



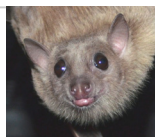
BAT WORLD

Conservation - Rescue - Sanctuary

Fall/Winter 2013
ANNUAL REPORT

Bat World

Conservation, Rescue, Sanctuary



Peekaboo, an Egyptian fruit bat with an incredible personality, who was hand-raised at Bat World Sanctuary.
Photo by Amanda Lollar.

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

VOLUME 5, Fall/Winter 2013 Annual Report

- 3 **Year-end Letter**
- 4 **2013 Financial Accounting**
- 5 **Year-End Summary**
- 6 **2013 Rescues**
- 6 Isis
- 8 The Orphans of 2013
- 10 Red Bat Rescues
- 11 Utah & Best Friends
- 12 Ziggy & Fabio
- 13 Benny & Raisin
- 14 Tinkerbelle (update)
- 15 Bats helped in Other Countries
- 16 Craft Shop Rescue
- 22 Pumpkin Fun
- 23 **Educational Efforts**
- 24 On the Ground Programs
- 25 Online Education
- 26 White Nose Syndrome Update
- 27 **2013 Accomplishments**
- 27 A New Bat World Sanctuary
- 27 Bat Castle Update
- 28 Indy Prize Nomination (and more)
- 29 Bat World MidCities Flight Enclosure Wins
- 30 Wins
- 32 **2013 Campaigns**
- 32 Bear Grylls
- 32 Queensland
- 33 **2013 Volunteer Spotlight**
- 34 Acknowledgements
- 35 Bats in the Pantry Recipe
- 36 Important Notices
- 37 Loving Tributes
- 38 Sponsor a Bat in Need



Bat World, Volume 5, Issue 1. Fall/Winter 2013

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/Fax: 940-325-3404
Mail: Bat World Sanctuary, 217 North Oak Ave., Mineral Wells, TX 76067

Board Officers

Founder/President
Amanda Lollar

Vice President
Dottie Hyatt

Secretary
Michelle McCauley

Treasurer
Denise Tomlinson

Advisory Board
Sean Jennett, DVM
Lynsey Rosen, DVM

Special Projects
Director
Kate Rugroden

2013 YEAR END LETTER

Dear Bat World Sanctuary Supporters,

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our beloved Bat World family, our loyal members, who continue to come to our defense during the most trying of times for Bat World Sanctuary—the last 3 years. As many of you know, we are being harassed and bullied by a relentless, mentally-troubled cyber-stalker, Mary Cummins of Animal Advocates in Los Angeles. Our reputation was almost deliberately destroyed by her, so much so that after barely making ends meet we questioned whether we could continue, but you were there for us. Your many emails, public declarations and donations gave us the necessary strength to fight with every fiber of our being for the bats we all love so dearly.

Summary Background: In June of 2010, Cummins applied for a 2-week internship at Bat World Sanctuary. She found the work too challenging to complete and left the program early after claiming to have bumped her head. Before leaving she demanded \$2,500 for a cat scan and we refused to pay. By September, she had viciously maligned and defamed both our Founder, Amanda Lollar, as well Bat World Sanctuary on the Internet. Over the following months donations became nearly non-existent as our cyber-stalker is a search engine optimization expert and used “Google Bombs” to spread her defamation far and wide. In June of 2012, after a 4-day trial, represented pro bono by animal rights attorney, Randy Turner, we took a \$6.1M judgment against Cummins. In retaliation, Cummins sued us in CA federal court for defamation for telling the truth of our tribulations with her. In November of 2012, the courts decided we had never defamed her but she had herself smeared her own name and tried to attribute it to us. Cummins also sued our technology expert who testified for us at trial, and that case was also dismissed. Frustrated and vindictive, this disturbed individual then sought a restraining order against Amanda Lollar. The judge threw out Cummins’ ridiculous motion for a restraining order and also sanctioned Cummins to pay our attorney fees. (Insurance provided attorneys in California.) Cummins has also filed a personal injury lawsuit against Bat World and its Board, claiming she was ‘injured’ with her alleged bump on the head while she was at Bat World. We are being represented pro-bono in that case as well, and fully expect it will be dismissed.

Where We Are Today: We completed the Bat Castle in 2012, a permanent refuge for wild bats to live in protection, and in a few short weeks we will also break ground for the new Bat World facility to be built on the 13 acres that Bat World now owns. We created a Facebook page for other victims of cyber-stalking and adult bullying, to share and learn how to fight back. Our beloved attorney, Randy Turner, created a page on his own professional website which outlines what Cummins has done to us and continues to do to her victims (including Randy himself): www.randyturner.com/index.php/randys-cyber-stalker

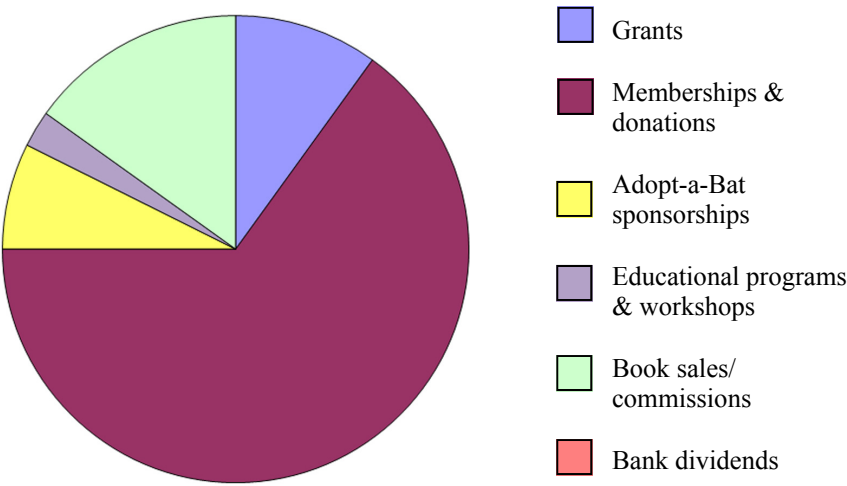
As you will see on the following pages, your donations have allowed us to accomplish so much this year despite our continuing struggle. You provided enrichment items and helped us nurture the animals in our care with your donations and gifts of essential items like nutritional supplements and food. You helped us survive the most devastating of times financially. You championed our cause and told us, “You are not alone.” Because of you, we have hope, we will remain whole, and we are stronger now than we have ever been. On behalf of the bats, thank you so very much for your continued and incredible support.



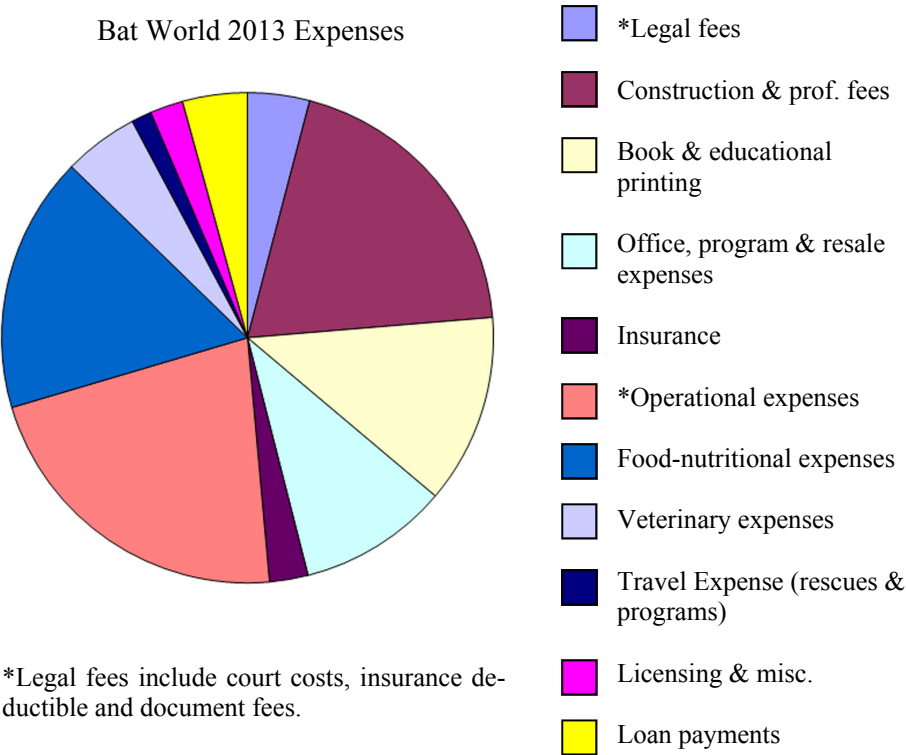
Amanda Lollar, Founder and President
Bat World Sanctuary

2013 FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

Bat World 2013 Income



Bat World 2013 Expenses



*Legal fees include court costs, insurance deductible and document fees.

