

ENGAGE

WITH CWF



Should I keep my bat box in winter?

Here's the simple answer: Why not? Generally, a bat house does not require much maintenance, and there's no need to remove it for the winter. In the late fall, it's a good idea to check your box for any damage that needs to be repaired. If you haven't done that already, now is as good a time as any to do the job. You want your bat box to be in good shape when the bats return in spring. Otherwise, you can turn your attention to other items on your to-do list.

Since we're talking about bats, you may also be asking, where do bats go in the winter? Basically, they migrate or hibernate. For instance, the hoary bat migrates south. Others, like the little brown bat, leave their summer roosting sites to hibernate in suitable caves, abandoned mines, even deep crevices. These sites are humid, stay above freezing and are much warmer than most of Canada's chilly winter temperatures. Still others, like the big brown bat, which can tolerate cooler temperatures, are able to hibernate in buildings.



JAMES BARTRAM TALKS ABOUT...

Wild Pedagogies

Promoting wildlife education among teachers and youth leaders is a priority at CWF. So is developing programs for use in classrooms of all kinds—and not just for kids

Do you know an educator looking for an immersive training program focused on wildlife and conservation? If so, check out CWF's Wild Pedagogies. These three-to-10-day learning journeys are open to educators of all types and combine travel on the land with personalized access to advanced leaders in the field. They are truly one-of-a-kind experiences. James Bartram, CWF's director of education, explains.

HOW LONG HAS CWF OFFERED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSES FOR EDUCATORS?

CWF has more than 25 years of experience providing professional development courses for educators. We have been offering summer programs since 2009. These learning journeys combine academics and adventure with personalized instruction from respected leaders in the education field. Course fees include field trips, most meals, accommodations and personalized instruction.

WHERE AND WHEN ARE THE WILD PEDAGOGIES COURSES?

CWF has hosted training programs in diverse areas of Canada. They include Nova Scotia, Quebec, Nunavut and British Columbia. In 2015, we offered a summer course in conjunction with the Cranbrook, B.C., campus of the College of the Rockies. This program was so successful that it is

being offered again in 2016. In addition, we'll be offering a canoeing journey on the Ontario-Minnesota border in July 2016. This will be interesting because, on top of hands-on training in sharing wilderness travel with larger groups, we'll be in an excellent environment to explore the differences between Canadian and American approaches to conservation.

We also have a great program this year for people who are interested in hiking. We're hosting our first backpacking adventure in the Cape Breton Highlands. It's exciting to see our programs expand and diversify.

WHO ATTENDS THE COURSES?

In addition to schoolteachers, we welcome community educators from a variety of organizations that connect Canadians to nature. Last year, we partnered with an urban school board in Ontario for our B.C. Summer Institute. This year, we are offering the public the opportunity to participate in this 10-day experience, which includes indigenous knowledge. We are also inviting applications for our canoeing journeys.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR EDUCATORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS TYPE OF IMMERSION PROGRAM IN NATURE?

CWF Wild Pedagogies courses provide many benefits for participants. They focus on best practices in conservation education that can be applied to any setting or age group. Beyond that, the courses inspire and enable educators to spread a conservation ethic as well as a confidence in exploring and enjoying nature. Active, outdoor lifestyles reconnect us with the world around us, and that's priceless.

DO YOU HAVE OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR EDUCATORS WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE SUMMER PLANS?

Absolutely! CWF is also hosting a Wild Pedagogies canoe adventure during a long weekend in October in Ontario's Algonquin Park. This adventure will visit Group of Seven sketching sites on Canoe Lake and will link up with the whole Tom Thomson story, which is told in part by buildings on the lake. Ultimately, we'll build on the theme of the need for a sense of place through lakes, rivers and trails throughout Canada. Bob Henderson, a renowned outdoor adventurer and educator, will be along for this trip. We'll cover campfire and curricular ideas for teaching history, anthropology and literature on the trail as well as program evaluation. There will also be time devoted to menu planning and route selection. It's going to be a great weekend.

Visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/education and click on **Wild Pedagogies** for more information about our programs.

STAY ACTIVE

CATCH UP WITH WHALES

Indulge your interest in whales with CWF's new "Wild About" poster, which profiles all 17 whale species normally found in Canadian waters—from coast to coast to coast. Published in English and French, CWF's new poster also includes background information on cetaceans in general, along with images showing what the most common whale species' tails and backs look like from above. Order your copy at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.

GOODBYE GADGETS!

What happens when two children tethered to their electronics find themselves offline at the cottage? Find out in *Under Your Nose*, a beautifully illustrated new book by Judith McMurray and Shandley McMurray that reflects the world of discovery that nature offers. *Under Your Nose* is also a perfect complement to school resources and lesson plans available through CWF. Order your copy at CWF's online store.

TAKE ACTION



NOMINATE A HERO

Nominations for the CWF Conservation Achievement Awards are being accepted until Jan. 31, 2016. This year, CWF is introducing its new WILD Educator of the Year Award, which recognizes a facilitator or instructor who uses CWF's education programming for youth programs that focus on wildlife and conservation. To learn more or to download a nomination form, visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

Tickets are available for CWF's annual Goose Gala, which returns to the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto on Thursday, April 14, 2016. Martin Short is headlining this year's event, which will be hosted by Canadian sports broadcaster Brian Williams. National Wildlife Week ambassador and former Canada's Next Top Model judge Yasmin Warsame will also be on hand. Reserve your tickets at GooseGala.org.



GET OUTDOORS IN 2016

Today, we spend an estimated 90 per cent of our time indoors. There are better things to do. Studies show that spending time in nature can lower your risk of diabetes by 50 per cent, increase cancer-fighting white blood cells, and improve your overall mental health. In 2016, make a resolution to get you and your family back to where you belong—outside!.