

BAT WORLD

Conservation - Rescue - Sanctuary

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



Bat World

Conservation, Rescue, Sanctuary



Red bats (*L. borealis*) being released after they were hand raised
See page 13 for additional details. Photo by Amanda Lollar.

Printed on 20% recycled paper certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, using 100% vegetable based ink.

NOTE: The articles in this magazine are written by the same humans who also care for the bats. Although we try very hard a few typos always seem to slip through. Please bear with us and overlook any mistakes.

The content in this publication was created by trained, vaccinated bat care professionals in possession of all appropriate licenses or permits. No statement or photo contained in this magazine should be construed as permission or recommendation to handle bats.

VOLUME 7, 2015 Annual Report

- 3 Year-end Letter
- 4 2015 Financial Accounting
- 5 Year-End Summary
- 6 2015 Rescues
- 20 One Life that Mattered
- 22 A Bittersweet Rescue
- 26 Goodbye Dear Friends
- 27 Bat Castle Update
- 27 White Nose Syndrome Update
- 30 Educational Efforts
- 32 Activism in 2015
- 34 Accomplishments
- 35 Acknowledgements
- 38 Fundraisers
- 40 On the Lighter Side
- 42 Cyber-Stalker Update
- 43 Bats in the Pantry Recipe
- 44 Letters
- 45 Loving Tributes
- 46 Sponsor a Bat in Need

PRINTED ANNUALLY. Want more updates than an annual printing? Sign up to receive our free Night Flight News at batworld.org



Bat World, Volume 6, 2014

All content copyright of Bat World Sanctuary.

Bat World is published annually by Bat World Sanctuary, a 501c3 non-profit organization. Donations and memberships allow Bat World to continue its mission of rescue and

conservation. To join Bat World or obtain more information about bats and how they make our world a better place, visit www.batworld.org.

To inquire about local rescue, memberships, make donations, sponsor a bat, purchase merchandise or sign up for e-alerts, please contact us at:

Web: www.batworld.org
E-mail: sanctuary@batworld.org
Phone: 940-325-3404
Mail: Bat World Sanctuary, 299 High Point Rd., Weatherford, TX 76088

Board Officers

Founder/President
Amanda Lollar

Vice President
Dottie Hyatt

Secretary
Terri Smith

Treasurer
Denise Tomlinson

Advisory Board
Sean Jennett, DVM
Lynsey Rosen, DVM

Special Projects
Director
Kate Rugroden

2015 Year End Letter

Dear Bat World Sanctuary Supporters,

Our first year in our new facility has been an eventful one. After settling in and successfully ending 2014 we were hit with a crisis due to a decade-long drought. Our county's water supply had been devastated and we were notified that we only had three months before all water supplies were gone. Through the generous help of the GreaterGood.com, we were able to raise the funds needed to dig a private water well for the sanctuary, and we now have a steady water supply for our rescued bats for decades to come. But to all weather forecaster's surprise, Mother Nature shocked us with heavy snowstorms followed by torrential, record-breaking rainfall January through May. Consequently, a terrible humidity issue developed in the attic of our new facility that required the installation of roof vents, and our semi-outdoor flight enclosure floor needed repair when a drainage issue developed. Despite these problems, we forged ahead with daily rescues of bats in need even though our emergency fund was depleted. Then, like Angels of Mercy, generous donors (whom we cannot thank enough) came forward and contributed to help us with all of the repairs and also replenish our emergency fund.

In order to build our wonderful new sanctuary ([click for video](#)), we were able to raise 40% of the funds and then we borrowed the remaining amount needed. Had it not been for your support of this monumental endeavor of building a new facility, we may not have been able to save the hundreds of lives that we did this year - priceless lives that we may have been otherwise forced to turn away due to lack of space. To continue the forward motion we attained of accepting all bats at risk, we created a "Make Bat World Sanctuary a Forever Place for Bats in Need" fundraiser this year with a goal of becoming debt free and financially secure within two years. Many of you reading this letter generously contributed to this fund. Thanks to you, as well as an incredibly generous donor, *who gave an amazing \$50,000 toward this need*, we might reach our target by December of this year—an entire year early! We have applied many fundraising dollars to the principal of the loan throughout 2015. As of this writing we only need \$13,000 in order to meet our goal. In so doing we can forever remain a steadfast beacon of hope for bats who are still waiting to be rescued.

As you look through our 2015 Annual Report magazine, please remember that you were the reason we were able to accomplish everything on these pages. Your financial contributions have helped us save injured and abused bats that would not have lived without our intervention, and you have enabled us to spread the word that these gentle creatures, so essential to our planet, need our help to survive.

Please consider sending a donation to help us save more lives in the coming year. Use the enclosed envelope, or contribute online through our "[Donate Now](#)" button at batworld.org. And please remember that no matter how small your donation may seem to you, it is vital to the survival of the bats, and it will never seem small to us.

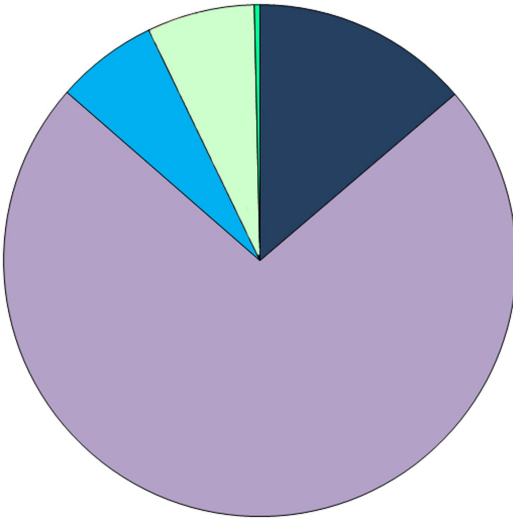
With Gratitude



Amanda Lollar
Founder and President
Bat World Sanctuary

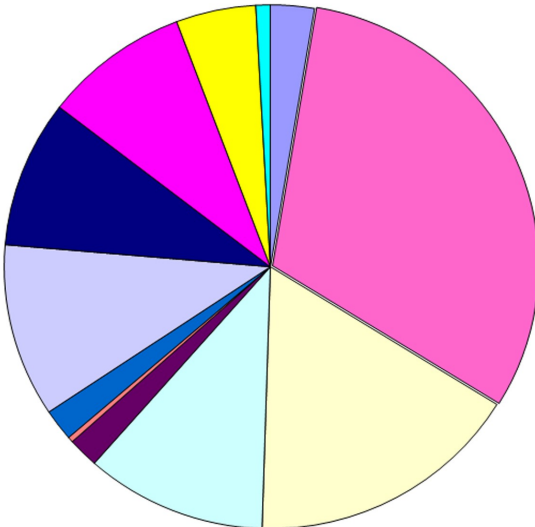
2015 Financial Accounting

Bat World 2015 Income



- Adopt-a-Bat sponsorships
- Commission from fundraisers & educational programs
- Donations
- Grants
- Rental Income

Bat World 2015 Expenses



- *Printing & website services
- Facility loan payments (regular & addtl principal)
- **Emergency needs & repairs
- Food-nutritional expenses
- Insurance
- Licensing & misc.
- Veterinary expenses
- Office, program & resale expenses
- ***Operational expenses
- Employee payroll
- Professional Fees
- Travel expense (rescues, programs & conferences)

*Books for resale, adopt-a-bat materials and educational hand-outs.

**Digging emergency water well, concrete repair, predator proofing bat castle, installing vents in attic due to extreme humidity issues.

***Utilities, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, caging repair, supplies and enrichment.

2015 Year-End Summary

Income

Commissions from fundraisers & educational programs	\$55,021.63
Donations	\$229,828.27
Adopt-a-Bat sponsorships	\$9,907.24
Grants	\$20,320.00
Rental income	\$1,131.35

Expenses

*Facility loan payments (regular payments and payments on principal)	\$90,249.55
Professional fees	\$14,063.71
Printing & web services	\$7,681.36
*Office, program & fundraising expense	\$30,971.10
Emergency needs & repairs	\$48,364.21
Operational expenses	\$26,331.03
Food & nutritional supplements	\$31,878.59
Medical & veterinary supplies	\$5,655.04
Travel expense - rescues & programs	\$2,540.07
Permits, bank fees, licensing & misc.	\$959.99
Insurance	\$5,404.50
Employee payroll	\$25,594.69

Total income \$316,208.49

Total expenses \$289,693.84

Net rollover \$26,514.65

*Numerous payments were made on this loan throughout 2015 in order to obtain financial security for the organization by becoming debt free. This amount reflects a generous \$50,000 donation toward our goal.

**Office and program expenses include items needed to create our Adopt-a-Bat sponsorship packages, ink, t-shirts, and shipping charges.

Note: This accounting reflects 2015 through the third quarter.
It does not reflect the entire year.

2015 Rescues

Your contributions enabled us to save 532 orphaned, injured and displaced bats this year. Although a few of these bats were not releasable due to injuries, well over 500 bats now fly free because you bought their medicine, paid for their housing, and provided the food that sustained them. The bats featured in this section represent a few of the lives saved through your support.



This beautiful orphaned Southern yellow bat (*Lasiurus ega*) named Sunny was the victim of a horrible experience before finding his way to Bat World Sanctuary. Sunny was found on the ground after a strong storm in south Texas. Unfortunately, the person who found Sunny considered bats to be vermin. The man put Sunny in a plastic bag, tied it, then put that bag into another plastic bag and tied it, and repeated this process until he had Sunny in five individually tied plastic bags. He then left Sunny to die in the trash.

