

*January 2007, Volume 5, Number 1*  
**Member Nights at Bracken Cave**



Now is the time to take advantage of one of the most dramatic benefits of membership in Bat Conservation International: an exclusive invitation to watch the world's largest bat colony come swirling out of Bracken Bat Cave in Central Texas.

The twilight emergence of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats continues for hours and is among the most awesome spectacles nature has to offer. Clouds of hungry bats fly from the mouth of the cave in a dense spiral, then peel off into twisting columns that comb the Hill Country in search of insects, most of them agricultural pests. Before their return at dawn, these bats will have consumed some 200 tons of insects. This unforgettable experience is, with few exceptions, available only to BCI members.

BCI owns and protects the cave on the fringe of suburban San Antonio and the immense maternity colony that uses it each summer. To safeguard this natural treasure pending development of carefully planned visitor and education facilities, we must severely limit visitation. Each year, members are invited to marvel at the emergence on specially designated nights.

Reservations for the 2007 Bracken Member Nights are being accepted beginning February 1. Space is extremely limited, so please register early. After you register, we'll send directions and additional information with your confirmation. (Please limit your party to four people. Neither pets nor alcoholic beverages are allowed at Bracken Cave.)

#### How to Register

Reserve your place for a Bracken Member Night online at [www.batcon.org/membernights](http://www.batcon.org/membernights).

#### Member Nights Schedule

Thursday, March 22  
Saturday, April 7  
Saturday, April 14  
Wednesday, June 20  
Saturday, June 30  
Wednesday, July 11  
Saturday, July 21  
Saturday, July 28  
Saturday, August 11  
Friday, August 31 (Bat Fest weekend in Austin)  
Thursday, September 13  
Saturday, September 22

#### **All articles in this issue:**

##### ► [Bats in the News](#)

The deep wrinkles and grooves that carve the faces of some bats apparently help them focus the biological sonar system that lets ...

► [A New World's Record](#)

The longest tongue (relative to body length) ever reported in a mammal resides largely inside the ribcage of a recently ...

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