

Topsham Garden Club

“Bats of Maine”

Speaker: Logan Parker

Engagement Coordinator for Maine Lakes Resource Center

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 1:30 PM

(following brown-bag lunch at 12:00 and business meeting at 12:30)

at the Topsham Public Library

25 Foreside Road, Topsham, Maine



Bats are subject to a number of misconceptions – contrary to popular belief, bats are neither blind nor “mice with wings.” The biggest myth about bats, however, is that they are common carriers of rabies. This misinformation has unfortunately led many homeowners to get rid of bats that become trapped inside their home. While bats can be carriers of the disease, instances are quite rare – in fact, bats help prevent diseases. By consuming 600-800 mosquitoes an hour, bats can help prevent diseases such as malaria and eastern equine encephalitis.

The best thing people can do to help bats is to take the time to learn about them and to advocate for their protection. If we can clear up the misconceptions and highlight the beneficial services these animals provide, we can elevate bats in the eyes of the public. Fostering an appreciation for bats, rather than fear, will do wonders to help make their conservation and protection a priority.”

Meet Logan Parker of Belgrade Lakes. Logan is the Engagement Coordinator for Maine Lakes Resource Center and has spent innumerable hours helping bats and studying White Nose Syndrome

Logan Parker wears quite a few hats while working at the MLRC. Although his job title is that of Community Engagement Coordinator, Logan is involved in several aspects of the work done at the Resource Center – everything from website creation to outreach to data collection to groundskeeping. Logan was hired as a Summer intern in June of 2013 and was asked to join the staff year-round that Fall. Since that time, Logan has graduated with honors from the University of Maine at Augusta and began serving as the coordinator for the BLA’s LakeSmart program.

As the Community Engagement Coordinator for the MLRC, Logan recognizes the importance personal interaction as a means of social change. He also believes that instilling a passion for conservation with the next generation is essential for the future. Within the Center, he meets with visitors and answers questions about the various conservation efforts ongoing in the Belgrade Lakes Region. Logan maintains the MLRC social media profiles, puts weekly articles out on the MLRC website, provides logistical support for the many of the community functions at the Center, schedules public events, and maintains the MLRC gallery.

Outside of his work at the MLRC, Logan is an amateur wildlife photographer, birder, hiker, and citizen scientist.

“For the past few years, I have been studying and teaching about our state’s bats and the threat posed by White Nose Syndrome. The drastic decline of our bat population motivated me to advocate for our native bats as much as I could. I built and installed bat houses around the community and delivered lectures to community groups and local elementary schools.

I have also participated in various citizen science projects – most recently I have been working on the BatME project. For my first outing, I surveyed the seven acre woodlot behind my childhood home in Augusta and was awestruck by the species diversity in such a small area.