

# BLUEBIRD TRAILS & TALES

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

Volume 16, Issue 2

Summer 2013

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[www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)

## A Message from the President -

As I write this message, spring is abounding and bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds are busy building nests for the season. Spring is a wonderful time of the year - a sense of rebirth. Speaking of spring - our 15th Annual Conference held on April 5&6 was very successful. This joint conference with the Purple Martin Conservation Association was entertaining, very educational and well-attended. Almost 150 people attended the conference! Everyone enjoyed the speakers, vendors, exhibits, the live and silent auctions and the food. The Best Western Premier Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA was a beautiful place to hold this event. The meeting rooms were spacious and the guest rooms were very comfortable.

Our next Conference will be held on March 28th & 29th, 2014 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 215 Innovation Boulevard State College, PA. Stay tuned for details to be posted on the BSP web site and in future BSP newsletters.

By the time you receive this message, summer will be in full swing. My hope is that the bluebirds will bring happiness to you all year long.

BSP is updating the Speaker's Bureau List. The Speaker's Bureau is a group of Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania members who have volunteered to educate others about bluebirds and other

cavity-nesting songbirds. Please visit the BSP web site [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org) and fill out the form to indicate your willingness to promote bluebird education by presenting programs in your area. By doing so, BSP will provide you with a free educational CD with beautiful photos to use as a tool for presenting programs for educational outreach purposes. As a BSP member, you can also post and publicize your event on the BSP web site and also on the BSP Facebook site.

The BSP website also offers an array of contact persons who can serve as resources for answering your questions or inquiries. You can contact the President, Webmaster, Nest Box Reporter, Online Store Manager, Wildlife Rehabilitator, and County Coordinators, or Board of Directors.

Good communication and education

overcomes miscommunications and misunderstanding and the end result is Harmony.

Happy Bluebirding!  
Harry Schneider, BSP President



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Artist - Susan Renkel

## *From the Editor -*



The nesting season is now in full swing, and it is exciting to check the nest boxes each week to see the developments. A lot can happen in a week! With commitments of personal time dedicated to work, home and yard chores, family outings, and other social activities, it is easy to think of nest box monitoring of multiple trails as just another item on the “things to do” list.

I consider my weekly trail monitoring as “a nature walk” during which I check the nest boxes. It is important to keep it fun and to enjoy the time out in nature observing all that can be seen and heard along the bluebird trails. Good bluebird habitat is usually located in rural, open areas including our yards, parks or golf courses, which are very beautiful, natural areas with wonderful scenery. A variety of plants, animals, and other songbird species can be observed and photographed.

I always bring my binoculars, as I like to view the nest boxes from afar to observe the activity of the parents, which can indicate what is going on in the nest box. When it is getting close to fledge time, the parents will be feeding the young from outside of the box through the entrance hole instead of completely entering the box to feed them. If I see and hear the parents with food in their beaks calling to the young, I know that they are coaxing them out and I will not open the box that week because doing so could cause them to fledge prematurely.

Inviting a friend or another bluebird enthusiast to accompany me on the trail is a great way to enjoy nature, share bluebird tips, and to encourage them to become actively involved in bluebird conservation activities. Inspiring young people to become involved is a very important goal of BSP so that there will be a new group of bluebirders who will continue to provide and monitor nest boxes for the propagation of all native songbirds; including bluebirds, chickadees, tree swallows, house wrens, and prothonotary warblers. I am thrilled to have bluebirds, tufted titmouse and chickadees using the nest boxes in our yard this season. Also, very happy that bluebirds and tree swallows are nesting in the boxes behind my work office, so my break time consists of checking the nest boxes and watching their fascinating nesting activities.

*Joan Watroba*  
BSP Editor

## **BSP OFFICERS and BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **President**

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Dale Cook / 2012-2014

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Bill Cuppett / 2012-2014

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Terry Gerhart 2012-2014

[gerhartsat@aol.com](mailto:gerhartsat@aol.com)

# BSP EVENT REPORTS

## **Pennsylvania Garden Show of York - March 1-3, 2013 ~ York, PA**

This year we took our Bluebird Society of PA educational booth to the York area. It was the first time that we attended this event. This was a great welcome to spring, and this venue was bright with floral and landscape displays. Lots of people were interested in talking with us about bluebirds. I gave the presentation “Welcoming Bluebirds” to a large group with the Stokes’ Bluebird Basics DVD projected on the large movie screen. There was an active participation of sharing of bluebird information with questions and answers. Bill Strauss and Dale Cook kept 20 kids busy assembling nest boxes in the “do it yourself” activity hall and they learned how to help the bluebirds, too. Welcome to all **43** new members who joined BSP at this event and thanks to all of the volunteers: Doris Hoffman, Chuck Musser, Bill Franz, Debra Carmen, Joanne Slavinski, Nancy and Randy Shriver, Jackie Millhimes, Bill Strauss, Dale Cook, Barb and Dave Cox.