Two days later the man opened the trash can to throw something else away and discovered Sunny was still alive, so he called animal control. Fortunately, the animal control officer was also a wildlife rehabilitator and someone we work with on a regular basis. She rushed over to the location, discovered that Sunny was locked inside numerous plastic bags and tore them open immediately. Sunny, a threatened species in the State of Texas, was still miraculously alive. He was dehydrated, starving and terrified but thankfully uninjured. He was transported to our Bat World MidCities rescue center in Arlington, TX, where he fully recovered, however, he is unable to fly well enough to be released back to the wild. Instead, Sunny, will live out his life with the company of his own kind, in a place where bats are loved, respected and treated with the kindness they deserve.

DEHYDRATED ORPHAN



Amanda Lollar

One of several dozen orphaned and juvenile Brazilian free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) rescued from being trapped inside an older building that the bats were using as a roosting site. This little one was so dehydrated when he arrived at Bat World Sanctuary that he didn't have enough moisture left in his body to even open his eyes. After receiving injections of electrolytes he was able to nurse milk formula from a foam tip and went on to fully recover. Several weeks later, after reaching adulthood and weeks of flight training, he was released back to the wild.



Amanda Lollar

SUMMER-LONG RESCUE



Throughout the summer we rescued dozens of Brazilian free-tail orphans (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) that came from an old, dilapidated building in downtown Mineral Wells, Texas. At some point adult bats found access to the building and set up a nursery colony, and for unknown reasons (we suspect predation by numerous local owls) mother bats did not return to their young. Emaciated babies began to gravitate to the outside of the building in search of mom and unfortunately several pups perished from starvation, feral cats and fire ants before we were alerted that anything was occurring.

We investigated the building and made the decision to check every morning and afternoon thereafter to look for pups in order to save as many as possible. The orphans were very tiny, making it difficult to spot them in the tall grass and the numerous hiding places within loose bricks.

During one morning search staff member Desi (pictured right and below) found nine orphans over the course of two hours. Our daily searches allowed us to save many lives and continued through August, at which time the pups were old enough to be self-sufficient.



Gia Jones



Gia Jones



Two of the orphaned free-tailed pups rescued from the dilapidated building in downtown Mineral Wells, Texas. The [babies are fed using foam eye-shadow applicator tips that have been removed from the wand](#). Warm milk is dropped onto the tip as the pup feeds. The foam tip also acts as a pacifier for the pup as they like to keep the tip in their mouths after they have fed. (Tips are usually discarded by the pup within an hour.) Free-tailed bats like to roost in crevices, where they feel safe, so we feed the orphans in a manner that allows them to derive a sense of security which is between the folds of a soft warm cloth. The cloth has a dual purpose in also soaking up any milk not absorbed in the feeding tip, thereby keeping the pup clean. Pups are fed in an “assembly line” fashion as it allows us to feed several at a time.

Protect yourself, protect them

**NEVER
RESCUE
A BAT
BARE
HANDED!**



Find help at batworld.org

RED BAT ORPHANS



Kate Rugroden

These three orphaned red bat pups (*Lasiurus borealis*) were rescued after being found on the ground after Tropical Storm Bob passed through Arlington, Texas. They were hand raised at our Bat World Mid-Cities rescue center and released back to the wild at 10 weeks of age.

Red bats roost openly in trees using their “dried leaf” coloring as camouflage. Despite this natural camouflage they are sometimes still spotted by birds such as blue jays and crows. Mothers trying to escape sometimes drop their babies while flying away.

Every summer Bat World Sanctuary receives dozens of calls weekly about grounded mother and baby bats. Whenever possible, uninjured mothers and pups are released in a safe area close to where they were originally found. Orphaned pups are brought in and hand raised, then released when they are fully flighted and able to survive on their own.

Compared to a cotton swab, the two-week old siblings below show just how tiny red bat pups are at birth. The blanket is one of several prepared for the orphaned bats by the USDA and presented to Kate Rugroden, Bat World Sanctuary Director of Special Projects.



Kate Rugroden



Amanda Lollar

The top photo is an approximately three week old red bat male found on the ground after yet another storm passed through the area. His rescuer, Stacie, then drove him 20 miles to Bat World Sanctuary during a torrential downpour of five inches in a matter of hours. The beautiful orphaned Seminole pup below was brought to Bat World Sanctuary from Texarkana after being found on the ground by a family celebrating an outdoor barbeque. Both bats were hand-raised and released after they were adult-sized and able to forage and fly on their own.



Kate Rugroden

SEMINOLE ORPHAN



Muffin, an orphaned big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), was brought from 350 miles away from Pampa, TX, to Bat World Sanctuary.

Muffin was spotted clinging to a stone wall of an office building by Sandra, who worked in the building. Sandra then used our Locate a Rescuer map at batworld.org in an attempt to find help for the motherless pup. Several attempts were made to find help that day to no avail. The following day Muffin moved from the stone wall to a screen door, and continued to hang by herself for two more days, slowly starving. Sandra diligently attempted to find help in her area and in desperation, decided to call Bat World Sanctuary.

We immediately sent our transport volunteer David, from Ft. Worth to collect the starving baby. Little did we know that while David was on the way, another office worker had spotted Muffin and called Animal Control, who was dispatched to collect and euthanize the bat. The Animal Control officer arrived at the location before David did, and erroneously informed Sandra that because the bat was out during the day it must be rabid and therefore euthanized immediately. Sandra stood her ground and refused to surrender Muffin who by then was safely contained in a rescue box she has prepared under our direction.

David arrived shortly thereafter, secured Muffin, then headed back to Bat World Sanctuary making the 700-mile round trip in a single day despite scorching heat, rush hour traffic, and road construction. Once at Bat World, Muffin received fluids and formula to replenish her dehydrated, emaciated body. Muffin is now full grown and flying well. She will soon be released back to the wild in the area she was found, hopefully to raise pups of her own.

This pretty little northern yellow bat (*Lasiurus intermedius*) found her way to Bat World from Houston, Texas along with her mother, who suffered a jaw injury after being attacked by a bird. Mom was pregnant and gave birth to her pups in captivity while recuperating from her injury. Three of the pups were released, but “Cookie” was born with deformed fingers on one wing and cannot fly so she is now a permanent resident at our rescue center, Bat World Mid-Cities.



From the cover These two red bat siblings had a rough beginning after their mother was accidentally killed by lawn equipment while they were grounded (likely from a bird attack). The gardener who found them was horrified that their mother had been killed and quickly rushed the pups to us.

Once here he relayed the story that even while dying, the mother desperately tried to protect her pups. Although one of the pups had a bruised leg, she quickly healed. Both pups were hand raised and soon learned to eat meal worms from a dish. After a few weeks of flight training they were released back to the wild. ([Click for video](#))



EVENING BAT RESCUES



On intake, May 3



Before release on Aug. 15

Amanda Lollar

This female evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) was found on the steps of a Fort Worth, Texas college by a student. She had a large tear in her wing membrane which left her grounded and starving to death as she was unable to fly well enough to forage for insects.

Tears and holes in a bats' wing membrane typically heals well enough for the bat to be released, however, the healing process is very slow and can take several weeks to months to complete.

Midway through the healing process we discovered she was pregnant. She gave birth to twins a few weeks later. The photo to the right shows the pups being held under the wings of their mother like lumps under a big fuzzy blanket.



Amanda Lollar



Kate Rugroden

Within three weeks the pups were too big to fit underneath mom's wings (photo left) at which time she allowed us to take a picture.

This little mom successfully cared for the babies until they were full grown and then she proceeded to teach her pups how to eat meal worms from a dish.

Once the pups were able to fly like little champs the entire family was released back to the wild.



Before



After



Before



After

This poor little evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) was severely injured after becoming caught on a sticky paper insect trap. The property owner was attempting to eliminate flies in his barn and didn't realize he had bats living in the rafters of the barn. As soon as he realized that a bat had become stuck on the flypaper he called Bat World Sanctuary right away, then immediately went back and disposed of the remaining fly traps.

Arrangements were then made to transport the little bat 150 miles to Bat World Mid-Cities, where he was given pain medication, gently bathed and dried to remove the glue and debris, given fluids and antibiotics, and fed a small meal. In the first photo, it's clear that the bat is very dirty and matted with glue and debris from the trap, and you can see the horrible damage caused by the sticky paper against his delicate skin as well as a significant tear in one wing, likely the result of his efforts to free himself from the sticky trap.

The little bat, named BD, is still healing from his ordeal. The delicate wing membrane will likely take several months. After that we will assess his ability to fly. Once he has fully recovered, probably in the spring of 2016, he will be transported back to East Texas to rejoin his colony.

This sweet Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) was spotted by Bat World Sanctuary's plumber as she was trying to cross a busy street in a downtown area. He brought her to Bat World Sanctuary where an exam revealed she was covered in grass and burs, indicating she had crossed a field as well as trying to cross a busy street. She also had a knee injury that left her unable to groom her fur well enough to keep external parasites at bay. Her small, almost bald body, was riddled with mites that had laid thousands of eggs in her delicate wing membrane, literally sucking the life from her skin. Unable to fly, she was slowly starving. This photo was taken four months later and shows how well "Bugsy" recuperated from her ordeal. Bugsy's knee rendered her not releasable so she will spend her remaining years at Bat World Sanctuary, living a life of luxury with others of her kind. ([Click for video.](#))



These little Brazilian free-tails (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) came from a bank in a nearby town that is managed by two brothers. Sadly, one of the brothers believes all bats are rabid so he had many of them killed by animal control. Fortunately, the other brother was better informed and reached out to us so nine remaining bats were spared. They were driven to us by Bat World volunteer Marzi, who spent time encouraging the brothers to do a humane exclusion this spring (to which they agreed). We also reached out to their local animal control agency to hopefully prevent more tragic deaths due to this sort of maddening ignorance. These lucky nine bats were released into our bat castle (see page 27).



