Become a Bats Northwest Member
Join us in the adventure to learn more about our bat neighbors!

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You'll look great in our Bats Northwest short sleeve T-Shirt! It also makes a wonderful gift.
Heavyweight cotton, natural off-white, with a brightly colored bat graphic.

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER _____ (QUANTITY) BATS NORTHWEST T-SHIRT(s)
AT $22.00 EACH FOR A TOTAL OF $ ______ (AMOUNT).
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Washington State Bats in Peril

By Meg Lunnum

Excerpts from: Scott Sandsberry, Yakima Herald-Republic

Boulder Cave is usually closed from November 1st to April 1st in order to protect a colony of hibernating Townsend's Big Eared Bats. Corynorhinus townsendii are a State Candidate species for Washington and will be reviewed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. They are recommended for management via the WDFW Priority Habitats and Species program, which considers their hibernacula as a "vulnerable aggregation" and any occurrence of this species is mapped by WDFW. They are also a federal species of concern. In WA, communal roosts include hibernaculum like Boulder Cave.

Boulder Cave is home to the only known population of Pacific Western "Townsend's" Big-Eared Bats in the Yakima-Naches area of Washington State. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Boulder Cave bat population numbered in the thousands. These bats have used Boulder Cave during the summer, but presently do not. The big-eared bat is extremely intolerant to human disturbance. It appears the heavy human use during the summer has discouraged the big-eared bat's use.

At one time, the cave chambers were used by more than 2,000 bats for winter hibernation; we probably will never know how many bats used the cave historically. After 1937, when people began touring the cave and killing bats in huge numbers, the population was fewer than 75.

In the Pacific Northwest, bats only eat insects and most insects affect the human population in different ways. Townsend's big-eared bats are thought to feed on moths that hatch from the spruce budworm; other bats eat mosquitoes and other small flying insects.

The Naches Ranger District of the US Forest Service is considering restricting Boulder Cave to only ranger-led interpretive tours. Wildlife biologist Joan St. Hilaire and new District Ranger Irene Davidson discovered human abuse of the cave area during a recent hike. Someone had dug a tunnel under the gate that was erected to specifically protect these bats.

One of the ways to protect the bats in specific caves is to erect signs. Large signs, that emphasize the fact that bats are protected and interlopers can and will be prosecuted for disturbances of any kind. Bats Northwest hopes to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help install signs at other bat caves in the state. These signs will hopefully educate people about bats and create an awareness of White Nose Syndrome concerns.

White Nose Syndrome has increased awareness in bat fragility in the United States. Over 1 million bats have died as a result of being infected by the Geomyces destructans fungus. As the number of infected caves and bats increase in a westward direction, it is imperative that the West be vigilant in case White Nose Syndrome is discovered in our area.
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**Our Mission**

Bats Northwest Envisions a Future . . .

Where the Essential Role of Bats is Understood

Where the Public Recognizes the Vital Place of Bats In Our Environment and Economy

Where all are Inspired by the Remarkable Attributes and Invaluable Contribution of Bats to Our Natural Heritage

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**Some of the Most Recent News on WNS**

*compiled by Michelle Noe*


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To learn more or stay abreast of the latest breaking news go to: http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html

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**Green Lake Bat Walks 2010**

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*Day Date Sunset Time Batwalk Start*

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**Bathhouse Theater**

*Photo courtesy of Seattle.gov*
Kentucky Residents Sentenced After Pleading Guilty to Killing Endangered Bats

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2010

Contacts
Tom McCallum, FWS, 404-670-7291
Bob Snow, Special Agent 502-780-5982 ext29

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Lonnie W. Skaggs, Olive Hill, Ky., and Kaleb D. Carpenter, Grayson, Ky., today were sentenced in U.S. District Court, Ashland, Ky., for violations of the Federal Endangered Species Act. U.S. Magistrate Judge Edward B. Atkins sentenced Skaggs to two eight-month Federal prison sentences, to run concurrently, for a total of eight months. Carpenter received three years probation.

