

# Safe Haven Screech

## Special points of interest:

- Be sure to come check out all of our new animals. Join us for our Open House Adventure Day on May 14th 2011.
- We are having a day camp this summer for teens interested in learning to work with animals from July 25th thru 29th.
- Volunteers are needed for our open house on May 14th. Contact Kim (SafeHavenAnimals@aol.com or 864-246-4425) if you have some time to help.

Visit us on the web:

[www.SafeHavenAnimals.org](http://www.SafeHavenAnimals.org)

We provide educational programs for schools, scout troops, birthday parties and many other events. If you are having an event or know a teacher, troop leader or anyone else that might be interested please contact us for more information.

Safe Haven & Educational Adventures, Inc.

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## White Nose Syndrome- Wildlife Menace by Glenda Lofink

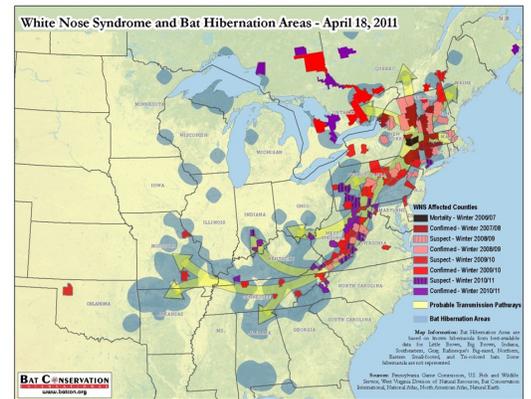
Imagine.....you are an experienced caver. You step into the surreal, serene and beautiful cave environment that you enjoy so much. You begin searching for the familiar wildlife that you often find in caves. Instead of thousands of roosting bats, you find carnage. The cave floor is littered with the carcasses of thousands of little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*). This was the scene in February, 2006 when White Nose Syndrome (WNS) was discovered in a New York cave.

WNS is a new disease that has caused the "most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in the past century" (BCI). More than 1 million bats have been killed over the last 5 years by this devastating disease. There has been almost a 100% mortality rate at some sites.

The disease got its name from the prominent white fungus that grows on the noses, and sometimes wings, ears and tails of infected bats. The fungus has been named *Geomyces destructans*. This particular fungus is new to science. It is believed to be transmitted primarily bat to bat, some evidence suggests that humans may carry it from site to site on their clothing and gear. WNS has affected 6 different species of bat: little brown (*Myotis lucifugus*), big brown (*Eptesicus fuscus*), tri-colored (*Perimyotis subflavus*), northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*), eastern small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*) and the endangered Indiana myotis (*Myotis sodalis*). The cave myotis (*Myotis velifer*), gray bats (*Myotis grisescens*) and southeastern bats (*Myotis austroriparius*) are 3 species that have been detected with a WNS-associated fungus but have not been diagnosed with the disease, as yet. If the current trend continues, 25 species of hibernating bats in the U.S. could decline and WNS could threaten some common species with extinction.

The spread has been fairly rapid in the eastern U.S. Last year, the disease spread 450 miles in a single winter. WNS has been documented in 18 states and 3 Canadian provinces. The latest, a cave in Kentucky, is a little too close for comfort.

Why does this matter? Bats are the consumers of a huge number of insect pests, roughly 700 tons! Bats are extremely important to the health and balance of almost all ecosystems. Many of these insect pests are crop pests. Losing large numbers of these bats will have an expensive impact on agriculture (BCI). Bats are slow reproducers so any decline will take many



years to recover, IF they recover. The mechanism of the disease that actually causes the death of bats is still being investigated. There are some symptoms common to all victims of this devastating disease, which are: a white fungus that grows on the nose, ears and wing membranes; depleted fat reserves due to increased winter arousals long before bats normally arouse from hibernation in the spring; a compromised immune response during hibernation; damage or scarring of the wings and abnormal bat behavior like emerging too soon from hibernation and are seen flying around in midwinter which usually means they starve to death. At the moment, the only available tool to at least slow the spread of WNS is restricting access to caves and educating the public. For more information, visit the following websites:

[www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

<http://www.fws.gov/WhiteNoseSyndrome/photos.html>



Little Brown Bat showing the symptoms of White Nose Syndrome

## Who's New

In early January we received a call from the Spartanburg Humane Society. They received an animal that had been abandoned in a shed but it wasn't something that they could adopt out. It wasn't their usual dog or cat; it was a giant lizard. Our new savannah monitor is only about 2 feet long but can double in size.



Savannah Monitor

After so many reptiles all winter, February brought us a Vervet monkey. Her name is Deitra and she belonged to private owners that raised her to be their pet. They decided she was too much to handle and her canines were too intimidating. Unfortunately,

many people that acquire primates as pets treat them as children. This generally leads to neurotic behaviors and aggression but the owner doesn't learn this until it's too late. Deitra has been adjusting well to her new life living as a monkey.

We've had several new birds added recently. The first one was a Cockatiel named Spanky who's owner passed away. We also received another Yellow Naped Amazon Parrot named Jackie and an African Grey Parrot named Max.



Deitra, our new Vervet Monkey, not cooperating for the camera.

Check us out on

Facebook at:

[www.facebook.com/safehavenanimals](http://www.facebook.com/safehavenanimals)

## Coming Events

June 18	Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up
May 14	Adventure Day Open House
July 15	The Irish Pub (tentative)
July 25—29	Teen Summer Camp

## Trivia Questions

What is the difference between an Old World Monkey and a New World Monkey?

Answer will be given in the next newsletter.

Answers from previous question:

Of approximately 30 different species of rattlesnake the only two that do not have the word "rattlesnake" in the title are the Sidewinder and the Massasauga. Both are found in the United States.

## Thank you!

We would like to thank our families, friends and volunteers for all of your hard work and support. Without you, Safe Haven would not be possible.

Honorable mentions:

Shane Valentine  
Greenville Highlanders Women's Rugby  
Jamee Wallis  
Truston Carter

Editor's Note:

The author of this quarter's main article is quite passionate about bats. Is there an animal you are passionate about? If you would like to share a story or submit an article contact Kim Chiswell at [SafeHavenAnimals@aol.com](mailto:SafeHavenAnimals@aol.com).

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# Adventure Day!

**Saturday, May 14th**

**Join us anytime between 11:00 and 7:00**

Food  
Games  
Live Animal Encounters

**Admission is Free**

Raffle  
Bake Sale  
Animal Area Tours

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