



Echoes From SOUTH DAKOTA

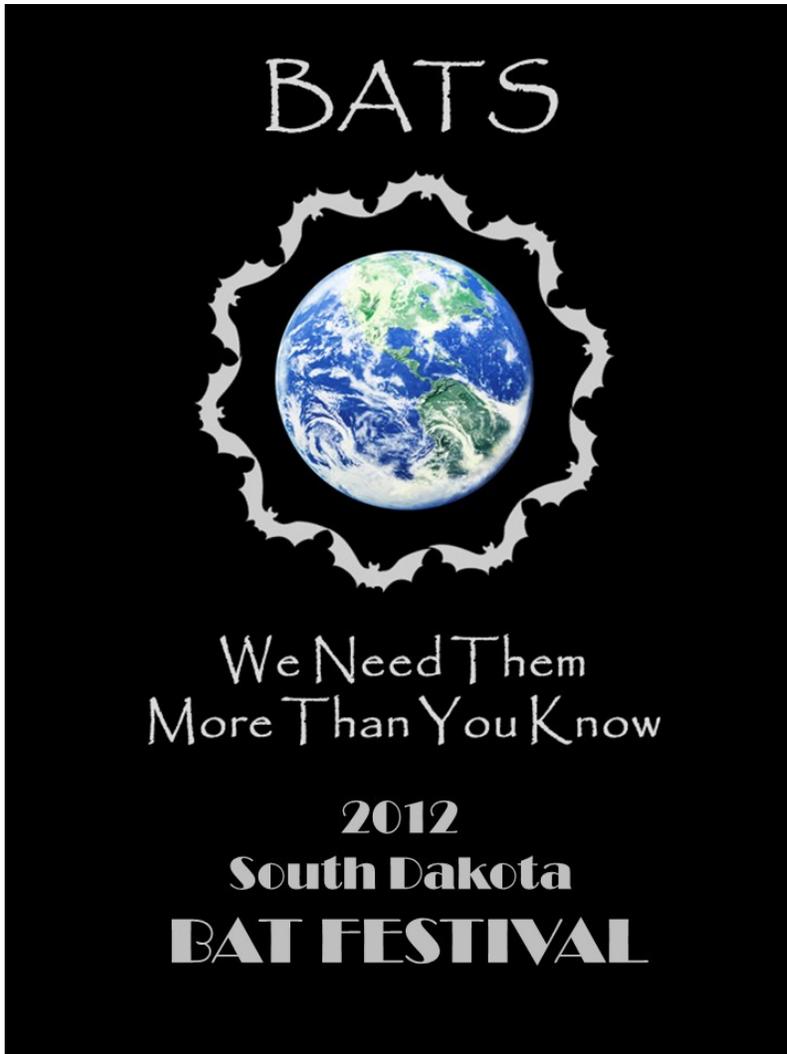
SOUTH DAKOTA BAT WORKING GROUP



Volume 5 Issue 2 Published intermittently at random intervals since 2009



2012



7th Annual BAT FESTIVAL WRAP-UP!

The 7th annual Bat Festival was held again this year at the Tatanka Theatre in beautiful Custer State Park.

Approximately 200 people attended this year's Festival featuring a variety of activities and presentations.

-  Talks about bats
-  Displays of bat houses and tips for improving bat house occupancy.
-  Updates on bat studies in SD
-  Hearing live echolocation calls
-  Free refreshments
-  Craft activities for children
-  And t-shirts!

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Also, a table by the Black Hills Reading Council displayed a variety of bat-themed children's books.

The donation bottle collected enough to purchase a complete set of bat books for an elementary school library here in SD!

Those staying late got to see and take photos of three bats netted over the nearby creek by Brad Phillips (USFS) and Shubham Datta (SDSU).

SD BAT NEWS...

Thanks to all the Bat Festival's volunteers for donating their time to help make this one of the best Festivals to date. Below are the folks who worked hard to bring you this year's Festival...

Valerie Carlson
Shubham Datta
Amanda DiMaria
Alyssa Kiesow
Sarah Lewis
Patti Lynch
April Martinez
Brad Phillips
Cary Roller
Julie Schipke
Paul Schipke
Sally Shelton
Laurie Tigner
Joel Tigner

And thanks also to Julie Brazell
and
the staff at Custer State Park
for again providing the
perfect venue!

