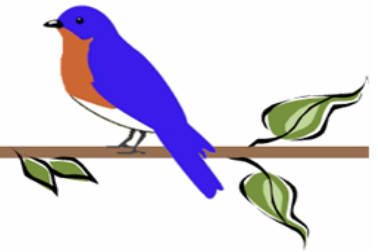


TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter · Volume 11, Issue 4

OCTOBER 2012

2012 Blue Feather Award Winner Judy Hetherington

By Benni Konvicka

We all know them, those folks who work behind the scenes and whose names we sometimes never know. Texas Bluebird Society is fortunate to have numerous, dedicated volunteers who do many things to help run our organization, but when someone performs extraordinary tasks, they deserve extra-ordinary thanks, praise, and recognition. This is what the Blue Feather Award is designed to accomplish, recognition of extraordinary service to Texas Bluebird Society. Each year, the president works with a small committee of former Blue Feather Awards winners to select a recipient. This year, Judy's name clearly rose to the top.

At this year's Summer Symposium in Gainesville, TX, the TBS Blue Feather Award was presented to Judy Hetherington. No one has ever been more deserving. Judy has been a member of TBS since December 2001, has served on the TBS Board of Directors since November 2009, and has served as the Secretary for the board for two years in which capacity she provides minutes from Board Meetings within a day or two of the phone conference call and collects from each Board Member each year a signed "Code of Ethics Policy" and a signed "Conflict of Interest Policy." Furthermore, Judy has also been on the TBS Executive Committee for two years. As a member of the TBS Executive Committee, Judy helps handle all day-to-day business, planning, and decisions between board meetings. All of these executive duties are pretty impressive, but Judy is much more than an officer; she is a doer. Look at this list:

- Coordinates TBS "True Blue Friend" nestbox dedication program. Judy accepts orders for custom nestbox dedication plaque and places each order with our vendor; she then proofreads nestbox dedication before mailing.
- Sets up and maintains custom Texas Bluebird Society email addresses
- Led the Board to switch from dependence upon an outside graphic artist for event name badges, door prize chances, printed program, and auction list and made this possible by creating most of the templates, herself, in Microsoft Word.
- Located all by-law changes and compared them with current compiled version to make certain TBS had a correct compilation.
- Created two most recent online registration forms with RSVPbook.com and served as liaison in working out bugs and making our custom requests. Double checked each registration to ensure an accurate roster.
- Serves on Review Team for the "Texas Blues" newsletter
- Manages all FTP folders for TBS

WHEW! Take a breath, because I'm only just getting started.

Judy Hetherington is this year's winner of the Blue Feather Award. A very special thank you for all of your hard work, many accomplishments, and selfless dedication to TBS! Couldn't do it without you!

Photo by John English



Judy is an integral part of the **TBS Event Plans Team**. At each of our two annual events,

- helped plan events agendas and programs
- entered all auction data online
- organized auction items and auction item pick-up
- produced auction thank you letters and pictures,

Judy did all this.

As a founding member of the **TBS Web Team**,

- learned to use php and html code in order to help with migration of TBS web site
- taught herself to use DreamWeaver software to maintain and update new TBS web site
- now creates and updates content pages on TBS web site
- single-handedly figured out how to and then implemented a test server site to ensure the end quality of all final display on the new TBS web site,

Judy did all this.

Oh yes, and in her spare time, Judy and her husband Brian have produced over 7,000 nestboxes for TBS—over 7,000!

Her work is tireless. Her energy is boundless. Serves selflessly with dedication, innovation, inspiration, coupled with a generous spirit and a wicked sense of humor: *Judy does all this.*



Judy & Brian make a delivery to Kyle storage. Photo by Pauline Tom

Judy and her husband Brian have been building nestboxes and volunteering in a variety of jobs for many years to promote bluebird conservation. Thank you Judy for all you do! (and Brian too!)



Judy & Brian demo the nestbox features.

CONGRATULATIONS To Our Award Winners!

