

## **Western Bat Working Group**

### **2008 Officer Elections**

#### **Nominee Biosketches**

##### **President—Rita Dixon**

I am currently the Biodiversity Program Leader for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Conservation Sciences Division. As such, I endeavor to converge plant, animal, and systems ecology. Selected projects include: determining the location and condition of quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands in southeast Idaho; a collaborative project with NatureServe and Forest Capital Partners LLC (FCP) to field validate models for selected rare animal species on FCP lands; and, among others, working with adjacent northwest states to support the Northwest Regional Gap Analysis Project (NWReGAP). In addition, I work with the Idaho BLM Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program to evaluate abandoned mines for their suitability to and use by bats. I recently led the development of Idaho's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS; available at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>) and continue to serve as technical lead for ongoing updates and revisions. I served as Vice President and President of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society from 2004 to 2008, chair the Idaho Bat Working Group, and serve as Idaho's representative to the Western Bat Working Group. I received a B.S. in Biology from the University of California at Riverside, a M.S. in Wildlife Resources from the University of Idaho, and am completing a Ph.D. at the University of Idaho, where I studied the ecology and metapopulation biology of White-headed Woodpeckers. My professional interests include bat community ecology, avian ecology, captive care and rehabilitation of insectivorous bats, geostatistical modeling, conservation planning, and critical thinking.

##### **Vice President—Cori Lausen**

I completed my PhD at the University of Calgary Dec. 2007. My research focused on prairie bat hibernation, roost selection, and landscape genetics. In a former life, I was a high school science teacher in Saskatchewan. I now live with my husband in Kaslo, B.C., Canada, a small mountain town on Kootenay Lake, where I work as an independent bat biologist. Each summer I conduct bat work throughout northwestern North America, and plan to continue this field work; I may also pursue a postdoctoral position in the future. I am currently the editor of the Western Canada Bat Working Group newsletter, co-editor of the WBWG newsletter, an active member of the Alberta Bat Action Team, and am in the process of initiating a BC Bat Working Group. I am the lead author of the Alberta Bats and Wind Energy Guidelines, and co-chair the WBWG Wind Energy Committee.

##### **Secretary—Heather L. Johnson**

I am an environmental consultant in Sacramento, California and my business cards say "bat specialist". I am co-chair of the state working group and responsible for a portion of the state conservation plan. At a workshop for the state plan I took all the notes and comments on my performance included "excellent", "thorough", and "not a morning person I suspect". I have

been keen on bats for about 15 years since I met my first bat in Sydney, Australia where I flew over to a mammal conference thinking I wanted a career with marsupials but flew home a love-struck batto. My Master's degree was on the ecology of bats in a little mountain range in the middle of the Sacramento Valley- the first bat research done in the area. I have been taking notes at WBWG meetings since the 1998 workshop and was volunteer secretary years ago. My worthiness may also be measured based on my having seen the Bracken Cave outflight and been bitten by a vampire bat (I had a glove on- I am not mental).

### **Secretary--Melissa Neubaum**

I received both my BS and MS in wildlife biology at Colorado State University. My MS focused on genetic and natural history traits of big brown bats in an area of overlap between divergent mtDNA lineages along the Colorado Front Range. I am currently working as a biological laboratory technician in the wildlife genetics lab at the National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO. I have worked with bats since 2000 and have spent many more years working in the field with a variety of species.

### **Treasurer—Brad Phillips**

I am currently a District Wildlife Biologist, Black Hills National Forest (US Forest Service) in Custer, SD. I also serve as the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region (R2) contact person for issues related to bats and bat habitat. I have a B.S. degree in Wildlife Management (1980) from Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. My professional bat-related activities include Chairperson for *South Dakota Bat Working Group* (1998-present), and Treasurer for WBWG since 2004. My professional interests include bats, cave management issues, reptiles, amphibians and songbirds. I am seeking re-election because our first reporting period to the IRS is in 2009, and I would like to see WBWG thru that experience.

