



Nightwing News

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network

Volume 103, Number 1

June 2013

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Thanks for taking the time to read the June 2013 newsletter of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network. Bats continue to garner more and more attention in popular and scientific news, which means that maintaining a network of professional bat biologists in the Southeast is more important than ever. Great news as of April 2013: federal employees can now serve in professional societies without worrying about violating federal statutes! Whether or not you are a federal employee, we can always use your help on one of the standing committees or on the Executive Committee of SBDN. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in serving; I will be glad to put you in touch with a committee chair! SBDN is also looking for ways to grow our membership. If you are not already a member, please contact Tim Carter (tcarter@bsu.edu) to join our organization. We are now in touch with members and friends on Facebook (search for The Southeastern Bat Diversity Network to like us!).

In February 2013, President-elect Brian Carver hosted the 18th annual meeting of SBDN and the 23rd annual Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals in the Southeastern U.S. This meeting was a great success, with 205 attendees from 20 states and 55 presentations and posters. Awards were given to Hannah Blair (Best Poster), Kristina Hammond (Best Bat Paper), and Angie Larsen (Best Overall Paper). On the morning of the SBDN meeting, we also held a meeting of the Big-eared Bat Working Group and the first ever meeting of the *Myotis leibii* Working Group. More information on the meeting and the working groups can be found on our webpage: www.sbdn.org.

In keeping with our mission to conserve bats and their habitats, this spring SBDN sent letters to U.S. Congressional Representatives, urging them to support funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants program. SWG funding has been important for a number of bat conservation projects in the Southeast, including the construction of artificial roosts for Rafinesque's big-eared bats in South Carolina and responses to white-nose syndrome in many southeastern states. After we contacted them, over 110 Representatives urged their leadership to support this program. More recently, in response to an appeal by Bat Conservation International, SBDN sent letters to the mayor and city council members in San Antonio, Texas to express our concerns over a large housing development being planned for the area adjacent to Bracken Cave, which is home to millions of Mexican free-tailed bats in summer. You can find out more about this issue here: batcon.org/savebracken.

In 2013, white-nose syndrome continued to spread across the Southeast. Tennessee was especially hard hit, with 21 new counties confirmed for a total of 32 affected counties in the state. The disease has been detected in 7 counties in North Carolina, and is causing significant declines in bat populations in multiple hibernacula there. This winter was the first time WNS was detected in Georgia, and the fungus was also detected in Fern Cave National Wildlife Refuge, Alabama, which is home to over 1 million gray bats in winter.

Please make plans to attend the 2013 SBDN Bat Blitz on the Ozark National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern Oklahoma from 28 July to 1 August 2013. Check out the SBDN webpage for any blitz-related questions, including information about hosting an SBDN Bat Blitz. Blitzes are a very effective way to inventory bats across an extensive area. The Chair of the Blitz Committee, Katrina Morris (katrina.morris@dnr.state.ga.us), welcomes inquiries from potential Blitz hosts.

Finally, please mark your calendars for our next annual SBDN meeting, which will be hosted by Chris Comer (comerce@sfasu.edu) 13-14 February 2014 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

I hope your nets are filled with bats and your flash cards are filled with call files this summer! Enjoy your time in the field!

Joy M. O'Keefe
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Executive Committee Meeting

Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Executive Committee Minutes of the Annual Meeting February 13, 2013

Attendees

Executive Committee

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

Brian Carver, incoming President Elect and 2013
SBDN/Colloquium host, guest
Piper Roby, incoming Secretary, guest
Steve Samoray, incoming Member at Large, guest
Chris Comer, 2014 SBDN/Colloquium host, guest

Action Items

AI 1: Carter will work with Brooke Hines to complete the write-up from the 2011 joint annual meeting.

AI 2: Carter will add votes/decisions to the History of Exec. Committee/Board of Directors Votes from before Lacki's tenure

AI 3: Lacki will notify JD Wilhide of the EC's decision to have the Past President act as proofreader for the newsletters produced by JD before web publication.

AI 4: Carter will provide a list of attendees from the last three annual meetings to the Membership Committee.

AI 5: Burnett should get an announcement of the student awards application in the spring newsletter and on the list serve earlier in the year.

AI 6: Carter will provide all the membership coordination information to Piper Roby. The Secretary position will be the keeper of this information.

AI 7: Bree McMurray will get Luke Dodd in touch with organizers of the bi-weekly national state/fed/tribal WNS conference calls to see about and invitation to join that group.

AI 8: Miller will provide Jeff Gore's note to the EC to review the history and progress of the Federal Advisory Committee for discussion at the summer SBDN EC meeting.

AI 9: Carter needs to check back in decisions list to see if it was officially decided if there is a time limit or request/no response policy to transfer unused account funds to SBDN surplus.

AI 10: Carter is to reformat treasurer's report for newsletter publication to include meeting funds, general funds, student travel award, current year blitz funds and a standard statement re: providing banking services for meetings, events, blitzes, etc.

AI 11: McMurray will check with both Tom Risch and Blake Sasse to see if they are still/would like to continue assisting with the annual audit.

