

# Where have all the bats gone?

Have you noticed fewer bats this year? Bats are dying off by the thousands. The cause is a mysterious illness: "White Nose Syndrome."

Join us at  
Chester Meeting House  
August 15, 2010  
4-6 p.m.

- The disease has spread from New York to New England, as far north as Ontario and as far west as Oklahoma.
- In two major caves in Connecticut 90% of hibernating bats have died.
- Overall, more than one million bats have perished from this disease.

**Why does this affect us?** The world's bats pollinate plants and disperse seeds that replant rain forests. Connecticut's bats eat huge amounts of harmful insects, including crop destroyers and mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus. The decline of bats will result in increased use of pesticides as well as other environmental impacts.

Jenny Dickson, supervising Wildlife Biologist with the  
Connecticut D.E.P.

will report on the status of this crisis

Jenny has been tracking the mortality rates of bats in Connecticut and will speak on the status of the bat population and current research about this disease. Bats are among many threatened wild animals in Connecticut. We will also discuss how individuals and land protection organizations might play a role in preserving our precious wildlife.

#### **Sponsored by:**

Chester Land Trust, Deep River Land Trust, East Haddam Land Trust, Essex Land Trust, Haddam Land Trust, Lynde Point Land Trust, Old Lyme Conservation Trust, Westbrook Land Conservation Trust, Chester Conservation Commission, Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency, Connecticut River Gateway Commission

**For more information: [smhaig@snet.net](mailto:smhaig@snet.net)**