



NASBR NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of *Lasiurus*, the electronic newsletter of the North American Society for Bat Research. As the Society inches toward its 50th birthday, the number of members has increased tenfold over the initial meeting in 1970 and now exceeds 400. Such growth, of course, makes personal communications more difficult, so the Board of Directors decided in Albany to establish a newsletter, as a way of sharing timely information with members between annual meetings. Although only one issue is planned for this year, more may be added in the future. We welcome suggestions from members as to the type of content that they would like to see, and we solicit short articles and announcements that would be of interest to members of the Society. Please send your ideas and contributions to the Editor of *Lasiurus*, Erin Gillam (erin.gillam@ndsu.edu).

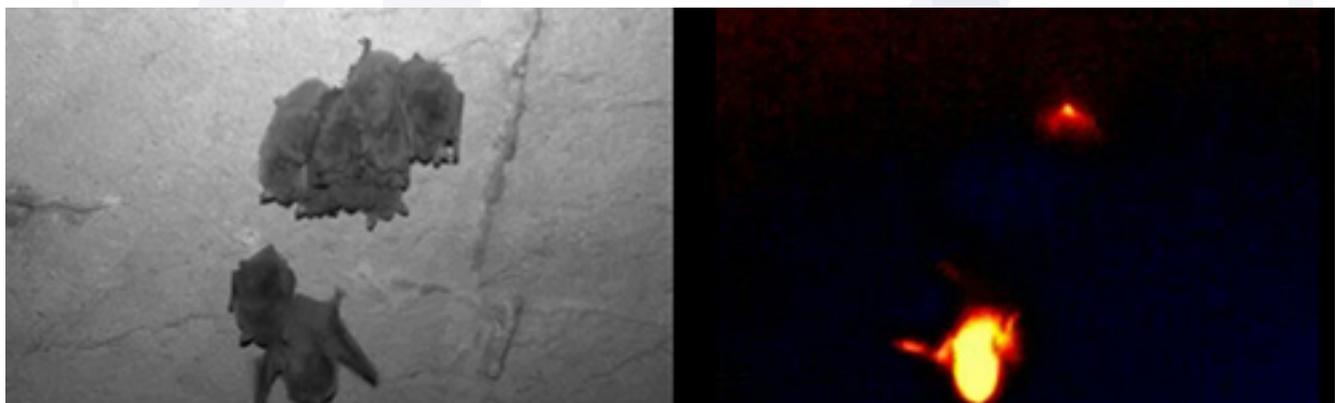
Allen Kurta, Chair
Board of Directors

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IN FOCUS



Simultaneous images from near-infrared (left) and thermal-infrared (right) video surveillance cameras showing a male little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) leaving the scene (lower middle) after mating with a presumed female (upper right) in an otherwise cold (dark on thermal image) cluster of hibernating bats. Winter mating events in which females did not subsequently arouse from hibernation were common during 6 winters of video monitoring in this Virginia cave.

Image by P. Cryan and results to be presented at NASBR 2015.



Local Host Report

The 44th North American Symposium on Bat Research held in Albany New York 22-24 October 2014 set a benchmark for attendance with 400 participants. Within this audience was a record 164 students. NASBR continues to show support for those entering the field of bat research by making student participation a feature of every symposium.

Jack Bradbury was the Keynote speaker followed by a full schedule of platform papers and posters that featured presenters from about a dozen different countries. Pleasant additions to sessions included a walking tour of Albany historical sites given by the ever amusing and informative Al Hicks. The teams at the Museum of Natural History in New York City and the State Museum in Albany gave insider tours. The most heavily attended NASBR student social ever was held at the nearby Albany Beer Hall, complete with mechanical riding bull.

Pat Morton was able to lead the Teachers Workshop this year, which featured Al Hicks in the role of local bat and environmental expert and Rob Mies with his ever popular bat ambassadors. A special photo workshop led by Brock Fenton and Merlin Tuttle was received enthusiastically.

Fundraising for the Spallanzani award at a curling event on Wednesday and auction during the banquet on Saturday continued to assure funding for this significant award to visiting international researchers.

