The mission of the National Park Service has always been to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” At Theodore Roosevelt National Park, park staff is striving to preserve this mission while making sure that it remains accessible to those who visit.

Accessible means something different to each and every person, and unfortunately not every inch of the park is accessible to every park visitor. However, park staff has been working hard to provide everyone the opportunity to get out of their vehicle and take a hike. If you visited the park in August or September you may have noticed some trail closures or concrete trucks entering the South Unit. These trucks were headed to the closed trails at Skyline Vista and Boicourt Overlook, which have now been rebuilt and made accessible to park visitors. Trails are now open and ready for you to explore and soon new Interpretive Signs will be placed along them as a way for you to learn more about the park.

Did you know National Parks also offer an Access Pass? The Access Pass is a free lifetime entrance pass to all federal areas charging an entrance fee. It also provides a 50% reduction of expanded amenity fees for activities such as camping. Passes are available to all U.S. citizens or permanent residents with disabilities. Passes can be obtained in person wherever interagency passes are sold (park entrance stations when open, or in visitor centers during seasonal entrance station closures.)
Bat Week and More!

Halloween is just around the corner and it brings thoughts of pumpkins, and ghost, witches, spiders and bats. Some of you may cringe at the thought of these crazy critters, but others get excited to explore them further. Well in this newsletter we are going to take a look at a one of those critters that can be found in our National Parks.

If you have ever visited Theodore Roosevelt’s Maltese Cross Cabin in the summer, you may have noticed signs stating beware of Bats. These flying little guys find the eve of the old cabin an awesome place to spend their days while waiting for their evening adventures. Since they choose to stay near the cabin and it is almost Halloween we thought we would share a little bit about these “cute” or “creepy” little guys.

Bat Week is Oct. 24 - Oct. 31! This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate bats. Bats do a lot of things that help our natural areas be strong and healthy:

- Some bats eat insects that destroy crops and spread disease.
- Some bats pollinate plants, like agave.
- Bats help spread seeds to grow new plants.

Everybody can get in on the Bat Week fun. Visit BatWeek.org for a full list of inspiring Bat-ivities. Here's a few examples of what you’ll find there.

- Show your bat appreciation on social media, using #BatWeek.

Bat information taken from www.nps.gov
More about Bats and Bat Week

- Host a bat-centric party.
- Cook up a dish make possible by bats. (Pumpkin Chocolate Fudge sounds pretty good! And bats eat the insects that harm cacao plants.)
- Update your social media profile pic with the Bat Week twibbon.

Help Bats

We need bats if we want healthy and diverse ecosystems filled with a variety of organisms. Many bats feast on insects, some pollinate plants, and some bats spread seeds, too. Larger animals may depend on bats for prey. Aside from all these great services, bats are the only mammal that's capable of true flight, and they're simply fascinating.

The deadly fungal disease, white-nose syndrome (WNS), poses a real danger to cave-dwelling bats. Tree-roosting and migratory bats face significant threats from wind turbines. WNS has killed 99% of some bat colonies, and habitat loss and wind turbines also make it difficult for bats to survive and thrive.

But we can all help protect bats and their habitats! Try some of these ideas to help conserve bats. You can help bats in your own yard and community, and you can learn how to protect bats when you visit parks, too.

At Home

- **Learn more about bats.** One of the most important things you can do to help bats is to learn more about them and share what you learn with your friends and family. Check out these fun Bativities for some ideas. Bat Conservation International and BatWeek.org both provide a lot of information about bats and ways you can help.
- **Use iNaturalist.** With an app on your smartphone, you can take part in citizen science by observing bats in a park or in your own backyard. Learn more about iNaturalist and add your own observations.
- **Build a bat house.** Bats are running out of good places to roost, rest, and raise young. A backyard bat house will provide shelter they desperately need in your neighborhood or community. In national parks, staff work to protect natural habitat for bats to live in instead of building bat houses.

In Parks

- **Stay out of caves when directed.** The bats at risk for WNS often hibernate or raise young in caves. They need to be undisturbed so they can rest and raise their young. Also, it is actually unlawful to enter most caves on public lands.
- **Decontaminate before going in a cave.** It may be possible for humans to spread WNS from one cave into another. Be sure to listen to rangers' directions for cleaning (or leaving behind) your shoes, backpack, and gear before entering a cave.
- **Tell a ranger if you see bats acting strangely.** Rangers can take steps to protect both bats and people if a bat is behaving in an unusual way.

And no matter where you are, you can celebrate Bat Week in October every year!
Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:

- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors.
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contest
- Promote North Dakota's public lands.
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns.
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm

-----------------------------

**October Online Only Coupon**

Bat Basics

$10.00

Regular Price $14.95

Online Only through October 31, 2020

Use coupon code “October2020” at checkout.

 learnt more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm