

S.A.V.E. NOTES

News from the Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment

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AUGUST, 2023

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Who Are We Humans Anyway?

Over the summer months I have been reflecting on being human and the part we play on planet Earth. Several authors name this period in time the Anthropocene Era, meaning the Age of the Human. Others say we are the originators of the Technozoic Era because of our technological advancements. Thomas Berry, a cultural historian, labeled it as The New Age of Anxiety.

Humans have done many things during our time on the planet, and perhaps we should stop and



review our place before we go any further. We've developed agriculture, built machines, created new means of communication and are smart enough to reach and explore space. Now, after a silent period of complacency satisfied with what we've accomplished, we find ourselves in a time of transhumanism and artificial intelligence developing robotic cyborgs which could alter our presence on earth. Humans are the first living species to determine the fate of the planet. What an awesome responsibility! No other species in all the past 3.5 billion years of life on Earth can claim this status. The rise in global warming, species extinction, years of droughts, massive wildfires, warming temperatures and violent storms all caused by human's presence should raise our anxiety and consciousness about what is at stake here and how best to proceed.

Perhaps, a prophetic and cautionary message from Albert Einstein is more pertinent now: "If we change the world, let it bear the mark of our intelligence." So, how are we doing? Are we living the myth that human progress is making the world better for all? Robert McElroy, Cardinal of San Diego, stated: "The whole human race faces a moment of supreme crisis in its advancement toward maturity." It is remarkable that in the midst of this crisis, we use our creativity, our imagination, our compassion and love to reach out to others, a practice that became more prevalent post-COVID. On a cosmic scale, we find the beautiful images from the Webb telescope and realize Earth is part of the Universe in which we are all a part. We humans are connected to all life that continues living in the midst of the New Age of Anxiety we have caused. Perhaps in the tension of this moment we may eventually be recreated into a "new type of human" that brings us to the level of maturity and selflessness that Cardinal McElroy expressed and that Einstein called us to many years ago.

Sister Rosine Sobczak, OSF S.A.V.E. President

Annual Clean Your Streams Day September 30

Now in its 27th year, NW Ohio's Clean Your Streams Day (CYS) brings hundreds of volunteers together for a three-hour effort to scoop up marine trash from over 30 miles of waterways in the greater Toledo area. Volunteers of all ages work together and record data on what they are picking up. The information is sent to the Ocean Conservancy to be added to the International Coastal Cleanup records.

Many groups, such as youth volunteer groups, businesses, church groups, and environmental organizations participate in friendly CYS group challenges.

To get involved, go to partnersforcleanstreams.org/events/cys.



S.A.V.E. was established in August 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to make a difference and promote a love and appreciation for our natural world. It is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

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Book Awarded 'Mom's Choice" for Excellence



Cynthia Olsen recently published a charming book, "Old Crabby Turtle, "which highlights the concepts of bravery, trust, hope, forgiveness and helping others no matter who they are. It is written in an easy reading style and comes alive by illustrator Nathalie Kranich. The author explains that many bullies are hurting inside themselves. This book can be purchased at Amazon, Hip to the Groove in Sylvania, Barnes and Noble and Gathering Volumes Bookstore in Perrysburg for \$20.00. A portion of the money from the sale of this book will be donated to the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue & Rehabilitation Center in Surf City, NC.

Financial Report for August 2023

In the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year which is ending on August 31, 2022, we have seen 14 new memberships. We saw an increase in dues renewals but some **members'** dues are still past due. These late dues have caused us to send out "reminder postcards" for an additional expense.

Our new 2023-2024 Fiscal Year begins **September 1, 2023.** (See page 12). Please pay in cash, credit card or PayPal. Application and dues can be brought to a SAVE lecture, or slid under the Office door in SAH 166.

Minimizing Your Pet's Carbon Paw Print

Getting a Pet - Adopt. Many need a home and many shelters neuter or spay their adoptees reducing the pet population.

Feeding your pet - Cats are carnivores requiring a meat-based diet. Dogs are omnivores and reduced meat diets with vegetables and fruits are well-tolerated. Feeding them a rich human-made diet is questionable knowing that 10% of the world's population is starving.

