



# *Highlights & Accomplishments 2021-2023*

LUBEE BAT CONSERVANCY





Hello,

From the Board, staff, and animals at Lubee Bat Conservancy, we want to thank you for supporting our organization. During our nearly 34 year history, your kindness and generosity has allowed Lubee to grow, supporting hundreds of bats at the center, and initiating conservation and education endeavors in the U.S. and around the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic took an unimaginable toll on Lubee, led by the loss of significant fundraising events and the overall view of bats and their misguided relation to the disease. To be a bat conservation organization was not easy, and some of the comments and actions directed towards bats and Lubee were reprehensible. **HOWEVER**, you allowed our organization to move forward during times of crisis and we are grateful for everything you have done and continue to do for us. Even during these challenging and difficult times, you showed your support and we are very appreciative.

Because of your generosity, we wanted to share all of the wonderful things that have occurred over the past two years. We could have never imagined the positive transformations that have taken place because of you. From facility-wide improvements, to providing numerous bats forever homes, to global conservation and an explosion on social media, we are so happy that we can continue our mission and show a global audience that bats should be appreciated and protected.

On the following pages are some of the highlights since 2021, and a look into the future of our organization. We hope you are proud of what we have been able to accomplish and will continue to support Lubee through the coming years. All of this has been possible because of you and we are grateful. Thank You!

Sincerely,

*Brian Pope*

Director  
Lubee Bat Conservancy



There would be no Lubees without our beloved bats. There are just a handful of zoological institutions where you can view these magnificent animals, but only one Lubee where visitors get an up-close experience.

The bats (and other animals) are also viewed globally thanks to our booming social media platforms. What better way to appreciate bats and dispel myths than by actually seeing the animals. Awareness leads to knowledge and ultimately, protection.

The births of five Malayan Flying Foxes and six Variable Flying Foxes. These wonderful additions are doing great and 'almost' independent from their moms.

Forever homes given to an African Spurred Tortoise, Virginia Opossum, two Evening Bats, 10 Straw-colored Fruit Bats, and 13 female... FLUFF Bats! We recently received these bats that desperately needed a home and will be sharing details VERY SOON. We are so happy to provide them the care and love they deserve.

Lubee continues to provide excellent care to our beautiful collection thanks to you. Donors have significantly helped with rising food and medical costs. All of the animals THANK YOU!



The Animals

*What's Next...*

We are currently in discussion to acquire three Indian Flying Foxes that need a permanent home. That and the 13 FLUFF BATS. Stay tuned!



No other area has seen such a dramatic turnaround than the buildings, landscaping, and infrastructure on property. We continue to enhance aesthetics and make the property warm, inviting, and visually stimulating for all visitors.



### **Lubee Education Center**

In 2021, our original Bat Observation Building, was transformed into the Lubee Education Center. This open-air pavilion provides a covered space for presentations, to have lunch, or simply relax in the beautiful surroundings. Numerous displays are found throughout the Center, along with landscaped areas full of FL native plants.



### **Bat Barn**

The Lubee barn has stood tall since 1989 and is the largest structure on property. During the summer of 2022, Lubee staff converted half of this massive building into another covered educational area.



### **Roofs**

We have new roofs on seven buildings that were in desperate need of repairs.

### **Pergolas**

Three 20'x20' shaded pergolas were built to offer additional covered areas.



### **Wildlife Friendly Habitats**

Lubee staff installed bird houses, insect “hotels”, and created or expanded sixteen pollinator habitats. We have noticed a significant increase in birds (including hummingbirds), bees, butterflies, and moths.

### **New Gift Shop**

We transformed an old storage building into a one-of-kind Gift Shop with a variety of new merchandise.

## *What's Next...*

Property-wide assessments were conducted to determine the status and usage of existing structures and open spaces. A proposal has been drafted and is being implemented. Some of the projects include graphics and murals by local artists, painting the outside of the barn, and the opening of an area of property full of massive Southern Live Oaks hundreds of years old. Details and updates will be announced later this year.

