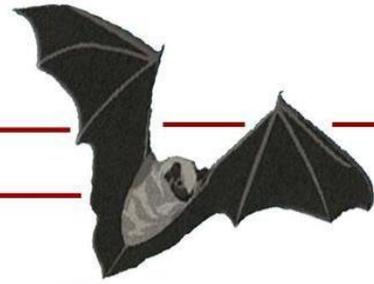


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# *THE NIGHT FLYER*

NEWS FROM THE FLORIDA BAT CONSERVANCY

**OUR MISSION:** To preserve & protect native bat populations within the state of Florida.

## Greetings from the Florida Bat Conservancy!

We've been in transition for the past year or so and beg your pardon for the hiatus in our newsletter. Our founders, Cyndi and George Marks, are passing the leadership of FBC to the next generation of bat conservationists, and although Cyndi has resigned from the FBC Board, she remains involved as an important consultant for FBC. George is continuing to serve FBC as President but has announced plans to retire in 2014.

FBC's new Executive Director is Amy Clifton; Amy is a wildlife biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and already she is tapping FWC expertise and talent to help further bat conservation in Florida. Please join us in welcoming Amy to FBC!

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## FBC Executive Director Attends Bat Blitz!

Over 700 individuals and 9 species of bats were counted at the recent 2013 Bat Blitz in Tahlequah, OK, according to Richard Stark of Ozark Plateau National Wildlife Refuge.

Check out the news video!

[Cherokee Nation helps with Bat Blitz - YouTube](#)



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## Coming Soon: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Bat Festival!

The 9th Annual Florida Bat Festival offers an opportunity to view giant fruit bats and enjoy the great outdoors while learning about how beneficial bats are to Florida's environment and ecosystems worldwide. Brian Pope, Director of Lubee Bat Conservancy, explains that the festival provides an opportunity to educate everyone on the importance of bats in a unique and exciting atmosphere.

The Festival is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2013 at Lubee Bat Conservancy, 10:00-4:00. Admission is Free! Learn more here:

<http://www.batconservancy.org/index.php/bat-festival>

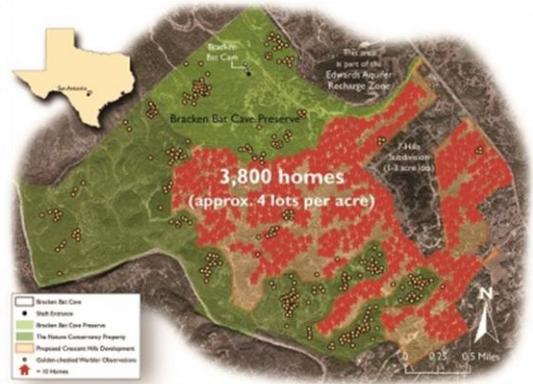


## White-nose Syndrome in the News: [Bat-killing Fungus Discovered in Arkansas](#)

### You can Help Save Bracken Cave's Bats!

It is not often that bat lovers have a chance to have a positive effect on bat conservation. This situation is topsy turvey of the typical scenario; usually bats move into human dwellings! This time a large development is proposed within the flight path of the largest bat population in the U.S. For more information and to learn how you can help, contact Bat Conservation International:

[Help Save Bracken Cave Reserve!](#)



### Flying Badger?

Maybe we should call it a bat-ger! Check out this new species of bat found in South Sudan:

[Striped Like a Badger: New Genus of Bat Identified in South Sudan](#)

### Bats Have Hairy Tongues!

Check out this new finding by Brown University researchers sent to us by Dr. Andrew Swanson! It is amazing what we don't know about these wonderful creatures that continue to improve our lives with very little appreciation. Next time you see a bat working hard to remove bugs in your neighborhood give it a wave of "Thanks"!

[Video: Hairy Tongue Helps Hovering Bats Suck Up Nectar - Wired Science](#)

### What's at your Hummingbird Feeder?

Lois from Bartow, FL wants to know if it is a species of bat that is draining her hummingbird feeder every night! Great question!

Florida doesn't have any nectar-eating or fruit-eating bats. Most likely it is very hungry hummingbirds gorging as they prepare for migration.