Nature calls - Pets produce five million tons of feces per year more, than 90 million Americans. Gather pet feces in a bag and put with trash. Dog feces can be flushed in the toilet.



Cat feces should never be flushed since their feces carries toxoplasma, a parasite, and will infect our water. Pregnant women should never clean a cat litter box as the parasite could cause harm to the fetus. Puppy training? Use washable puppy pee pads instead of single use.

Saying Goodbye – It is never easy when a pet dies, but it is inevitable. Biodegradable caskets and urns can be purchased. Cremation is safer and is more sustainable than burial. Some states ban back-yard burials as other animals can dig them up and spread diseases they may have had.

Some shelters may take pet toys, bowls or other items as your pet's legacy but contact them first. *Sierra*, Summer 2022.

In Loving Memory...

Sadly, Valerie Obloza, a S.A.V.E. member since 2011 died on August 22, 2023.

Please keep her and her family in prayer at this time.

New Corporate Sponsor

Welcome to another Corporate Sponsor—Sautter's Market in Sylvania. Thanks to owner, James (Jim) Sautter, for supporting our work. Please support our

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

- Jane Goodall

Earth-Friendly Sunscreens

Sunscreens can be bad for coral reefs and for underwater life forms in any water ways and oceans.

Monica Moritsch, EDF marine biologist, suggests using protective hats and clothing to reduce the need for sunscreens. If it is necessary, use sunscreens that **do not** contain harmful chemicals such as oxybenzone, octinoxate and parabens. Products containing mineral – based sunscreens with zinc oxide and titanium dioxide



are less harmful. Look for the non-nano label because corals will not ingest larger particles. Using these will keep both you and underwater species safe.

"Look at a tree, a flower, a plant. Let your awareness rest upon it. How still they are, how deeply rooted in Being. Allow nature to teach you stillness."

-Eckhart Tolle

Toledo Repair Café: Fix it First

Have any jewelry, small appliances, bikes, clothing or computers that need repair? Bring your items to the Toledo Repair Cafe's team of volunteers free of charge.

The team seeks to help reduce consumerism waste filling up landfills by offering expert solutions to fixing the items we already own before trashing them and buying new. Sister Rosine reports that she has had three necklaces, one lamp and two purses repaired already.



The Toledo Repair Café is made up of volunteers from local communities of faith, community colleges, and our own Toledo Lucas County Public Library System. S.A.V.E. is represented in this project, by John Krochmalny, who is a repair volunteer.

Upcoming Dates

Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

August 26 Washington Branch

September 30 West Toledo Branch October 21 Kent Branch Library

November 18 Heatherdowns Branch

Understanding the Cost of Lithium Batteries

"The challenge we face is how to avoid inflicting the most of that harm on the blameless."

Cell phones, laptops and almost all electric vehicles use lithium batteries. What is lithium?

 It is an element found in deep areas and in great amounts in the Atacama Desert in Chile, China, Nevada and Indonesia. Chile provides 25% of the lithium needed for global production. Its price



- has doubled since 2020 and, because of the need for electric vehicles to decrease climate change, a 42-fold increase in Lithium is estimated to be needed by 2040.
- Extraction of lithium requires a great amount of water, and the Atacama Desert already is extremely dry. Water is flushed into the mines mixing with lithium and creates a very toxic brine which eventually leaches into other bodies of water, polluting them for living organisms.
- Lithium extraction has already taken a toll. The need for so much water for mining operation has left Indigenous people with unsustainable living conditions.
- Replacing gas-powered vehicles for electric reduces the carbon content, but depletes areas where lithium, copper and other minerals are mined for newer technologies.
- The modern world is already destroying living for people who will never see the result of this frenzied mining.

Always remember on this path to sustainability, that we must always weigh the costs and be open to the next better solution.

Excerpts from Vince Beiser's article in *Sierra* Winter 2023, Support for this article provided by *Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Canada Council the Arts*

The Biodiversity Crisis: An Existential Threat to Survival

The above title is ominous, but carries a great deal of truth. **Biodiversity** is a collective term for all the living species on this earth. The interconnectedness among these species is unfathomable. Loss of one could cause unlimited damage and/or death to a host of others. The human- made decrease in biodiversity is exhibiting a great deal of species extinction which is on the way to hundreds of thousands of species:

CHEMICAL POLLUTION – a threat to our honey bees and our food production.