Call to Order: 4:14pm EST, President Lacki

2012 Feb Executive Committee and Board of Directors meeting action items:

- Carter-Mission statement action item complete, Bylaws updates will have to go through Bylaws Committee/Nikki Castleberry
- Schedule of future hosts:
 1. Chris Comer is hosting for 2014 in Nacogdoches, TX. He has identified a venue, working on university (Stephen F. Austin) support and catering, needing an estimate of attendees, and there is no on-campus hotel. Chris will plan on the same week for the meeting next year. Update: the meeting will be February 13-14, 2014.
 2. Possible host for 2015: Carter was approached by Sybill Amelon in Missouri for another joint meeting of either SBDN/MWBWG/NEBWG or just the two if NEBWG is not able to commit. If that's the case, might be possible to have SBDN/NEBWG meeting in 2016. Concern with two meetings in a row on the western side of the region countered with strong consideration for any willing host. As the new president elect, Brian Carver will be on the 2015 host committee. If 2015 is a joint meeting, there needs to be a larger local contingent (a few Missouri representatives) on the host committee.
 3. O'Keefe mentioned that Matina Kalcounis-Ruppell suggested UNC Greenville, but space is limited to 120 people.
- Carter and Hines-2011 joint bat meeting write-up: still pending...still.

AI 1: Carter will work with Brooke Hines to complete the write-up from the 2011 joint annual meeting.

September 2012 Executive Committee meeting action items:

- Update new letterhead and website – complete
- Vote to change bylaws committee – incomplete
- SWG grant program support by SBDN – no word from Sunni Carr that there are any funds.
- Award Guidelines – complete
- History of Exec. Comm. votes during Mike Lacki's 2-yr term as President – passed around by Mike. Others got it.

AI2: Carter will add votes/decisions to this list from before Lacki's tenure

- Committee Reports:

-Bat Blitz-Morris: the 2012 blitz went very well, will report on this at Business meeting. The 2011 and 2012 Blitz Summaries are still not on the website. The 2013 Bat Blitz is scheduled for July 28-Aug 1 on the Ozark Plateau NWR in eastern Oklahoma, on the Illinois River with a free float trip. Blitz Host team is contacting team leaders, still needing more-will limit to 100 participants. Venue information is on the SBDN website. Louisiana cannot host in 2014, so the Blitz Committee is back to soliciting hosts-Blitz Committee meeting scheduled evening of Feb 13, 2013 at this annual meeting.

--Carter: southern Illinois is a possibility for 2014 joint with MWBWG. Carter has been talking to USFWS Rod McClanahan on the Shawnee NF and Megan Harris (Mark Twain NF and former Blitz host from MO). Possible lodging venue in the Cache River Basin, Camp Ondessonk for free, or a nearby community college

-Newsletter Committee: JD Wilhide is still interested in the Newsletter production position, still needs to update the new Executive Committee structure for the organization. Discussion of having someone proofread the newsletters produced by JD before web publication. This task will fall to the Past President position. AI 3: Lacki will notify JD Wilhide of this new policy. There was also discussion of having a guest column in future newsletters and publishing the treasurer's report in full or part in the newsletter. There is still a concern about the lack of states reporting their info for inclusion in the newsletter.

- Membership Committee – Comer: wanting a list of attendees for the last three annual meetings, Carter can provide. AI 4: Carter will provide a list of attendees from the last three annual meetings to the Membership Committee. Carver developed a list of approximately 150 names for department chairs of universities in the southeast member states and is developing a list of state and federal contacts and consultants. He sent meeting notices to this list for this annual meeting. Carver will keep this list for future use. There was discussion about benefits of membership, increasing membership not just meeting attendance, and including membership cost in registration and/or having all meeting attendees become a member for one year. The current benefits include voting rights, early newsletter access, and eligibility for awards. AI 5: Burnett should get an announcement of the student awards application in the spring newsletter and on the list serve earlier in the year. Carter has traditionally kept all of the membership information and suggested moving that duty to the Secretary. AI 6: Carter will provide all the membership coordination information to Piper Roby, and the Secretary position will be the keeper of this information.

-Awards Committee: Lacki is pleased with Steven Burnett's progress as committee chair. We need a policy to address special request awards/nominations.

-Database Committee: Susan Loeb will be reporting tomorrow (Business Meeting). Eric Britzke is trying to hybridize USGS and Bat Band databases. When it's complete in about a year or so, won't need a committee anymore.

-WNS Committee: Luke Dodd is chair. This committee has been very active. Tom Risch worked with BCI representing SBDN to create a poster at the SEAFWA meeting. They developed signup sheets and are compiling a list of all researchers in the SE doing WNS related work. Luke wants to know if this committee can be more involved in the national WNS meetings to pass along information to our regional group. O'Keefe is on the stakeholders committee as the ISU Bat Center representative. McMurray suggested asking to get on the bi-weekly state/fed/tribal conference calls. AI 7: Bree McMurray will get Luke Dodd in touch with organizers of the bi-weekly state/fed/tribal conference calls to see about and invitation to join that group.

