



BLUEBIRD TRAILS & TALES

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

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www.thebsp.org

A Message from the BSP President -

DON'T LET YOUR BLUEBIRD TRAIL TO BECOME HO-HUM (BORING)

For the past 17 seasons I have umpired girls field hockey, both high school and collegiate in Div I, II & III. In September and October I umpire field hockey games practically every day somewhere in PA, VA, OH, NJ or DE. My mindset in preparing for each game is to be the best I can possibly be that day; attention to detail, focus & concentration. I try to enjoy the special moments each day brings. After all, it is a hobby and it needs to be fun! This same mindset can be applied to Bluebird Trail Monitoring. Checking a trail is not just an "accounting exercise"how many nest boxes? how many nests? how many eggs? how many chicks? how many nestlings have fledged? Checking a trail should be an art form that utilizes every part of our brain and all our senses to make that trail --- "the best that it can be". The songbirds on your trail deserve the very best; we have an obligation to perform well every time we go out. OK..... How do we do it?

1) if you have a box that is "past its prime", ie, leaking, cracking, rotting, and unrepairable; please replace it; either make or buy a new one; personally, I think Bluebirds prefer new construction

2) if you have a box that has NOT attracted a songbird for 2 or 3 years, select a better location on your trail and move the box; 15 minutes of your time will accomplish that task

3) try different nest box models; PVC, Troyer slot, Kentucky Bluebird box, Peterson style box, NABS model, BSP nest box kit, PA Game Commission nest box kit, Carl Little box, etc. It would be a very boring world if we all lived in the same style of house ---- rancher, two story, Cape Cod, Saltbox, etc. We could call it - Home Sweet Home in a Smurf Village!

4) if you have eggs or chicks disappearing on your trail, you need to deploy some predator guard devices; a baffle (cone type or stovepipe), a Noel guard (screened-in porch) or both; if

your Mother Bluebird feels safe in your box, she will return again and again providing many nests & Bluebird chicks year after year; if she is terrorized every other night, she won't stick around very long

5) pay attention to ants, wasp nests, earwigs; Diatomaceous earth (food grade). Sprinkle it underneath the fully-built nest to destroy soft-bodied insects like earwigs and blow-fly larvae that may have entered the nest box. Tanglefoot. A product since 1890; apply this sticky substance to the pipe to deter insects, especially ants, from reaching the nest box. Use bar soap to coat box ceilings to prevent a wasp from attaching their paper cells; just smashing them is not good enough ! Prevent others from moving in.

6) if your box is wet, your nesting material will wick the wetness and that is a bad situation; try and find a solution, perhaps silicone caulking is needed ? try a molded

wood fiber cup; it provides some moisture protection and gives the mother a template in which she can weave her nest of grass or pine needles; gardeners know these as "Jiffy-pots"; use a molded wood fiber nest cup to facilitate nest building as well as monitoring activities.

7) after you check your box, give the parents a mealworm treat; place a few worms in a small plastic cup tacked to the roof; they will watch for you each week

8) do NOT allow HOSP (House Sparrows) to take up residence on your trail; removing their nests is a start but not the final answer; learn to set traps and permanently "relocate" these non-native birds; it takes extra work, but it is so rewarding to know that you have made your Bluebird's world safer

9) use passive measures to discourage the HOSP; PVC boxes are not preferred by HOSP; add a 2 x4" block to existing wood boxes (cut to fit the floor) to "shrink" the compartment

space; try a "skylight" in the roof; people spend thousands of dollars for a "skylight" in their home; HOSP do not like the extra light in the box

10) add a "special box" to your trail each year and carefully select just the right spot; a couple weeks ago I was at Susquehannock State Park and took a walk before starting my trail; I was in a camping area and a male Bluebird sang to me to me the whole time I was there; you guessed it, I placed a nest box in that area; perhaps he was already happy in a natural cavity ? but now he has a choice

11) check to make sure the ventilation holes or spaces under the roof are adequate; when those 100 degree days come, 3 or 4 in succession, box temperatures can go above 106 degrees ----- that can be lethal. Try cooling inserts on the floor - concrete, tile, marble, stone ¾"-1 ¼" thick & cut to floor dimension might just reduce the ambient temps in the box a couple degrees?

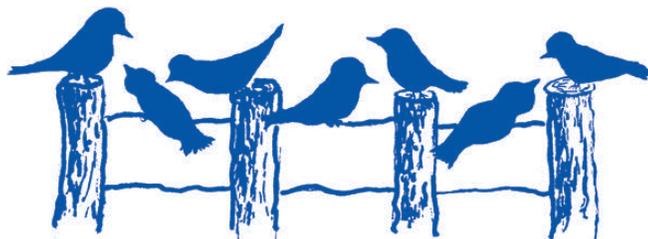
12) when monitoring your trail, carry a trash bag with you for litter you may find; also, a good place to put old nests after the nestlings fledge or for HOSP nests and/or eggs you want to discard discreetly; you never know who is watching? Go to Lowe's and buy a Grip n' Grab to save your back and look professional at bagging trash; remove all trash, aluminum cans and litter from your trails. Tweak is a word that comes to mind. Definition: "tweaks" are any small modifications intended to improve a system. We need to constantly make changes or modifications to enhance the character of our trails. This should be our goal every time we visit our trails. Remember, you don't have to do 1 thing 100% better to be successful, but 100 things 1% better. What a great hobby we all enjoy with Bluebirds AND it is great exercise!

