

VOLUME 17, NO. 4 Winter 1999

Summer 2000 Workshops

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For more information about any of these workshops, go to the BCI web site at:
<http://www.batcon.org/trips/toptrips.html>

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Tools for Teaching Bat Conservation: A One-day Workshop for Educators and Interpreters *Virginia*

BCI invites you to take the next step in educating the public about bats by joining our 2000 educator/interpreter workshop, hosted by the Mathematics and Science Center in Richmond, Virginia.

Our busy day will be divided into a series of short lectures, demonstrations, and small working group activities, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM with a one-hour break for lunch. In addition to learning BCI's most successful recipes for creating public programs, participants will review educational materials, learn how to facilitate bat lesson plans, assist in the construction of bat houses, and discuss bat habitat on a group hike. Everyone will receive educational handouts, a reference workbook, an opportunity to purchase discounted BCI educational materials, a certificate of completion, and continuing education credit from the Mathematics and Science Center. In the evening, participants will have the option of a field trip to see bats in action and learn about the methods scientists use to observe bats.

The workshop registration fee is \$45, which includes all materials and lunch. We are able to bring you this opportunity at such a reduced price thanks to special support from the Bass Foundation.

Space is limited, so register soon for one of two sessions:

Friday, August 11, 2000

Saturday, August 12, 2000

Field Study Workshops

BCI's Field Study Workshops provide hands-on experience in bat conservation and research techniques including mist netting, harp trapping, radiotracking, night-vision observation, acoustic monitoring, and habitat assessment. The \$995 cost includes all tuition, lodging, fees, and transportation from the local departure city. A limited number of full and partial scholarships are available for federal and state agency biologists, land managers, and others with special needs.

NEW!

Carter Caves State Resort Park

Kentucky

Our new workshop at Carter Caves will focus on cave-dwelling bats in the heart of America's karst country, where underground labyrinths have been occupied by bats for tens of thousands of years. Workshop participants will learn how to detect past bat use and recognize habitat conditions that best meet bat needs. We will visit hibernation and nursery caves for endangered gray and Indiana bats (roosting bats will not be disturbed), accompanied by experts on these species. Trapping and netting at cave entrances and at nearby feeding and drinking sites will provide ample opportunity to learn identification and behavior of up to 10 widespread Eastern species.

We will also examine a variety of protective gate designs with the specialists who built them. Lectures will cover topics of broad interest, including habitat assessment, field research techniques, bat houses, and public health and nuisance problems.

This workshop will prove especially helpful for those managing caves or mines in eastern North America, but will be easily understood and enjoyed by nearly anyone interested in bats.

Departure city: Lexington, KY

Limited to 20 people.

One 5-day session beginning

September 19, 2000

Venues advertised in the last issue:

Arizona

In the Chiricahua mountains, participants gain especially valuable experience in field identification. Here we will catch and release up to 16 bat species in a single evening, with additional close-up observations of endangered long-nosed and Mexican long-tongued bats at hummingbird feeders. We will capitalize on this diversity as we explore how so many bats use this area for roosting, foraging, migration, and maternity purposes.

Departure city: Tucson, AZ

Limited to 12 people per session.

Three 5-day sessions beginning

May 16, May 21, or May 26, 2000

Pennsylvania

In central Pennsylvania, we have special opportunities to learn about bat houses and other artificial roosts and how these are helping remaining bat populations. Activities include an early morning field trip to view the dawn return of over 16,000 little brown bats, and a daytime trip into a protected mine, where six species of bats hibernate in winter.

Departure city: Harrisburg, PA

Limited to 20 people.

One 5-day session beginning:

August 19, 2000 (tentative date)

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