-Federal Advisory Committee: Jeff Gore is stepping down from Chairmanship, but may stay on as a committee member. President O'Keefe will select the new chair. This committee needs direction. Miller (committee member) discussed need to remove ambiguity from the tasks and goals and time commitments. We are at a critical point-do we dissolve or reinforce this committee? The Big-eared Bat Symposium proceedings were shared with the federal system. Morris says there is interest in developing BMPs for federal lands. AI 8: Miller will provide Jeff Gore's note to the EC to review the history and progress of the Federal Advisory Committee for discussion at the summer SBDN EC meeting. Mailing lists for federal representatives will be used to mail the Big-eared Bat Symposium Proceedings to managers. Looking for update at 2013 Annual SBDN meeting.

- Treasurer's Report: Carter provided to Executive Committee. 2012 left over SBDN Blitz funds were reabsorbed by the organization into surplus Blitz funds. AI 9: Carter needs to check back in decisions list to see if it was officially decided if there's a time limit or request/no response policy to transfer unused account funds to SBDN Blitz surplus. Discussion for 2014 Annual

Meeting host, if Comer decides to use SBDN as the 'bank' for the event, he can pay out deposits, etc. AI 10: Carter is to reformat treasurer's report for newsletter publication to include meeting funds, general funds, student travel award, current year blitz funds and a standard statement re: providing banking services for meetings, events, blitzes, etc.

- CORA and MYAU Conservation Strategy Document-Lacki: 1st draft is done, 9 of 11 reviewers provided comments. BCI wants a county by county distribution by state for both species. Lacki will address and provide the final to BCI in October 2013, and they will handle final production. Looking for Winter 2013 publication date.
- Nominations and Election Committee-Miller: There was a 60% response (58 votes of 97 paid members). Election results officially announced at the Business Meeting tomorrow.
- Website Committee: Carter was most pleased to announce that Steve Samoray will be working directly with our webmaster, Aleida, on assisting with website updates. Steve has some web design experience himself. Carter has records on passwords and domain information for the website files.
- MYLE Working Group-O'Keefe: There are approximately 68 interested members on a password protected Google webgroup, and roughly 80 people paid for the combo working group meetings. Meeting tomorrow for 1.5 hours. Paul Moosman, Joe Johnson, and Gary Libby will give presentations on biology of the species. Sue Cameron will give update on status of species.

New Business

- Discussion of new Indiana bat summer survey guidance and NEBWG reaction at their January 2013 meeting. Mike Armstrong will present new guidance at business meeting on Thursday.
- Miller raised a concern regarding a statement he received from someone who attended an American Heart Association CPR training class and was informed by the trainer that if you have bats in your house you are at risk for contracting rabies and that rabies is common in bats. There was some discussion as to whether SBDN should compose a response directly to the American Heart Association or post something on our own website.
- McMurray collected the 2012 financial materials from Carter for the annual audit. AI 11: McMurray will check with both Tom Risch and Blake Sasse to see if they are still/would like to continue assisting with the annual audit.

Motion to adjourn by Miller, seconded by Carter call: passed unanimously
6:04pm adjournment

