

Bats News Northwest

SPRING 2009

BNW IS A NON-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION



A Bouquet of Bat Stories from the Northwest Flower and Garden Show 2009

by Kathleen Bander

Every year at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, volunteers at the Bats Northwest booth are regaled by stories eagerly told to them by booth visitors.

This year was no exception. Two stories stand out from the dozens we heard, and I hope you find them as unusual as we did.

Story #1

Julia from British Columbia recalled that as children, she and her friends were fascinated by a "haunted" house in the neighborhood. In actuality, as she was to learn later, that house was less haunted than it was abandoned in an unfinished state. It was slowly falling to pieces.

On long summer evenings, the neighborhood children would test their bravery by challenging one another to enter the scary house. Adding to the spookiness were the bats flying around and the squeaking sounds coming from inside the menacing house. All in all, it was a deliciously scary summer activity for the children, with many taking the ultimate challenge, and racing into, and then out of, the house, declaring their feats in loud triumphant shouts of success.

But in daylight, the house revealed a different story: the abandoned house was the location of a maternity bat colony. The house's squeakings were mother bats and their babies communicating. And there were thousands of them. One day, Julia decided to see what the house looked like in the daytime. While poking around the house, which didn't look quite so menacing in the light, Julia found the body of a baby bat on the ground, and

determined it needed a burial. Being a soft-hearted girl, during that summer she conducted many bat burials, complete with small cardboard caskets. The graveyard for the bats was the most fragrant in the garden: under the lilac bushes. By summer's end, there would be neatly tended rows of small crosses under the lilac, each designating a bat that hadn't made it into adulthood. But there's always a bright side, and Julia recalls that her parents always took great pride in their lilac bushes, claiming that the buried bats were the reason their bushes grew and bloomed so splendidly.



Sarah Schmidt at BNW F&G Booth 2009 .

Photo by Ron Zuber.

Continued on page 2



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



**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

Board of Directors

Chris Anderson
Kathleen Bander
John Bassett
Meg Lunnum
Michelle Noe
Barb Ogaard

Technical Advisors

Curt Black
Sarah Schmidt

Newsletter Editor

Michelle Noe

Web Master

Michelle Noe

Bouquet of Flower & Garden Show 2009 Stories

Continued from page 1

Story #2

Stranger than...what's going on here? Standing in front of the Bats Northwest booth, the woman who related this story kept asking her husband, who had been present at the time of the incident, to corroborate what she was telling.

And this is what she was telling. One hot summer's night, while watching television in her living room, the woman opened the door to cool the room down. Soon, a bat flew through the door and into the room, and momentarily flitted around the darkened room, soon settling onto some curtains. The woman decided to let the bat be for the time being (she was enjoying her show and didn't want to

miss anything). Predictably, a commercial break came on, and she began channel surfing with the TV remote. Abruptly, the bat flew toward her, zooming in on the remote. Though surprised, the woman was not particularly panicked, and surmised that the bat was attracted to the frequency of the remote (she knew a bit about bats!) To test her theory, she took the remote outside and continued to change the channels. She wasn't surprised when the bat followed her out the door, still zeroed in on the remote.

Seems he didn't like her program choices.



Penelope Kern, Kathleen Bander and Curt Black enjoying the show.

Photo by Ron Zuber.

Flower & Garden Show Raffle Winners!

by Meg Lunnum

Congratulations to Sandy Sproul from Tacoma, she won the rocket box bat house at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show last month. Sandy said she and her family see lots of bats looking out over the Tacoma Narrows. Pat Moore will receive "Landscaping with Wildlife" and Karen White will receive "Living with Wildlife", Russell Link books graciously donated by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Pat and Karen both live in Seattle. Also included in the book are applications to become a Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary. Justine Nagel from Vashon Island and Angela Bolton from Everett each will receive a pound of Bat Magic Coffee from Thanksgiving Coffee Company, donated by a Bats Northwest boardmember.

Thank you so much to all of our winners for supporting Bats Northwest.

VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE

by Kathleen Bander

Here's how the math breaks down:

8 hours set up for 11 years = 88 hours

8 hours breakdown for 9 years = 72 hours

TOTAL: 160 hours

240 miles per trip for 11 years 2640 miles
@Federal reimbursement rate of
.14/mile

Lost wages \$450 for 11 years \$49500.00

What, you ask, is this all about? It's about the Bats Northwest's largest and most visible public venue: our annual exhibit at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show. And it's most specifically about a too-long unsung volunteer, Bill Mirand.