*Operational expenses include rent, utilities, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, caging repair, supplies and enrichment.

2013 YEAR END SUMMARY

Income

Grants	\$26,040.00
Memberships/ Donations	\$169,838.25
Adopt-a-Bat Sponsorships	\$19,173.11
Educational Workshops	\$6,582.00
Book Sales/ Commissions	\$39,494.15

Expenses

Legal fees	\$6,967.16
Construction & Profes- sional fees	\$33,446.36
Books & Educational Printing	\$21,280.19
Office, Program & Resale Expense	\$16,864.63
Insurance	\$4,337.88
Operational Expenses	\$37,288.50
Food/Nutritional Supplements	\$28,771.16
Medical/Veterinary Supplies	\$8,422.78
Travel Expense - res- cues & programs	\$2,279.56
Permits, Bank Fees, Licensing & Misc.	\$3,716.23
Loan Payments	\$7,290.00

Total Income	\$261,127.51
---------------------	---------------------

Total Expenses	\$170,664.45
-----------------------	---------------------

Net Rollover \$90,463.06

Note: The accounting above reflects the first through third quarters of 2013.

Office and program expenses include items needed to create our Adopt-a-Bat sponsorship packages, ink, t-shirts, and shipping charges. The net rollover reflects the amount we have saved to date for the new facility (see page 27).

2013 RESCUES

*This past year, your contributions enabled us to save over **542** orphaned, injured and displaced bats. The bats featured in this section represent only a few of the lives we saved, as well as the bats who now fly free because you bought their medicine, paid for their housing, and provided the food that sustained them.*



Amanda Lollar

It was a lonely, unimaginably long road that brought Isis, an Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*) to where she belonged all along. Where it begins is unclear; her previous “owners” (a well-known amusement park) had thought she was eight years old. Isis is actually eighteen, so there’s ten years missing from her history. It’s a shame that she only found sanctuary as an elderly bat with cataracts who can’t quite hang as well as she used to. Regardless, we are so happy that she finally found peace at Bat World Sanctuary.



Larry Crittende

Opposite page: Isis with a honeydew treat. **Above:** Isis on arrival.

Isis spent most of the eight years at the amusement park with her mate. They were the only two bats at the noisy theme park. The theme park was hoping that Isis and her mate would reproduce, but their living conditions wouldn't allow any offspring to survive. Toward the end, Isis' mate died, so Isis lived alone in a small glass cage for several months, gawked at by large groups of people seven days a week.

Thankfully, the theme park grew tired of caring for Isis and contacted Bat World Sanctuary. The day of her arrival found Isis scared, both of the shipping or-

deal she'd just endured, the strange new place, and the strange new person picking her up. She was so afraid that she would not even hang onto our hand with her feet, but we were gentle and spoke in a soft voice, and Isis finally realized that she was safe. We can't imagine what she must have felt to enter the flight cage for the first time, to see dozens of Egyptian fruit bats just like her, cuddling together and playing with toys, and eating their fill of nutritious food every night.



Left: Isis' baby being hand-raised in Bat World's recovery room.

Right: Isis with her baby clinging to her chest. An Egyptian fruit bat friend is hanging above Isis.



Still, there was one more difficulty left for Isis to face. Soon after her arrival, Isis gave birth. Elderly Isis had apparently become pregnant before her mate died and she found herself in a new home with a newborn pup to take care of. Overwhelmed, Isis was unable to care for her baby and it fell to the padded floor of the flight cage. Her baby was found almost immediately, warmed, fed and placed into Bat World's incubator for hand rearing.

As a few more days passed, Isis finally realized she was "home." She became familiar with her keepers and in doing so learned to look forward to the melon treats that always came with soft voices. A short week after giving birth, we heard Isis calling for her baby. Hoping for the best but prepared to continue hand-raising her pup, we brought Isis the pup she was seeking and carefully placed it near her on the flight cage ceiling. Isis immediately went to her baby and encouraged it to climb onto her body. Her pup began nursing just a few minutes later.

Today Isis' baby is a few months old and well in every possible sense. As for Isis herself, she appears very happy despite her cataracts and her arthritis. She lives a quiet, peaceful existence with friends and family all her own, and she will never be alone again.

We are able to save bats like Isis because of the support of members like you. If you would like to sponsor Isis and help us provide the care she needs please see the last page.

The Orphans of 2013



Amanda Lollar

The orphaned free-tailed pups (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) above are three of over 60 rescued during the summer of 2013 from Bat World's wild sanctuary. Mother bats have an extreme hardship caring for pups, who when born can be 1/4 to 1/3 the size of the mother. These babies are full grown and flying within 8 weeks, and during this time a mother bat must provide enough food for herself as well as her rapidly growing pup. Some mothers do not survive their hardship, and some choose to drop their pups rather than sacrifice their own lives. Mother bats can also fall prey to owls and hawks, leaving behind an orphan. We search for orphans daily at our wild sanctuary. Any pups that appear thin and alone are rescued and hand raised, then released back into our wild sanctuary when they are able to survive on their own.

The tiny evening bat orphans (*Nycticeius humeralis*) below are two of over a dozen rescued of this species during the summer of 2013.



Kate Rugroden



Amanda Lollar

The orphaned free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) above is holding a foam tip in its mouth. Bat babies derive comfort from a “binky” just as human babies do. The tip is made from an eye-shadow applicator that has been removed from the wand and trimmed to fit the baby’s mouth. Once starving, her tummy is now nicely filled with milk.

The orphaned red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) below sleeps peacefully after being rescued from a hot sidewalk by a concerned citizen after spotting the baby while mowing her yard. Red bats roost in trees and are often targeted by birds such as crows and blue jays. Mothers trying to escape sometimes drop their babies while flying away.



Amanda Lollar



Like the red bat on the previous page, the juvenile red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*) above was rescued by a concerned citizen after finding him lying limp in the grass. After a few days of rest and recuperation, he was ready to be set free. Once he was placed into a tree he immediately began grooming, providing this natural shot.

Red bats are among the few species who have more than one live young. Mothers are often found grounded after trying to escape bird attacks with as many as five babies clinging to her. If uninjured, these mothers are released with their young by placing them into a tree, but it is not unusual that she choose to only take two pups with her. Any remaining pups are gathered the next morning and hand raised until they can also be released. Wind turbines kill hundreds of thousands of these bats annually, making every tiny life even more important to save.





Benny, a Brazilian free-tail (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), was found inside a wall in a house in McGregor, TX late on a cold winter Friday. His rescuers, the Mortons, collected him and put him in a box, intending to find help the next day. In the morning, he was gone. Saturday night, he returned, narrowly escaping the family cat. He was returned (more securely) to the

box, and the Mortons began calling for help. The closest rehabilitator was 125 miles away. Unwilling to let Benny die, the Mortons made the 125-mile drive to Arlington to get Benny to our Director of Special Projects, Kate Rugroden. Benny was weak, extremely thin and dehydrated on arrival. He recuperated within a month and was successfully released in the spring when bugs were prevalent. A special *Thank You* to the Mortons for caring enough to take six hours out of their day to help this tiny bat!



Raisin, a juvenile evening bat (*Nycticeius humeralis*) came in on Father's Day with a torn wing membrane, a wound on her abdomen and one leg completely degloved of skin, likely from a bird attack. Raisin was also undersized at about half the size of an adult. The gentleman who found her wanted to keep her as a pet, but he was informed that it is illegal to keep indigenous bats as pets and that Raisin would die without proper treatment. Thankfully, the gentleman's own father intervened and ended up going from Dallas to Plano, Texas, to get Raisin from his son's apartment and take her to Bat World Mid-Cities for treatment.

Raisin healed completely, but unfortunately is non-releasable due to her injuries and size. She is a happy, sweet little bat enjoying the company of her own kind at Bat World Mid-Cities.



Ziggy, an orphaned Jamaican fruit bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*), was spotted by a concerned member of Bat World at a children's birthday party. He was being used as show and tell by an "edutainment" group/petting zoo. Ziggy was born to one of the bat mothers the group possessed, and he was abandoned. The person who spotted him at the party alerted our VP, who then made arrangements to get him to us. The group admitted that they do not know how to care for baby bats and often lose them, so they were glad to give Ziggy up. We are working with them on improving their habitat and neutering their male bats, with the option to retire all the bats to us if they ever desire to do so.



Fabio is also a Jamaican fruit bat, and approximately 20 years old. He was retired to us in 1994 after being used in a DNA research study which involved taking notches from the ear as well as toe samples. Fabio has grown arthritic in his old age so he is helped with his grooming with a daily brushing. He thoroughly enjoys the early-morning routine and lets us know we've reached a good spot by tongue-licking and "air combing" with his foot.



Tinkerbell, a Jamaican fruit bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*), was featured in last year's annual report, she has such a sweet story that we decided to include an update.