The event logo should be a familiar sight for years to come, as more than 200 shirts were purchased by attendees in an assortment of bright colors. We could not have succeeded at bringing this event to fruition were it not for the help received from local staff from NY State Department of Conservation and

Vesper Consulting. Local hosts Emily Davis and Mike Warner look forward to seeing Albany meeting attendees at many future NASBR Symposia. - *Emily Davis & Mike Warner*

Miller Award

BETSY DUMONT

At the 2014 meeting of NASBR in Albany, New York, Professor E. R. (Betsy) Dumont was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the field of chiropteran biology. Betsy's record includes holding office in NASBR, teaching about bats at various levels in different settings, supervising the research of students (undergraduate to postdoctoral), and for her own research on bats.

Originally trained in Anthropology, Betsy soon discovered the lure of bats and in the interim has made important contributions in ecology and functional morphology. Betsy's enthusiasm for bats and her research is evident in her presentations. Her depth of knowledge and broad appreciation of biology, makes her a strong and active collaborator on interdisciplinary research projects.

In fact, the range of Betsy's contributions to bat biology and to NASBR makes her a model candidate for the award. - *Brock Fenton*



Horst Award - *NEW!*

PAT MORTON

The G. Roy Horst Award for distinguished service to the North American Society for Bat Research (NASBR) recognizes and celebrates exemplary service to the society. This award was established by the NASBR Board of Directors in 2014, and presented for the first time at the annual meeting in Albany, October 2014. The Distinguished Service Award, or G. Roy Horst Award, is given for significant and consistent contributions to the Society.

The NASBR distinguished serve award is named in honor of G. Roy Horst, the sole Program Director (PD) and NASBR meeting organizer for the first 25 years of meetings. Roy convened the First Southwestern Symposium on Bat Research in Tucson Arizona in 1970. The annual bat meeting's name was changed in San Diego, 1972, to the North American Symposium on Bat Research. Roy retired as Program Director after NASBR 25, Boston, but came back as a PD for NASBR 38 and 39, while NASBR was reorganizing and rewriting its constitution to become an official society. The North American Symposium on Bat Research became the North American Society for Bat Research in 2010.

Pat Morton first hosted the Teacher's Bat Workshop in 1995 at the annual meeting in Boston, MA. Since then, it has been offered almost every year. Pat's commitment to the teacher's workshop is especially impressive given that the



nature of her job with Texas Parks and Wildlife means little money is available for travel support, so she generally comes to the meeting to host the workshop relying primarily on her personal funds. Each year, Pat has put incredible effort into networking with the local Board of Education at the site of

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the meeting to identify teachers that would benefit from participation in the workshop. This can be an onerous and involved task, given that such coordination is often done at a distance and can include dealing with substantial levels of bureaucracy! The presentations that Pat has made year after year at the teacher's workshop have always been incredibly well organized and clearly involved great efforts of preparation. Further, these presentations have always been enthusiastically received by the teachers in attendance. Finally, Pat has always been able to recruit excellent speakers to provide short presentations during the teachers' workshop, even if gentle persistence and persuasion was needed.

When looking back over the 45 years that I have been involved with NASBR (from day 1), there is no one who has made a greater contribution of time, effort, or dedication to equal Pat's effort. When we began thinking about making some recognition of Pat, our efforts coalesced into a formal award. No one was as pleased as I am that she was our first honoree and I am proud that I was one of those who nominated her. I was extremely pleased when I was asked to make the presentation and was greatly taken aback to find that the award was named in my honor. I was doubly pleased that Pat was the first to receive it. We can hardly do better next time! - G. Roy Horst

Spallanzani Award

SIGIT WIANTORO

In 2014 NASBR was privileged to welcome Sigit Wiantoro, a rising star of bat research in southeast Asia, as our Spallanzani Fellow. Sigit is a researcher in the Zoology Division of the Museum Zoologicum Bogoriense LIPI (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, Indonesian Institute of Sciences) where he conducts research on biodiversity and systematics of bats, as well as research on caves and karsts. In addition to his work on phylogeography and taxonomy, Sigit also frequently leads training and mapping expeditions aimed at understanding cave and karst ecosystems throughout Indonesia.