Bill started by building the display and booth. Then for all 11 years (except for 2 years of breakdown) he transported the booth to the convention center and set it up. At the conclusion of each year's show he broke it down, loaded it up, and transported it to storage.

All this he did with unstinting good humor because he had the good luck (?) to be the spouse of a bat lover. Though bats are not his primary volunteer interest, he can take part credit for the thousands of Flower and Garden show visitors Bats Northwest has been able to reach out to over the 11 years.

Thank you, Bill. A job well done!

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***

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.

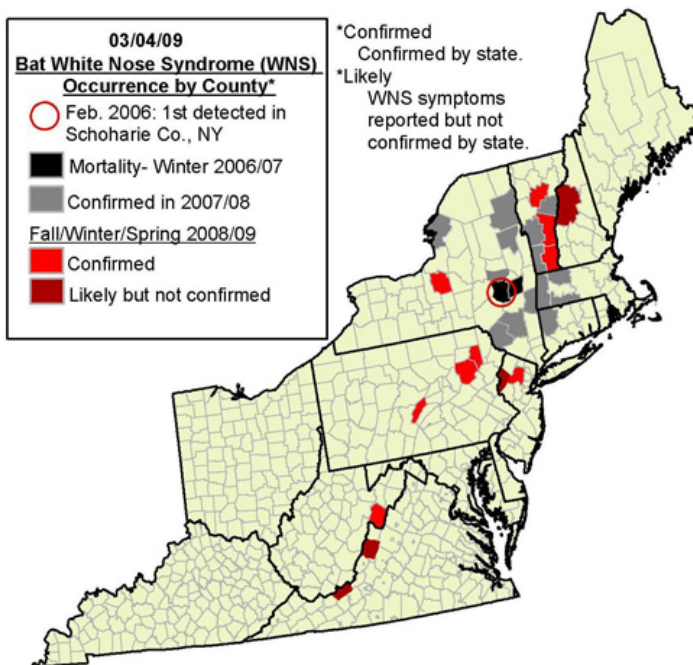
www.batcon.org
www.wa.gov/wdfw/wildwatch
www.batsound.com
www.lubee.com
www.athertontablelands.com/bats
www.batbox.org
www.batworld.org
www.californiabats.com
www.batcrew.com
www.warksbats.co.uk



WNS: Still a Problem and Still a Mystery

by Michelle Noe

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) was first detected in the winter of 2006. Last winter it spread and this winter it has spread even further, now confirmed in seven states. The most recent states to confirm WNS presence are New Hampshire and West Virginia. The syndrome been found in at least 55 caves in seven states.



Map Credit: Cal Butchkoski, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Scientists speculate that the fungus, which shows up on noses, muscles and wing membranes, causes a change in the hibernation pattern of bats, causing them to die because they either come out of hibernation too early/too frequently or burn off reserve energy too quickly. Scientists are uncertain whether the fungus is the primary cause of the hibernation changes and deaths, or if it is just a symptom of another unknown vector.

Continued on page 5



Continued from page 4

The latest development in WNS research is the idea of putting heated bat boxes in caves during the winter to help to save White-nose affected bats. Craig Willis, an assistant professor at the University of Winnipeg, and Justin Boyles, a graduate student in biology at Indiana State University in Terra Haute, think that WNS is disrupting natural hibernation patterns. Heated boxes could function as a "stopgap" to reduce deaths by decreasing the energy needed by roused bats. To test the boxes out, Willis and Boyles are going to put up boxes in caves of healthy bats in Manitoba to see if the bats will use the boxes. By using less body fat in arousing it is hoped that mortality will be reduced from the present 75 to 80 percent down to 8 percent. Because the fungus seems to do best in cold conditions it is hoped that keeping the affected bats alive will not lead to a spread of the condition during the warm summer months.



Shindle Iron Mine © 2009 John Chenger, Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.

To follow WNS developments go to <http://batsnorthwest.org/resources.html> and click on the links under White Nose Syndrome.



Shindle Iron Mine © 2009 John Chenger, Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.