HAPPY BLUEBIRDING!

Dr. Dean C. Rust, BSP President

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Artist - Susan Renkel

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From the Editor -



Spring Musings

As I write this message, it is mid-April and even though we have had a few warm days, the *winter with long legs* is still present with some overnight temperatures still in the 20's. For bluebirds that have already started their nesting activity, there is a good chance that the eggs which are not yet being incubated may not hatch. It seems that the bluebirds which are being fed mealworms will start their nesting cycle earlier than others.

It is now late April and I am enjoying the flowering redbuds, daffodils, and the native spring flowers including snow drops, Virginia bluebells, and marsh marigolds. The other day when I was cleaning out the perennial garden, I looked along the small creek in the front yard and watched a Great egret catching minnows. What a beautiful white bird which posed so elegantly just before catching lunch!

The bluebird pair is making daily visits to the yard nest boxes, and the male is bringing the female on a tour to all of the boxes. She seems to be very selective, and I sure hope that she decides on a nesting site soon to get the nesting started. Another yard nest box has a completed chickadee nest of moss. A Carolina wren started to make a nest in my husband's kayak and then decided to nest inside of a hemlock wreath on the front porch. The nest is now full and domed, and we are hoping that the eggs will be laid soon. Other years they have nested in the window box, but the cold weather has delayed me in planting flowers there. Carolina wrens are active and very vocal songbirds which inspire us to wake up before the alarm rings.

Just put out the hummingbird feeder, since I see on the internet search where are the hummingbirds 2014 that the Ruby-throated hummers are approaching south central PA. We usually get a pair that nests in the area, as we can see the young at the sugar water feeders in late summer and early fall in preparation for their migration south. If you want to attract them to your yard, add a pot of red tubular flowers and a hummingbird feeder.

Joan Watroba, BSP Editor
sunshinebb@msn.com

Hummingbird Sugar Water Recipe

1. Heat 4 cups water to boiling in a quart-sized pan
2. Add 1 cup white granulated sugar to the boiling water.
3. Stir until the sugar is dissolved.
4. Turn off the heat and allow mixture to cool.
5. Pour cooled mixture into a clean hummingbird feeder.
6. Reassemble the feeder and hang outdoors

Tips & Warnings

Remaining mixture may be kept refrigerated up to one week.

If mixture becomes cloudy, remove and clean feeder. Refill with fresh mixture. Avoid this by cleaning the feeder once a week. In warm weather, you may need to clean it daily.

Cloudiness in mixture may indicate presence of bacteria. Remove feeder from hummingbird access in order to prevent illness and clean it thoroughly before refilling it.

Do not use honey, as it may make hummingbirds sick.

No need to use food coloring

Wishing you a successful and enjoyable experience with your bluebirds and remember to keep a record of your nesting activity to send in a report to BSP in the Fall. A copy of the Annual Nest Box Report is included in this issue. ***Please include your bluebirds in the count!***

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Don't Forget - BSP has a Facebook Page!

Google:

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania / Facebook

· Bluebirds at Willow Mill Park ·

by Joan Watroba

Since 2006, the bluebird trail at Willow Mill Park has provided wonderful nesting sites for native songbirds; including bluebirds, chickadees, tree swallows and house wrens. The park is a wonderful habitat for bluebirds, as it has large mowed areas, trees to perch on, and is situated along a natural water source, the beautiful Conodoguinet Creek.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Recreation Advisory Council, Recreation Director, the Maintenance Department, the Board of Supervisors, the Maintenance Department of Silver Spring Township, members of the Garden Club, and the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, six bluebird boxes were installed in May of 2006. As a volunteer with the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, I assisted with the original placement of the nest boxes and since then, each year, I have checked the nest boxes each week of the nesting season starting in April and continuing until the end of September. All of the nesting boxes are being used by native songbirds, and many of the boxes have been used twice and even three times during the nesting season. A bluebird pair can nest up to three times per season depending on the weather and the food supply. The next time you are at the Park, take time to look and listen for the many songbirds which call Willow Mill Park their home.

Editor's Note: Local parks are often very good habitats for setting up bluebird trails, and many townships are receptive to having a bluebird trail placed in their parks. It is very important to work in conjunction with the Maintenance/Mowing crew so that they can be consulted about their mowing patterns and they can also inform the monitor of any planned changes in the habitat which could affect the placement of the nest boxes.

Also, if the boxes are located in public places, I suggest that the nest box openings be secured with a screw to discourage people from opening the box too late in the nesting cycle. This could cause the young birds to leave the box prematurely. With any bluebird trail, it is very important to monitor the trail weekly and to make sure that the nest boxes are maintained and in good condition to provide safe and effective nesting opportunities for the native cavity-nesting songbirds.

The soft mellow warble of the bluebird, heard at its best throughout spring and early summer, is one of the sweetest, most confiding and loving sounds in nature.