Bluebirder Of The Year

Jim Marshall selected as "Bluebirder of the Year." Jim Marshall's story of providing nesting space for bluebirds in Fort Worth began in 2007 when he saw a bluebird while bicycling on Trinity Trails. It occurred to Jim that he had never seen a bluebird in the city, and he realized the opportunity to help the bluebirds by installing nestboxes. He took the initiative to work through Streams and Valleys (a non-profit) to obtain permission from the Tarrant Regional Water District to install nestboxes along Trinity Trails, starting just a block from a busy urban shopping corridor. Jim started with one nestbox and added over 30 more, with the help of "Project Bluebird" volunteers he recruited. Now, "Project Bluebird" volunteers have installed 7 nestboxes at the Fort Worth Botanical Gar-



Photo by Owen Richards

dens and helped Colonial Country Club install 14 of its own. All around the Fort Worth area, Jim has installed or helped others install 70+ nestboxes. Recruited volunteers to "NestWatch" Project Bluebird's nestboxes weekly, and Roberta Marshall (Jim's sister) enters the observations into Nest-Watch.org All this and more occurred because Jim Marshall envisioned the possibility and started with one nestbox. His vision and efforts have increased the population of Eastern Bluebirds in Fort Worth and, provided joy to humans who have become involved with bluebird conservation and those who glimpse the "bluebird of happiness."

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Good Egg Award

TBS created this unique award to honor **Clyde Camp**, who jumped in and saved the TBS website. The week our webmaster gave up his volunteer position this year, Clyde introduced himself to Pauline Tom at a TBS booth and asked,

"Who is your webmaster?" What a godsend! Within hours he provided a resume, a sample of what he could do with our website, and a very reasonable quote for his web development services. The Board quickly accepted his proposal. Clyde quickly joined TBS, and was one of the first to register for the Symposium. His enthusiastic efforts, long hours, willingness to jump in on short notice, sense of humor, and professionalism earned him this award.



Photo by Owen Richards

Coordinator Recognized

Don Lawrence, Local Coordinator for the Symposium, received recognition with True Blue Friend plaque for his many hours handling local arrangements and fine details. For instance, Don designed and built the screen needed for projection. Don designed and created the "sight barrier" be-

Photo by Owen Richards

Every year TBS is privileged to honor a few of our dedicated and extremely hard working individuals whose contributions have elevated TBS activities. **President Pauline Tom presented this year's awards** during the 2012 Summer Symposium held August 11th in Gainesville.

tween the presentation section and the dining/silent auction section by adding the black plastic around precisely-sized rented scaffolding. He made all arrangements with local hotel for lodging and meeting rooms; with the Civic Center; with the restaurant for Friday evening social and the caterer for lunch. He also served as Local Registrar for mail-in payments. Smooth running Symposium. Job well done.



All Events "Happen" Because Of Our Great Volunteers!

Don Lawrence, local coordinator, of the Summer Symposium was able to solicit the help of Gainesville, and neighboring communities, 4-H Club to assist TBS with the event set up and other tasks during the Symposium. 4-H members received community service hours and TBS received a few extra hands to help with all of the Symposium tasks. Win-win!

4-H volunteers handed out imprinted metal name badges (presented by President, Pauline Tom) to members with at least 6 hours of volunteer service.



Photo by Owen Richards

Once members volunteer six or more hours of service they are given an imprinted metal name badge. Latest recipients include:

- Charlene Fischer
- Jim Marshall
- Roberta Marshall
- Jeri Porter
- Ken Ray
- Judy Ray
- Lynne Richards
- Owen Richards

Many volunteers were needed to prepare for the Summer Symposium. Thank you, volunteers, for helping make the Symposium so successful again this year.

