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

Membership Options: _$35  _$50  _$75  _$100  _Other

Name:_________________________________________________________________________________
Address:______________________________________________________________________________
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Email:_________________________________________________________________________________

BATS NW T-SHIRTS
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).
Small__     Medium__     Large__     X-Large__     2X__

While you’re watching your bat house waiting for your friendly insect pest control specialists to return from their winter vacations or for new guests to move in, come out and see Bats Northwest at one of the many garden and nature loving celebrations and events around the Seattle area.

New events are posted on our website at http://www.batsnorthwest.org. Just look at our Google calendar or click on the Events link on the left side of the page.

We can’t wait to see you all!
P.S. If you know of an event that you think a bat table/presentation would fit at, please let us know.
White-Nose Syndrome of Bats Confirmed in Alabama

Press Release from Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

White-nose syndrome (WNS), the disease that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America, has been confirmed in bats in the Russell Cave complex in Jackson County, marking the arrival of the disease in Alabama.

"White-nose syndrome had been confirmed in several counties in Tennessee, but had yet to be discovered in Alabama until this year," said Keith Hudson, a biologist with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. "This disease is likely one of the most significant disease threats to bat populations in Alabama due to its potential to affect multiple bat species and the devastating nature of the affliction. This disease is not known to affect humans."

Although scientists have yet to fully understand white-nose syndrome, research has demonstrated the disease is caused by a newly discovered fungus, Geomyces destructans, which often grows into white tufts on the muzzles of infected bats, giving the disease its name. White-nose syndrome was first detected in New York state in 2006 and has killed more than 5.5 million cave dwelling bats in eastern North America. Mortality rates of bats have reached almost 100 percent in multi-year infected caves. With the discovery of WNS in Alabama, a total of 17 states and four Canadian Provinces have now been confirmed with the disease. This finding in Alabama represents the southern-most occurrence of WNS in North America.

On March 1, 2012, a team of surveyors from Alabama A&M University and the National Park Service, coordinated by the Alabama Bat Working Group, were conducting a bat survey in Russell Cave in Jackson County where they saw numerous bats displaying symptomatic white patches of fungus on their skin. Two tri-colored bats and tissue samples from a Northern long-eared bat from the cave were sent to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study Unit at the University of Georgia for testing, which confirmed the presence of white-nose syndrome. The Russell Cave complex is a cave system that spans several miles of cave passage, including entrances on private property, and Russell Cave National Monument is managed by the National Park Service.

"The National Park Service has been working closely with state and federal agencies and has implemented protection protocols to try and limit the spread of this deadly disease," said John Bundy, Superintendent of Russell Cave National Monument. "Although the cave system has been closed for 10 years, access to the park’s archeological site remains open."

"We have worked closely with Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Alabama Bat Working Group to prepare for white-nose syndrome," said Mike Armstrong, USFWS Regional WNS Coordinator. "Now that it is confirmed here, we will continue to work with the state and our federal partners in their research and management of the disease."

WNS is known to be transmitted primarily from bat to bat, but fungal spores may be inadvertently carried to caves by humans on clothing and caving gear. Cave visitors are encouraged to check with landowners before entering any caves or mines, and to follow U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decontamination protocols to reduce the risk of human assisted transport of fungal spores.

Bats are an important part of our nation’s ecosystems, and provide significant pest control services to American farmers. Insectivorous bats likely save the U.S. agricultural industry at least $3 billion dollars each year, or approximately $74 per acre for the average farmer. Alabama is home to 15 species of bats, including federally listed endangered Gray and Indiana bats.

White-nose syndrome does not pose a threat to humans, pets or livestock. Physical signs associated with WNS are a white fungus on the bat’s nose, wings, ears or tail membrane, although affected bats do not always have visible fungus. Bats affected with WNS often exhibit unusual behavior in winter, including clustering near hibernacula entrances. Affected bats also may leave their hibernacula during the day and may be observed flying or clinging to rocks outside or on nearby buildings. Dead or dying bats are often found on the ground near affected areas. To report unusual bat activity persons can use the Alabama Bat Working Group’s website at http://alabamabatwgs.wordpress.com/report-a-bat/.

For more information about white-nose syndrome, visit http://www/fs.usda.gov/whitenosesyndrome.

For more information about bats in Alabama, visit http://www.outdooralabama.com/watchable-wildlife/whatmammals/bats/.

For more information about Russell Cave National Monument, visit http://www.nps.gov/ruca/index.htm.

Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats

Opened in January, runs through May

“Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats,” a touring museum exhibition produced by Evergreen Exhibitions, is bringing the mystery surrounding bats out of the dark.

The 2,500 square foot exhibition dispels popular misconceptions about bats, describes their ecological importance and gives visitors an appreciation of the true wonders of the bat world. The exhibit includes multi-sensory interactive displays, and environmentally lifelike settings that engage visitors to learn about the world’s only flying mammals.