Thomas Roberts, Birds of Minnesota, 1932



Artist - Susan Renkel

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: btntnewsletter@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



****If you are already a Green Choice Member, and if you change your e-mail address, please send an e-mail to the above e-mail address and include E-MAIL CHANGE in the subject line-Thanks!

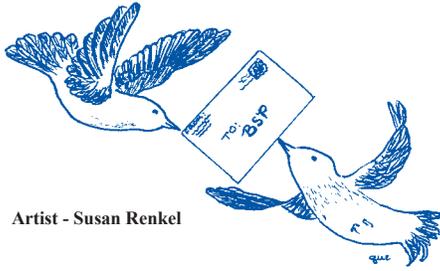
WE NEED YOU! PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING AS BSP BOARD MEMBER

If you are an active BSP Member who has an interest in becoming more involved with promoting the goals of the Bluebird Society of PA on a statewide level, we encourage you to become a candidate to serve on the BSP Board of Directors. We would welcome and appreciate your ideas and planning skills. As a Board Member, you will become part of a dedicated team of volunteers who work together to make BSP an organization that we can all be proud of. BSP Board Members serve for a 2 year term, and meetings are held quarterly. You can attend meetings by phone from the comfort of your own home via conference call, so no travel is needed.

For more information and to become a candidate, please contact: Dan Thomas, BSP Nomination Chair 717-786-7893 or email: adthomas10@comcast.net

If you would like to apply by mail, please provide your name, contact information (phone number, address, email address) and background and interest in bluebirds or other native songbirds, and your prior involvement with BSP along with a brief bio and mail to: Dan Thomas, 6 Woods Drive, New Providence, PA 17560

We thank you in advance to consider joining the BSP Board. Also, if you know of someone who you feel would have an interest, you can also nominate them, with their permission.



Artist - Susan Renkel

■ Hi Joan,
Excellent newsletter as always! It sure helps us look past the ice and snow that still remains in our backyard from this winter. Thanks to all who contribute,
Terry Kushner/ Beaver County Member

■ Hi - My name is Dave Dygert. My wife (Kelly) and I are avid bluebird watchers. The year before last we put up a bluebird house in our back yard and bluebirds nested in it. However we had no bluebirds nest in it last year. We are thinking of ways to attract bluebirds to our nesting box this year. We were thinking of building a bluebird feeder to place meal-worms in, but were wondering how far we should place the feeder away from the bluebird box. Would you know Joan? Or are there better ways to attract bluebirds to our box? Thank you for your help.

Sincerely, Dave and Kelly Dygert

***From the Editor-**Yes-Providing mealworms would be a great way to attract bluebirds to your yard, especially at this time of the year when natural food supplies are getting low. Adding a water feature, such as a bird bath will also be a big draw. If you are building a bluebird feeder it can be as simple as a pole with a flat surface nailed to the top. If you want one that has the 2 entrance holes, with the plexiglass, keep one side raised up until they get used to entering and exiting the feeder.*

I would place the feeder on the opposite side of the yard from where the bluebird box is placed. You might also consider moving the bluebird box to a more open area and away from the woods to discourage house wrens from using it. If house sparrows are a problem, I would suggest adding the monofilament line to the front of your nest box before the house sparrows bond to it.

■ Dear BSP: Charles Riley passed away on August 30, 2013. He was most pleased and honored by the award he received for his commitment to the conservation of bluebirds. Thank you so very much on his behalf and I wish you continued good works and efforts for the environment.

Ann Goodman, Daughter

***Editor's Note:** Charles was 98 years old when he passed. He was a wonderful volunteer who did so much to promote the successful nesting of bluebirds.*

From his Obituary:

He (Charles) had a particular interest in increasing the local bluebird population. In this regard, he had a bluebird trail of over 40 nesting boxes that he monitored weekly and documented the fledgling close to 100 bluebird chicks per year over the last 8 years. In 2012, Charles was awarded the Bluebirder of the Year award by the Bluebird Society of PA.

■ **Special Surprise!**

Every winter for 20 years I have been packing one bluebird and one tree swallow box with pine needles. I would never see them, but in the spring I would know that the boxes had been used, as they would be soiled and tramped down. This past Christmas I put big bows on the boxes and in January when I removed one bow, I had to lift the lid and to my surprise two bluebirds flew out. Then two more, then another couple--at least six bluebirds flew out. I was thrilled!

Sylvia Weaver
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Editor's Reply: Hi Sylvia-What a "Gift" to discover the bluebirds roosting in your bluebird box! I am sure they used that nest box throughout the winter to get out of the cold and icy weather.

Yes- I would like to post this in the upcoming newsletter. A great tip to make our nest boxes a shelter for the bluebirds during the winter. Thanks for sharing this story.

■ Harry:

I have a pair of bluebirds trying to build in my bluebird box and my next door neighbor has 3 boxes of House Sparrows who come into my yard and try to take over the bluebird box and chase them. I gave information to my neighbor how destructive House sparrows are, and they don't get it.

Any suggestions?

Thanks,
Dotti, Mechanicsburg

Reply from Harry Schmeider (BSP WebMaster)

Dear Dotti, Fight back, not with the neighbor but the house sparrows.

