



BLUEBIRD TRAILS & TALES

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

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Spring 2014

Editor: Joan Watroba • sunshinebb@msn.com

www.thebsp.org

A Message from the Newly-Elected BSP President -

Thank you for entrusting me with the office of President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania. I gladly accept this position with a humble spirit and a sense of awe. I will give my best effort and ability to serve this position with dignity, fairness and will faithfully execute the Constitution and Bylaws of this outstanding organization.

2014 is a wide open road map to travel, but I have a wonderful group of officers and board members to help navigate the twists and turns of the journey. BSP officers are:

Phil Durgin, Vice President; Nancy Putt, Secretary; Joyce Stuff, Treasurer. BSP board members are: Shirley Halk, Harry Schmeider, Ken Leister, Dan Thomas, Dale Cook, Bill Cuppett and Terry Gerhart. Joan Watroba is our BSP Editor, and she is an integral part of the BSP family. Doris Hoffman serves in our BSP store and attends many events during the year representing BSP. Joanne Slavinski keeps our BSP membership records and helps with our Conference registration. I am blessed to have this amazing team.

In this new position of President, I shall constantly remind myself that it is WE as officers, board members, county coordinators, standing committees and membership at-large all working together striving for our goals. With different talents and personalities we aid, NOT only the bluebirds, but all songbirds in PA. I look forward with excitement to what we can accomplish as a unified, purpose-driven organization.

Some vision forecasting for 2014:

1. Appoint a County Coordinator in all 67 counties. This means 9 vacant county positions need to be filled. Redefine the job description of County Coordinators so that more efficient grass roots support and growth can be developed.
2. A 2014 Membership Drive.
3. Introduce a PA Golf Course Bluebird Trail Initiative.
4. Goal to double the attendance at our yearly BSP State Conference this year and future years.
5. Involve more volunteers at PA Farm Show booth in January, PA Garden EXPO, Ned Smith Wildlife Festival, Master Gardener events, Lancaster Conservancy events, etc.
6. Encourage more people to sign up for our BSP Speaker's Bureau.

Having a bluebird trail is a great responsibility which offers heart-warming rewards: watching, learning, and helping these beloved birds and their offspring to not only survive, but thrive. Make this a fantastic year with bluebirds and consider "monitoring" an old trail or build a new one. Contact your County Coordinator and make a difference in the bluebird population in your area.

May 2014 be an outstanding year for each of you and the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dean C. Rust
BSP President
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In This Issue:

Message from the New President	1
From the Editor	2
BSP Officers/Board Members.....	2
NEW - We Are BSP!.....	3
Financial Report.....	4
Want to become more involved with BSP?	4
It's Hard Not to Love a Bluebird	5
Mail Call	6-7
2014 BSP County Coordinators.....	8-9
Sights, Sounds & Taste! PA Farm Show.....	10
NABS Conference 2013	11
Welcome New BSP Members.....	12
Need Help? Contact a County Coordinator	13
Cavity Nesting Trails in PA State Parks.....	13
2013 Annual Nest Box Report Results	14
Trail Monitors Wanted & Needed.....	15
Calendar of Events.....	16
Upcoming Board Meetings.....	17
Speaker's Bureau Updates	17
Wiggly Worm Contest.....	18
BSP Membership Form.....	19

From the Editor -



As I write this message in early January, the days are getting a bit longer, but the weather is getting colder. The bluebirds are still in flocks and they are making daily visits to the nest boxes in our yard. Soon they will start becoming more territorial, and we will observe mating behaviors such as wing- waving and increased vocalizations. We may also notice token grass or roots in the bottom of our nest boxes. These are part of the annual ritual of males to encourage the female bluebird to select a nesting site in preparation for the mating season.

I am looking forward to early April when the nesting season usually begins in South Central Pennsylvania. If the weather is cold and rainy and they have young in the nest boxes, please provide a supplemental food source such as some mealworms or crumbly suet so that they will not lose their young due to starvation and hypothermia.

With this issue, we are adding a new feature to the BSP Newsletter, called “**We Are BSP**” and it will highlight the backgrounds of many of our volunteers and how they became so involved with bluebirds and with the Bluebird Society of PA. As an all-volunteer organization, it is the people that make the difference and we wanted them to share how bluebirds have inspired them to do so much to promote educational outreach and nesting success. We encourage you to share your story with our readers, too.

Joan Watroba, BSP Editor
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Photo - Susan Renkel

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"We are BSP"



I was born and raised in a small town in southwestern Ohio. From age 12 to 18 it was my job to keep our backyard bird-feeding station stocked with suet, thistle seed, sunflower, and safflower seeds. I could identify many species of songbirds, both male and female, and those visiting birds made our backyard special. To this day I continue the tradition of feeding songbirds and enjoy the wide variety of birds that are attracted to food and a heated birdbath.