Arizona regularly hosts the three nectar-eating bat species that occur in the U.S. The bats follow the cacti blooms which are full of sweet nectar and they can often be seen drinking from hummingbird feeders.

[Mexican long-tongued bat](#)



## Bat Tip!

Found a bat on the ground? It may not be injured. Bats often have difficulty getting airborne from the ground and usually scamper to the nearest vertical surface to climb upward and gain height before taking off. You can help these bats by putting on a pair of sturdy gloves and moving the bat to the trunk of a nearby tree. Put the bat as high up on the tree as possible.

Sometimes tree dwelling bats are blown out of a tree during a storm. This often happens during the maternity season when the young are clinging to their mothers. In this situation it is best to get the bat and her pups back up into the tree. Make sure to thoroughly search the area around the bat for pups which may have been thrown from mom during impact. Most tree dwelling bats, like Yellow bats and Eastern Red bats, have more than one pup at a time and may have as many as four!

Once again, use a pair of sturdy gloves (no holes in them, please!) and gently scoop the mother and pups up into both hands. If it's late in the day and within a few minutes of sunset, place the bats as high up in the tree as you can safely reach. If sunset is still hours away you can "hide" the bats in the boots of a cabbage palm or place them in a cardboard box with clean, dry rags until closer to sunset. If a bat is placed on the tree trunk during the day it will be vulnerable to predation from cats, hawks, or other birds of prey. For more tips on living with bats, see our website!

[Florida Bat Conservancy](#)

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## Why does the State of Florida Protect Bats?

Debra, a rental property manager, contacted us wanting to know why bats are protected when they seem to be so abundant around people's homes. This is a great question and is one of many misunderstood ideas about this mammal.

Bats seem common around homes because they lost most of their natural roosting sites to logging and mining activities in the late 1800's. Since then the general disturbance that humans have created with roads, buildings, and airports have further degraded the natural roosting sites which bats need, so out of desperate necessity for safe hiding places to live, they take advantage of manmade structures. The best way to keep bats outdoors is to keep structures in good repair; bats don't chew or gnaw into buildings but they will take advantage of damaged or neglected buildings.

Installing a bat house is a great way to give bats a safe home so they will be less tempted to roost in yours. Everyone wins! For more information about bat houses see our website:

[www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org)

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## Why do Bats Fly Erratically?

Brianne in Winter Haven wants to know why bats fly erratically. Great question!

Bats swoop, dive, and roll in pursuit of insects like moths. Their prey tries to avoid the bat and so it is a game of cat and mouse high in the air. Sometimes the bat wins and gets a bite to eat, and sometimes it misses and has to try again.

[Bat Whisperer!](#)

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## Bats for Neighbors?

Sherri in Miami says that she successfully excluded a colony of Brazilian free-tailed bats from her Spanish tile roof...but now her neighbors are hosting the colony.

Sherri did her homework and knew about the Florida state law which prohibits bat exclusions between April and August. FBC was able to help Sherri by providing information on bat houses and how to discourage bats from roosting in residences. Brazilian free-tailed bats are very common in Florida and are well known for forming fairly large colonies of 1,000+ bats. And most homeowners don't appreciate the musky aroma that the bats bring with them!

Sherri wanted to find a way to encourage the bats to stay in the area because of the free nightly insect control they provide so she agreed to speak with her neighbors about erecting bat houses nearby. Thanks to Sherri for seeing the value of bats! For more information on Brazilian free-tailed bats, visit our website:

[www.floridabats.org](http://www.floridabats.org)

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## Paint it Black?

Dalton in Bonita Springs wanted to know if you have to paint a bat house black.

Our answer is no! In Florida we don't experience long term temperature drops like in northern states. Florida bat houses should be painted medium toned brown or grey to encourage solar heating without turning the bat house into an oven! Paint also greatly extends the life of the wood...and the bat house!

Thanks Dalton, for making homes for bats! For more information about bat houses:

[FBC Backyard Bat Houses](#)

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**Florida Bat Conservancy is a 501c3 charitable organization.**

**Donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.**

**Donations may be mailed to:**

**Florida Bat Conservancy**

**P.O. Box 516**

**Bay Pines, FL 33755**