Nancy Putt, Event Chair

## **Wetlands Festival- April 27th, 2013 ~ Wildwood Park- Harrisburg, PA**

It was just a perfect day to be outdoors, and this was the place to be with our educational booth on this environmentally-themed day. This event always attracts many families with children, and this year they had a big treat, for BSP’s mascot “Bluebelle” was there to greet the kids while the parents took pictures! She was a big hit!!!! Doris Hoffman and I were there with “Bluebelle” and we welcome the 6 new members who joined BSP during this event. Good luck with attracting bluebirds to your new nest box!

Nancy Putt, Event Chair

## **Bluebird Informational Meeting-May 1, 2013**

On May 1, Dan Thomas and Dean Rust, BSP Co-County Coordinators of Lancaster County hosted their 1st Annual “Bluebird Informational Evening” at Calvary Church in Lancaster, PA from 7-8:30 p.m. They wanted the opportunity to meet with and to develop a relationship with the Lancaster County members of BSP. There were 59 people in attendance. Dean, Dan, Ken Leister, and Chuck Musser presented a bluebird program and showed the DVD-“Bluebird Basics” by Stokes. They also held a drawing for 8 door prizes, including nest boxes, Noel guards, and House sparrow traps. It was a fun evening and good information was shared. Light refreshments were served, including “Bluebird Cookies.”

# BLUEBIRD TRAILS WANTED/TRAIL MONITORS NEEDED

## **Trail Monitor Needed**

Joe Ibberson Conservation Area /Near Halifax, PA /  
Dauphin County  
Contact: Ben Ranney, Little Buffalo State Park Complex  
1579 State Park Road | Newport, PA 17074  
Phone: 717-567-9255 | Fax: 717-567-7420  
E-mail: branney@pa.gov  
www.dcnr.state.pa.us

## **Trail Monitor Needed**

23 box trail-Middletown, PA /Dauphin County  
Our first bluebirds fledged last week, and we have lots of bluebird eggs, also have chickadees and now tree swallows are nesting. Please help us to monitor.  
Reply to: Cathy Blair  
Bluebird Society of PA -Facebook Page  
E-mail: cblair527@gmail.com

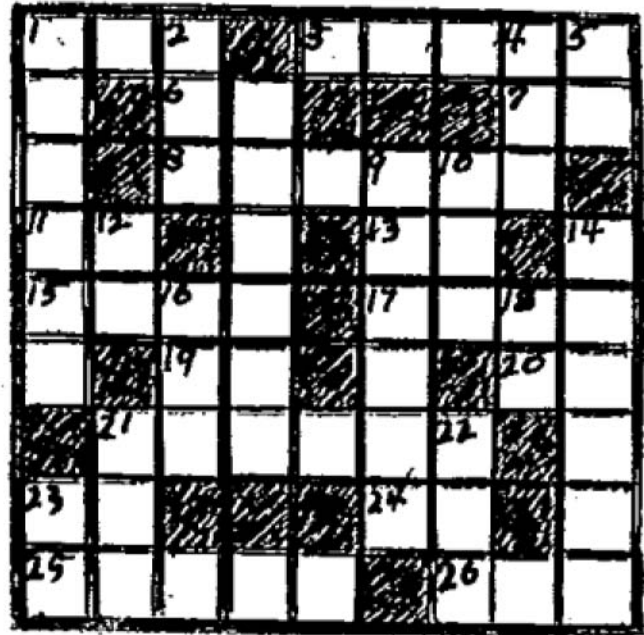
# CROSSWORD by Marie Walzer

## ACROSS

- 1 Prickly seedcase
- 3 Reproduce
- 6 From thrush group
- 7 In the direction of
- 8 Startling sound
- 11 Egg count
- 13 Busy feeding time
- 15 Crop of a bird
- 17 Select & gather
- 19 Male bluebird
- 20 To exist
- 21 To forgive
- 23 Grain meas.
- 24 Opposite of yes
- 25 Habituate
- 26 Expect to hatch

## DOWN

- 1 Woody growth
- 2 Pilfer the nest
- 4 Approx. fledge time
- 5 Bring about
- 9 Egg eating mammal
- 10 Non-flying bird
- 12 Alternative conjunction
- 14 Grow flying feathers
- 16 An exclamation
- 18 Weight abbr.
- 21 Play on words
- 22 What sleepy hatchlings do
- 23 Prefix meaning twice



See page 7 for the answers to the crossword puzzle.

*Editor's Note: Thanks, Marie for submitting your fun crossword puzzle.*



Nesting Site of Bluebird Babies



Newborn Bluebird Babies - early April - nested in PVC box.  
Photos by Chuck Musser.

# BSP COUNTY COORDINATOR UPDATES

## Centre County

New County Coordinators: Bonnie and Bill Ford

814-335-1811

e-mail: bcf1@psu.edu

*Note: Thanks to Deb Escalet for serving as BSP County Coordinator for Centre County for several years.*

## Juniata County

Virginia Banks had served as BSP County Coordinator for Juniata County, but she recently sent a lovely note to BSP informing us that she and her husband have moved to North Carolina, so she can no longer serve as County Coordinator. She will continue to be a BSP Member.

*Editor's Note: Thanks, Virginia for your service. Your letter said that you have set up a bluebird box and you saw them eating the sunflower hearts that you offered to them when you first moved there and that you still see them flying around. Hope that they make your new home, their home.*

## Mifflin County Coordinator

Diane Ruth-Correct e-mail address is: gardeninggal50@centurylink.net

## Tioga County Coordinator

Emily Rizzo-Correct phone number is (570) 549-2286



## Winners-Amish Quilt Raffle

The winners of the Raffle for 2013 are:

**1st Prize - Queen-Sized Quilt ~ Marge Leap- Elizabethtown, PA**

*( It was very exciting, as she was present during the drawing at the Conference )*

**2nd Prize - Wall Hanging ~ Lynn Crouthamel-Sellersville, PA**

**3rd Prize - Pillow ~ Mary Kilfoil-Danville, PA**



■ *To Dean Rust, Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania:* April 30, 2013

My name is Nathaniel Sload, I am a Boy Scout with Troop #39 of Mount Joy. I was looking for an Eagle Scout project when I received an e-mail from my Scoutmaster stating that Nancy Blechschmidt was interested in having two bluebird trails installed in the West Hempfield area. I did not know too much about the bluebirds, but wanted to learn more, so I attended your presentation in November at the Boettcher House. Your talk was very informative and I learned what type of bluebird box to build and how to install them. I wanted to be part of the bluebird survival, so I chose to install two bluebird trails as my Eagle Scout Project.

On March 16, 2013 along with a few fellow scouts and adults, we built and installed a total of seven Kentucky-style bluebird boxes. Both trails are located in the Columbia area. One trail is located at Cedar Bluff Park, where we installed two bluebird boxes, and the second trail is located at the Manos House, where we installed five bluebird boxes. Both trails are being monitored by Nancy Blechschmidt.

Bluebirds have been sighted flying around the area but, unfortunately have not taken up residence in any of my boxes. Hopefully one will decide to build a nest and continue to increase the bluebird population. Thank you for all your help and support with my project, especially the bluebird box skylights (plexiglass)!

Sincerely, Nathaniel Sload, Troop #39 Mount Joy, PA- Eagle Scout Candidate



Nate Sload is eighth in from the left - wearing the Penn State Shirt.

■ **Dear Mr. Schneider:** I am the mother of Paul Klatt, the Boy Scout from Uniontown that you gave a presentation for his Eagle Scout project. I'm writing to let you know how our bluebirding is going.

First off, let me tell you how much everyone really enjoyed your presentation. You were very informative and very entertaining; even the Scouts talked about your presentation for the next couple of meetings. Paul and Evan (my younger son) both told friends who weren't at the meeting that they really missed out on something fun. If you capture the attention of a group of teen-age boys, you know you've given a good presentation! Actually, I can see the value of having you speak, because listening to you made us realize that we can really have an impact on the success of the bluebirds' survival.

It's been surprising that as more neighbors heard what Paul was doing, how many asked for boxes on their property. People really like having bluebirds around! He put houses on 9 different properties, so we ended up with only about 20 on my parent's farm.