After 4 years of college in Indiana and 4 years of dental school at the Ohio State University, my wife, Shirley and I moved to Strasburg, PA. I practiced general dentistry for 33 years in the Lancaster area retiring in 2005. In 2006 we were visiting Marilyn and Rick Canada, in S. Carolina and we saw Eastern bluebirds in a park along the May River. I was

captivated by their beauty and it motivated me to build some nest boxes for our backyard. I made Mother's Day gifts-nest boxes for our three married daughters that year. We all were successful in attracting Bluebirds that 1st year and I was hooked. I started making boxes for friends, relatives and neighbors. I was enthralled with "a Bluebird hobby" and decided that what I really wanted was my own bluebird trail. In 2010 I joined BSP and started monitoring the Lancaster Country Club trail and started 4 other new trails that year. In 2011 I added 9 other trails and presently I monitor 14 trails with over 300 nest boxes in 3 counties. I enjoy speaking to civic groups and organizations about my trails, experiences and my love for bluebirds. It is a thrill for me to watch others get involved in and enjoy bluebirds. I look forward to a new year in 2014 and serving as your President for the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania.

Dean C. Rust, BSP President

I have lived my entire life on a farm. My grandfather, father, husband and son were or are dairy farmers. Working the soil under the sun with the beauty of nature around me is a labor of love. My father taught me to be a steward of the soil, water, plants and animals. So, it's no wonder when high up on The Pulpit along Route 30 in Franklin County while hawk watching with my children's teacher, Charles Brightbill suggested that I purchase 6 bluebird nest boxes for \$3 each and mount them on the farm to attract bluebirds. I did what he told me and 30 years later three of the original nest boxes are still fledging bluebirds. Until 1998, bluebirding was just me and bluebird trails fledging bluebirds. That year I received a telephone call from the Bluebird Society of Pa asking me to become a member and the Franklin County Coordinator. For many years I served as State County Coordinator inspiring many BSP members to serve as a County Coordinator. I am currently on the BSP board serving as Treasurer and manage the BSP Online Store. Locally, I have conducted Bluebird Workshops teaching birders how to mount and monitor a nest box in their back yard. Educating children is currently my priority doing programs at Youth Field Days, at TWEP (a wildlife education project housed in The Charles Brightbill Environmental Center), and Science Fairs at a local school. I am known as the Bluebird Lady in my area and thoroughly enjoy sharing the birding experience with others, but I have a passion for the peaceful solitude of walking a bluebird trail with my dog.

Always bluebirding,
Joyce Stuff, BSP Treasurer



**Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Financial Report 2013**

Submitted by Joyce Stuff, BSP Treasurer

2013 Revenue

Administration	\$1,000.00
Store	2,538.17
Membership Fees	11,725.00
Donations	1,295.42
Speaker Income	2,185.00
Fundraising	6,521.00
Woodworking	1,665.09
Conference	4,725.00
Total Revenue	\$31,654.68

2013 Expenses

Administration	\$ 2,595.66
Store	1,108.67
Membership	1,230.76
Fundraising	1,221.46
Woodworking	3,772.14
Conference	8,167.71
Education	2,702.22
Newsletter	2,223.67
County Coordinator	38.46
Research	48.32
Total Expenses	\$23,109.07

BSP Financial Statement for 2013

Checking Acct. Bal. 12/31/12	\$26,714.59
2013 Revenue	+31,654.68
2013 Expenses	-23,109.07
Checking Acct. Bal. 12/31/13	\$35,260.20

Certificate of Deposit Balance 12/31/13	
	+ 9,728.87
Susquehanna Bank Harrisburg PA	
Cash On Hand (store cash box)	+ 200.00
	<hr/>

TOTAL CASH ASSETS as of 12/31/13	
	\$45,189.07

*Are you looking for a way to become
more involved with the BSP and
with Bluebird Education?*



Photo - Susan Renkel

County Coordinators have a vital role within our organization. They are our representatives across Pennsylvania. You can work in conjunction with the State County Coordinator to request needed materials or assistance if unable to adequately respond to concerns raised by members and the public. You can direct people to the BSP Website which is loaded with information concerning our organization and bluebirds.

You can help to expand our membership. You can assist with advertising our BSP Annual Conference and help people get more involved in our wonderful organization. This year our State County Coordinator and the President of the Bluebird Society have a goal to find County Coordinators for each county across Pennsylvania. Can you help us with this goal? Please respond! You will receive all the necessary material and supplies to be an awesome County Coordinator and by helping the Bluebirds. They will bring you Happiness. Thank You for your support.

