



Nightwing News



The Newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

Volume 102, Number 1

June 2012

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Submitted by Michael Lacki

The summer has begun and another field season is upon us. The winter of 2011-12 was most disconcerting for bats in the southeastern U.S. White-nose syndrome (WNS) continued its advance into our region as additional sites of infection were identified across Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina and Tennessee, along with Alabama joining the list of states with WNS-infected bat roosts. It would appear that the disease will continue to spread west, having now reached Iowa, and deeper into the southeast region, rendering current efforts to halt and understand the disease ever more pressing. The addition of the endangered gray bat to the list of species affected by WNS heightens concern, and calls for the immediate need of novel conservation measures. Our WNS Committee, chaired by Dr. Luke Dodd, is presently working with biologists of Bat Conservation International in preparing a poster for presentation at the forthcoming annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The poster is intended to educate and update attendees of the geographic advance of the disease and the effects of WNS on bats across the southeastern region.

The 2012 annual meeting in Louisville, Mississippi, was a big success. The hospitality of the staff at Lake Tiak O'Khata, as well as others from Mississippi, who contributed time and energy to putting on the meeting are most appreciated. The opportunity to visit Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and interact with employees of the USFWS regarding management issues on the refuge was most informative. SBDN continues to contribute in this endeavor via an ad-hoc committee targeting Bats on Federal Lands chaired by Dr. Jeff Gore. There were numerous excellent talks and posters at this past year's meeting, with student awards going to Daniel Schaefer (Best Poster), Scott Bergeson (Best Bat Presentation), and Joseph Johnson (Best Overall Presentation). My congratulations go out to all three individuals for the quality of their poster and presentations. Next year's annual meeting will be at Fall Creek State Park in Pikeville, Tennessee, with the dates set for 14-15 February, so pencil the dates onto your calendar. Dr. Brian Carver has graciously agreed to serve as our local host and I am confident that he will ensure another successful meeting. If anyone wishes to help out with the set up of the meeting or the planning of events, please do not hesitate to contact Brian (bcarver@ntech.edu).

This year's Bat Blitz was held in Apalachicola National Forest, Florida, from 20 to 24 May. This was the 11th year of the Blitz and this event continues to be one of the most long-standing and successful ventures of SBDN. This year 90

attendees representing 30 different professional organizations participated in the Blitz. My hats off to Trina Morris and all who helped make this year's event another huge success.

As you aware, last year SBDN was given an Outstanding Group Achievement Award by the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society. It turns out that recognition of our efforts continues. The Executive Committee has recently received notification that SBDN will be further recognized by The Wildlife Society at their annual meeting this fall in Portland, Oregon, with a Group Achievement Award. Recognition at a national level by such a highly-respected conservation organization, which by the way will be celebrating its 75th anniversary, attests to the success of SBDN and the collective efforts of the membership. Congratulations to all of you for what you have done on behalf of bat conservation in the southeastern U.S.

In closing, the transition to the new Executive Committee has moved along smoothly. Under the new structure many tasks are now being handled by committees, including new and standing committees, resulting in contributions to SBDN from many of you in the membership. I thank all members of the committees for their willingness to serve on behalf of SBDN. As always, should anyone wish to contact me for any reason, please do not hesitate to do so. I can be reached at mlacki@uky.edu. Best wishes to all for a fruitful and enjoyable summer.

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Board of Directors Meeting

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Executive Committee/ Board of Directors Regular Annual Meeting Minutes Louisville, Mississippi Feb 23, 2012

Attendees

Executive Board

Mike Lacki, President
Joy O'Keefe, President Elect
Darren Miller, Past President
Tim Carter, Treasurer
Bree McMurray, Secretary
Katrina Morris, Member at Large

Board of Directors

Tom Risch
Nikki Castleberry
Dennis Krusac

Mary Kay Clark-invited guest
Jeff Gore-invited guest

Not in attendance

Mike Baker

Action Items

AI 1: CARTER: Update the mission statement on letterhead, webpage, bylaws

AI 2: MILLER: Set up next Executive Committee meeting via teleconference around the last two weeks of Aug.

AI 3: LACKI: talk to Mylea Bayless(BCI) to find out final disposition of product of the CORA/MYAU Conservation Strategy document and how it will be funded.

AI 4: KRUSAC: provide spreadsheet of at least one Forest Service biologist in each state to add to the State Contacts list.

AI 5: LACKI/WILHIDE: A retraction of an incorrectly identified source published in the last edition of the Nightwing News will be issued in the next newsletter, as well as a statement about sending corrections, etc. to JD Wilhide (Editor) and President.

AI 6: RISCH/MORRIS/CASTLEBERRY: Lacki gave the lead for the SWG grant program support letter to Risch with a deadline March 31, 2012 to produce a letter. Morris and Castleberry will provide letter examples from other sources.

AI 7: LACKI: The Awards Committee will post all the clarified details for the various awards. Lacki will address with Stephen Burnett, Awards Committee Chair.

AI 8: O'KEEFE: We need to research the history of meeting locations and develop rotating blocks of states for hosting. The deadline for completing this item is by the Aug 2012 Executive Committee teleconference.

AI 9: KRUSAC: locate the Regional Conservation Strategy for *Myotis leibii*.

AI 10: CARTER/HINES: The 2011 meeting host needs to provide write-up from the 2011 joint meeting.

Call to Order: 8:08am, President Lacki

Lacki-

Officially transition today to full Executive Committee Structure –Risch, Castleberry, Baker, and Krusac will rotate off as Board Members after today.

2011 Aug Board of Directors meeting action items:

(see also list of many things completed)

- Carter-Mission statement:

The mission of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network is to conserve bats and their habitats in the southeastern United States by facilitating education, research, and management.

Motion to approve-O'Keefe, 2nd by Risch, call: all in favor-unanimous

AI 1: Update on letterhead, webpage, bylaws. We will check to see if we can vote on approval today at the bus. meeting—"changes approved by majority of membership"—Castleberry will do this at Business meeting.

