

# 2014 North American Bat Research Symposium, Albany, NY Local Host Report

Emily Davis & Mike Warner, Local Hosts

The 44th North American Symposium on Bat Research held in Albany New York 22-24 October 2014 set a benchmark for attendance with 400 participants. Within this audience was a record 164 students. NASBR continues to show support for those entering the field of bat research by making student participation a feature of every symposium.

A full schedule of platform papers and posters featured presenters from about a dozen different countries. Pleasant additions to sessions included a walking tour of Albany historical sites given by the ever amusing and informative Al Hicks. The teams at the Museum of Natural History in New York City and the State Museum in Albany gave insider tours. The most heavily attended NASBR student social ever was held at the nearby Albany Beer Hall, complete with mechanical riding bull.

Pat Morton was able to lead the Teachers Workshop this year, which featured Al Hicks in the role of local bat and environmental expert and Rob Mies with his ever popular bat ambassadors. A special photo workshop led by Brock Fenton and Merlin Tuttle was received enthusiastically.

Fundraising for the Spallanzani award at a curling event on Wednesday and auction during the banquet on Saturday continued to assure funding for this significant award to visiting international researchers.

The event logo should be a familiar sight for years to come, as more than 200 shirts were purchased by attendees in an assortment of bright colors. We could not have succeeded at bringing this event to fruition were it not for the help received from local staff from NY State Department of Conservation and Vesper Consulting. Local hosts Emily Davis and Mike Warner look forward to seeing Albany meeting attendees at many future NASBR Symposia.