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

**Watch our
Events Page
for news on
upcoming
presentations and
field trips.**

Please Join Bats Northwest in Welcoming
Ron Zuber
 for a Presentation on Caves and Caving in the
 Pacific Northwest

May 12, 2009
 6:30pm-8:30pm
 Sand Point - Magnuson Park
 Building 30 Conference Room

BATS OF THE NORTHWEST



<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Big Brown bat
<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Silver-haired bat
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary bat
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Big-Eared bat
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid bat
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted bat
<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>	Canyon bat
<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Little brown myotis
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared myotis
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged myotis
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Small-footed myotis
<i>Myotis californicus</i>	California myotis
<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's myotis

Unfortunate Bat Hitchhiker Gets Lift on Outside of Shuttle

Article and Photo Credit: NASA

A bat that was clinging to space shuttle Discovery's external fuel tank during the countdown to launch the STS-119 mission remained with the spacecraft as it cleared the tower, analysts at NASA's Kennedy Space Center concluded.

Based on images and video, a wildlife expert who provides support to the center said the small creature was a free tail bat that likely had a broken left wing and some problem with its right shoulder or wrist. The animal likely perished quickly during Discovery's climb into orbit.



This free tail bat was hanging on to space shuttle Discovery as the countdown proceeded. Credit: NASA

Because the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge coexists inside Kennedy Space Center, the launch pads have a number of measures available, including warning sirens, to deter birds and other creatures from getting too close. The launch team also uses radar to watch for birds before a shuttle liftoff.

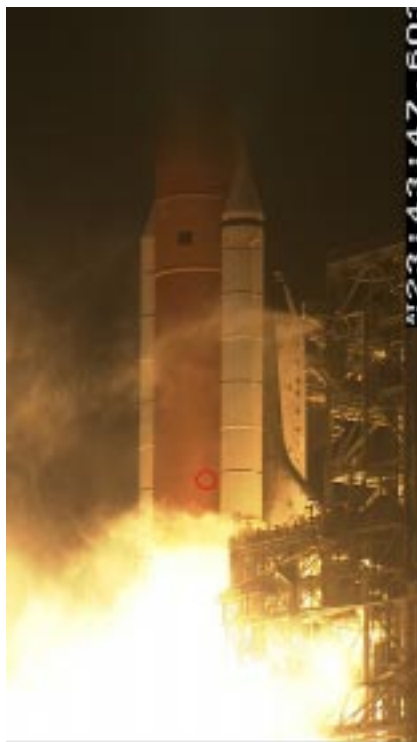
Nevertheless, the bat stayed in place and it was seen changing positions from time to time.

Launch controllers spotted the bat after it had clawed onto the foam of the external tank as Discovery stood at Launch Pad 39A. The temperature never dropped below 60 degrees at that part of the tank, and infrared cameras showed that the bat was 70 degrees through launch.

The final inspection team that surveys the outside of the shuttle and tank for signs of ice buildup observed the small bat, hoping it would wake up and fly away before the shuttle engines ignited.

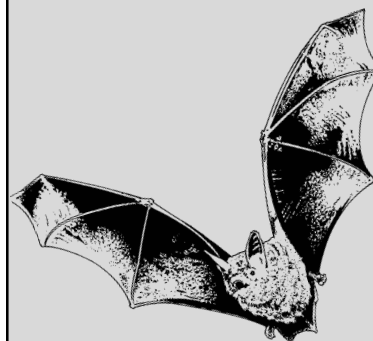
It was not the first bat to land on a shuttle during a countdown. Previously, one of the winged creatures landed on the tank during the countdown to launch shuttle Columbia on its STS-90 mission in 1998.

Steven Siceloff
NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center



The bat was seen on the external tank as the shuttle cleared the launch tower at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Photo credit: NASA



Bats Northwest

206.256.0406

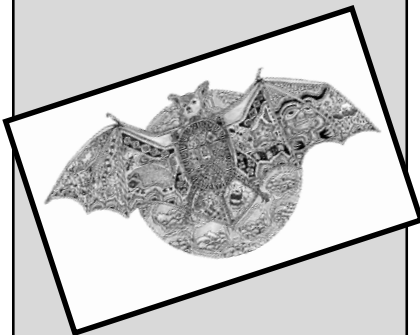
www.batsnorthwest.com



Bats Northwest Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 3026
Lynnwood, WA 98046
206.256.0406

Bats Northwest web site:
www.batsnorthwest.org



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: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

BATS NW T-SHIRTS

You'll look great in our Bats Northwest Long-Sleeved 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 LONG-SLEEVED T-SHIRT(S) AT \$22.00 EACH FOR A TOTAL OF \$ _____ (AMOUNT).

SMALL___ MEDIUM___ LARGE___ X-LARGE___ 2X___



206.256.0406

Lynnwood, WA 98046

P.O. Box 3026
Bats Northwest