- Lacki-Nominating and Election Committee: Carter has guidelines to pass on to committee, Miller accepted Chair position
- Morris-State Contact list complete, will forward to JD Wilhide for newsletter publication
- Carter-Kathy Dixon issue settled

2012 Agenda

- Ad-hoc Committee Bats on Fed Lands—lead by Jeff Gore and Darren Miller

Lacki drafted and got approval on letter from SBDN to former Noxubee NWR refuge manager. Lacki presented the history of the summit/Chuck Hunter notes from 2011-suggestion of committee (to handle issues for Rafs and possibly SE myotis). Jeff Gore agreed to be the chair and there are members on the committee—Jeff Gore + Piper Roby, Susan Loeb, Darren Miller, Joe Johnson. This committee was formed as an advisory committee to federal lands for this region (1-2 year tenure-current focus on NWR system in the SE). Goals include: developing guidelines, provide to refuge system, then discuss how to ensure/assist implementation.

- Ad-hoc Membership Committee—Co-chairs Chris Comer and Steven Castleberry—one task will be to revitalize the mammal colloquium participation

Carter reiterated the ongoing issue of “why be a member of SBDN?” Do we/how do we promote membership? This will also be a task of the Membership Committee.

- Carter-treasurer’s report-copy retained

--what to do with open accounts

2009 SBDN/Coll—Carter—move to student travel

2010 SBDN/Coll—Clark—move to surplus meeting funds

2011 Blitz—Clark—move to a surplus blitz funds

2011 SBDN/Joint/Coll—Carter—move to surplus meeting funds

2012 SBDN/Coll—Miller—move to surplus meeting funds

BEB bat symposium--?

NASBR 2006—Clark—send check to NASBR

2011 SBDN audit paperwork, Risch and McMurray will review

Group idea-look into reprinting hard copy of Symposium proceedings to provide to FED lands reps-Bats and Fed Lands Committee will look into this.

- Morris-Bat Blitz committee

May 20-24, 2012 in FL-Holly Ober and Jeff Gore

We are still working on finding a 2013 host. OH recently bowed out for next year, TN/KY no definite response on committing. Assignment: have several committee members track down potential hosts-possible use of excess blitz funds for travel for potential hosts to attend the FL Bat Blitz in 2012.

AI 2: Executive Committee mid-year teleconference meeting last two weeks of Aug will be set up by Miller.

- Lacki-CORA/MYAU Conservation Strategy

The goal is to get draft of final end of May 2012. Lacki chose final reviewers(4): Jeff Gore, Mary Kay Clark, Paul Leberg, Susan Loeb. He prefers also one representative each from federal and state sources. Suggestions include Blake Sasse and Dennis Krusac and Ben Wigley as Private Lands rep. Lacki will try to get draft to that group by July 1, returned by Sept 1, and still shoot for 2012 Publication. The question was raised as to who will publish this document. Will it be BCI? Our impression is that a printed document is the final product—that was the idea 6-7 years ago.

AI3: Lacki will talk to Mylea Bayless (BCI) to find out final disposition of product and how it will be funded. If printed, will co-authors share in that cost?

- Nightwing News: Issues with production were discussed. State reports are still an issue but we are hoping that the state contact list will help. Also, putting a deadline on submissions and sending two reminders. Call some of the states that have not sent in reports.

AI4: Krusac will provide spreadsheet of at least one FS biologist in each state as another contact for the state list.

Mary Kay Clark identified errors in last Nightwing News-how do we handle corrections? Possibly a statement about “questions, errors, comments please contact the editor and president”.

AI5: retraction will be published, “person incorrectly identified as source” AND add statement in newsletter about corrections, etc to be sent to JD Wilhite (Editor) and President

- Lacki—SWG grant program support letter has been delayed. Morris/Castleberry have letter examples from other sources on this issue to share.

AI6: Lacki gives lead for this item to Risch with a deadline March 31, 2012 to produce a letter.

- Rafinesque Big-eared Bat Working Group Update

Mary Kay Clark stated this is our 1st meeting since 2009: 3 original goals were to publish/provide older field data, provide management guidance, and a status update. Castleberry raised suggestion about possibly moving the RBWG meeting to Thursday morning (at the annual SBDN meeting time) before the SBDN business meeting. There was general agreement that this would not be a problem.

- Lacki—WNS Committee

There should be additional membership on committee and it is now restructured to be led by two co-chairs: Mike Baker and Luke Dodd.

- Lacki—Awards Committee- Stephen Burnett Chair

AI7: Awards Committee will post all the clarified details of the awards and eligibility. Lacki will address with Stephen Burnett. Student Awards have a new deadline for undergraduate and master's student consideration for presentation award: within 12 months of graduation. Clarification of eligibility for the different student awards will also be the responsibility of the Awards Committee.

- Future Meetings

There was general discussion about suggestions for identifying potential locations.

AI8: Research the history of meeting locations, develop rotating blocks, with a deadline to present this strategy by the Aug 2012 teleconference.

Carter will approach Chris Comer (TX) about hosting in 2013. Other suggestions included WV/VA and AL as possibilities for near future meetings. Miller suggested that IF we develop a Meeting Development Committee, it could consist of the past, current, future hosts as members plus an have the President Elect serve as the independent Chair of said committee.

*Motion: Create standing Meetings Committee, as detailed above
Seconded by Castleberry call: passed unanimously*

Other Business

--Miller stated that the Gulf Coastal Plain Landscape Conservation Cooperative asked SBDN and SE Parc to sit on advisory council, with the SBDN Representative invitee to be Darren Miller, at March 2012 meeting. The Executive Committee approved this action.

AI9: Krusac will locate Regional Conservation Strategy for Leibii

--Website – we need to be managing content on website (still need to run all the changes through Carter to give to webmaster).

AI10: 2011 meeting host needs to provide write-up from last year's joint meeting

Motion to adjourn by Risch, seconded by Krusac call: passed unanimously
11:11 am adjournment

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BAT BLITZ COMMITTEE

The 2012 Bat Blitz was held in Florida May 20-24th and was a great success. Progress has been made for future blitzes. Likely hosts are Oklahoma for 2013 and Louisiana for 2014. No proposals have been submitted yet but they are in progress. Preferably, the 2015 blitz would be in an eastern state affected by WNS. Possibly WV, VA, TN or KY. Each blitz committee member has been assigned two states to contact for potential blitz hosts.

DATABASE COMMITTEE

The database committee is continuing to work on 2 tasks. With the current release of Microsoft Access the previous version of the database no longer worked. We are adapting the database to an excel format that allows us to overcome many of the issues that the new release has brought up. 2) We are additionally investigating the possibility of developing a web-based database that would allow people to enter data directly into a web interface. This would eliminate the extensive data management effort required to incorporate new datasets into the master database.

