

Florida Bat Working Group – 2024 Annual Meeting

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Florida Bat Working Group Meeting in Welaka, Florida.

LOCATION:

The meeting will be held at the Welaka Training Center, located at:
Welaka State Forest Headquarters, 794 Co Rd 309 Welaka, FL 32112

START & END TIME:

Tuesday, April 2 at 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Wednesday, April 3 at 8:45 am to 3:00 pm

Please arrive early to get settled, we will start promptly at 1:00pm and 8:45am, respectively.

MEALS and LODGING:

On-site lodging and meals are only available to those who pre-registered prior to the deadline. All others should bring snacks as needed and lunch on Tuesday. Complimentary drinks and snacks will be available during breaks. If you reserved lodging, you have been preassigned a room; check-in/sign-in on the first day will start at noon near the Meeting Room.

WHAT TO BRING:

We recommend bringing a laptop (Wi-Fi is available), any bat resources to share, a camp chair to sit around the fire, water bottle/coffee mug, and all your bat knowledge! There will be opportunities to work in subcommittees to further fulfill the mission of Conserving Florida's Bats.

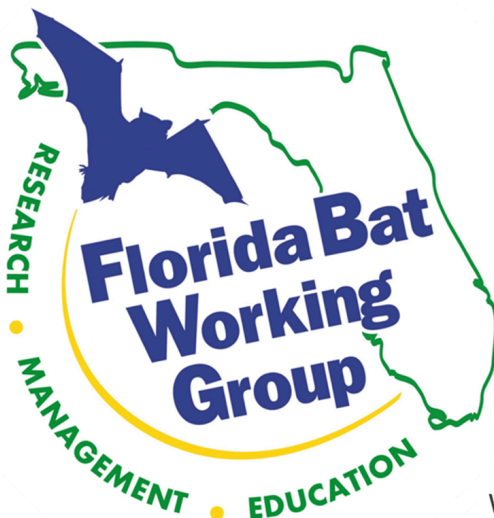
Other FUN things:

Tuesday night we will have an opportunity to network/socialize around a campfire. Responsible consumption of alcoholic beverages is allowed. Everyone is welcome, even if you are not staying the night at Welaka State Forest.