- Caryn Brewer
- Katy Couvillon
- Linda Crum
- Jennifer Fleming
- Lois Heckart
- Judy Hetherington
- Brian Hetherington
- Benni Konvicka
- Jimmie Konvicka
- Don Lawrence
- Kenlyn Lawrence
- Kevin Nelson
- Paul Nelson
- Barb Ohlman
- Ken Ray
- Judy Ray
- Rex Reves
- Meg Scamman
- Ron Tom
- Pauline Tom



Photo by Owen Richards

Oh, what a difference Paul Nelson made as our first event emcee. He started the day sharing his unabashed passion for bluebirds. His beautiful speaker voice and warm personality kept the segments of the day tied together and flowing. The idea of an emcee came from Evaluations of the 2012 Season Kickoff. Each event improves upon the last from "lessons learned."

Annual Summer Symposium Another Huge Success!

By Susan Tartaglio

This year's TBS Summer Symposium was held in Gainesville, Texas, which is north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, not far from the border with Oklahoma. Gainesville's most famous native son is Frank Buck of "Bring 'Em Back Alive" fame, and the small but impressive zoo here is named for him.

A large group came from the LBJ Grasslands about an hour's drive south. The Grasslands is excellent bluebird habitat, open ground dotted with trees, with several bluebird trails within the Grasslands as well as on private properties. The Denton, Texas Elm Fork Chapter of the Master Naturalists was also well represented at the symposium.

Paul Nelson of McKinney, Texas, our EMCEE, did a splendid job entertaining us and also keeping speakers on schedule (apparently with a series of warning flags!).

Keith Kridler, who presented in the morning and again in the afternoon, is known to many as co-author of the "Bluebird Monitor's Guide" and is a frequent and much-loved speaker for TBS. He told us his nest boxes have fledged over 1,200 chicks so far out of about 400 nestboxes. There's not much Keith doesn't know about bluebirds.

Carol Clark is a Texas Master Naturalist and spoke next about gardening for bluebird success. After Carol, our own newsletter editor, Debbie Bradshaw, told us about Cornell's NestWatch program, its history and successes, and how we can all help provide data as citizen scientists.

During the morning break those attending were able to

sign up for NestWatch, purchase memberships, nestboxes, and heatshields. Door prizes included several items such as bluebird mugs and "buggy" paperweights. One of my friends won a copy of the excellent book "I Hear Bluebirds." The many Silent Auction items included an array of bluebird caps, mats, glassware, as well as decorated birdhouses and nestboxes. A copy of Keith's book was also part of the auction. Three long tables of auction items brought in \$1,800 for TBS by the end of the day.

Those of us who are local Master Naturalists already knew the first afternoon speaker, Dr. Ken Steigman, who spoke on LLELA's (Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area) nestbox program.

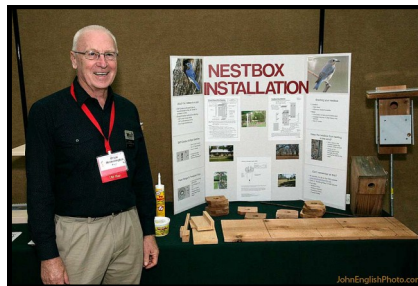
A yummy lunch included brisket, chicken, a variety of salads and sides, and cobbler. During lunch Pauline made TBS Volunteer award presentations.

Keith spoke again after lunch about bluebird mating habits, followed by brief presentations such as "Hula Hoop Snake Guard Success" by Janna Blanchard, Mike Hagen on revamping and correcting a trail put up by Boy Scouts, Judy and Ken Ray shared a video of Father Bluebird watching his brood fledge in their back yard, and Don Lawrence on "Preparing Bluebird Restaurant Row," all informative and entertaining talks. Linda Crum wrapped up the event with her signature talk various methods for House Sparrow control.

Plan to join us in Kerrville on February 9, 2013 for our annual Nesting Season Kickoff. Details on pages 10 and 11.