*Note: If you live in any of the counties listed below and would like to become a BSP County Coordinator, please contact the BSP State County Coordinator:
Ken Leister 610-696-5271 or
e-mail: kenapeg@aol.com*

**Bradford - Forest - Lehigh - Luzerne -
Northumberland - Philadelphia - Pike -
Warren - Wayne**

"It's Hard Not to Love a Bluebird"

by **Dean Rust**



There are four septagenarians at Landis Homes Retirement Community, Lititz, PA that have a “can do” spirit they might be retired, but they still have limitless energy when a worthwhile project comes along. In November of 2013 Richard Weaver, Roland Yoder, Warren Shenk and Norman Shenk banded together to build a new “Bluebird Trail” at Landis Homes. This retirement community is nestled on a 114 acre campus which includes wetlands, four ponds, multiple walking trails and is surrounded by Lancaster County farmland. For the benefit of their 800 residents, these four men decided that a “Community Bluebird trail” would be just what the residents needed.

Warren Shenk built 40 bluebird nest boxes in the well-equipped wood shop at Landis Homes. The wood shop is complete with every power tool imaginable (each with dust control vacuum system) and an adjoining room with 8 individual work stations for assembly. Warren built 20 NABS-style boxes and 20 PVC models. The original project plans targeted 10 or 12 boxes as a starting pointbut the plans grew each week.

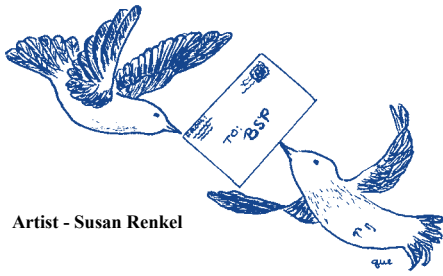
It all started with a Bluebird presentation at Landis Homes in October of 2012 presented by Dean Rust, Lancaster County Coordinator for BSP. After the program, Dean gave a PVC model to Warren who was interested in building bluebird boxes. A Landis Home bus tour on May 3, 2013 to observe boxes “close up” on a Bluebird trail at Calvary Church was hosted by Dean. Jean and Norman Shenk were on the tour and they had seen bluebirds behind their cottage just after moving to Landis Homes in February.



Warren and Norman, brothers, got together with Roland and Richard and the planning stage began. These men caught the vision that a Bluebird project was perfect for their community and they had the skills to make it happen. At the

present time, 35 Bluebird nest boxes have been installed on 1” pipe and each box has a predator baffle. Richard, Warren and Norman all helped with the installation. Roland was involved with the site selection for the boxes and he will oversee the “trail monitoring” next spring. Warren “rebuilt” an old wood duck box and also made a new one for their ponds. Landis Homes has a perfect habitat with open spaces, plenty of mowed grass plus many residents to admire their new trail of nest boxes. And best of all, the little blue occupants that will surely come next March to Landis Homes.





Artist - Susan Renkel

■ (Regarding the Article: **Use of Monofilament Line to Deter House Sparrows** which was printed on Page 21 of the Fall/Winter Edition of the BSP Newsletter)

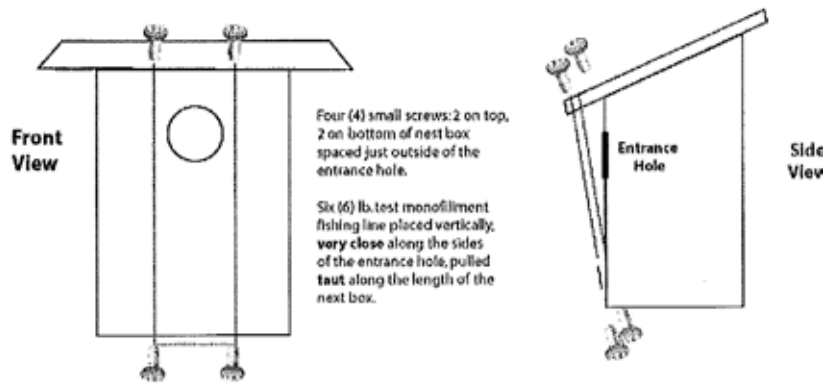
Joan, Thanks for the nice article on nestboxes in the BSP newsletter. However, I am a bit puzzled -- below -- you mention “**a standard entrance hole of 2½ inches diameter.**” Could it perhaps be that you meant 1½”?

Thanks, Jerry Kruth
Pittsburgh

Editor’s Reply: Yes- I did mean to say that the size of the entrance hole for a standard bluebird box is **1½ inches** in diameter, not 2½.” That was a typo – Good catch-Thanks for reporting this. I will correct it in the Spring 2014 newsletter edition.