We put two up in our yard on the 1st Saturday in March. I had an old one on a tree that we took down, and placed a new one on a pole about 30 feet away from the old site. About a week later, bluebirds started checking out the new digs. I was quite surprised at how interested both boys-and my husband (very surprising, since all he does is work!)-were in watching. We now keep the binoculars by the kitchen window so we can watch throughout the day. Horror of horrors, House sparrows soon showed up. We set the trap, and soon caught a sparrow. However, the boys were startled when they caught the bird in a bag, and the bird got away. It was funny to see them get so rattled, but they were disappointed. No nests yet, but bluebirds keep flying around the box, so we hope one will nest there.

Paul has been monitoring the boxes on the farm, and has removed a couple of sparrow nests. We found a nice booklet on bluebirds that Paul gave to each landowner, along with an information sheet with some websites for their reference.

Paul will be in contact with you soon to tell you about his project. He has a scouting weekend trip and a marching band trip to Florida coming up in the next few weeks, so he may not email you for a couple of weeks. This is why I've sent this message- I wanted you to know that he has been working on this, the houses are up, and we're really enjoying monitoring them. Just think how excited we'll be to actually see some baby birds! I'll keep you posted.

Thanks for your support,  
Susan Klatt

## Answers



*Don't Forget - BSP has a Facebook Page!  
Google: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania / Facebook*



# Experimental Nest Box

Dean Rust, BSP County Coordinator, Lancaster County

4/14/13 - In 2010 when I was constructing and installing my 25 bluebird box trail at Calvary Church, Lancaster, I placed an "Experimental Box" in the group. The boxes were placed every 100 yards around west, north and east sides of the 26 acre parcel of land.

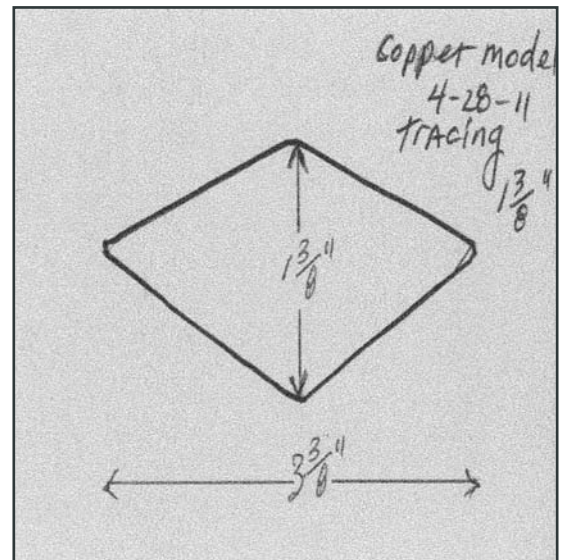
All the boxes were built exactly alike with the exception of the "Experimental Box" - #21. It had a different entrance hole than the typical 1 1/2". In my quest to invent a "sparrow-resistant entrance", I came up with a diamond-shaped entrance, 1 3/8" high by 3 3/8" wide with 4 sides (each side is 1 7/8" long).

I made a copper pattern of it and placed it over the 3/4" cedar front and wood cut hole of the same dimension. For 3 years I have had no nests of any kind inside the box, even though a large barn, two small sheds and an old farmhouse dating to 1780's are nearby. Lots of House sparrows are around.

A week ago I was ready to change its location due to lack of activity and figured it was just a bad idea..... On Wednesday, April 10, I checked the box and discovered a full bluebird nest inside. I watched the bluebirds come and go, both female and male, with amazement.

Here are photos of the experimental nest box along with the template of the entrance hole.

Update: As of May 4, there are now 5 bluebird eggs. I will follow this nesting through the incubation, feeding and fledging cycle to complete the story.