Dr. Ken Steigman, Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area Director and featured speaker, presented "Management Goals for LLELA's Avian Nestbox Program." He talked about the bird banding project. The nestbox arrangement on stage was set up by local 4H Volunteers, under the direction of Brian Hetherington. Photo by Owen Richards



Brian Hetherington, shares tips on successfully installing a nestbox during the breaks. Brian has helped to build over 7,000 nestboxes for TBS. He has installed a few too! Photo by John English



In addition to nestboxes, TBS also offers a few other products to help bluebirds through their nesting season. Heat Shields and Kingston baffles were popular purchases during the Symposium. Photo by Ken & Judy Ray



Silent Auction FUNdraiser fervor is a fun time for every one, and a valuable source of funds for TBS.

This year's auction is no exception. TBS raised \$1,800. Photo by Ken & Judy Ray



Pre-Symposium dinner at a nearby restaurant is a fun time to meet fellow members and discuss everyone's favorite topic—anything to do with bluebirds! Photo by Judy Hetherington

Musings From The Master...

President Pauline Tom asked Keith to comment on the new Duncraft Bird House claim to be "House Sparrow Resistant."

The link below takes you to the "new" Duncraft Bird House that is supposed to be House Sparrow Resistant. I am ALWAYS amazed to see the price on these, at a whopping \$49.99, and then read up a little on them.]

<http://www.duncraft.com/Duncraft-Sparrow-Resistant-Bird-House>

It would appear that NO ONE has written a "review." on how well these work and from what I see there is nothing "New" that is going to actually be House Sparrow Resistant in ANY WAY what so ever.

Anyway the "news release" came out in their own E-newsletter and you can read a little more at the following link. They mention all of this is from The North American Bluebird Society research or at least all of this actually HAS been published before in Sialia and or the Bluebird so I guess they can claim this as fact.

<http://www.virtual-strategy.com/2012/07/05/duncraft%E2%80%99s-newest-bird-house-helps-thwart-dreaded-house-sparrows>

You can get close to measuring a nesting box by using photos on line if you know a couple of the dimensions. It would appear that this nesting box is almost 6" deep inside from top of floor

to bottom of entrance hole slot. Floor size appears to be 4" wide and 4½" deep. Nestbox walls appear to be ½" thick made of slick extruded plastic.

The slot is too tall as European Starlings can enter most slots that are smaller/shorter at one and three-sixteenths inches in height according to all of the information on the Purple Martin Forums.

Interesting but I have noticed that a person can charge an extra \$20 or MORE if you call one of these things a "Bird House" rather than a "Nest Box"]

I am "also" amazed that you need to be putting up "Hummingbird Houses," "Cardinal Houses" and buying "Hummingbird Nests" IF you want these birds to nest in your "yard!"



Have we humans become so far removed from Nature that companies can make a living selling these?

Keith Suggests Some Chores To Add To Your Winter List

November

- Build and install a few nestboxes for the woodpeckers this winter. Many different cavity nesters will use these nestboxes for winter roost sites. Each woodpecker that survives until spring will chisel out a nest site for themselves and other birds.
- If woodpeckers enlarge the entrance hole on your bluebird nestboxes leave the oversize hole until spring and then simply add another ¾" block of wood with a 1½" hole drilled in it. Line up the new hole over the entrance hole and attach the new hole with wood screws.

December

- Recycle your Christmas tree. Tie it upright near your birdfeeder for extra coverage for the songbirds. This will provide the needed escape cover from hawks, owls, or cats. A group of 3-7 year old trees wired to a fence corner will provide a roosting place for birds all winter. Haul off the "dregs" from a Christmas tree lot and save some of your birds.
- Build, or buy from TBS, Texas style bluebird nestboxes.
- Shame on you if you threw the seeds from your Jack-O-Lantern in the garbage. Seeds from pumpkins, watermelons, cucumbers, gourds, and many other vegetable seeds are a delicacy to Cardinals and other seed eating birds.

January

- Disinfect bird feeders and birdbaths this month using a chlorine bleach solution.
- During freezing temperatures keep a supply of fresh water for the birds to drink. No birdbath heater? Simply line with black plastic. When the water freezes, grab the corners to dump out the ice. Black plastic will also act as a solar collector and on sunny days the water will be warmed by the sun.
- Plant bare root berry producing trees or shrubs before the end of February.
- Nestboxes should be clean and ready for nesting season.

