



Curriculum Vitae of Amanda Lollar

Bat World Sanctuary
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- Founder and President of Bat World Sanctuary (BWS).
- Scientific wildlife rehabilitator licensed with the State of Texas, specializing in bats. State permitted to hold and rehabilitate threatened and endangered species of bats. USDA licensed.
- Author of both popular and scientific information about bats.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Founded Bat World Sanctuary, an indoor, simulated natural habitat facility that currently houses over 300 non-releasable bats. The population includes bats that are orphaned, injured, confiscated from the illegal pet trade and retired from zoos and research facilities. The main building also contains a rehabilitation center and serves as a training facility for bat care professionals. Impact: Approximately 80% of all bats admitted to rehabilitation (about 500 bats per year) are returned to the wild after treatment. An additional 400-500 bats are rehabilitated annually through Bat World Sanctuary satellites across the country.
- Using personal finances, purchased a building in 1992, located in the downtown area of Mineral Wells, TX, in order to protect a wild colony of 30,000 Mexican free-tail bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis Mexicana*). The building has served as habitat for this colony since 1930 and the bats were in danger of being destroyed by the previous building owner. The building is now owned and protected by the BWS organization. The population in the wild sanctuary has the ability to consume over 54 billion insects annually. The structure is also an established stop-over for migratory bats. Impact: The bat population has increased 60% due to ventilation, temperature and structural improvements.
- Created the first nutritionally sound diet for convalescing insectivorous bats. Impact: Allows bat care specialists and rehabilitators to provide proper nutrition to bats that are too frightened or compromised to self feed.
- Conducted the first successful mating behavior study for the Mexican free-tailed bat (*T. brasiliensis*), including their complicated social structure. Impact: Proved that insectivorous bats can successfully breed in a proper captive environment and laid the foundation for promising behavioral studies on the emotional and social lives of insectivorous bats.
- Created a website for bat care professionals to access updated medical treatments and medications for insectivorous bats, free of charge. Impact: The ability to save a species begins with up-to-date, readily available information.

- Conducted the largest urban rescue of bats in the state of Texas. Bats were sealed within the walls of a building being renovated in Fort Worth, TX. After rehabilitation, over 1,200 bats were released back into the wild via the wild sanctuary. Impact: Over 1,200 rehabilitated bats were released into the wild via the wild sanctuary.
- Established an environment welcoming biologists and researchers, to the BWS facility, to conduct studies working with the existing population at the wild sanctuary rather than performing studies in the field. Impact: Prevents untrained individuals from performing invasive studies in the field that causes casualties to healthy bats.
- Convinced the City of Mineral Wells, TX to avoid fogging with pesticides in areas where bat populations reside in buildings within the downtown areas. Significance: Exposure to pesticides significantly increases bat fatalities as well as birth defects in unborn bats.
- Produced CD (Bat Talk) on the language of the Mexican free-tail bat which, for the first time, demonstrates the complicated social structure of the species. Impact: Identified over 20 different vocalizations (including tonation) and associated behavior.
- Consultation on bat care has been provided to veterinarians and bat care professionals in Germany, France, Mexico, Italy, Bulgaria, South Africa, Cayman Islands, Australia, New South Wales, China and England, free of charge. Significance: Unifies a global community concerning the care of bats.
- Designed the first of its kind bat exhibit in Las Vegas to demonstrate insectivorous bats can be viewed on public display without creating undue stress to the animals. Bats remain asleep in a simulated natural environment and are viewed via infra-red cameras, and are taken off display and placed into a large flight cage each night. Impact: This project was created to help improve the style of exhibits typically utilized for insectivorous bats in some zoos, science and nature centers, where bats seldom survive from being placed on public display under bright lights.
- Consultant to zoos, aquariums, animal control agencies, wildlife parks and animal care professionals, around the world regarding the captive care and rehabilitation of bats.
- Established a scholarship program where up to three scholarships are awarded each year to deserving individual's who have a desire to dedicate, in a professional capacity, a portion of their life to the conservation and protection of bats. Veterinary and biology student internships are also available every summer.
- Created guidelines for education programs using live bats. Impact: Improves general knowledge concerning the vital role bats play in our environment. By utilizing live bats, dispels myths and centuries of misinformation about the intelligence, gentleness, cleanliness and small size of bats as opposed to the villainous image all forms of media have imposed on bats.
- Established a bat house project on buildings throughout the downtown Mineral Wells area. Impact: These houses provide alternate roost sites for the bat colonies that were being excluded from businesses and homes.
- Convinced the owners of the Fort Worth Convention Center parking garage to utilize a humane bat excluder rather than exterminating the bats. BWS installed custom made bat houses to provide additional bat habitat. Impact: The colony of over 30,000 bats that were saved will consume over 150 million bugs nightly in an urban area.
- Bat World Sanctuary and the work done by Ms. Lollar have been featured on 20/20, Animal Planet, Nickelodeon, The Disney Channel, the David Letterman Show and the CBS Morning Show. Impact: Media attention and awards bring greater recognition to the importance of bats to our own well-being and the reasons for their dwindling numbers.

