

# Nightwing News

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

Volume 104, Number 2

Fall/Winter 2014

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Joy M. O'Keefe

### Letter from President

As December wanes, I am sure that many of you are wondering just what is in store for bats in the Southeast this winter. This fall, the **SBDN White-nose Syndrome Committee developed a poster using data from several southeastern states to summarize the effects of WNS on bats in our region.** This poster was presented at the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference in October 2014 (see poster in this newsletter). Though initial predictions were that the disease might be less severe in the Southeast, the data compiled by the WNS Committee show major declines in cave-hibernating bats in some Tennessee and Georgia caves during Winter '13-'14. The disease continued to spread west to new southern states this past winter, but I am hopeful that in 2015 we will find that a good number of our southern bat populations are resilient to the disease.

The 2015 North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting is right around the corner! **From 3-6 March 2015, SBDN will join with the Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals, the Midwest Bat Working Group, and the Western Bat Working Group for this three day meeting at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown St. Louis, Missouri.** The conference will focus on continental issues for bat conservation including recent policy changes, WNS, wind energy, and large-scale protocols for acoustic monitoring. The Call for Abstracts, Request for Sponsors, and Registration packet were just released via the SBDN listserv and you can find all of the details on the SBDN webpage ([www.sbdn.org](http://www.sbdn.org)). We hope you can join us for this meeting, which is likely to attract at least 300 bat biologists from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico.

The Joint Bat Working Group meeting will provide a forum for the newly formed steering committee of the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) to meet in person. At the Joint Meeting, NABCA, which includes representatives from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, will provide an update on the development of a strategic plan for establishing priorities for bat conservation across North America. The SBDN Executive Committee has designated the

President as the SBDN Representative to NABCA, so I will serve in this role until the March meeting. **How can you get involved in establishing priorities for bat conservation at the continental level?** If you are part of a state working group, please consider three questions in anticipation of the Joint Meeting: 1) What are the priority bat species in your state? 2) What are the priority habitats? 3) Can you identify priority projects for bat conservation in your state? You can also **join the North American Bat Conservation Alliance – NABCA Community on Facebook** to stay engaged in the process.

SBDN is already working at a regional level to understand species' distributions and activity patterns, as evidenced by our first ever multi-state Bat Blitz. **In September 2014, at least 20 blitz events were held across many states** (including some outside the Southeast). In some states, organizers made sure several sites were netted over multiple nights, and involved many volunteers to increase the impact of the event. Eastern red bats were in high numbers in most states, though southeastern *Myotis*, tricolored bats, and northern long-eared bats were abundant at sites in Arkansas. Thanks to Michael Whitby, SBDN Bat Blitz Committee member, for his efforts coordinating this event online! **The next SBDN Bat Blitz will be held 26–30 July 2015 in Beaufort and Jasper counties in coastal South Carolina.** The Blitz is being sponsored by the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy. Housing for the event will be at the University of South Carolina Beaufort's Hilton Head Gateway Campus in Bluffton, SC. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for more details.

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When you register for the 2015 meeting, **please be sure to update your membership to SBDN. Dues are only \$20 for professionals and \$10 for students.** Your membership dues help with basic functions of the organization, such as tax and website fees, but they also contribute to special costs for annual meetings (e.g., hosting plenary speakers and providing a buffer to keep meeting costs low). SBDN members can also donate their time to the organization, as many of you have done for MANY years. **Service to SBDN comes in many forms: consider joining a committee, being a student presentation judge at our annual meeting, hosting a meeting or a bat blitz, or serving on the Executive Committee.** Nominations for President-elect, Secretary, and Board Member-at-Large are open until 20 January 2015. Please email Past-President Mike Lacki (mlacki@uky.edu) to nominate another SBDN member for an Executive Committee position.

This will be my last newsletter address as SBDN President. I will pass the torch to President-Elect Brian Carver at the close of the March 2015 meeting. It has been a pleasure to serve in this capacity with SBDN and, although I'll be stepping down from this post, I look forward to many more years working with this very productive bat conservation organization. **SBDN is well-known for our dedication to bat conservation and awareness; as such, our organization will be a valuable contributor when establishing continental priorities.** I hope you will join me to give SBDN a voice as we begin this process at the North American Joint Bat Working Group meeting in March 2015.

Warm regards,

Joy

Joy M. O'Keefe  
joyokeefe@gmail.com

# Executive Committee Meeting

**Southeastern Bat Diversity Network  
Executive Committee  
Minutes of the Mid-Year Board Meeting (Via Conference Call)  
December 12, 2014**

## **Attendees**

### **Executive Committee**

Joy O'Keefe, President  
Brian Carver, President Elect  
Tim Carter, Treasurer

Piper Roby, Secretary  
Steve Samoray, Member at Large  
Mike Lacki, Past President

## **Action Items:**

**AI 1:** O'Keefe will ask the Awards Committee to provide a list of who received awards and when. Carter will compile financial records of awards. Both will provide to Roby to cross-reference and compile into a list.

**AI 2:** O'Keefe and Lacki will discuss before the March 2015 Joint Meeting about what information to present to the membership about the Federal Advisory Committee so the membership can decide whether to table committee or if someone wants to chair it.

**AI 3:** O'Keefe will follow up and discuss conducting the audit electronically. Carter will pull information together to assist O'Keefe.

**AI 4:** O'Keefe will discuss with Chris Comer about how to proceed with the Membership Committee and how to boost SBDN membership.

**AI 5:** Lacki will create a narrative for the website to inform land managers about the published CORA/MYAU Conservation Strategy document.

**AI 6:** Samoray will work with RunningDucks.com to rebuild the SBDN website, including working with the current webmaster to transfer the domain name.

**AI 7:** O'Keefe will contact Rob Mies about the President of SBDN sitting on the NABCA steering committee. She will fill that role until March when Carver assumes the role of President.

**AI 8:** O'Keefe will follow up with Joint Meeting hosts about the social at the museum for the 2015 Joint Meeting.

**AI 9:** Carver will compile information about the 2016 SBDN meeting to announce at the 2015 Joint Meeting in St. Louis.