COMMITTEE REPORTS

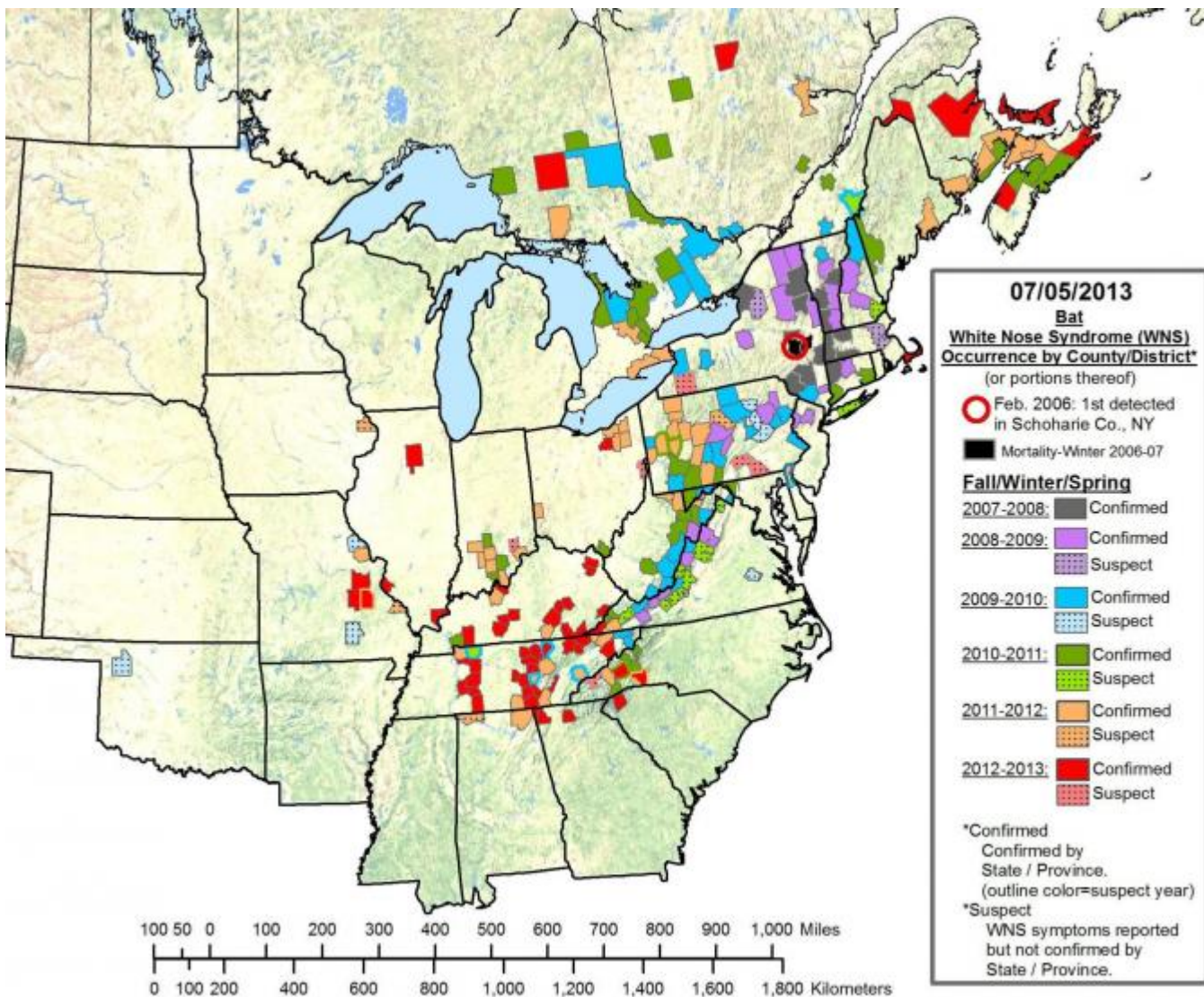
BAT BLITZ COMMITTEE

During the 2012 SBDN meeting, we requested additional members for the Bat Blitz Committee. We welcome our newest committee members, Michael Whitby, Gary Libby and Jason Robinson. Thanks for volunteering! We also had to say goodbye to two long-standing members, David Saugey and Blake Sasse. Thanks for your many years of service!!

The 2013 SBDN Bat Blitz will be held in Tahlequah, OK July 28th – 31st, 2013 on the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge. Registration is now open. Attendance is limited so register soon at http://www.sbdn.org/blitz_info.html.

Blitz hosts are still needed for 2014 and beyond. Potential hosts should contact Trina Morris (katrina.morris@dnr.state.ga.us) for more information about hosting a future blitz!

WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



Map by: Cal Butchkoski, PA Game Commission

STATE WORKING GROUP REPORTS



their spread as the canopy is opened. More detailed information is available online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/osfnf/landmanagement/projects> or by calling the Sylamore Ranger District Office at (870) 269-3228.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, with assistance from Arkansas State University students, is surveying bridges in the Ozarks and Ouachitas to locate new roost sites utilized by small-footed bats and two new counties have already been added to the known range of this species in the state using this technique. This follows upon the submission of a paper in April by most of the bat biologists in the state compiling information on the 90 known Arkansas capture and observation events of this species. Blake Sasse will be coordinating with AGFC staff and U.S. Forest Service personnel on an acoustic monitoring project in the Ozarks later this summer.

Blake Sasse

Nongame Mammal/Furbearer
Program Leader
Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission



The Arkansas State University bat lab is very active this summer. Phillip Jordan is looking at single turbine units with the USFWS; Daniel Istvanko is looking at evening bat foraging and roost use on the Sylamore Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest; and Patrick Moore is conducting Indiana bat surveys on the Ozark NF. Two undergraduates defended honors theses recently. Cheyenne Gerdes defended her thesis on biochemical and biomechanical effects of *Geomyces destructans* proteases on bat wing tissue and Hannah Blair defended her thesis on comparative lipid synthesis and acyl saturation of psychrophilic and psychrotolerant *Geomyces spp.* Fungi. Evan Pannkuk will be presenting on Lipid Profiling of Bats and *Geomyces* to Understand Trophic Interactions in a Host/Pathogen System at NASBR in August.

Chuck Bitting, with the National Park Service, is overseeing a project using acoustic monitoring to study bat habitat use on the Buffalo National River.

The Indiana Bat Habitat Restoration Project has been proposed by the Sylamore Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests to treat up to 67,151 acres of National Forest Service land over a period of 12 years to create and maintain canopy closure and other forest conditions that will support the recovery of endangered Indiana bat populations. Known Indiana bat winter roosts (caves used for hibernation or hibernacula) would be gated to prevent human disturbance during a critical resting period (potentially including the inadvertent introduction of the devastating fungal disease known as White-nose Syndrome). This is an adaptive management project that includes triggers for change in management. It would implement a variety of thinning methods including timber sales, non-commercial treatments, chemical use and prescribed burning treatments to work toward achieving project objectives. Non-native invasive plant species would be treated to mitigate the potential for



Summer 2013 Interns & Grad Student

Jackie Jeffrey and Lauren Austin are working as the 2013 DNR summer interns. They are continuing a project helping Craig Bland, UGA grad student on a joint project between

UGA and GA DNR. The crew is working on Sapelo Island and Little St. Simon's Island completing mist netting, radio telemetry and vegetation plots related to the yellow bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*) project.



Anabat Routes



Anabat mounted on the front of the park service boat ready to record on the Chattahoochee River.

