



# Western Bat Working Group

## 2010 Officer Elections

### Biosketches

#### **President—Angie McIntire**

I have worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department since 1993, first as a summer intern conducting small mammal surveys for bats, Gunnison's prairie dogs, Mount Graham red squirrels, and Hualapai Mexican voles and full time since 1996. Over the last 15 years, I have worked as a field team leader to re-establish black-footed ferrets in Arizona, a habitat and environmental compliance specialist, and since 2003 in my current role as statewide bat management coordinator. I earned a BS in Wildlife Conservation from Arizona State University.

I have been a state representative for the Western Bat Working Group as well as State Chair of Arizona's Bat Resource Group since 2003 and have served as Presidential Appointee for two years. I have played an active role in efforts to communicate bat conservation needs to the Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Western Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and to revitalize the North American Bat Conservation Alliance.

My professional interests include endangered species reintroductions, mammalian behavior, ecology of bat migration and tree bat ecology. Other interests include how we can better use technology to solve bat ecology questions and how to improve communications between research and management.

Outside of work with bats, I enjoy traveling, art and photography, road biking, hiking, writing, and am learning to play guitar. I also compete with my rhodesian ridgebacks, Alex and Baloo, in dog agility and conformation.

#### **President—Katie Gillies Miller**

I began working with wildlife as an undergraduate at the University of Idaho. I received a research grant to examine bat use in burned and unburned habitats in central Idaho's Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. After backpacking an Anabat more than 300 miles around the backcountry that summer, I was hooked. This experience led me to several positions with Idaho Fish and Game, including working with Rita Dixon conducting bat surveys at AML sites in northern Idaho and writing the Idaho Bat Conservation Plan. Upon graduation from UI in 2003, I received an internship at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. I spent a month working on a project examining the sensory ecology of the frog-eating bat, *Trachops cirrhosis*, and trapping dozens of species of bats in the Panama Canal. I then returned



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to the states for additional field jobs, including working for the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, conducting bat surveys in Bighorn Canyon, Grand Teton, and Yellowstone National Parks. In 2005, I decided to pursue my Masters. At Idaho State University, I used genetic markers to examine the connectivity and relatedness, as well as winter roost characteristics of large colonies of Townsend's big-eared bats that occupy the lava tube caves of southern Idaho. I worked with Toni Piaggio to characterize markers specific to this species; we published those results in *Molecular Ecology Notes*. Upon completion of my Masters, I was invited back to the Smithsonian to continue work on the same project. From Panama, I was able to obtain my current position at the Nevada Department of Wildlife. I have always wanted a regional biologist position with a state wildlife agency in order to play a role in on the ground management and conservation. Although there are many aspects to my current position, one of my responsibilities is the coordination and closure of AML sites and ensuring that those sites that provide habitat are gated for their protection. I have held a variety of leadership roles throughout my career. I have had positions with the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Biology Graduate Student Association, and am currently co-chair of the Nevada Bat Working Group and active on WBWG's white-nose syndrome subcommittee. I have presented at several meetings, including the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society, The Wildlife Society Student Conclave, North American Symposium on Bat Research, American Society of Mammalogists, as well as WBWG. So review your programs from previous meetings; you might see me there. As with many of us in this field, I am an avid outdoors woman who enjoys backpacking, hiking, hunting, rock climbing, biking, traditional archery and birding. Last year, I did an all girl 80 mile through hike of the Frank Church Wilderness, and harvested my first elk. This year, I climbed Mauna Kea, highest point in Hawaii, and backpacked the Ruby Crest Trail. I am always looking for new adventures and ways to enjoy and make the most of life. If given the opportunity, I will do my best to move WBWG forward and ensure the future success of this varied and vibrant group.

#### **Vice President—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 at York University under Dr. Brock Fenton. I am currently the co-chair for the California Bat Working Group and an elected, at-large, board officer for the Western Bat Working Group. Through H. T. Harvey & Associates, I have worked on over 50 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 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 various bats in California, the impacts to bat populations



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from urbanization and transportation issues, and swimming behavior in bats. My colleagues at H. T. Harvey & Associates and I are currently researching methodologies to study wind turbine impacts to bats and birds at the Montezuma Hills Wind Energy Area in Central California. I teach workshops on bats through the California Academy of Sciences, The Wildlife Society, and Bat Conservation International. I serve on the scientific advisory committee for San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, as a peer reviewer for the journal *Mammalia*, and on the Scientific Advisory Committee for the Altamont Pass Wind Energy Resource Area (APWERA) and in other advisory capacities. I am currently working on a Conservation Plan for Bats of California through a California Fish and Game grant to the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC Berkeley. I also have on-going bat projects in Belize and Baja California.