Call to Order: 9:02am EST, President O'Keefe

## **February 2014 Executive Committee meeting action items:**

- Carter and Hines-2011 joint bat meeting write-up: Action Item tabled since there is information on the website.
- SBDN website has all programs up. Samoray will put photos and logos on site after rebuild.
- EC votes/decisions have been organized into an Excel file. **AI 1:** O'Keefe will ask the Awards Committee to provide a list of who received awards and when. Carter will compile financial records of awards. Both will provide to Roby to cross-reference and compile into a list.
- Vanessa Rojas is helping J.D. Wilhide with Nightwing Newsletter. Lacki will continue to review the newsletter before it is distributed.
- Carter provided a list of meeting attendees to Sybill Amelon as the 2015 SBDN meeting organizer.
- O'Keefe set the cutoff date of June 15<sup>th</sup> each year for the student award applications. Hope to drum up more nominees in the future.
- **AI 2:** O'Keefe and Lacki will discuss before the March 2015 Joint Meeting about what information to present to the membership about the Federal Advisory Committee so the membership can decide whether to table to committee or if someone wants to chair it.
- Tom Risch is still doing the audit. **AI 3:** O'Keefe will follow up and discuss conducting the audit electronically. Carter will pull information together to assist O'Keefe.

- O'Keefe will work with Samoray to get wording for Lifetime Achievement, Service, and ad hoc awards posted to SBDN website after rebuild.
- Roby emailed membership list to Chris Comer, Membership Committee Chair, but has seen no changes to membership levels. **AI 4:** O'Keefe will discuss with Chris Comer about how to proceed with the Membership Committee and how to boost SBDN membership.
- A link for the CORA/MYAU Conservation Strategy exists, but the Action Item of making this document widely available is tabled until after the website is updated. **AI 5:** Lacki will create a narrative for the website to inform land managers about the published CORA/MYAU Conservation Strategy document.
- O'Keefe requested that SBDN members send unpublished bat data to NatureServe for them to compile it.

#### **December 2014 Executive Committee meeting action items:**

- Committee Reports:

##### **-Bat Blitz Committee:**

The 2015 SBDN Bat Blitz will be held July 26 – 30, 2015. The blitz is sponsored by the Palmetto Bluff Conservancy and will be held in Beaufort and Jasper Counties in coastal South Carolina. Survey areas include Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge, Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Victoria Bluff Heritage Preserve, Honey Horn Plantation and Palmetto Bluff.

Housing for the 2015 Bat Blitz will be at the University of South Carolina Beaufort's Hilton Head Gateway Campus in Bluffton, SC.

Details on lodging can be found at [http://www.uscb.edu/campus\\_life/housing/palmetto\\_village\\_housing\\_-\\_hilton\\_head\\_gateway\\_campus.php](http://www.uscb.edu/campus_life/housing/palmetto_village_housing_-_hilton_head_gateway_campus.php)

Registration will open Spring 2015

2015 SC Blitz Committee Chair Contact:

MARY SOCCI, PhD

Crescent Communities

O: 843-706-6030 M: 843-422-3206

Netting will take place on private and public lands. Residents would like to know what bat species they have so they can engage in conservation practices.

##### **-WNS Committee:**

Emma Wilcox (assist. prof. at UT Knoxville) presented a poster compiled by the WNS committee at the SEAFWA (South East Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) meeting Oct. 19 - 22 in Destin, FL. Poster in Nightwing News. Committee may present poster at 2015 Joint Meeting.

- Treasurer's Report: There is a decent amount of money in the general account. Dues are a major source of our income. Tax preparation expenses are the primary annual expenditure. As of 12 December 2014, there were 107 paid members and 601 on the mailing list.

#### **New Business**

##### **-New host for SBDN website**

Received quotes from two companies. Final motion by Carter: Samoray to work with RunningDucks.com to get website rebuilt and hosted by them. SBDN will pay up to \$5000 for the rebuild plus \$10/month hosting. Any additional costs will require Executive Committee approval. Anticipate some nominal costs in the future for the addition of services to the website, e.g., shopping carts, PayPal options, etc. Motion was put to a vote. The motion passed (5-0-0). **AI 6:** Samoray to work with RunningDucks.com to rebuild SBDN website, including working with current webmaster to transfer the domain name.

##### **-SBDN representative on NABCA steering committee**

Email request came from Rob Mies (Exec. Director of Organization for Bat Conservation) who is the current interim coordinator for the North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) for SBDN to appoint a representative to serve on the continent-wide 10-person steering committee. The committee will be comprised of 1 government-appointed individual per country, 1 individual per US working group, 1 coordinator, 1 Mexican working group individual, and 1 Canadian working group individual. Representatives will provide feedback and ensure that all regional priorities are considered. Canada, Mexico, and the US will sign an MOU in March at the Joint Meeting to get continental support for bat projects. There was a poster at NASBR that outlined issues with bats and conservation concerns.

Some discussion about who should be the steering committee representative, but final decision is that the position would be filled by the sitting President of SBDN. Currently, O'Keefe will sit on that committee, but in March when Carver assumes the role of

President, he will sit on the NABCA steering committee. **AI 7:** O'Keefe will contact Rob Mies about the President of SBDN sitting on the NABCA steering committee. She will fill that role until March when Carver assumes the role of President.

-2015 Joint Meeting in St. Louis, MO: 3 – 6 March 2015. Meeting will be in the Crown Plaza Hotel (\$100/room). Meeting planning is progressing. The meeting committee has pulled together the meeting announcement, call for abstracts, and vendors, but awaiting final approval before distribution. **AI 8:** O'Keefe will follow up with Joint Meeting hosts about social at the museum for the 2015 Joint Meeting.

-2016 SBDN meeting in Guntersville, AL: Dates TBD. Holly LeGrand and Liz Burton from TVA are hosting the meeting held at Lake Guntersville State Park Lodge. Rooms are \$75/\$88 per night. Carver is assisting with deciding on how to use the facility's space, but things are progressing well. **AI 9:** Carver will compile information about the 2016 SBDN meeting to announce at the 2015 Joint Meeting in St. Louis.

#### -Elections process and status update

There are candidates for all positions, so there are no blanks. This is good but nominations will be considered through January 20th.

Motion to adjourn by O'Keefe, seconded by Lacki and Carver: passed unanimously  
10:01 am adjournment

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### **2014 Treasurers Report – December Executive Committee Meeting**

Respectfully submitted: 12/11/2014 – By Tim Carter – SBDN Treasurer

One of the major services that SBDN offers to the bat community is holding and dispersing money for various functions and groups. Annually our two largest events are the Bat Blitz, and the Annual Meeting and Colloquium.

Currently we have \$7,636.32 in our general operations account. Membership dues remain our primary source of operating income. The largest general expense of this year is having our taxes prepared (\$660). This will remain the case for the foreseeable future.

In 2014 we received \$33,942 and spent \$11,609. Most of that is from the 2015 Bat Blitz and 2014 Annual Meeting. As you can see from the amount of money moving through our bank account on behalf of various functions and groups we perform a valuable service to the bat community.

We currently have 107 paid members. We have 601 people subscribed to the SBDN mailing list.