** Did you know there is a listserv for the SDBWG? It is a way of posting announcements or questions that go out to all subscribers via email. There is no charge to join, simply visit the following link and select "join or leave the list" and you're all set. Here is the link: <http://listserv.state.sd.us/archives/sdbwg.html>
The listserv is provided and administered by SDGFP.



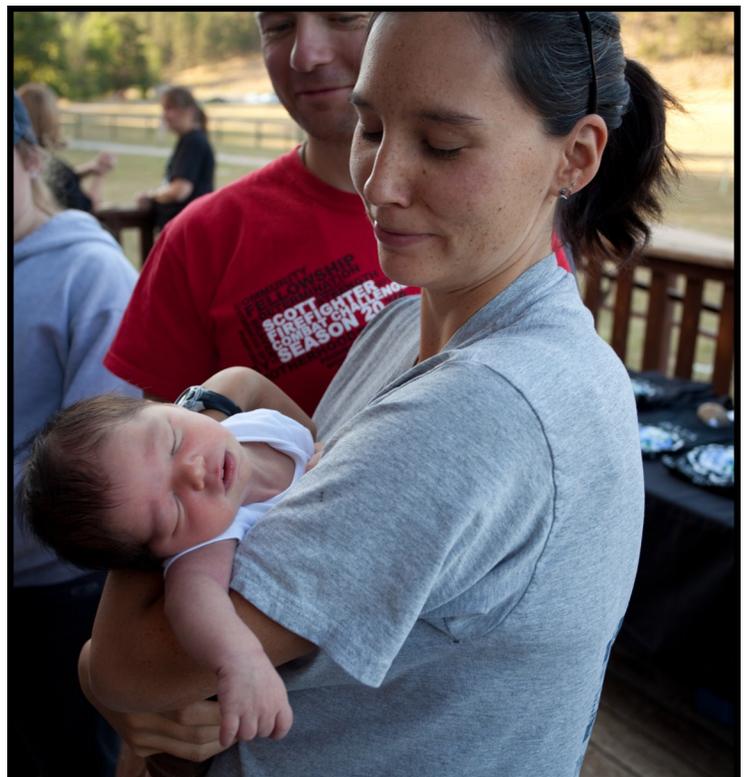
Do you have any bat-related news? Have you put up a bat house? Done an exclusion of bats from a building? Done any bat-watching?

We would love to hear about any of your bat-related experiences.. and photos are welcome!

Send us a newsletter contribution and, if selected for inclusion, receive a free book, *BATS OF THE U.S.*, for your trouble! This offer lasts only as long as the books do...
so hurry!



FESTIVAL PHOTOS!



The excitement was just too much for some visitors.

Thanks to Paul Schipke for providing our Festival photos.



Echoes From South Dakota



Informational talks were well attended

More Festival Photos...



A new banner helped attract park visitors



Sarah Lewis' bat house station was a popular stop with visitors



Shubham Datta assists with mist net deployment



A portion of the Black Hills Reading Council's display



A variety of new posters were featured

Echoes From South Dakota

Not Able To Make This Year's Bat Festival?

You can still show your support by purchasing a t-shirt!
Credit card orders can be placed by telephone - just call (605) 390-2061.
(Price includes postage.)

To Pay by Check - Make checks payable to **BATWORKS, LLC**
Mail to BATWORKS / 2416 Cameron Drive / Rapid City, SD 57702
If paying by check, please call to reserve your size! (NO CASH, PLEASE)

ADULT SIZES: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL YOUTH SIZES: S, M, L, XL
All shirts are heavyweight 100% Cotton

ADULT SIZES: \$25.00 + SD Sales Tax

YOUTH SIZES: \$20.00 + SD Sales Tax
(Sales Tax for SD delivery only)

(SOME SIZES ARE IN LIMITED SUPPLY, SO HURRY!)





MORE ON ABANDONED MINES & BATS

While abandoned mines are often viewed as a blight on the landscape, they are also known to provide significant bat habitat. In SD, many of these sites have become part of the natural landscape as many of the mines are now over 100 years old. With the loss of more natural roosting habitat, (e.g., commercial development of caves and high levels of disturbance in many other wild caves), abandoned mines have served as a buffer against such losses.