the Florida Bat Working Group is

Ensuring a bright future for Florida's bats



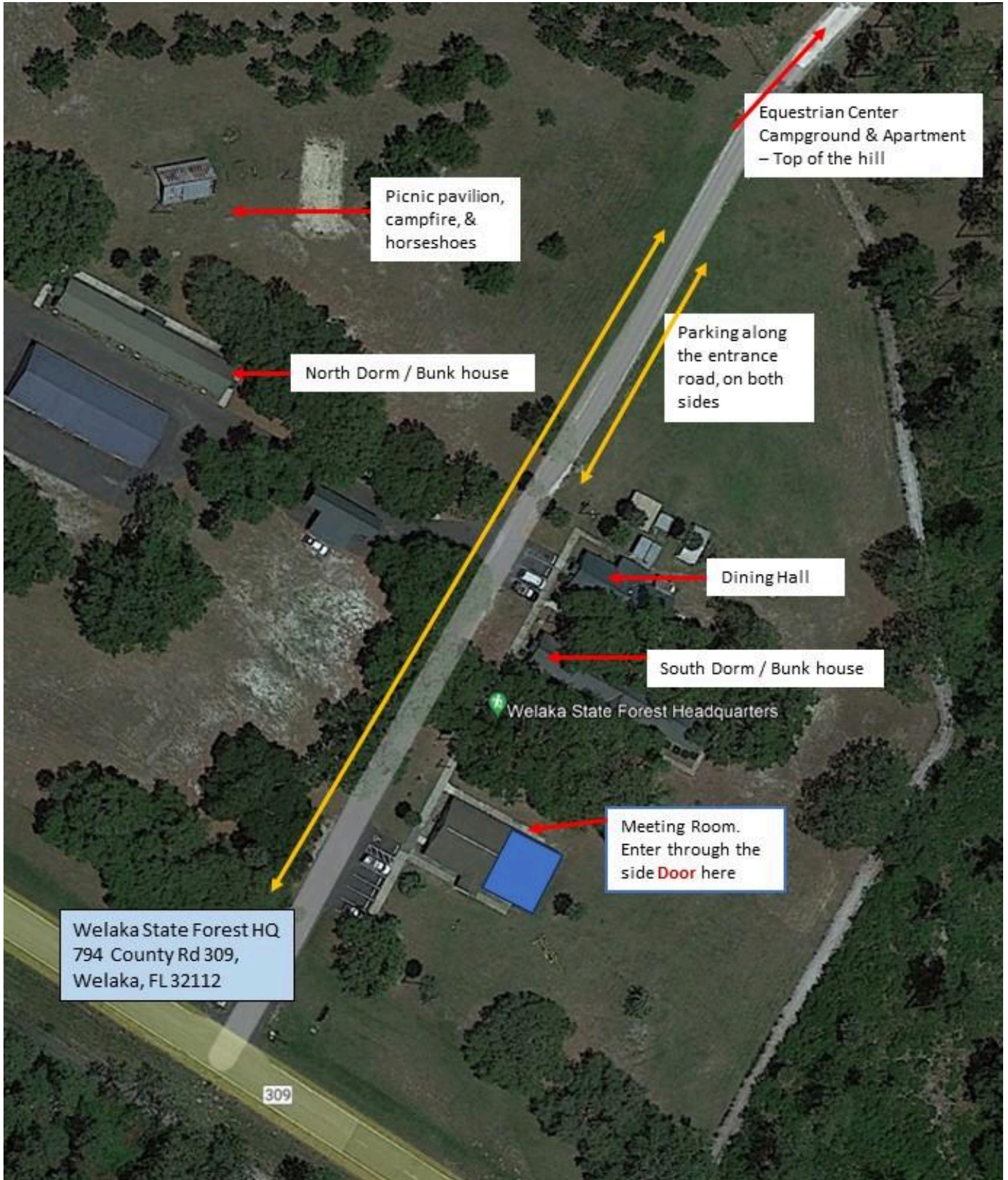
Our mission is to
conserve
Florida's bats
through
collaborative
research,
management,
& education
among
agencies,
organizations,
& individuals.

WEBSITE: <https://www.flbwg.net/>



LOCATION MAP:

Search "Welaka State Forest Headquarters" on your map app.



Florida Bat Working Group Agenda

Tuesday, April 2, 2024	
12:00 pm	Lunch (bring your own and chat with early arrivals)
12:00	Meeting check-in starts at Welaka State Forest Training/Meeting Room (enter through side door on left-side of building)
1:00	Welcome from Planning Committee and FLBWG Chair
1:05	Introductions
1:30	Subcommittee 2023 accomplishments
2:00	Moderated group discussion: Good to Great?
3:00	Break (30 minutes): Complimentary coffee, iced tea and lemonade
3:30	Subcommittee Breakouts (choose 1 group)
4:45	Evening agenda & tomorrow's agenda announcements
5:00	- John Chenger—Learn about new gadgets from Bat Conservation and Management (BCM) - Poster Presentations
6:00	End of the afternoon session
6:30	Dinner (meals available in Dining Hall for those who pre-ordered)
7:30	Networking around the campfire



