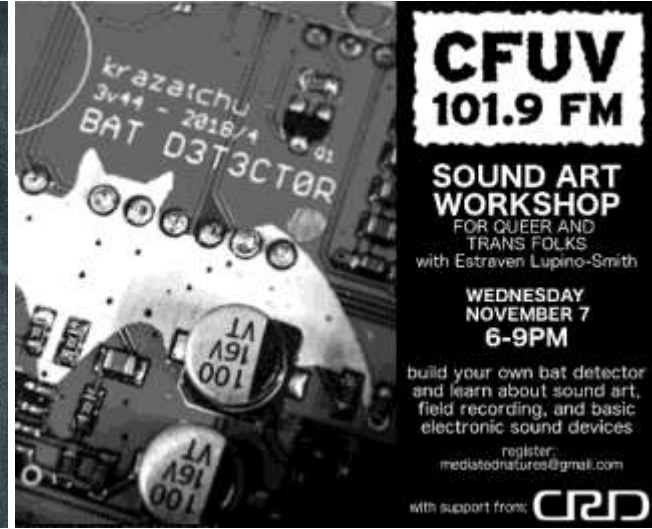


LESSONS LEARNED



SVI COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

By Paige Erickson-McGee | Stewardship Coordinator | Habitat Acquisition Trust | hat.bc.ca

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

Paige Erickson-McGee

Stewardship Coordinator

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Victoria's Local Land Trust

*we live and work in CRD on unceded Coast
Salish Territories**

*Including Esquimalt, Hul'qumi'num, Klahoose,
Lekwungen (Songhees), MALAXEt, Musqueam,
OStlq'emeylem, Pentlatch, Scia'new (Beecher Bay),
Sliammon, Shishalh, Skxwú7mesh-ulh Úxwumixw,
Stó:lo, Straits, Tsleil-Waututh, T'Sou-ke, W'SÁNEC
(Pauquachin, Tsartlip, Tsawout, Tseycum), and
Xwemalhkwu.*



HAT

WHO IS HAT?

Habitat Acquisition Trust

Non-profit society that conserves nature on South Vancouver Island

- Research
- Education
- Stewardship

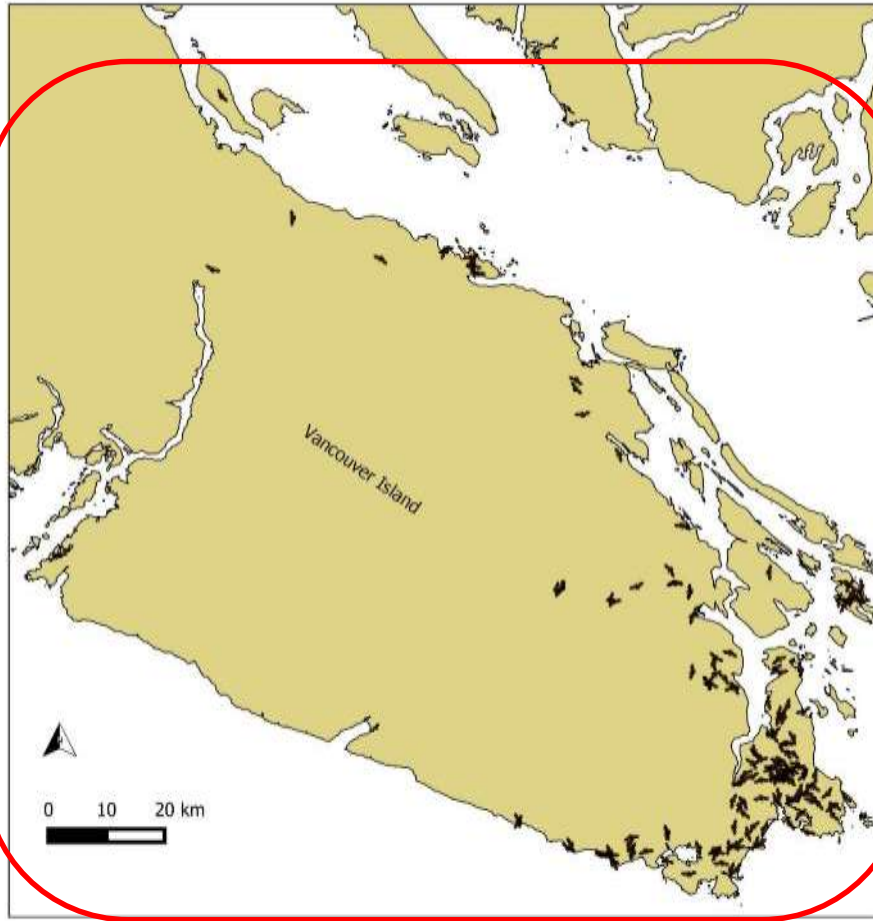
As a land trust, we secure significant lands through partnerships & conservation covenants