Remaining Bat Chats:

Saturday, Apr. 14
1:00pm “Bats: Biology, Behaviors & Benefits”
Cris Hein, Bat Conservation International

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1:00pm “Forensics and Non-Invasive Management”
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Sponsored by Oregon Forest Resources Institute
Mike Rochelle, Wildlife Program Manager, Weyerhaeuser

Jake Verschuyl, Biodiversity Researcher, National Council for Air and Stream Improvement

World Forestry Center
4033 SW CANYON RD, PORTLAND OREGON 97221
T 503.228.1367

Hours
10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m. daily. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day

Rates
$9.00 adults
$8.00 seniors (62+)
$6.00 children 3-18

Members and children 2 years and under are free.

Board Members of Bats Northwest visited the exhibit on March 11. Photos by Nicholas Noe.
Our Mission
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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
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tage

Green Lake Bat Walks 2012

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Emergency Assessment Concludes that Three Bat Species are Endangered in Canada

On 3 February 2012, an emergency assessment subcommittee of COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assessed the status of three species under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA). The subcommittee concluded that the unprecendented mortality in Canada’s native bat species from Geomyces destructans, the pathogen responsible for White-nose Syndrome, poses a serious and imminent threat to the survival of each of these species. 

COSEWIC comprises members from each provincial and territorial government wildlife agency, four federal entities (Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Canadian Museum of Nature), three non-government Science Members, and the Co-chairs of the Species Specialist and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee.

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Definition of COSEWIC Terms and Status Categories:
- Wildlife Species: A species, subspecies, variety, or geographically or genetically distinct population of animal, plant or other organism, other than a bacterium or virus, that is wild by nature and is either native to Canada or has extended its range into Canada without human intervention and has been present in Canada for at least 50 years.
- Extirpated: A wildlife species that is extinct in the wild in Canada. All subspecies of a species assessed by COSEWIC under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act have been extirpated. The only species extirpated is the Eastern Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus subflavus).
- Endangered (E): A wildlife species facing imminent extirpation or extinction.
- *denotes a COSEWIC risk category

COSEWIC comprises members from each provincial and territorial government wildlife agency, four federal entities (Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada Agency, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Canadian Museum of Nature), three non-government Science Members, and the Co-chairs of the Species Specialist and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee.

Three Bat Species Endangered and, Other Bat Species Likely Impacted

In Canada, the ranges of the Tri-colored Bat and G. destructans almost completely overlap. This bat is relatively rare, but direct counts of this species at a hibernaculum in Quebec show declines of 94% over two years. The disease risk to Tri-colored Bat is considered exceptionally high because it hibernates at temperatures considered optimal for the pathogen and for relatively long periods of time.

Although the range of Little Brown Myotis has so far only been partially impacted by G. destructans, the disease is spreading at rates between 200 and 400km/year and could encompass most of the species’ range within two to three generations. Recent population counts of Little Brown Myotis at hibernacula in Canada show declines of 94-99% within two years of exposure.

For Northern Myotis, like Little Brown Myotis, the distribution of G. destructans does not include the full range of the species, but the evidence indicates rapid spread and very high mortality. Recent counts at hibernacula in Canada show declines of over 90% within two years.

Three bat species were assessed by COSEWIC in February; however, to date White Nose Syndrome has been identified in nine species of bats in North America and there is conservation concern for these and other species where the disease has not yet been found.

Not Just a Bat Problem, Bats Provide Us with Very Important Ecological Services

Although there are no known links between the syndrome and human health, White Nose Syndrome is more than just a bat problem. Bats provide tremendous value to the economy as natural pest control for farms and forests every year, and may play an important role in helping to control insects that spread disease to people. US researchers have estimated that the bat die-off will cost North American agriculture $3.7 billion dollars annually.

What is Being Done

Currently there is no treatment for, or means of preventing transmission of White Nose Syndrome. Canadian and United States researchers and conservation biologists are working together to improve data and address important research questions on bats and the disease. An inter-agency team has prepared a draft document, “A National Plan to Manage White Nose Syndrome in Bats in Canada” to guide and coordinate actions. Efforts are underway to reduce or remove the possibility of transfer of the fungus by humans through reducing visits to caves and through biosecurity protocols for researchers. We encourage the public to contact their local wildlife agencies and report any caves, mines or other sites used by bats, and any unusual bat behavior, such as bats flying outdoors in deep winter, or sightings of dead bats in winter.

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

Watch our Events Page for news on upcoming presentations and field trips.
Emergency Assessment Concludes that Three Bat Species are Endangered in Canada

Press Release from the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada

On 3 February 2012, an emergency assessment sub-committee of COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assessed the status of Tri-colored Bat (Perimyotis subflavus), Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus), and Northern Myotis (Myotis septentrionalis). All three species were assessed as Endangered. The sub-committee concluded that the unprecidented mortality in Canada’s native bat species from Geomyces destructans, the pathogen responsible for White-nose Syndrome, poses a serious and imminent threat to the survival of each of these species. Populations of all three species have recently declined precipitously due to the rapid spread of White Nose Syndrome. A recommendation has been made to the Minister of the Environment that an Emergency Order be issued placing these wildlife species on Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act.