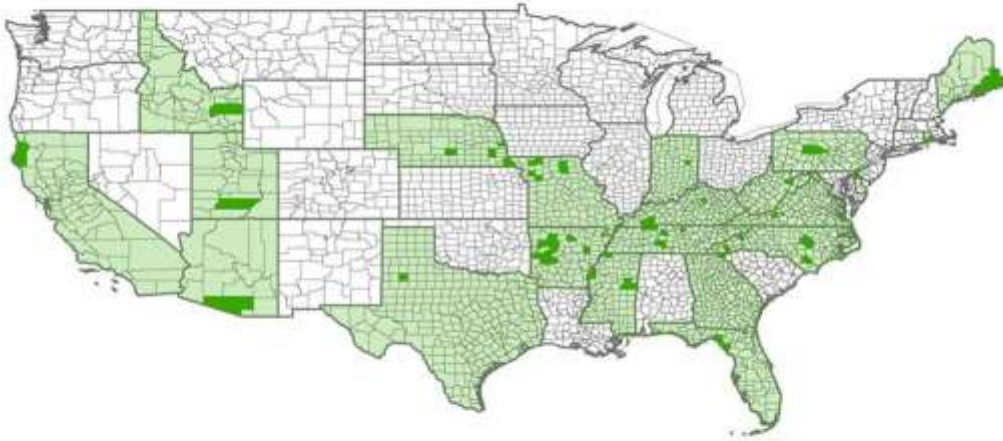
# BAT BLITZ

## 2014 Multi-State SBDN Bat Blitz

For the first time ever, SBDN organized a multi-state bat blitz and encouraged participation across the United States. A final count of sites and bats captured is still coming but there was great participation across the country. We look forward to pooling the results with the help of the USGS Bat Database.

### Multi State Bat Blitz 2014

Currently registered states and counties



32 'events', 19 States, over 375 people!

Register your event at <http://bit.ly/batblitz>.  
More information at: [http://sbdn.org/blitz\\_info.html](http://sbdn.org/blitz_info.html)

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### Mississippi Bat Working Group Participation in the 2014 SBDN Bat Blitz

Six locations were netted by MBWG members in conjunction with the 2014 SBDN Bat Blitz. These included sites in Bolivar, Carroll, Marshall, Oktibbeha, and Tunica counties in Mississippi and Boeuf Wildlife Management Area in Louisiana. A total of 25 bats were captured in 8 nights netting. Fourteen MBWG members and 18 non-members participated in the effort.



*Students look on as a MBWG member processes a southeastern Myotis. (Photo by K. Rosamond)*

of

# GEORGIA BAT BLITZ

## Bat Blitz 2014

The inaugural Georgia Bat Blitz, held September 4-7 at Black Rock Mountain State Park, was a great success! Almost 60 participants helped to sample 17 different sites over three nights. We caught 121 bats from six species: northern long-eared, eastern small-footed, eastern red, big brown, tri-colored, and hoary. Thanks to everyone who made this blitz a success!



*Team leader, Pete Pattavina, won the coveted "Most Bats Captured" Award for catching a total of 30 bats of four species. Photo by Trina Morris.*



*Bat Blitz participants collect data on an eastern red bat.  
Photo by Bailey Lane.*

# STATE WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Please see the Bat Blitz section for updates from the Alabama Bat Working Group.



## Summer Surveys

Blake Sasse

This summer Arkansas State University graduate student, Patrick Moore, under Dr. Tom Risch, used airplanes provided by the Civil Air Patrol to track female gray bats from two different maternity sites in the northern part of the state in order to determine home range and habitat use. Dr. Risch's lab has also been working at the Cache River National Wildlife Refuge in the Mississippi Delta region of eastern Arkansas.



Blake Sasse spent most of the fall doing surveys of concrete bridge guardrails in the Ozarks and Ouachitas. He found several colonies of eastern small-footed bats.

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When he returns from conducting summer Indiana bat surveys in other states, retired US Forest Service biologist David Saugey, will continue to identify bats submitted to the Arkansas Department of Health's rabies lab, as he has been doing since 1983. This long-term project has been instrumental in documenting county occurrences of just about every bat species in the state and has been used in numerous articles describing bat distribution and ecology in Arkansas.



They have also been tracking Southeastern bats and discovered a large maternity colony (pictured; photos by Nate Stephens).

Please submit your updates for the next newsletter in Spring 2015.



## Summer Surveys

Dottie Brown

For the 2014 summer survey season, Ecological Solutions completed twelve projects (95 nights) in Georgia and North Carolina. In addition, Ecological Solutions continued annual surveys for monitoring bat activity in the Chattahoochee National Forest



in Georgia and participated in the Georgia and North Carolina bat blitz. See Bat Blitz section for more details.

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## Georgia Bat Working Group Updates

Katrina Morris

### Anabat Routes

Anabat Routes were completed again this season by volunteers across the state ([georgiawildlife.com/AnabatProject](http://georgiawildlife.com/AnabatProject)). All the calls have been run through the call identification software program, Echoclass. Currently, Jackie Jeffery is working on reviewing and compiling results as well as quality control checks from the software results. This year's results should prove to be especially worthwhile because we are now able to create detailed maps from our call files.



*Anabat volunteer, Tim Dobbs, showing off a car-mounted Anabat Unit. Photo by Todd Bennett.*

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### Emergence Counts

We have recruited volunteers from around the state to help us monitor summer bat roosts. Volunteers who know of bat roosts in their home, personal bat boxes, bridges, mines, barns, or other structures, or in nearby trees or caves are asked to count bats as they emerge and to fill out a counting form. More information on this citizen science project can be found at [georgiawildlife.com/Bat-Roost-Monitoring](http://georgiawildlife.com/Bat-Roost-Monitoring). We greatly appreciate all the work our volunteers do to help support bat conservation in Georgia!



*A private bat-watching spot. Photo by Jim Veilleux*

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### GA Bat Working Group Meeting Announcement

The next meeting will be held at Gordon College in Barnesville, GA on December 16, 2014. Visit the GA Bat Working Group Webpage ([gabats.org](http://gabats.org)) for more information.

### TAG Fall Cave-In

We continue to prioritize education efforts related to WNS in Georgia. We attended the Fall TAG Cave-In again this past October. GA DNR and the GA Museum of Natural History had a booth at the event and passed out information about WNS and decontamination protocols. We also had crafts for kids related to bats and bat conservation. The booth always attracts attention and is an important way for us to spread the most current knowledge about bats and WNS in the southeast.