SPECIES AT RISK STEWARDSHIP

Approximate locations of 166 installed bat boxes on Vancouver Island, Sep 2018



Habitat Acquisition Trust Bat Project, Sep 2018

Map created by:
C. Engelstoft, HAT, 20 Sep 2018

SVI COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

1. Protection and Stewardship
2. Education and Outreach
3. Habitat Enhancement
4. Bat Counts & Research

SVI COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

2018 STATS:

597 calls/emails

54 site visits

21 evictions w/ box

22 hands-on assistance w/ box

25 Sites counted (100 counts)

72 citizen scientists volunteered

1 pest control workshop

183: Total reported bat roosts since 2014



WINTER REPORTS

Winter Reports - 18



HABITAT PROTECTION & STEWARDSHIP

Protecting existing roosts and foraging sites

- Wetlands & other foraging areas
- Roosts, esp. in human structures



HAT



1. HABITAT PROTECTION

Lessons Learned: Hard to do, not permanent protection (depends on landowner) maybe partner with other groups?



2. STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Metchosin
Community
Hall Roost

1500 bats
>Yuma & Little
Brown
>Bat-Friendly
Community?



STEWARDSHIP

Hall - Counts twice per month



STEWARDSHIP

Metchosin Community Hall
Guano clean-out



STEWARDSHIP

Hall - Lessons Learned:

- Communications is very important - Partnerships based on honesty and trust are critical
- Emphasize that mitigation is “required” by BC Com Bat Pgm
- Everyone on same page (regular check ins)
- Handholding is sometimes needed
- Things take time (more than you think, eg. Camera set up)
- *Myotis* spp in tight places, hard to photograph

STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Townsend's Roost in Barn





STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Townsend's Roost in Barn



STEWARDSHIP

Eg.
Townsend's
Roost in
Barn



STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Townsend's Roost in Barn



STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Townsend's Roost in Barn



STEWARDSHIP

Eg. Townsend's Roost in Barn

Lessons Learned:

- Social media is important to monitor
- Experimenting with a Townsends quarter
- Work in progress



BECOME A GOOD NEIGHBOUR TO NATURE!



Habitat Steward: invasive plants | naturescapes | wildlife habitat | watershed protection | learning

NETWORK OF STEWARDS

empowered community
strength in numbers
collaboration
=
habitat corridors



ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: PLANT A BAT GARDEN

food | water | shelter

Bat Garden Plants:

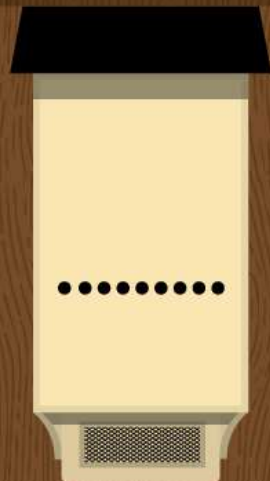
- Mock orange
- June plum (Indian-plum)
- Rose
- Shootingstar
- False Solomon's seal

Bring Back the **Bats, Man!**

Bats require insects.
Planting flowers
that vary in color,
fragrance, and shape
will help attract insects.



Build a bat box with
a grooved 'bat ladder'
and a narrow entrance
on the bottom.



Watch for bats at
dusk! This is when
they tend to be the
most active.



3. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Eg. Annual Bat Exploration Walk with Parks Naturalists



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Eg. Big Bat Bike Ride
Oct 2016+2017

Lessons Learned;

- Peer-to-peer fundraising
- Medium-low input from organization
- Don't make it too far a bike ride (90km is too far)



VICTORIA NEWS



Alanah Nasadyk (left) and Paige Erickson-McGee were part of the Big Bat Bike Ride on Sunday (Oct. 29). Contributed photo

Big Bat Bike Ride flies in to help creatures on South Island

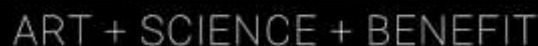
Campaign aims to house bats who have lost natural habitats and face extinction

KRISTYN ANTHONY / Oct. 27, 2017 12:30 p.m. / [LOCAL NEWS](#) / [NEWS](#)

Eg. Big Bat Bash Oct 2018



Local artist Estraven Lupino-Smith speaks with community members at the Bat Bash. The event was held by the Metchosin Community Hall and the Metchosin Bat Colony. (Shaul Menta/News Staff)



OPEN HOUSE | FREE ADMISSION | COSTUMES WELCOME

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 2-8PM
METCHOSIN COMMUNITY HALL

[@habitatacqtrust](#) | hat.bc.ca/bats | habitat acquisition trust



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Eg. Big Bat Bash Oct 2018

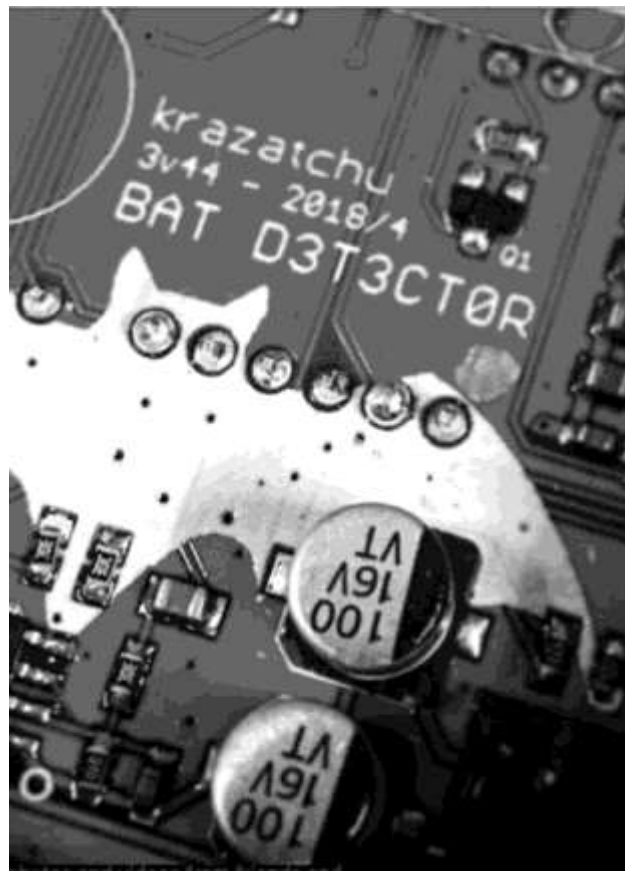
- Partnerships with Scouts and Guides and other local youth
- Roost Stewards
- 350 attendees
- Raised \$4,000!