### **At-large Representative—Dave Johnston**

I am a Senior Wildlife Ecologist at H.T. Harvey & Associates and have worked with California bats since 1992 when I began my Ph.D. thesis on pallid bats through York University under Dr. Brock Fenton. I have since collaborated with Fenton and others on several papers involving the biology of bats in Africa and Central America. Through H. T. Harvey & Associates, I have worked on many scores of transportation-related projects involving mitigation measures for bats, and have also conducted large scale surveys for bats on federal lands for many agencies. I taught Mammalogy and Ecosystems of the San Francisco Bay Area as a part-time lecturer at Santa Clara University and am now an Adjunct Professor at San Jose State University. My students and I are investigating the foraging ecology of bats in the Coyote Creek and Guadalupe River watersheds, the winter ecology of pallid bats in central California, changes in bat assemblages as they relate to land use changes in northern Monterey County, Calif., population genetics of *Yuma myotis*, and swimming behavior in bats. I teach workshops on bats through the California Academy of Sciences, The Wildlife Society, and Bat Conservation International. I serve, or have served, on the scientific advisory committee for San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, as a peer reviewer for the journal *Mammalia*, and on the grant review team for environmental grants through the City of San Jose, CA, and in other advisory capacities. I am currently working on a

three-year project with Dixie Pierson and others to write a Conservation Plan for Bats of California through the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley. I also have on-going bat projects in Belize and Baja California.

**At-large Representative—Martin Grenier**

I received my Master's degree in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming in May 2008 and my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University in December 1999. I have been employed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, as the Nongame Mammal Biologist since 2000. In my current position, I am responsible for setting management and conservation objectives for all nongame mammals, including many threatened, endangered, and Species of Greatest Conservation Needs, like bats. I have chaired the Wyoming Bat Working Group since 2001 and led the development of “A Conservation Plan for Bats in Wyoming” which was completed in 2005. I have a wide array of experience surveying for bats in Wyoming (e.g., acoustic, capture, roost surveys), have been involved with bat roost protection projects, and guiding educational outreach efforts. I am also an avid waterfowler, mountain biker, and backpacker.

**At-large Representative—Ron Spears**

I am a Certified Ecologist with a B.S. degree in Biology and an M.S. degree in Ecology. I bring more than 14 years of experience in ecological investigations and research. I have specific experience in site reconnaissance to collect data on the occurrence of various protected flora and fauna species. I also provide Section 7 consultation and currently hold a range-wide federal permit for both the Indiana bat and Gray bat. I have been involved with bat research since 1993 while working at the LuBee Foundation near Gainesville, Florida. While at LuBee, I participated in research projects with Dr. Tom Kunz looking at nutritional values of Old World fruit bat milk. Additionally, I have been involved with roost selection studies of Rafinesque’s big-eared bats and the Southeastern Myotis as well as numerous other bat related projects throughout the Southeastern U.S. Most recently, I have been involved with several bat projects in the Western U.S. related to wind energy and mining.

**At-large Representative—Lauren Wilson**

I have spent the past 2.5 years at the U.S. Army Dugway Proving Ground (DPG) (Dugway, Utah) as an ORISE (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education) Intern and then a federal employee as a Natural Resources Specialist, Biologist working within the Natural Resources Office, Conservation Preservation Division, Directorate of Environmental Programs. My experience stretches from field work relating to NEPA surveys, small mammal trapping, pitfall traps, and mist netting bats to winter raptor surveys and vegetation transects. I manage the NEPA review process for our office as well as several on-going studies to include a bat study on several DoD installations in Utah and a herpetofauna study looking at reptile populations on training and non-training land. I have assisted with DPG’s Legacy funded Utah Bat Initiative over the past two years with much involvement in ANABAT file review (limited knowledge), deliverable creation and review, meetings, and contract management. I am a member of the Utah Bat Conservation Cooperative, the Bonneville Basin Conservation Cooperative, Utah Chapter of The

Wildlife Society (UTWS), and the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA). I have presented the Legacy Initiative at UTWS and NMFWA conferences. Previous experience remains mostly within the Animal Behavior field although I do have some experience in wildlife rehabilitation. I completed an undergraduate thesis on lion tamarin intergroup encounters while completing my Bachelors and worked as an Animal Behavior Intern for Disney's Animal Kingdom after graduating from college. I transitioned into natural resources management after this seeking a larger meaning. NR management gives me the opportunity to work on a broader scale within nature and to enjoy the ever-changing responsibilities that come with working for the military! I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland, graduating Summa cum Laude with Honors in 2004.