*GA DNR and GA Museum of Natural History booth at the Tag Fall Cave-In, GA. Photo by Trina Morris.*

## Record Breaking Exit Counts

Piper Roby

Copperhead Consulting had amazing success at Ft. Knox in north central Kentucky this year. Many of the artificial roosts (BrandenBark™) are being used by Indiana bats with hundreds of bats emerging each night. When the temperature dropped during the study in mid-July, we had 4 record breaking exit counts ranging from 389 – 475 bats exiting three different Indiana bat roosts, including 451 bats emerging from a BrandenBark™ roost. One of the natural roosts was a crack in the bole of a tree and the largest count was from a dead cottonwood tree. Radio-tracking reproductive Indiana bats also led us to many natural roosts, including to some in an area reconfirmed after it was first documented in 2000. We also collected foraging data for a few bats from the plane and from the ground. Data from the plane can be collected more consistently and likely has similar error associated with it compared to ground collected data.



*BrandenBark™ roost from which 451 bats emerged on 16 July 2014, Ft. Knox, Kentucky.*

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Please submit your updates for the next newsletter in Spring 2015.



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## Mississippi Bat Working Group Update

Becky Rosamond

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Bat Working Group held their annual meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. The meeting was well attended, with 33 participants, representing various agencies, organizations, and bat enthusiasts. In addition to receiving annual updates on cave and culvert surveys, acoustical monitoring, Indiana bat guidelines, and northern long-eared bat status, the group also enjoyed a presentation by Mike McDowell entitled “Bats in the attic? Recognizing the signs and advising the homeowner.” Additionally, Zac Roth provided a summary of his thesis work on several caves in southeast Mississippi and Rain Ketzler provided information on her thesis research investigating bat occupancy in managed forests in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. The various committees also provided updates on the status of current projects and awards were given in the following categories:

Research/Conservation Award: Zac Roth  
Service Award: Shea Staten and Stephanie Steele  
Education/Outreach Award: Kris Godwin  
Chester O. Martin Award: Kathy Shelton

### 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Mist Net Event

The Mississippi Bat Working Group (MBWG) held their eleventh annual mist net event July 29 – 31, 2014 at J.P. Coleman State Park in Iuka, Mississippi. The event kicked off with a potluck supper where participants enjoyed a variety of delicious foods. After a safety briefing, the group divided into four teams for the first night of netting.



On Wednesday, participants enjoyed a variety of activities in the local area, including hiking in nearby Tishomingo State Park and checking local bridges for roosts. Wednesday evening, after supper, the group again divided into four groups for a second night of netting.

In all, the group caught a total of 34 bats and a flying squirrel. The distinction of most bats caught was held by the team led by Kathy Shelton, who accounted for 17 of the 34 bats captured. Species captured included *Lasiurus borealis* (23), *Nycticeius humeralis* (1), *Perimyotis subflavus* (3), and *Myotis austroriparius* (7). Sixteen juvenile bats and 17 adult bats were captured (one bat escaped before being processed). The group followed the national protocol for handling bats to avoid spreading white-nose syndrome, wearing nitrile gloves, cleaning equipment between uses, and boiling nets between uses. No equipment was used that had previously been used in a white-nose positive state. Additionally, the wings of captured bats were examined for damage, using the “Wing-Damage Index” developed by Jonathan Reichard. No significant damage was observed.

In addition to mist-netting, Becky Rosamond and Kathy Shelton set out two Anabat detectors over open water areas to passively sample areas too large to net. One detector was set-up outside our lodging, recording bats on Indian Creek. The other was in a backwater area, recording bats along Short Creek. Using both Bat Call Id software and EchoClass software, several possible recordings of gray bats were reported.



*Chester Martin sharing his knowledge. Photo by J. Ross.*



*Big brown bats under a bridge. Photo by B. Rosamond*

The group would like to thank the following individuals: sponsor Chester Martin; Kathy Shelton and Alison McCartney who helped with site selection; Deb Waz for handling on-site registration, Chester Martin, Alison McCartney, and Kathy Shelton who served as group leaders; J.P. Coleman State Park for accommodating our group, and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science for allowing a number of their education and outreach staff to participate. Thank you to everyone who attended – we wouldn't have these events without you!



*Amber Breland removing a red bat from the mist net.  
Photo by A. Clark*

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### **Update of Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat Roost – Seismography Building**



*Old seismography building.*

Since 2010, the Mississippi Bat Working Group has explored options to slow the deterioration of the old seismography building located on University of Mississippi property. The building hosts a maternity colony of Rafinesque's big-eared bats and has been in steady decline. In 2011, MBWG member Shea Staten began working with Eagle Scout William Rayburn to construct a bat tower adjacent to the building. The tower was completed in 2013 and female Rafinesque's big-eared bats with pups were documented using the tower this year.



*Collapsed ceiling in one of the old rooms.*



*Rafinesque's big-eared bats with pups in new tower.*



*Newly constructed tower; Eagle Scout William Rayburn.  
Photos by S. Staten*



### Outreach and Education

- Shea Staten continued his work with the bat house program, including working with TVA-Magnolia Company in Benton County to install bat cans on their properties, and monitoring known bat roosts in the vicinity of Sardis Lake.
- Kathy Shelton conducted a program on bats at the Crosby Arboretum in Picayune.

- Chester Martin provided an overview and update on the Mississippi Bat Working Group at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Chapter of The Wildlife Society.
- Shea Staten conducted several outreach activities speaking to groups at the Pontotoc library, the Oren Durna Museum in Tupelo, and the DeSoto County Greenways conservation camp.
- Becky Rosamond conducted several outreach activities pertaining to bats including a presentation at the Enid Fish Hatchery Visitor Center and two presentations to scout groups.
- Alison McCartney, Chester Martin, Mitzi Reed, and Zac Roth represented the Working Group at NatureFest at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science.
- Becky Rosamond represented the MBWG at the Choctaw Wildlife Festival on the Choctaw Reservation near Philadelphia.
- Alison McCartney represented the MBWG at the Trace Festival in Tupelo.
- Shea Staten represented the MBWG at the Eagle Festival at Lake Arkabutla.

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### Research

Kathy Shelton continued her work inventorying and monitoring bats in the state. Additionally, she received a grant to collect swab samples as part of the white-nose syndrome (WNS) surveillance. Unfortunately, as a result of her efforts we confirmed the presence of *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* in several roosts in the state. No bats showing symptoms of WNS have been reported yet. She will continue monitoring sites throughout the state in the upcoming year.

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### The One Billy Goat Gruff

Bat enthusiasts Shea Staten and Cody Jordan of the Mississippi Bat Working Group were conducting bridge and culvert surveys at the 740 Interchange in Tate County Mississippi when mistaken identities led to tragedy. (Apparently, the two look like trolls.)