WHITE-NOSE COMMITTEE

A summary of the standing WNS committee's activities are brief... The WNS Committee has been reformed. Members serving include: Mike Baker (KY), Brian Carter (TN), Luke Dodd (KY), Gabrielle Graeter (NC), James Kiser (KY), Evan Pankuk (AR), Tom Risch (AR). The WNS Committee is collaborating with Bat Conservation International in preparation of a jointly-presented poster for the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). The WNS committee discussed and aided in drafting an abstract for this poster.

Discussion regarding the content of this poster has progressed and a tentative plan has emerged to present data across various states that summarizes WNS effects on bat populations (comparing northern and southern states). Plans for acquiring these data are developing.

COMMITTEE ON BATS ON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES (ad hoc)

In November 2011, SBDN participated in a Summit to discuss the issue of balancing habitat management for birds with habitat needs of Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat and Southeastern Myotis at Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge and other refuges across the southeast. During that meeting, SBDN was asked by the USFWS to create an ad hoc committee of SBDN members with expertise on these bat species to provide input to the USFWS and the refuge system regarding future

habitat management activities on the refuge system that may affect bats, particularly Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat and Southeastern Myotis. On January 11, 2012 President Lacki created the current ad hoc committee to work with USFWS on this issue. Members of the committee are Jeff Gore (Chair), Joe Johnson, Susan Loeb, Darren Miller, and Piper Roby.

The committee convened by phone in February to discuss goals and plans and subsequently met briefly at the SBDN annual meeting in Mississippi. Immediately following the SBDN meeting, four members of the committee toured Noxubee NWR with USFWS to better understand the issues of concern and to get a firsthand look at sites that had been managed for Desired Forest Conditions (desired for birds) and sites proposed for management. The committee plans to use an upcoming review document by Mike Lacki on Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat and Southeastern Myotis as a basis for compiling recommendations to USFWS on habitat management. In the interim, Susan Loeb has offered to mail copies of the Proceedings of the Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat Symposium to USFWS.

Prepared by Jeff Gore

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

No report.

BAT BLITZ

11th Annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Bat Blitz Apalachicola National Forest region 20-24 May, 2012



Ninety wildlife biologists, managers, educators, students, and others interested in bats volunteered their time to conduct a landscape-scale survey of bat activity in and around the Apalachicola National Forest during the 11th annual SBDN Bat Blitz. Sixty-four of these individuals were registered Bat Blitz participants, and 26 additional local agency folks participated in capacities such as escorts of survey teams to survey sites, as educators during the outreach event, or as contacts with local media.

Participants represented ~30 agencies and organizations, including state and federal agencies, private consulting companies, non-profit organizations, zoos, and universities. Participants came from 15 states, traveling from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Indiana.

Survey sites were located in a region of the Florida Panhandle that stretched ~80 km east to west, and ~65 km north to south. This region encompassed parts of Calhoun, Leon, Liberty, and Wakulla counties. During the Blitz, 31 sites were surveyed over the course of 3 nights; 9-11 sites were surveyed each night. Sites were located on federal, state, and private lands including Apalachicola National Forest, Joe Budd Wildlife Management Area, Torreya State Park, Wakulla Springs State Park, Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve (owned by TNC), and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.

We captured 245 bats during the three night Blitz, with an average of 91 bats per night, and 8 bats per site. The maximum number of bats caught at any one site was 57 (predominantly *Myotis austroriparius* near a bridge in Wakulla Springs State Park), followed by 42 (predominantly *Tadarida brasiliensis*, at a bridge functioning as a roost site in Apalachicola National Forest). Only 3 of the 31 sites sampled had zero capture success.



The 8 species we captured were *Corynorhinus rafinesquii*, *Eptesicus fuscus*, *Lasiurus borealis*, *Lasiurus seminolus*, *Myotis austroriparius*, *Nycticeius humeralis*, *Perimyotis subflavus*, and *Tadarida brasiliensis*. The most widespread species (those caught at the greatest number of sites) were LASE, NYHU, LABO, and MYAU. The remaining species, PESU, EPFU, TABR, and CORA, were relatively uncommon.

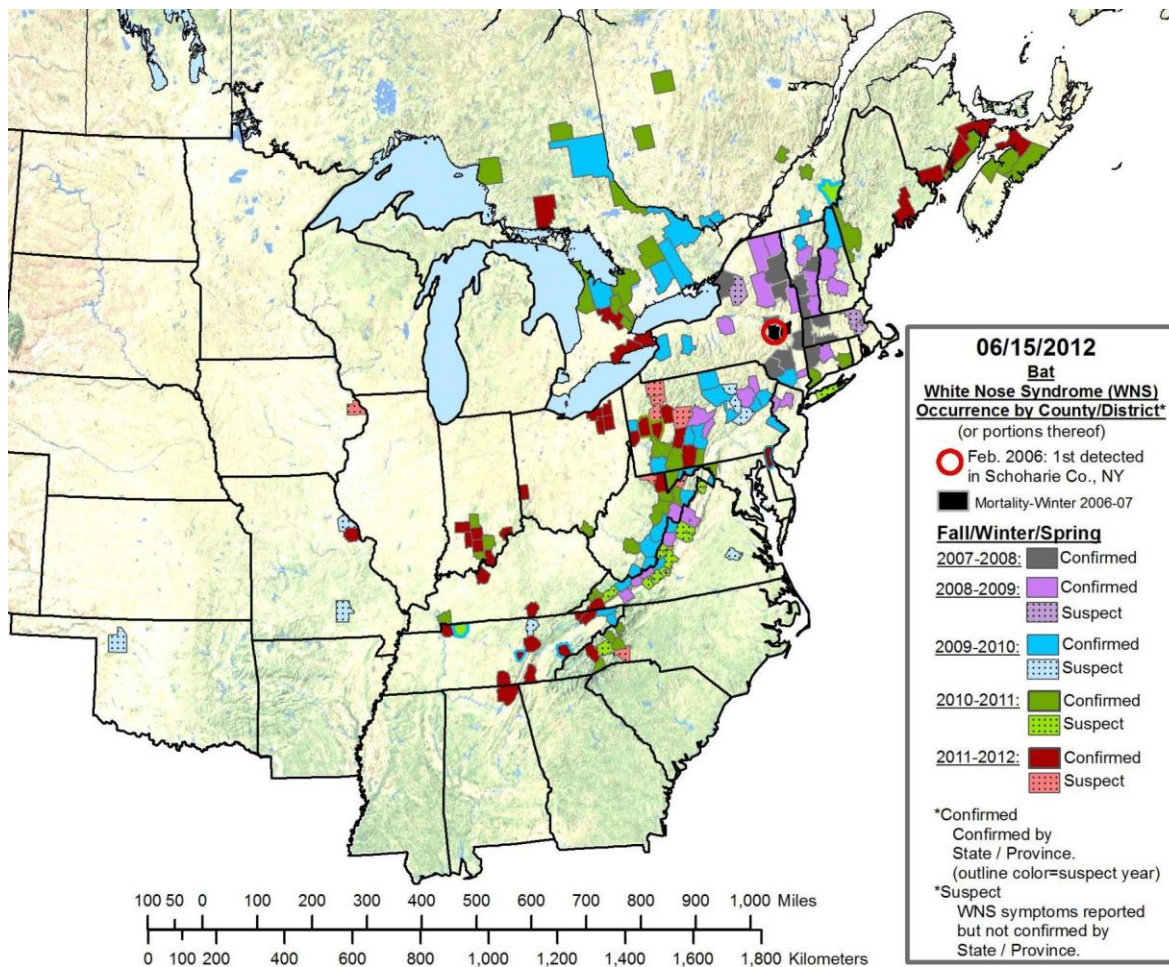
We detected no indication of white-nose syndrome among bats in the region. Using the official USFWS wing damage scoring index (which ranges from 0 indicating no wing damage to 3 indicating extensive wing damage), 238 individuals were assigned a wing damage index of 0, and the remaining 7 individuals received a score of 1 indicating very slight wing damage.