Georgia's Anabat program continues this season. (<http://www.georgiawildlife.com/AnabatProject>). We also completed our very first aquatic route on the Chattahoochee River this spring. You can read more about it in our GA Wild E-Newsletter (<http://content.govdelivery.com/bulletins/gd/GADNR-7d247f>).

WNS



(WhiteRiverSurveyTeam): Jackie Jeffery, Trina Morris, Nikki Castleberry and Pete Pattavina suit up for a WNS survey in March.

WNS was discovered in GA in March. The survey team including DNR, USFWS, NPS, GA Museum of Natural History and volunteers surveyed caves across the state. The disease was confirmed in 3 counties in the state. No significant mortality was seen this season and all sites seem to have stable numbers of bats so far. Pete Pattavina from USFWS joined the survey team for the first time this year. Read about this experience of discovering WNS in our GA Wild E-Newsletter



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Lorraine Ketzler (M.S. student at Stephen F. Austin State University) is examining the influence of silvicultural treatments on bat use and prey availability. Specifically, she is deploying full-spectrum bat detectors in bottomland hardwood stands treated to achieve Desired Forest Conditions (DFCs) as defined by the lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. Bat activity will be compared to adjacent untreated stands. She is also deploying insect traps to allow comparisons of prey availability between treated and control stands and to examine the influence of prey availability on bat activity. She and her team will be visiting 5 National Wildlife Refuges and 6 state Wildlife Management Areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas over the course of the summer.



Photo 1 (Bat detector): M.S. student Rain Ketzler and technician Hunter Handley checking a Pettersson D500x bat detector in a DFC treated stand at Big Lake WMA, Louisiana.



Photo 2 (Bug trap): Technicians Hunter Handley and Kevin Narum deploying a black light bucket insect trap at Bayou Cocodrie NWR in Louisiana.



Indiana Bats Return to Mississippi

For the first time in over 40 years, Indiana bats have been confirmed in Mississippi! Copperhead Environmental Consulting working with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tracked a female Indiana bat to a roost tree in the Holly Springs National Forest in northern Mississippi. The last update indicated that she was home for the summer, so this likely represents a maternity roost. Welcome back!

Annual Meeting

The Mississippi Bat Working Group (MBWG) held their annual business meeting on January 23, 2013 at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences in Jackson, Mississippi. The attendees enjoyed presentations on bat communities in Mississippi caves (Zac Roth), bat use of Mississippi caves (Kathy Shelton), bat surveys in Louisiana (Alison McCartney), mobile acoustical monitoring (Dave Richardson), and rabies in Mississippi bats (Carla Boutwell). The various committees also reported on their activities and the group discussed upcoming events. Awards were presented to the following members:

Research/Conservation Award – Eric Britzke
Education/Outreach Award – Andrea Schuhmann and Shea Staten
Chester O. Martin Award – Becky Rosamond



Shea Staten and Andrea Schuhmann received Education and Outreach awards, presented by Chester



Becky Rosamond received the Chester O. Martin Award, presented by Chester Martin

Education and Outreach

- Vice-chair Kathy Shelton was a guest on the Creature Comforts radio show speaking on bats.
- The MBWG manned booths at NatureFest at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences on April 6 and at the Natchez Trace Wildlife Festival in Tupelo on April 20. The booth featured information on species found in Mississippi and an interactive display on bat research methods.
- Board member Shea Staten and George Harris set up a display on Mississippi bats and the Mississippi Bat Working Group in the Mississippi River Museum at the Tunica River Park. The display was in place for a month, during which time over 1,500 people visited the museum.
- Kris Godwin (USDA, Wildlife Services) and other members of the MBWG are planning a seminar for this fall to provide information to professionals in the field of

pest removal on methods of safely (for the bats) and effectively removing and excluding bats from buildings. The seminar will be held at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and is tentatively scheduled for Friday November 8. Contact Kris Godwin at kris.godwin@asphis.esda.gov.

Research

- Cody Jordan, graduate student at the University of Mississippi, working with Dr. Richard Buchholz has begun work for his Master's thesis studying thermoregulation, clustering, and within-roost positioning in Rafinesque's big-eared bats.



Cody holds a banded Rafinesque's big-eared bat, part of his Master's work looking at thermoregulation and roosting behavior in this species.

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Inventory and Monitoring Branch began its second year of acoustical monitoring throughout the state. Currently, the majority of routes are located on or near National Wildlife Refuges, although several have been established in other key locations. A total of 11 routes will be surveyed three times from June through mid-July.

Other Activities

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, together with the Mississippi Bat Working Group completed the Mississippi WNS Surveillance and Response Plan. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the plan should contact Kathy Shelton at krshelton64@gmail.com.

Special Recognition

Boy Scout William Rayburn of Lafayette County earned his Eagle Scout Honors helping bats. For his Eagle Project, William opted to construct an artificial roost for a colony of Rafinesque's big-eared bats. The bats are currently using an abandoned seismograph building as a maternity roost, but the building is rapidly deteriorating. William was given specific plans from Bat Conservation International for a "bat tower". The tower simulates a large hollow tree and was constructed near the current roost. Similar structures have been constructed and utilized by Rafinesque's big-eared bats

throughout the Southeast. The hope is that the bats will move into the tower once the building is no longer suitable for the colony. William compiled approximately 250 hours of volunteer service throughout the project which was completed this spring. MBWG Board Member Shea Staten provided guidance and technical expertise throughout the course of this project.