The investigation began in October 2007 when Carter Caves State Park employees documented that visitors had entered Laurel Cave on two occasions and had killed a total of 105 Indiana Bats; a federally-listed endangered species. It was later revealed that Carpenter and Skaggs had killed the bats with flashlights and rocks; and had crushed bats they knocked from the air and from the cave walls with their feet.

Following the initial incident where 23 bats were killed, Skaggs returned to the cave a few nights later with another Olive Hill resident and killed 82 more.

“This senseless act of killing dozens of endangered Indiana bats cannot be tolerated,” said James Gale, Special Agent-in-Charge for the Service’s Southeast Region. “These bats are endangered and this reckless behavior is particularly grievous considering the current health of its population and our work with partners to recover the species.”

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A significant challenge bats face is White Nose Syndrome (WNS), which has been decimating bat populations in the East.

WNS was first discovered near Albany, N.Y. in February 2006. It has been confirmed or suspected in 11 states in the Eastern United States from New Hampshire to Tennessee. Since 2006, biologists across the Northeast have reported as much as a 100 percent decline in hibernating bats in affected caves.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requests that cavers do not enter caves in all WNS affected states and adjoining states. The Service request cavers refrain from caving anywhere during the hibernation period (September – May) to minimize disturbance and mortality to bats.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Visit the Service’s websites at http://www.fws.gov/ or http://www.fws.gov/southeast.

Many bat sites on the Web provide worthy information and great photos from around the world. BATS NORTHWEST is focused on our regional bats, but there is so much to learn about bat conservation worldwide. You may enjoy visiting some of these sites.

www.batcon.org
www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/living/bats.htm
www.batbox.org
www.batworld.org
www.cofibats.com
www.batcrew.com
www.warksbats.co.uk

May Cave Gating Presentation

Please join Bats Northwest for a cave gating presentation by Ron Zuber:

May 11, 6:30pm-8:30pm
Location: Building 30, 7400 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA

Ron Zuber will share his caving expertise with us through pictures and stories. Come see how gates are put in place to protect vital bat habitat.

Directions:
* By Bus: Metro bus #74 or 75. Get off at 74th, near the 7-11.
* By Car: Exit I-5 at NE 45th St, go E on 45th past University of Washington and downhill to merge with Montlake Blvd NE, which shortly curves N and become Sand Point Way. Continue 2 miles and turn E into Magnuson Park at 74th St. and drive through the main gate. Drive straight to stop sign; Building 30 is the former airplane hanger on your L. Turn L, then immediately L again into the parking lot. Plenty of free parking in area. Enter through the glass doors and join us upstairs.

Remember to check the Events page at http://www.batsnorthwest.org/events.html to see all of the activities that Bats Northwest is participating in. We’d love to see our members attending! Please send us an e-mail if you would like to volunteer to help.

Kathleen and Bill’s Samoan Adventure

by Kathleen Baker

Finally we’ve finished our initial 2-month training, and moved into our permanent Peace Corps destination: Siumu, a village on the south side of the main island of Upolu. At initial view, it is hardly even a village, as it has just a few houses strung along the road, a primary school, where we will be teaching, a high school, and a few family-run small grocery stores. There is nothing resembling a center, though a family-run taxi stand, a police quasi sub-station, and a never-open medical clinic are down the road a bit.

Keep up to date! Check out Bats Northwest’s Website.

Watch our Events Page for news on upcoming presentations and field trips.
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Photo: Jeff Hajenga/WVDNR
Healthy Virginia big-eared bat at Hellhole, Pendleton County, WV.
Credit: Wil Orndorff, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Likely WNS symptoms at Breathing Cave, Bath County, Virginia, late February 2009.
Bats Northwest Newsletter

Bats Northwest is a non-profit, all volunteer conservation organization.

Spring 2010

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Lynnwood, WA 98046
206.256.0406
Bats Northwest web site: www.batsnorthwest.org

Bats Northwest web site is waiting for you at:
www.batsnorthwest.org

Join our monthly BNW Meetings!
Second Tuesday,
6:30-8:30
Sand Point-Magnuson Park
Building 30
Conference Room