



wild things sanctuary, inc.
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Mission Statement

Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. (WTS) is dedicated to helping native wildlife through rescuing and rehabilitating debilitated and orphaned/displaced animals until they are ready for release back into the wild. Eventually, WTS is also aiming to provide a sanctuary for non-releasable native animals.

WTS is also committed to improving the well-being of wildlife through public education, focusing on how humans can safely and peacefully coexist with native wildlife, and on wildlife's importance to man and the environment.

This newsletter is printed on recycled paper. Enjoy and share!

Keep up with us

Learn more about Wild Things Sanctuary and follow the stories of our patients:

- "Like" *Wild Things Sanctuary* on Facebook.
- Follow *WildThingsNY* on Twitter
- Become a *Friend of Wild Things* by signing up on our website to receive our online and printed newsletters.

Easy ways to give



When you shop online, shop through *Amazon Smile* or *iGive*. Sign up to support Wild Things Sanctuary, and a portion of your purchase is donated directly to WTS.

Recovering bats have a new outdoor "play gym"



Being outside really helps patient recovery. Once the bat patients can fly, they go into the flight cage, but if they aren't quite ready to fly (and have been through quarantine) they now have a great outdoor cage where they can exercise, socialize, and get better faster.

How do donations help the wild things?

All donations made to Wild Things Sanctuary go directly to animal care and wildlife education. This includes animal food, medication, caging, and enrichment. Donations also help fund animal transport and the development of wildlife education programs and material. We also believe in "sharing the love," and every year, if we have the funds, we help support other rehabilitators and their work with wildlife patients.

Please consider making a year-end gift to Wild Things to help animals in trouble. Why not make a donation in someone's honor or memory? Or check out our website store that has great gift cards available!

A voice for wild things

WTS aims to speak for those who cannot, and advocates for humane solutions to wildlife situations.

When a rabid bat was found on a sidewalk, the local health department advised residents to trap any bats found near homes, freeze them, and once dead, deliver them to be tested for rabies. They ignored the facts that the rabid bat found was clearly ill, and that less than one percent of wild bats are sick with rabies (and bats don't carry the disease, they get sick and die once infected); that baby bats were just learning how to fly, often ending up in homes or crash landing despite being healthy; and that freezing is horribly inhumane.

With outreach, many people called us instead. One rescued patient was this Northern long-eared bat. These bats are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act because populations have plummeted due to white-nose syndrome. As a healthy adult female she will now have a second chance to have babies and keep this species alive.



The Wild Times

A newsletter from Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. • vol. 6, no. 1 • Winter 2016

Happy Holidays Wild Things Sanctuary Supporters!

"This little rescue has made me see bats in a whole new light. Good people doing great things for all creatures...Even BATS deserve our love."

To me, these lines on the Wild Things Sanctuary Facebook page are more precious than gold, because it means that all the hard work and tough times have been worth it. Together we are making a real difference helping animals, and the goal that laid the foundation for Wild Things Sanctuary is being achieved: to help "the forgotten ones."

Our wild neighbors live among us, but they are often given little thought when we go about our human lives. Yet, almost everything we do affects their well-being: we cut down trees; create buildings and so much garbage; let our pets outside unattended; drive too fast without always paying attention; even many of our cleaning products and medications that we take end up in rivers, endangering animals' habitats and health.

Wild Things Sanctuary was founded to try to balance out these negative intrusions into their wild lives. My goals were to create a safe place for wild animals where they could heal and find comfort, be a voice for them, and spread the word that we can all help make their lives better—every animal is special and deserves a chance, our respect, and consideration.

That's why the Facebook comment at the top of this page meant so much to me: our hard work IS making a difference. People are learning and opening their minds and hearts to our wild neighbors.

And not just locally. One volunteer has gone on to found the amazing Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Trust in Bangalore, India. Others have taken skills learned at Wild Things and now work in the veterinary field. One bat rescuer

You don't have to be a reality TV star to make a splash on social media. This lovely young Hoary bat came to us with a badly injured tail. A family was picnicking by a pond, when SPLASH! She fell from a tree into the water. While recovering at Wild Things Sanctuary, a short video of her munching down her dinner was a hit on Facebook: viewed nearly 400,000 times, and shared by about 6,000 people. Many people had no idea that bats could be so beautiful, and were impressed that she had learned to eat out of a bowl. Hoary bats migrate, and live in trees—colored to blend into their leafy homes. They are very secretive and rarely give away their presence—there could be one outside your window right now!



decided on a Halloween theme for her wedding, and in lieu of gifts, made donations to WTS and taught her guests about bats. A bat researcher in Brazil called upon us for instruction when he was given two orphan bat pups. An educator at the San Antonio Zoo started a bat program after meeting the patients at Wild Things Sanctuary. Folks around the world learn about wildlife concerns and diseases from our website and social media presence. A supporter in Chicago writes, "I used YOUR website looking for advice and guidance and reassurance. The work that you do is so important. Very happy to support you."

The work we ALL do is so important, and a big thanks to all of you who spread the Wild Things word and help keep us going. Thousands of wild animals have been helped thanks to you—they are no longer the forgotten ones.

Many happy wishes for a wonderful holiday season and great year ahead. Let's keep up the good work!

Victoria Campbell, President & Founder

Insect-Munching Bats Save Us Billions of Dollars a Year and Need Our Help

If affordable pesticide-free food sounds good to you, then thank the bats. That's what scientists discovered when they set out to investigate how bat activity affects crops.