The current roost (upper) and newly constructed tower (right) for a maternity colony of Rafinesque's big-eared bats in Lafayette County, MS



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This year the Mark Twain National Forest again partnered with the Shawnee National Forest and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Wappapello Project to locate Indiana bats in southeast Missouri. Four lactating females were captured and transmitted, leading to the discovery of three roost trees. Most interesting was the documentation of Indiana bats using a maternity tree identified in 2011 but used very little in 2012. To date the tree housed a maximum of 97 bats, but exit counts are ongoing. A second roost tree was located within a sea of snags created by a tornado that occurred in May of 2010. The third roost (a secondary roost thus far) was a 34" silver maple. All roosts were in bottomland forest along the St. Francis River in Wayne County. Unfortunately we were not able to locate the colony discovered last year, approximately 13 miles downriver, which may be a result of the abundant water this year.

We plan to continue trapping this summer and gather data on northern bats. Overall there was a noticeable decrease in the captures of northern and tri-colored bats. We suspect we may be seeing population declines as a result of white nose syndrome.



Kristina Hammond (ISU graduate student) shows workshop participants an Indiana bat roost tree found in summer 2012.



Joy O'Keefe (ISU) talks to participants about snag fates in a control plot where fire has been absent for many years.

In conjunction with the USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station and the Consortium of Appalachian Fire Scientists and Managers, the Center for Bat Research, Outreach, and Conservation at Indiana State University hosted a two-day workshop in western North Carolina to report on the effects of prescribed fire on Indiana bat roosting habitat in the southern Appalachian Mountains. The purpose of the workshop was to present the preliminary results from a three-year study on the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; the research has been sponsored by the Joint Fire Sciences Program. The workshop was attended by over 60 people from multiple states, including North Carolina, Tennessee, Indiana, and Alabama. Presentations were given by Joy O'Keefe and Kristina Hammond (Indiana State University), Susan Loeb and Helen Mohr (Southern Research Station), Luke Dodd (University of Kentucky), Rob Klein (National Park Service), Charles Lafon (Texas A & M University), Sue Cameron (US Fish and Wildlife Service). The second day of the workshop was a field tour to visit Indiana bat net sites, roost trees, and plots where snag fates were measured following prescribed burns.



Joey Weber, a M.S. student at Indiana State University, is working on his first field season studying the ecology of Virginia big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii virginianus*) at Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina. Joey and his 2 technicians, Greta Schmidt and Megan McDowell, have transmitted 19 female bats and tracked them to a maternity roost and several secondary roosts. They have also been using telemetry to document foraging areas. Joey plans to return next spring to continue the study.



Greta Schmidt and Megan McDowell transmitter a Virginia big-eared bat at Grandfather Mountain.

White-nose syndrome (WNS) continues to decimate bat populations in North Carolina, with some infected locations showing up to a 95 percent decline in hibernating bats over the past one to two years. The number of bats hibernating in a retired mine in Avery County has plummeted from over 1,000 bats prior to WNS to around 65 bats in just two years since the disease was discovered. At a mine in Haywood County, the number of bats hibernating dropped from nearly 4,000 bats to about 250 bats in only a year. And at a cave in McDowell County, numbers dropped from almost 300 to only a few bats remaining this winter. White-nose syndrome continues to spread, affecting bats across western North Carolina. Bats in two additional counties – Rutherford and Buncombe – are now confirmed to have the disease, and the disease is suspected in Swain County bats. First detected in North Carolina in 2011, the disease was confirmed in a retired mine in Avery County, a cave at Grandfather Mountain State Park in Avery County, a retired mine in Yancey County, Linville Caverns in McDowell County, and from a dead bat found in Transylvania County. A year later, in 2012, bats found in a hibernaculum in Haywood County were confirmed positive for the disease. The disease is now confirmed in seven counties in western North Carolina.



Another Virginia big-eared bat photo from Mary E Frazer. This transmitted female was roosting in the basement of an unfinished (and foreclosed) mansion.

Melynda Hickman, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation. P O Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, mhickman@zoo.odwc.state.ok.us, 405-990-4977.



The Oklahoma Bat Coordinating Team (OBCT) was established by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) as an informal group that would create a communications plan to facilitate information flow to partners, scientific cooperators, interested parties, stakeholders and user groups on bat and cave management, bat research and bat diseases in Oklahoma. The coordinating team includes agencies, universities and organizations that have direct bat and cave management responsibilities: ODWC, USFWS – Ecological Services, USFWS – Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge, OK Dept. of Tourism and Recreation (Alabaster Caverns State Park), University of Central Oklahoma (Selman Cave System), University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Rogers State University, Cherokee Nation, The Nature Conservancy, DOD – Ft. Sill, Central Oklahoma Grotto, and Tulsa Oklahoma Grotto.