Editor’s Note: *Below is the corrected version of the diagram with instructions. The revised portion is in bold print:*

Using Monofilament Line to Deter House Sparrows



Note: For side opening boxes, there is no need to move the line when monitoring the nest box. For top or front-opening boxes, it is best to tie the line permanently to the upper left screw, then bring it down and wind along the bottom screws, then bring up to the top right screw and leave a little extra line that can be wound around the screw to be secured by the threads of the screw. I always tighten the screws completely on the top of the nest box to prevent any injury.

For the past 15 years, I have had excellent results using the monofilament line in the above configuration on nest boxes in locations that have house sparrows. Other bluebirders have also reported good results, and other native songbirds such as tree swallows, chickadees, and house wrens will successfully use nest boxes with the line installed. The key is to install it correctly and before the house sparrows get bonded to the nest box. I also leave it on the nest boxes and change it if it starts to become brittle. It is very important to dispose of the used line properly, as discarded fishing line can tangle birds and other wildlife.

Factors which determine the effectiveness of this method include:

-Distance between the line and the front of the box: I have found that if the space is about 2½ inches from the front of the nest box, it works well. (If the line is placed too close to the front of the box, it does not produce good results, and if it is too far away, it is not effective either.)

-Distance between the two strands of line. On a standard nest box with an entrance hole of 1½ inches diameter, the distance between the two strands of line should be about 1¾ inches.

-Timing of the Installation: If the house sparrow pair has already bonded with the nest box, they will be more aggressive to continue to use and defend the box. However, I have also found that even if the house sparrow does try to re-nest, if that nest is removed, they are less likely to try to re-nest in the box with the line installed.

Joan Watroba ■

■ **December 27, 2013**

Dear Paul,

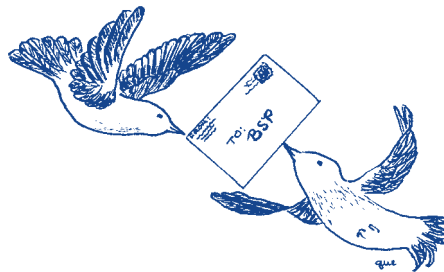
Thank you for your kind words regarding my Bluebird trails at Lancaster County Central Park. I am happy that you got to see a Bluebird in the park this summer. We “fledged” a record number of Bluebirds in 2013 – 81 total. 26 at Muhlenberg Meadows and 55 in the areas of Golf Rd, Farm View Dr. and City View Dr. Last year’s total was 74. Currently there is a good population of Bluebirds and these numbers will grow.

Nest boxes must have “predator guards” in place to be successful and must be mounted on smooth metal pipe. Lancaster County Central Park is a real challenge as there are many hungry mammals (raccoons & feral cats) and reptiles (black rat snakes) who love to raid nests of eggs and small baby birds. Dan Ardia knows very well what I am speaking to. It is a distinct pleasure for me to serve the community in this way.

Dr. Dean C. Rust

President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

Editor’s Note: Paul Weiss is the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation in Lancaster County.



■
Just received my kit for joining the Bluebird Soc of PA. Found out about your organization at the Farm Show this year and decided to join. My neighbor and I raised 14 young (3 clutches) this past summer and it was quite a thrill. All the nests were in the boxes in her yard, but I helped to feed them with my bluebird feeder. I have seen six of them all winter long and have been feeding them dry mealworms this winter. What a treat, they are so beautiful. I have found out that the Carolina wren also likes the mealworms and just this week I had a pair of golden-crowned kinglets near the feeder, they were very tame. Spoke with our local birdman (Jack Holcumb) and he tells me they too might like the mealworms. Thanks for all the info.

Mary Beard, Berks County

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BSP Now Offers Mini Grants

If you would like to inspire others to get actively involved in bluebird conservation or have an idea to conduct a special project which would be related to the Mission Statement of BSP and would need funds to implement your project, BSP may be able to help you.

For more information and to download a printable application form, go to the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org and send to:
Philip Durgin, BSP Grant Coordinator
3918 Ridgeland Boulevard, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

"Sights, Sounds and Tastes" of the PA Farm Show Event - Jan. 4th - 11th, 2014 "



The Farm Show is a good time for volunteers at the BSP educational/store booth- the highlights are the FOOD/ milk shakes, wine- tasting, the ANIMALS and EXHIBITS, and talking with SO many people about BLUEBIRDS!!! Many of the people I spoke to already had one or more boxes on their property.....and of course their questions were about ways to get rid of those "DARN" HOUSE SPARROWS. We have helpful information on this topic, and emphasized "be diligent and monitor those boxes!" The SOUND of the "Barn Yard Magic Man's" boom box did not scare people away.....we just talked louder!!! Our Box Builders, Dale Cook and Bill Strauss helped 45 youngsters to build their own nest box and supplied each with instructions for "Getting Started with Bluebirds" with their free kits. All of this that we do here at the Farm Show is

indirectly helping our "Blue Feathered Friends"....and we hope our **62 new members** find "Bluebird Joy" with their free nest box kits after they build them and place them in the "Perfect Spot"!!!