The outreach event, held at Wakulla Springs State Park on May 20, taught many local people about the biology of bats and conservation issues surrounding bats. Reporters went out with 4 survey teams on May 22 and 23, resulting in >10 news stories posted to websites and blogs in the weeks following the event.



The blitz was organized by members of the Florida Bat Working Group, led by Holly Ober (University of Florida) and Melissa Tucker (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission). The event was funded by over \$32,000 provided by numerous agencies, organizations, and vendors. Primary sponsors were the US Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In addition to providing the majority of the funding, the USFS played an indispensable role ensuring safety and facilitating communications during the event.

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



Map by: Cal Butchkoski, PA Game Commission

STATE WORKING GROUP REPORTS



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See a full report under the Bat Blitz section.

Blake Sasse
Nongame Mammal/Furbearer
Program Leader
Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission



This winter the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission was very active in sponsoring monitoring of cave bat population surveys. Ron Redman, a former student of Dr. Mick Harvey, focused on monitoring endangered bat populations. David Saugey, former SBDN Board Member and current member of the SBDN Bat Blitz Committee, was tasked with conducting initial bat surveys at dozens of caves on US Forest Service, National Park Service, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, and private property in order to find locations for ongoing monitoring of non-endangered hibernating bats, which historically have received little attention. Dr. Roger Perry, US Forest Service Southern Research Station, conducted surveys of mines on the Ouachita National Forest and also attempted some winter mist netting. Blake Sasse, AGFC, participated in some of these surveys and also placed White Nose Syndrome cave closure signs at caves on AGFC's McIlroy Madison County Wildlife Management Area. David Saugey and Blake Sasse also helped Dr. Winifred Frick of the University of California Santa Cruz by collecting swab samples from little brown and eastern pipistrelle bats for White Nose Syndrome detection at seven caves. The AGFC and Bat Conservation International placed an infrared bat-counting system at a gated Indiana bat hibernaculum in the late fall in order to gather information on winter bat activity, however, the datalogger and some other equipment failed in the early winter.

Winter 2012 WNS Monitoring

We completed surveys at all of the major GA hibernacula this year. We collected swabs of bats though no signs of WNS were seen. We also visited additional caves near areas affected in AL and TN.



**11th Annual Southeastern Bat
Diversity Network Bat Blitz
Apalachicola National Forest
region
20-24 May, 2012**



Ninety wildlife biologists, managers, educators, students, and others interested in bats volunteered their time to conduct a landscape-scale survey of bat activity in and around the Apalachicola National Forest



Nikki Castleberry swabbing a bat during WNS Cave Survey

Summer 2012 Interns & Grad Student

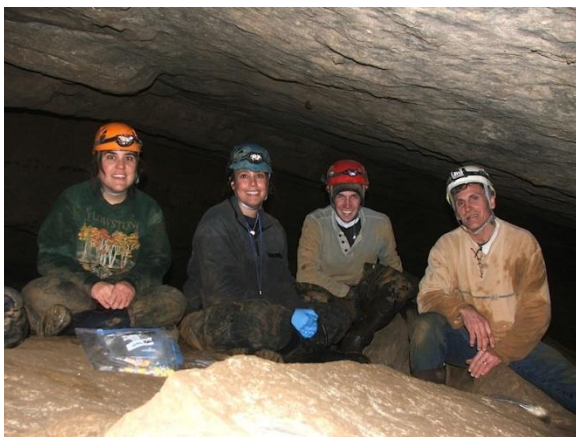
GA DNR hired two summer interns to assist with a yellow bat project on the coast of GA. Jackie Jeffrey and Bronson Curry are the interns helping Craig Bland, UGA grad student on a joint project between UGA and GA DNR. The project focuses on yellow bats, a GA Rare species. Information is being collected on roosting and foraging habitats on two barrier islands off the coast of GA.



Bat Interns Jackie Jeffrey (far Right) and Bronson Curry (second from right) educated UGA students during a mist-netting session on Sapelo Island, GA.

Anabat Routes

GA DNR has 31 Anabat routes set up across the state. For the last couple years the routes have been ground truth and some initial acoustic surveys have been completed. This year will be the first year of a volunteer effort in GA to complete routes in June and July. The website is almost completed and will soon be available here: <http://www.georgiawildlife.com/anabatproject>.



Sitton's Cave Survey team.
(L to R; Trina Morris, Nikki Castleberry, David Allen & Rick Lavender)

Indiana Bat

Georgia's first Indiana bat maternity roost was located this spring on Rich Mountain WMA in North Georgia. Staff from Copperhead Consulting tracked a female bat from a cave in middle TN to GA. Staff from GA DNR and USFS followed the bat to several roost trees before the transmitter failed. Work will continue this summer to try to track additional bats to roost sites in the area and learn more about this population.