WILBUR & HENRY



Kate Rugroden

Wilbur, a large hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) arrived at our rescue center Bat World MidCities from Plano, Texas Animal Services, thin and dehydrated. A wing injury prevents him from being released but he is doing well in captivity and has found an unlikely friend in Henry, a tiny non-releasable tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) who was rescued in September. Wilbur would normally be solitary and roost in a tree, while Henry would live with his colony in a cave.

As a rule, these two species would never be found together in the wild. However, in captivity all rules are broken. Working so closely with the bats we rescue gives us the opportunity to observe and document their behavior, and we are fortunate to be able to witness situations like this which would not likely be observed in the wild. This also shows the unique size difference in North American bats as the hoary bat is one of our largest species and the tri-colored bat is one of our smallest.



COLT JUNIOR

Amanda Lolla

“Colt Junior” a Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) was found clinging to a building in the downtown area of Mineral Wells, Texas and was fortunately rescued by his human namesake, Colt, who said the poor bat was huddled up close to a pipe on the lower portion of a building, trying to find safety from gawkers who were stopping to take photos of him.

Colt used the lottery ticket he had just purchased to scoop up the frightened little bat, then placed him in a

box and drove the little guy to Bat World Sanctuary. We discovered that the bat had likely escaped the clutches of an owl or hawk based on the almost symmetrical holes in each wing membrane. On closer exam it was revealed that Colt Junior also had an abscessed tooth. The bad tooth would also explain why he was underweight and perhaps flying a little slower (enabling the owl to almost catch him). Luckily all those things were easily treated and two months later Colt Jr. was released to once again fly the night skies.

As his human rescuer Colt was leaving Bat World that day he stopped to tell us that he was getting married in about an hour so he needed to rush. So, not only did this man stop and save Colt Junior from a long, lingering death, he did so on perhaps the most important day of his own life.

Colt went above and beyond and showed us what real men are made of. Colt Junior certainly won the lottery that day and we hope his human rescuer ended up with a winning ticket. He certainly deserved it.

VALDEZ

This little oil covered free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) was found on the floor of a warehouse garage.

We aren't sure how he became so coated with oil but ingesting oils and glues can be a death sentence for mammals. Although it seems odd, the first treatment for animals like this is offering food, as even a small



Before

mouthful of food can save their lives. If oil has been ingested, it will adhere to the food and be passed more easily from the animal's body.

Bats are very clean animals and hate to have their coats dirty. If he had tried to groom the grease from his fur and ingested it in the process it would have killed him. It took two baths with Dawn before all the grease was removed.



After

After little “Valdez” was thoroughly bathed and rinsed he was gently brushed with an inter-dental brush (made for cleaning between human teeth). While being brushed he was held in front of a small blow dryer set on the lowest setting to speed the drying process. After a few weeks in recovery Valdez was released back to the wild.

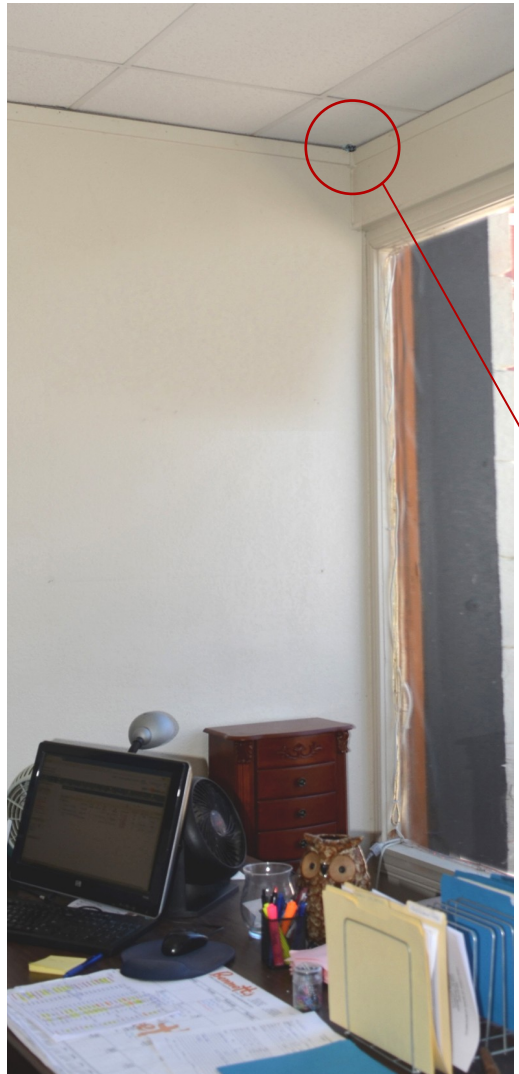
ONE LIFE THAT MATTERED

This past summer we also rescued dozens of juvenile bats from inside a 100 year-old building that had a large colony of bats in the upper crawlspace. These rescues were difficult as a literal maze of offices exist on the lower floor of this building, and bats began to find their way into numerous offices. For a period of about eight weeks, we spent several minutes to a few hours each day searching for and rescuing these bats, who were mostly juveniles just learning to fly. The youngsters were apparently practicing their wings and going for "joy rides", then ending up lost. Eventually they would wear themselves out trying to figure out how to get back from where they came.

The bats ended up in filing cabinets, inside trash cans, behind picture frames & desks, under shelves and in hard to reach corners. Thankfully, a kind office worker also helped these bats by carefully (using gloves) coaxing the lost youngsters into a rescue box we provided, and then calling us. Before she came along and alerted us, hundreds of young bats likely died without our knowledge.

Realizing this would be an ongoing problem, we spoke to the owner of the building to encourage him to either do a humane exclusion or seal the holes up once the bats have migrated this winter. However, providing information on humane exclusions to the building owner proved very frustrating. His solutions were shooting all the bats if he could find enough bullets, letting a bunch of snakes into the building, although they could only eat six at a time so that might not work, or just throwing them into the trash when he finds them inside. We asked him to please continue to call us if he finds another bat inside and he laughingly responded "*One bat can't matter; I can't believe you care about one little bat when there are thousands and thousands upstairs.*" To which we responded "*Yes, we actually do care. That bat's life is as important to him as your life is to you.*"

After numerous polite attempts to educate the building owner throughout the summer, he finally opted for a humane exclusion of the bats. The exclusion, performed by Wildlife 911, took place in October.





Above left: We discovered that hundreds of bats had lost their lives at the bottom of these unused stairs. The bats were physically not able to fly up to the top of the stairs in such a small space so we created a mesh ladder to allow trapped to easily climb back up instead.

Above right: The top of the stairs where mounds of guano had been accumulating for several decades.

Right: One of hundreds of bats who never had a chance. There were dozens like this one who became trapped at the bottom of the stairs.

Below: One life that mattered.



A BITTERSWEET RESCUE

By Founder & President Amanda Lollar

In the early nineties, when I was still new at rehabilitating bats, the common belief was that orphaned insectivorous bats could not be released back to the wild because they wouldn't know how to catch food (according to research, their mothers taught them). After raising several orphans to young adulthood and watching them navigate a flight cage with ease I began to question the notion that they could not be released. After all, it was instinct for these orphans to fly and it was instinct for them to echolocate, so why wouldn't they use those two skills to find food?

The orphans were rescued from our wild sanctuary (photo below) of 100,000+ free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliens*). I decided to release a few hand-raised flighted orphans the following summer and then track their survival. I devised a way to permanently mark them that would not be detrimental to their health (such as banding, which is highly fatal). I finally decided on a small animal tattoo gun, and I chose the

right earlobe to mark the bat. The ear was chosen because it was easily visible when the bats hang upside down from the rafters. A microbat's ears are very small so a number system could not be used. Instead I used simple dots. Throughout the nineties the only tattoo paste I found available was black. Then, in the early 2000's I found green ink and switched to using that. Every orphan released in 2001 had one green dot, those released in 2002 had two green dots (photo right), and everything from 2003 forward had three green dots (because there simply wasn't enough room on their tiny ears for more dots).

Every summer, after releasing orphans, I searched on a daily basis for a tattooed ear among the tens of thousands of faces and ears in the wild sanctuary. Finally, in 2008, a couple of weeks after releasing orphans, I found one hanging from the rafters. His belly was stuffed full, but with what? Could he have found a lactating female and been lucky enough to be adopted by a new mom even though he was basically a teenager? As luck would have it he pooped in my hand when I lifted him off the rafter. This was very exciting because if his poop



Amanda Lollar



contained insect parts then it was proof that they could indeed find food on their own. I cradled the precious "sample" in my gloved hand like a teensy nugget of gold, took it back to our facility and examined it under a microscope. Lo and behold, there were dozens of insect pieces, including shiny shell fragments from beetles. Finally, proof that insect-eating orphaned bats could be released and learn to forage for insects on their own.

But then more speculation arose: okay, so orphaned bats can be released and even survive, BUT, could they survive the annual migration to Mexico and back, and even raise young of their own? That question was answered when, finally, in 2010, I spotted a beautiful, healthy, lactating female on the rafters of our wild sanctuary with three green dots on her ear. Finding her among 100,000 other bats on the rafters was akin to finding a message in a bottle, something near impossible. She appeared to be around 5 years of age and she was proof that orphaned bats can be released, survive, migrate and even raise young of their own.

Over the past 20 years we've received thousands of calls from the public regarding grounded and injured bats.

Over all these years I have continued to check the right ear of every single bat that came in, but never saw a tattoo.

On Sat night, August 15, 2015, around 10:30pm we received a call about a grounded bat in our city park. The bat was hopping on the ground and couldn't get any lift. The caller had placed the bat into a box and called us right away. After we were back at the facility I thoroughly examined the bat.

She appeared old and seemed very tired, she had mites covering her wing membrane and her tail was injured. She had been grounded for a while because she was very thin. After hydrating her I did my usual check of the right ear and my jaw dropped. There they were - two faded but magnificent green dots on her right ear. That meant she was saved as a starving orphan the summer of 2002, and she was now 13 years old. It took her a little while, but I could tell she slowly started to recognize her surroundings; the roosting pouches, the sounds of the other bats in rehab, and then finally the food, which she gratefully ate. She even nuzzled my finger when I stroked her tiny face after she had eaten her fill.

Continued next page.

A Bittersweet Rescue, continued

The following morning I immediately went to check on her. Sadly, when I removed her from a roosting pouch I could tell she was dying. She passed away a few seconds later, in the same hands that saved her some 13 years ago. I am showing these photos after she died because she should be remembered for all she did during her lifetime. This beautiful, ragged little soul

migrated over 30,000 miles on her way to and from Mexico every single year, she likely raised 6 to 8 youngsters of her own, and she ate an estimated 23,725,000 insect pests during her lifetime. And lastly, she is beyond a shadow of a doubt, 100% proof positive that orphaned insectivorous bats can indeed be released to live the rich, full lives they deserve.



Bottom left: Tattooed ear under regular light.

Bottom right: Tattooed ear illuminated with light from behind



NOTE: Since publicizing this discovery we have been contacted by researchers in Germany, Mexico and Japan who now plan to use our tattoo method rather than harmful banding methods.

WESLEY



Before



After

Wesley, a free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) came to us injured after migrating from Mexico to Texas. During the spring of every year, male free-tail bats migrate back to the states to set up territory in preparation for the females, who follow in a few weeks. The males spend time selecting a roost that the girls will like. In the process they often get into scuffles with other males. The losing male typically ends up with injuries that, left untreated, can be fatal. Every year we have several "losers" in rehabilitation. We heal them as quickly as possible and get them on their merry way so they can try again next year. Wesley appeared to be between 10 & 15 years old and has likely been the winner many, many times. Unfortunately, he joined the losers club this year. His injuries include a broken finger and an injured bottom lip. The broken finger renders him non-releasable so he'll live out his life at Bat World Sanctuary. The "before" photo shows him on the day of arrival. The after photo shows Wesley a few days later. (His ear was marked green to indicate to caretakers that he needed hand-feeding and medications twice daily).

CAPRI

Little Capri, a free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) came in after a good Samaritan found him lying on a tennis court and carefully scooped him into a Capri Sun box to keep him safe until we arrived. There were strong winds the evening before he was found which may have caused his injuries. Capri had a minor wrist injury and a big bruise on his forearm but within a few weeks he healed well enough to be released. The before photo shows him at intake (after he received pain medication). The after photo was taken the following morning.



Before



After

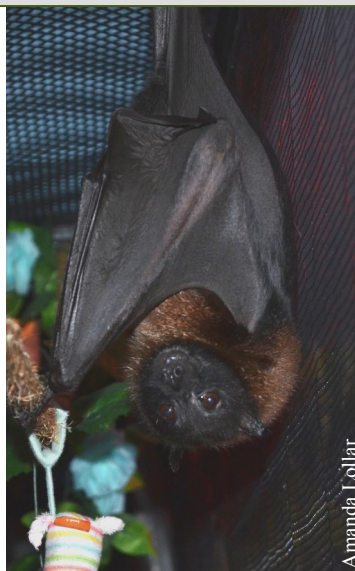
Amanda Lollar

Amanda Lollar

Goodbye Dear Friends

It is with great sadness that we bring you the news of the passing of Poppy, Isis and Fabio.

It is with a heavy heart that we bring you the news that Poppy, an Indian Flying Fox (*Pteropus giganteus*), has passed away. Poppy, came to us in 2012 after being retired from a zoo where she was used for educational programs. She was often expected to “perform” by stretching out her wings, something she grew to dislike and consequently showed her displeasure by biting her handler. After she reached us it took her over a year to trust the fact that nothing would ever be required of her, she simply had to be herself ([click for video](#)). Over the past few months Poppy had become less active and liked to lay in her hammock where she was close to food and water. She eagerly looked forward to her twice daily treats that were hand delivered to her during daily checks. She left us all too soon on Oct. 27th, after suffering heart problems. Her life was filled with happiness at Bat World Sanctuary; we just wish her time with us could have been much, much longer.



Amanda Lollar



Amanda Lollar

Isis, an Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) came to us from an amusement park where she hung in a small glass cage and endured crowds of loud people gawking at her day and night. Only when she was elderly and had developed cataracts was she finally allowed the peaceful life she deserved. It took her several weeks to trust her new caretakers and look forward to the melon treats that always came with soft voices. Toward the end Isis rarely left her little hammock that she liked to recline on with two other elderly Egyptian fruit bat friends. She passed away in her sleep on November 5, 2015. Good bye sweet Isis, you are sorely missed each and every day.

Fabio, a Jamaican fruit bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*) was retired to Bat World Sanctuary along with over a dozen more of his kind in 1994. The bats were involved in DNA research. The project involved taking notches from the ears as well as toe samples from the bats. Understandably, Fabio was very distrusting of humans when he arrived. Outside of routine health checks, we gave him the space and privacy he needed. In his older years he grew arthritic and needed help grooming his fur, and we gained his trust in the process. During the last three years of his life Fabio was groomed every morning by his humans. He grew to love the process as much as we did. Fabio passed away on March 26, 2015 at the age of 22. Rest in peace, sweet Fabio; we miss you dearly.



Amanda Lollar

[\(Click for video.\)](#)

Bat Castle Update

During the early spring, heavy rains and flooding occurred in our area causing the ground to shift under the bat castle. Large cracks appeared in the walls, and the cracks enticed large lizards to enter the inside of the castle. We humanely excluded the lizards by creating predator guards around the entire perimeter of the castle, which allowed the lizards to leave but prevented them from re-entering.



Amanda Lollar

The bat castle showing the predator guard installed

In mid-October we discovered bat guano on the predator guard in several places as well as clinging to the exterior walls of the bat castle. Using a bat detector, we also heard faint bat clicks inside the castle. Although we have not had an actual visual sighting of bats inside the castle just yet, these are definite signs that bats have found and are using this structure that was designed just for them!



Amanda Lollar

Bat guano on the predator guard. Bat guano is different than that of mice in that it turns to powder when crushed.

White Nose Syndrome Update

A common bacterium found in items like food flavorings is providing hope that a cure exists for White Nose Syndrome (*Psuedogymnoascus destructans*). Dr. Chris Cornelison and several colleagues at Georgia State University found that this common bacterium had the ability to inhibit the growth of some fungi. The new treatment was further developed in Missouri by Forest Service scientist Sybill Amelon (who has twice trained by Bat World Sanctuary) along with research plant pathologist Dr. Daniel Lindner. The bacterium, *Rhodococcus rhodochrous*, dwells in pretty much all soils found in North America and is safe for plants and animals. The bacterium was grown on cobalt, which produced so-called volatile

organic compounds (VOCs) that stop the fungus, *P. destructans*, from growing. The compounds do not need to be directly applied to the bats as they can diffuse through the air so the bats can be treated by exposing them to air containing the VOCs.

In 2014-2015 field trials were conducted in Missouri and Kentucky caves. Bats in these trials survived and were subsequently released.

Twenty-six U.S. states and five Canadian provinces have confirmed the presence of the disease. White Nose Syndrome has been decimating wild bat populations since 2007, killing almost 6 million bats to date.

Rescues in Other Countries

In 2015 we helped individuals and bat care professionals in 36 locations worldwide. Using photos and videos, we were able to identify species, share book chapters on bat care and rehabilitation published by Bat World Sanctuary, and offer medical advice to veterinarians, researchers, biologists and wildlife rehabilitators around the globe.

This year we provided book chapters on treating injured bats as well as raising orphaned bats to bat rescuers in:

- Germany
- Ireland
- The Netherlands
- Indonesia
- Ontario & Nova Scotia, Canada
- Island of Dominica
- Hanoi, Vietnam
- India
- Romania
- Brazil
- Bolivia
- Australia
- Taiwan



An orphaned pipistrelle bat found by a rescuer in Maharashtra, India. Using the information we provided, the bat was hand-raised to adulthood and eventually released.

We also provided consultation and book chapters on injured bats to veterinarians and wildlife rehabilitators at the following locations:

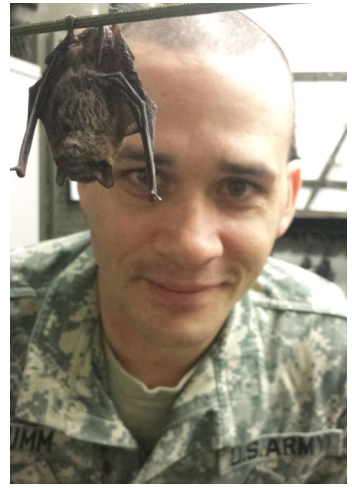
- Jaguar Rescue Center Foundation Costa Rica - bat with torn wing membrane
- Bi-State Wildlife Hotline of Missouri and Illinois (orphaned bat care)
- Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation (bat with frostbite to the ears)
- Hope for Wildlife in Canada (orphaned bat care)
- Hamilton, Ontario Animal Services (orphaned bat care)
- Wildlife Rescue Center of Luxemburg (bat with torn membrane)
- Vienna Zoo, in Austria (neutering male fruit bats)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (hibernation issues)
- Best Friends Animal Society–Wild Friends (orphaned and injured bats)
- Wild at Heart Rescue (orphaned bat care)



*This evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) was found roosting inside the folds of a patio umbrella. Thankfully Bat World Sanctuary member Alexa Ewen was contacted. After speaking with us, she convinced the finders (who are friends of hers) to allow the bat to roost in the umbrella undisturbed until he decided to move on by himself. Evening bats often choose to roost in patio umbrellas for unknown reasons. Thank you, Alexa and friends for helping this little one!*



Little brown bat pups (*Myotis lucifugus*) were falling from the eaves of a home in Tennessee and we were contacted for help. We instructed the homeowner to make our “pup catcher” following the free guidelines on our bat house page. (Pup catchers prevent pups from falling to the ground and allow them to crawl back into the roost themselves.) He created a pup catcher that very day, saving hundreds of little lives in the process. The uninjured pups that had fallen were placed back into the roost and the few injured pups were taken to a local wildlife rehabilitator to hand raise.



