



45th Annual Symposium on Bat Research

Monterey, California
October 28th-31st, 2015

Report on the 45th Annual Symposium for the North American Society for Bat Research

The 2015 North American Society for Bat Research convened their annual symposium in Monterey, California at the Monterey Plaza Hotel from Wednesday October 28th through Saturday October 31st. Field trips started on Tuesday with a whale watching trip in the bay and a kayak trip into nearby Elkhorn Slough on Wednesday morning. Local hosts Dave Johnston and Shahroukh Mistry worked closely with Program Directors Frank Bonaccorso and Gary Kwiecinski for the **record breaking attendance for NASBR of 427 registrants**. While 344 participants were from the 50 states of USA, another 83 were representing other countries or overseas U.S. territories comprising Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and the United Kingdom. **There were 148 oral papers (41 student and 107 regular), 78 posters (26 students and 52 regular) for a total 226 presentations. The 427 registrants comprised 153 students, 262 regular, and 12 exhibitor attendees.**

Local committee: Dave Johnston, Shahroukh Mistry, Winifred Frick, and Dave Wyatt. **Registration volunteers** included Samantha Chavez, Tina Cheng, Rebekah Christiansen, Elizabeth Gruenstein, Brian Kornelly, Elissa Olimpi, and Savannah Robinson. The **NASBR 2015 logo** was designed by Kelly Terry, a teacher from nearby Pacific Grove Middle School.

We are grateful to all the **conference Sponsors** - Pettersson Elektronik, Sonobat, Titley Scientific, Bat Conservation International, Wildlife Acoustics, and H. T. Harvey & Associates. **Exhibitors** at the conference included Wildlife Acoustics, Titley Scientific, CR Rainforest Experience, EcoTech, Lotek Wireless, Bat Conservation International, Holohil systems, Sonobat, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Preconference Events: Both the whale watching trip with 52 persons and the kayaking trip with 26 participants sold out early. Participants on the kayaking trip observed 38 bird species and 3 mammal species and the participants on the whale watching trip listed 26 bird species and 6 mammal species including great looks at humpback whales and Risso's dolphins. Dave Johnston organized and guided the trips.



Gary Kwiecinski, Rick Adams, and John Winkelman on the whale watching field trip.

Program & Awards

Keynote Address

Dr. James H. Brown emeritus professor of University of New Mexico - *Tough Conservation Decisions in an Overcrowded World.*

Spallanzani Awards

Ruben Barquez - *Conserving the Bats of Argentina: a Challenge of 40 Years*

Paul Webala - *Bat Research and Conservation in Kenya*

Bernardo Villa Award

Crysia Marina Rivero Hernandez - *Seed Dispersal and Habitat Selection by Tent-roosting Bats in the Great Lacandona Ecosystem.*

Bat Research News Award

Quinn Webber - *Personality affects pathogen dynamics in bats*

Speleobooks Award

Julia Hoeh - *Social Behavior of Indiana Bats Selecting Among Artificial Roosts*

Karl F. Koopman Award

Kelly Speer - *Dispersal of bats in an island system*

Basically Bats-Wildlife Conservation Society Award

Citlally Jimenez - *Identifying and Characterizing Roosts of *Lasiurus ega* and *Lasiurus intermedius**

Bat Conservation International Award

Melinda Ng - *The intracellular entry receptor Niemann-Pick C1 control filovirus susceptibility in African Pteropodid bats*

Luis F. Bacardi Bat Conservation Award

Jaelyn Alipert - *Cactophily Extends to Frugivory in *Antrozous pallidus**

Titley Electronics Award

Robert Arndt - *Factors Influencing Emergence Times of Indiana bats in Central Indiana*

Avinet Award

Sierra Sell - *Isotopic Insight into Foraging by Two Very Different Species of Bats*

Organization for Bat Conservation Award

Christina Bienz - *Surface Texture Discrimination by Bats: Implications for Reducing Mortality at Wind Turbines*

Sessions and Symposia

Student Honors Sessions were chaired by Gary Kwiecinski, Rebecca Patterson, Allen Kurta, Mylea Bayless, Heather York, Jorge Ortega, Maria Sagot, Gerald Carter, Miranda Dunbar, Hugh Broders, Anna Nele Herdina, and Burton Lim.

