

North Lakeland Discovery Center Presentation on Bats
Muskellunge Lake Association Annual Meeting
July 26, 2014

The MLA invited Licia Johnson from the [North Lakeland Discovery Center](#), a nonprofit, community-focused, environmental education center based in Manitowish Waters to come to the annual meeting to speak on the subject of bats. The subject of bats is especially popular this summer as the mosquito population has been significantly higher this year. There is speculation that White Nose Syndrome is the primary contributing factor.

Licia shared the following interesting facts about bats:

- White Nose Syndrome was first discovered in New York in 2006/2007 timeframe and it is estimated that 5.7 to 6.4 bats have died from the disease
- The disease was found in Wisconsin in 2014
- Acoustic bat monitoring can be used to monitor bats
- There are 4,000 mammals in the world of which 1,000 are bats
- Bats are the only mammal that can truly fly
- Bat babies are called pups. Bats have 1 pup per year, a few species have 2.
- Can live to be 30 years old
- Roost in caves, forest,
- Different types of bats eat very specific diets:
 - o mosquitos and other insects
 - o fruit, nectar
 - o meat/fish (1 species)
 - o blood (3 species-all in Central and South America)
- Echolocation-high pitched sonar that comes out of their throats-used to find food
- Can consume about 600 mosquitos per hour
- Bats of Wisconsin include (7-8)
- Cave Bats are considered threated due to White Nose Syndrome
- It is against the law to kill or exclude endangered bats from your home during the spring months
- Cave Bats-all are considered threatened due to White Nose Syndrome

Benefits of Bats

- Pest control
- Pollination
- Seed dispersal

What can you do to help protect bats?

1. Build and install a bat house
2. Keep live and dead trees up on your property
3. Use approved, non-lethal methods to remove bats from your home
4. Volunteer time for acoustic survey or bat house monitoring in your area
5. If know of large number of bats let Licia or the DNR know

More information on the Wisconsin Bat Program can be found here:

<http://wiatri.net/inventory/bats>