

October 2008, Volume 6, Number 10

Sign Up for a BCI Workshop



Get up close and personal with an amazing diversity of bats next summer: Sign up for a 2009 Bat Conservation International field workshop in Arizona, Kentucky or Pennsylvania.

For 17 years, BCI workshops have offered unequalled hands-on training in the latest techniques for capturing, identifying and studying bats in the field, plus field trips to diverse bat habitats and lectures by leading experts on all aspects of bat conservation.

More than 1,375 biologists, land managers, wildlife professionals, educators and serious bat enthusiasts from 23 countries have benefited from this training, often with dramatic impacts on their careers. The intensive six-day, five-night workshops are an unforgettable experience.

In addition to Bat Conservation and Management Workshops, BCI also offers an Acoustic-Monitoring Workshop for advanced training in the scientific use of bat detectors. The session provides details of bat-call identification and strategies for setting up an acoustic-monitoring program and covers both AnaBat and SonoBat detectors.

The number of participants for each workshop is strictly limited, so register early to ensure your place. Fees, which cover lodging, field transportation, materials, meals and take-home resources, are \$1,395 for the Bat Conservation and Management Workshops, and \$1,595 for the Acoustic-Monitoring Workshop. A limited number of partial scholarships are available.

For information and online applications, details will be added shortly at www.batcon.org/workshops/ or contact Peg Lau Hee at 512-327-9721 or workshops@batcon.org.

The 2009 BCI Workshops:

Portal, Arizona: May 5-10 or May 11-16

Our course at the American Museum of Natural History's renowned Southwestern Research Station emphasizes Western bat diversity. Participants will capture and examine up to 18 species and also observe Mexican long-tongued and endangered long-nosed bats visiting hummingbird feeders. Fieldwork covers habitats from deserts to forests at elevations of 4,000 to 8,000 feet.

Mammoth Cave, Kentucky: July 14-19

In partnership with the National Park Service at Mammoth Cave, we focus on underground environments and their importance to bats, including the endangered gray and Indiana myotis. Students explore cave habitats and learn to assess past bat use by identifying hibernation staining and quantifying historic guano piles. All fieldwork here is part of a vital, long-term inventory program for the Park Service.

Barree, Pennsylvania: August 14-19

Solving bat/human conflicts is a special focus at our workshop in central Pennsylvania, which has long been a center of artificial-roost development. Participants will visit an abandoned church, now home to more than 20,000 little brown myotis and a growing population of endangered Indiana myotis. The Pennsylvania Game Commission and Bureau of State Parks jointly manage this and other nearby roosts, including an old limestone mine where six species hibernate. A visit into the mine provides stark contrast to the late-summer habitat above ground. Later in the evening, a return trip will allow students to witness thousands of bats swarming the entrances and to net and

examine large numbers of them.

ACOUSTIC MONITORING WORKSHOP

Portal, AZ: May 11-16

This workshop is designed for biologists, consultants and researchers looking for hands-on, guided experience with cutting-edge technologies for recording and analyzing bat echolocation calls. Participants will work directly with AnaBat/AnaLook and SonoBat software developers Chris Corben and Joe Szewczak to learn techniques for collecting, recording and analyzing bat calls in the field. These and other experienced instructors offer a comprehensive curriculum covering all aspects of heterodyne, frequency-division, time-expansion and direct-recording detecting that will teach students to use their own equipment more effectively and to choose proper protocols for designing an acoustic-inventory project.

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Bats always come out around Halloween – at least in the news media, where feature stories about bats are especially popular ...

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Dangling from a rope 70 feet down a 75-foot mine shaft, Jason Corbett very carefully examined a tangled mass of timbers, rocks ...