Symposia:

- **White-nose Syndrome:** chaired by Riley Bernard and Jeremy Coleman
- **Ecological Energetics:** chaired by mark Brigham and Liam McGuire
- **Tools and Methods for Monitoring Bats:** chaired by Rick Adams and Ashley Wilson (Rolfe)
- **Ecology and Adaptation in Tropical Ecosystems:** chaired by Rachel Page and Rodrigo Medellin
- **Addressing Gaps in African Bat Research:** chaired by Theresa Lavery, Cara Brook, and DeeAnn Reeder
- **Mixed Topics:** chaired by Scott Pederson and Ernest Valdez
- **Functional Morphology and Development:** chaired by William Schutt and Luis Viquez
- **Wind Energy:** chaired by Paul Cryan and Mitchell Craig
- **Social Communication:** chaired by Michael Smotherman and Erin Gillam
- **Ecology I:** chaired by Kirsten Bohn and Gareth Jones
- **Conservation Biology:** chaired by Dave Waldien and Tigga Kingston
- **Wildlife Health, Parasites & Disease:** chaired by Antoinette Piaggio and Bronwyn Hogan
- **Ecology II:** chaired by Amanda Adams and Pau Moosman
- **Predator-Prey Behavior:** chaired by Jesse Barber and Aaron Corcoran
- **Systematics and Population Genetics:** chaired by Stephen Rossiter and Nancy Simmons
- **Roosting Behavior:** chaired by Sybill Amelon and Matina Kalcounis-Ruppel

Education & Outreach

Teacher's Workshop: Pat Morton coordinated a group of educators including Cindi Myers, Rob Mies, Dave Johnston, Stephanie Remington, and Janet Tyburec for a very successful workshop on Halloween. Teachers built 35 bat houses coordinated by Lee Mackenzie as a part of a record for Guinness World Record Contest, and Rob Mies brought spectacular live bats to share with the group.

Integrating Local Middle School Students with NASBR: As an additional education project for NASBR 2015, 8 Middle School Students and their teacher, Kelly Terry, from the nearby Pacific Grove Middle School worked with Dave Johnston to do a research project and presented a poster. The project took about 12 months from start to finish and Wildlife Acoustics provided a small grant to cover transportation costs.



Professor Robert Barclay asking local middle school students questions about their poster. Students pictured above from left to right are Robertson Rice, Elijah Taurke, Leo Lauritzen, and Oscar Scholin. Dr. Barclay gave the students high-fives after they discussed their project. Photo by Peter Munteer.

Publicity: The Monterey symposium received some great publicity thanks to several reporters and NASBR members including Rob Mies, Rick Adams and Paul Cryan with at least one evening news Salinas television spot featuring Paul Cryan and the following 8 newspaper articles.

Interest in bats takes wing on Monterey Peninsula – San Jose Mercury News

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_29434911/interest-bats-takes-wing-monterey-peninsula;

Bat conference lands of Cannery Row: – Monterey Herald

<http://www.montereyherald.com/environment-and-nature/20151028/bat-conference-lands-on-cannery-row>

Interest in bats takes wing on Monterey Peninsula – Monterey Herald

<http://www.montereyherald.com/general-news/20160126/interest-in-bats-takes-wing-on-monterey-peninsula/1>

Pacific Grove students hear what bats have to say – Monterey Herald

<http://www.montereyherald.com/social-affairs/20151224/pacific-grove-students-hear-what-bats-have-to-say>

Vampire bats running for blood – Monterey Herald

<http://www.montereyherald.com/environment-and-nature/20151030/monterey-bat-conference-vampire-bats-running-for-blood>

Students present bat research at symposium in the Cedar Street Times

<http://www.cedarstreettimes.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/02/11-06-15.pdf>

Interest in bats takes wing on Monterey Peninsula – East Bay Times

http://www.eastbaytimes.com/breaking-news/ci_29434913/interest-bats-takes-wing-monterey-peninsula?source=rss

Interest in bats takes wing on Monterey Peninsula – Santa Cruz Sentinel

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/general-news/20160126/interest-in-bats-takes-wing-on-monterey-peninsula/1>

We give special thanks to our dedicated Board of Directors of NASBR, and in particular, the program committee. Respectfully submitted by co-hosts Dave Johnston and Shahroukh Mistry.