#### **Vice President—Scott Osborn**

I am a Staff Environmental Scientist with the Nongame Wildlife Program of the California Department of Fish and Game, where I coordinate conservation efforts for small mammals (including bats, rodents, lagomorphs, and insectivores) throughout the state. Since starting in this position in 2009, I have worked as the contract manager for the development of the California Bat Conservation Plan by Dixie Pierson and other members of the California Bat Working Group. I also have served on the WBWG WNS Subcommittee and am helping to coordinate agency efforts in California to prepare for, and respond to, WNS if/when it arrives in California. I completed my PhD at the University of Arizona in 1991, where I studied the energetics and behavior of pocket mice and ground squirrels using torpor and hyperthermia to deal with the challenges of limited food and water resources in the desert. Although my primary expertise is with rodents, I have always been fascinated by bats. I've been very fortunate to have many friends, colleagues, and teachers who work with bats who have shared their knowledge with me. I've greatly enjoyed getting out in the field with bat researchers in California over the past couple of years and plan to continue gathering such first-hand experience in the future.

#### **Secretary—Diane Probasco**

I am a Wildlife Biologist for the Shoshone National Forest, covering the Washakie and Wind River Ranger Districts, based out of Dubois, Wyoming. For the past 10 years I have worked on several National Forests in Montana, Utah, and Wyoming as a Biological Technician and Wildlife Biologist. I received a B.S. in Wildlife Biology in 2003 from the University of Montana. I was a founding member of the Great Basin Bat Cooperative and later the Chairperson for the Utah Bat Conservation Cooperative. I have conducted and participated in a wide array of bat conservation studies including bat inventory and monitoring using harp traps,



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mist nets, and acoustic recording; internal mine and cave surveys; and education presentations for workshops and general public.

#### **Secretary—Rob Schorr**

I am currently a Research Associate/Instructor with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program in the Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Biology Department at Colorado State University. I received a B.S. from the University of California, Davis in 1992 and a M.S. from the University of Georgia in 1997.

I would be honored to serve as the Secretary for the Western Bat Working Group and look forward to playing a more active role in bat conservation throughout the West. As I start any introduction to my wildlife history, I begin by acknowledging my father's passion for the outdoors, because without it my career would not have molded itself as it did. I spent 9 of my pre-teen summers in Bryce Canyon and Yellowstone National parks, accompanying my dad as he led guided walks and campfire talks. These experiences led me to pursue a biology degree from University of California, Davis, and then a master's degree in forest resources (wildlife biology) from the University of Georgia, where I studied small mammal ecology in fire-managed forests. In 1997, I began work at Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, studying population ecology of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse. Since that time I've been lucky enough to expand my role into bat ecology work. At the University of Georgia, I dabbled in bat work by investigating evening bat diet in southwestern Georgia. I've surveyed throughout much of Colorado clarifying bat distributions and studying bat roost use. My passion is population ecology and I am trying to apply novel sampling techniques and population models to understand population parameters, such as survival, abundance, and growth. I have served as the webmaster and member of the Colorado Bat Working Group since 2002. I have been a member of WBWG since 2003, and have served as a committee chair for the committee addressing the efficacy of banding of bats to study migration and impacts of wind power. I appreciate your consideration for the position of Secretary for the Western Bat Working Group.

#### **Treasurer—Bradley J. 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



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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 it keeps me involved in WBWG, and to be honest, I think it would be easier to stay (treasurer) instead of changing everything for a new treasurer.

#### **At-large Representative—Carson Brown**

I was born and raised in Jefferson, OR. I studied biology at Willamette University, focusing on Ecology, Zoology, Evolution, Biodiversity and conducting research on Corvid nesting and nest predation by Corvids, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2004. Before entering graduate school, I assisted an Ohio State University graduate student, Debbie Scott, in carrying out research on bat activity at managed and unmanaged forest plots in Northern Illinois. Following that summer of bat research in Illinois, I joined a crew of fervid mammalogists at the University of New Mexico, sampling rodent communities for Hantavirus as part of a long term study funded by the CDC and NIH. From New Mexico, it was off to the Sierra Nevadas of California to join the Forest Service as a crew lead on the Carnivore Monitoring Project. From California, I traveled to Texas to start graduate work at Angelo State University with Dr. Loren Ammerman conducting survey-based bat studies of the Chisos Mountains, Big Bend NP, and carrying out a population genetic and natural history thesis study on the Mexican long-nosed bat, receiving a Masters of Science in spring 2008. In the final semester of graduate work, I began consulting work on the Lone Star Wind Energy project conducting avian and bat fatality monitoring, which continued through 2009. During this time on the Lone Star project, I spent my evenings illustrating the figures to the second edition of *Bats of Texas*. The year we know as twenty-ten brought me back to the Northwest to join forces with Pat Ormsbee on the Bat Grid project. After a memory-filled term on the grid, it was back to Wind Energy and bats, joining TetraTech EC as a biologist working out of the Portland, Oregon office.

