 2010 SBDN Colloquium



Special thanks to the local Committee for hosting a great 2010 meeting in Asheville, NC. (Lisa Gatens, Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell, Joy O’Keefe, Mary K. Clark, Mary Frazier)

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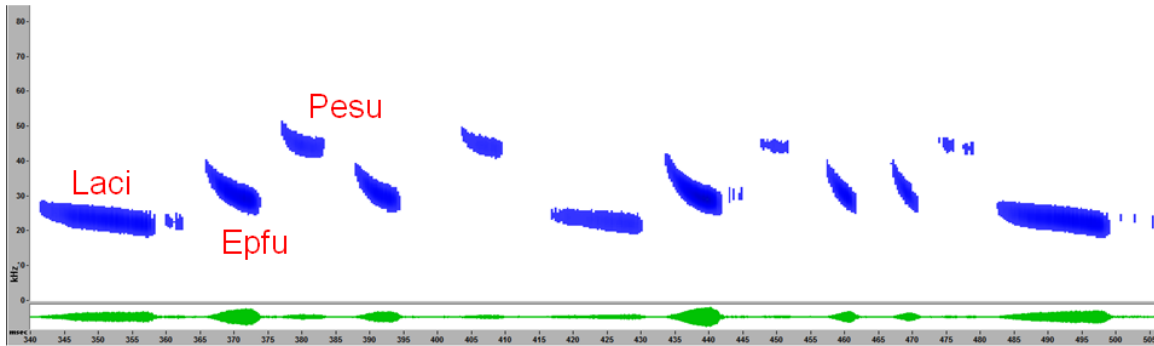
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Items of Interest

Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell and her students in the Bat and Mouse Lab at UNCG are keeping busy in North Carolina doing research on the effects of anthropogenic change on bat foraging ecology. Work is ongoing in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. She welcomed new graduate student Kim Briones from California this year and will say good-bye to Rada Petric who is about to graduate. Her graduate student Jessie Briggs has graduated and is leaving to start work with the Natural Sounds Program of the National Park Service. Matt Marshall is continuing his work on the Coastal Plain in collaboration between UNCG and Weyerhaeuser NR Company. All members of the lab have been kept busy this year with their outreach program called "Bats and Mice in Your Backyard". The attached spectrograph shows a recording at an outreach event at in Greensboro where three different common southeastern species were recorded within the same 40 milliseconds.



Matina Kalcounis-Rueppell and her students in the Bat and Mouse Lab at UNCG.

Three dead Rafinesque's Big-eared bats were discovered in late April at Noxubee NWR, Brooksville, MS. Two were in an artificial metal roost and the 3rd was found in a well. The 2 bats were found in a roosting position. One was actually still clinging to the inside of the wall. Both were completely dried and probably dead for a couple weeks. A third bat in the roost was completely fine and left the roost that evening. The bat in the well was the only one at the time. It was found floating in the water but it was a recent mortality. All three bats were sent to the national wildlife health center for necropsy. The only determination that could be definitively made was that the bats tested negative for the fungus attributed to WNS. No further labs are expected given the state of the bats.

David Richardson
Noxubee NWR
USFWS
Brooksville, MS 39739
662 418-9845



The survey crew who looked for White-nose Syndrome infected bats in Key Cave, Lauderdale County, Alabama on February 9, 2010. Dr. Josh Campbell and Lisa Lehnhoff were also looking for a unique spider while in the cave that Dr. Campbell is studying.

People in photo (Left to right); Dr. Josh Campbell (Shorter College), Lisa Lehnhoff (USFWS, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge), and Holly Le Grand (Tennessee Valley Authority).

Submitted By: William R. Gates - Wildlife Biologist
Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 25 - 29, 2010

9th ANNUAL BAT BLITZ
Fort Mountain State Park
Chattahoochee Natl. Forest
Chatsworth, GA

Get your gear ready for the 9th Annual Bat Blitz ! The blitz will take place in Fort Mountain State Park which is 7 miles east of Chatsworth on Highway 52 (additional park description and Google map [here](#)). The blitz is sponsored by Georgia's Department of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service and SBDN. It will be hosted by Trina Morris whom you can contact at katrina.morris@dnr.state.ga.us. Please, visit our [2010 Bat Blitz](#) page for updates. Thanks!

30 August-3 September 2010

Office of Surface Mining Forum
Protecting Threatened Bats at Coal Mines: A Technical Interactive Forum

The meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn, 400 Second Ave., South Charleston, West Virginia.

2-6 October 2010

The Wildlife Society
17th Annual Conference
Snowbird, Utah

The Wildlife Society Annual Conference takes place at the **Snowbird Conference Center** and the **Cliff Lodge**. Conference sessions, the trade show, working group meetings, and associated receptions will be held at these venues

17-20 October 2010

Annual Conference of the Southern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. (www.seafwa2010.org) The meeting will be held at the Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi, MS.

27-30 October 2010

The 40th Annual NASBAR will be held in Denver, Colorado. Please see www.nasbr.org for information

23-25 February 2011

2011 SBDN-MWBWG-NEBWG JOINT MEETING AND COLLOQUIUM
Louisville, KY

The 16th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, 2nd Joint Meeting with the Northeastern Bat Working Group, Midwest Bat Working Group and 21th Colloquium on Conservation Of Mammals in The Southeastern United States will be held at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in downtown Louisville, KY.



**Upset about your information being left out of
Nightwing News?**

**Did you have really neat stuff that should be in the
newsletter?**

If you are one of the people described above, and not sure what to do!

Send all your interesting bits to J.D. Wilhide
(jd_wilhide@cml.net)
and ask that it be put in the next newsletter!

I am currently accepting all types of interesting news
items for the next newsletter.

Nothing is too small if it is interesting to you, then we
would like to hear about it.