His combination of skills is tremendously valuable for both research and for conservation, and Sigit has made outstanding contributions in both areas as evidenced by a large body of published work and his active role in SEABCRU, the Southeast Asian Bat Conservation Research Union. Sigit is also highly active as an ambassador for bats among the general public, frequently giving public talks to forest managers, school groups and the general public.

Sigit made a fabulous contribution to NASBR 2014. His Spallanzani Award Presentation, the second talk of the conference, was titled: Diversity, Discovery and Conservation in Indonesian Karsts and provided a fascinating overview of his

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work with a range of collaborators and students to understand cave-living bats in Indonesia. With 224 species from 9 families (almost 20% of all bats!) Indonesia is clearly a hotspot for chiropteran diversity. Since 2001, Sigit and his colleagues have found a remarkable proportion of this diversity (81 species in total) relying on karsts, including as many as 6 bat species which appear to be new to science. Sigit's team has been highly active surveying and mapping many caves, identifying threats to cave-living bats and working to educate a range of stakeholders about the importance of bats.

Ultimately the goal is formalized government protection of karst habitats and the bats that depend on them. Learning about this system, and the efforts of Sigit and his team, was



of great value for NASBR members but, importantly, Sigit's Spallanzani Fellowship may also help raise the profile of karst protection and bat conservation in Indonesia even further, facilitating greater protection of habitats which are critical for an extraordinarily diverse bat community.

Sigit Wiantoro epitomizes the Spallanzani Fellowship and it was NASBR's privilege to welcome him to Albany in 2014. - *Craig Willis*

Villa Award

ROBERTO EMILIANO TREJO SALAZAR

The call of the Bernardo Villa award 2014 started in January of the same year. We posted the request in different media, such as social networking sites and web pages of the different mammalogical Mexican associations. The close of the call was March 10th, and we had four participants from different Mexican universities (graduate and undergraduate level). A panel of four judges was selected to evaluate the different proposals. These judges were from countries outside Mexico, to avoid bias in the selection of the recipient (i. e. Bolivia, USA, Colombia, etc.). We published results by June 27th, notifying

the contestants of the outcomes. The recipient of the 2014 Bernardo Villa award was Roberto Emiliano Trejo Salazar, a PhD graduate student from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). Roberto presented a work entitled: "Divergence time of Phyllostomidae (Chiroptera): Origin of Nectarivory", that was his graduate master thesis. Roberto performed his lab/field work at the Evolución Molecular y Experimental Lab (UNAM), under the guidance of Dr. Luis E. Eguiarte. Roberto presented an outstanding platform talk during the 44th NASBR Meeting in Albany, New York, talking about how nectarivory feeding habits in phyllostomid bats evolved several times within the family. Finally, we awarded Roberto Trejo with an honorary plaque during the closing ceremony of our meeting. - *Jorge Ortega Reyes*



Student Awards

Bat Research News Award

Yvonne Dzal

Huff and puff or shut'er down: how do bats respond to low oxygen?



Speleobooks Award

Hannah Frank

Bats, bat flies and Bartonella bacteria: complex parasitism relationships across a Neotropical agricultural landscape.



Basically Bats, Wildlife Conservation Society Award

Leanne Burns

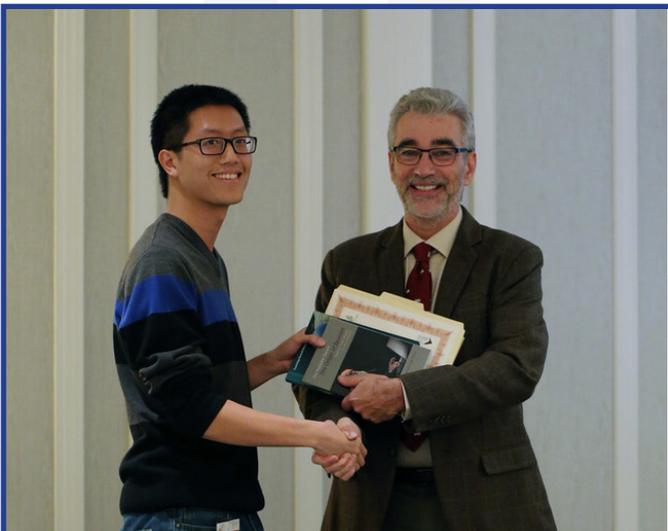
Influence of prescribed fire on bat activity in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation areas.



