



## Midwest Bat Working Group

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

in conjunction with 1<sup>st</sup> North American Joint Bat Working Group Meeting  
with the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network and Western Bat Working Group

Meeting Notes (Katrina Schultes)

St. Louis, MO

5 March 2015

*CONGRATULATIONS to the MWBWG student award winners!! They received \$100 each:*

- **Best Student Oral Presentation: CAROLINE BYRNE (INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY)**
- **Poster Presentation: GORDON COUNTS (UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN)**

### *Meeting Summary*

For its 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, the Midwest Bat Working Group (MWBWG) participated in the first ever North American Joint Bat Working Group meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. The Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, Western Bat Working Group, and MWBWG met jointly, along with colleagues from Mexico and Canada. Over 340 people attended this historic meeting, which included plenary sessions on continental conservation for bats, protections and status updates for bats at risk, and acoustics. This meeting introduced the North American Bat (NABat) Monitoring Program, a continent-wide, statistically robust, and coordinated bat monitoring effort. The North American Bat Conservation Alliance (NABCA) between Canada, the U.S., and Mexico was also introduced, and the combined bat working groups started work on a Strategic Plan for the alliance.

The regional working groups held business meetings for their members and there were also open meetings on the recovery of Indiana bats and gray bats. The poster session included almost 50 posters and was a great opportunity for students to network with professional bat biologists. The final day of the meeting was devoted to the 25th Colloquium on the Conservation of Mammals. Over 45 speakers presented on topics such as white-nose syndrome in bats, roosting ecology, ranges and movements of bats, acoustics, genetics, and other mammal ecology. The MWBWG Best Student Oral Presentation Award was given to Caroline Byrne for her talk "*Describing the Social Behavior of the Indiana Bat at Day Roost Sites*". Gordon Counts won the Best Poster Award for "*Changes in Bat Community Composition during Seasonal Fall Migration in Northwest Tennessee*".

Special thanks go to all the meeting sponsors and vendors (in alphabetical order):

Batgoods.com; Bat Conservation International; Bat Conservation and Management; Center for Bat Research, Outreach, and Conservation at Indiana State University; Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.; Eco-Tech Consultants; Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc.; GAI Consultants; ICF International; Lotek Wireless Fish & Wildlife Monitoring; Missouri Bat Census; Natural Resource Group; Organization for Bat Conservation; SCI Engineering, Inc.; Stantec;



Terracon; Titley Scientific USA; West, Inc.; Wildlife Acoustics; and Midwest Bat Working Group, Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, and Western Bat Working Group!

## **Sybill Amelon, Missouri Host – Welcome and Introduction**

Welcomed members from the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN), the Midwest Bat Working Group (MWBWG), and the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG).

## **Summary of Invited Speakers – Day 1**

RELCOM: Local Leaders for Local Bat Conservation Across One Continent (Rodrigo Medellin): Latin American Bat Conservation Network. Discussed successes and difficulties in working across countries and borders within Latin America. Also talked about ways to organize efforts and bring various entities together.

History, Applications, and Lessons for North American Bat Conservation (Suren Gazaryan via webinar): United Nations Environment Programme/EUROBATS. Discussed their formalized organization setup and Secretariat, as well as their successes and difficulties in working across countries and continents.

Organizing a National/Tri-national Group: Partners in Flight (Greg Butcher): Provided an overview of a successful, cross-continental organization to illustrate strategies that could be used for bat conservation.

North American Bat Conservation Alliance Strategic Plan (Mylea Bayless – Bat Conservation International, Joy O’Keefe – SBDN, and Rob Mies - MWBWG): NABCA. Speakers discussed with the group what the vision and strategy of NABCA is and where the group hopes to go from here. Then the entire group of morning speakers formed a panel and initiated a Q&A discussion with the audience.

The morning talks were followed by a session titled “Protections against Continental Threats to Bats” and included speakers from Mexico (Rodrigo Medellin), Canada (Charles Francis), and the USA (Jeremy Coleman, Jon Reichard, and Mylea Bayless). There was also a session about the federal listing process in the USA, an update on the listing of northern long-eared bat and the proposed 4(d) rule, as well as an update on the status assessments for tri-colored bat and little brown bat. Finally, there was an introduction to the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat), description of a Colorado case study of a pilot year of the program, and a panel discussion related to adoption and implementation of NABat. The day wrapped up with invitation-only meetings of White-nose Syndrome working subgroups.