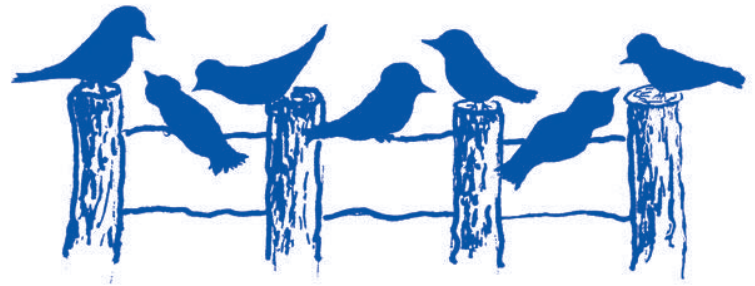


# ANNUAL BSP NEST BOX REPORT

## BSP 2012- Annual Nest Box Report Summary

**A BIG THANKS** to Shirley Halk, BSP's Annual Nest Box Reporter, for compiling the 2012 BSP Annual Nest Box Report Data. Here is a Summary of the reports that were sent in to BSP:

Total # of Nest Boxes Reported-	3,792
Bluebird Eggs - (blue)	9,305
Bluebird Eggs- (white)	110
Total Bluebird Eggs-	9,415
<b>Total # Bluebirds Fledged -</b>	<b>7,849</b>



Artist - Susan Renkel

### Other Native Songbird Species Fledged:

Tree Swallows-	3,861
Black-Capped Chickadees -	384
Tufted Titmice-	57
House Wrens-	1,444
White Breasted Nuthatch-	5
Carolina Wren-	30

*\*\*Please keep records of your nesting activity and submit the results to BSP on the **Annual Nest Box Report Form**, which is included in this edition of the newsletter and is also available to print from the BSP web site: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)*

***Note:** The BSP web site also has the nesting results for 2012, the Weekly Monitoring Form, and also the Annual Nest Box Report Form. Select the link more....located on the right side of the main page of the web site. BSP conducts a random prize drawing of 3 nest box reports received by October 15 and the winners will receive items from the BSP Store.*



Photo by  
Susan Renkel

# BSP UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 17th - July 27th**  
**Fridays - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Breakfast with the Bluebirds!**

Bring a brown bag breakfast to the park visitor center for a 20 minute program followed by a short walk to monitor nearby cavity nest boxes. Bluebird and tree swallow sightings are likely. Coffee and good company are GUARANTEED!

For information contact: Codorus State Park, 2600 Smith Station Road, Hanover, PA 17331-8000.  
717-637-2816

**July 27th - Saturday**  
**Ned Smith Festival for Nature and Art**  
MYO Borough Park  
in Millersburg, PA - 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

BSP program 9-10 a.m. Nest Box-Building Activity  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Volunteers needed. Please contact Phil Durgin at  
(717) 732-5325 or pdurgin@comcast.net

**August 17th - Saturday**  
**BSP Picnic/Nest Box Kit Packaging Workshop**  
**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Rain or Shine-Event held indoors with A/C**

Location:  
High Properties, 5010 Ritter Road, Suite # 109  
Mechanicsburg, PA

Located off of Rt. 15, Mechanicsburg- Take the Rossmoyne Road/ Wesley Dr. Exit – drive towards Rossmoyne Road - Take a right at Louise Drive, then another right on Ritter Road then enter on right to 1510 Ritter Road-High Properties Complex-Suite #109

Volunteers are needed to bag nest box kits-No construction on site

BSP will provide food, drinks, and dessert. Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

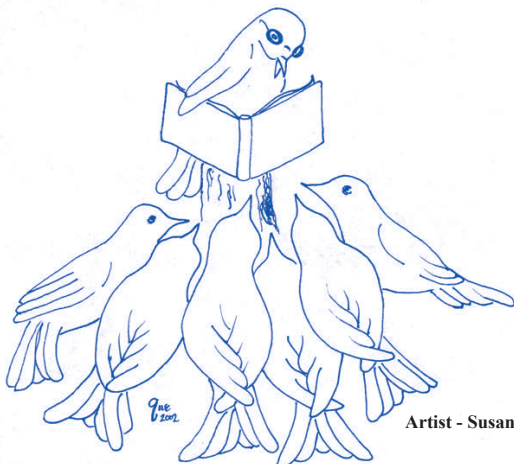
Contact: RSVP -Dale Cook, BSP Woodworking Chairman

e-mail: Eagle17319@aol.com or call (717) 503- 3072

**Upcoming BSP Board Meetings:**  
**Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.**  
**July 25 and October 24**

Giant Community Room,  
Camp Hill Shopping Center, Camp Hill, PA

We encourage and appreciate your participation. If you cannot attend in person, contact BSP President, Harry Schneider, (724) 285-1209 or e-mail: harryschneider@gmail.com prior to the meetings to arrange to attend remotely by phone.



Artist - Susan Renkel

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## BSP is NOW GREEN!



