

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.

- **Alexis Proudman**, MSc, University of Connecticut
- **UConn RAMPERS**, RaMP Program, University of Connecticut, “Bat Guano Tells a Story”
- **Margery Winters**, Roaring Brook Nature Center, “Gardening Under the Stars”
- **Chad Seewagen**, Executive Director of Great Hollow Nature Preserve and Ecological Research Center, “Artificial Lights at Night and Bats”
- **Bat Conservation in Connecticut and Beyond** – CT DEEP Wildlife Division’s Bat Biologist, Devaughn Fraser

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

McLean Game Refuge

Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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.