Tinkerbell's mother was one of the many unfortunate bats that had become ensnared in the exotic pet trade, where bats inevitably live short lives of loneliness and terror. Like so many others in her predicament, Tinkerbell's mother languished in a captive environment wholly unsuited for bats and eventually died giving birth to her daughter. When Tinkerbell arrived at Bat

World Sanctuary, she was - as is sadly common for bat pups whose mothers have died in childbirth - still clinging to her mother's body.

Thankfully, things took a turn for the better; her owner, likely looking for ways to care for a newborn bat, came across Bat World's Facebook page and learned how hard a pet's life is for bats. It was too late for Tinkerbell's mother, but not Tinkerbell herself, and the owner delivered the newborn to Bat World Sanctuary and asked us to continue spreading the word about keeping bats as pets. Were it not for her owner's kind heart and willingness to admit she'd been wrong, Tinkerbell likely would not have made it either.

Tinkerbell was hand-raised at Bat World and has grown into a healthy and slightly eccentric adulthood. For whatever reason, be it her traumatic entry into the world or simply her odd little personality, she insists on roosting and eating by herself in the "bat hut" that serves as the halfway house for new arrivals. The bat hut is meant as temporary security for orphaned bats who are learning to adapt to the flight cage, but Tinkerbell has made it her permanent home. It's not that Tinkerbell fears the other bats; she plays and flies alongside them nightly, and even enjoys visitors that pass through her bat hut. Tinkerbell simply values her solitude.

Since deciding to call the bat hut her permanent home, Tinkerbell now serves as a welcoming committee to newly arriving orphaned bats. She allows the youngsters to roost and cuddle with her inside the bat hut, and in so doing eases their transition to hubbub of the flight cage. Tinkerbell is currently sharing her hut with Ziggy (page 12) who has just been introduced to the flight enclosure.



Tinkerbell in her bat hut, eating a piece of honeydew melon

Utah



Little Utah, a Brazilian free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) was rescued by Best Friends Animal Society in Kanab, Utah after he was found with a broken wrist. We worked with the lead wildlife rehabilitator at the Wild Friends department of Best Friends until little Utah's wrist was healed, and when he was ready, he was personally driven from Best Friends to Bat World Sanctuary in Texas. Little Utah is doing well at Bat World, happily mingling with others of his own kind who are also not releasable.

Other Best Friends Bats

We added the Wild Friends Department at the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary to our Locate a Rescuer list at batworld.org, and they received several more calls throughout the year involving downed bats, including a pregnant free-tailed bat who gave birth to the youngster pictured on the right.



A state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator with Best Friends stated “BWS was huge help to our rehabilitation program which has only recently started to rehabilitate bats, from the expert advice we received as well as answering frantic phone calls at all hours of the day and night when a bat patient's health suddenly deteriorated. Amanda was even kind enough to help walk me through orphan bat monitoring and care when a bat in our center gave birth - something we had never encountered before. Talking through the baby bat's day to day changes helped me gain piece of mind... and catch issues that came up quickly enough to pull the baby through them... resulting in a healthy, happy flighted hand-raised Brazilian free-tailed bat.”

The youngster was ultimately hand-raised alongside his mother, who is not releasable.

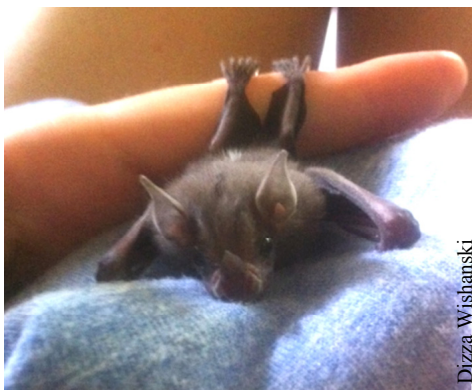
A beautiful pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) was also found with a wing injury, which was treated using Bat World Sanctuary's established protocol. The bat's wing is healed and it doing much better today.

Thank you Best Friends, for being there for the bats!



Bats Helped in Other Countries

In 2013 we helped individuals and bat care professionals in 13 locations worldwide. Using photos and videos, we were able to identify species and offer medical advice. We freely shared book chapters on bat care published by Bat World Sanctuary that allowed bats to be saved in Costa Rica, Turkey, Slovenia, Cameroon, Montenegro, Sweden, Central Mexico, London, Lithuania, Greece, Singapore, Brazil, Canada, Italy and Israel. Pictured below are a few of the photos we received from the rescuers we helped.



Dizza Wishanski



Anne Kindler



Gustavo Fischer

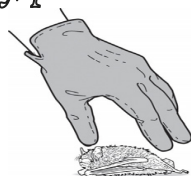


An orphaned Jamaican fruit bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*, above left) was found in Costa Rica by D. Wishanski, who contacted us for help. We were able to provide the information she needed to hand-raise the baby successfully to release. Likewise, the velvety free-tailed bat (*Molossus molossus*) found in Central Mexico as an infant was successfully raised by animal care professional Anne Kindler after using the information we supplied to her. The photo above shows the bat as a young adult, enjoying a cricket and ready to be released. Another older *Molossus molossus* (left) was found grounded by Gustavo Fischer, to whom we have also supplied life saving information to get the bat back into the wild. Sadly, the beautiful lesser white-lined bat (*Saccopteryx leptura*, bottom left) was injured by a ceiling fan after flying into the home of Teresa Kable, who also resides in Costa Rica. The bat was provided pain medication, but it had suffered internal injuries.

Thank you Teresa, for making a donation to Bat World Sanctuary in honor of this beautiful species.

Protect yourself, protect them

**NEVER
RESCUE
A BAT
BARE
HANDED!**



Find help at batworld.org

The Craft Shop Rescue

By Mitch Gilley, BWS volunteer and author of our new blog "Inside Bat World" at batworld.org. Learn more about volunteers Mitch and Angela on page 33.



October 1, 2013

It was around mid-day during my second week of work at Bat World Sanctuary, just as we were preparing to dice an entire grocery store's produce section for Peekaboo's dinner, when the call came in. Bat World's other volunteer, Angela, and I could only hear one half of the conversation, but the other half wasn't hard to discern.

Broken sentences as the caller interrupted repeatedly in what seemed like a panic. Amanda trying three separate times to say "I'm not asking you to touch it..." and instead asking the caller to toss a sheet or towel over it so that it would be concealed yet gently restrained, keeping it in place for our arrival and helping it to feel as secure as a lost, terrified and likely dehydrated bat can. It sounds odd, I know, but crevice dwelling bats absolutely adore tight, confined spaces because it makes them feel hidden and safe. A few more aborted attempts to communicate, and then just like that it was away from the bananas and off to a local craft store to do yet another thing that I never thought I'd do—go on a rescue call for Bat World Sanctuary.

It wasn't how I wanted my first rescue to be. I'd hoped for people who cared for their welfare, who didn't see them as harbingers of disease and mouth foam, who understood why we did what we did and would be supportive so that all I had to worry about was the technique of approaching and catching a wild bat. We weren't going to get that, but I was thankful that this wouldn't be Angela's first rescue, at least. I could simply play a support role. For eleven years previous to this, support was largely my job: anticipating what was needed and then doing it. Perhaps I'd suck at rescuing bats – we'd find out soon – but I was good at support. Reminding myself calmed the nerves a bit.

The building in which the shop resided had for years been problematic for juvenile bats who might have mastered the art of becoming airborne but might not be so good at staying there, much less the intricate and delicate process of navigating via echolocation. Long before Bat World's inception, young bats have frequently made their way inside the building subsequently had been unable to find their way out. Ballpark estimates are that over one thousand bats have been pulled out of that building over the years. Conversely, there is perhaps no way to accurately judge how many simply died in there due to the recalcitrance of the building's management. To the extent that Bat World has been allowed to help, however, the number of lost bats has decreased from a few hundred every summer to a mere dozen now and then over the past decade and a half.

With this, a carrier pouch, a nitrile glove and various literature that would hopefully allay some of the irrational fear of our panicking merchants, we parked outside and walked in. Angela engaged them right away, and I was happy to see my hopes of keeping to the kiddie pool for this one were playing out. Alas, and also fortunately, it was not to be

The shopkeepers, before describing their absolute certainty that this fragile three inch long mammal intended to kill them, informed us that it was last seen under a table. In turn, we informed them that it was no longer there. As we searched they bombarded us with questions that Angela, sensing perhaps that I was on the verge of overwhelmed, answered their many questions of:

“What do you do with them after you catch them? You KEEP them? You’re TRAINING to do this? How many do you have over there? So will it try to attack us? Are you sure? It was flying really close to my head. Why do they do that?”

This continued as we spotted the bat above a display rack. It continued as they very eagerly fetched a ladder so we could get it. It continued as I was preparing to be Johnny-on-the-spot with the carrier pouch, and it only stopped when Angela said the words:

“Do you want to get this one?” All three waited for my response. I was On The Spot.

