***Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats***

**May 19 – Sept. 16, 2018**

**Did You Know?**

* While certain species of squirrels can glide through the air, bats are the only mammals capable of true flight.
* Bats make up a fifth of all mammal species on earth with more than 1,300 species.
* A single brown bat can catch up to 600 mosquitoes in just one hour.
* There are only three species of vampire bats – bats that live off the blood of animals – and none are indigenous to the United States.
* Most bats have only one pup a year, making them extremely vulnerable to extinction.
* Due to their high metabolism, bats need to eat their body weight in food every day, with some species eating up to double their weight.
* Bats’ echolocation is so finely tuned, they can detect objects as thin as a human hair.
* Their echolocation works off clicks that the bat emits and the resulting echo. Bats can only listen to the echo of one click at a time. When in the final stages of a hunt, a bat can emit around 200 clicks a second!
* With wingspans up to 6 feet long and weighing over 2 pounds, flying foxes are the largest bats in the world. These gentle giants feed exclusively on fruit, nectar, pollen and blossoms.
* On the other end of the spectrum is Kitti’s hog-nosed bat, also known as the bumblebee bat. It is the world’s smallest mammal and weighs less than a penny.
* The UF bat colony is comprised of mostly Brazilian free-tailed bats, *Tadarida brasiliensis*, the most common mammal throughout Florida.
* Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Texas, is home to an estimated 1.5 million Brazilian or Mexican free-tailed bats! About 100,000 tourists visit the bridge annually to see North America’s largest urban bat colony.
* It is estimated that bats save the United States agricultural industry up to $53 billion a year in pesticides and damage to crops.
* During the Civil War, guano (bat droppings) was used to make gunpowder.
* The tube-lipped nectar bat has the longest tongue, relative to its body size, of any mammal. Their tongue coils up inside their ribcage when not in use.
* More than 300 species of food-producing plants depend on bats for pollination.
* Bats are capable of living more than 25 years in the wild.