OVERUTILIZATION – nature reproduces items but slower than we use them.

CLIMATE CHANGE - this addresses species extinction at an alarming rate.

HABITAT DESTRUCTION - cutting down trees, paving land, putting up more buildings and building dams all force imperiled species into smaller land parcels, stress the species and increase their die-off rate.

Earthjustice Newsletter – because the Earth needs a good lawyer.

Our 2023 S.A.V.E. Scholarship Winners

The Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.), Inc. is pleased to announce winners of the FIRST S.A.V.E. Environmental Leadership Scholarships to:

Eva Skarbinski is from Allen Park High School in Allen Park, MI,

She will attend University of Michigan in fall 2023.

Garrett Ody is from St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, OH.

He will attend Ohio University in fall 2023.



Eva will be going to the University of Michigan College of Literature, Science and Arts in Environmental Science fall 2023. "We should make Environmental Science part of the general science curriculum, starting even as early as middle school. The earlier we can teach kids about the environment, the easier it will be for them to cultivate an eco-friendly lifestyle," says Eva. "My mom cultivated her love for Earth by taking me to parks and trails all the time as a kid."

This fall, Garrett is going to Ohio University, a school known for its commitment to the environment, to study Environmental Science and Sustainability.

"I am a firm believer that there is still time to help solve issues such as global warming, and I am very interested in seeing what I can do, personally and with others, to combat these world problems."

"My grandmother influenced me the most," Garret says. "She always worked with plants and cared deeply for nature and the earth."

"We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change and the last generation that can do something about it."

- Barack Obama

Welcome to Our New Members!

Annette Fink
Kathy Varga

Membership Renewals

S.A.V.E. is proud to now have 100 members!

Our new fiscal year begins Sept. 1, and this is when we request membership dues. Thanks to all who continue to renew! These dues support S.A.V.E.'s free lecture series and environmental programs and scholarships. Thank you for your support!

JOIN S.A.V.E. TODAY!

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, fliers for upcoming lectures and events, announcements concerning local opportunities, scholarship opportunities and more. Fill out the application on page 12 or <u>submit your application online today!</u>



Scholarship Application Available on Lourdes University Website

S.A.V.E. will begin accepting applications for the 2024 S.A.V.E. Scholarships on February 9, 2024. We hope that this increased visibility on the Lourdes website will increase volume of applicants. Anyone is eligible, regardless of the college/university they are planning to attend. More at:

www.sciencealliancesave.org.

Zero-Waste Lunch

Save Your Seat at the S.A.V.E. Table!

Thursday, October 5, 2023

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

S.A.V.E. members are invited to join the Sylvania Franciscans for their 11th annual Zero-Waste Lunch. All are welcome to explore the A-Bee-C's of Biodiversity over a delicious lunch and good fellowship. This year's attractions include a biodiversity themed eco-art installation, as well as an eco-art exhibit from St. Joseph School students. Our own favorite beekeeper, Tony Siebeneck, who cares for the honey we sell in All Good Things Art & Gifts, will be on hand to tell us about the bees on campus and show us how to get the honey out of the hives. Plenty of raffle prizes! R.S.V.P. to Elizabeth at ereiter@sistersosf.org or 419-260-2960.

Honey & Maple Syrup

Honey and syrup sales as reported by All Good Things Gift Shop on Lourdes campus indicated that we are at 83% of our fiscal year and sales are 88% of our budget. Many other venders are selling honey and syrup at higher prices than All Good Things and



many have sources that are not local, which makes their products less beneficial. Prices are still \$11.00 for our 100% pure honey and \$10.00 for syrup. Syrup harvest was impacted by the dry spring we experienced. There may be some product shortages. 100% pure honey is readily available and is much tastier than store bought brands.

