

STEM HERO

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

ZOOLOGIST

Call her bat girl; she won't mind. Zoologist and animal lover Liz Hamrick spends much of her time focused on studying and saving this underappreciated species. "TVA is part of a multi-agency effort to investigate the cause and spread of bat deaths associated with white-nose syndrome," she explains, pointing to the fungal disease that causes bats to awaken from hibernation and starve to death in winter. We need bats, she says, because they eat bugs: "A single bat can eat up to 8,000 bugs every night, which is a tremendous economic benefit to the agricultural industry." Helping TVA help bats and other endangered species makes Hamrick happy: "It keeps me going."



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