Stationed in Germany, this compassionate soldier came across a very dehydrated bat struggling to get airborne. He rescued it then contacted us and then found a vet who administered much needed fluids. After a few days of R&R "zweg fledermous" was strong enough to be set free.



One of several orphaned Jamaican fruit bats (*Artibeus jamaicensis*) in which we offered guidance to rescuers this year. This little one was found beneath a tree in Brazil. Unfortunately the mother didn't return so the pup was taken in, hand-raised and eventually released.



This juvenile insectivorous bat was found inside a drawer in New Deli, India. The homeowner, who is also a wildlife professional, had a colony of bats roosting in the roof of her home. After contacting us for advice she nursed the bat back to health and released it back to its colony.

Educational Efforts

Your donations have allowed us to reach over **2.5 Million** people this year through educational events and online videos and posts. From classrooms to the Internet, we are making a difference for bats around the world.



Students from across the U.S. attended our one-day Bat Rehabilitation Basics Workshops given this year. Rehabilitators learn the basic skills that are essential to successfully rehabilitating orphaned and injured bats and returning them to their natural habitat. The class format is a combination of lecture, discussion, and hands on activities designed to provide students with key information and experience on everything from a basic introduction to bats to assessing and treating injuries and illness. Students also receive a copy of Bat World Sanctuary's [*Standards and Medical Management for Captive Insectivorous Bats*](#).



Kate Rugroden, Director of Special Projects and Bat World MidCities, presented an educational program about bats to the first grade students at McNair Elementary School in Fort Worth, Texas in May. Almost 80 students, and a dozen parents attended.

Girl Scout Troop 3018 lent a huge helping hand to Bat World Sanctuary this year!

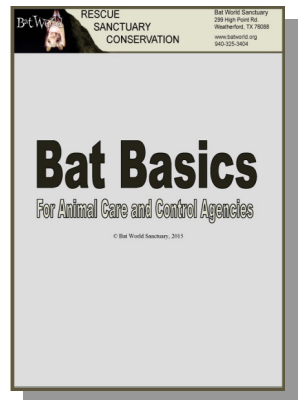
They planned and organized a skating party for all the troops in their service area. Any girl who came with an item from the Bat World wish list (paper towels, dish soap, laundry detergent,



glass cleaner, dishwasher detergent and other goodies) was able to skate for free. The girls collected a carload of supplies for Bat World and included their own contribution of nearly \$400 in printer ink! These little angels received their Bronze Award at the end of May, and used their money from cookie sales to go to Austin for a bat-watching picnic during the summer.

This year we have expanded our educational efforts in offering a class on “Bat Basics” to Animal Control officers throughout North Central Texas. The class, given by Director of Special Projects Kate Rugroden, is approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services and includes:

- Introduction to Bats
- Overview of bat rehabilitation protocols – housing, feeding, enrichment, required permits/licenses
- Safe Capture and Humane Handling Techniques
- Rabies / Public safety
- To Release or Not to Release
- White Nose Syndrome
- Species Identification



Inadequate knowledge about the natural history and behavior of bats in the wild results in thousands of grounded bats being needlessly killed by animal control agencies every year. Plans to expand our “Bat Basics” class across Texas is ongoing. Approximately 100 animal control officers have attended the class to date.

Bat Basics classes were also provided to Dallas Sierra Club and the Lincoln Memorial College of Veterinary Medicine. Future classes are also planned with the City of Richardson, Texas; USDA Plant Service and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Activism in 2015

2015 was a very satisfying year for our activism labors on behalf of bats, particularly in our efforts to stop bats from entering the pet trade through zoos, as seen below.

Despite the progress that has been made, the USDA still allows fruit bats to be bought, sold and bartered in the exotic pet trade with no regulations to protect them. The vast majority of these bats come from zoos, where they are allowed to reproduce indiscriminately until overpopulation exists. The surplus bats are burdensome to care for and unscrupulous zoos are often happy to unload these innocent animals wherever convenient, whether sold into the cruel exotic pet trade or given away as research subjects.

Bats are beautiful, feeling beings who display remarkable intellect. Bats show

anguish with their facial expressions, mothers mourn the loss of their fragile babies, and the anxiety experienced when roost mates are threatened is palatable.

As an organization we are striving to correct what others have not; particularly the government. We have been encouraging the neutering of male fruit bats in zoos for well over a decade and thankfully, more and more zoos are doing just that. Recently, the Taxon Advisory Group for the AZA showed their commitment for this ongoing problem by issuing the following position statement, printed in part:

Bat TAG Recommendations Regarding Bats as Pets

There is an active trade in pet bats in many areas of the U.S, where it is still possible to buy bats in pet stores, from private breeders, online and through animal dealers. Some of these bats have been reported to enter the pet trade through zoological institutions and research facilities that have a surplus of bats. The institutions permitted to hold bats should become responsible for their actions and animal welfare.

The Bat TAG supports the elimination of the trade in pet bats for the following reasons:

- 1) Pet bats pose a risk to public health and safety through communicable illness/diseases such as rabies, histoplasmosis, Nipah, Hendra, Ebola and Marburg, and injuries sustained during handling and sudden, unpredictable episodes of aggressive behavior;*
- 2) Elimination of the trade in pet bats aids enforcement of legislation that prohibits private ownership of those bats as regulated by individual states;*
- 3) Pet bats are often maintained in inadequate housing and without consideration for their social and psychological needs;*

It is the consensus of AZA's Bat TAG that education about bats and legislation to restrict the trade in bats as pets are likely to be the most effective means of curbing this trade, and the following actions are recommended for AZA institutions to affect an impact:

- 1) Manage zoo collections to control breeding and eliminate the sale, trade or other disposition of zoo bats to individuals or animal dealers known to place bats with private individuals and pet stores;*
- 2) Work with the North American Society for Bat Research Board of Directors to develop guidelines for research facilities to provide end of life care or arrangements for the bats to be housed at zoos or sanctuaries once all studies have been completed.*
- 3) Recruit educators to develop and produce materials for zoo visitors regarding bat natural history and why they do not make good pets;*

4) *Align with other groups (including regional bat working groups, animal advocacy groups where appropriate, bat rehabilitators, and local municipal and legislative bodies) to influence and enact the legislation needed to restrict the trade in pet bats*

We are extremely happy that the AZA has taken this initial step in halting the flow of bats into the pet trade. In an ongoing effort to address this problem we have created a petition asking the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to create regulations requiring zoos that keep bats to control their bat populations humanely and requiring the neutering of all bats in zoos that are not part of a valid reproduction program. [To sign this petition please click here.](#)

Additional activism for bats in 2015

- Provided enrichment protocols for non-releasable insectivorous bats in wildlife rehabilitation centers in NC, MN, ME, RI, PA, OH, TN and KS.
- Alerted authorities about a big brown bat for sale by a member of the public. The bat was listed online on a popular exotic pet site. We contacted the Ohio Department of Natural Resources who confiscated the bat and transferred it to the care of a wildlife rehabilitator.
- Supplied the correct disease/rabies information to the superintendent of Fort Worth, Texas Animal Control after officers attended a lecture on rabies vector species where everyone was previously misinformed that “bats are the worst carriers of disease and rabies.”
- Began collaboration efforts for bat conservation across southern Africa in providing advice and reviewing materials for developing bat care training and guidelines for *Bats without Borders*.
- Contacted a wildlife center in the northeast to offer advice against euthanizing terminal bats with Co2 as it causes prolonged and extreme distress before death occurs. The wildlife center agreed to switch to using Isoflurane, a humane inhalant that induces sleep before death occurs.
- Sent several thousand pieces of educational literature to an outdoor event given by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas where thousands of people were expected to attend.
- Provided ongoing consultation to bat rescuers in Israel for the establishment of a new rehabilitation center and sanctuary for fruit bats, with a mission much like ours: rescue, rehabilitation, release or permanent sanctuary.
- Assisted in a Petition to Texas A&M University to provide alternate habitat for over 250,000 bats they made homeless with the renovation of Kyle stadium. A&M officials were aware that the bats would need alternate habitat years before the \$450 million renovation took place but no plans were made to accommodate the bats. A&M chose to completely ignore the petition that urged them to build bat houses for the homeless bats.

Accomplishments

Bat World Sanctuary was visited by Surane Weerasinghe (suranemedia.com), a documentary filmmaker based in New York for a documentary on the true meaning of a sanctuary for the Wildlife Conservation Film Festival's annual conference.

The purpose of the self-financed film is to focus on a variety of sanctuaries, shelters and safe havens with a goal of sharing individual rescue stories, the lives of the staff and the mission of the sanctuary in a manner that evokes sympathy and understanding, and highlights the nobility of each sanctuary's endeavors.