Try this approach- See Attachment (Harry e-mailed her the illustration of Using Monofilament Line to Deter House Sparrows which appeared in the Spring edition of the BSP newsletter)

Please let me know if this helps in keeping the sparrows at bay.

Reply from Dotti:

Hi Harry - Thanks for your e-mail and the tip for keeping the House sparrows away. I followed the instructions and placed 6 lb fishing line as the diagram showed. As soon as the sparrows got to within a foot of the box, you would have thought they were hummingbirds as they just hovered and didn't go an inch closer to the bluebird box. That has worked every day since I put the line on the box. Today the bluebirds spent the day carrying nesting material in the box all day. What a treat to see! I even had a few laughs because the female figured out how to move her "mouth full" of sticks and grass, but when the male tried to do his share, he always had a problem with his contribution hitting the fishing line and he would work and work and finally hop up on the roof of the box and then turn and dart right in the hole with his nesting material. They certainly are a welcome sight. I will be monitoring the box to make sure the house sparrows don't get bold and try to fly in. So far, so good. The fishing line works great. Thanks again.

"We are BSP"



As a young boy, my Grandparents inspired me about Bluebirds. They lived on a large farm and had bluebird nest boxes all over the farm and especially near their gardens. Little did I know at that time the birds using those nest boxes were helping my grandparents with their garden until my grandfather shared stories about how bluebirds control insects on the ground. "They're patrolling our garden, he'd say" The garden had everything from fruits to vegetables; they also had orchards of pears, peaches, apples, cherry trees and a long grape arbor that ran between the farm house and the barn. As I look back now, I realized this was a haven for bluebirds and I learned how important these birds are to mankind and the environment.

Yes- I'd say my Grandparents inspired me about bluebirds:

I have served as Past President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania and am currently serving as an active member of the BSP as a County Coordinator for Butler County, BSP Board Member and also serve as Webmaster for the www.thebsp.org web site. Today I am an active advocate and speaker for bluebirds and other cavity -nesting birds.

I also have my own website known as: ambassadorforthebluebirds.net

Visit my website and let's talk Bluebirds.

*Sincerely,
Harry Schneider*



BSP Letter of Commendation

The Bluebird Society of PA hereby commends **Mr. Derry L. Young, Vice President of High Investors, Ltd.** for his generosity and support of the Bluebird Society of PA. Mr. Young authorized the Bluebird Society of PA to occupy over 400 square feet of climate-controlled storage space to store over 500 nest boxes, bluebird feeders, display items, store inventory, and other items used for the many exhibits and events which the Society participates in throughout PA. This donation not only saved the Bluebird Society many thousands of dollars but also furnished our volunteers with an excellent and inviting space to prepare for major events such as the PA Farm Show, the Ned Smith Festival, and various garden shows throughout the region. This storage space, known to BSP members as "The Bird's Nest", was also an excellent environment to host nest box assembly activities. On behalf of the Board of the Bluebird Society of PA, the BSP members, and most importantly, Pennsylvania's bluebirds, please allow me to express our deepest appreciation for your generosity through this Letter of Commendation.

Dean Rust, BSP President

"We are BSP"



My love of the outdoors began when I was a young girl, camping and exploring the woods as a Girl Scout and with my family. I was mostly interested in the wild flowers and flora and probably was looking down most of the time and missed noticing the birds. I remember when seeing bluebirds in our yard where I lived outside of West Chester was a common sight and I recall my mother knew more about birds than most people I knew. Her Quaker grandfather "Bird Man" was a well-known Ornithologist and she told us of their pet raven that was real smart, stuffed birds in the attic and his egg collection that was the largest in the country (before Federal bird laws!). He actually had a "museum" in a spare room (I have a picture). Only recently, as I have become more interested in birds, I wanted to find out more about him and "Googled" - Thomas H. Jackson,

Ornithologist - and found numerous photos he had taken of birds in the late 1800's and found out he was the 2nd President of the West Chester Bird Club.

Sixteen years ago I was offered my "dream job" as Horticulturalist at Range End Golf Club. Here I was able to put to use all of my interests in plants, art, design and the outdoors. I was happy to find out that our general manager at the golf course wanted the course to be certified as an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary. Soon after this, I had put out 15 well-constructed nest boxes to attract bluebirds. A notice in the newspaper got my attention- it announced a meeting where you could learn about BLUEBIRDS and the group was interested in starting a "BLUEBIRD CLUB." I did learn much more than I possibly thought there was to know about "my favorite bird" from this meeting, and at a later date after the Bluebird Society of PA was formed, I did join up and later (2000) was asked to fill a vacancy as its Secretary. I think the best thing about being involved with helping the bluebirds is it has been one of the few success stories in nature where a species is being helped directly by people like us. The bluebirds are making a strong comeback; I just love these friendly birds and the people who join in to help them!!!

Nancy Putt

My interest in bluebirds began in 2002, when my son's Biology teacher, Gene Wingert (an active BSP member) required all of his Honor's Biology students to join the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania. My son wasn't particularly interested, but I read through all of the materials and decided to put a nest box up and try our luck. My wife, Susan, and I live in suburban development and I had rarely seen any bluebirds, so I wasn't optimistic. But our box attracted a pair of bluebirds and we had a successful nesting our first year, and I was hooked.