What could I do? My ego wasn’t about to permit me to say *“No thank you, Angela, I’m afraid of heights and failure.”* Couldn’t be done. There was, in fact, only one thing that *could* be done - catch the wild bat that had been “terrorizing” these women all morning.

Let’s stop and break this down for a second, because I feel like a lot of people think animal rescue is going somewhere and plucking up a grateful puppy from, like, a mud puddle, and it licks your face and you giggle and all present go *“Awww, is the widdle puppy all muddy? YES he IS, he is SOOO muddy! and we shall clean him with kisses!”* And then we all cuddle the rest of the day.

NO.

This was not a puppy; it was a cornered, frightened wild animal. You know that saying “so ‘n’ so fought like a cornered animal”? I do too, and yet what was I doing? Putting on a glove and climbing up a ladder with a phobia about heights so I could corner a wild animal. It wasn’t like rounding a corner and finding you’d accidentally hemmed in some stray dog, I was intentionally laying the trap. A benign trap, but a trap just the same. Climbing up a ladder thinking *“Well good, this is what I quit my job to do, what a great decision that was.”* Climbing up a ladder wondering how I’d come to be on this ladder at this moment preparing to do something that by conventional terms could be fairly described as ill advised; high above the ground where with each rung my body’s refusal to move and the risk upsetting my balance became harder to overcome, and all with three women standing below watching intently.

One rung, and then another. You know how it is when you’re doing something that you’re completely certain will result in some manner of harm coming to you; you just move mechanically while your brain is throwing every brake it can lay synapses on. One rung and then another while in my head the bat took off at the last second over and over again, barreling straight into my face, and then we both plummet to the floor.

Then, suddenly, my brain’s unlikely and revolving perambulations ceased, because there it really was; the errant beast was a scant few inches from my face: a little juvenile, certainly far more frightened than any of us, lost, dehydrated, nearly spent, but by no means lacking in defiance. You know how teenagers are. It looked me right in the eye, hunkered down and braced its forearms.

Whether for flight or, you know, actual flight, I wasn't sure. I intensely wished that somebody would happen into the shop just then, where-upon the clever and courageous little creature would, instead of injuring and humiliating me, seize the opportunity to fly straight to the open door and to freedom.

That didn't happen.

So, with heart pounding and breath held, I reached out. From below I heard "You're going to use your hand??"

This made me desperately want to laugh; my hand was gloved, after all. Those of you who've spent a good deal of your childhood in church know my predicament: when it's really bad to laugh, the urge can literally become uncontrollable. Laughing here, now, so close to this bat, would have been really bad. My lips tightened into one very strained grin, and I was grateful then to be facing the wall so it couldn't be seen.

I can't really make you understand how hard I clamped down on that snicker in my throat except to say that I was immensely proud afterward that it didn't erupt right into that poor bat's face. When the spasm of mirth relented somewhat, I placed a cup of fingers over it, leaving only a mad bitey scramble between my fingers as its only viable method of escape, the very thing I'd been dreading. Here we go. My fingers moved slowly to pick it up...

...and it kept still, and I plucked it from the wall completely uneventfully. Then it actually crawled into the carrier pouch, and did so eagerly. There was a brief moment of disbelief. Did I just rescue a bat?

"Got it!" I called out, found my pride, and descended like Caesar returning to Rome from war and the crossing of the Rubicon. In my exultation I couldn't pay attention to the babbling even if I'd wanted to, and Angela was handling it like she was a walking field guide to bats.

Actually, I really have to hand it to Angela. She fielded every question like she'd been asked each one a hundred million times, and even managed to get these two women concerned about the welfare of the bat I captured, and hoping that it would be okay. That was a sentiment that neither of us had expected to hear, and Angela elicited it from two women who were convinced that the bat was trying to kill them in a few minutes.

And with that, we left, and as soon as Angela mentioned that she could see me trying not to laugh up on that ladder, we both completely lost it and spent the drive back quoting the two shopkeepers between convulses of laughter. I wouldn't want to speak for Angela, but I really needed that. Don't get me wrong: it's okay to not know that bats are about as benign as animals come. The societal preconceptions are old and prevalent, and for many it's disturbing to believe that the conventional "wisdom" could be so very wrong.



A Brazilian free-tailed bat rescued from inside a vacant building. Her ears are marked green to identify her as ready for release after several days in recovery.

To a volunteer at a bat sanctuary, though, it is hilarious. Once you've hand fed a few disabled bats and wiped their faces with little bat nappies, you don't really see the whole Dracula thing anymore.

We pulled into the driveway ready to bring Amanda the bat we'd fetched and share the story of our success when we saw Amanda coming out of the staff entrance to meet us. They'd called again while we were en route, having found another one in the back of the store. We'd only just left the craft shop victorious and near-helplessly laughing, and now we were going back. Myself, I just figured it was the other half of a teenage bat duo that had dared each other to go inside, this one hiding while the other raised cane in the shop. In other words, this second one was the smart one; in any good duo, there's always the Smart One.

Amanda knew better. This was August, when bat activity is at or near its peak. They're gearing up for their migratory return to Mexico, swarming is in full swing and life is one long love-drunk mosquito feast. That meant it was possible that there could be a great many more bats in that building, likely all juvies, young and inexperienced bats who might be lost inside that building, trapped over nothing more than a joy ride with an unexpectedly harsh learning curve, as joy rides often spring upon the young. I felt good this time, still marveling over the first rescue just minutes before. How it had just let me pick it up like that. Amanda had told me that would happen, though it seemed unbelievable at the time; she is convinced that on some level beyond the instinctual need to evade, they know that we're trying to help them. Now I was inclined to agree.

Certainly I was too inexperienced to credibly disagree, at any rate. This second bat, perhaps due to its own youthful inexperience, almost certainly disagreed entirely. Once we arrived we were led to the back - it's always thrilling on some very mundane level to gain access to the Back Room of any establishment - and there we found the first bat's compatriot flying frantic circles.

The left part of the room was partitioned off from the rest, and we passed it again and again trying to keep the bat in sight and wait for it to tire and land. Until it eventually decided the smaller extremity had more nooks and crannies to use; shelving, things on those shelves, exposed studs and door frames in the wall, etc. There was nothing but a couple of near-catches on the shelving, both times almost coming close enough to stroke its fur before it burst into the air with a suddenness that let you know without a doubt that this was a youngster, with all the energy that comes with it. Then it alighted upon a door frame where studs were exposed and the bat then easily slipped in between them. It was a narrow space, no bigger than half an inch running the entire height of the door, and there was no way our hands would fit into the space to pluck out our refugee. Then, as if this weren't enough, it worked its way to the very top of the gap, hemming itself in tightly on three sides. Angela exploited this now and prodded gently with the dry erase marker (with the cap still on, of course), and while the bat resisted, it just couldn't stand it and took little time in crawling from the gap. I in turn wasted little time myself in getting a black gloved hand around it. We'd caught the Smart One.

Then, incredibly, as we turned to leave, *another* bat flew past, but this one lacked the moxy of its friend, and it didn't elude us for long. Still, while I was unmistakably proud of this new work that I'd just found I could do, and do well, there was little to exult over. Three bats in what was essentially a single two-part trip was troubling. When we got back, Amanda got straight to work rehydrating the poor things while Angela and I stood close and discussed what we knew up to now, about the building and the current situation both.

We decided that the worst-case scenario for this problem - that a great many bats had been again trapped in the abandoned upper floors of the building that the craft shop was in - was too severe to ignore. Not likely perhaps, but easily possible. We had to go up there, knowing that one of those abandoned pitch-dark floors had once been a funeral home and had seen as much human suffering and death as that of bats, that we might be walking into a mass grave, that we might find dozens of them in similar or worse shape as these, that we might find enough to make for a very long night for them and us.

Once our poor juvies had been tended, we all three set out on a highly unusual excursion. We try to always keep one volunteer at Bat World, and Amanda does her best to be there all the time, but if our worst case scenario played out, we'd all be needed. This time we arrived unbidden, but the shop owner gladly led us into the back and gave us permission to ascend the gaping dark stairway into a much older place than I for one was accustomed to.

Of course most of the buildings of downtown Mineral Wells were built in the late 1800s, and I'd certainly in my entire life here been in a few of them before, but now, here, above the shop, that age was laid bare. The stairways sagged just slightly, keeping us against the wall as we climbed, going one at a time. Age had stripped away whatever finish or paint the wooden banisters and floors might have once had, and even the appearance of having been sanded smooth. The doors were all old, heavy and creaky, and at one end was the old viewing room, now empty. The poet in me wants to say that the sheer amount of tears shed in this room over the years could still be felt, but honestly even that was gone.