We are very proud to be part of such a great film. After Surane and cameraman Peter left Bat World Sanctuary's day of filming, we received this heartfelt message:

We just wanted to take a minute to express our sincere thanks for having us over at your incredible sanctuary today. Both Peter and I were so taken by your dedication to the animals in your care, and your contributions to the animal welfare movement over the past 2+ decades. Your passion and commitment are evident in everything you do, from documenting all your research to the way you handle the bats with your gentle touch. We will do our very best to do justice to what we witnessed today, and we can only hope one day, our work will amount to even a fraction of what you've accomplished for bats, and animals everywhere. You are a true example of what humans are capable of if they approach life with their hearts, first.

With deep gratitude for your efforts and support of this important project,

Surane and Peter



A WATER WELL FOR THE BATS!



At the beginning of 2015 we were in critical need of a

water well after a decade-long drought threatened to completely dry up the water supply for our town within a very short time. The drought was one of the worst in Texas history.

With the wonderful help of greatergood.com and the fundraising page they created (and the amazing press they gave to bats in the process!) we raised the needed \$20,000 to dig a well for the Bat World facility in record time.

While we don't know who the donors are who generously gave to this critical need, we offer our sincere gratitude for each and every contribution to ensure that the bats have an ongoing supply to fresh, clean water for decades to come.

ADDITIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015:

- Provided bat photos and information for web use by the US Forest Service in Golden, CO.
- Helped the bat caregivers of the Riverina Region of New South Wales obtain an incubator for orphaned and critical needs bats as well as a flight tent needed for pre release flight exercise.
- Bat World Sanctuary was identified as one of the top 1% most-viewed organizations on GuideStar.org
- Raised \$37,120 through funding site and received a \$50,000 donation toward our goal of making Bat World Sanctuary a forever place for bats in need. As of this writing we only need \$13,000 to complete our goal!
- Bat World Sanctuary was featured in positive press about bats on Channel 4 News, Channel 11 News, Tractor Supply Magazine, cuteoverload.com, and The Huffington Post and PerezHilton.com.
- Concluded 2015 with over 150,000 fans on our Facebook page and 6,800 YouTube subscribers and almost seven-million views.

Special Acknowledgements

Randy Turner; Dan Sullivan; Laurel Rorher; GreaterGood.com; Wallace Atwater; Aunia Kahn; Anne Ruddy; Shilo Abell; Beatrice Welles; Sheri L. Harris; Anonymous-\$5,000 Grant; Anonymous-\$50,000 grant; Marsha Warwillow; Summer Hart; Linda Poynter; Float (For Love of All Things); Marion Orso, DSW.com, Kathy Upham; Ariyana Saint-Jennings; the Dallas Foundation; the North Texas Giving Day staff and the Communities Foundation of Texas.

Volunteer Spotlight

Marion Orso is an animal rights advocate who has been enamored with bats for as long as she can remember. She stumbled across Bat World's Facebook page and was hooked! When she realized that she was close enough to actually volunteer she signed up right away. She now makes a two hour trip once a week to spend a day chopping fruit for the fruit bats as well as helping with office work. Marion also volunteers at local animal rescue shelters. Marion states "I am beyond excited to have the privilege to volunteer with the bats; being able to do anything for these adorable animals is always a highlight of my week!" Marion also secured a generous \$2,500 grant for Bat World Sanctuary through her employer, DSW.com! The funds were applied to our food account for the fruit bats.



Mariah Cognac has been fortunate to have worked with many species during her time volunteering at rehab facilities and working at the Dallas Zoo. She has a B.S. in Aquatics and Fisheries Biology and enjoys spending time on the water. Since she was a small child she has surrounded herself with the company of animals, basically welcoming anything with hooves, paws, scales or claws. She recently relocated to Mineral Wells and was excited to learn about Bat World's facility. Mariah feels as though conservation and education are key to the preservation of species. "So many people have disdain for bats only because they know very little about them. I'm so pleased to have found Bat World and look forward to not only expanding my knowledge of bats, but also sharing that information with others."



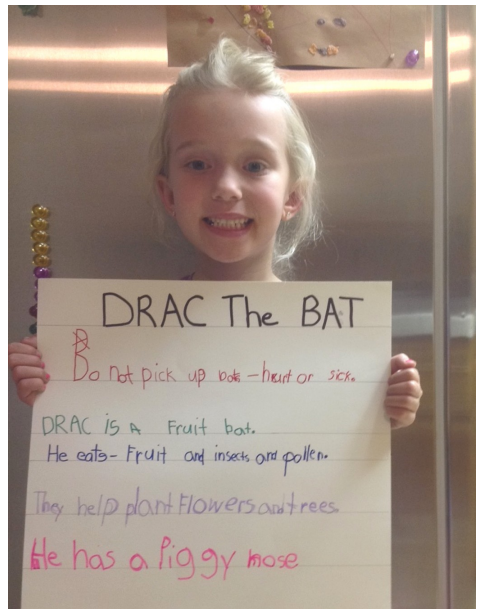
Paul and Valkyrie Stewart set up a donation bucket at their wedding with the caveat that they would kiss every time a guest made a donation, with the proceeds benefitting Bat World Sanctuary.

The new couple also handed out educational literature and, along with educating their friends and family about the critical importance of bats, they raised almost \$50 for our rescue efforts that day!

Six-year-old Alexandria, who was learning about bats in her kindergarten class, tried to convince her teacher that she had a bat and that his name was Lil Drac. She said he is a fruit bat, that she sends fruit to him and that “he's cute with a little piggy nose, and he rocks himself to sleep.”

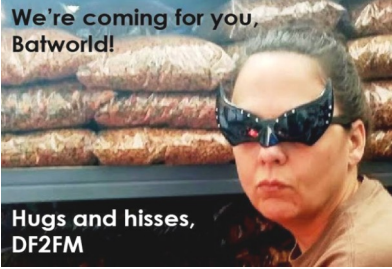
She tried so hard to convince her teacher she had a bat that she actually got into a bit of trouble for being so adamant about a made up story. During teacher/parent conference it was brought up that Alex had been telling "stories" for a week about this imaginary bat. It was then her parents informed the teacher that Alex does have a bat, named Lil Drac and she has pictures, and he sent her a book as a present (she had recently received a Lil Drac sponsorship package from Bat World). The teacher was then so inspired that she invited Alexandria

to do a special report on bats for her class. During her presentation she read Bat World’s children’s book *Baby See-through* to the class and was very excited to take her picture of Lil Drac. Her report included important things about NOT handling bats if found on the ground, how important they are to our environment, etc. After the class Alexandra informed her grandmother that they need to build a home for bats so they can sneak up on them in the morning and watch them rock themselves to sleep when they go to bed.



The Brownies of Troop 620 created a "Take Action" project to help the world and their community. They chose to raise awareness about bats and to collect donations to sponsor a bat at Bat World Sanctuary. The girls made seed packets to sell to friends and family, with bat facts and myths on the labels, and to share with people that bats are good pollinators. A fact few people seem to know.

Fundraisers



Bat World Sanctuary participated in North Texas Giving Day for the second time this year and we had a blast doing so! North Texas Giving Day is an online giving event that provides nonprofits the opportunity to gain exposure to new donors, and for people in North Texas to come together to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in one day. The event took place on September 18th.



In August we were contacted by the Operations Director of Don't Forget to Feed Me Pet Food Bank, Liesl Manone, who extended a friendly challenge to Bat World's President, Amanda Lollar: if Don't Forget to Feed Me gets more donations on Giving Day than Bat World, then Amanda eats a dog biscuit. We countered with this challenge: if Bat World gets more donations, then Leisl eats a meal worm. What ensued was a series of comical and slightly nauseating videos and photos we both posted on each other's social media pages (see top and middle photo). [Click here to view the footage.](#)



The camaraderie continued the day of the event with our Director of Special Projects Kate Rugroden dressing up as Bat Woman while Liesl dressed up as Cat Woman (bottom photo). The teasing was covered by our Local Channel 4 News which brought both causes more exposure. In the end Don't Forget to Feed Me won and Amanda ate a dog biscuit on video. (The flavor was blueberry and kale and was later described as hideous.)

We'd like to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who helped; your donations totaling \$35,100 allowed us to get one step closer to our financial goal of making Bat World Sanctuary a "forever place" for bats in need!

"Chop Day" occurs every Thursday at Bat World Sanctuary, and when we came across this fabulous chopper capable of chopping 1,000 apples an hour we knew our dreams had come true! We located the chopper and added it to our Amazon Wish list at tinyurl.com/ama-bws and to our amazement a wonderful donor made the purchase and sent it our way. Among other fruits, the fruit bats eat 100 lbs of apples and 25 lbs of pears weekly.





BEAUTIES OF THE NIGHT
DONATING 100% PROCEEDS TO
BAT WORLD SANCTUARY
OCTOBER 24TH, 2015 6-9PM

“Beauties of the Night” an awareness and fundraising exhibition created by

This gorgeous painting of Bootsanna, one of our rescued bats, was created by talented artist Linda Poynter. This one-of-a-kind painting was then auctioned, with all of the proceeds donated to our rescue efforts.



Aunia Kahn of Alexi Era Gallery & Publishing, featured artworks on postcards from artists all around the world with 100% of the proceeds donated to Bat World Sanctuary! To see the absolutely exquisite artwork created by these amazing artists please visit tinyurl.com/artforbatworld



In October a “virtual” festival was hosted on Second Life by Marsha Warwillow. The festival even featured booths where items could be bought with the proceeds benefiting our rescue efforts!

Sheri Harris of Happy Hummer Art & Gifts created several fundraisers to benefit our rescue efforts for bats.