- Established 20 BWS Rescue Centers across the U.S. Individuals must have graduated from BWS workshops and meet stringent requirements to be considered for application as a satellite rescue center. Each center is established by invitation only after a strict review of qualifications. Impact: BWS Centers improve the viability of all bat species in the U.S. through rescue, rehabilitation and education, reaching 50,000-100,000 people annually.
- Presented seminars on medical care of bats for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, and the Lubee Bat Conservancy. Research has included collaborative work with Bat Conservation International, the California Bat Conservation Fund, and The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Boston University, and the Rabies Branch of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Impact: Introduced wildlife groups and universities to established, proven medical treatment for bats.
- Co-authored the first medical reference available for insectivorous bats: *Captive Care and Medical Reference for the Rehabilitation of Insectivorous Bats*.
- Authored *Standards and Medical Management for Captive Insectivorous Bats*.
- Co-developed the United States Fish and Wildlife Service protocol for wildlife rehabilitators in response to White Nose Syndrome (WNS) affected bats in the northeastern U.S. Impact: Provided set procedures for the care of debilitated bats suffering from a disease with no known cure.
- Implemented the development of the first bat-specific milk replacement formula for orphaned insectivorous bat pups, and made the recipe available to bat care professionals around the world, free of charge. Impact: In 2007, after an unprecedented loss of up to 85% of bat pups being raised on popular commercial milk replacement formulas across the U.S., Ms. Lollar commissioned four independent laboratory analyses of the commercial formulas. Results from these laboratories included the presence of heavy metal toxins and inaccuracies in nutrient levels.
- Instructed the only week-long annual workshop available in the world on the rehabilitation of insectivorous bats. This workshop has been ongoing for 10 years and with over 400 students taught. Impact: Animal care professionals from every bat-inhabited continent have trained at Bat World Sanctuary and have taken that knowledge back to their own states and countries to teach others.
- Proved that hand-raised, orphaned *T. brasiliensis* can be released into the wild and learn to forage for insects on their own. Impact: Thousands of orphaned pups across the globe, that would have otherwise perished, are now saved to be returned to the wild.
- Co-authored the North American Migratory Bat Act, a proposed bill three years in the making. Impact: Provides the stimulus for legislation to be passed to give bats federal protection under the Migratory Species Act.
- Created a prototype tattoo device for insectivorous bats intended to replace wing bands that have proved injurious to many species of wild bats. Impact: Proved there are humane alternatives to 'accepted' methods that cause injury and death in otherwise healthy bats.
- Established a wild preserve with bat houses (and natural Indian caves) on Lake Whitney, TX, on donated land that is inaccessible to the public. Impact: Wild colonies of bats will have the opportunity to roost in a protected area.
- Secured private land and architectural plans to build a man-made cave outside the city limits of Mineral Wells, TX. Impact: Provide protected habitat for current population and future generations of *T. brasiliensis Mexicana* in order to move more than 2 million bats out of the city limits where they are not protected.

- Ms. Lollar won the 2005 Doris Day Kindred Spirit Award, was one of the ten finalists for the Animal Planet Hero of the Year Award in 2008, and was nominated for the Indianapolis Prize in 2009.

CHALLENGES OVERCOME

Until recently, the conservation of bats has not been well accepted by the public. It has been a constant uphill battle to overcome the ignorance, superstition, fear and apathy the public has exhibited towards bats as a whole. When Ms. Lollar first established BWS, local support such as volunteers and donations were non-existent (although that has now changed). Financial hardship has been substantial due to the unpopularity of bats, as well as donors confusing BWS with another large bat organization in the state of Texas who, some mistakenly presume, fund BWS. Ms. Lollar, on her own, educated herself in the anatomy of bats while working on deceased specimens. She subsequently developed the widely accepted medical procedures used today. These procedures are being utilized worldwide to save the lives of bats that were previously euthanized. Additionally, she developed a nutritionally complete captive care diet to maintain captive reproductive colonies of insectivorous bats as well as those in rehabilitation. She also established proper housing and flight area protocol to increase the survivability of bats during rehabilitation.

The wild sanctuary, located in a separate commercial building in the downtown area of Mineral Wells, TX, has been a particular adversity. A major clean up of the building had to occur in order to protect the bats who had been living in the crawlspace for decades. Approximately 6000 lbs. of guano was removed from the crawlspace, the roof was repaired, the entire ceiling was removed to increase ventilation, a new roof and solar extraction fans were installed, a safety net was erected to protect fallen pups in the maternity area, and catwalks were built to assist with rescues and research. In order to further increase support, Mineral Wells city officials were invited to inspect the wild sanctuary and it subsequently received their approval. Approximately 50 pounds of guano is swept from the sanctuary floors daily, in temperatures that exceed 105°F in the summer.

PERSONAL SACRIFICES

In 1994, Ms. Lollar liquidated her furniture business in order to establish the Bat World Sanctuary facility. Capitol did not exist to fund the project, so she sold all personal belongings and moved into an upper area of the building that once served as an office. She took out several personal loans to subsidize the facility. In addition, she sold her personal vehicle to finance the purchase of a utility vehicle currently owned by the organization.

Ms. Lollar has worked a minimum of 14 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year for nearly 20 years to further the protection of bats. A contingency plan is in place to ensure her lifework to support bats will continue for decades to come.