I didn't keep up with the BSP membership, but somehow I received an e-mail about the NABS conference BSP was sponsoring in Grantville in 2009. I decided to join BSP and go up for the day. At the conference, we were encouraged to vote for BSP officers. At the bottom of the ballot, there was an area to check off if you'd be willing to help with future BSP events (at least that's what I thought it said!). I checked off that I could help. Two weeks later, I got a call from Harry Schmeider thanking me for volunteering to be on the BSP Board! So in the space of about a month, I went from being the newest BSP member to being a Board member.

I've enjoyed my time on the Board and helping with the Farm Show, the Garden Show, Ned Smith Day and some of the other events we sponsor. I now monitor or help to monitor about 60 boxes, including the boxes Gene Wingert placed around the Cumberland Valley High School. I also helped an Eagle Scout place a bluebird trail at the golf course across from our development, Armitage Golf Course.

As a relatively new "birder," I still learn something new at almost every event I attend.

Phil Durgin

BSP Conference 2014

To view videos and photos of the conference, please go to the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Eighty-seven bluebirders enjoyed this year's 16th Annual Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania's conference at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College on March 28th and 29th. Friday evening's activities included presentations by Blake Goll of the Willistown Conservation Trust (Chester County), Susan Durgin on how design considerations of bluebird nest boxes can be used to teach principles in elementary art, and an update on BSP's efforts to collaborate with golf courses across the state to install bluebird trails in this very bluebird-friendly habitat.



Saturday's program included a talk by Dr. Jason Hill of Penn State on the impact of Marcellus Shale drilling on deep forest birds, a beautiful and inspiring presentation by John Rogers entitled "All About Bluebirds and More," and a presentation by Robyn Bailey of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's- NestWatch project.

In between the speakers we had plenty of time to visit our vendors and exhibitors, including beautiful photography by Dean Salisbury, a new vendor this year. A lively and successful auction was auctioneered by Liz Stamm, of E.J. Stamm Auction Services, and assisted by Barb Elliott, Auction Clerk. This and other conference events including the Silent Auction, and the Quilt Raffle all helped raise funds for future BSP programs.

A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Bluebirder of the Year award to Doris Hoffman, one of BSP's founding members and BSP store manager. Doris also maintains a bluebird trail at the Lower Allen Township Park and is a faithful volunteer at the Farm Show, Ned Smith Day, and other BSP events throughout Central Pennsylvania. Congratulations, Doris! Bluebird Feather awards went to James Trail, who has been a long-time box builder and birder (even though he's still a student!), Alice Saunders, and Bill Frantz. Derry Young, manager of the Rossmoyne Business Center, who donated The Nest Box space to BSP for 5 years, received a BSP Letter of Appreciation.

Be sure to reserve March 27-28, 2015 so you can attend next year's conference to be held at the Best Western Eden Resort in Lancaster, PA. You're sure to have a fun time and learn something new about bluebirds!

Phil Durgin, Conference Chair

A BIG THANKS to Elizabeth (Liz) Stamm of E.J. Stamm's Auction Service and her Clerk, Barb Elliott, who so kindly offered to step in to assist us with our live auction. Our regular auctioneering team, Dave Birmingham and Pat Larchy had a prior engagement and they kindly helped us to find Liz. Thanks also to all those individuals and businesses which generously donated a wonderful selection of items for the live and silent auctions which made these fundraising activities so productive and successful. Thanks also to the BSP auction volunteers –Cashiers and Runners.



Here is a really neat web site to help
identify bird songs.
Just click on the birds and they
will sing for you:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nature/birds/bird_songs_interactive.html

BSP Conference 2014

Here are the names of the winners of the Amish Quilt Raffle Prizes:

1st - Bluebird Quilt - Betty Staebler, New Columbia, PA

2nd - Bluebird Wall Hanging- William Naugle, Shillington, PA

3rd - Bluebird Pillow- Joanne Slavinski, Mechanicsburg, PA

Winner of the BSP Door Prize:

Bluebird Gift Basket - John and Cathy Everhart

Conference Feedback from Attendees:

Dear Dean: I just wanted to say thank you for your hospitality during the BB Society of PA's convention this past weekend. You put on a class act with some fine presenters. I will be looking forward to next years program, and I will be sending in my membership application to the BSP this week.

The New Jersey Bluebird Society is just in the fledging stage and we learned some valuable lessons on how to run a class act.

Once again, thank you for a fine job and to your committee for all their hard work. It was my pleasure to once again return to PSU (our youngest son is an '01 graduate) and enjoy some fine ice cream and the people my wife Eleanor and I met.

Frank V. Budney, President
New Jersey Bluebird Society

Hi Phil, Sue and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at the BSP meeting. We very much enjoyed and appreciated meeting some new people, and old acquaintances, too. The facility, conference schedule, and accommodations were all first rate. You did a great job in planning and implementing all of this. Please pass along my thanks to Harry for his assistance in setting up. He was a great help to myself and the other speakers, too.