One of the first projects of the OBCT was to provide bat identification aid to those who work directly with bats. Accurate identification will help provide better information about bat occurrence in Oklahoma. We produced the “Bats of Oklahoma Field Guide”, a small spiral bound book that has identification help for the 24 species/subspecies that have been documented in Oklahoma. Information includes a very good image, range map, total length, preferred daytime roost (outside hibernation/migration time), pup development period (period from birth to flight), “in hand” information to help further in identifying the bat species, and a cool fact about the species. The booklet was designed specifically for biologists, naturalists, rehabilitators, nuisance wildlife control operators and cave managers. We are in the process of distributing the

booklets to the identified audience. For the general public a poster is about ready to go to the printers that provides more general information about bats and bats in Oklahoma on one side and the reverse side has the bat species/subspecies pages from the booklet. Both of these publications are free. Funding for both of these products came from the Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge and the OK Wildlife Diversity Program.

Later this summer, the OBCT will be conducting a bat identification workshop, again for those identified as working directly with bats.



Mary Bunch
SC Department of Natural
Resources
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SCDNR in cooperation with/funding provided by the South Carolina Army National Guard, is erecting 4 concrete Rafinesque's big-eared bat roosts at McCrady Training Site (Eastover, SC). MST Concrete in Central, SC custom-made

the 4-foot diameter sections and will deliver and set-up the first pair of roosting structures on June 19, 2013.



Vanessa Rojas (new Ph.D. student at Indiana State University) has begun field research in the north zone of the Cherokee National Forest (CNF) in Tennessee. The North CNF is considered to be a part of the Indiana bat range, however the species has yet to be documented in this region. Applying a predictive GIS model created by ISU MS student, Kristina Hammond, to determine suitable roosting habitat for Indiana bats in the southern Appalachians, Rojas has categorized regions of the north CNF as low, fair or high probability of Indiana bat presence. She is mist netting and deploying acoustic devices to document both presence and absence of Indiana bats in all probability categories in order to test the applicability of the model in the north CNF region. If Indiana bats are found, she will also track the bats to roosting locations. The research is supported by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Forest Service.



Field technicians, Lisa Kleinschmidt and Julia Hoeh, deploy a bat detector on a Forest Service road in the North Cherokee National Forest.

Christopher E. Comer, Ph.D.
Stephen F. Austin State University
comerce@sfasu.edu



The Texas Bat Working group held its first meeting on June 13, 2013 in Austin. The group has been on hiatus for a few years, but recently revived through the efforts of Tara Poloskey, Bat Conservation Specialist at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The primary objectives of the meeting were to review and provide comments on the Texas WNS plan

and to designate a structure and leadership for the organization. Leigh Stuemke of the Texas Land Conservancy agreed to serve as the chair for this year, with Roger Rodriguez of ZOTZ Ecological Services as co-chair. The group emphasized a desire to work with regional bat conservation groups (including SBDN) in the future.

Jess Lucas

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

The Texas Bat Working Group (TXBWG) has been re-established to address the need for information sharing and project development related to bat conservation, research, population monitoring, and habitat use in Texas. Texas has a unique responsibility to prepare for the advent of White-nose syndrome (WNS), as it includes species from the eastern and western U.S. as well as those from Mexico, and could act as a “bridge” for the spread of WNS. In this vein, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is currently developing a WNS Action Plan, and has asked the TXBWG for input. The TXBWG will have held its first meeting on June 13, 2013, inviting those with a vested interest in the conservation and management of bat species and bat habitat in Texas. In addition to providing critical expertise to the state of Texas, the working group will provide an avenue to coordinate all aspects of bat conservation and project planning within the state. To establish contact with the TXBWG, visit <http://TexasBatWorkingGroup.blogspot.com>.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



Dr. Duc Duc Vuong

Dr. Duc Duc Vuong - SBDN Special Service Award

Duc Duc Vuong was born in Sontay, Vietnam on February 2, 1943. He completed high school in Gia Dinh, Vietnam, July 1964, and was awarded his Bachelors Degree as an “Engineer of Animal Husbandry,” Saigon, Vietnam, September 1968. Affectionately known as “Dr. Duc” by his colleagues, he obtained his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the State University of Liege, Brussels, Belgium, on July 4, 1974.

After immigrating to the United States, Duc began his 37-year career with the Arkansas Department of Health on April 26, 1976. During the last 25 years of his career Duc worked in the ADH Rabies Laboratory. During that time he processed and retained over 3,000 bat specimens until positively identified by a trained bat biologist. This treasure trove of species has provided important biological, distribution, occurrence, natural history and rabies information for Arkansas. These data have been particularly important in our understanding of tree bats because of their solitary nature and well-hidden roost locations that make acquiring information on juveniles difficult. Tree-bat data, particularly on the common and wide spread red bat, have been of special interest because it tests positive for rabies more frequently than any other bat species submitted. Additionally, these data have helped us establish some baselines to which future frequency of submissions can be compared. These comparisons may help us monitor the decline or recovery of species from environmental challenges, such as habitat loss, or diseases such as White Nose Syndrome. Dr. Vuong has helped facilitate the acquisition of these important data by saving the specimens, providing location information, and assisting at identification sessions.