And *darkness*. It was dark like I'd never seen before, not outside of a closet I was hiding in playing hide and seek as a child. Even under the darkest new moon there are still stars trickling their nigh-invisible light. Not here. Here we had only our voices and our head-lamps with which to navigate this old place that no longer had anything for humans and bats alike.

Amanda had been there before and has spent so much time around bats that their capacity for navigating this sort of totalitarian darkness has rubbed off on her, and she immediately set us to work closing those doors over there, opening this one, checking the ones back there, closing off everything but the hallway so that the bats couldn't dally in the rooms off the side, but had to continue either downward to the shop where they would be seen and rescued or go back up to the top floor where they could leave again. That done, we ascended to the top floor.

As we crested the stairs, we found a dead free tail. He was only two flights of stairs and a terrified shopkeeper away from rescue, but he didn't make it. He was stiff, but clearly hadn't been here long. We left him where he fell - he was a wild animal, this was a wild place. He was a fallen soldier of the night; he was not trash to be disposed of. We kept on, wondering how many more we'd find.

Thankfully, we found no more, and selectively closed off doors as we had below to minimize their chances of getting lost. We also found where they'd been coming in: a hole in the ceiling of a closet. The bathroom that the closet was in was little bigger than the closet itself, and that was what was posing such a problem. For a bat to fly straight up they need to build up speed, and there was simply not enough space for it. We scavenged a slender board that bats could easily grab onto and leaned it up against the mouth of the hole so that they could climb up and out. With much shorter pieces we did likewise for the sinks.

Three days passed, and with each one the juveniles regained their strength and restlessness, and as one always hopes but is never quite precisely happy about, the time came to release them. It's the ultimate hallmark of a successful rehabilitation, but after hand feeding them day after day, it's a bittersweet moment.

We do our releases at the wild sanctuary, another old building purchased by Amanda years back to protect the bats that had taken up residence in it. Currently it houses approximately 50,000 bats in the summertime; in its heyday it had three times that many. As with every other aspect of this rescue, this was my first time to experience it.

I wouldn't forget it. Nobody would forget it. The ceiling was very high, and the walls had been knocked out to create a huge expanse for the bats to fly in yet stay out of the weather. Screens had been put up to deny them access to the rest of the building. This was for their own safety, so they wouldn't get lost; they didn't want for room to flap their wings. At all. Otherwise the building showed its age much like the one we'd explored days ago.

But the bats...they covered every beam, every rafter, they were strewn across the walls, and perhaps double that number again were filling the air constantly. Their smell - bats smell like bats the way dogs smell like dogs - was powerful, drowning out all else. They whipped fearlessly past your head, secure in their own domain, in the arrogance pos-



Bat World's wild sanctuary for Brazilian free-tailed bats

sessed by a creature in its element. Their tens of thousands of voices blended into a smooth, pulsing rhythm, as if gathered here as a colony they spoke as one. I'd known they were intensely communal creatures, but this manifold voice really drove it home. Amanda was walking to the area where she releases bats and telling me about this literally awesome place to which she had brought me, and I didn't hear a word. I was only staring upward, actually tangibly speechless perhaps for the first time in my life.

Then, of course, I felt the bat urine start pelting my head and determined that staring upward with my mouth agape wasn't really a good idea. It's not a place that one takes a casual stroll through; we have to cover up with protective gear just to go inside for a moment. If that's the price to see a sight like that, it's a very small one.

The juveniles seemed similarly overwhelmed. As Amanda retrieved them from the bat hut they hunkered excitedly on the tips of her fingers. The first two didn't tarry too long, but the third made a number of false starts, leaning forward and spreading its wings before pulling back, only to try it again, over and over. One finally made the leap, taking to the air and quickly losing itself in the crowd, then the other two soon followed.

We were grateful for the extra few seconds with it, because too soon it lit off toward its friends, and just like that the story was over.

Pumpkin Fun! Boo2 (with a Bumpkin photo bomb) enjoys one of many pumpkins carved and hung from the flight enclosure ceiling during the month of October.



2013 EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS

*Your donations have allowed us to reach over **1.5 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.*

ON THE GROUND PRESENTATIONS WERE GIVEN TO ADULTS AND CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF TEXAS, IOWA, VIRGINIA, AND FLORIDA THIS YEAR, INCLUDING:

- Weston Gardens
- Shangri-la Gardens
- DFW Wildlife Coalition, 10th Anniversary Celebration
- Amelia Island/Fernandina Beach Wildlife Center
- Denton, Argyle, Millsap, Dallas and Fort Worth ISD
- Neighborhood Associations
- Summer Library programs
- River Legacy Park
- Rotary Clubs
- Cowtown Loves Animals Event

AN ESTIMATED 35,000 ADULTS AND CHILDREN WERE REACHED AT THE ABOVE EVENTS.

THE FOLLOWING BAT REHABILITATION PRESENTATIONS WERE ALSO PROVIDED IN 2013:

- Wildlife Rehabilitation Basics - Well Baby Care (for Animal Control officers)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Advanced Topics (for Animal Control officers)
- White Nose Syndrome Annual Symposium (4 day conference in Boise, Idaho)

AN ESTIMATE 500 ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONALS WERE REACHED AT THE ABOVE EVENTS.



AS SEEN BY THE LETTER BELOW, THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR EDUCATIONAL AND ACTIVISM EFFORTS TAKE PLACE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, WHERE WE HAVE ALMOST 47,000 FANS, AS WELL AS OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL WHERE OUR VIDEOS HAVE HAD OVER 1.5 MILLION VIEWS. PLEASE JOIN US AT [FACEBOOK.COM/BATWORLD](https://www.facebook.com/batworld) AND [YOUTUBE.COM/BATWORLDSANCTUARY](https://www.youtube.com/batworldsanctuary)

**A FEW OF THE PROGRAMS BAT WORLD SANCTUARY PROVIDED
THROUGH ON-THE-GROUND AND ONLINE EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS**



Above left: BWS Vice President Dottie Hyatt teaches elementary school children at Hill-top Elementary in Argyle, Texas about the benefits of bats. Above right: BWS Treasurer Denise Tomlinson gives a summer library bat program to adults and children in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Below left: Kate Rugroden, BWs Director of Special Projects, poses for a photo with elementary school students after bat presentation she gave to the class. Below right: Kate Rugroden provides a lunch time educational program to a Rotary Club.



Left: Kate Rugroden, gives a demonstration of how a bat's wing works to a large group of elementary school children.

EDUCATIONAL FILM COLLABORATION

In collaboration with Aperture Films, Bat World Sanctuary provided photos, videos and information to create an informative but fun video short explaining echolocation. The film will benefit Carlsbad Caverns and the National Park Service. For more information on the project please visit www.aperturefilms.com.

Dear Bat World Sanctuary,

I have been a lover of bats for many years and always do what I can to help raise awareness and donate to help these beautiful wonders of nature.

Today I had a heartbreaking experience and just wanted to make sure someone else who loves bats as much as I do knows about his baby's valiant attempt at survival. I was visiting a state park for some hiking with my family and they had a bat house. As we were walking by, we heard a scared and painful tiny cry. I looked down to see a baby trying to use damaged wings to climb up the impossibly tall pole. He had fallen from the bat house and was calling for help and trying to climb. He was brave and determined. He would make it a small ways, despite being in pain and then fall and try again. We got a hold of the ranger station, but they didn't seem to be very concerned. I had my son find something for me to help him with, although I knew the situation was hopeless as we were more than an hour drive from civilization and I had nothing with me that could help him. As he fell a final time and landed on his back, he flailed for a few moments.

I knew there was nothing I could do and knew what would happen, so I climbed the fence and sat with the beautiful baby to comfort him as he took his final breath. He was so beautiful and I was filled with sadness. I have always been an advocate for bats, and witnessing this, while I know it is a part of the natural cycle of life, affected me so deeply. I just wanted to share his story so he can be remembered and celebrated. He fought so hard, and despite impossible odds and no matter how many times he fell, he kept trying. That beautiful baby served as an inspiration to me and despite knowing him for such a short time, I will remember his bravery.

Thank you taking the time to read this. I just wanted someone else to hear his story. You do so much for helping bats and without your organization many bats would die unnecessarily. I will continue to donate to your organization as well as other organizations in support of bat rescue and care. They are so misunderstood, but so very beautiful and sweet.

Wishing you a wonderful day!

Michelle

White Nose Syndrome Update



Kate Rugroden, Bat World's Director of Special Projects and chair of the National WNS Stakeholder Committee

The 2013 White Nose Syndrome (WNS) conference was held September 3-6 in Boise, Idaho. Over 130 researchers, government officials, and stakeholders were in attendance.

The news about White Nose Syndrome continues to be grim, with the fungus now confirmed in 22 states and five Canadian provinces. States in the Midwest and Western regions are working proactively to monitor bat hibernacula. Bat conservationists, geologists, speleologists, and several state and Federal agencies are working collaboratively to reduce the risk of contamination in areas where the fungus has not yet been found. However, there is some good news to share as well.