Many thanks for our 29 VOLUNTEERS at this event:

Joanne Slavinski, Bill Strauss, Dale Cook, Ken Leister, Cindy Self, John and Cathy Blair, Phil and Susan Durgin, Dave and Barb Cox, Al Delio, Joan Watroba, John Woodward, Doris Hoffman, Chuck Musser, Dean Rust, Rick Canada, Shelvy Moorehead, Nancy Putt, Bill Franz, Deb Hershey, Sandy Bittenbender, Terry Gerhart, Dan and Addie Fawber, Bill Cuppett, Robin and James Trail.

Nancy Putt, Event Coordinator



NABS Conference 2013

This past October Ida and I attended the 36th annual North American Bluebird Society Conference held in Aiken SC. This was hosted by the South Carolina Bluebird Society; who did an excellent job in providing interesting programs and field trips.

The conference was held in the Aiken Center for the Arts which is in downtown Aiken. There were many shops and places to eat within easy walking distance. The South Carolina members were very helpful with suggestions and directions to the best places.

There were many programs; our favorites were the one about reptiles which had live examples to see and the one about fire ants. There was a silent auction with many items. They had a very interesting map on display in the silent auction room which showed where everyone attending lives. This was especially nice for the people from outside of the United States.

The field trips we did were the National Wild Turkey Center and Winchester Museum, walk through Hitchcock Woods and the Aiken Trolley Tour. These were all very informative.

Our thanks to all the people responsible for this conference, we had a very nice time.

Scott Parry (Beaver County Coordinator)

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is alive and active throughout the year. Betsy Nutt, Penn State Master Gardener, a new BSP member and member of the BSP Speaker's Bureau for Montgomery County, PA applied for and received a grant from the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania which enabled her group to purchase the necessary materials for their nesting box project. The wood was delivered to Central Montco Technical High School where the woodshop students, under the direction of Mr. Jack Glacken, cut the pieces to the BSP Society's specifications (revised Lenker Nest box) for their kits. Betsy's presentation of a slide show was aided by Harry Schmeider, who shared bluebird photos and printed material for her presentation. On January 14th, members of the garden club assembled the nest boxes. Betsy distributed up-to-date educational hand-outs from a number of sources, which included a list of native plants that are good for attracting and supporting bluebirds with food resources, additional plans for building a nest box, and other topics related to promoting bluebirds to nest.

Betsy - the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is honored, proud and fortunate to have you as a member and as a speaker to promote educational activities relating to bluebirds and other cavity-nesting species. Please convey our gratitude to your garden club members and let them know they can read and view photos of this event on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org (located under More...Speaker Bureau/Speaker Activity Events)

I personally Thank You for following through by successfully implementing this grant resource by offering your program. *The Bluebirds Thank You, too.*

Harry Schmeider, BSP County Coordinator, Butler County
Speaker's Bureau Coordinator and BSP Webmaster

WELCOME -New BSP MEMBERS!!!!!!

ADAMS

Cheryl Donahoe
Charles Teague

ALLEGHENY

James Purdy & Family
Berty Bishop
Charles Lucas

BEAVER

Lynn Bouterse

BERKS

Lucy Cairnes
Patrick Flaherty
Marian Weierbach
Eric Eidle

BLAIR

George Bell

BRADFORD

Robert Howard

BUCKS

Martha Huestis
Natalie & Bud Ricci

BUTLER

Elmer Colteryahn
Steven Pelusi

CAMBIRA

Lukas Cascino

CARBON

Jacqueline Kaspern

CENTRE

Anne Hoag

CHESTER

Kelly Colgan Azar
Kevin & Jackie Brady
Helga Knox

CLEARFIELD

Sonia Shomko

CUMBERLAND

Barb Bondra
Joyce Banis
Madison Houghton
Cheney Thompson
Ethan Miller
Hailey Line
Lauren Musser
Reese Thompson
Colin Laughman
Deanna Kennedy
Andrew Lehman
Ted Miller
Linda Brocius
Debbie Weidner
Deborah Fingerlow
Janet Beveridge
Pam Neidig
Glenn & Judy Metcalf
David Price
John Keeler
John Coulston
Diane Beck
Kay Pickel
Brian Swarner
Dan Turner