Photo credit: batgoods.com

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:45 am	Breakfast (meals available in Dining Hall for those who pre-ordered)
8:45	Day 2 Welcome: logistics and review agenda
8:50	<i>30 Years of Bat Houses: Lessons Learned</i> – John Chenger (BCM)
9:05	<i>Status of WNS in Florida and North America</i> – Lisa Smith and Terry Doonan (FWC)
9:20	Business Meeting
10:05	Lightning Talks and Open Discussion Part 1
10:35	Break (30 minutes): Complimentary coffee, iced tea and lemonade
11:05	<i>Novel bat roosting reports from FL</i> - Jayne Johnston (FWC)
11:20	<i>NLEBs in south Alabama</i> - Shannon Holbrook (USFWS)
11:35	<i>NLEB Survey Guidance</i> - Megan Wallrichs (ESI)
11:50	<i>FBB Updates and FAQs: Insights on finalized critical habitat, revised consultation guidelines, and much more!</i> - Sandra Sneckenberger (USFWS)
12:10	Lunch (meals available in Dining Hall for those who pre-ordered)
1:10	<i>Tricolored Bat Updates</i> – Rain Ketzler (USFWS)
1:25	<i>USFWS Regulatory Q&A</i> - Tammy Ash and Sandra Sneckenberger (USFWS)
1:55	Lightning Talks and Open Discussion Part 2
2:25	Subcommittees Report Out on 2024 Goals and Discussion
2:50	Meeting Wrap-Up
3:00	Concludes 2024 FLBWG Meeting

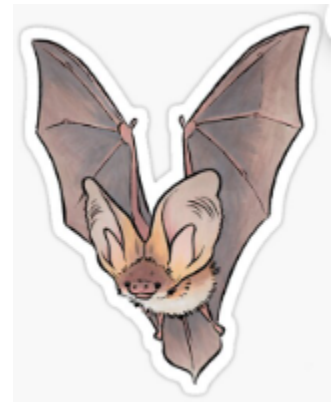


Photo: Redbubble.com



Scan this QR code to visit the
Florida Bat Working Group webpage

2023-2025 FLBWG Board of Directors

- Chair: Shelly Johnson (shelly.johnson@ufl.edu)
- Past-Chairs
 - Emily Evans (emily.evans@myfwc.com)
 - Donna Bear (beard@jacksonvillezoo.org)
- Secretary: Verity Mathis (vmathis@flmnh.ufl.edu)
- Treasurer: Liz Braun (elizabeth.braun@myfwc.com)
- Members At Large
 - Rain Ketzler (lorraine_p_ketzler@fws.gov)
 - Lisa Smith (Lisa.Smith@myfwc.com)
 - Terry Doonan (terry.doonan@myfwc.com)

2024 FLBWG Sub-Committees

- Education and Outreach
 - Tina Jackson (tjackson@fcanalytics.info)
- Interagency Partnerships
 - Rain Ketzler (lorraine_p_ketzler@fws.gov)
 - Laura D'Acunto (ldacunto@usgs.gov)
- Habitat Management
 - Jess Rodriguez (jess.rodriguez@myfwc.com)
 - Kim Chase (Kimberly.Chase@myfwc.com)
- Monitoring
 - Sunsetting
- Conference Planning
 - Terry Doonan, Kim Chase, Rain Ketzler, Verity Mathis, Donna Bear, Shelly Johnson, Natasha Warraich, Scout Hogan, Arielle Poulos, Rebecca Schneider

Information Resources

Visit the Florida Bat Working Group website: <https://flbwg.weebly.com/>

Email the Florida Bat Working Group: flbatwg@gmail.com

Florida Bat Working Group 2024 Annual Meeting Abstracts

Presenting author is in **bold**

Abstracts are listed based on the order they appear in the agenda

30 Years of Bat Houses: Lessons Learned

John Chenger, Bat Conservation and Management, Inc.