Cody was inspecting the east head of the north bridge while Shea was inspecting the east head of the south bridge. Cody yelled across the pass to Shea, "Did you see that?"

Startled by Cody's yelling, Shea thought the worst thinking Cody was attacked by a drifter, and yelled back, "No, are you alright?"

Cody exclaimed, "A goat lunged at me from under the bridge!"

To which Shea replied "Get out of here! Are you serious?"

During their comical conversation about what had just occurred a loud screeching like the sound of brakes locking up on a vehicle could be heard followed by a *THUD!*

Both scrambled from underneath the bridges to find that the goat had leapt into traffic, meeting its demise! The vehicle

had apparently never slowed and was nowhere in sight. Fortunately, with the exception of the goat, everyone was fine.

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### Upcoming Annual Meeting

The next meeting of the Mississippi Bat Working Group will be held February 12, 2015 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Please contact the group at [msbats@hotmail.com](mailto:msbats@hotmail.com) for more information.

### Occupancy Modeling Research

Jason Layne

I am now sifting through copious amounts of acoustic call data collected during the second year of our occupancy modeling research. This project is being conducted throughout public lands within 21 counties of northern Missouri. We have 120 sample locations that were monitored a minimum of nine nights from late spring through fall using microphones at two different heights, 2-3 meters above ground and one atop a telescoping pole at 12 meters. Sampling for this project will continue throughout 2015.



*Telescoping pole outfitted with two microphones at varying heights.*

We mist-netted a number of these locations to confirm species identification of calls, and sampled six sites in conjunction with the multi-state SBDN bat blitz that occurred September 3 – 10. Thanks to those who volunteered their time and drove many miles to help collect data: Brett Andersen, Ryan Allen, Carme Ardito, Ellen Bledsoe, Sarah Bradley, Brian Copsey, Josh Flinn, Jessica Sewald, and Jeremy Van Deventer.

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### Mark Twain National Forest Megan York-Harris

This year the Mark Twain National Forest, Poplar Bluff Ranger District, focused their efforts in gathering additional information regarding use of roost trees by Northern long-eared bats. Two pregnant Northern long-eared bats were transmitted on May 26, 2014 and tracked for nine days. These individuals led us to 16 different roosts with a diversity of characteristics. All roosts were within approximately ½ mile of the trap site. Twelve trees were hardwood and four were pine, ranging from 11 to 28 inches in diameter. Fourteen of the trees had greater than 50% bark remaining, and most trees were situated on south-facing slopes. Fourteen of the trees were dead and two were live. One bat switched roosts every day during the tracking period, while the other bat used one tree for two days consecutively and switched roosts the remaining days. Unfortunately these females were transmitted too early during their pregnancy, and the primary maternity roost was not located.



*Banding a male Northern long-eared bat.*

We also monitored the Indiana bat maternity colony located in Wayne County, Missouri. The Mark Twain National Forest, Poplar Bluff Ranger District, teamed up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wappapello Lake Project, to locate new maternity roosts. A 26-inch dead Eastern cottonwood on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property was identified as the primary roost tree this year. This tree was within approximately 478 feet of a former roost identified in 2008. In

addition, a primary roost identified in 2011 was used once again this year. There is very little bark remaining on this tree and significantly fewer bats were using the tree. Exit counts conducted throughout the summer showed abandonment of the tree by September 17. Indiana bats in this vicinity continue to show high site fidelity and a preference for large Eastern cottonwoods. The maximum number of bats exiting the new primary trees was 195, demonstrating that, fortunately, this colony has not yet been decimated by white-nose syndrome.



*Newest Indiana bat maternity roost.*

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#### **Fort Bragg** Janice Patten

We conducted 2 nights of the 30 mile long mobile acoustic transect using Anabat. It has been done 2010-2012, skipped in 2013 due to sequestration issues, and resumed in 2014. Data analysis is in progress.

We have been collecting data to attempt to monitor the southeastern myotis population on Fort Bragg. We started in 2009 and I have a report for the data we collected that year. The data have been collected each August by setting out anabat detectors at 27 locations scattered across the installation. Data have been collected for 2010-2014 but analysis is in progress.

Mist net surveys have been conducted on the installation. The mist net surveys were conducted 2004 - 2009. Approximately 20 nights of surveying was conducted each year between May and October. As part of the survey, some bats were banded, and some radio telemetry work was done on southeastern myotis and Rafinesque's big-eared bats. Some of the buildings were also searched for signs of bat use. This year, we were able to conduct 10 nights of mist netting in June. We returned to some of the locations used in the past.

In addition to the Anabat call files collected, we have also been collecting call files using Peterson detectors with

Sonobat software. From 2004 -2009, we surveyed 6 transects each year from March to October. Each transect was 2 miles long with 5 listening points located approximately every 1/2 mile. At each listening point, a researcher would listen for 12 minutes and manually record as many calls as possible. The transects were occasionally changed so that the sample would cover a majority of the installation. A total of 17 transects was surveyed.

In 2010, we dropped the number of transects to four. We concentrated on the 4 transects that had high activity in the past and were near habitat that would support southeastern myotis and Rafinesque's big-eared bats. Data from 2010 - 2014 are still being analyzed.

We are expecting a large data report that will hopefully allow us to compare current results to the data we collected in the past.

We also had a volunteer observe some of our bat boxes at Fort Bragg, but there wasn't any evidence of bat use. It's likely that our boxes are poorly placed and need to be relocated.

Lisa Gatens and Mary Frazer collected sample swabs to test for WNS in February. We checked 7 structures and found bats in 3 of them, 9 Rafinesque's big-eared bats and 3 big brown bats. All but 2 of the big-eared bats were swabbed. They all looked healthy with no signs of fungus. The bats were in underground structures – a crawl space, a cistern and a basement. The results from the tests were all negative for WNS.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Updates from NC Department of Transportation** Mary Frazer

NCDOT contracted out several acoustic surveys for northern long-eared bats, mostly in western NC. There were no conclusive northern long-eared bat calls recorded. An acoustic survey adjacent to Croatan National Forest in eastern NC produced a few potential northern long-eared bat calls, but when mist-netting was conducted, none was captured.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **African Bat Conservation in Malawi**

Mary Frazer and Dottie Brown did some volunteer work with African Bat Conservation in Malawi. Ten species were captured and two more species were observed (slit-faced bats and a horseshoe bat roosting in the women's restroom at the camp where they stayed). Attached is a picture of a netting technique that was used successfully to capture bats - just wave a single-high net on the dock and the bats will fly in! (This technique is not especially safe after dark due to lurking crocodiles.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## Virginia Big-eared Bats

Joey Weber

Joey Weber, a M.S. student at Indiana State University, finished his second field season studying the ecology of Virginia big-eared bats at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. In 2014, Joey and 3 technicians (Greta Schmidt, Alyssa Roddy, and Bronson Curry), with help from Copperhead Environmental Consulting, transmitted 23 female bats and tracked them to a maternity roost found in 2013 and to several new secondary roosts. They also used radio-telemetry to document foraging areas. The only field work that remains on the study is to retrieve temperature data loggers at a few of the roost sites Joey and his team discovered over the past 2 years.