SBDN values and appreciates Dr. Vuong’s effort and cooperative spirit and recognizes how important he, and the Arkansas Department of Health Rabies Lab, have been to bat conservation and biology in Arkansas with implications for the entire southeastern U.S.

This Special Service Award was presented on behalf of Dr. Joy O’Keefe, President of the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, and SBDN’s membership. Little Rock, Arkansas. May 16, 2013.

Photo and text by David Saugey.

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Federal Employees Free to Serve in Professional Societies

Jessica P. Johnson



Wildlife professionals mingle at The Wildlife Society's 2012 annual conference. TWS and other professional societies rely on diverse leadership involvement from federal, state, and private sectors. (Credit: Ben Wasserman/TWS).

Beginning April 5, 2013, federal employees will once again have the opportunity to serve as officers, directors, or trustees of nonprofit organizations without fear of violating a federal criminal statute. A new amendment to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) marks the end of a 15-year effort by The Wildlife Society and other professional societies to reverse a roadblock to professional development and collaboration.

"Federal agencies are an important source of highly-qualified volunteers to serve in leadership positions, and agency assistance with travel costs certainly helps with budgetary bottom lines," said Wini Kessler, TWS President. "Government employee participation is vitally important for The Wildlife Society and other non-profit societies."

The CFR amendment (5 CFR 2640) changes the interpretation of statute 18 U.S.C. 208(a), which prohibits federal employees from serving in leadership positions with organizations where that service may result in a conflict of interest with their federal employer. In 1996, the Department of Justice interpreted the statute to mean that federal employees couldn't participate in any official capacity for nonprofit organizations, even when a conflict of interest did not exist. Under the statute, waivers for participation could and were issued, but the waiver process was not standardized across agencies. Some agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, issued waivers freely. Others, such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture, denied waivers in most cases, and some failed to alert their employees at all that serving on nonprofit boards could result in criminal prosecution.

TWS and dozens of scientific societies have battled for the amendment since 1998, meeting with the Office of Government Ethics (OGE), the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and the Office of Personnel Management. The latter two agencies recognized that the statute's restrictions made it difficult for the federal government to retain talented scientists by denying those scientists opportunities for career development through leadership roles in professional societies. In turn, societies faced a shortage of representation from the federal sector.

The battle was won on March 6, when the OGE issued a final rule that amends how the statute is interpreted. Under this amendment, federal employees may serve nonprofit organizations because OGE determined that the possibility of a conflict of interest between the employee's loyalty to the government and any fiduciary duties to the organization is remote. The amendment eliminates waivers because regulations are already in place that allow federal employers to approve an employee's participation in nonprofit organizations ahead of time and to require employees to document, limit, or end their service to nonprofit organizations if conflicts of interest do arise.

TWS Executive Director Ken Williams said that this is one step in the right direction toward reversing a disturbing trend — a growing separation between the wildlife research and management communities. "The entire conservation community is strengthened by a vital and diverse professional society," said Williams. "This rule change was badly needed."

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

43rd North American Symposium of Bat Research
Annual Meeting
&
16th International Bat Research Conference
August 11-15, 2013
Hotel Wyndham Herradura
San Juan, Costa Rica

12TH ANNUAL GREAT LAKES BAT FESTIVAL

The 2013 Annual Great Lakes Bat Festival will return to the Southfield Pavilion on September 28, 2013. Your support will help us work towards our mission of spreading the message that bats are critical to ecosystems around the world, and encouraging people to protect them. Through this message, the community learns about the importance of being good stewards to the environment while inspiring kids to become the next generation of researchers and biologists needed to preserve our delicate surroundings. Our annual Great Lakes Bat Festival is both an educational opportunity and a fundraiser for our community programs. Our expectations are to raise \$20,000 annually in support of the Organization for Bat Conservation's important school and community programs. The Annual Bat Festival is known as a globally relevant, engaging and important event to promote conservation of bats and ultimately, our ecosystem.

The success of this entertaining and educational family event depends on the generosity and financial support of corporations, nonprofit organizations, and foundations like you. Please contact me at rmies@batconservation.org or 248-645-3239 to support the effort to save bats, one of our most important and crucial animals of our ecosystem.

Wildlife Society 20th Annual Conference

The Wildlife Society 20th Annual Conference is taking place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin October 5-10, 2013. The conference will be held at the Wisconsin Center.

The **Wisconsin Center**, one of the world's most architecturally exhilarating and technologically robust convention facilities, located in the heart of downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

23rd Mammal Colloquium and 18th Southeastern Bat Diversity Network Meeting

Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas.

13-14 February 2014

Hosted By: Chris Comer
Associate Professor
Department of Forestry
Stephen F. Austin State University

Make plans to join us as SBDN is held in
Texas for the first time ever.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Please accept my apology for the Newsletter being so late!!

I cannot thank enough all of you who found the time to get your items to me and I believe I included them all.

If I missed something please let me know and I will get it in the next issue.

I am always looking for ways to improve and add interest to the Newsletter.
So please send me your thoughts and ideas.

This is an especially busy summer for most of us and we are all going in so many different directions seemingly all at the same time. No matter how crazy it gets we will all be missing it come January.

As always, I hope everyone has a very productive summer bat season.
I look forward to seeing what you have accomplished in the December issue.

“THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.”