There are several promising avenues of research involving native, widespread bacteria and fungi that show potential as natural remedies that would neutralize or eliminate *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* in bat hibernacula without harming the rest of the ecosystems. (The reclassification of *Geomyces destructans* to *P. destructans* is the result of further genetic analysis of the fungus). In addition, substantial research is being done on hibernation patterns and behavior. There are also projects underway to assess the viability of man-made alternate roosts (such as abandoned military bunkers). Early trials utilizing these bunkers show promising results. Similarly, Bat World's Bat Castle design may also prove beneficial in serving as a man-made roost capable of holding 100,000 bats.

The Stakeholder Committee also met during the symposium to provide input on an updated 'Cave Advisory' document, including options for training programs and circumstances that might lead to exceptions to any cave closure decisions. During breakout sessions, much work was done on providing best management practice guidelines for bat rehabilitators, researchers, nuisance wildlife control companies, and cavers. The communications working group has been busy drafting public education information including signage for caves and informational brochures.

The National White Nose Syndrome group is now meeting monthly by teleconference, and the Stakeholder Committee has been invited to participate in these calls beginning in November of 2013.

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our accomplishments this year include raising the necessary funds to build our new facility on the 13 acres that Bat World Sanctuary acquired in 2012, a nomination for the Indy Prize, helping get the Florida bonneted bat listed as endangered, and more.

A NEW BAT WORLD SANCTUARY

We're so very excited to announce that between the donations made by our wonderful supporters, the sale of property donated to BWS by our President, Amanda Lollar, the recent wins in contests, and funds received from other means, we now have the capital to move forward with the construction of our long awaited new facility in nearby Weatherford, Texas! This facility will not only contain substantially larger flight enclosures for the bats, but will afford them a natural day/night cycle via skylights and protected exposure to the outdoors that hasn't been possible in the current location. In addition, the layout has been drafted entirely with the bats in mind as well as those who tend to them, making their stay more comfortable and the volunteers' jobs much easier. This larger facility will also allow us to rescue more bats in need.



The spot for the new Bat World facility has been cleared and the foundation will soon be poured. The new facility will measure 60' wide by 120' long, with expansive flight cages. For a diagram of the new facility see batworld.org/a-new-bat-world-sanctuary.

We've worked hard for this moment, but none of this could even begin to be possible without of our generous and loyal supporters. Every time we've needed you, you've always stepped up, and we can't possibly thank you enough. We are still in need of donations to finish the flight enclosures, which will include padded floors, stainless steel security mesh, aluminum tubing, steel security bars, security cameras, as well as a critter cam in the new flight area that will allow online viewing 24/7 so that you may view the bats in their simulated, natural environment. Construction is due to start in November of 2013 with completion expected by the spring of 2014 (funds allowing).

BAT CASTLE UPDATE

While there is still not a resident colony in the Bat Castle, training is ongoing, ceasing only long enough for maternity season. We plan to perform as many releases as possible inside the Bat Castle, of both rehabilitated bats and those that have to be excluded from local buildings. We remain very optimistic that as more bats become aware of the bat castle it will become a vibrant and hospitable home much like current wild sanctuary. There have been numerous sightings of bats in and around the Bat Castle. When the migrating bats return next year, the Bat Castle may see its first residents.

INDY PRIZE NOMINATION

The Indianapolis Prize, the Nobel Prize of animal conservation, is given every other year to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to conservation efforts involving animal species. We are proud to announce that our Founder and President, Amanda Lollar, has been chosen as one of the 39 Indy Prize nominees. As a nominee, Amanda shares the company of conservationists including Jane Goodall and Denver Holt.

The Indianapolis Prize winner will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$250,000, and the prestigious Lilly Medal. The five non-winning Prize finalists will receive awards of \$10,000 each. This celebration draws international attention to conservation issues and receives extensive media coverage. The goal is to inspire the general public to start caring about conservation, and to place animal heroes on the pedestal that we usually reserve for sports and entertainment stars.

USFWS LISTS THE FLORIDA BONNETED BAT AS ENDANGERED

The Service opened a 60-day public comment period October 4, 2012, that allowed peer and public review and comment on the proposal to list the species as endangered. Bat World Sanctuary actively encouraged our members to send comments, to which hundreds of you responded. The protection for the Florida bonneted bat under the ESA becomes effective November 2, 2013, 30 days after the rule is published in the October 2, 2013 Federal Register. Our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted comments.

BWS ASSISTS IFAW & GFAS IN CREATING RESOURCES TO SAVE BATS

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Global Federation for Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS) created an online resource section for sanctuaries to access species or operational specific information. At their request, BWS donated the use of our Differential Diagnostic Chart and USFWS Protocol for Wildlife Rehabilitator Response currently available at batworld.org/bat-rehabilitation. Sharing these types of resources online are vital to saving bats around the world.

ALLIGATOR ADVENTURE BAT EXHIBIT RECEIVED COMPLAINT

After receiving a complaint from a concerned member about a bat display located at Alligator Adventure located in North Myrtle Beach, SC, BWS immediately forwarded information to the USDA and an official complaint was launched. The complaint included that the fruit bat's glass and floor was covered in urine and feces, the ventilation fan was broken or turned off, and the bats didn't have much room to fly around. The only water source appeared to be a small pool on the floor which also had feces in it. There were hanging baskets with pie tins for their food. One of the tins was tipped and almost falling out of the holder. The exhibit was visited the next day and it was exactly the same. After our complaint was made conditions improved for the bats.

BWS SUBMITS REVISIONS TO GUIDELINES FOR HUMANE EUTHANASIA

Public Comments on Implementation of the Updated AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition has been published. Twelve comments were received from the public on their concerns regarding the updated AVMA Guidelines during the open comment period, one of the comments being from Bat World Sanctuary (BWS). BWS has established a position statement regarding the inhumane practices commonly used to euthanize insectivorous bats and have recommended several revisions to the AVMA Guidelines as it pertains to insectivorous bats. For more information see batworld.org/position-statements

A PRE-RELEASE FLIGHT ENCLOSURE FOR BAT WORLD MIDCITIES



During the spring and summer months of 2013, this new outdoor flight cage at Bat World MidCities became home to dozens of orphaned Red bats, Brazilian free-tailed bats and evening bats. Most bats spend two to three weeks in this outdoor flight enclosure, acclimating to the weather and gaining strength, speed, and agility before release. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to get this enclosure constructed in just two weekends!

In 2013 we placed in two contests featured on Crowdrise, the Mozilla Firefox Challenge and the Groupon Earth Day Challenge. We are extremely grateful to our generous donors who supported us and enabled us to place 3rd in each of the above named contests. The money generated was significant in allowing us to move forward in the construction of our new Bat World facility!

NOTE: The article below is no reflection on how incredibly grateful we feel. It is about an incident that occurred during the Mozilla Firefox Challenge that we feel is noteworthy enough for the public to be made aware...

Juggernauts versus Underdogs by Mitch Gilley

The screenshot shows the Mozilla Firefox Challenge website. At the top, it says "Individual action. Global impact." and "Way to go Ian Somerhalder for getting over 1,700 donations, raising more than \$120,000 for the Ian Somerhalder Foundation and winning the Firefox Challenge." Below this, it says "Thanks to the support of the entire Crowdrise community, over \$1 million was raised for charity." and "Help Mozilla keep the power of the Web in your hands." The team leaderboard shows three teams: Ian Somerhalder Foundation, Jimmy Kimmel, and Bat World Sanctuary. Ian Somerhalder Foundation is in first place, Jimmy Kimmel is in second place, and Bat World Sanctuary is in third place.

In January of 2013, Bat World Sanctuary (BWS) took part in the Mozilla Firefox Challenge on Crowdrise.com, a website created to help raise money for non-profits. Challenges on Crowdrise are unique as they are won by donations; the charity that secures the most donations wins the challenge. Despite its lack of a celebrity representative and thus a far smaller support base, BWS seized and held the first place spot in the final hours of the contest. Apparently famed stars Jimmy Kimmel and Ian Somerhalder came to realize that their celebrity status

was not enough to trump the dedication of BWS's comparatively tiny support base, so they resorted to ridicule; bringing in a few anonymous yet no less identifiable donors who made several \$10,000 donations minutes before the competition ended.

It's a big deal, and it needs saying because for a tiny non-profit to be uplifted solely by its loyal, everyday supporters until it stood as tall as Jimmy Kimmel, matters. It was the perfect culmination of what Crowdrise set out to do, which was to empower people through unity, through numbers to become a potent force for change. Kimmel and Somerhalder could buy Bat World and its volunteers, but for a glorious while that did not avail them.

