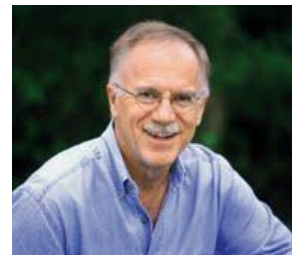


DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA PRESENTS:

BAT CONSERVATION SPECIALIST MERLIN TUTTLE



Friday March 21, 2014 - Merlin Tuttle Keynote Address

Park Vista Hotel in Gatlinburg 6-9 p.m.

The Amazing World of Bats

Bats comprise nearly a quarter of all mammals. They come in an amazing variety, as cute as any panda or as strange as any dinosaur, from tiny bamboo bats that live in beetle holes to giant flying foxes with six-foot wingspans. They're found nearly everywhere, are primary seed dispersers in both deserts and rain forests, pollinate some of the world's most valuable crops and save American farmers billions of dollars annually in avoided pesticide use. They maintain long-term social relationships similar to those of humans, elephants and dolphins, share information and even adopt orphans.



If you'd like to learn more about these fascinating creatures, you won't want to miss Dr. Merlin Tuttle's talk, "The Amazing World of Bats." His stunning photographs show bats courting mates, rearing young, emerging from beetle holes, pollinating crops and flowers, fishing, catching insects and much more.

Introduced to the study of bats in Knoxville while a student at the University of Tennessee, Tuttle has now traveled the world for more than 50 years studying and photographing hundreds of species of bats, from bizarre to beautiful. His extraordinary photographs have been published and exhibited worldwide, including in five National Geographic articles. His latest is scheduled to appear in the March 2014 issue. He founded Bat Conservation International and has been an invited speaker at America's most prestigious institutions, from Harvard and Princeton Universities to the National Geographic Society and Smithsonian.

Keynote address includes reception, silent auction with food and drink.

For those not attending the conference there is a \$10 fee.

Saturday March 22, 2014 – Merlin Tuttle Knoxville Reception at the East TN History Center – 5-7 p.m.

A National Geographic Preview—Flowers that guide bat echolocation, the story behind the story

Dr. Merlin Tuttle has lectured at most of America's premier institutions and his fifth National Geographic article is scheduled to appear in the March 2014 issue. The article features recent discoveries of highly sophisticated floral adaptations that acoustically guide echolocating bats to specific sites in flowers, ensuring exclusive bat pollination. Tuttle worked in Costa Rica, Cuba and Ecuador, taking more than 20,000 images for this story. He will share his spectacular, high-speed action photos as well as highlights of the challenges and techniques involved in getting these images.



Reception includes food, drinks and a signed copy of National Geographic (the first 100 paying attendees). Cost \$25.

DLIA's ATBI Conference highlights the amazing biodiversity research happening in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. For more information call 865-430-4757 or visit our web site at www.dlia.org.

DLIA's mission is to discover and understand America's species through science and education for conservation. DLIA's flagship project, the ATBI, is a joint effort with the National Park System to identify and record every single species within the park. To date DLIA has assisted in adding 7,636 new species to the park's records and 926 new to science.