



BAT WEEK!

October 19-27

Introducing—for the first time ever—**BatWeek**, October 19-27, 2013! The FS is a leader in bat education and outreach and we want to extend this work through a focused communication effort, kicking-off in late September and ending at **BatWeek 2013**. This Forest Service celebration is a week dedicated to sharing the importance of those flying, furry mammals we love—and need—so much. We're excited and you should be, too!

We warmly invite you to be part of this bat-focused celebration. You could get involved by doing an educational presentation at a local school to get kids interested in bats, throwing a **BatWeek** party at your local library or visitors center, hosting an educational program for families such as a Fall night hike—or anything that will help spread the word about bats. Be creative! Get involved! Be a bat champion!

We're cheering you on—and providing great materials to help make your BatWeek celebrations a success. Here is a growing list of resources available for you:

- **New “Battle for Bats” film will be released 9/27/13.** This cornerstone of the White-nose Syndrome (WNS) communication effort focuses on bats as important and fascinating animals, the reality that we are rapidly losing millions of our bats to WNS, information on how state and federal agencies and non-profits are working together to fight this devastating disease, and the important role that the public can play in bat conservation. The 13.5 minute video will be available for free by September 30, and the final DVD (available end of October) will contain a ton of great, bat education materials. We'll share the link with you as soon as the film is launched!
- **Exciting Bat Education Webinars!** The FS and the National Wildlife Federation will co-host three bat education webinars in October to help you prepare for **BatWeek**. Pencil-in these dates, and additional “connection” information for these webinars will be shared soon. Afternoon webinars are presented through LiveMeeting and links are included below; evening webinars are hosted by NWF, and links will be available soon.
 - October 9; [2:00 p.m.](#) & 7:30 p.m. ET: **Bat 101** (presented by USFS-NRS Research Wildlife Biologist Dr. Sybill Amelon)
 - October 16; [2:00 p.m.](#) & 7:30 p.m. ET: **Bat Education Resources** (presented by R8 TES Specialist Dennis Krusac)
 - October 21; [2:00 p.m.](#) & 7:30 p.m. ET: **What YOU Can Do to Help Bats!**
- **BatsLIVE: A Distance Learning Adventure** – An online, one-stop resource for learning about bats and how to share them with others. You will find lesson plans, exciting recorded webcasts and webinars, links to great bat partners, and multimedia tools that are all focused on bats! Go to <http://batslive.pwnet.org> for all these free resources and more.

- **“The Bat Cave”** – A SharePoint site for FS employees to share up-to-the-minute **BatWeek** information, educational and promotional materials, chime in on discussions, ask questions, upload photos—and more. Please take a moment to visit the [Bat Cave](#), and add your own events and ideas to the conversation. Visit <http://fstteams.fs.fed.us/sites/NatureWatch/thebatCAVE/>
- **Bat Champion Awards!** – We want to recognize and celebrate your bat-success!! The **BatWeek** team will recognize the individual, the unit, and the Region that most effectively implements BatWeek activities. The awards will be cool (but non-monetary) and we'll share your accomplishments broadly in the FS. We promise that 'tossing your name in the hat' will be as painless as possible! More complete information is available in the [Bat Cave SharePoint](#) site.

BatWeek is a fun way to promote bat awareness and understanding. Never have bats needed our help more—and you can make a difference!

Not on our Bat Team, yet? Please join us—we need your good ideas and enthusiasm! Contact one of these lead **BatWeek** team members for more information.

- Sandy Frost, WO-WFWARP Partnership Liaison, sfrost@fs.fed.us
- Cindy Sandeno, National Cave & Karst Coordinator, cmsandeno@fs.fed.us
- Kim Winter, National NatureWatch Program Leader, kawinter@fs.fed.us