#### **At-large Representative—Bill Doering**

I am an environmental scientist with Power Engineers in Boise, Idaho where I provide environmental regulatory compliance and permitting support for electrical power transmission and renewable generation projects. I earned my Bachelor's degree in biology at the University of San Diego. My adventures with bats began in 1989 when I performed inventories of bat populations in the Idaho Panhandle. Since that time I have performed bat surveys and habitat assessments for a variety of resources agency clients, mostly in Idaho. For my Master's work under Dr. Barry Keller at Idaho State University, I studied thermal aspects of roosting site



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selection in Townsend's big-eared bats hibernating in lava caves. After graduate school I investigated spotted bat foraging habitat and distribution in Idaho. Currently I am engaged in the study of seasonal movements and timing as well as stopover habitats used by migrating tree bats as they cross the shrub-steppe desert of the Snake River Plain.

My areas of professional interest include resource requirements of mammals and herptiles, effects of anthropogenic noise on wildlife, bat ecology and habitat use, thermal ecology, physiological ecology, environmental stressor pathways and fate, avian protection and risk assessment, habitat fragmentation, community and restoration ecology, linear facility planning, NEPA, resource management planning, wildlife species at risk, and threatened and endangered species.

#### **At-large Representative—Jeff Gruver**

In my current position as Senior Bat Biologist for WEST, Inc. (Laramie, WY), I focus on understanding risk to bats in the context of wind energy development. This work keeps me heavily involved in strategies and techniques for acoustic monitoring, endangered species issues, and conservation efforts. It also allows me the opportunity to foster consensus on bat issues among developers and state and federal agencies. In my youth, I made good use of a B.S. in Economics by chasing bats around the forests of western Oregon for several summers. I subsequently earned a M.S. in Zoology & Physiology studying the bat community near a wind energy facility in Wyoming, with emphasis on habitat selection by hoary bats. I am currently completing my PhD Dissertation on the physiological ecology of habitat selection by 2 small solitary bats in southern Alberta. In addition to bat ecology, I am interested in conservation planning and strategies, standardization and protocol development, and consensus-building.

#### **At-large Representative—Amie Shovlain**

I completed my Masters in Science from Oregon State University in 2005 where I studied spotted frogs. Prior to that, I worked with spotted owls in Oregon, New Mexico, and Arizona. I now dream of spotted bats. I am currently employed by the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest as a wildlife biologist for Dillon, Wisdom, and Wise River Ranger Districts. I have worked for the Forest Service Region One Bat program since 2007 and took on the roll as program lead in 2008. I manage the Region's acoustic, genetic and survey data collection program which involves partner coordination with Forests in 3 states, USFS Research stations, USFS Region 6, The Bureaus of Land Management, Bat Conservation International (BCI), Heritage programs, State wildlife agencies, and others. I have organized two Regional



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workshops with BCI; Water for Wildlife, and Bats and Abandoned Mine, Bridge and Building Resources designed to help land managers promote bat conservation. I continue to promote bat conservation through development of a bat friendly abandoned mine program on my Forest, engagement in Montana's Bat working group, and Montana's newly formed White-nose Syndrome working group. Relevant job-related awards and memberships include: Glass Award, Wings Across the Americas Bat Conservation Award 2009; Certificate of Merit for Exemplary performance in providing direction to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's first bat survey effort, 2007; Bat Conservation International, member since 2007; and Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society, member since 2005.

#### **At-large Representative—Don Solick**

I am a wildlife biologist with 15 years experience conducting research on bats throughout the U.S. and Canada. I received my M.S. in Ecology from the University of Calgary, Alberta, where I compared the morphology, thermoregulation, and roosting ecology of western long-eared bats living in mountain and badland environments. I also hold a B.S. in Wildlife Biology and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from The Evergreen State College, Washington.

I currently help coordinate the bat research program at Western EcoSystems Technology (WEST), Inc., an environmental consulting firm based in Cheyenne, Wyoming, but with projects across North America. I have served as the lead bat biologist on approximately 100 projects over the past three years, and am primarily involved with acoustic monitoring (using Anabat and full-spectrum detectors), radar, and night-vision surveys to assess risk to bats at wind energy facilities. Prior to joining WEST, I worked as a seasonal field technician on a variety of bat projects (and for a variety of agencies) in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon, where I gained considerable experience with mist-netting and radio-telemetry of bats.

I have long been involved with the Western Bat Working Group, having attended the inaugural meeting in Reno in 1998 while still an undergrad. I have been a member of Working Groups in Arizona and Washington, and am currently an active member of the Colorado Bat Working Group. At the most recent Western Bat Working Group Workshop (Austin), I presented on the use of marine radar to study bats. I have also religiously attended NASBR meetings since 1998 (Madison), and served on the Research/Education Committee for Bats Northwest, a non-profit based in Washington, between 1997 and 1999. I live in Fort Collins, Colorado, with my wife and daughter.