

David N. Redell 1970-2012

**State bat expert dies:** Dave Redell, an ecologist and leader of the Department of Natural Resources' bat program, died Monday in Madison. Redell, 42, had been treated for brain cancer.

Redell led the DNR's efforts to catalog bat hibernacula across the state and enact regulations to protect Wisconsin bats as white-nose syndrome devastates bat populations in North America. He also established the Wisconsin Bat Conservation Endowment Fund, seeding it with his own money. In August, Redell was presented with the Silver Eagle Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency's highest honor for wildlife conservationists. Redell acted as an ambassador for the valuable but often misunderstood animals. Bats can consume one insect every 10 seconds. The annual agricultural value of bats consumption of insect pests in the U.S. has been placed at between \$658 million and \$1.5 billion.

"My hope is that more people will understand the benefit of bats and be inspired to get involved," Redell said in a 2010 DNR publication.

The endowment will be used to fund research projects and long-term bat conservation in Wisconsin. The endowment is less than 10% to its goal of \$2 million. Contributions to the fund are tax-deductible and can be made through the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, Attn: Wisconsin Bat Conservation Endowment Fund, PO Box 2317, Madison, WI 53701 or by donating online at <a href="https://www.wisconservation.org">www.wisconservation.org</a>.

 $http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/dnr-ecologist-and-bat-expert-redell-dies-was-fighting-cancer/article\_0b64bf82-01dc-11e2-b5a8-0019bb2963f4.html\\$ 



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