

Agenda for Bat Appreciation Day 2026

Sponsored by the CT DEEP Wildlife Division and the
CT Department of Economic and Community Development



September 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine
115 Newgate Rd., East Granby, CT

Community Science Presentations – Times to be announced.

- **10:30 a.m. Kyle Paist**, University of Connecticut, “Microbiomes and Diets in Guano of Connecticut Little Brown Bat Maternal Colonies”
- **10:55 a.m. Alexis Proudman**, MSc, University of Connecticut, “How Active are Bats During Warm Winter Days?”
- **11:20 a.m. Margery Winters**, Roaring Brook Nature Center, “Gardening Under the Stars”
- **12:45 p.m. Chad Seewagen**, Executive Director of Great Hollow Nature Preserve and Ecological Research Center, “The Effects of Light Pollution on Connecticut’s Bats”
- **1:15 p.m. Jill Humphries**, DEEP Forestry Division, “Collaborating for Conservation: Wildlife and Forestry Divisions Team Up to Monitor Bats”
- **2:00 p.m. Devaughn Fraser**, DEEP Wildlife Division’s Bat Biologist, “Bats: Diversity and Conservation in Connecticut and Beyond”

Bat Story Time – All Day

Join us on the lawn outside the chapel for a kid’s book all about bats.

Bat Activity – All Day

Learn how bats interact with their ecosystem in this fun activity.

Five-Senses Hike – 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 p.m.

Meet at the Guard House Entrance for a hike around the grounds while exploring your five senses.

Bat House Assembly – 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

This demonstration will cover the key components of what makes a successful bat house.

All Day Activities

Mine Tour – Self-guided

Take an underground tour of a former prison/copper mine/current bat hibernaculum. Museum staff and bat experts will be in the mine to provide information on the historical background of the site and natural history of the bats that live there in winter.

Make a Bat Craft

Create your own bat mask and other bat-related crafts.

Bats Count! Live Bat Cam

Learn about the cooperative effort between the CT DEEP Wildlife Division and White Memorial Conservation Center (WMCC) in Litchfield to observe and study a big brown bat colony in a barn at WMCC. James Fischer, Research Director, will demonstrate how four livestream cameras provide a sneak peek into the amazing life of bats without disturbing them, and how you can help us learn more about the bats.

Befriending Bats

Wildlife (Bat) rehabilitator Maureen Heidtmann and Gerri Griswold from White Memorial Conservation Center will share their knowledge and passion about bats.

Bats of New-Gate Prison and Connecticut

Drop by to learn about the bat species that call New-Gate their winter home. In addition, learn about a devastating wildlife disease that threatens bats across North America.

Ask the Expert

Visit with DEEP wildlife biologists to satisfy your deep curiosities about bats. Explore bat acoustic monitoring.

How You Can Help Bats

Bats need your help. Learn what you can do to advance the conservation of bats and the ecosystems they belong to.

The Benefit of Bat Houses

Learn how to build and install a bat house on your property.

Habitat for Bats and Other Wildlife

Talk with CT DEEP Wildlife Division Biologist Peter Picone to learn about the importance of habitat for bats and other wildlife.

DEEP Forestry Division

Learn how the Forestry Division is working with the Wildlife Division to conserve bat habitat in our state forests.

CT DEEP State Parks and NCLI Families in the Parks

Find out how you can get involved with the NCLI Families in the Parks Program and participate in a family activity.

Lights Out Connecticut

Help protect birds and bats in Connecticut during migration by using a simple energy-saving tip.

Traprock Ridge Land Trust

The Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy protects 45 properties covering 642 acres in East Granby, Windsor, Bloomfield, and West Hartford. Learn about this organization and how to get involved!

Friends of Old New-Gate

The Friends Group is a nonprofit organization of people interested in advancing and encouraging the appreciation, understanding, enjoyment, and public use of the historical, educational, and cultural facility that is Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine.

Xerces Society

At the Xerces table, visitors will learn how invertebrates support healthy ecosystems and what actions they can take to help conserve beneficial invertebrates like pollinators. We will have handouts for people to take home and learn more about invertebrate conservation, as well as crafts and activities for kids to learn about insects like fireflies!

McLean Game Refuge

Learn about habitat conservation and wildlife research at McLean Game Refuge, including the recently discovered little brown bat colony.

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

Wild bees are declining worldwide, and one big reason is habitat loss. The good news? You can help right at home! Visit this table to discover which plants support bees in southern New England and learn simple tips for attracting the greatest diversity of bee species to your yard.

The local Lions Club will have a food tent in the main parking lot, where you can purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and other snacks.