## **Day 2 Events**

The day started with a morning session on acoustics. Then the larger group was then randomly divided into smaller assorted groups, each tasked with identifying continental conservation issues that would feed into the NABCA strategic plan. Afterwards, the full congregation of bat working group members gathered together for a first-ever North American Bat Working Group photo.



The afternoon consisted of business meetings for each of the bat working groups and open meetings about the recovery of federally endangered species: gray bat and Indiana bat. The day concluded with a well-attended poster session and social. There were approximately 49 total poster presentations.

### **Day 3 Events**

The last day of the meeting consisted of concurrent sessions of submitted papers in the mammal colloquium. There were approximately 48 oral papers presented. At the end of the meeting, working group awards were bestowed on student presenters for various titles, such as best oral and poster presentations. SBDN presented the Best in Colloquium award to Chad Williamson, the Best Oral Paper to Daniel Istvanko, and the Best Poster award to Josiah Maine. The MWBWG also awarded a Best Student Oral Presentation to Caroline Byrne and a Best Poster Award to Gordon Counts.

### **Awards and Announcements**

#### **Upcoming Annual Meetings**

2016 Host: Ohio Bat Working Group, Columbus, OH

2017 Host: Wisconsin, TBA

#### **MWBWG Student Awards**

Each student winner is presented a certificate and a \$100 award.

**Best Student Oral Presentation: CAROLINE BYRNE, Indiana State University, “Describing the Social Behavior of the Indiana Bat at Day Roost Sites”**

**Best Student Poster Presentation: GORDON COUNTS, University of Tennessee at Martin, “Changes in Bat Community Composition during Seasonal Fall Migration in Northwest Tennessee”<sup>1</sup>**

---

<sup>1</sup> Due to the nature of the joint meeting this year and differences in award values between working groups, students were ranked by overall scores, rather than by their regional affiliation, resulting in a MWBWG award going to a non-midwestern student.



## **Midwest Bat Working Group**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

St. Louis, MO

5 March 2015

#### **Called to order at 3:00 PM by Rob Mies, President.**

7<sup>th</sup> Annual - thanks to John Whitaker to prod us into re-forming the Midwest group!

A big thanks goes to our Missouri hosts!!

There are about 110 midwestern people attending this meeting.

#### **State Updates**

Brooke Hines (KY), Scott Johnson (IN), Paul White (WI), Tony Elliott (MO), Katrina Schultes (OH), Kari Kirschbaum (MN), John DePue (MI), Steve Taylor (IL)

Banded little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) captured in 1983 in MN found in same hibernaculum on multiple years and is at least 32 years old!

#### **Membership Plea**

Rob described the mission of the MWBWG – coordinating people working in the Midwest. Facilitation, coordination, advocating for national and regional priorities. There are several committees, and we would like to solicit the membership for increased participation.

#### **Committees**

Our standing committees currently include: Annual Meeting, Nominations & Elections, Awards, History/ Bylaws, Website, and Membership.

Membership is 67 (50 professional & 17 students). Would like to increase membership and especially student participation.

Promotional membership materials are in development. Swag...travel mugs maybe. Also considering whether to give out more student awards to encourage them to attend meetings. Could also provide a student mixer for professional development. Please pass on additional ideas.

#### **Board of Directors Updates**

President is Rob Mies, Vice President is Scott Johnson, Secretary is Katrina Schultes, and Treasurer is Brianne Walters. Our student representative is Vanessa Rojas. Other directors



include Tim Carter, Megan Caylor, Kari Kirschbaum, Kevin Murray, Jennifer Norris, Marne Titchenell, and Paul White.

### **Treasurer Report**

- We are financially housed at Indiana State University, and as such, the Treasurer must be housed there as well.
- General funds (from dues) are \$7,821. The meeting account for future meetings is \$3,592.

### **NABCA Endorsement**

Rob gave an overview of our participation in the North American Bat Conservation Alliance. Information sharing is a big part of the group. Vanessa Rojas is our representative to NABCA.

### **Website**

The website will be revamped and updated in 2015. Megan Caylor has volunteered to start a Facebook page for the group. Both venues rely on member input and active participation to keep them interesting and relevant.

### **Upcoming Annual Meetings**

2016 Columbus, OH. Katrina Schultes provided an update on the 2016 meeting plans and a presentation as enticement to attend.

2017 Wisconsin

2018 – TBA, about every 3 years, we get together jointly with other BWGs.