Each one-of-a-kind gourd is unique and the only one in existence! For more information about these unique and adorable gourds visit etsy.com/shop/HappyHummerart



Clicking daily for Bat World Sanctuary helps us save orphans like these and

costs you nothing. Please sign up at shopforyourcause.com/click-to-donate

Please sign up and choose Bat World as your charity at smile.amazon.com! It costs you nothing and bats reap the benefits.



Shop at Amazon.com and Bat World Sanctuary gets a percentage donation directly from Amazon!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Select your charity
3. SHOP!



Our last check from AmazonSmile was \$710!



The sale of these fundraiser t-shirts help us with operating support throughout the year! The shirt modeled by Bat World’s Secretary Terri and staff member Jesse are available at bonfirefunds.com/org/batworld. The “bat face” and “advice from a bat” shirts are available at batworldstore.org.

On the Lighter Side

PLEASE NOTE: We are not poking fun at anyone or anything here, some things are just too entertaining not to share.

ACTUAL PHONE CALLS RECEIVED:

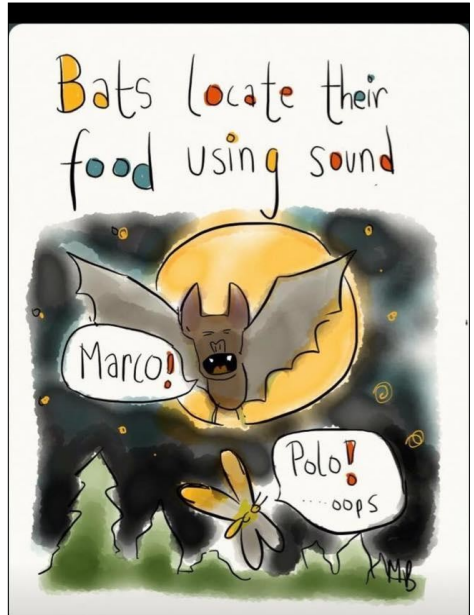
"There is a lady in our neighborhood that wants to know if there is anything she can do to deter the bats drinking from her pool when she is using it. She is not a bat advocate. She doesn't care if they do it when she is not out there."

"Can you please tell me whether the bats hanging in my tree are a brother and sister, a mother and baby, or a mated pair?"

"I am pregnant and I just saw a small bat hiding behind my shutters. Can you tell me if my unborn baby will be rabid."

"I heard that bats bite and can give you rabies. Are you open to the public so people can come and visit? I want to bring my grandchildren."

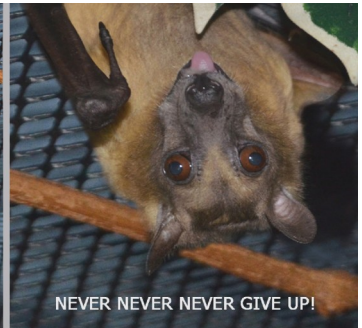
A call came from a library in a nearby town regarding "a giant black bat" hanging in a tree near the building. A Bat World volunteer drove the 20 mile distance to investigate, expecting to find a normal small bat (as the sizes of bats are often greatly exaggerated by the finder). Instead, our volunteer successfully rescued and then released a scrap of trash bag to its native habitat (a nearby dumpster).



This neat little beetle (with what looks like the shape of a bat on his shell) was found on our office floor and gently released



back outside. Later we looked up the species and discovered it was a cousin of the American burying beetle, an endangered species.



Bat World on Social Media (An Important Read!)

Having a social media page is absolutely critical if a non-profit organization wants to be successful. Since beginning [our Facebook page](#) in 2009, we have posted important content to our followers on a daily basis and we have taken our fan base from 1,500 to over 150,000. Our Facebook page helped us defeat our cyber-stalker, raise much needed funds, educate hundreds of thousands of people about the importance of bats through shares, and most importantly, save the lives of tens of thousands of bats around the world. Recently, however, a not-so-nice change has occurred within Facebook that make us realize that, sadly, we can no longer rely on the social media giant for the things that made it so great in the first place.



Of all the changes Facebook has made, the worst change is the latest - limiting post views and charging pages. Even though we have 150,000 fans who “like” our page and want to support us, only 5% will ever see our posts. Facebook's new rules require us to “boost” a post (pay for advertising) if we want more than 5% of our own fans to see our messages. We are still free to make posts, but hardly any of our 150,000 fans will ever see them unless we pay. This may seem fair for a successful business page but it can be a death sentence for a struggling non-profit that is relying on social media for rescue work and fundraising.

This is one of the many reasons we were excited to learn about a new social media platform that operates a lot like the original Facebook but offers something exceptional—it actually pays ad revenue to its users (like YouTube). This company is being called “A Facebook with a conscience” because the founders believe that users should be compensated for the content they create. Tsū (pronounced “sue”), shares 90% of its profits with the users. Users have the ability to transfer funds from their Tsū bank to their friends, charities or even other members. Users can request a check for their earned revenue once their account reaches \$100 (no personal banking information needed). Another big advantage with Tsū is that all your posts are visible to **everyone** who follows your page.

Bat World Sanctuary created a Tsū page about seven months ago and, even though

We have less than 5,000 fans, we have earned over \$400, money that we can use to save little lives. You may not get rich using Tsū, but you could make a few hundred to a few thousand dollars extra a year, and for a charity that is a huge benefit.

Over the past few months we have shared the link to our Tsū page on our Facebook page several times encouraging folks to join us there. Then suddenly, our posts about Tsū were blocked by Facebook:

You can't post this because it has a blocked link
tsu.co

This same thing happened to over 4.5 million Tsu.co users who tried to post a Tsū link, and Facebook also deleted between 5 to 10 million posts from the pages of thousands of Facebook users who mentioned Tsū over the last year. Apparently this “social media page with a conscience”, that compensates users for their content and gives a percentage to charity, has scared Facebook. In fact, due to its philanthropic mission statement, Tsū was chosen as the Media Partner of the Year by the Make A Wish Foundation.

Because of Facebook's new policy in limiting what our fans get to see (and essentially limiting our Mission) we plan to move full steam ahead with Tsū and we would really love to have you join us there. Think about all friends you told to join Facebook at the beginning and start again on Tsū (but this time be compensated for everyone you invite). Tsū site is by invite only; to join us and create a page of your own [please click here](#) and then click “Join” in the upper right hand corner.

Update on Bat World's Cyber-Stalker

Again, we hate to mention anything negative in our Annual Report but feel it is necessary to update our supporters on the subject of our cyber-stalker.

Our five year battle began with protecting our good name from a disgruntled intern who found the work at Bat World Sanctuary too challenging to complete.

It has been a long, continual battle, but we are happy to report that on April 9, 2015, the Texas Court of Appeals upheld our entire Six-Million dollar judgment against Mary Cummins. Court of Appeal opinions are typically one to six pages long, however, in making this ruling the opinion was an [unprecedented 76 pages](#) and included the following verbiage:

"The evidence supports a conclusion that Cummins engaged in a persistent, calculated attack on Lollar with the intention to ruin both Lollar's life's work and her credibility and standing in the animal rehabilitation community. Cummins posted innumerable derogatory statements about Lollar impugning her honesty and her competency, and she repeatedly and relentlessly reported Lollar to multiple government agencies. The comments she made about Lollar leave no doubt that she had a specific intent to cause substantial injury or harm to Lollar."

When the Appellate Court decision came down Cummins immediately filed a petition with the Supreme Court of Texas. In August the Supreme Court denied her petition and upheld not only our six-million dollar award, but they supported an additional award of all court costs.

While waiting on the decision from the Court of Appeals, Cummins took it upon herself to file false police reports against Amanda Lollar (who lives over 1,200 miles from Cummins), alleging Lollar paid thugs to "beat up" Cummins and threw a Molotov cocktail under Cummins' car. Cummins then used these false reports in an attempt to get a restraining order against Lollar. Not only was Cummins denied, she was ordered to pay Lollar's attorney fees. Cummins immediately sought to have the judge recused, then attempted to get a retrial, then appealed her denial, and then finally appealed to the Supreme Court of CA. All her requests were denied.

Shockingly, as soon as the Texas Court of Appeals rendered their opinion upholding the six-million dollar award, Mary

Cummins immediately began defaming us all over again, and she continues her malicious attempts to ruin our reputation to this day. But thanks to our beloved attorney, Randy Turner, who has represented us free of charge since day one, and thanks to so many of you who have stood by us and supported us throughout this ordeal, Cummins has not and will not ever succeed.

We are not by any means the only victims of this notorious cyber stalker, but we are very proud to know we are the ones who exposed Cummins so she can't harm others as she has done so many times in the past. Her other victims include attorneys, judges, doctors, philanthropists, actors, state officials and nonprofit animal rescue groups, Best Friends Animal Society, Wild Horse Ranch Rescue, The Gentle Barn, Cat House on the Kings, Wildlife Way Station and dozens more.

For more information and to stay updated on our ordeal please visit our attorney's website at randyturner.com/index.php/randys-cyber-stalker.

Bats in Your Pantry!

The bat symbol represents ingredients either brought to you by bats or protected by bats.

Black Beans with Figs

- 1½ Tbsp unsalted butter or butter substitute
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 🦇 1 large red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 🦇 1 large green pepper, seeded and chopped
- 🦇 2 cloves garlic, crushed and minced
- 🦇 2 whole cloves
- 2 tsp ground cumin
- ½ cup minced fresh cilantro leaves
- 🦇 12 medium figs, sliced
- 🦇 2 tsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 🦇 2 cups cooked black beans



Larry Crittenden

Melt the butter in a large skillet over low heat. Add the onion, bell peppers, garlic, cloves, cumin and cilantro. Cook, stirring often, until the onion softens, about 5 to 10 minutes. Add diced figs, lemon juice and brown sugar to the mixture. Add the beans, cover and cook over low heat until the peppers are soft, about 20 minutes, stirring often to prevent sticking.