*Bronson Curry examines the wing condition of a Virginia big-eared bat before applying a radio-transmitter at Grandfather Mountain in North Carolina.*

## Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge

Richard Stark

Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge (located in the Ozark Highlands of northeastern Oklahoma) hosted a meeting of the Oklahoma Bat Coordinating Team and conducted a bat identification and survey techniques workshop during August 2014. The meeting/workshop was attended by about 20 participants including biologists from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, staff of conservation organizations, consultants, professors from several local universities, and naturalists from state parks in northeastern Oklahoma. The bat identification workshop followed tips for identification found in the Bats of Oklahoma Field Guide (produced by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation) paired with museum specimens and a PowerPoint presentation to improve bat identification in the field. Several field techniques to monitor and identify bats were demonstrated at night including the use of thermal



cameras and night vision equipment, acoustic bat detectors, and mist-nets.



Brian Fuller (Fellow, Ozark Plateau NWR) discusses the use of acoustic bat detectors with Elizabeth Burba (bat researcher/consultant) and Melissa Shackford (The Nature Conservancy) at the Bat Identification and Survey Techniques Workshop at Ozark Plateau NWR.

Please submit your updates for the next newsletter in Spring 2015.



## Tennessee Bat Working Group

Steve Samoray

The 2014 TNBWG annual meeting at Fall Creek Falls State Park was another huge success! We had over 80 participants this year (a new record!) with folks coming in from Kentucky, Alabama, Indiana, and Georgia, and posters from as far away as Pennsylvania. As always the presentations and posters were great, you can view the full 2014 Agenda on our website at [tnbwg.org](http://tnbwg.org).



The working group elected two new board members (John Lamb and Riley Bernard), a new secretary (Cory Holliday), and a new chairperson (Josh Campbell). A new mini-documentary produced by Copperhead Consulting and TVA was also presented during our first annual "cake social." A link to the video can be found on the TNBWG website.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Copperhead Environmental Consulting, Inc Updates** Piper Roby

### *Indiana bat spring migration*

We tracked 3 spring migrating female Indiana bats from two caves in two counties in TN this year, one in White County and one in Hickman County. One bat from Hickman County migrated 77 km NW to a previously unknown colony near the Big Sandy WMA in Benton and Henry counties. The other from Hickman County migrated 241 km north to Henderson County, KY to a colony discovered in the 1980s. The one bat radio-tagged from White County migrated 224 km south to a colony in the Talladega National Forest in Cleburne County, AL that we discovered in 2012.



*Training day before spring migration tracking of Indiana bats.*



*Indiana bat radio-tagged from a cave in Hickman County, TN.*



*Three planes used for tracking spring migrating Indiana bats: the Pterodactyl, TWRA, and the Echolocator.*

### *Tracking northern long-eared bats*

We were contracted by Arnold Air Force Base in central TN to catch and track adult female and/or any juvenile northern long-eared bats this summer. We radio-tagged 6 bats (5

Adults female, 1 Juvenile male), found 15 roosts and collected foraging data from the plane. Bats appeared to forage in different areas on different nights depending on their reproductive status. We documented the birth of one juvenile by catching a pregnant female on 11 June and then catching her again, pup attached with an intact umbilical cord on 12 June. Barely volant juveniles were also observed exiting roosts on 9 June and 15 June.



*Adult female northern long-eared bat in a tree cavity roost.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Bat Surveys in Cherokee National Forest** Vanessa Rojas

Vanessa Rojas, Ph.D. student at Indiana State University in Dr. Joy O'Keefe's Lab, conducted her second field season in the northern districts of the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) in northeast Tennessee during May – July 2014. She and her crew surveyed 23 sites with mist net and acoustics. They also added 9 driving acoustic transects to their surveys. They captured 8 different species and tracked 4 Northern long-eared bats to their summer roost trees. Vanessa's field research will continue in 2015.



*Becca O'Brien (left) and Julia Hoeh (right) trim fur samples from a bat captured in the Cherokee National Forest, TN.*



*Alexis Bender (left) and Vanessa Rojas (right) set up an Anabat device for passive acoustic monitoring at one of their sites in the Cherokee National Forest, TN. Photo courtesy of ISU Media.*

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Bat Surveys in Great Smokey Mountains National Forest** Joy O'Keefe

In summer 2014, Indiana State University, the USFS Southern Research Station, and the National Park Service conducted a study on the distribution and roosting ecology of bats across the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We captured 12 bat species, including a Seminole bat and a new Indiana bat site locality in Cataloochee Valley. Unfortunately, our summer capture rates suggest there have been major declines in the northern long-eared bat, little brown bat, and Indiana bat populations in this Park. We also tracked northern long-eared bats and Indiana bats to tree roosts in the Park to gather data on roost habitat preferences and roosting behaviors. We hope to continue this work in 2015 to further document the changes to the Park's bat population in the wake of the white-nose syndrome epidemic.



ISU researchers Piper Kimpel and Zack Fry work to extract a bat from the net at a site near Smokemont in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

#### **Bats in Bottomland Hardwood Forests**

Lorraine Ketzler



We wrapped up our second season of surveys on forest-dwelling bats in bottomland hardwood forests of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Our project is out of Stephen F. Austin State University, under the advisement of Dr. Christopher Comer, with funding provided by the USFWS. Our field season was May-August 2014. We used Peterson D500X acoustic recording devices to survey for bat species occupancy in forests silviculturally treated for desired forest conditions for wildlife. Sites included Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas. We plan to present at the 2015 meeting in St. Louis, and at the 2015 Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society's annual meeting in Corpus Christi.



*Lorraine Ketzler removing insect samples from a bug trap.*



*Lorraine Ketzler after acoustic device deployment.*

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Please submit your updates for the next newsletter in Spring 2015.




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Please submit your updates for the next newsletter in Spring 2015.



## Submit Your State Updates!

Thank you to everyone that submitted your updates and photos. It's great to see all of the amazing bat work happening in the area. For those regions that didn't contribute this year we look forward to hearing from you for next year's state reports.

