



## Bonnie Miles

Bat Expert



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**Ralph Griffith** introduced today's speaker **Bonnie Miles**. Bonnie is an expert on bats – as in the flying kind. Bonnie is from Lynchburg, Virginia. She studies bats and also rescues and rehabilitates them. Her presentation was entitled the "Ecological Importance of Bats". An alternative title – "Bats – Be Afraid" was also mentioned.

She acknowledged that many people are afraid of bats and confirmed that fact by polling the club members present. She attributes this fear to the physical appearance of bats and to the portrayal of bats in the movies and in the media.

There are 29 orders of bats. They are found in the order Chiroptera. There are 1,300 species of bats – second only to rodents as the most in the animal kingdom. Bats are all mammals. Bats are the only mammals able to echolocate. They are primarily bug and fruit eaters.

In North America the sub-order which contains bats is Yangochiroptera. Physically, bats have a number of features that are also found in humans including elbows, forearms, thumbs, wrists and fingers (4).

Of the 1,300 species of bats, 47 are found in North America. Most of the species of bats are found in the tropics and sub-tropics. Eight of the 47 North American species are on the Federal endangered species list. Fourteen of the 47 North American species are present in Ohio.

The largest bat in Ohio weighs about one ounce. Typically, bats eat about one third of their weight per day. They roost in caves, trees, under tree bark, in foliage, in crevices and in various human structures. Seventy percent of all bats are insectivores.

Bats are found on every continent except Antarctica. There are more bats than humans.

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## GREETERS

### March 14

James Nichlaus  
Peggy Concilla

### March 21

Paul Berg  
John McKenna

### March 28

Debbie Johnson  
Matt Penrod

## REGISTRATION DESK

### March 14

Jim Winfree  
Kevin Brown

### March 21

Larry McVey  
Milt Lustnauer

### March 28

Ted Foster  
Brendan King

## CALENDAR

### March 14

At Raymond Memorial Golf Course  
Bill Loveland - "Understanding  
Hockey Rules"  
Host - John Krauss

### March 21, 2017

At Raymond Memorial Golf Course  
"Metro High School"  
Host - Mary Ann Krauss

### March 28, 2017

Rick Wolfe - North Market  
Host - Brad DeHays

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

## SOCIAL EVENTS

### Thursday, April 6th

Kick-Off Social for our Annual Fundraiser at Grandview Cafe

### Saturday, May 6th

Annual Rotary Fundraiser at Huntington Park

Please submit your social event reminder to [herb@herbgillen.com](mailto:herb@herbgillen.com) for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

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Their life span is the longest of all animals relative to their size. This is important since most bats reproduce only once per year and give birth to just one pup. A newborn bat needs to be weaned and flying within four to six weeks of birth.

The echolocation ability allows bats to hunt at night with surprising accuracy. The echolocation system works using a pulse which emanates from the bat's larynx. It is most effective at a range of three to nine feet.

There are a number of myths about bats which Bonnie debunked. Bats are not blind ("blind as a bat"); they are very clean; they do not attack humans and get tangled in your hair. She noted that they prefer to avoid humans. Bats can be trained and learn about as quickly as a dog.

Very few bats are infected with rabies. There were 26 reported cases of rabies in Ohio in a recent year. Twenty of those cases came from rabid bats.

Bonnie discussed why we should care about bats. She noted that they are voracious insect eaters capable of eating up to 1,000 mosquitos in one night. Without their help, farmers would need to spend more money on insecticides and the additional costs to control insects would probably be passed through to consumers. The estimated

cost to farmers for such measures is \$3 to \$4 billion dollars per year. In addition, bats are pollinators for some plants and also serve as vehicles for seed dispersal.

She shared a number of pictures of various species and pointed out those that are common in Ohio.

There are various threats and predators of bats. Among them are skunks, raccoons, possums, snakes, blue jays, owls and cats. Cats are the most lethal to the bat population. Other threats to the population are wind turbines, pollution, pesticides and habitat destruction.

Currently, the population of bats is being devastated by White Nose Syndrome. The syndrome is the result of a fungus that affects the nose ears and skin. As many as 7 million bats have died as a result of this fungus which arrived in the United States from Europe. White Nose Syndrome has been present in Ohio since 2012. It is beginning to spread to western reaches of the country.

The prognosis is grim because the fungus cannot currently be stopped. Efforts are underway to find an effective treatment and a way to create immunity.

## The Meeting

President **Chip Knoop** asked **Ralph Griffith** to offer Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Tom Westfall** asked Ralph to introduce his guest Lynn Ayers, sister of today's speaker. There were no visiting Rotarians at today's meeting.

Chip announced that a volunteer for this Saturday's (3/11) Meals on Wheels delivery is needed. We need to fill one open slot. This can be a family event. Let Chip or Phil Crawford know if you can help out.

The Community Service Committee has re-upped with the YWCA Family Center meal service program. In the 2016-17 year we will increase our participation to six meals from five.

The committee has had further discussion with **Jeanette Bradley** to take a deeper dive into the needs of her programs to help homeless families.

A letter was distributed from West Broad Elementary school requesting financial assistance with their program to send 100 fifth grade students to Camp Oty'Okwa after the school year ends this summer. This program has been supported for many years by a corporate sponsor who just backed away from the program. The request is for individuals or groups to pledge an amount equal to \$134.00 per student for a full student sponsorship. Lower amounts can be pledged to pay for a student's sleeping facilities and activities (\$76 per student) or to fund meals for a student (\$56 per student). Individuals can also donate any amount to be applied to the overall cost of the program. The UA Rotary Foundation will match amounts pledged by club members.

We congratulated **Chuck Manofsky** on his attainment of Paul Harris Fellow status.

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## Notes and Announcements

**Peggy Concilla** announced that nominations for Northwest Volunteer of the Year will be open for one more week.

**Dave Dewey** announced that the Program Committee meeting scheduled for this week has been moved back until next week. Committee members and other club members are encouraged to provide their ideas for program topics. In two weeks the club's women members will meet to provide input about future club programming.



SHARE, INSPIRE, RECOGNIZE & CELEBRATE

# IMPACT

ROTARY DISTRICT 6690 SPRING CONFERENCE

APRIL 29, 2017 | COSI | COLUMBUS, OHIO USA



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 29th

for the Rotary District 6690 Conference at COSI. Upper Arlington Rotary will pay the \$99 member registration fee as long as you register before April 1. Let's support District Governor Steve Sandbo by attending! More information to come over the next lunch meetings.