DAUPHIN

Helen Zimmerman
Paul Adams
Lisa Siviglia
Christine Gorshe
Jan Nolting Carter
Shelly Silber
Marlene O'Hara Robbins
Richard Siebert

ELK

Rose Sorg

LACKAWANNA

Chris Speicher

LANCASTER

Judy Schard
Lou & Rose O'Brien
Daniel Lake SR
Lynn Bender
Bonnie Hawk
Bruce Stanrah
Erica Hebbe
Jan Hamby
Nelson Rohrer
Anthony Kern
Rose Ernest
Andrew Siegrist
Diana Greene

LEBANON

Patrick Higgins
Thomas Overholt
Todd Gamble

LEHIGH

Diane Mazziotta

LUZERNE

Joseph Wozniak

LYCOMING

Garry Burgard

MERCER

Karen King

MIFFLIN

Robert Pinkerton

MONROE

William & Sharon
Howell

MONTGOMERY

Paulette Sabatelli
Patricia McDonnell
Carol Bankes
Joe Duffy
Sandra Leonard
D Jean Vernacchio
Becky Kallatch

PERRY

Barbara Perkins
Harrison Boaz

SCHUYLKILL

Charles Gustas

SNYDER

Debbie Andretta

WASHINGTON

Gigi Gerben
Michelle Leasure

WAYNE

James Kilgore

WESTMORELAND

Paul Milliron

YORK

Scott & Cathie Huber
Margaret Brown
Mary Ann Pshock
R Hooper Goldsborough
Donald & Susan Sedam
Caitlin Drake
Teresa Erdman
Nowell Smith
Joe McCabe
Starry Night Alpacas

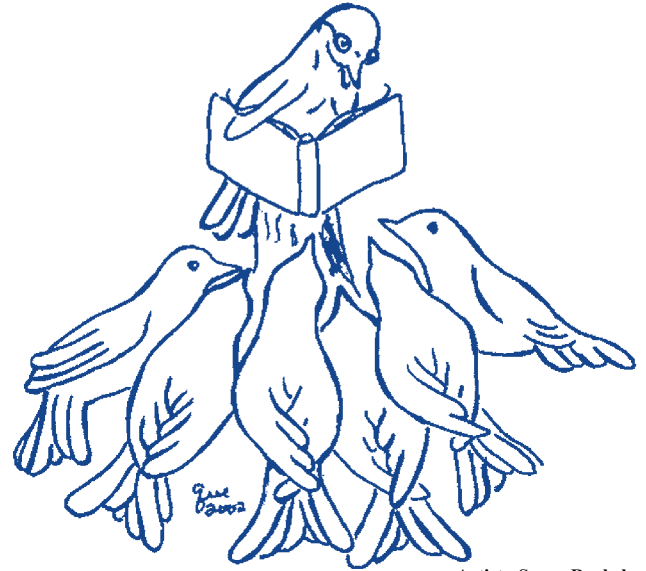
State of Virginia

Pam Berry

NEED HELP with your bluebird activities????

Contact a BSP County Coordinator

The County Coordinator system used by The Bluebird Society of PA, is designed to offer local help to any person or organization regarding their questions about cavity-nesting birds. Assistance is offered by answering questions about establishing trails, monitoring nesting boxes or understanding unusual behavior of songbirds. They also provide assistance to groups who are looking for an educational program about bluebirds and other native songbirds. If you are affiliated with a church group, a youth group, a club, a retirement community, a garden club, or a senior center whose members would enjoy a program, contact the BSP County Coordinator or member of the Speaker's Bureau in your county. The complete list of BSP County Coordinators and members of the Speaker's Bureau can be found on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org



Artist - Susan Renkel

CAVITY-NESTING TRAILS IN PA STATE PARKS

Many BSP members and other volunteers monitor nest boxes within the PA State Parks, and 2013 was another successful year.

Here is a summary of the nesting success:

2,364 Eastern bluebirds

3,654 other cavity-nesting species

This was a slight increase from 2012. Since the program's beginning in 1980, volunteers have fledged over 59,000 Eastern bluebirds and 45,000 other cavity-nesting species.

It's good to see the results of efforts of monitors at the State Park trails.....thanks to all those who participate!

If you would be interested in monitoring bluebird boxes in a PA State Park near you, contact:

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us>

2013 ANNUAL NEST BOX REPORT RESULTS

The following is a summary of the bluebird nesting results for 2013 submitted to BSP and compiled by Shirley Halk, BSP Annual Nest Box Reporter:

3077 Nest Boxes

7377 Eastern bluebird eggs (7230 blue, 147 white)

5843 Eastern Bluebirds fledged

Other species:

Tree Swallows - 3112 House Wrens - 1454 Black-Capped Chickadees - 286 Tufted Titmouse-29

For the detailed annual report arranged by counties, please check out the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Note that the BSP web site also includes printable weekly and annual nest box report forms. They are posted under the 2013 State Monitor's Nest Box Report tab.