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Arts + Science Workshop

Lesson Learned: Think
outside the box in terms of
partnership and funding



CFUV
101.9 FM

**SOUND ART
WORKSHOP**

FOR QUEER AND
TRANS FOLKS
with Estraven Lupino-Smith

**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 7
6-9PM**

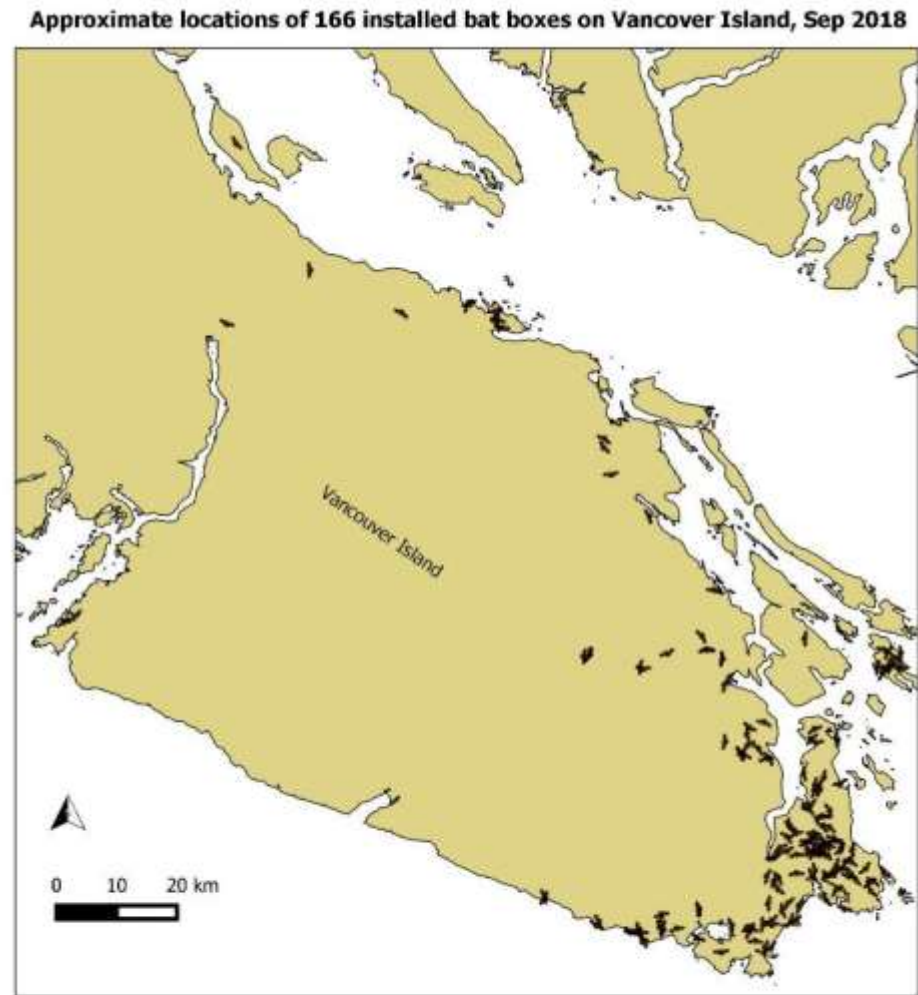
build your own bat detector
and learn about sound art,
field recording, and basic
electronic sound devices

register:
mediatednatures@gmail.com

with support from: **CRD**

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT: BAT BOXES

- Successful in that we have installed 166 (+24 in fall 2018) boxes – should we stop?
- 190 boxes total



BAT BOXES

- Partnership opportunities
 - > Parks depts.
 - > Land managers:
 - Golf Courses
 - Summer Camps
 - Schools
 - > Non-profits with land
 - > Community Halls, Museums, Heritage buildings, farms



BAT BOXES

- Should we just put them up anywhere?
- What is the objective of the bat box program?
- If no bats in the box after 5 years, do we decommission?
- How can we be sure its empty?



BAT BOXES

Lessons Learned:

- Woodpeckers like the boxes
- People always want to install them on trees
- Some people just don't reply, don't monitor – do we remove it?
- We don't host workshops on building boxes – because they are installed in poor locations, they are complicated to build for the average landowner
- Now questions around benefits of boxes...
- How many do we install at one exclusion site?

BAT BOXES

Lessons Learned:

Modifications to the boxes for easier installation:

- 4CMB - Phalange on back, extra 1 inch on both sides, added flashing
- Rocket – Built to fit a 4x4 wood post, and steepened the angle of roof for rain, added flashing



STEWARDSHIP? PROBABLY NOT. EDUCATION!

Sometimes boxes are just for learning



Pest Control Insects

February

Put out Blue Orchard Bee tubes/boxes

March

Clean out old bird houses and put up new ones

April

Regularly clean hummingbird feeders (no food colour!)

May

Regularly clean bird bath and feeders

June

Start watering new plants

July

Keep an eye on weeds & seed heads. Mow late if necessary

August

Don't forget to collect native plant seeds

Bat House

Call HAT to see if yard is suitable (995.2428)

FREE Native Plant Gardening workshops

Provided by CRD at Swan Lake

www.crd.bc.ca



BAT COUNTS & RESEARCH

- Team leader format works well!
- Need a better data sheet that can accommodate more count numbers
- Can we create an online form everyone can use province-wide?
- How do we locate (and protect) natural roosts?