Bats are the main predator of nocturnal insects, including crop pests, and with bat populations falling due to disease and development, researcher Justin Boyles and colleagues wondered what declining bat numbers mean to humans on an economic level.

They focused on how much money bats save farmers in pest control and found on average, that if bats were to send out invoices, farmers would be getting billed at about \$74 an acre. In total, bats save the agriculture industry between \$3.7 billion and \$53 billion a year, roughly averaging \$22.9 billion per year, depending on the number of acres being farmed in areas with bat activity.

\$22.9 billion is a lot of money, but it doesn't take into account additional expenses associated with higher pesticide use. These include costs associated with insects evolving resistance to pesticides, and the possibility that increased use of pesticides can cause declines in both environmental and human health. The study also did not examine the impact of bats on the control of forest insects. Many insects, such as the pine processionary moth that eats pines, are expanding their range due to a warming climate. This means that bats are likely to help the economics associated with forestry as well.

How does this concern you? These little warriors can eat their body weight in insects nightly, and devour enough to help keep pesticides off our food, and fresh produce more affordable. So, at the very least, they deserve a thank you. But in the last decade, bat numbers have been plummeting due to disease and land development, and it's time to put any prejudices aside, recognize the important roles they fill, and help advocate for their well-being.

White-nose syndrome is an introduced fungus from Europe that has killed more than 6 million cave-dwelling bats since it was first discovered in the U.S. in 2006. Certain species have



Ruby Angel is an Eastern red bat, found dehydrated in the middle of winter at the World Trade Center Plaza in New York City. She came to Wild Things to stay for the winter. Red bats and other tree-roosting bats have a preference for moths over beetles.

suffered more than others. The Little brown bat was once the most numerous predatory mammal in the Northeast; now it is all but gone in less than 10 years.

Meanwhile, cave-hibernating bats' migratory tree-bat cousins are being killed across the continent by wind turbines. One study estimates that by 2020, as many as 100,000 or more bats will be killed every year by turbines in the Mid-Atlantic Highlands alone.

These threats mean that bat numbers are falling every day, and insect numbers are rising. And sadly, bats are also threatened by human misunderstanding. Many people think all bats have rabies and they are weird, and dirty, and kind of like insects. In fact, less than half a percent have rabies and they will die of it, they don't carry it. You are more likely to encounter rabies in an outdoor cat. Bats clean themselves constantly and are more related to humans than rodents. Like other mammals, they even nurse their young while holding them close under their wings.

With such large declines, and so many threats, we need to do whatever we can to help, even if it's just educating ourselves not to kill a bat if it happens to be roosting around our homes. Let's put aside our prejudices and see these little mammals for what they are: incredible insect-munching machines that help us in so many ways. They keep our food healthy and with disease from mosquitoes on the rise, I'm happy to have a colony living near my house.

Researcher Justin Boyles agrees, "Bats are much maligned, but deserve protection if for no other reason than the ecosystem services they provide to humans."

Source:
Boyles, J.G., et al. (2011). *Economic Importance of Bats in Agriculture*. *Science* 332: 41-42.

Planting a rainforest: Did you know some estimate fruit bats are responsible for more than 90 percent of the reforestation of the world's rainforests via seed dispersal? Without these bats we would lose these forests without cutting down one tree.

Special thanks to our 2017 volunteers and fundraisers: Jodi McCarthy, Lyssa Buda, Anne Rochester, Matthew Hobart, Lowell Garner, Tabatha Broderick, Marc Devokaitis, Kate Frazer, and Greenstar. And our vet: Dr. Brian Collins, DVM.



Zubat is a baby Big brown bat, found when people were out playing Pokémon GO this summer. During his life, which may be decades long, he will eat beetles and moths that devour corn, spinach, fruits, tomatoes, vineyards, and more. If you eat things like bananas, nuts, vegetables, chocolate, spices, or use timber, cosmetics, soap, or enjoy margaritas or beer, thank the bats!

Your year-end gift makes a BIG difference to Wild Things!

Wild Things Sanctuary, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. EIN#: 68-0573815
All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Please send to: Wild Things Sanctuary Inc., P.O. Box 713, Ithaca, NY 14851

You can also donate online at www.wildthingsanctuary.org

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Thanks for sending me to flight school
I passed with flying colors!



With your generous donations Little Girl, a young Big brown bat, was able to be free again! She arrived in 2015 with a horribly broken wing, but after a few surgeries and a couple months of flight school she did great.



New Websites

Check out the redesigned Wild Things Sanctuary website! It is fully responsive, which means you can view it on all devices easily, and it's more clearly organized so that you can find what you are looking for.

www.wildthingsanctuary.org

And if you need help with bats, now there's a website for that too: Bats911. It's designed to be a one-stop shop for all bat related topics; like what to do if you find a bat in trouble, how to setup a bat house, and fun bat facts.

www.bats911.org



More than bats

WTS started specializing in bats a handful of years ago, but we still try to help out other animals whenever possible. Goosey the Canada Goose was confiscated from a hoarder where she had lived in a cramped cage for eight years. She arrived very overweight, hardly able to stand on arthritic legs, and had eye issues. After a couple of months I'm happy to report that she is much better and loves her kiddie pool where she can enjoy splashing in the water and getting some physical therapy. We also helped out a handful of young skunks who needed a safe place to finish growing, and be released.