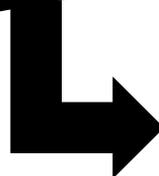
Proper management of open underground abandoned mine workings is important to public safety and to protecting crucial habitat.

Despite significant use by bats, not all mines can be saved and protected. Many are located in unstable ground and are at continuing risk of collapse. Such sites may result in significant numbers of bats being killed as a result of collapse.

One such mine was recently closed on the Mystic Ranger District of the Black Hills National Forest. The closure was done in a manner designed to minimize the risk to bats. The closure was scheduled and conducted late enough in the year to be certain that all juveniles were old enough to be flying. The closure was done early enough to provide bats time to locate an alternate site if used for winter hibernation. (There are other known species-specific winter roosting sites in this area.) To prevent entrapment of bats at closure, all openings into the mine were covered with tarps for one week before the work was completed. This allows any bats inside to be able to get out, but prevents them from flying back into the mine. The mine was then sealed using a polyurethane foam (PUF) and covered with topsoil and rock.

Kudos to the Black Hills NF for incorporating protection of bats into their management of this very dangerous abandoned mine. The public and the bats are safer for their work.

Photos of some of the work can be seen on the next page.



**8th Annual
BAT FESTIVAL
is scheduled for
AUGUST 17, 2013**

**BEFORE:
A surface
collapse of
underground
mine
workings.**



All Photos by Brad Phillips

**The above site
is tarped
to prevent
bats from
re-entering
the mine.**



**AFTER:
Mystic District
Biologist,
Patti Lynch,
relaxes with a
latte grande.
...ok, sorry...
demonstrates
her faith in the
stability of the
hardened PUF
used to seal
the mine.**



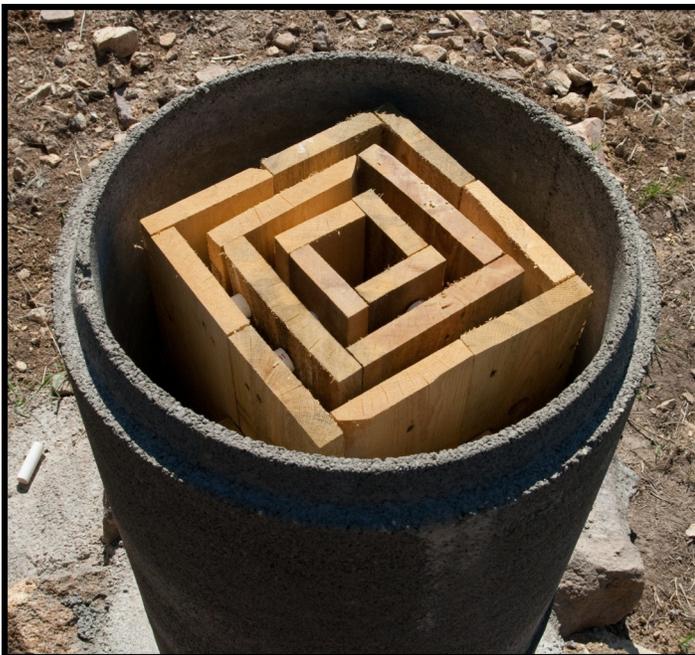
A PERMANENT SNAG

One important consideration in forest management is to maintain trees of a sufficient size and number to provide for wildlife habitat. Dead, standing trees (a.k.a., snags) eventually fall and are lost to wildlife that depend upon them for shelter. SDBWG members, Paul and Julie Schipke, have gone several steps beyond most in management of their land for wildlife including the bats in the area. Not newcomers to creating and protecting bat habitat, Paul and Julie have installed bat-friendly gates on the abandoned mines on their land. Paul has also put up some of the more traditional bat roosting boxes around their property. He recently decided to try to improve on the conventional, more traditional roosting box. After consulting with a variety of sources, he decided on a design with a combination of features known to be important for bat roosts. Below are some photos of his efforts.



44 - 60lb. bags of concrete were used to build the foundation

Interior: a modified stacking rocket box design was constructed from rough-sawn pine on a cedar base



The first section is put into place...