Peppers - (all varieties): Bats make fajitas with the corn borers, earworms and armyworms that eat our peppers.

Garlic: Leafminers destroy garlic and bats destroy leafminers. And some people think bats are repelled by garlic. Tsk-tsk.

Cloves: The clove tree produces flower buds that are pollinated by bats. Clove oil, distilled from the plant, is used in perfumes, medicines, artificial vanilla and dentifrices. When cloves are dried it's used as a yummy spice.

Figs: Fruit bats swallow small fig seeds and disperse them in their guano great distances from the tree. When fruits are too large to be eaten rapidly, bats typically carry them off to distant trees where they can feed safely, thereby spreading seeds even further. These actions greatly enhance the fig tree's reproductive success. Numerous tropical plants are caught up in an intimate relationship with fruit-eating bats and without them, numerous plants would not survive.

Lemons: Bats protect citrus fruits by beating the pulp out of the katydids, mealybugs, whiteflies, rosebeetles, and leafhoppers who love to munch on the leaves and vines of our favorite citrus fruits.

Beans (all varieties): "Beans, beans are good for your heart..." and bats are good for beans because they eat loopers, Japanese beetles, earworms, leafbeetles, Mexican bean beetles and stinkbugs.

Letters

Sharing a few of the many messages we received in 2015. Receiving notes like these means more to us than we can fully express! We hope you enjoy reading them.

Hi there! I came across one of your videos on Facebook of Lil Drac. To be honest it made me look at bats in a different way. I am now looking into making a few bat boxes for my garden!



This time last year, I found a small brown bat in our woodstove in the Cascade mountains of Washington. He was so weak that it was easy for me to put on leather work gloves and put him in a container and take him to the local rescue. And it just happened again, only this time the little guy was very healthy, very active inside the stove. I am so grateful for everything I have read on this website, and for all the cautions you have posted. Otherwise I doubt two little lives would have been saved.

I just have to thank you and your page; thanks to your great articles I saw a small brown bat in the Idaho wilderness that appeared to have been knocked out of a tree in the late morning, and knew how to safely use a stick to let it grasp its feet on so I could transfer it back to a tree. I really appreciate knowing how to help the little one out in a way safe to both of us.

I have always loved bats and saw the good they did when I was a boy on the farm. A much maligned animal whose reputation you are repairing. Keep up the good work.

My son was scared for one of the other students in his 1st grade class who told him that she was bitten by a vampire bat and was going to turn into a vampire. He was afraid for her as well as himself. I was able to settle him down by reminding him that vampires were not real, and to mitigate his fears about bats I had him watch your Lil Drac video :)

Bat World you guys are amazing. This little critter I used to be petrified of and now because of you I have fallen in love with them.

MESSAGES FROM BAT REHABILITATORS

** If it were not for you, the work you have done on these guys, and your willingness to train others and share what you know, this little guy would not have had a chance. He was in so much pain from his twisted wing and you helped me help him. Thank you!!!*

** I cannot tell you how happy and relieved I am to read this about the recovery of the tattooed bat! You have made my year as I have been told numerous times that the time we spend on the orphans is largely wasted but I never believed it. Thank you for your amazing work and for giving us all faith and the information we need to continue helping bats!*

** I contacted you earlier in the year for advice on a couple of bats. I finally purchased your book and it is honestly incredible. Using the information in there, I was able to release all 28 bats we overwintered at Salthaven Wildlife Rescue.*

** I want to say THANK YOU!! got in a 4 gram baby brown and been following your book guidelines on formula and feeding. she is doing great!!! My very first baby success thanks to you!! I am so happy! I love rehabbing bats! Released 5 more this winter!*



Loving Tributes

- ♡ *In Memory of My Fred* ~ Ellen Brownell.
- ♡ *In Memory of Wallace Awater* ~ Ross Awater
- ♡ *In Memory of Sharon Geibel Banister* ~ John Banister
- ♡ *In Memory of my Mother Jananne Brooks Banks* ~ Allison Banks
- ♡ *In Memory of my Daughter Chappell Hope* ~ Mr. Charles Hope
- ♡ *In Memory of Alice Crawford* ~ Amanda Newby
- ♡ *I'm making this donation in Honor of my Mother Debbie Westray who lost her battle to cancer a year ago today. Bats were her favorite animal in the whole world. I wanted to honor her memory by supporting a cause that was so important to her and that helps all bats in need.* ~ Laura Grable
- ♡ *In Dedication of Elizabeth Jane Shackelford* ~ Robert M Shackelford
- ♡ *In Honour of Robin Williams voicing Batty Koda.* ~ Hazel M.
- ♡ *In Honor of Tara 's life.* ~ Kay Speed
- ♡ *In Honor of Jack Citiberti* ~ Molly Citiberti
- ♡ *In Memory of Hollyberry the Brazilian free-tail: she taught me so much!*
~ Shari Blissett-Clark
- ♡ *In Memory of Bittersweet and my cat Ashes* ~ Robert Dowling
- ♡ *In Memory of Bittersweet and the bat that and was killed to be tested for rabies.*
~ Jenna Wiedmaier
- ♡ *In honor of the little bat I found at camp. I did the best I could for you. I wish I could have done more.* ~ Charlene Quenneville
- ♡ *In Memory of Sprocket, and in Honor of his human mother,*
~ Margaret Nesmith Campbell.
- ♡ *This is made in BD 's honor. And of course all the beautiful bats in the world.*
~ Denise Trujillo
- ♡ *In honor of my little Igor* ~ Laura Morrison
- ♡ *In honor of my "adopted" bat Kitty and in Memory of Bittersweet.*
~ Mrs. Mary Meredith
- ♡ *In Honor of West End Animal Clinic* ~ Paul Altizer

Sponsor a bat in need! [Click here to sponsor online](#)



Your sponsorship package includes:

- An adoption certificate listing you as the official sponsor.
- The personal background of your bat.
- The natural history of the species.
- A matted photograph of your bat, suitable for framing.
- A graphic that represents the actual size of your bat.
- A one-year online membership to BWS that includes *BAT WORLD*'s magazine.
- A personalized message for a gift Adopt-a-Bat. Our standard gift card message reads: This "Adopt-a-Bat" sponsorship has been made in your name by (giver's name). Your sponsorship package includes a one-year membership to Bat World Sanctuary, our *BAT WORLD* magazine and an informational card on bat rescue. Enclosed you will find a 5" x 7" photo of your adopted bat, who thanks you from the bottom of its little bat toes for the food and medical supplies your gift has provided.



Mildred



Sticky



Bootsanna



Peekaboo



Lil Drac



Mr. Kitty



Little River 8



Mini-Me



Little E



Binky



Cornelius



Tinkerbelle

Please enter the name of bat(s) you wish to sponsor: _____

Name as it should appear on the certificate: _____

Email address (to receive our online magazine) _____

NOTE: We do not sell, trade, or share your personal information with anyone.

BILLING INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Phone _____ Date _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name (if different than above): _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total of sponsorship (**Please remember to include \$5.00 shipping, USA only**):

_____ Check enclosed _____ Charge _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: MO _____ YR _____

NOTE: If this is a gift Adopt-a-Bat, please include any special instructions, such as a gift card message, on a separate piece of paper.

WHY SAVE BATS?



Rescue, Sanctuary, Conservation

Roughly one of every four mammals on earth is a bat. Consider this: if your day includes soap, toothpaste, cosmetics, coffee, margarine, chewing gum, candles, paper, ink, wood, fuel, rope, twine, rubber, spices, vegetables, fruits, chocolate, margaritas, air fresheners or even life-saving medicines, you are not only involved with bats, you are likely dependant upon bats. Bats are among the most beautiful and beneficial animals on earth. They are clean, gentle and intelligent. Bats are vital for healthy ecosystems and enhance our lives in many ways. Fruit and nectar bats bring us approximately 450 commercial products and 80 different medicines through seed dispersal and pollination. Up to 98% of all rainforest re-growth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. Insect-eating bats are literal vacuum cleaners of the night skies, eating millions upon millions of harmful bugs. They protect us by eating insects that destroy crops as well as insects that cause human disease.

Yet for all they do, bats are continually killed due to myths, superstition and fear. The life expectancy of a single bat may exceed 20 years, but slow birth rates limit their population growth. When just 5 bats are needlessly killed, a potential 100 years of animal life is destroyed. Worldwide, almost 60% of bats are either endangered or official candidates for listing, and they desperately need your help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

In a world where so many look away, Bat World Sanctuary is on the front line to end the abuse and destruction of bats. We have been recognized as the world leader in bat rehabilitation for nearly two decades. Each year we rescue thousands of bats that might otherwise die. Lifetime sanctuary is given to non-releasable bats, including those that are orphaned, injured, confiscated from the illegal pet trade and retired from zoos and research facilities. You can help us save bats by educating others about their plight, and by donating to Bat World Sanctuary.

Bat World Sanctuary was founded in 1994 and is a 501c3 non-profit, volunteer-based organization. Donations allow us to continue our rescue efforts for bats.

Bats are now in their 11th hour. We can save them, but we cannot do it without your help. Bat World Sanctuary is not state or federally funded, our funds come from caring people like you. Please join us in our efforts to save bats by making a donation and becoming a member of Bat World today.

BATWORLD.ORG offers free educational materials, videos, kid's games and rescue information. You can even sponsor a bat in need through our Adopt-a-Bat program. Sponsors receive educational materials and *BAT WORLD*, our conservation magazine that includes beautiful photos of rescued bats. You can also receive an online membership to *Night Flight News*, our e-newsletter, by simply making a donation of any size through batworld.org.