Recycling Electronics



As Autumn approaches and you prepare for the change of seasons, please remember that S.A.V.E. needs your help in keeping the environment a little bit cleaner. Don't toss that older laptop or cell phone, instead, allow S.A.V.E to recycle it for you.

The S.A.V. E. organization partners with the "Cartridges For Kids" program to collect and recycle items that would normally end up in a landfill. We accept for recycling: cell phones, laser and ink jet cartridges, laptops, MP3's, PDA's and tablets, readers and notebooks. Items for recycling can be brought to a S.A.V.E. Lecture. Recyclable materials

can also been dropped off at the office of Sister Rosine Sobczak in St. Agnes Hall (SAH 166) on the campus of Lourdes University.

S.A.V.E. is looking for corporate and business partners who can accumulate materials and donate them for recycling. S.A.V.E. will provide a receptacle for the deposit of recyclable items. Pick up can be arranged. If your business can assist in this effort contact the S.A.V.E. office at 419-824-3691.

Please help us help the environment. The used ink cartridges from your home printer are a resource worth recycling. Please save and bring these cartridges to any SAVE meeting or drop them off at St. Agnes Hall (SAH 166).

Congratulations

Elizabeth Reiter, our S.A.V.E. Newsletter Editor, has a new position with the Sisters of St. Francis, namely, as Director of Communications and Connections! Elizabeth is responsible for internal and external communications as well as bringing the campus together to share Sylvania Franciscan values in tangible hands-on ways through six pillars of the Sisters' mission. She has been a member of the Environmental Wellness Committee since 2017 and now sits on the newly created Laudato Si' committee. This committee is responsible for introducing two new honeybee hives to the shared Sisters and Lourdes University campus and creating the Grateful Harvest Community Garden. Both will become a learning space for all who wish to participate. We are very proud of her and all the beautiful work she does for the Sisters and for S.A. V.E.!



In Memory Of

Margery Kramer, donated by Susan Metzger
Mary Wharram, donated by Susan Metzger

Commemorative Donations Memorials and Tributes

Celebrate someone's special occasion in Tribute or Memory of a person or loved one by protecting the environment in their name.

A contribution to S.A.V.E. will honor them and will assist us to continue educating others to care and appreciate the environment on our beautiful planet, Earth.

Donate online through PayPal listing this as a Tribute or Memorial.

OR

Send your information and donation to:

S.A.V. E. Inc. Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF 6832 Convent Blvd. Sylvania, OH 43560



Call 419-824-3691 with questions.

A response card will be sent to you and to any person designated as the recipient.

2023 Annual S.A.V.E. Awards

SAVE's annual Awards Night is always the highlight of our activities each year. This year we were able to gather in person on May 9th to celebrate local people and groups working to save the environment. This year we honored:

Laurie Bertke: David and Jan Sandys Eco-Service Award

Laurie is a freelance graphic storyteller who serves as webmaster and social media coordinator for SAVE.

Working her magic, our updated website is both clear and captivating!

Dr. Richard Paat, MD: Eco-Friend of the Environment

Dr. Paat has led over 94 medical missions and disaster relief teams around the world, implemented Community Health Worker training programs in Tanzania, Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti, while providing care for the uninsured and homeless in the Toledo area, besides his full-time work in internal medicine. And he coaches volleyball for socio-economically disadvantaged girls!

Annette Fink: Eco-Community Award

Annette has now achieved her dream of becoming a freelance community artist, making a variety of art and ceramic murals, and donating the proceeds to local community causes. She has also often involved schoolchildren in the process.

Maumee Valley Country Day School: Eco-School Award, Elementary

The Forest School Inspired Program at MVCDS, begun fall 2018, provides its youngest students with 3 hours of outdoor education every day, no matter the weather, while kindergarten through 3rd grade students are treated to "Forest School Fridays." The program is designed to form a long-lasting connection to nature.

Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo, Swanton OH:

Eco-School Award, Secondary

The Aerospace and Natural Science Academy of Toledo readies students for careers in Aviation or Natural Sciences: focused on animal science, urban agriculture and hydroponics, wildlife and sustainability; aviation maintenance and pre-pilot/drone.v

Dr. Todd Crail, Ph.D.: Eco-Educator Award, Higher Ed

A University Distinguished Lecturer in UT's Department of Environmental Science, Todd's focus is fostering undergraduate student engagement through field experiences. His Greening UToledo Through Service (GUTS) organization grows plants and maintains native plants on campus.

