

BAT Research Application

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Bat Research Project

Heather Heying

Farmhouse at Organic Farm

the Organic Farm

\$2,500

Spring/Summer/Fall 2014

March - November 2014

Greg Falxa, Susan LaPointe, Loren Klyne, Jessica Schwab

We seek to expand public interest and awareness of the bats that live commensally with humans at evergreen. This summer, we would like to set up the infrastructure and installation of a night-vision equipped camera, a “batcam” in a roost location at the Farmhouse. We hope that we can work with Washington Fish and Wildlife and utilize their wildlife cam program. Installing a camera at the Farmhouse would allow Evergreen students and members of the wider community to observe adult and juvenile bats. This video feed would be accessible through the internet. These live observations would benefit the Farmhouse bat research. The camera and setup would be available for future bat research projects at Evergreen. Enhancing the community’s knowledge of the local ecosystem will enhance our understanding of sustainable living in this pacific forest environment. We hope that the batcam can raise awareness for the CEC’s work towards sustainable development.

February to April: Wait for the bats to migrate back to Olympia.

April: Temperature data collection will begin and volunteers will begin emergence counts (Organized by Jessica Schwab)

May: Batcam Installation

June: Tracking, acoustic survey, and vocalization research begin

September: Establish new leadership and group structure for summer 2015

November: Present research results to the Evergreen community

Our most direct measure of the project success will be the batcam's popularity and the community involvement in data collection and support. It will be important to ensure that the camera is functioning and accessible through the internet. By letting the bats "speak for themselves", we hope to allow community members learn about human-bat interactions in a new and interesting way.

Director of Facilities, Science Operations Manager

Research - Resource Conservation, Research - Sustainability Strategies,
Education - Resource Conservation, Education - Sustainability Strategies

Often we forget that we live amid forests that support a wide variety of plants and animals. Not only must we combat global-impact problems like climate change, we must also preserve the natural habitat that exists around us. Bats are among the most fascinating of local animals, and the least seen. Our research will help the Evergreen community make informed decisions about the future of the farmhouse, and it will help raise enthusiasm for sustainable living in this beautiful habitat.

This year our focus is community involvement. By building a community of students interested in bats and ecosystem conservation, we hope to build a foundation that carries forward the project long after we are gone from Evergreen. We have already had phenomenal volunteer support for our project. Last year, dozens of people took time out of their evening schedules to sit outside the farmhouse and count the bats as they emerged. By integrating more cool activities like bat walks through the forest and new equipment like the proposed batcam, we hope to reach out to more students and expand the leadership by training other students to count, record, and study these adorable mammals.