Submitted By:

Trina Morris, Wildlife Biologist
Environmental Review Coordinator
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
Nongame Conservation Section





Mississippi Bat Working Group

10th Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Bat Working Group (MBWG) celebrated its 10-year anniversary at Lake Tiak O' Khata, MS, on 23 February 2012. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 17th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network. Chair Becky Rosamond presided over the meeting (attended by 24 members). Past-Chair Chester Martin initiated the program with an overview of activities and accomplishments over the past 10 years and presented the 2011 accomplishments report. Stephanie Steele gave the Secretary/Treasurer report and announced the availability a 10-year MBWG photo book that she had prepared especially for the group. Kathy Shelton gave a presentation on bat data collected at caves and culverts during 2010-11 as part of a state-sponsored grant. Becky Rosamond recapped the 2011 mist net event held at Grenada Lake and announced that the 2012 MBWG event will be held on the Chickasawhay Ranger District of the De Soto National Forest near Laurel, MS, in late July.

The remainder of the meeting consisted of committee reports, presentation of awards, election of officers and board members, and discussion of new business items. Current committees (with Chair/Co-chairs) include Mist Net Event/Annual Meeting Committee (Becky Rosamond), Bat Exclusion/Bat House Committee (Shea Staten and Dave Richardson), Public Outreach/Education Committee (Terri Jacobson and Deb Freeman), Awards Committee (Chester Martin), Bridge Replacement Committee (Stephanie Steele), Website Committee (Andrea Schuhmann and Joelle Carney), and Research/Cave Committee (Alison McCartney). Chester Martin presented MBWG awards in the following categories: Service Award (Becky Rosamond, Shea Staten, and Stephanie Steele); Research Award (Kathy Shelton, Jeanne Jones, Dave Richardson); Publication Award (Darren Miller); and Education and Outreach Award (Terri Jacobson, Deb Freeman, Alison McCartney). Dave Richardson presented Chester with a finely carved and polished walking stick on behalf of MBWG (old people need help getting around, you know). Newly elected officers were Chair (Becky Rosamond), Vice Chair (Kathy Shelton), and Secretary/Treasurer (Stephanie Steele); new board members were Shea Staten, Andrea Schuhmann, and Zac Roth).



Members additionally discussed the status of current activities and future direction for the group. Kris Godwin expressed concern over the numerous bat exclusion issues in the state and use of improper techniques by untrained personnel. Kathy Shelton encouraged members to continue collecting bridge and culvert data since 2012 is the last year of the grant. The group will continue to emphasize education and outreach programs presented to a variety of audiences throughout the state. Becky Rosamond announced that the MBWG was scheduled to participate in the NatureFest Program at The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science in Jackson on 14 April 2012, and that volunteers were needed to man our booth. Final comments were made regarding the many achievements and viability of the group and encouragement for continued success.

MBWG - Other Happenings

The MBWG sponsored a booth at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Annual NatureFest event in Jackson on 14 April 2012. Hundreds of school-age children and their parents visited the booth and learned about the importance of bats and need for managing their habitats in Mississippi.

An article titled "Bat Boys" was published in the March 2012 issue of Boys Life, official magazine of the Boy Scouts of America. The article featured the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and MBWG "Scouting for Bats" event held at Sardis Lake in north Mississippi in August 2011. The day-long program included interpretive activities at five stations where Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts learned about bat habitat and conservation.

The National Geographic three-piece mini-series titled "Wild Mississippi" aired on 12 February 2012. One of the segments consisted of footage taken in the vicinity of St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Natchez, and included scenes of the cistern-roosting colony of southeastern bats surveyed by Alison McCartney in 2001-2004.

Several articles based on MBWG activities appeared recently in local magazines and newspapers. An article titled "Bat Fans Seek Volunteers to Construct Bat Homes" was published in the 16 March 2012 edition of "The Oxford Eagle," and a Garden Club feature titled "Bats – Mother Nature's Natural Pest Control" was printed in the 17 March 2012 edition of "The Vicksburg Post." The latter article was based on a presentation given on March 5 by Chester Martin to the Warren County Master Gardeners Association, a major feature of which was a wall-to-wall display of bat T-shirts obtained during years of attending bat meetings (they'd never seen anything quite like that).

Shea Staten and Andrea Schuhmann have recently been successful in obtaining permission to make renovations to an old seismography building use by Rafinesque's big-eared bats as a maternity and wintering roost. An artificial roost will also be constructed near the site. Other ongoing projects include development of a state-wide bat house database; continued culvert, cave and bridge monitoring; preparation of bat-friendly bridge brochure, and development of routes for acoustical monitoring.

The final dates have been set for the 2012 mist net event. The event will be held on July 24-26 in the Chickasawhay Unit of

the DeSoto National Forest. Netting will take place on the evenings of the 24th and 25th and bridge surveys will be conducted during the day on the 25th. Sites examined will include bridges previously reported by Austin Trousdale to support Rafinesque's big-eared bat maternity colonies. The mist net committee is working on lodging arrangements, and details will be provided at a later date.

As a final note, we regret to announce that Terri Jacobson will soon be leaving Mississippi to take a position with the Red River National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana. Terri has been a leader in advocating bat conservation and management for the group and has conducted numerous education and outreach programs to school groups throughout the state. She will be sorely missed but will nevertheless be retained on the roles of the MBWG. We have no doubt that it will only be a matter of time before she establishes a bat working group for the state of Louisiana.

Submitted By:
Chester Martin



Kendrick Weeks
Mountain Wildlife Diversity
Supervisor
North Carolina Wildlife Resources
Commission



The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission conducted hibernacula surveys this winter which confirmed a newly infected site in a new county for WNS. Below is a summary of some of the results:

We revisited 2 sites (a mine in Avery Co. and a cave in McDowell Co.) that were confirmed positive for WNS in 2011. Also included are declines for a mine in Haywood Co. that was confirmed to be WNS positive this past February. The mine in Avery Co. and the mine in Haywood Co. have two of the largest known overwintering cave bat populations in North Carolina prior to WNS. Any averages presented are only from complete surveys of the sites prior to WNS. Declines are calculated from those averages for both the overall bat population at each site and for species at some sites. WNS+ species for each site are from bats that were submitted to SCWDS and tested positive for WNS.