Thank you for inviting me to your excellent conference.

All the best!

John Rogers
323 Seneca St
Oneida, NY 13421



★ *BSP Awards 2014* ★

Bluebirder of the Year - Doris Hoffman

Doris is a resident of Lisburn, PA in Cumberland County and she has been an enthusiastic bluebird monitor and volunteer of BSP for many years. She previously served as BSP Board Member and has served as BSP Store Manager for the past several years. Doris established and monitors a very productive bluebird trail at the Lower Allen Community Park in Lisburn, PA which produces many broods of bluebirds and tree swallows each nesting season. She volunteers at all major BSP events, including the PA Farm Show, Garden Expo, Ned Smith Festival, Annual BSP Conferences, and other local events. Doris is known locally as “the Bluebird Lady” and she shares her knowledge and experience about bluebirds with everyone she meets, including her friends at Curves, her church, and local community organizations including the Lisburn Community Fire Company and the Lisburn Historical Society. Whenever there is a need for someone to help out to educate others about monitoring nest boxes and promoting them to nest with success, Doris steps up to help. For her many years of successful bluebirding and her energetic outreach to the public, Doris Hoffman is a deserving recipient of the **BSP Bluebirder of the Year Award**.



★ ★
Doris Hoffman

★ ★
James Trail



Blue Feather Award - James Trail

This young man, who hails from Chambersburg, PA is an inspiration to all. James started building bluebird boxes and feeders when he was in the second grade. He has always been self-motivated, never asked for assistance, and would use the monies he made from selling his woodcrafts to purchase needed supplies. On other occasions, he would barter his boxes for tools and wood that he needed. By third grade, he had obtained a state sales tax number and started his own business called, “For the Birds”.

James is an active member of BSP, has attended our annual conferences as a vendor, and helps educate people on the fine art of bluebirding. He also volunteers at the BSP booth at the PA Farm Show. James will be graduating from Penn State, Mont Alto in May where he is majoring in Forestry Technology and will be employed by Parkton Woodland Services in Maryland and will continue his efforts to promote suitable habitat and nesting sites for native songbirds. James deserves recognition for all that he has done from such a young age to promote bluebird conservation and is a worthy recipient of the **2014 BSP Blue Feather Award**.



Blue Feather Award - Bill Frantz

Taking a step back in time to the year 1999, Kathy Clark, who was then serving as BSP President, was actively searching for a monitor for a neglected trail located on the grounds of the Camp Hill State Prison. Bill is a retired Penn State Forester and has always had a love for all of nature, so he agreed to take care of the trail. Under his capable hands, damaged boxes are replaced, others that are located directly in the path of the mowers are relocated to safety, and this 20 box trail becomes a success story.

Bill has worked this trail for 15 years and has 3 other nest boxes that he monitors in the vicinity of Adams Ricci Park in Enola. His fledglings include bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens-no house sparrows allowed. Bill's dedication, enthusiasm, and a love for what he does to promote nesting success make him a worthy recipient of the **BSP Blue Feather Award**.



Blue Feather Award - Alice Saunders

Alice is BSP's Huntingdon County Coordinator and she has been bluebirding for more than 20 years. She has worked with Boy Scouts, 4-H groups, and other youth organizations. Under her guidance and expertise, her young students learn the ins and outs of bluebirding, from start to finish. Alice has the ability to do it all, from building nest boxes, nest box installation, monitoring trails, and preparing and submitting Annual Nest Box Reports to BSP. During her many years of trail monitoring, she did experience some difficulty and sometimes sadness. In 2013 she had 51 nest boxes which were impacted by a variety of predators, including snakes, raccoons, and even bears. Adding to that was an aerial spraying which was detrimental to her bluebird babies.

In spite of these challenges, she remains dedicated, determined, enthusiastic, and uplifted in her commitment to promote bluebird nesting success. For all of her hard work and educational outreach to the bluebirders of the future, it is with great honor that BSP presents Alice Saunders with the **BSP Blue Feather Award**.



BSP Honorary Member Award - Dick Brown

Over the years, Dick Brown has worn many hats and has accomplished a lot for the Eastern bluebird. Dick's first bluebird nesting was on the family farm in Huntingdon County in the 1960's. After his retirement, Dick initiated the "Bluebird Project" at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area owned by the PA Game Commission. Dick's goal was to increase the reproductive success of the Eastern bluebird. He and his group of volunteers placed hundreds of nest boxes; some paired, some side-by-side, others back to back, and still others were stacked. In 1998, there were 177 boxes that fledged 97 bluebirds. Since then, the project has grown to 250 boxes with an average of 200 bluebirds being fledged, along with tree swallows and other native cavity-nesters. Dick has also been instrumental in the art of native seed saving, propagating native plants, and the restoration of meadows needed by our native wildlife species.

For his ongoing commitment and dedication to insure the recovery of our native species, BSP is proud to make Dick Brown an **Honorary Member of Bluebird Society of PA**.