Send in your reports and photos anytime from the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Send photos and summaries to [nightwingnews@gmail.com](mailto:nightwingnews@gmail.com)

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

## SBDN STUDENT TRAVEL AWARD

The SBDN Student Travel Award of up to US\$500 is intended to help send a student to the North American Symposium on Bat Research (NASBR) meeting. The student must be an undergraduate or graduate student conducting research involving bats. Preference is given to students who are enrolled in a university or college within the Southeastern United States, particularly those doing research in the Southeastern US. The award is announced in the spring of each year with a deadline for applications generally falling during the summer (dates vary based on the due date for NASBR abstracts). Details can be found at [sbdn.org/student\\_award\\_program](http://sbdn.org/student_award_program). To apply, contact Stephen Burnett ([sburnett@clayton.edu](mailto:sburnett@clayton.edu)).



*Joey Weber uses radio telemetry to track a Virginia big-eared bat to his roost in the North Carolina.  
Photo courtesy of Indiana State University Media Services*

Joey Weber received the 2014 SBDN Student Travel Award to help him attend the annual North American Symposium on Bat Research (NASBR) meeting in Albany, NY. At the meeting he gave an oral presentation on the spring time roosting ecology of the federally endangered Virginia big-eared bat in North Carolina, part of his Master's study at Indiana State University. He presented data on the population's primary maternity roost and several secondary roosts, including Virginia big-eared bat roosts in Tennessee. Location and roost characteristic data collected during the study should help protect and conserve the North Carolina population of Virginia big-eared bats.

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## SBDN SERVICE AWARD

**Purpose:** To recognize outstanding service and contributions to the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network.

**Nomination Procedure:** The SBDN awards committee will call for nominations in September or October of each year through the SBDN mailing list. Nominations will be submitted to the committee by December 1. Nominations can be submitted by any SBDN member, including members of the Executive Committee and the Awards Committee. Nominations will consist of a letter that describes the nominee's service to SBDN. The committee will review the nominations and evaluate them based on significance of the contributions to SBDN. One name will be forwarded to the SBDN Executive Committee for final approval by January 1. If no worthy nominees have been submitted for consideration, no name will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

**Award Process:** The awardee will be announced at the SBDN annual meeting, usually held in February. A plaque will be presented to the awardee by the previous recipient or the SBDN president. The Awards committee will be responsible for obtaining the plaque and funds will be provided by SBDN. A copy of the nomination letter and pictures of the award presentation will be deposited in the SBDN archive.

## **SBDN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

**Purpose:** To recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the conservation of southeastern bats through research, education, or management efforts. The intent of this award is to recognize more senior individuals who have amassed a variety of accomplishments throughout their careers. The award is SBDN's highest honor. The award may not be given every year.

**Nomination Procedure:** The SBDN awards committee will call for nominations in September or October of each year through the SBDN mailing list. Nominations can be submitted by any SBDN member, including members of the Executive Committee and the Awards Committee. Nominations will be submitted to the committee by December 1. Nominations will consist of: 1) a letter that describes the nominee's accomplishments and how they have impacted bat conservation in the southeast, and 2) the nominee's Curriculum Vitae. The committee will review the nominations and evaluate them based on the totality of the accomplishments and their impact on bat conservation and/or our understanding of bat ecology. The committee will forward one name to the SBDN Executive Committee for final approval by January 1. If no worthy nominees have been submitted for consideration, no name will be forwarded to the Executive Committee.

**Award Process:** The awardee will be announced at the SBDN annual meeting, usually held in February. A plaque will be presented to the awardee by the previous recipient or the SBDN president. The Awards committee will be responsible for obtaining the plaque and funds will be provided by SBDN. A copy of the nomination letter, the awardees' CV, and pictures of the award presentation will be deposited in the SBDN archive.

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# Bats and Pools Survey

## Take the Bats and Pools Survey

*Undergraduate student, Zachary Nickerson, under the advisement of Dr. Joy O'Keefe at Indiana State University is conducting a survey on bats and pools across the United States and Canada. He is looking for more responses so please see below for more details.*

Whether you own, manage, or regularly use a swimming pool, we are interested in hearing from you. Do you see bats at your pool? If your answer is yes, please take the survey and tell us more about your observations. If you don't see bats, we still want you to take the survey so we can learn more about the pools that bats don't seem to use.

With the data from this survey, we will have a better understanding of where bats use pools and how to manage pools to minimize the chances that a bat will drown when they swoop down to take a drink. Data from the first run of the survey in 2013 indicate that bats are using swimming pools across much of the United States. From 314 responses, we found that bats were observed at 78% of pools. We are hoping to gather data from at least 700 more pool owners and managers this year. We need your help to reach this goal.

Please visit [batsandpools.wordpress.com](http://batsandpools.wordpress.com) for more information and to take the survey.



# Items of Interest

After about 14 years of being SBDN webmaster, Aleida, is retiring as webmaster although she may stay on, for a short period of time, as system admin. Around 2000, Aleida launched the first solo SBDN website at the request of Mary Kay Clark, SBDN president at the time. Later, at the request of Tim Carter, she set up the online membership and mail forms and set up the ability of online payment via Paypal. Aleida officially resigned as webmaster 2 years ago with an effective date of 2015. The effective date was set so as to allow Steve Samoray, the incoming webmaster, time to prepare a new site for the SBDN membership and to get ready to become sole webmaster. So keep an eye out in the next few months for the unveiling of the new SBDN home on the web!

## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT INSTALLED A BAT CONDO AT HAMMEL WOODS LOCATED IN SHOREWOOD, ILLINOIS



9-14 Forest Preserve District of Will County, Interpretive Sign, "BAT CONDOS" Panel #1, Panel Size 24"x36", ©2014 Pulse Designs, Inc. 708-895-1100

The funding for this project was paid in part by a Small Wildlife Preservation Grant from The Illinois Department of Natural Resources. An interpretive sign (see above) will also be installed.

Every summer a big brown bat maternity colony (50-100 bats) returns to the Shorewood Shelter (built by the CCC in the 1930's) from their winter hibernaculum most likely from WI. The shelter's current purpose is for picnickers to host picnics, and it turns out that the bats are flying out of the shelter during the day, annoyed or disturbed by the noise and smoke from grills etc.. The picnickers are also becoming less tolerant of the bat activity and the guano left behind; although our staff are very diligent about cleaning it up before all permitted picnickers.