Avery County Mine

- Confirmed WNS+ in 2011

- WNS+ species: *Myotis lucifugus*, *Myotis septentrionalis*, *Perimyotis subflavus*
- Bat population prior to WNS (and 1+ year after mine was gated in 2002) ranged from 870-940 bats (approx. 910 bats on average)
- In 2012, only 220 bats were counted, which is a 76% decline from the average
- 72% decline in *Perimyotis subflavus*
 - Prior to WNS, numbers ranged from 600 – 720 bats (approx. 650 bats on average)
- 93% decline in *Myotis*
 - Prior to WNS, numbers ranged from 190-320 bats (approx. 245 bats)

Haywood County Mine

- Confirmed WNS + in 2012
- WNS+ species: *Myotis lucifugus*, *Perimyotis subflavus*
- Bat population prior to WNS ranged from 3,500 – 4,000 bats (approx. 3,700 bats on average)
- In 2012, only 2,196 bats were counted, which is a 41% decline from the average
- 278 bats (12.7% of bats counted) were roosting at the entrance of the cave, with 104 bats roosting in areas exposed to sunlight
 - Saw multiple bats flying outside near the entrance; sky was clear, temp = 7.5 C
- 49% decline in *Perimyotis subflavus*
 - prior to WNS, numbers ranged from 3,000 – 3,600 bats, approx. 3,600 bats on average
 - 1,948 PESU counted in 2012
 - Of the PESU counted in 2012, 44% showed signs of WNS
- 75% decline in *Myotis lucifugus*
 - Prior to WNS, numbers ranged from 250-300 bats, approx. 280 bats on average
 - 72 MYLU counted in 2012
 - Of the MYLU counted in 2012, 87% showed signs of WNS
- 76% of *Myotis septentrionalis* showed signs of WNS (32 of 42 bats counted in 2012)
- 8% of *Myotis leibii* showed signs of WNS (4 of 49 bats counted in 2012)
 - This site has the largest known overwintering population of MYLE in the state

McDowell County Cave

- Confirmed WNS+ in 2011
- WNS+ species: *Myotis lucifugus*
- Typically all of the bats at this site are *Perimyotis subflavus*, occasionally there are *Myotis*
- Bat population prior to WNS was approx. 95 bats
- In 2012, 58 bats were counted, which is a 39% decline
- Multiple bats have been seen flying near the entrance during the daytime since January
- We surveyed 3 caves (caves not surveyed in 2011) located less than 1 mile from this site (all 3 caves are also in McDowell Co.)

- Approx. 43 – 57% of bats counted in these 3 caves had signs of WNS

Plans for summer monitoring include continuing to coordinate, train volunteers, and conduct the NC Bat Acoustic Monitoring Program, a citizen science project using Anabat detectors based upon Eric Britzke's and Carl Herzog's national protocol guidelines. The program was developed and implemented in 2011 and consists of 32 routes that are each 20 miles long in western North Carolina. Each route will be run twice from May 15-July 15. The program is a collaborative effort between the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Asheville Office), U.S. Forest Service (Nantahala National Forest and Pisgah National Forest), Bureau of Indian Affairs (Band of Eastern Cherokee Indians), and the National Park Service (Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park). For questions about the program please contact Corinne Diggins or Gabrielle Graeter (copied here).

There are additional plans this summer for monitoring some of the long-term netting sites identified in the North Carolina White Nose Syndrome Surveillance and Response Plan.

Joy O'Keefe
Assistant Professor
Department of Biology
Indiana State University

Kristina Hammond (M.S. student at Indiana State University) is studying the temperature regimes of day-roosting Indiana bats on the border of NC and TN in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Kristina is deploying Lotek dataloggers at roosts to measure temperatures of female Indiana bats in different reproductive conditions. She also plans to develop a predictive model to identify potentially suitable Indiana bat roost habitat in the region.



(Kristina Hammond listening for Indiana bats in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Swain County, NC).

Joy O'Keefe (Assistant Professor at Indiana State University) and Susan Loeb (Research Ecologist, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station) are studying the effects of prescribed fire on roosting habitat for Indiana bats in the



southern Appalachian Mountains. Joy and Susan are in the final stages of collecting data on roosts used by Indiana bats and measuring the effects of prescribed fire on snag availability and condition. This work is taking place on the border of NC and TN in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests.

(Eric Winters and Susan Loeb, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, installing temperature sensors in a prescribed burn plot in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Blount County, TN).



(Maternity roost for Indiana bats in a white pine snag on the Nantahala National Forest, Cherokee County, NC).





Joy O'Keefe
Assistant Professor
Department of Biology
Indiana State University



Tara Thomson (M.S. student at Indiana State University) and Jocelyn Karsk are conducting a study of the roosting ecology of eastern small-footed bats in the southern Appalachians. Tara is using PIT tags to document roosting associations for bats in bridges and radio telemetry to identify natural roost sites on the Cherokee (TN) and Nantahala National Forests (NC).



(Tara Thomson, left, and Jocelyn Karsk, right, capturing an eastern small-footed from a bridge in Graham County, NC).

In June 2012, students and staff from Indiana State University held an outreach program at the Tellico Ranger Station of the Cherokee National Forest to introduce the staff and their friends to the bats of Tellico Plains, TN. Captures included an evening bat, northern long-eared bats, and a tri-colored bat.



(Kristina Hammond, left, and Tara Thomson, right, showing a future bat biologist how to identify a northern long-eared bat in Tellico Plains, TN).



Paul Moosman
Assistant Professor of Biology
Virginia Military Institute



My students and I have been tracking small-footed bats in the Blue Ridge Mountains of VA. So far, we've had good luck encountering the species by identifying talus locations on maps and then placing our nets as close to them as possible. We've spent the last couple weeks radio-tracking a population using a large talus formation at Sherando Lake, in Augusta County, VA (shown in the photograph, with my undergrad student Molly Western in the foreground). We'll be attempting to locate more populations at other sites up and down the Blue Ridge for the remainder of the summer. The official goals of Molly's project are to examine body temperatures of male and females, assess microhabitats differences between sexes, and determine if particular roost characteristics correlate with any thermal characteristics we see.



Myotis leibii with transmitter.



Molly enjoying the view.