BSP CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLUEBIRD SOCIETY OF PA- 16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2014 - WESTERN, PA

Mark your Calendar for June 28,2014 <Food N Fun> BSP Picnic

This is a handicapped- accessible pavilion and lots of parking is available

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is hosting a picnic in Western Pennsylvania at **Moraine State Park** (Pavilion #7) McDanel's Launch Area North Shore on **Saturday June 28,2014 from 10am - 8pm**. The BSP is planning on having statewide picnics each year at different locations across the State of Pennsylvania in hopes that they will encourage members and guests to attend BSP Picnics and see new faces across Pennsylvania. Come out and meet the President, Officers, Board Members, County Coordinators, and many BSP members and their families and join in the food & fun. Bill Cuppett, Somerset County Coordinator is our Chef Griller of hot dogs and hamburgers on a charcoal grill adjacent to our pavilion. Everyone please bring a dish for our Pot Luck Dinner to be served at 12 p.m. Are you attending? Please make **Reservations - contact Harry Schneider**, Butler County Coordinator harryschneider@gmail.com or call 724 285 1209.

See animals that once lived in the park at the Preservation Fund near our pavilion, bluebirds and purple martins all around us and yes, the bluebirds will join us at our pavilion. Bill Wenger, Crawford County Coordinator will be our First Mate on a 1 hr Nautical Boat Rides at 1pm and 3pm - \$10 for seniors 62 & up, \$12 adults and \$6 for children. Tickets are available at the Preservation Fund near our pavilion. Ed Monroe, Allegheny Coordinator and Natalie J.Price, Plant Butterfly Coordinator will takes us on a butterfly trail for approximately 1 hr at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. You can also take a bike ride on a seven mile trail. (bike rentals are available near our pavilion) or bring your own bike. Bob Allnock, Lawrence County Coordinator will lower a purple martin nesting house and share information concerning nesting materials, eggs and nestlings near our pavilion (hold a purple martin nestling in your hand) Rent a Cabin at the Park or stay at one of 50 hotels nearby. Stay the week or the weekend and enjoy Moraine State Park. **Bring a dish to share for the pot luck dinner at noon, hot dogs and hamburgers & table service will be provided along with ice cold bottled water will be available at the pavilion all day. (Alcohol is not permitted in Pa. State Parks)**

Itinerary schedule for the Day:

10 am -10:30 am Education Outreach at the pavilion #7 (all under roof and handicap pavilion) McDanel's Launch North Shore. Moraine State Park PA.

10:30 am - 11:30 am Bob Allnock - Purple Martin Nest Box Demonstration walking distance by our pavilion.

11:30 am -12 pm Purchase Nautical Boat Ride Tickets for the 1p.m. or 3 p.m. ride tickets at the Preservation Fund beside our shelter.

12 - 1 pm - Pot Luck Picnic, Chief Griller, Bill Cuppett is serving Hot Dogs and Hamburgers. **(Everyone please bring a dish to share.)**

1 - 2 pm 1st Nautical Boat Ride leaving the dock at 1pm. with First-Mate, Bill Wenger (37 passengers)

1 pm - 1st Plant and Butterfly Walk with Ed Monroe & Natalie J.Price Plant/Butterfly Trail Coordinator.

3 - 4 pm -2nd Second Nautical Boat Ride leaving the dock at 3 p.m. with First-Mate, Bill Wenger (37 passenger limit)

-
- 3 - 4 pm 2nd Plant and Butterfly Walk** with Ed Monroe & Natalie J.Price Plant/Butterfly Trail Coordinators
- 4 - 5 pm** Enjoy snacks and leftovers from our Pot Luck Picnic and Prize Giveaway at the pavilion #7 (Prizes provided by the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania)
- 5 -7 pm** Bike Rentals or bring your own bike. Take a 4 to 7 mile paved bike ride along a scenic route beside the lake.
- 8 pm** Park Visitors must vacant the Park by 8 pm.

Your Host and BSP Picnic Coordinators,

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

Bill Cuppett Somerset County Coordinator Our Chief Grilled Hot dogs and Hamburgers

Bob Allnock Lawrence County Coordinator Purple Martin Nest Box Demonstration

Bill Wenger Crawford County Coordinator Our First Mate on the Nautical Boat Rides “see Osprey Nesting”

Ed Monroe Allegheny County Coordinator & Natalie J.Price Plant and Butterfly Walk Tour Guide

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

Carol Bickel Preservation Fund at Moraine State Park - Nautical Boat Rides 1p & 3p Ticket coordinator

Natalie J.Price Plant/Butterfly Walk Tour Guide

Visit Moraine State Park > <http://www.morainepreservationfund.org/category/activities/17.html>

Directions and information is on our website at thebsp.org

Sincerely,

Harry Schmeider

Personal Website <http://www.ambassadorforthebluebirds.net/>

Web-Master and Board Member of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

Bluebird Society Web Site > <http://www.thebsp.org/>

BSP BOARD MEETINGS
JULY 24 AND OCTOBER 23, 2014- THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 6:00 P.M.
GIANT FOODS COMMUNITY ROOM, 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 Technical Chairman: Harry Schmeider, harryschmeider@gmail.com or call 724-285-1209 to make arrangements to join BSP meetings by phone right from your home.