Benefits of receiving the BSP newsletter by e-mail:

- \* Quicker Delivery of the publication
- \* Reduction of the cost for printing and postage fees to deliver the newsletter
- \* Reduce the use of natural resources-trees to make paper and fuel to transport mail to its destination
- \* Ability to view photos in color

*Please consider going GREEN as your newsletter delivery option!*

To receive the e-mail version, please **send an e-mail from the e-mail address that you wish to receive your BSP newsletter to: [bntnewsletter@thebsp.org](mailto:bntnewsletter@thebsp.org).**

In your e-mail, please include BSP Newsletter Delivery in the subject line of your e-mail, along with the following:

1. Your name as it appears on the mailing label of your newsletter.
2. Your current mailing address.
3. Your phone number.
4. Retype your e-mail address



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### Feedback from Attendees of the BSP Annual Conference:

#### From the PMCA (Purple Martin Conservation Association):

Hello Harry, A note to say thank you for all your good work organizing the joint Bluebird/Purple Martin conference. The conference was a a great success, and it provided the perfect opportunity for us to network with others to form a Purple Martin working group to address the decline of martins in Pennsylvania. We hope that we can do for them what BSP has done for bluebirds. John Tautin, Ellen Brockwell and Bob Aeppli.

Harry- thanks for all your hard work I had a great day, it was a great conference. Tom Weaver

Harry Schneider 4/12/2013 - My Wife and I would just like to again Thank-you for your club's warmth and hospitality as we attended your 2013 Conference. The Conference was very well- presented and we enjoyed all the guest speakers and vendors. I don't know if we will make the next one at State College, but we will keep it in mind. Again congratulate your club on a job very well done and Happy Birding. Cyril Poisson, Canada

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# ★ BSP Awards 2013 ★

## Bluebirder of the Year - Joan Watroba

Joan Watroba has been very active with the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania (BSP) and the Eastern bluebirds since 1996. She has served as a BSP Board Member, Vice President, and President, is a past recipient of the Blue Feather Award and currently serves as BSP County Coordinator for Cumberland County, and Editor for the BSP newsletter, Bluebird Trails and Tales. Joan feels that the newsletter is an excellent resource for members to keep updated on issues pertaining to our organization and to share their personal information about bluebirds and nature-related topics. She encourages readers to submit articles, poems, letters, and share their personal experiences from the field with fellow bluebirders.

Joan willingly volunteers at numerous BSP events and gets excited meeting so many people who have great ideas, asking interesting questions and have bluebird stories to tell. In Cumberland and Dauphin Counties she has numerous bluebird trails that she monitors. One of her trails, Trout Run is located on the local chapter of the Audubon Society's nature preserve. She has found that the monofilament line affixed to the front of a nest box works well on her trail and she promotes the proper use of this method with the instructions and diagram included in a handout sheet that she has written. Joan has always been a very positive force giving good advice and guidance in many areas of BSP endeavors. She is dedicated to the mission of BSP - the conservation of the Eastern bluebird and other native cavity- nesters, making her a very worthy recipient of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania's Bluebirder of the Year Award for 2013.



*My co-workers all know how much I am involved with promoting bluebird nestings, and I even installed two bluebird boxes behind the office. Bluebirds are currently nesting in one box and tree swallows in the other. After the conference weekend, my workmate, Rick Smith drew this nice message on the white board. I am honored to be the recipient of this service award for 2013. Thanks to Rick and to all of you for your well wishes. Joan Watroba*



### **Blue Feather Award - John Barley**

In January 2010 while working the Farm Show bluebird booth, Bill Strauss met and spoke with John Barley from Lancaster, PA. John was very interested in obtaining information on Bluebird Society membership, as well as learning more about these beautiful creatures known as Eastern bluebirds. John shared that he owns a local barbershop in Millersville, PA and also enjoys building bluebird boxes out of 100 year old barn board wood and giving the boxes to his clientele even though he was not an experienced bluebirder himself. While John's clients are on his barber chair he holds bluebird conversations. He says his clients are a captive audience because they are "trapped" in his barber chair and they have to listen to what he says about bluebirds. He displays bluebird boxes and replica nests in his shop for others to learn more about these beautiful creatures. John has built 200 boxes and gives them away at no cost. In addition he ships these boxes to other states as well as sending them to Canada. He also has started and monitors a small trail on his church's property that now has seven boxes.

