

March 2008 Cave Board Statement on White Nose Syndrome

The Virginia Cave Board supports the scientific studies being undertaken to determine the cause of "white nose" in bat populations.

The Cave Board endorses the on-going policy of seasonal closure of caves where large numbers and/or legally protected species of bats are hibernating or have summer maternity or bachelor colonies, as identified by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The Virginia Cave Board encourages cavers to follow gear disinfecting protocols between cave trips.

The Cave Board asks that cavers, in the normal course of caving, report any bat mortality, anomalous behaviour, unusual appearance, or high bat concentrations to Rick Reynolds at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (<mailto:rick.reynolds@dgif.virginia.gov>, 540-248-9386).