BSP Monitors Needed for Golf Courses across the Commonwealth Listed Below

Thanks to all the participating golf courses listed below for their involvement in conservation efforts for bluebird and other nesting cavities species by providing nest box trails on their courses. *Thank You and the Bluebirds thank you too.*

Meadowlands Country Club

711 Boehms Church Road, Bluebell, PA 19422, Montgomery County
<https://www.meadowlandsc.com>

Monitor Needed Jim Lynagh - Head of Golf Course Operations 215-646-8044 or JLynagh@meadowlandsc.com

* They have a 10 year old bluebird trail that needs "maintenance work" and trail monitoring; their trail is 25-30 boxes
Monitor -- Please notify Dr. Dean Rust BSP President if you decide to monitor this Golf Course. Thank you.
Contact Dean at 717-669-0167 or july7ds@aol.com

Spring Creek Golf Course

450 East Chocolate Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033, Dauphin County
http://www.hersheypa.com/things_to_do/spring_creek.php

Monitor Needed: Aaron C. Snyder Superintendent 570-764-0539 or acsnyder@hersheypa.com

Monitor -- Please notify Dr. Dean Rust BSP President if you decide to monitor this Golf Course. Thank you.
Contact Dean 717-669-0167 or july7ds@aol.com

Whitemarsh Valley Country Club

815 Thomas Road, Lafayette Hill, PA 19444, Montgomery County
<http://www.whitemarshvalleycc.com>

Monitor Needed - Ask for Tony Gustaitis CGCS 215-233-3906

Monitor -- Please notify Dr. Dean Rust BSP President if you decide to monitor this Golf Course. Thank you.
Contact Dean at 717-669-0167 or july7ds@aol.com

Sunnehanna Country Club

1000 Sunnehanna Drive, Johnstown, PA 15905, Cambria County
<http://www.sunnehannacountryclub.com>

Monitor Needed Ben Little, Golf Course Superintendent Office 814-255-7444 Cell 412-610-9001

Monitor, please notify Dr. Dean Rust BSP President if you decide to monitor this Golf Course. Thank you.
Contact Dean at 717-669-0167 or july7ds@aol.com

3 Lakes Golf Course

6700 Saltsburg, Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 located in Allegheny County
<http://www.3lakesgolf.com/>

Monitor Needed - Ask for: Megan Hawk 412-793-7111

Monitor -- Please notify Dr. Dean Rust BSP President if you decide to monitor this Golf Course. Thank you.
Contact Dean at 717-669-0167 or july7ds@aol.com



Mr. Bluebird Comes to Wellsville Elementary School

Scarlett Werntges, with the help of her Grandpa, put up this “Bluebird” style slot box in the school yard. A bluebird pair has been seen checking it out. This special box was built by BSP Woodworking Co-Chairman- Dale Cook. Nancy Putt purchased this at the BSP Conference Auction for the school and she gave a short presentation about bluebirds to the first grade classes on Friday, April 25th.



White Bluebird Eggs

Although bluebirds usually lay blue eggs, occasionally white eggs are laid as well. While they could be confused with tree swallow eggs, they are considerably larger. Bluebird reference books indicate that approximately 5% of all bluebird clutches are white eggs. If you observe white eggs in the same box in two consecutive nesting seasons, this may indicate that the same female has returned to this same nesting site, as a female which produces white eggs will always produce white eggs.

My Backyard Bluebirds

by Marilyn Donak

I have had two bluebird boxes in my yard for several years but never saw any bluebirds here. Finally, last year, thanks to Joan Watroba, I joined the Bluebird Society. I moved both boxes to better locations and added a third box in November. This January I started seeing bluebirds in my yard. How exciting! I immediately bought some mealworms and put them on my deck. In no time, they started coming- morning and evening.

As of March, I have 5 males and 1 female. I'll be monitoring the boxes this Spring.

I have learned so much since joining the Bluebird Society of PA and I'm really enjoying watching the beautiful bluebirds.



Follow-up: A bluebird pair is successfully nesting in one of her nest boxes and she sent these photos of the eggs and the babies and they successfully fledged. Yeah!





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:

Marilyn Donak

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marilyn - 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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Paid by: Cash Check Money Order

Website: www.thebsp.org

Website: WWW.THEBSP.ORG



PO Box 756
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756

Return Service Requested

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Mechanicsburg, PA

New BSP County Coordinators!!

Bradford County

Lura Trossello
(570) 363-2081
E-mail: ltrossello@cimserve.com

Lehigh County

Denise & Peter Reinhart
E-mail: parrots@ptd.net
610-965-5389

Pike County

Tom Peifer
570-470-9960
E-mail: tomp345@ptd.net

Tioga County

Leslie Clifford
570-662-4527
lcliffor@mansfield.edu

Wayne County

James Kilgore
e-mail: shrawder@aol.com
jkilgore@centraljersey.com



Artist - Susan Renkel



BSP is a North American Bluebird Society Affiliate

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BLUEBIRD SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA (BSP) ANNUAL BLUEBIRD NEST BOX REPORT FORM

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>
--	---

Do you report such information to any other organization? Yes No

If so, to whom? _____

Please return this form **by October 15th** to: **Shirley Halk, 42 Park Dr., Grantville, PA 17028** *Aug 09 Revision*