

**Natalie W., Helena, MT** addressed the issue of bat conservation in the Helena area. By collaborating with the US Forest Service and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks she was equipped to educate her community at several events with educational materials to raise awareness about the importance of bats to our ecology. As a result of her work in the community the Forest Service recognized the importance of including bat education as a permanent feature at an annual event in the Helena area, Migratory Bird Day. Natalie also worked with younger Girl Scouts to build bat houses and then facilitated hanging of them with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Helena and Castle Museum in White Sulphur Springs in appropriate areas to provide safe habitats for bats.

**Sheridan S., Green River, WY** after learning about Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) in the bee population, challenged her community to learn more about the issue and take action. Sheridan spent her summer at the local Farmer's Market where she set up a booth with educational materials about CCD that included flyers and word searches as well as an activity. Visitors to her booth had the opportunity to decorate a plant pot for wildflowers that attract bees as well as make a bee bath to take home for their gardens. As well as the booth she hosted a community event inviting a bee keeper to talk about bees and participants also made a bee bath and flower pot as a reminder of what they learned. She also worked with the local nursery and created tags to identify annual and perennial plants that attract bees to encourage customers to plant bee friendly plants in their gardens.

**Becca M., Cheyenne, WY** identified a need to reestablish a community vegetable garden that was originally created by a local church. She revitalized the garden, inviting local girls to help out and at the same time taught them how to plant, maintain and harvest the produce. The produce was donated to the local food bank so they could provide their clients with more healthy eating options. After the first summer of doing this she partnered with the food bank and the decision was made that the community garden would have a larger impact if it was onsite at the food bank. Becca then built 3 vegetable garden beds at the food bank to ensure that fresh vegetables would be easily accessible for the food bank and its clients. The food bank staff will maintain the garden in the future, teaching its staff and clients how to garden and the importance of healthy eating.

**Lyrick O., Cheyenne, WY** partnered with the Primrose Retirement Community to design and build a dog park for its residents after recognizing that they didn't have a dedicated space for their dogs. The dog park has a couple of obstacle courses for the dogs, a portable dog toy box, fire hydrant that stores treats and a watering station. The residents now have a safe environment to interact with their dogs.