Data Summary province-wide to send to landowners and participants was helpful to demonstrate the impact that one person can have

FEE FOR SERVICE

- More requests than time or funds
- Undervalued as a non-profit
- Partner with Pest Control Co.s...
- Exclusion: \$300
- Consult & Box install: \$250
- Box Only \$128.50
- Subsidy program for those who cannot pay



Did You Know...?

All bat species in British Columbia are protected under the BC Wildlife Act. The Community Bat Program at HAT offers homeowners with services and support to reduce the impact on bats during bat removal and bat control activities in homes and other human-made structures.

Homes and other structures can offer warm, safe shelters for some bat species, particularly females and their pups. Additionally, buildings can be used at temporary night roosts and migratory stop-overs. Buildings have become an important resource for bats where natural roosting habitat is limited. As a result, bats are more likely to come into contact with people.

Homeowners have an opportunity to contribute to conservation of bats by following some simple guidelines for dealing with bats in buildings. See this document for the list of services that you can access through HAT.



EXCLUSIONS

An exclusion is when you would like to remove bats from your home or other structure. HAT offers a consultation, exclusion, and bat box installation with our staff biologist. This involves making time for a roughly 2 hour process to make a safe plan for the bats to leave the roost and to place a box on your property to provide alternative roost habitat. Fee: \$300

CONSULT AND INSTALL

If you have bats in your structure but don't require an exclusion, you can still put up a bat box. It is best if you can monitor the bats and have a sense of roost population size in your structure to determine what kind of bat box suits your needs. If you can't do a count, HAT can send volunteers to perform a count. Once we have a sense of the numbers, you can book an appointment with our biologist to do a site consult and bat box installation. This can take between 30 and 90 minutes. Fee: \$250

INVITE

If you don't have bats but would like to provide habitat for them on your property you can purchase a bat box



and install it yourself. If you can commit to 4 years of monitoring, we can install the bat box for you free of charge. The bat boxes that HAT recommends are built through our Bat Stewardship Program and are available in two sizes. One is suited to Big Brown Bats and the other provides habitat for both the Yuma and Little Brown Myotis.

Box Fee: \$128.50

All of these processes take place in the fall months, please contact us for further details. If these fees are a barrier to you becoming a bat steward, please inquire about our subsidy program.

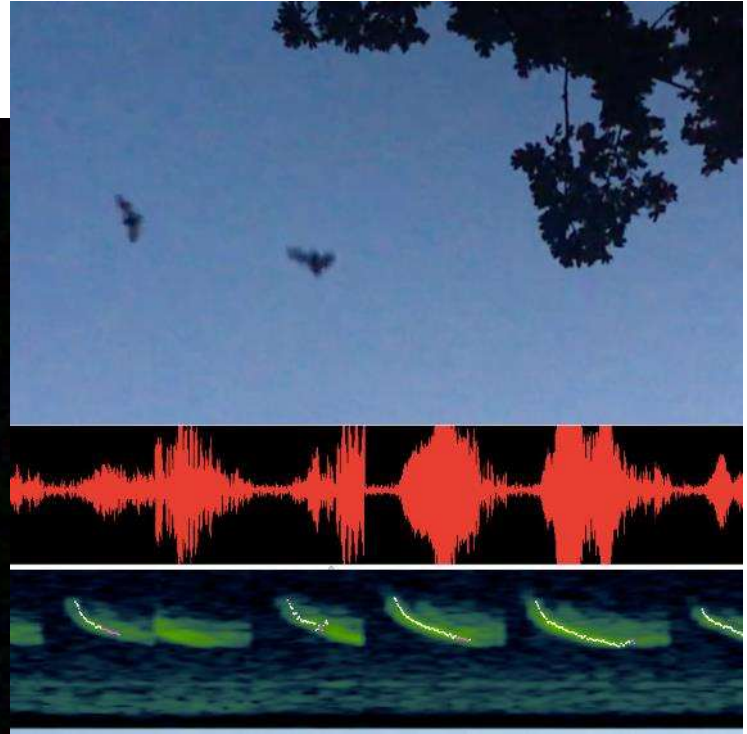


HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION



ACOUSTIC MONITORING & DNA

- Goal: Acoustic monitoring at every roost in SVI for 2019
- Future: DNA testing ourselves?



THANK YOU – QUESTIONS? (OR ANSWERS?)



By Paige Erickson-McGee | Stewardship Coordinator | Habitat Acquisition Trust | hat.bc.ca