Acoustic Techniques and AnalookW
Analysis Courses

30 April – 3 May 2012



Presented By: Bat Sence and Bats R Us

Instructors: Kim Livengood, Cori Lausen and Chris Corben

The courses were hosted by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Both courses were well attended with some 20 participants representing ten different State and Federal agencies, as well as several environmental consultants from as far away as Texas. Students and Instructors recorded hundreds of bats calls from eight of the 14 species found in West Virginia. These call sequences included an Evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) which has not been captured in the state for over five years.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The 17th Annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Meeting and 22nd Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Eastern United States

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS:

Student Poster – **Daniel Schaefer, Indiana State Univ.** – “Acoustic surveys for vertical distribution of habitat use by bats in the Nantahala National Forest”

Best overall oral presentation – **Joseph Johnson, Univ. of Kentucky** – “Winter torpor and movements of *Corynorhinus rafinesquii* in Mammoth Cave National Park”

Best Bat Presentation – **Scott M. Bergeson, Ball State Univ.** – “Do little brown bats make effective surrogates for the endangered Indiana bat?”

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Items of Interest

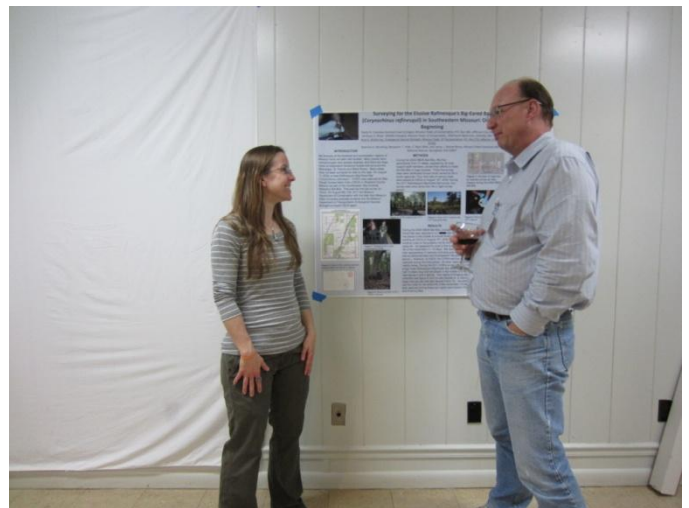
The 17th Annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Meeting and 22nd Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Eastern United States

The 17th Annual Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN; www.sbdn.org) Meeting and 22nd Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Eastern United States were held in Louisville, MS during February 23-25, 2012. The meeting was a rousing success. Meeting sponsors included Mississippi State University, College of Forest Resources; Mississippi Wildlife; Mississippi Wildlife Federation; Mississippi Chapter and Southeastern Section of the Wildlife Society; Titley Electronics; Weyerhaeuser Company; and Wildlife Acoustics. There were 124 registered attendees, including 40 students, from all across the region. The plenary session was entitled "Incorporating Bats into Regional Conservation Plans" and consisted of 5 invited speakers. Additionally, there were 14 student presentations, 8 professional presentations, and 11 posters.

Twenty-four meeting participants also attended a field trip to Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge on February 25. A silent auction raised over \$1,000 for the SBDN Student Travel Award program. Special thanks to the following individuals for their part in a successful meeting: Darren Miller (Meeting Host), Mississippi Bat Working Group (Silent Auction and T-Shirts), Becky Rosamond (Silent Auction and T-Shirts), Alison McCartney (Program Committee), Eric Britzke (Program Committee), Ray Iglay (Registration), Jeanne Jones (Field Trip Leader), Tim Carter (Registration/Treasurer), Nikki Castleberry (Student Awards), Katrina Morris (Student Awards), and Lake Tiak O'Khata (meeting venue).



Some of the silent action items.



Tom Risch visiting with Bree McMurray at poster session.



Chester Martin and David Saugey enjoying a cup of cheer.



See no evil (Jeanne Jones), Hear no evil (Nicole Hodges), and Speak no evil (Kathy Shelton).



Friendly faces from the local committee.



Panel discussion with -Henry Sansing, Jeanne Jones, Dan Twedt, Ed Arnett, Janet Ertel, and John Tirpak

Photos submitted by Darren Miller.



Mark Gumbert
Principal Biologist/CEO

We tracked Indiana bats as they migrated from a cave in TN. Interestingly the two that we followed flew south into AL and GA. When the bats stopped we did exit counts and had 34 bats exit out of the AL tree and 17 out of the GA tree. If they are both part of a maternity roost they are the first documented south of TN. As I understand it USFWS is considering them maternity colonies.

History of Mammal Colloquium and SBDN Meetings

Colloquium	SBDN	Year	Location	Host
23 rd	18 th	2013	Fall Creek Falls, TN	Brian Carver
22 nd	17 th	2012	Louisville, MS	Darren Miller
21 st	16 th	2011	Louisville, KY	Tim Carter & Brooke Hines
20 th	15 th	2010	Asheville, NC	Mary Kay Clark
19 th	14 th	2009	Jonesboro, AR	Tom Risch & Blake Sasse
18 th	13 th	2008	Blacksburg, VA	Michael St. Germain
17 th	12 th	2007	Destin, FL	Jeff Gore
16 th	11 th	2006	Chattanooga, TN	Tim Carter & Troy Best
15 th	10 th	2005	Paris Landing, TN	John Nelson
14 th	9 th	2004	Helen, GA	Steven Castleberry
13 th	8 th	2003	Mississippi State, MS	Darren Miller
12 th	7 th	2002	Clemson, SC	Susan Loeb
11 th	6 th	2001	Memphis, TN	Michael Kennedy
10	5 th	2000	Guntersville, AL	Troy Best
9 th	4 th	1999	Wytheville, VA	Rick Reynolds
8 th	3 rd	1998	Hot Springs, AR	David Saugey
7 th	2 nd	1997	Black Mountain, NC	Mary Kay Clark
6 th	1 st	1996	Somerset, KY	Mike Lacki
5 th		1995	Cookeville, TN	Michael Harvey
4 th		1994	Athens, GA	Joshua Laerm
3 rd		1993	Mountain View, AR	Gary Heidt & Rick McDaniel
2 nd		1992	Guntersville, AL	Troy Best
1 st		1991	Memphis, TN	Mike Kennedy