The FPDWC would like to preserve the original design of the shelter as it has historic value. So the dilemma is how to safely remove the bats out of the shelter while still providing the bats with a happy and safe home, and picnickers with a bat free shelter. So the FPDWC hired a contractor to build and install a bat condo: it has been installed 75 ft north of the shelter, but the location should be more desirable to the bats; it receives full sunlight for the entire day so it will be warm (they prefer the warmth to raise the pups) and has a closed bottom so the pups can't fall out; and it is still very close to the river and near an open field full of insects (food source) during the summer months. The bat condo has easy access for bats but prevents most other species from getting in.

To discourage the bats from returning to the shelter, FPDWC is going to remove the wood slots on the side of the building and replace the tip of the roof with a screen, this will alter the temperature and air flow within the shelter making it cooler and less desirable when the bats return next spring.



We installed the bat condo in September when the bats are still at the shelter. They are very curious in the fall and will likely locate the shelter before they migrate to their winter hibernaculum. And, likely when they return next summer (usually by mid-July), they will be discouraged by the altered Shelter, with its new cooler, windy atmosphere and roost in the new perfectly placed and designed bat condo.



*John Chenger, Bryan Butler, Janet Tyburec, Kirk Silas and Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg.*

We will not know until next year if the plan will work but these bat condos have a very high success rate.

Details of the bat condo: the height is 16 ft., the legs are 10 ft high, and the bat condo dimensions are 4x4x6 ft<sup>2</sup>. The bats can land on the sides of the condos (roughened wood) and climb right in from the opened sides, and they can easily drop out of these sides as well.

Here are the links: <http://www.theherald-news.com/2014/09/18/forest-preserve-builds-bats-a-cozy-new-home/a7ost4r/> (2 pages so click next page)  
<http://thetimesweekly.com/news/2014/sep/19/bat-condo-installation-completed-hammel-woods/>  
[http://www.theherald-news.com/2014/09/18/bats-may-not-be-as-bad-as-rabies-news-portends/alg2geh/?\\_xsl=/print.xsl](http://www.theherald-news.com/2014/09/18/bats-may-not-be-as-bad-as-rabies-news-portends/alg2geh/?_xsl=/print.xsl)

Tim & Rob- Thanks for your help in helping me locate a bat house design and a company that builds and installs them.  
 Let's keep our fingers crossed all goes as planned.

Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg  
 Natural Resource- Land Manager  
 Forest Preserve District Of Will County  
[jarmstrong-ullberg@fpdwc.org](mailto:jarmstrong-ullberg@fpdwc.org)

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Brian Carter	Tennessee Technological University	<a href="mailto:bcarver@tntech.edu">bcarver@tntech.edu</a>

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Brian Carver		<a href="mailto:bcarver@fhu.edu">bcarver@fhu.edu</a>

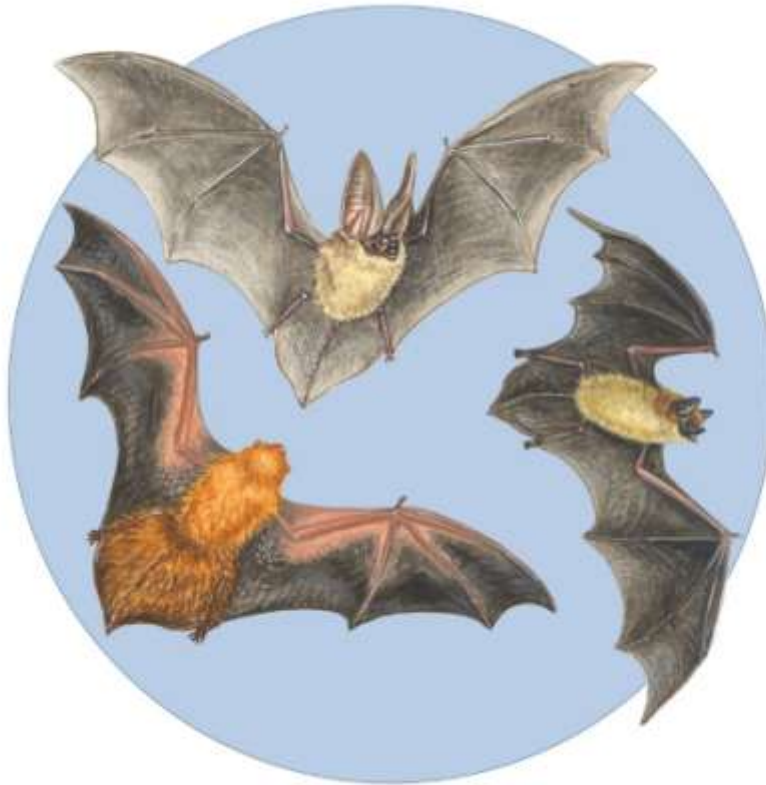
## UPCOMING MEETINGS

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### North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting

Midwest &  
Western Bat  
Working  
Groups

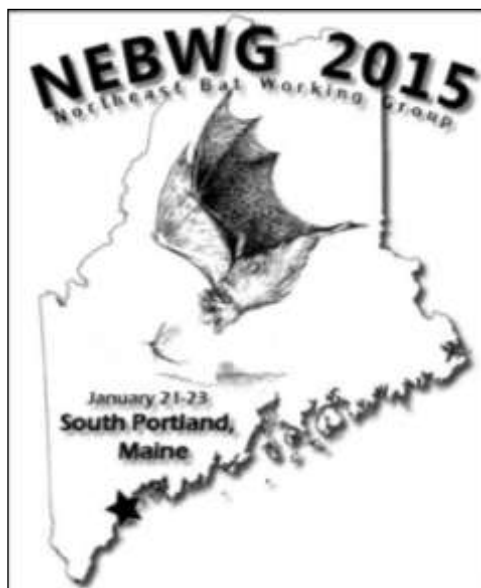
Southeastern  
Bat Diversity  
Network



**REGISTER  
NOW!**

Registration Deadline  
30 January 2014

Check [SBDN.org](http://SBDN.org)  
and Listservs for  
more information



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**95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists**

12 – 16 June 2015

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Jacksonville, Florida

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**22nd Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society**

Winnipeg, Manitoba

17 - 21 October 2015

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**45th North American Symposium of Bat Research**

Annual meeting

28 October – 1 November 2015

Monterey, California

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## EDITORS CLOSING COMMENTS



### **ANOTHER GREAT NEWSLETTER!!**



This was a transition year for the newsletter, with the Spring issue being devoted to the annual meeting and the Fall issue devoted to what is going on throughout the region. As always you came through even with your busy schedules and sent in your news items.

You guys are doing some really cool stuff!!

**Thank You! Thank You ! Thank You!**

Send all your interesting bits to our newsletter e-mail:  
NightwingNewsletter@gmail.com



From all of us to all of you:

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!**