Karl F. Koopman Award

Jeff Shi

Speciation and skull morphological evolution are decoupled across extant bats.



Luis F. Bacardi Bat Conservation Award

Susan Tsang

Molecular phylogeny of the genus *Pteropus* and its biogeographic implications.



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Titley Scientific Award

Caroline Byrne

Describing the social behavior of the Indiana bat at day roost sites.



Organization for Bat Conservation Award

Reilly Jackson

Roost tree use by female Indiana bat in Tennessee.



Avinet Award

Cibele Sotero

Chromosome painting reveals unique karyotypic reorganization in the phyllostomid bat *Tonatia saurophila*.



Bat Conservation International Award

Alyssa Stewart

Resource partitioning among Old World pollinating bats.



Teachers Workshop

Albany, New York was the site of the 19th annual NASBR Teacher Workshop. The teacher workshop is an event created in 1995 to provide educators in the city where the Society meets with information and activities about bats that can be shared with students of all ages. Being that the national symposium is usually scheduled close to Halloween it's a perfect time to provide teachers with "batty" resources to use in their classroom holiday plans.



The annual teacher workshop draws a faculty from attendees at the scientific meeting and these generous individuals take time away from the meeting to present a topic or activity to a room full of enthusiastic educators. Given the long history of myth and superstition associated with bats most bat biologists and researchers have always appreciated the value of communicating accurate information about these important and fascinating animals and include public outreach as a vital part of their work.



This year's faculty included Al Hicks, Vesper Environmental Consulting and retired biologist, New York Department of

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Environmental Conservation, Rob Mies, co-founder and executive director, Organization for Bat Conservation (MI); Benjamin Hale, bat biologist, Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc. (IN); Dr. Heather York, bat biologist, Buena Vista University (IA); and Leslie Sturges, founder and director, The Save Lucy Campaign (VA). The faculty provided a wide array of presentations about bats showcasing the use of materials and activities. Always a hit with teachers is Rob Mies and his live bats. Each year Rob must make special travel plans and obtain state permits in order to bring his live bats to the workshop.



The Albany workshop hosted 26 pre-registered educators along with dozens of NASBR meeting participants who stopped by to see specific presentations. At times during this year's workshop the room was filled and overflowing—even the hotel staff popped in. NASBR believes that its investment in this annual event produces impactful results. Teachers who attend go back to their classrooms and nature centers and share their new materials and what they have learned with inspire their students to help educate their families and friends about bats. - Pat Morton

Sponsors

NASBR thanks the following sponsors for their generous support of 2014 conference in Albany.

Wildlife Acoustics, Pettersson Elektronik, Titley Scientific, Northeastern Cave Conservancy, First Wind, Lotek, Albany Visitors Bureau Evans Brewing, Avinet Inc., Basically Bats, Bat Conservation International, Bat Research News, Lubee Bat Conservancy, Organization for Bat Conservation, Speleobooks, Save Lucy Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Johns Hopkins University Press, Sinauer Associates, American Society of Mammalogists, University of Chicago Press, Springer, ISBS publishers.



The 2015 North American Symposium on Bat Research will be held in Monterey California from October 28th to 31st. The Local Hosts are Dave Johnston & Shahroukh Mistry.

THE LOCATION

The meeting will be held at the beautiful Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa, located on the water with views of the bay, seabirds and otters. It is at the other end of Cannery Row from the famous Monterey Bay Aquarium which is just a few minutes walk. Located along Cannery Row, and the nearby Fisherman's Wharf, are several restaurants and bars for evening entertainment.

GETTING TO MONTEREY

The Monterey Airport (MRY) is located three miles from the hotel and is serviced by various airlines with direct flights from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas and San Diego. You can also fly into San Jose or San Francisco and then take a shuttle or (highly recommended) drive to Monterey (1.5 and 2 hours) via the coast highway.



TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Before the meeting there will be pre-conference tours including whale watching, wine tours as well as kayaking. More details will be available on the registration website.



SYMPOSIA INVITATION

NASBR invites proposals for symposia, workshops and special sessions for the upcoming conference in Monterey, CA. Interested individuals should contact the program directors (Gary Kwiecinski via Gary.Kwiecinski@scranton.edu or Frank Bonaccorso via bonafrank@yahoo.com) by June 1, 2015.

Program Notes: Given the increase in NASBR attendees over the last few meetings, registrants are encouraged to submit their abstracts as early as possible - available oral presentation slots will be filled on a first come basis.

2015 MONTEREY

IMPORTANT DATES

May 29
June 01
September 01
September 21
September 30
October 26
October 27

Registration Opens
Proposal for Symposia/Workshops Due
Early Registration & Abstract Deadline
Tour/T-shirt Order Deadline
Program & Abstracts Available Online
Pre-conference Tours
Board Meeting & Golf/Kayaking

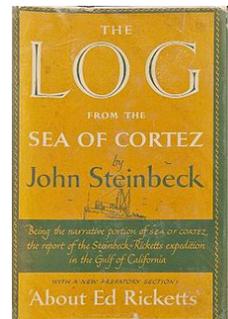
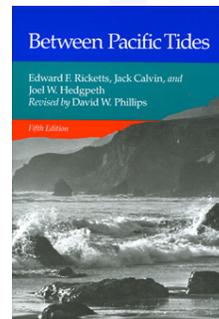
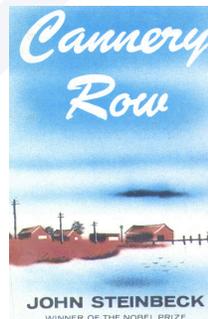
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Got some extra time this summer and want to get in a couple good reads? How about *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck, *Between Pacific Tides* by ecologist Ed Ricketts or *The Log from the Sea of Cortez* by Steinbeck (and about Ricketts). These books provide a fascinating insight into the people of Monterey's sardine industry during the great depression, early intertidal ecology, as well as the lives of Steinbeck and Ricketts.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rick Adams	Policy & Public Relations
Mylea Bayless	2016 Co-host
Frank Bonaccorso	Program Director
Deanna Byrnes	Past Chair
Paul Cryan	Policy & Public Relations
Emily Davis	2014 Co-host
Erin Gillam	Secretary, Spallanzani Chair
Dave Johnston	2015 Co-host
Allen Kurta	Chair
Gary Kwiecinski	Program Director
Burton Lim	Finance
Shahroukh Mistry	Associate Program Director
Rebecca Patterson	2016 Co-host
DeeAnn Reeder	Treasurer
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Ashley Rolfe	Student Representative
Maria Sagot	Nominations, Sponsorships
Bill Schutt	Sponsorships, Policy & Public Relations
Luis Viquez	Student Representative
Mike Warner	2014 Co-host
Heather York	Education & Outreach

INVITATION TO HOST A FUTURE MEETING

2018 NASBR Meeting (West Region)

The North American Society for Bat Research invites bids for hosting the 2018 annual meeting of the society. Eligible states, provinces, and territories are those west of Ontario in Canada, US states west of the Mississippi, and all of Mexico (see map below). Intention to bid should be communicated to one of the Program Chairs (Gary Kwiecinski via Gary.Kwiecinski@Scranton.edu or Frank Bonaccorso via bonafrank@yahoo.com). Program chairs will provide detailed advice on bid preparation. Bids must be submitted by June 1, 2015 to the Chair of the NASBR Board of Directors, Al Kurta (via akurta@emich.edu). Support for locating suitable venues and obtaining hotel bids is available - contact Shahroukh Mistry (mistrysh@butte.edu). Additional information can be found on this website at the Host a Future NASBR Meeting tab. The NASBR Board of Directors will evaluate bids and successful bids meeting the basic criteria of the society will be placed before the members of the society at the NASBR business meeting in Monterey for a vote of member preference.



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