ANNUAL NEST BOX REPORT DRAWING WINNERS! **SHIRLEY HALK, BSP ANNUAL NEST BOX REPORTER**

Here are the three winners of the random drawing of nest box reports which were submitted to BSP for the 2013 nesting season:

First Place- Anita Culp-Harrisburg, PA-Dauphin County

Second Place-Ralph Scurfield-York, PA-York County

Third Place-Stanley L. Aldinger-Elizabethtown, PA-Lancaster County
(His nest boxes are located in Perry County)

I have notified the winners and they can contact Doris Hoffman, BSP Store Manager at 717-766-3877 to select their prize from the BSP Store. Store items can be viewed on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Thanks to everyone who submitted their nest box reports. This information is very important to help us evaluate the nesting success of bluebirds and other native songbirds.

The 2014 nesting season will arrive soon. Please start to monitor your nest boxes starting in early April and record your data so that you can submit your Annual Report to BSP for the 2014 nesting season.

BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITOR WANTED

Greetings DCNR Conservation Volunteers:

We are in need of a Monitor for a section of the Bluebird/cavity nest box trail at Little Buffalo State Park. No previous experience is required, as the previous monitor will teach you what to do. This will involve checking on your boxes each week or every other week to record activities such as nest building, eggs laid, eggs hatching, losses to predators, number of birds fledged. This would include about 18 boxes give or take a few. Boxes are checked in March and monitoring starts when nest building begins. The season ends when there are no unfledged birds left. Please consider helping wildlife. Thank You!

Ben Ranney, Park Naturalist

Email: branney@state.pa.us

Phone: 717-567-9255

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



Artist - Susan Renkel

TRAIL MONITORS NEEDED !!

With the successful launch of our new “**2014 PA Golf Courses Bluebird Trail Initiative**”, we have incurred a new, but most excellent problem. **WE NEED MONITORS**. Check our website, www.thebsp.org, for courses that have signed up and are looking for bluebird trail monitors. County Coordinators will also be notified as to ‘new partnering’ golf courses. A golf course is one of the prime habitats for bluebirds and many of us have experienced the “Rocky Mountain High” of working on this type trail.

Sign up and make this your best year ever with bluebirds!

BSP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLUEBIRD SOCIETY OF PA- 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 28 & SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2014

The Bluebird Society of PA invites you to attend our Annual Conference at the Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel in State College, PA. This is a special event open to the public, which provides a wonderful opportunity to meet other bluebirders and learn more about how to help the bluebirds and other native birds. This event includes a Friday evening social hour with hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar, and evening programs. Saturday's all day Conference, is a full day of activities, including many excellent speakers and demonstrations, vendors, BSP store, live and silent auctions, an Amish Quilt Raffle, and a delicious buffet breakfast and luncheon.

For more information about the BSP Conference, visit the BSP website: www.thebsp.org or contact Co- chairs: Phil Durgin (717) 732-5325; pdurgin@comcast.net or Nancy Putt (717) 432-2647 bluebirds@pa.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR JUNE 28, 2014 <FOOD N FUN> BSP PICNIC

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is having a picnic in Western Pennsylvania at Moraine State Park (Pavilion #7 McDanel's Launch Area North Shore on June 28, 2014 time 10am - 8pm. The BSP is planning on having statewide picnics each year at different locations across the State of Pennsylvania in hopes that would encourage members and guest to attend BSP Picnics and see new faces across Pennsylvania. Come out and meet the President - Officers - County Coordinators Members and join in the fun. Bill Cuppett is our Chief cooking hot dogs and hamburgers on a charcoal grill beside our pavilion. Everyone bring a dish for our Pot Luck Dinner served at 12pm. Are you attending? **Reservations contact** harryschmeider@gmail.com or 724 285 1209.

Activities and itinerary schedule of the days event are on thebsp.org website. under tab **Upcoming Events**- See an Owl at the Owllet Shop at the Preservation Fund Center near our pavilion, bluebirds and purple martins all around us and yes the bluebirds will join us at our pavilion, take a Nautical Boat ride on the lake, go on a butterfly trail or take a bike ride on a seven mile trail. (bike rentals near our pavilion) Bob Allnock Lawrence County Coordinator will lower a purple martin nesting house and share information concerning nesting material, eggs and nestlings near our pavilion (hold a purple martin nestling in your hand) Rent a Cabin at the Park, Stay the week or the weekend and enjoy Moraine State Park. There are many things you can do at this spectacular park. I have our 150 capacity under roof pavilion already reserved located on the North Shore in the educational side of the park. I will have hotel information on [thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org) website. Visit Moraine State Park > <http://www.morainepreservationfund.org/category/activities/17.html>