In fact, they both chucked good form out the window and chose to belittle Bat World Sanctuary. "Please don't let the fruit bats beat us," Kimmel opined on his Huffington Post blog. It's only fruit bats. All they do is bring us 80 different medicines and over 400 commercial products through pollination and seed dispersal. They are only responsible for 98% of all rainforest regrowth, the lungs of our planet. And Somerhalder could not wait to tell his millions of swooning fans that essentially Bat World was not necessary because he would build his own bat sanctuary. "I lovvve bats but they are NOT beating us... I'm gonna do something." Minutes later, a few \$10,000 anonymous donations rolled in, and he was in first place.

Bat World has reached maximum capacity at our present facility and that \$50K meant we would have been able to complete a new facility in which to house bats in need; the little creatures without whom life as we know it would cease to exist. No salaries are paid at BWS as we are an all volunteer organization. Amanda Lollar has spent over 20 years of

her life working 16-20 hour days, 365 days a year to advance the cause of bats and educate the masses to the importance of bats. Due to her efforts, BWS has approximately 47,000 loyal followers on FB. Whereas, by contrast, Jimmy stated he has never even visited the charity he represents let alone work on site for them. Either man could have written a check to their charities for the coveted \$50,000 first place prize money rather than take it from another charity. They bought their victories and the publicity and undeserved adulation that goes with it.



Don't Let the Fruit Bats Beat Us
www.huffingtonpost.com

Mozilla Firefox will give \$50,000 dollars to the Crowdrise fundraiser that raises the most money for their nonprofit cause by the end of tomorrow, January

At a single glance on the Crowdrise site, one could see what Bat World is all about. It is about a place that abused and neglected bats can go to be cared for until their natural life expires, because as hated as they are, they don't have many options. Kimmel's site just said "Jimmy Kimmel" below a



ian somerhalder @iansomerhalder 1h

Help us win & we will help all furry friends, bats included at our sanctuary:) crowdrise.com/ianmfc

Expand



ian somerhalder @iansomerhalder 12h

I lovvvve bats but they are NOT beating ISF for this Fire Fox challenge! Pls help! Donate!We have an amazing contest,I'm gonna do something

[Collapse](#) [Reply](#) [Retweet](#) [Favorite](#)

1,006
RETWEETS

659
FAVORITES



picture of Jimmy Kimmel. No mention of CTC (Comfort the Children, the charity he was representing), no picture that might provide an inkling as to what was intended for the money they were raising, just Jimmy Kimmel's grinning face. Given what was proffered, one could only assume that the problem they aimed to address was being Jimmy Kimmel. As for Somerhalder, he tweeted that he can "multi-task" since he can read a script and memorize his lines at the same time. Soon he'll learn to tie his own shoes, and then the world shall tremble at his might.

Even though media pseudo-juggernauts stepped on us, we still came out okay. With the money raised, the third place prize money, and Amanda contributing all but the sentimental parts of her entire inheritance from her recently deceased father, BWS has finally accomplished their goal in raising the money to commence work on a new facility. And many people who hadn't heard of Bat World Sanctuary now know who we are. Good came from this despite the belittling comments and the eleventh hour \$10k donations that came in to charities fronted by rich men with rich friends.

In a perfect world the stars would rectify the damage done, and maybe even come spend a day volunteering at Bat World, do something more than smile and put their name on things, get a taste for how hard we work at Bat World and why their comments angered Bat World supporters so much. Either of the men could spend time with Peekaboo, Bat World's "spokes bat." They could see how highly intelligent she is, how much more charismatic she is (than are they), her status as a life that can suffer and be afraid and die just as we can. They could apologize directly to her, as it is she and her kind that they ultimately hurt. I wouldn't be too surprised if she even understood in her own way. Jimmy and Ian not only betrayed the spirit of Crowdrise, but of charity as a concept.

2013 CAMPAIGNS

Highlighting two of our ongoing campaigns of 2013

Bear Grylls, Bat Killer

In a clip from *Man vs Wild* (formerly on The Discovery Channel) Bear Grylls used smoke to flush bats from a cave and then struck the fleeing, terrified animals with a makeshift club and stomped on them with what seemed to be glee, jokingly referring to it as “bat tennis.” This actually happened, and it is not an isolated incident. Aside from bats, Bear has killed alligators, monitor lizards, capybaras and even boas. None of these animals are killed in anywhere near a humane manner; they are simply beaten to death for the amusement of the viewing public.

This can’t be overstated enough, for those who care about animals, the videos available online showing his frequent atrocities are very, very difficult to watch. If you seek them out to view, please be aware of this.

In replying to email complaints about the show, The Discovery Channel defended itself by saying that Bear was imparting valuable survival information and, unbelievably, that it was Bear’s “style!” Such “stylistic” concerns as applied to people comprises much of the notoriety of serial killers. There is no worthwhile information whatsoever that can only be conveyed by filming oneself killing innocent, healthy animals, and terrorizing and bludgeoning sleeping bats right at their doorstep.

Please contact those responsible for fouling our televisions with his presence by voicing your opinion through the Discovery Channel’s Ethics Hotline at 800-398-6395. Please also sign our petition which can be accessed at batworld.org/action_alert.

The Senseless Killing of Queensland’s Bats



Left: Rescued Spectacled flying-foxes. Photo by Steve Amesbury.

You may be aware of the current controversy in Queensland swirling around their local flying fox population. That controversy is two-fold: insiders in the fruit industry are lobbying for legal permission to shoot and kill these endangered animals, and the usual histrionic misinformation about bats being a serious health risk has citizens and Premier Campbell Newman pushing to pass dangerously permissive legislation that will leave no meaningful safeguards to protect these animals. In other words, flying foxes, animals who have the intelligence of a dolphin, the dexterity of a primate, and the emotional complexity of a human, will be shot and abused for living in their natural homes (the trees) and for feeding on the fruit grown and sold by its tenders.

Please join us in an email campaign available through our Action Alerts page batworld.org, and also visit dontshootbats.com for updated information. Please boycott travelling to Australia, as well as the purchase of any Australian products until they stop these barbaric killings.

Hard copy letters of protest can be sent to: Campbell Newman, Leader, LNP, PO Box 940, Spring Hill, Qld 4004 or emailed to leader@lnpqlld.org.au.

2013 VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Peekaboo, an Egyptian fruit bat, welcomes our new volunteers, Mitch Gilley and Angela Hughes.



Volunteer Mitch getting “Peekapproved.”

Mitch Gilley has advocated for animal rights his entire life. He has done so through writing and volunteering, something he is now doing full time at Bat World Sanctuary.

Before volunteering for Bat World, Mitch attended Weatherford College and went on to work for a large company in Mineral Wells, Texas. One day he encountered a wounded Mexican free tail bat (later named Ichabod) in the company warehouse. His wrist was broken, yet the little bat was still fighting to crawl to safety, and then climbing a bay door, all through what must have been excruciating pain. Mitch was struck by this so-called

“mouse with wings,” so widely despised as vermin, exhibiting a strength of character that most humans can only aspire to. It was an encounter that would come to completely alter the course of Mitch’s life every bit as much as Ichabod’s.

The little animal set off a sequence of events, Mitch’s blog post detailing Ichabod’s rescue, to volunteer writing for Bat World, to spending a couple of weekends working at Bat World itself; meeting Peekaboo and reuniting with Ichabod – now on the mend – that led to him actually quit his company job to volunteering full time as a blog and grant writer for Bat World Sanctuary.

Given the roots of Bat World in his childhood and an injured bat catalyzing the process of Mitch’s life change (much like that of his new boss), Mitch finds himself reconsidering his previous opinions on things like fate, kismet, dharma and the like. (Perhaps Peekaboo had a little something to do with it...)

Angela Hughes was born in Tuscon, Arizona and lived there until she relocated to TX several years ago. Angela fell in love with bats when she was in the 6th grade, after she was given a book entitled “The Bat in My Pocket; A Memorable Friendship” written by Bat World’s Founder, Amanda Lollar. At the time, Angela never dreamed that one day she’d be volunteering at the very sanctuary where the book was written some 20 years earlier.

Angela grew up with horses and other animals, and currently has four dogs and two cats all of whom were rescued from animal shelters. Angela supports C.A.R.E., a local dog and cat rescue group as often as she can, and hopes to one day operate a no-kill shelter on the property she owns.



Volunteer Angela enduring a new hair- style called the “Peek-a-Doo.”

A very special thank you to Randy Turner, Randee and Tommy Saldo, Laurel Rohrer, Shirley Wolf, Barbara Eston, Dede Bent, The Uphams, everyone who donated in our Fire fox, Earth Day and Ryot Challenges, RubyWhiteTips, Starrlight Jewelry & Vamplets.



This beautiful and intricate cross-stitch of Lil Drac was created by Bat World member and Lil Drac supporter Cassandra Bailey. The project likely took hundreds of hours. Cassandra donated the cross-stitch to BWS to be used in a raffle that helped us secure over \$2,500 in funds that will be used towards the completion of the new facility. Thank you, Cassandra!