John is worthy of the Blue Feather Award because of his generosity and willingness to share his bluebird knowledge with others in his area.



### **Blue Feather Award - Diane Kripas**

In the summer of 2012, Carl Lowrence, Chairman of the Capital Area Greenbelt Trail contacted the BSP regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the Greenbelt Bluebird Trail located on the grounds of the old Harrisburg State Hospital. The trail travels northeast of the hospital grounds and ends at the rear of the Pennsylvania Game Commission building on Elmerton Avenue. Twenty- three new boxes and poles needed to be installed to bring the trail up to specifications. Once Dale Cook and Bill Strauss installed the new boxes, someone was needed to monitor and care for this renovated trail. Carl informed Bill that Ron and Diane Kripas were already caring for the grounds in that area and recommended that Bill contact them. Although Diane was hesitant at first because she lacked bluebirding experience, she was willing to give it a try if someone would teach her how to do the monitoring. Diane started out on her bike with books in hand and began her new adventure as the new trail monitor for the Greenbelt. Bill rode the trail with her until she gained enough confidence to monitor it on her own. Diane took on her new responsibility with enthusiasm and was thorough with every detail. When Diane submitted her year- end report to Shirley Halk, it was completed to perfection.

Diane is deserving of the Blue Feather Award because of her willingness and dedication to step up to the plate and monitor this Greenbelt Trail even though she initially had little or no prior knowledge of bluebirding. •





## BSP Newsletter Submission/Wiggly Worm Contest

The Newsletter Committee is very excited that many BSP members are submitting material for the BSP newsletter, and we want to encourage more members to do so. By submitting your questions, nesting experiences, and field observations, we will be able to offer a wider variety of articles and materials that are of interest to our readers.

### Contest Rules:

1. Locate the illustration of the **Wiggly Worm** which will appear in the content of the newsletter and write that **page #** on the top of your item for the newsletter.
2. Your entry can be a general question or article about bluebirds or other nature topics, a write-up about something that you observed in your yard or on your trail, an original poem, a trail monitoring tip, or any non-copyrighted material.
3. Write **Attn: Wiggly Worm Contest** on the front of the envelope and send to: BSP, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756. We are also now accepting newsletter submissions by e-mail. Please enter **Wiggly Worm Contest** in the subject line and e-mail to the BSP Editor at: [sunshinebb@msn.com](mailto:sunshinebb@msn.com).
4. One submission will be *randomly drawn* at the cut-off date for each newsletter edition, and the person whose entry was randomly picked will have their choice of any book offered in the BSP store- website: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)

### The latest date to submit items is the following:

Spring - January 7 • Summer- May 7 • Fall/Winter- September 7

The Newsletter Editor will then review the items and reserve the right to include your submission in an upcoming edition. Since we cannot return any items, please send *copies only* of materials and/or photos. Please include your contact information-name, address, phone number or e-mail address (optional) with your entry.

## BSP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION CONTEST WINNER:

**Marie Walzer**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Marie - Please contact the BSP Store Manager, Doris at (717) 766-3877 and provide her with your prize choice.

Items can be viewed at the BSP web site: <http://www.thebsp.org/>  
Select the link to: **BSP Online Store** to view the list of books available.



# Repel Ticks

by Phil Durgin

I've noticed quite a few deer ticks on me this year after monitoring my trails. As Pennsylvania is prime Lyme disease territory, I did a little research on what can be done to prevent tick bites. I've been using a DEET insect repellent, but it doesn't seem to be very effective. But there's another chemical called Permethrin (derived from the chrysanthemum family of plants) which comes in a spray that you apply directly to your clothing (not your skin). Permethrin kills, rather than repels, ticks and has been approved as safe and effective by the EPA.

When sprayed on clothes, Permethrin binds tightly to the fabric and remains effective against ticks, mosquitoes and other insects for up to 6 weeks or 6 washings. You can also buy clothing in which Permethrin is factory-applied to the fabric and remains effective for up to 70 washings. Columbia makes shirts and pants with Permethrin under the name BugShield. Ex Officio is another manufacturer which sells similar clothing under the name InsectShield.