Luken T Boyle Campaign for Kindness: Community Building Award

After Luken took is life due to cyberbullying, the Boyle family has dedicated itself to preventing it from happening to another family. They have designed a program to teach kindness and empathy to 5th- 12th graders and have built Kindness Rooms in 10 local schools.

Sophia Schroeder: Community Building Award

Sophia, a student at The Ohio State University, has conducted research there on the effects of light and nutrient limitation of benthic algae in Lake Erie in 2019; she has also volunteered in various local outreach programs with schools, organizations and the community to spread awareness of the importance on clean fresh water.

Nightingales Harvest Program: Eco-Faith Award

Nightingales Harvest, located in the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, is the first and only food and toiletry pantry in the Toledo area, serving cancer patients of all ages. It provides nutritious food, hygiene products and resources, aiming to help improve the health and wellness of families experiencing cancer.

Also honored were the 2023 NW Ohio District Science Day Planet Earth Sustainability Award winners: Halle Ann Jones, Samuel Edward Kerrigan, Emily Clare Timmerman and Audrey G Nixon, as well as SAVE's Environmental Leadership Scholarship winners: Eva Skarbinski and Garrett Ody.

Congratulations to our 2022 Awardees! Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our Sister Mother Earth!

We look forward to our next Awards Night, planned for next May, when we will gather again to celebrate another great group of people passionate about our Sister Mother Earth!



2023-2024 FREE Public Lecture Series

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED • IN-PERSON AND ZOOM

THE ART OF PILGRIMAGE:

A Timeless Way to Save the Soul of the World

UN Sustainability Goal #3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 • 7:30 - 9:00 PM

Franciscan Center Conference Room A and B

or many years people in every age and culture, have dealt with personal or historical crises by setting off on pilgrimages – spiritually transformative journeys in order to revitalize and reorient themselves. Our own time is marked by spiritual crises of meaning that are inextricably connected with the environmental crisis. He explores a millennia old model of reviving the soul or spirit of the world. By considering the natural world as sacred, rather than a commodity to be exploited, we increase our chances to rescue ourselves from oblivion.

Phil Cousineau is a bestselling author and filmmaker and TV host. His works include: *The Art of Pilgrimage, Stoking the Creative Fires,* and *The Oldest Story in the World,* documentary films on ecology and the future of urban life, and the longrunning PBS series, *Global Spirit: Ancient Wisdom in Modern Times*. He lives in San Francisco, CA.

https://lourdes.zoom.us/j/4917506213

Meeting ID: 491 750 6213 Dial by your location: +1 305 224 1968 US

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Phil Cousineau

For more information, contact: Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF 419-824-3691 or

save@lourdes.edu

"Hope in Transapocalyptic Times: Turbulence,

Change and Survival in the 21st Century"



The picture our S.A.V.E. lecturer Herman Greene painted at the beginning of his lecture this past April wasn't pretty. It was pretty scary, actually. But it was what we've seen on the nightly news for a long while. Drought, floods, wild-fires, famine all round the world – and here in the US. Even scarier was the data he presented on how alternate forms of energy were surging, but a pittance in comparison to the mining of coal, which is growing exponentially. Dr. Greene summed the situation up with a quote from Alex Steffen, "It's not the end of the world, but it is the end of the world as we know it."

We are living in a watershed moment, and he cautioned us that past experience is not helpful. This is not a short-lived crisis; a new epoch is beginning, one in which we are all climate refugees. He also notes that technology and finance cannot get us out of this mess — it's what got it into it! He proposes

that the way through our situation is by learning how to be dependent on our Earth.

Hope, for us now, he believes, must be active and radical. We must set realistic goals and realistic paths to achieve those goals. He reminded us that hope, according to Vaclav Havel, "is not the conviction that things will turn out well, but it is the conviction that something is worth doing no matter how it turns out." In an article on the same topic, he quotes Jane Goodall that "Without hope, all is lost. It is a crucial survival trait that has sustained our species from the time of our Stone Age ancestors."