The emergency assessment was based on the best available knowledge for the three bat species and the disease agent in Canada and the United States. Although information on bats and the fungal disease is somewhat limited, the evidence of population collapse and rapid spread of the disease is clear. This is only the fourth emergency assessment carried out by COSEWIC in about ten years.

White Nose Syndrome
White Nose Syndrome was first identified in a cave in New York State, USA in February 2006. It was discovered in Canada in the winter of 2009/2010 and is now confirmed in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and is spreading rapidly at rates of between 200 and 4000/km/year. It is believed that the fungus is not native to North America, and further human transport may facilitate more rapid spread to western Canada.

Little is known about this syndrome that gets its name from the characteristic white fuzzy fungal growths that can be seen around the nose and on the wings of infected bats. Laboratory studies in 2011 confirm that the syndrome is caused by a fungus called Geomyces destructans. White-nose Syndrome interrupts the hibernation of bats and they quickly use up the fat reserves that get them through the winter. Infected bats often emerge early from hibernation and are seen flying around in midwinter. These bats usually dehydrate or starve to death. The disease has now been linked to deaths of more than 5.7 million North American bats.

Three Bat Species Endangered and, Other Bat Species Likely Impacted
In Canada, the ranges of the Tri-colored Bat and G. destructans almost completely overlap. This bat is relatively rare, but direct counts of this species at a hibernaculum in Quebec show declines of 94% over two years. The disease risk to Tri-colored Bat is considered exceptional, particularly high because it hibernates at temperatures considered optimal for the pathogen and for relatively long periods of time.

Although the range of Little Brown Myotis has so far only been partially impacted by G. destructans, the disease is spreading at rates between 200 and 4000/km/year and could encompass most of the species’ range within two to three generations. Recent population counts of Little Brown Myotis at hibernacula in Canada show declines of 94-99% within two years of exposure. For Northern Mytota, like Little Brown Myotis, the distribution of G. destructans does not include the full range of the species but the evidence indicates rapid spread and very high mortality. Recent counts at hibernacula in Canada show declines of over 90% within two years. Only three bat species were assessed by COSEWIC in February, however, to date White Nose Syndrome has been identified in nine species of bats in North America and there is conservation concern for those and other species where the disease has not been found.

Not Just a Bat Problem, Bats Provide Us with Very Important Ecological Services
Although there are no known links between the syndrome and human health, Myotis lucifugus is a species of particular importance because there are increased concerns for the loss of biodiversity that would result from the loss to this species. Many bat sites on the Web provide worthy information, some of the sites listed on conservation worldwide. You may enjoy visiting some of the listed sites on our Resource Page at: http://batsnorthwest.org/resources.html

Of transfer of the fungus by humans through reducing visits to caves and through biosecurity protocols for researchers. We encourage the public to contact their local wildlife agencies and report any caves, mines or other sites used by bats, and any unusual bat behavior, such as bats flying outdoors in deep winter, or sightings of dead bats in winter. (Note: The has been some recent changes in the scientific and common names of bats: Little Brown Myotis (Myotis lucifugus) was previously, Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus); Tri-colored Bat (Perimyotis subflavus) was previously, Eastern Pipistrelle (Pipistrellus subflavus) and Northern Myotis (Myotis septentrionalis) was previously, Northern Long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis).

About COSEWIC
COSEWIC assesses the status of wild species, subspecies, varieties, or other important units of biological diversity, considered to be at risk in Canada. To do so, COSEWIC uses scientific, Aboriginal traditional and community knowledge provided by experts from governments, academia and other organizations. Summaries of assessments are currently available to the public on the COSEWIC website (www.cosewic.gc.ca) and are submitted to the Federal Minister of the Environment for listing consideration under the Species at Risk Act (SARA). Full status reports and status appraisal summaries are also made publicly available on the Species at Risk Public Registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca).

There are now 643 wildlife species in various COSEWIC risk categories, including 284 Endangered, 158 Threatened, 177 Special Concern, and 24 Exterminated (i.e. no longer found in the wild in Canada). In addition to these wildlife species that are in COSEWIC risk categories, there are 14 wildlife species that are Extinct.

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Where all are inspired by the remarkable Attributes and invaluable contribution of Bats to Our Natural Heritage

Green Lake Bat Walks 2012

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Bathhouse Theater
Photo courtesy of Seattle.gov
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Bats Northwest Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3026
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

Join Bats Northwest at a Fun Filled Event This Spring/Summer!

CELEBRATE URBAN NATURE!
AT MAGNUSON PARK
Saturday, March 31 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
55 per family or $8 per person

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Edmonds in Bloom

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