The Minnesota Insect-Borne Disease Education Council conducted a field tests and found that the Permethrin products outperformed the DEET-containing tick repellents. A shoe was sprayed with Duranon (0.5% Permethrin). Three weeks later, it was tested against a recently sprayed shoe using Deep Woods Off (35% DEET). Ticks that made contact with the Duranon-sprayed shoe immediately rolled up and dropped off. Ticks on the soaking-wet DEET saturated shoe continued to crawl unimpaired. They also note that the military uses Permethrin rather than DEET for ticks. Apparently DEET works well for mosquitoes, but is a poor tick repellent.

I bought a can of Sawyer's Permethrin spray at Dick's Sporting Goods for \$8. There's enough in the can for 2 outfits (pants, shirt and socks count as one outfit). The warning label is a bit scary; if you get any of the spray on your skin, you're to wash your skin for 15 minutes and then call your local poison control center or doctor for further instructions. I used gloves and a mask while spraying my clothes, which you have to do outside.

I've monitored my trail twice times since spraying my clothes and so far, no ticks. Lyme disease can be very serious, so I'm hopeful the Permethrin will do the job.

Editor's Note: It is important to wear long pants and light-colored clothing so that you can see the ticks on your clothing and also to do a tick check after spending time outdoors.

For more information about ticks and Lyme disease, go to: [www.cdc.gov/Lyme](http://www.cdc.gov/Lyme)

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## How to Make Your Own Natural Tick Repellent ~ By Megan Smith, eHow Contributor

1. Pour 2 tbsp. of vegetable oil into a clean, empty shampoo bottle, preferably a travel size. Vegetable oil can be purchased at your local grocery store and does not have to be fancy or expensive. The least expensive vegetable oil will suffice for this recipe.
2. Add 1 tbsp. of aloe vera gel and shake the closed bottle vigorously to mix. Aloe vera gel is thicker than the other ingredients, so shake the bottle for one minute to mix, and shake again before using. You can purchase aloe vera gel at your local drugstore. If you own an aloe plant, you can also scrape the insides of an aloe leaf in order to get 1 tbsp. of aloe gel.
3. Add 25 drops of rose geranium essential oil to the mixture. You can purchase rose geranium essential oil at your local health food store or online. Rose geranium essential oil is a natural tick repellent, as they do not like the smell or taste of the oil.
4. Add 25 drops of lavender essential oil to the mixture and shake vigorously for 30 seconds to mix. You can purchase lavender essential oil at your local health food store or online. Lavender is another herb that ticks do not like the scent or taste of, and essential oil concentrates this scent and taste into a strong concoction that ticks won't touch.
5. Rub on your body before tick exposure. Squeeze a dime-size amount of the repellent into your hands and rub on any exposed area of your body, including your hands, arms, ankles and neck. Instead of latching onto your skin, the ticks will fall off onto the ground after smelling and tasting the repellent on your body.

Website: [WWW.THEBSP.ORG](http://WWW.THEBSP.ORG)

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Artist - Susan Renkel



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PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY.

Write additional information on back if necessary.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial
Street	City	State
Telephone (optional)	Fax (optional)	Email (optional)
Year Monitored	Location of Box (county)*	Frequency of Monitoring (daily, weekly, biweekly)

\* Note: If you have boxes in more than one county, please submit a separate report for each county

<p>How many nest boxes do you monitor at home? _____</p> <p>How many nest boxes do you monitor on a trail(s)? _____</p> <p>Total Number of nest boxes monitored? _____</p> <p>How many nests did bluebirds try to build in nest boxes? _____</p> <p>How many of these nests were successful in fledging at least one bluebird? _____</p> <p>How many bluebird eggs were laid in nest boxes? _____</p> <p>How many eggs were blue? _____</p> <p>How many were white? _____</p> <p>How many bluebird eggs were hatched in nest boxes? _____</p> <p>How many bluebirds fledged from nest boxes? _____</p>	<p>How many boxes were successfully occupied by:</p> <p>Tree Swallows _____ # fledged _____</p> <p>House Wren _____ # fledged _____</p> <p>Chickadee _____ # fledged _____</p> <p>Titmouse _____ # fledged _____</p> <p>What other birds nested successfully? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Did house sparrows attempt to use nest boxes? Yes No If so, please CIRCLE methods used to prevent them: inbox trapping, Removal of house sparrow nest, monofilament line, sparrow spooker, other methods? Please list: _____</p> <p>What worked? _____</p> <p>Did you use a guard on your poles? If so, CIRCLE method(s) used pvc pipes, baffle, cone, stovepipe, other? Please list: _____</p>
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