The article ends with this hope: "We cannot know if we are doing the right things with our lives or if we are doing enough. We can only rise each day to give ourselves to that which we value and in so doing we are given on equal measure the hope we seek and even a kind of peace, troubled as it may be."

Herman Greene is the founder of the Center for Ecozoic Studies in Chapel Hill, NC. His work there focuses on the advance of ecology and culture as the organizing principle of society. Both inner transformation, to bring about consciousness change, and external transformation, to bring about social change, are needed.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Sylvania is once again designated as a TREE CITY USA by the Arbor Day Foundation the 41st Year!



S.A.V.E. Membership Application

Begins September 1 and ends August 31

Please complete and send the membership form and dues to:

S.A.V.E. Inc.

6832 Convent Blvd. • Sylvania, OH 43560

PayPal can also be used for S.A.V.E. dues.

Last Name:		First Name:	M	l.l.:	
Affiliation:		Position:			
Address:					
City:		State:	Zip Code:		
Phone: (business)	(hom	ne)	(cell)		
Email:	Fax:				
ME	MBERSHIP:	○ New	○ Renewal		
	TYPES OF I	MEMBER	SHIP:		
	Ann	ual Dues			
O Student Member	\$10	O Corporate Member\$100			
O Senior Member	\$10	Please send a camera ready logo or a business card to include in our newsletter.			
\bigcirc Active/Supporting Mem	ber \$20	○ Sustaining Member\$200			
○ Family Membership	\$30				
Allı	members will recei	ve the quarte	erly newsletter.		
I would like to help in one	of the following are	ea(s):			
\bigcirc Membership	○ Newslett	er	O Award Recept	ion &	
\bigcirc Fundraising	O Lecture S	eries	Dessert Buffe	t	
O Phone Committee			\bigcirc Board Membe	:r	
Please accept my monetar	y donation of: \$				
In Memory/Honor of					
Send Response card to:					

THANK YOU TO OUR S.A.V.E. SPONSORS

Please support our generous sponsors and let them know you saw them in the S.A.V.E. newsletter! Interested in becoming a sponsor of S.A.V.E.? Contact SAVE@lourdes.edu or 419-824-3691.





Style and service for every budget."



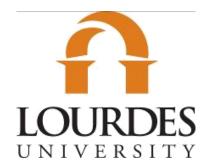














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SAVE

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Phone: 419-824-3691 Fax: 419-824-3526

E-mail: SAVE@lourdes.edu

An Educational Consortium for Environmental Sustainability

VISION STATEMENT

S.A.V.E. is a catalyst for individual and community action for sustainability.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.) fosters a personal awareness and respect for the interrelatedness of ecology, spirituality and sustainability. S.A.V.E. creates formal and informal life-long learning opportunities in collaboration with organizations at all levels — local, national and global. S.A.V.E.'s activities are designed to empower individuals to values-based action for a just and sustainable world.

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ScienceAllianceSAVE.org



www.facebook.com/SAVEScienceAlliance

S.A.V.E. CALENDAR

S.A.V.E. Lecture Dates 2023-2024

September 12, 2023 November 14, 2023 January 16, 2024 March 12, 2024 April 9, 2024

Follow S.A.V.E. on Facebook or

Find events at <u>www.sciencealliancesave.org</u>.

May 17, 2024

S.A.V.E. 32 nd. Annual Awards
Night (hybrid event)

Reception – 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Presentation of the Awards

Did you know?

Bats are found in many places in North America. They are nocturnal introverts. They are rarely seen during the daylight hours, but at night they fly all around your yard or farm looking for insects like mosquitoes



and other flying insects. Each bat assists us by eating approximately 10,000 insects per night, which greatly controls populations that would plague us otherwise. And, they do it without pesticides that leave widespread unintended damage. It's easy to make your outdoor space bat friendly. Keep a dead tree for them to roost in, or build a bat house for them to live in. They will eat your mosquitoes and fertilize your garden. Sierra magazine, Spring 2022.



