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MCICSL Newsletter - July 2015

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July 2015 Highlights



Interns with The Nature Conservancy Participate in Research at Mammoth Cave

During the week of July 26-30, we were excited to work with 8 highly talented women participating in The Nature Conservancy's LEAF program. LEAF stands for Leaders in Environmental Action for the Future. This program provides month-long, paid internships for high school students to gain hands-on experience in conservation-related fields. While at the park, the interns and their chaperones learned about the caves and collected data for two research projects. In two days, they contributed almost 100 hours of research-based volunteer work.



Renaissance in Cave Biology Research Underway

Mammoth Cave National Park seems to be experiencing a resurgence in research on cave biology. Some of the organisms that we currently have researchers either actively studying or applying for research permits to study include cave pseudoscorpions, cave crickets, cave spiders, cave microbiology, cave snails, cave fish, native cave fungi, and bats. We're looking forward to learning more about the organisms that are found in the park's caves.



White-nose Syndrome Treatment and Management Workshop

Rick Toomey, MCICSL Research Director, is the lead for Mammoth Cave's white-nose syndrome response team. From July 28-30, he attended the White-nose Syndrome Treatment and Management Workshop in Grand Rapids, MI. This workshop focused on discussing white-nose syndrome treatment strategies and options. Other participants in the workshop included representatives from the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Forest Service and many other agencies.

Summer research season continues

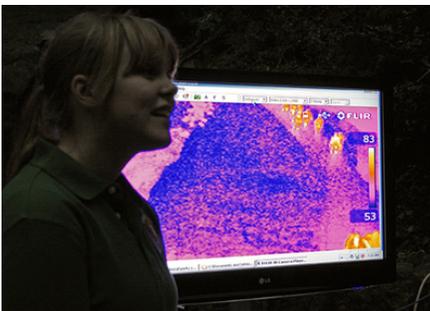
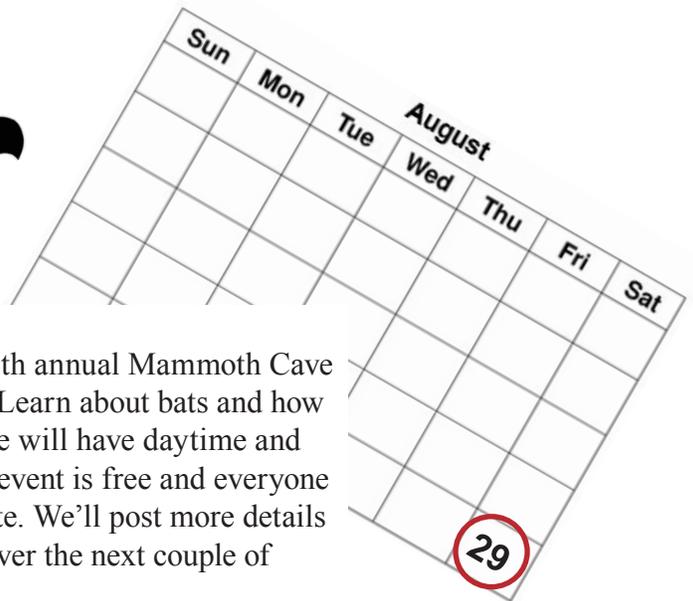
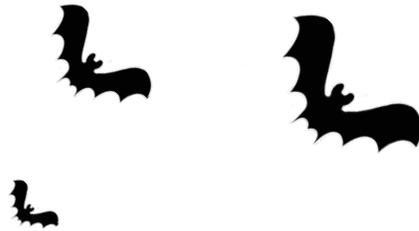
A sample of the many research projects occurring at MCNP this month:

- Restoration of saltpeter artifacts
- Insect herbivory in burned and unburned plots
- Radio tracking of northern long-eared bats
- Determining cave water discharge rates
- Foraging of bats in burned and unburned plots
- Tick population and disease study
- Insect pollination and herbivory of 9 native plant species
- Monitoring E. coli and other bacteria in cave water

In the News:

Mammoth Cave Secrets Still Being Uncovered – Courier Journal, July 16, 2015

<http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/local/2015/07/16/mammoth-cave-secrets-still-uncovered/30238949/>



Save the Date!

August 29 will be our 5th annual Mammoth Cave Bat Night Celebration! Learn about bats and how scientists study bats. We will have daytime and evening activities. The event is free and everyone is welcome to participate. We'll post more details to our Facebook page over the next couple of weeks.



Follow our activities on social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mammoth-Cave-International-Center-for-Science-and-Learning/842046972539082>