In the late 1980's bats were overtaking some homeowner's attic spaces, compounding the problems bat conservation was already dealing with in the overly sensationalized scare media. Small and sometimes large neighborhood bat colonies were drawing more attention, and even if a homeowner or pest control company managed to conduct a successful bat exclusion, sometimes the now "homeless" bats caused trouble for neighbors in the community, moving the problem elsewhere. The idea for a "bat house" was not new, and the PA Game Commission wanted to use them as a tool for homeowners to keep bats around, if desired. At that time, bat houses did not work reliably, a problem which was solved with diligent testing, observations, and some luck. Today's most successful little brown bat populations are in artificial roosts located close to winter hibernacula, highlighting the importance of both resources. Throughout the Southeast, bats utilize culverts, garages, bridges, and other structures which bat houses can be used as a tool for when bat and human conflicts inevitably arise. We will review bat houses and the turning point of the modern design, the strategy behind placement, maintenance considerations, and overheating. We will look at bat house fails, unintended consequences, unexpected data from post-WNS, and other lessons learned that all contribute to our bat house recommendations today.

Status of WNS in Florida and North America

Lisa Smith, Assistant Research Scientist, Terrestrial Mammal Group, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, and **Terry Doonan**, Mammal Conservation Coordinator, Wildlife Diversity Conservation Section, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

White-nose syndrome (WNS) has caused tremendous losses of bats in North America. Florida is currently WNS negative but is near the leading edge of the disease as multiple nearby states are WNS positive. In other states, 7 of 13 bat species that are resident in Florida have been confirmed with WNS, or the fungus that causes WNS, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*). In Florida, 4 of those 7 WNS-susceptible species are designated as Species of Greatest Conservation by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Additionally, the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), the most widespread cave bat in Florida, has experienced substantial declines at cave hibernacula in the state for unknown causes and is proposed for endangered status listing under the Endangered Species Act. We will summarize the status of WNS in other states and efforts being taken by FWC to conduct surveillance for WNS and to monitor cave-dependent, WNS-susceptible bat species in Florida.

Novel Bat Roosting Sites

Jayne Johnston, Senior Wildlife Assistance Biologist, Wildlife Impact Management Section, Habitat and Species Conservation Division, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

People outside Florida think Disney World and beaches. Well bats do too! 2023, was full of the traditional home roosts, but we added movie theaters, a common large retailer, a coastal multi-story, a multi-building hospital, and a resort/ride entry archway at Disney! While these situations get our standard technical assistance via phone or email on legal options for exclusions, incidents involving healthcare and food service extend beyond those boundaries. These incidents presented unique partnership opportunities showcasing our mission to manage fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Northern Long-eared Bats in South Alabama

Shannon Holbrook, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Alabama Ecological Services Field Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service

The Alabama Bat Working Group set out to determine the occurrence of a year round active population of NLEB in coastal Alabama. This presentation will show you our process, the discovery of a breeding year round active population of NLEB in Alabama, and our steps to find additional occurrences and delineate the range.

NLEB Survey Guidance

Megan Wallrichs, Environmental Solutions & Innovations, Inc.

The range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines? Florida doesn't need those! Or do we? As records of Northerns creep closer to the Florida border and tricolored bats creep closer to being listed, this presentation will guide you through the ins and outs of the USFWS guidelines for presence/probable absence surveys for regulatory compliance.

FBB Updates and FAQs: Insights on finalized critical habitat, revised consultation guidelines, and much more!

Sandra Sneckenberger, Endangered Species Recovery Biologist, Florida Ecological Services Field Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service

The presentation will summarize the latest information on the critical habitat designation, the revised Consultation Guidelines, the NABat data submission process, the FBB Conservation Fund, and what all this means to consultants, land managers, and project proponents.

Tricolored Bat Updates

Rain Ketzler, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Florida Ecological Services Field Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service

We are expecting the TCB final listing decision any day now, and hope to provide updates during this presentation.

USFWS Regulatory Question and Answer

Tammy Ash, Everglades Restoration Biologist, and **Sandra Sneckenberger**, Endangered Species Recovery Biologist, Florida Ecological Services Field Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Many FLBWG members have asked questions about the USFWS regulatory process. Questions come from many different perspectives based on agency, organization, and background experience. We offer members an opportunity to "ask the experts" all of your questions that you've been thinking of these past few years. Want to know more about something? Ask us!