Unknown volunteer readies a section for lowering into position. Interior sections were lowered inside as culverts were stacked.

Finished overall height of "snag" is just over 12 feet (3.5 meters).

**MORE PHOTOS
ON NEXT PAGE**



Echoes From South Dakota



The view from a distance...



Paul Schipke takes a break once the concrete lid is in place on top of the structure.

The entryway near top is constructed of cedar.

The structure will be fitted with interior temperature and humidity recording sensors to monitor conditions during the course of the year. The structure is painted dark to absorb solar heat and, it is hoped, store/radiate the heat through cool evenings and mornings during the bat maternity/nursery season. The mass of the structure may also provide enough protection for some species to hibernate during the winter months. Paul and Julie are hopeful that if successful, this prototype may serve as a model for others to be used to provide artificial habitat for bats in areas where roosting options are limited or where large roosts are to be excluded from buildings. All funding for this project was provided by Paul and Julie Schipke.

Everyone keep your fingers crossed for a successful test! We'll keep you posted...



If bats had a Facebook page, Paul and Julie Schipke would be listed as friends.

Echoes From South Dakota

One of this year's Festival visitors was a young man visiting from Pierre. He submitted the following poem to SDBWG member, Cary Roller. We are happy to be able to include it here for your enjoyment. See below for information on how to contribute your bat-related literary efforts to future newsletters.



**Bats are cool
Bats are great
We want bats
In our state
Bats munch bugs
And gobble up fruit
Some are ugly
And some are cute
We need bats all around
In our cities, forests, and towns.**



Jacob, Grade 4, Pierre, SD



POETS' CORNER

Attention young and old! We are looking for your poems about bats- poems that teach, poems that celebrate, and poems that make us laugh. If you have submissions for future editions of *Echoes of South Dakota*, please send them to me at Cary.Roller@k12.sd.us. You may also send them through the mail to me, C/O Knollwood Elementary, 1701 Downing Street, Rapid City, SD 57701. Just tell us how you would like to be published (first name, grade, and school or first name and city, for example). Please make sure that the poems are original pieces of work and not copyrighted by someone else. **-Cary Roller**





BatsLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure

Free Live Webcast from Bracken Bat Cave

September 18 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time
(6–7:30 Central Time)

Join the free live webcast from Bracken Bat Cave in TX. With millions of Mexican free-tailed bats living in the cave from March through October, Bracken holds one of the largest concentrations of mammals on earth.

**Visit their website to learn about all the
resources available online:**

<http://batslive.pwnet.org/>

Visit us on the web!
www.sdbwg.org



Attention: SD Echoes Readers!

We have 10 new copies of *Little Lost Bat* by Sandra Markle with illustrations by Alan Marks available to the first 10 readers who request a copy (limit one copy per address/family).

Open only to SD residents and FREE upon request.

(Yep, that's *free* with no catches.)

Recommended Ages: 5-9 years

To participate, send an email with a subject line of:

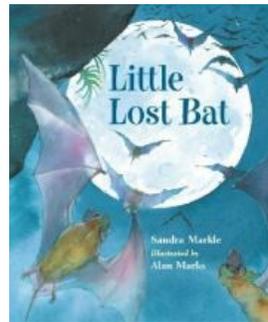
"Little Lost Bat"

(include name and mailing address in your message) to:

joeltigner@gmail.com

Email receipt time will determine the first 10 requests.

(Email addresses will be used for no other purpose and will be deleted upon completion of this giveaway.)



**BETTER
HURRY!**

SOUTH DAKOTA BAT WORKING GROUP

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The purpose of the SD Bat Working Group is to work to protect bats and bat habitat through action, education, and cooperation with Federal, State, Tribal, and private landowners.

Our objectives are two-fold: to raise awareness about the role bats play in maintaining healthy ecosystems; and to work with public land managers and private landowners and provide alternatives that will reduce possible adverse effects to bats or bat habitat.

Everyone is welcome to become a member of the SD Bat Working Group!

The only requirement is an interest in bats and their conservation.

There are no membership dues, so it's priced right for everyone!

Get involved.....because bats need friends.