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“Bat Night” at Wehr Nature Center

Franklin, WI (June 6, 2013) – Bat Night brings together the fiction, folklore, and facts about bats, Friday, June 14, 8-10 p.m., at Wehr Nature Center, 9701 W. College Ave. Topics include common neighborhood bats, their value in controlling insect populations, their work as pollinators, and the race to save North American Bats from potential extinction from the disease, White Nose Syndrome.

Recent stories on bats and rabies underscore the importance of learning more about these often misunderstood creatures.

After the indoor introduction to Bat Night, participants will join naturalist Howard Aprill in search of bats in Whitnall Park. Aprill will demonstrate the latest technology to “hear” the ultrasonic echolocations of bats. Specialized detectors combine a system for recording the bat calls and a global positioning system (GPS). The recordings show different sound-wave patterns for different species of bats, and the GPS pinpoints a bat’s location.

The program is designed for adults and for families with children age 12 and up.

According to a study published in *Science*, loss of bats in North America could cost agriculture at least \$3.7 billion per year. Participants will learn how they can protect bats by getting involved in citizen science monitoring

Admission for Milwaukee County Residents, age 13 and up, is \$7 per person; Non-Milwaukee County Residents, age 13 and up, is \$10; Members of Friends of Wehr and children age 12 and under is \$5 per person. Parking is \$3 per car.

Bat Night will be repeated Aug. 23, 7-9 p.m.

Registration for the program is required by Wed., June 12. For more information go to countyparks.com or call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550

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