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“Bat Night” Returns to Wehr Nature Center

Franklin, WI (August 1, 2013) – Bat Night is returning for an evening that brings together the fiction, folklore, and facts about bats, Friday, Aug. 23, 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.

Fear of and misconceptions about bats and rabies underscore the importance of learning more about these often misunderstood creatures.

In an article on Wisconsin bats, Professor Scott Craven of the University of Wisconsin-Madison states, “Few animals are as misunderstood as the bat. Much of the fear they elicit is unwarranted and based on misconceptions.

Wehr naturalist Howard Aprill will work to dispel the misconceptions at the Bat Night program. After the indoor introduction, participants will join Aprill in search of bats in Whitnall Park. He 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.

Registration for the program is required by Wed., Aug. 21. For more information go to countyparks.com or call Wehr Nature Center at (414) 425-8550

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