Sincerely BSP Picnic Coordinators,

Harry Schmeider Butler County Coordinator Contact Person 724 285 1209 harryschmeider@gmail.com

Bill Cuppett Somerset County Coordinator

Bob Allnock Lawrence County Coordinator

Bill Wenger Crawford County Coordinator

Natalie Simon Moraine Environmental Specialist, nasimon@pa.gov assisting with activities, Natalie will also place this event on the Moraine State Park Website

UPCOMING BSP BOARD MEETINGS:

APRIL 24, JULY 24 AND OCT. 23, 2014

All BSP Board Meetings are held on Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Giant Foods Community Room, 3301 Trindle Road, Camp Hill, PA.

Please plan to attend board meetings to learn about upcoming BSP activities and events and to share your ideas about a variety of issues related to bluebird conservation. If you cannot attend the meetings in person, we can arrange for you to attend via conference call. Contact: Harry Schmeider: harryschmeider@gmail.com or call 724-285-1209 to make arrangements to join the meetings.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU UPDATES

BSP is updating our Speaker's Bureau listings, we are also seeking new Speakers and Educators. If you enjoy speaking about bluebirds or if you feel you would like to get started as a speaker to educate others concerning bluebirds, the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania can assist you by providing an educational photo CD (jpg) program with beautiful photos and a script related to bluebird education. The only requirements are being an active BSP Member and being "hooked on bluebirds". All new and past speakers are encouraged to participate by entering or updating their information.

Visit the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org to see if your name is listed and has the correct contact information or contact the Speaker's Bureau Chairman, Harry Schmeider at (724) 285-1209 or e-mail: harryschmeider@gmail.com



BSP Needs Storage Space

If you have a clean, dry, and secure storage facility (garage or storage unit) which could be offered for use to BSP to store the inventory of nest boxes, store items, and educational display materials, please contact:
Nancy at 717-432-2647.



Don't Forget - BSP has a Facebook Page!

Google:

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania / Facebook



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.
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**

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:

Scott Parry, Beaver County

CONGRATULATIONS!

Scott - 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.



BSP Membership Form
Send to: P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756

2014 BSP MEMBERSHIP RATE INFORMATION

Student	Senior	Regular/Family	Organization/Corporate
1 year -\$10	1 yr.-\$12	1 yr.-\$15	1 yr.-\$100
3 years-\$25	3 yrs.-\$30	3 yrs.-\$40	3 yrs.-\$275
			Lifetime Sponsor -\$375

Renew for 3 years and take advantage of our discounted rates!

New Member _____ **Renewal** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County (if in PA) _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail Address: _____ (Required if requesting e-mail delivery of seasonal newsletter, event updates)

Additional supporting donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to the "Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania" and return this application to: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756.

Additional Contribution (optional): \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate preferred delivery method of your newsletter by checking off one of the following options:

_____ e-mail delivery Please enter your e-mail address here: _____

_____ regular mail delivery

Additional supporting donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to the "Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania" and return this application to: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756.

Additional Contribution (optional): \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Member Interest Survey:

I/We would like to learn about assisting BSP with:

- Create/monitor BSP trail Telephoning Membership Finance Woodworking Fundraising State Monitoring
 Education Speakers Bureau Photography State Conference Research Publication/artwork Newsletter
 County Coordinator Publicity Web Site/Web Content Other _____

Special Events Help:

- Garden Expo Booth @ Farm Show Garden Expo Booth @ Hershey Gardens Ned Smith Day@ Millersburg
 Annual Farm Show @ Farm Show (January) Tech Support @ State Convention Other Special Events: _____

Please tell us how you learned about us: _____

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Website: www.thebsp.org

Website: WWW.THEBSP.ORG

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Mechersburg, PA



PO Box 756
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756

Something for Everyone!

The BSP Store has:
bluebird – related gift items
logo clothing
bluebird trail supplies
nest boxes/sparrow traps

Check out the BSP Store:
www.thebsp.org

2014 has been a unique and wonderful year and it continues. This is the first year I have been able to enjoy Bluebirds on the snow-covered & icy winter landscape of my backyard in Lancaster. I have 5 bluebirds that come faithfully everyday to my heated birdbath and platform suet/mealworm feeder. Not sure yet? if they are using my “heated roosting box”? I have seen them peering in the entrance hole in the daytime. What an encouragement these little birds are to me!

“Experience the joy that only a bluebird can bring”

Dr. Dean C. Rust
President, Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania



BSP is a North American Bluebird Society Affiliate

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