What better way to entertain and inform guests than providing updated signage and play areas at Lubee, and engaging our online audience.



## What's Next...

Lubee staff is currently updating the website and offering more educational content. Our live chats will be expanded to engage a larger audience. Additional signs, displays, and interactives are currently being created. Bat Fest 2023 will take place Saturday, October 21.

### Signs and Displays

Throughout property, guests have an opportunity to learn about bats, wildlife, Lubee's projects, and how to make a difference.

### Nature Play

We encourage children to get outside by offering multiple areas where they can build, get their hands dirty, and be creative.

### Live Chats

Our online discussions are watched by thousands of people every week.

### Tours

Lubee opened back up for tours in September 2020 and has become so popular we are booked for ALL OF 2023!

### Outreaches & Events

Lubee continues to attend local outreaches and offer plenty of on-site events where guests can paint, learn yoga, photograph the bats, or enjoy the ever-popular Florida Bat Fest. In 2022, 5,000 people were in attendance.

# Social Media

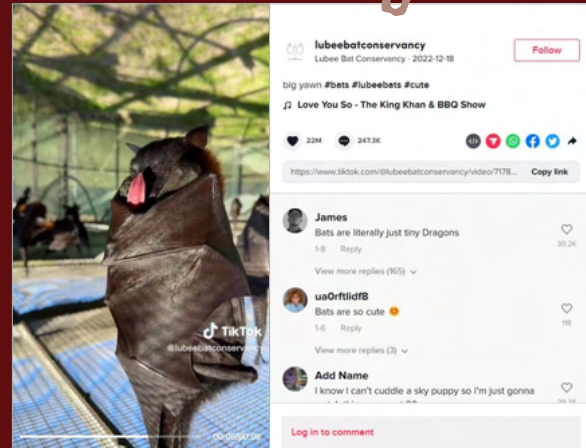
The multiple Lubee social media channels represent our greatest opportunity to reach a global population. Our growth has been exponential which translates to more eyes on bats, their importance, and the need to protect them. Included in this document is the reason why this is one of the most important aspects of our mission – changing minds and attitudes.

	2021	2023
 <i>Twitter</i>	<b>3,400</b> Followers	<b>6,000+</b> Followers
 <i>Facebook</i>	<b>28,000</b> Followers	<b>34,000+</b> Followers
 <i>Instagram</i>	<b>25,000</b> Followers	<b>100,000+</b> Followers
 <i>TikTok</i>	<b>0</b> Followers	<b>2.1M</b> Followers

## What's Next...

Continue to grow our followers on social media, enabling us to expand our mission and teach the importance of bats.

## Success Story



**317M** Views    **245K** Comments


A simple 8-second video in December 2022 of Malayan Flying Fox, HeeHee, yawning and settling in for a nap received **317 million views and 245K comments!** It is currently TikTok's 21st most watched video.





# The Impact of Social Media


Lubee is able to reach millions of people every day. The following comments highlight why this is important.


 I thought that they were ugly but they are so cute  
🥰🥰🥰  
20h ago Reply


 I've just found your page, used to be scared of bats, now I'm in love 🥰


 Just another thing we were taught to be scared of because of movies and what other people told us.  
🙄 Learn for yourself people. 🙌  
2d Reply

 I used to see them kind of disgusting. Now I've got feelings of tenderness for them  
20h Reply


 I've always loved bats. I feel like historically they've gotten a bad rap. You guys are doing a good job of correcting that.  
1d Reply  
Liked by creator

 I was scared bc I imagined something really gross but, they're very cute they look like dogs 🥰


 Whoever made us think bats were scary bc of Halloween really did us all a disservice. They're so cute!!  
7h Reply


 I've always been scared of bat's I saw them as nasty little creature's but the account has proven otherwise  
1d Reply  
Liked by creator


 never knew how much I liked bats until this page  
2022-12-13 Reply

 Thought they were gross flying rats but they are adorable! Growing in life & thoughts is a beautiful thing! Life is an adventure of discovery!  
23h Reply

