

Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Presents

Bats: Fact and Fiction

With Bill Schutt, PhD

Monday, April 9, 2012 — 7pm



Bats are essential to the health of our ecosystems. They are important predators of pests and pollinators and seed-dispersers for countless plants. Despite this, these wonderful animals have gotten a really bad rap!

Centuries of myths and misinformation still generate needless fears and threaten bats and their habitats around the world. Bat populations are declining almost everywhere. White Nosed Syndrome is decimating bat populations at an alarming rate with over a million bats lost thus far. Losing bats would have devastating consequences for natural ecosystems and human economies.

Tonight we will discuss the natural history of bats, dispel some myths, discover why they are such an important component in our natural world and learn about the threats that are facing bats around the world.

Bill Schutt earned his Master's degree in biology from Geneseo State College. He then attended Cornell, receiving his Ph.D in zoology. After graduating in 1995, Bill taught for three years at Bloomfield College in New Jersey while simultaneously working on a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the American Museum of Natural History with bat expert Nancy Simmons. In 1998, Bill accepted a faculty position at Southampton College (Long Island University). In 2005, he transferred to his undergraduate *alma mater*, C.W. Post College, where he is currently an Associate Professor of Biology (teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Evolution, Mammalogy, Vertebrate Paleontology, and Vertebrate Anatomy). Additionally, Bill has strong ties to the American Museum of Natural History, where he is a Research Associate in the Department of Mammalogy. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book "*Dark Banquet: Blood and the Curious Lives of Blood-Feeding Creatures*" and is currently working on his next book titled: "*You Are What You Eat: A Natural (and Unnatural) History of Cannibalism*" scheduled to be published in the spring of 2013.

All meetings are free and open to the public!
95 Harbor Road (Rt 25A), Cold Spring Harbor
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