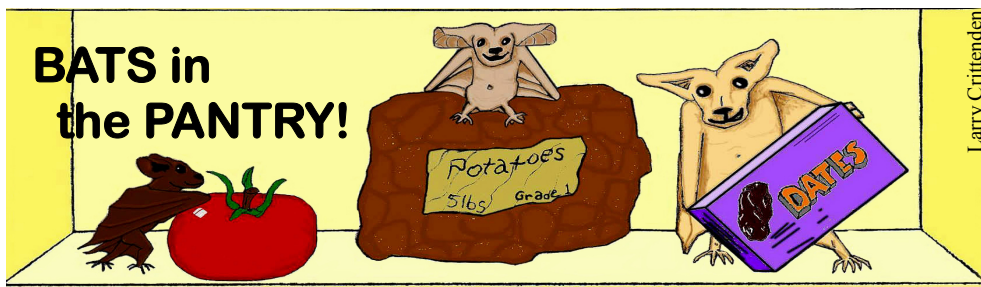


The goodies pictured here are donations we received throughout the year from our Amazon Wish list. They include food, nutritional supplies and toys for the bats, as well as paper towels and other necessary items, including Home Depot gift cards that will be used to purchase supplies for the new facility. Thank you to all of you who donated these wonderful items for the bats!

BAT WORLD SANCTUARY IS NOW ELIGIBLE FOR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS!

Bat World Sanctuary has joined the Kroger Community Rewards program for North Texas! You can help us secure funds for our rescue efforts simply by linking your Kroger Reward Card to support Bat World. Go to www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com to link your card. Scroll down to "Texas" and click "Enroll". Our number is 94862. Starting today, any time you shop at Kroger using your Kroger Plus Card you will be accumulating rewards that will help us save bats. Purchases will not count until you register your card online, so if you are from north Texas and shop at Kroger, please register. <https://customer.kroger.com/communityrewards.aspx>

BATS in the PANTRY!



Keen's Apple Pie

Pastry for two-crust pie

3/4 cup sugar

2 tbl whole wheat pastry flour

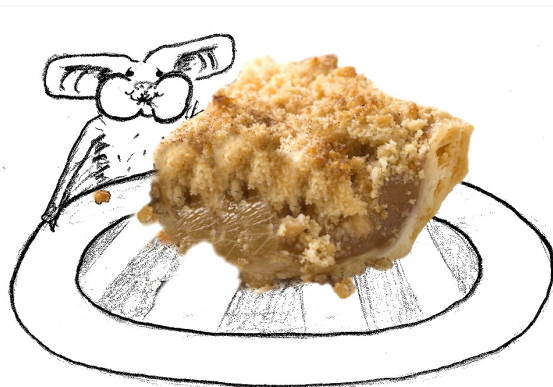
1 tsp ground cinnamon

1/4 tsp ground nutmeg

1 to 2 tsp lemon juice

6 to 7 cups thinly sliced, peeled
and cored cooking apples

1 tsp margarine



Preheat oven to 425°F. Place bottom crust in bottom of 9 inch pie plate. In small bowl, combine fructose/sugar and next 4 ingredients. Place half of thinly sliced apples in piecrust; sprinkle with half of sugar mixture. Top with rest of apples, and remainder of sugar mixture. Dot the filling with margarine. Roll out remaining crust. Cut out a design using a knife or cookie cutter (preferably the shape of a bat). Place crust over pie and trim edges. Fold the pastry overhang under then bring up over pie plate rim. Pinch to form a high edge then make your choice of decorative edge. Bake pie for 40 to 50 minutes or until crust is golden brown.

YET ANOTHER RECIPE BROUGHT TO YOU BY BATS!

HERE ARE THE BAT-PLANT CONNECTIONS:

Pastry and whole wheat flour - Thanks to bats our amber waves of grain are protected from red rust flour beetles, saw tooth grain beetles, grain borers, army-worms, and cereal leaf beetles.

Lemon juice - (and all citrus fruits including grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, and limes): Bats beat the pulp out of the katyids, mealy bugs, whiteflies, rose beetles, and leaf hoppers who love to munch on the leaves and vines of our favorite citrus fruits.

Apples - A bug a day keeps the apple away. Thankfully bats eat bud moths, fruit flies, leaf rollers, leaf hoppers and leaf miners, thus helping apples to remain red and delicious.

BAT WORLD WINES!



This Collector's Pack of wines, complete with Bat World Sanctuary labels, includes one bottle each of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Malbec, Pinot Noir and Sauvignon Blanc. Order one bottle or the entire collection! The taste is even sweeter when you know you are saving lives with every sip.

Purchase at benefitwines.com/batworld

BAT WORLD E-CARDS!

Bat World Sanctuary e-cards are now available, featuring our sanctuary bats. These cards can be personalized and sent for a donation of \$5 or more. The recipient is notified that a donation has been made in his or her name along with the sentiment listed on the card.



Purchase at
[Batworld.org/
e-cards](http://Batworld.org/e-cards)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

FAKE BAT WORLD SITES:

You may have visited fake Bat World Sanctuary websites with the misleading URLs of batworldsanctuary.com and batworldsanctuary.org. These sites were made by Bat World's cyber-stalker, Mary Cummins of Animal Advocates in Los Angeles, CA. Cummins purchased the domain names of batworldsanctuary.com and batworldsanctuary.org in an attempt to bring more harm to BWS. On these sites Cummins has posted falsified documents and horrific defamation about Founder Amanda Lollar, as well as the attorneys and Judges who have protected BWS. We are working to legally secure the domain names and we are also charging Cummins with contempt of court.

Please remember when searching for the Bat World website, it is simply batworld.org. The word "sanctuary" is not part of our URL at this time.

GOING GREEN

In our endeavor to go green (saving trees that bats roost in) we are keeping our printing to a minimum and now rely on updates through Facebook and email blasts to keep our supporters informed. You may have already noticed that the Bat World magazine now only prints once per year. Additionally, we will no longer send out hard-copy membership reminders and instead will rely on our Annual Report to serve as a membership reminder to everyone who does not have an email address. We encourage all members who have not yet signed up for our email blasts to do so at batworld.org, and also please join us at facebook.com/batworld for daily updates!



Loving Tributes

- *In Memory of Lois Blumenthal.* ~ Carol Miller, Bruce Porter
- *In Loving Memory of Fred Walter Chase.* ~ Veronica Geezi
- *In Memory of Dr. Shock.* ~ Elaine Manning.
- *In Honor of Devon.* ~ Barbara Esten
- *In Memory of my dear daughter Ashley who offered assistance to any creature in distress. Wildlife lost a potent voice of advocacy.* ~ Neil Corsatea
- *In Honor of Helen Whatnell.* ~ Ruth Heller
- *In Memory of the lovely straw fruit bat I cared for at a lonely zoo. I have never forgotten you, and am proud to have helped you all that I could.*
~ Debra Moore
- *In Memory of my beloved Tonk.* ~ Kimberly Coleman
- *In Memory of Charles A. Williams.* ~ Louise Williams
- *In Memory of my grandmother who taught me so much about nature.*
~ Julie Turner
- *In Memory of all the bats who never made it safely home to roost.*
~ Monica Best
- *In Memory of all lost in the fight to save the flying foxes.* ~ Mary King
- *In Memory of Kalypso the spider bat - cat.* ~ Lisa Narducci
- *In Memory of sweet Stella.* ~ Sandra Webb
- *In Memory of Pica.* ~ Mary Shaw
- *In Memory Lil Rat.* ~ Jeane Brenner.
- *In Memory of Mad, the little bat that lived on my porch for a summer.*
~ Catherine Chenoweth
- *In Memory of Zoey.* ~ Jane Gumnick
- *For all the poor lil bats who are harmed by people's ignorance!*
~ Andrea Gonzales
- *In Memory of Pumpkin 2* ~ Martha Power

Sponsor a bat in need!

***Existing members \$30**
New members: \$40

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.

*** Please note that international shipping is no longer available.**



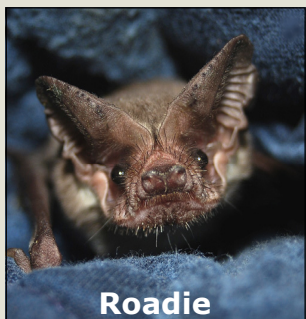
Boo2



Cornelius



Binky



Roadie



Sticky



Bootsanna



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

Name as it should appear 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?

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, all volunteer 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 pages on educational materials, videos, kid's games and rescue information. You can even sponsor a bat in need through our Adopt-a-Bat program. A one-year membership is included with sponsorships. Sponsors get educational materials and *BAT WORLD*, our conservation magazine that includes beautiful photos of rescued bats. You can also receive an online membership by simply making a donation of any size through batworld.org.