 I've loved bats since I was a kid. Thank you for showing me why. ❤️  
15h ago Reply

 I already liked bats but this page has validated it. And it has taught me about mega bats. This has given bats personality and intelligence,  
1d Reply  
Liked by creator

 I think I found my new favorite animal  
5h Reply

 I have always liked bats but I have learned more about them from your videos. They have very different personalities.  
12h Reply

 Thank you for being my happy place!! I LOVE BATS!!!  
2022-8-19 Reply



From bat houses in Florida to the caves of coastal Kenya and rainforests in the South Pacific, our commitment to protecting wild bat populations through community-led efforts is unwavering.

### **Native Bats**

Lubee staff have built and installed 124 bat houses, spanning GA and FL. Two of our bat houses in SW FL took a direct hit from Cat 4 Hurricane Ian in Sep 2022, and stood strong without any damage.

### **Rodrigues Island**

The Rodrigues Environmental Education Project (REEP) supports a local educator who works with communities to protect the environment and native wildlife. REEP has led reforestation efforts and field work on the endangered Rodrigues fruit bat. In the 1970's, only 70 of these bats remained. Today, there are over 20,000, thanks to their efforts.



**Fiji.** A database of over 100 bat roosts has been developed to guide conservation and research.

### **Pacific Sheath-tailed Bat.**

Field surveys on Ovalau Island confirmed four current cave roosts with 50 to 250 bats each. Conservation on Taveuni Island was launched at two known cave roosts that were threatened by deforestation and guano mining. Local communities confirmed three additional caves and secured commitments to replant forests around these areas.



**Fijian Blossom Bat.** On Viti Levu Island, two new cave roosts were identified increasing known roosting locations to seven, guiding further research and protection.

**Fijian Free-tailed Bat.** The only known roost site on Vanua Levu is now recognized as a protected area and the colony is being monitored by the local community as part of a PhD program.

Conservation



**New Caledonia.** Long-term conservation of New Caledonia's threatened bats.

**New Caledonia Long-eared Bat.** The species' last confirmed sighting was May 1991; no roosts are known for the species. While initial surveys in 2021/22 failed to confirm their presence, unknown acoustic calls from the region have yet to be identified and may prove to be this long-lost species. Acoustic surveys did confirm the presence of the Endangered New Caledonia Wattled Bat.

**New Caledonia Blossom Bat.** The survey team was able to confirm that the colony at Vallée des Roches still exists since it was last visited 12 years ago. The current colony may exceed 700 bats, triple the number from 12 years ago. Additional monitoring and strengthened management are planned, as is an expedition to the only other known roost site.



**Bougainville.**

Conservation of the Endangered Bougainville Monkey-Faced Bat and the Critically Endangered Greater Monkey-Faced Bat through local community empowerment. Between 2016 and 2021, locals documented at least four roosts and observed four individual Bougainville Monkey-Faced Bats. Additional surveys are currently underway with new roosts being identified.

**Kenya**

Lubee recently received a grant for project 'Conservation of the Endangered Hildegard's Tomb Bat. This project aims to protect this species and its habitat through community led efforts focused on population monitoring, species assessment, education, and engagement.

*What's Next...*

Lubee is in communication with partners in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands, to initiate a multi-year study aimed at finding and protecting some of the last populations of critically endangered Monkey-Faced Bats. The project will be led by local biologists and communities, to find these five species, map roosts, determine threats, and initiate attainable conservation strategies. The hope is to also inspire school-age children to join the project with the goal of furthering academic studies and inclusion into field work.

Conservation

# Thank You

for supporting  
Lubee Bat Conservancy.

We hope this report provides insight into our organization and the work that is done locally and globally to support our mission. For more information about Lubee, our programs, events, or to make a contribution, please visit [www.lubee.org](http://www.lubee.org) or visit any of our social media channels.



[lubee.org](http://lubee.org)