National Wildlife Refuges Begin Mobile Acoustical Bat Surveys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is initiating a large scale monitoring program for bats on at least 31 National Wildlife Refuges from Missouri south to Louisiana and across to North Carolina. The work is focused at long-term monitoring of common forest dwelling bats in 9 states. The effort will help establish an index of resident bat populations in advance of continued population declines attributable to white-nose syndrome. Annual mobile acoustical bat surveys (~20-30 miles each) will be repeated 2-3 times in June and July following similar methodology in the Northeast. The USFWS is working closely with Dr. Eric Britzke, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center, to ensure the data collected can be pooled with similar data sets to examine regional and landscape level changes of eastern bat populations. To prepare for the acoustical surveys, Service and partnering biologists from across the Southeast attended training workshops in April and May to become familiar with use of Anabat SD2 detectors and the protocol to capture and analyze bat echolocations using the mobile platform procedure. For many biologists, this provided a unique opportunity to come together to learn about these techniques. In conjunction with the long-term monitoring, refuges are also beginning to establish base line inventory of bats within various habitat types. Equipment for the monitoring was provided to each participating station through the recently established National Wildlife Refuge System Inventory and Monitoring Network.

Shawnee National Forest-US Fish and Wildlife Service Summer Bat Surveys on Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge

For the second year, wildlife biologists Rod McClanahan, Shawnee National Forest, and Megan Harris, Mark Twain National Forest, conducted Indiana bat mist net surveys for the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Cypress Creek NWR in southern Illinois. Mist net surveys conducted in the summer of 2011 documented two primary maternity roost trees used by an estimated at 100-150 bats. Netting was again conducted in early June of 2012 in the Bellrose area resulting in documentation of three primary maternity roost trees with an estimated 334 bats using primary and secondary roost trees. Evening exit counts found 217 bats emerge from one roost tree. By June 14th, as young became volant, the number of bats using this roost tree dropped to 117 bats.

Mist net surveys were also conducted in June 2012 in the Hickory Bottoms area Cypress Creek NWR. In two nights of mist netting six adult female Indiana bats were captured. Radio transmitters were attached to all six female bats which resulted in the documentation of two primary maternity roosts. Evening exit counts documented around 112 bats.

A total of 16 Indiana bats were captured in 7 nights of netting.

Six Rafinesque's big-eared bats were also captured, of which two were adult lactating females. A new Rafinesque's big-eared bat colony was documented using a barn on refuge property. Six southeastern myotis were also captured, in addition to numerous evening bats, red bats, northern long-eared myotis, little brown bats, tri-colored bats, and big brown bats.



In July and August, the Shawnee National Forest will be partnering for the second year with Dr. Tim Carter, Ball State University to expand inventory and monitoring of eastern small-footed bat maternity colonies on the Shawnee National Forest. In the summer of 2011, over 25 additional eastern small-footed bats were found roosting under rocks in open sandstone barrens on the east side of the Shawnee National Forest. In 2012, additional surveys will be conducted in suitable habitats on the west side of the Shawnee National Forest. Plans are to try to attach several radio transmitters to female eastern small-footed bats to attempt to develop more information on the selection of summer maternity roost sites and summer foraging habitat.

Submitted By: Rod D. McClanahan, Forest Wildlife Biologist
Shawnee National Forest

UPCOMING MEETINGS

23rd Mammal Colloquium and 18th SBDN Meeting

Fall Creek Falls, TN
14-15 February 2013

Hosted By: Brian Carver
Assistant Professor Of Biology
Tennessee Technological University

Make plans to join us at this beautiful location featuring the highest waterfall east of the Mississippi River.

Wildlife Society 19th Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society 19th Annual Conference is taking place in the Rose City of Portland, Oregon, October 13-18, 2012. The conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center

42nd North American Symposium of Bat Research
Annual meeting
October 24-27, 2012
Conrad San Juan Condado Plaza
San Juan, Puerto Rico

93rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists

Jun 14, 2013 - Jun 18, 2013

Philadelphia Marriott in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

11TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES BAT FESTIVAL

On September 29th the Organization for Bat Conservation will be hosting its 11th annual Great Lakes Bat Festival held at the Southfield Pavilion (25 minutes from Cranbrook Institute of Science).

The goal of the bat festival is to spread the message that bats are critical to ecosystems around the world and to encourage their protection. This year's festival is also a part of the international Year of the Bat celebration series. The United Nations Environment Programme declared 2012 the Year of the Bat around the world to promote awareness of bats and their habitats.

By partnering with the City of Southfield and opening the festival free of charge we are hoping to reach more than 5,000 people with our message of conservation. This year's bat festival will feature live bat programs, a live birds of prey exhibit, educational exhibits, bat-themed activities for kids, and presentations by bat experts from around the Great Lakes region. A great line-up of excellent guest speakers includes:

- Dr. Alan Kurta - Author and professor at Eastern Michigan University, presenting on Michigan Bats.
- Janell Cannon - Author and illustrator of the award winning book "Stellaluna" presenting on how to draw bats.
- Fiona Reid - Illustrator of many nature guides presenting on drawing bats for non-fiction.
- Gerry Carter - Bat researcher from the University of Maryland presenting on vampire bat behavior.
- Dr. Jennifer Vonk -Assistant professor at Oakland University presenting her research on bat behavior.

For more information:

<http://www.batconservation.org/drupal/bat-festival>

2012 is the International Year of the Bat
Rob Mies, Executive Director
Organization for Bat Conservation
@ Cranbrook Institute of Science
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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303
248-645-3232
www.batconservation.org

FROM THE EDITOR:

Let me start with offering a very heartfelt “**Thank You**” to all of you who stepped up and made this one of our best June Newsletters. You found the time and sent in many interesting items and photos.

“THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.”

On a different note; it has come to my attention that the last issue (Dec. 2011) had a few problems (errors). I have not heard from any of you directly, but this information has still made it way to me. That’s a good thing, I need to know if something was reported incorrectly, so I can make corrections as required. I’m saying all this to ask you to let me know if there is an error. If I need to make a correction, I will in the next issue. This is not me making excuses. It is my goal to put together a Newsletter that we can all be proud of, look forward to reading, and seeing our research and interests presented. So, please let me know if you see something that needs to be corrected.

I hope everyone has a very productive summer research season. I look forward to seeing what you have all been doing and what you have accomplished in the December issue. Yes, already working you for next issue. As always take good notes and be safe out there no matter what you are doing.

“Thank You!!”