Keith will once again entertain and inform the audience at the Summer Bluebird Symposium at the Mt. Pleasant Civic Center August 10, 2013.

It doesn't matter if you are brand new to bluebirds, or a member since the beginning, we always learn something new from Keith's exploits!



Keith Kridler, everyone's resident expert, our favorite speaker, and cofounder of TBS, participates in several List-Serve groups focusing on bluebirds and their behavior. Keith has given us permission to publish his contributions to these groups. This is an edited excerpt from the Bluebird Monitors Yahoo Group.

Unexpected Visitors In Enchanted Lakes

Three years ago I purchased a bluebird nestbox from a society member who was presenting a program to the Mabank Garden Club. Although it was late February, my husband and I installed the box and anxiously awaited bluebird occupants. Alas, we only had lookers and no takers every year until this spring when a battle for tenancy ensued between Mr. & Mrs. Bluebird and Mrs. Tufted Titmouse.

The fight was fierce but Mrs. Titmouse was persistent and built her fine nest and laid 4 speckled eggs. Encouraged by the activity, we immediately purchased a second nestbox fully expecting to wait another 3 years for occupants, but Mrs. Bluebird decided she really preferred the newly constructed apartment and happily moved in. Imagine our confusion when the



Titmouse eggs in first nestbox



Bluebird babies in 2nd nestbox



Mom & Dad feeding all of the babies



Cowbird baby crowds bluebird babies

first egg laid was large and speckled and not blue; however, 3 blue eggs followed several days later and the wait began. The speckled egg hatched first, of course, and the big job of feeding began. Soon the other siblings arrived and the nest became quite crowded as the eldest was taking up a large portion of the space. He fledged early escaping the nestbox one day when

we opened the side for inspection. We missed the rest of the fledging but assume all ended well.

Observing all the activity made this spring especially delightful and included black swallowtail butterfly (Lake area) hosting on the fennel plants on our backyard patio--but that's another story.

The past week or so, four bluebirds have been checking out the two nestboxes. Future occupants perhaps???

Celene Terry, Enchanted Oaks, (near Mabank and Gun Barrel City in Cedar Creek) shares her photos and her unusual experience.

There is more to the story—

President Pauline Tom responds. "Oh my! Are you aware that the bluebird parents successfully fostered a Brown-headed Cowbird? Often, the other babies die of starvation."

Visiting Bluebird Prompts Fond Family Memories

This darling bluebird spent a few weeks this Spring pecking on our bedroom sitting area window ledge. Our family knows the bluebirds as a delightful reminder of my Mother who passed away Oct 20, 2010 at a 100 yrs old, at our home. Mimi was called a tough old bird and adored the bluebirds, sometimes giving gifts of glass bluebirds or tea towels with a embroidery of the birds. Her favorite white blazer had a bluebird on the pocket, she wore much of the year. My family of bluebirds was cherished but after nesting, stopped sharing their presence with me. I hope to see more next Spring. I'm happy to share my picture with other bluebird enthusiasts. *Story and photo by Jane Eberle*



My First Bluebird In The Yard

I am new to the bluebird world but saw my first bluebird in the yard this winter and was able to attend a workshop right away. In my first attempt, I got a pair to nest! However, after four eggs were laid, we only had one live baby hatch and ultimately fledged. It was fun to see the first pair court. Daddy bluebird (named Rick) who was watching over the eggs while Mom went off to feed. He is perched in a desert willow about 25 feet behind the nest box doing his wing wave.

The good news is that even though I didn't have the best track record with my pair, bluebirds are thriving in my neighborhood. Just the other day I saw EIGHT plus a token migrating oriole on top of my mailbox.



Story and photo by Debbie Stewart (Elgin)

Diligent observation in the Spring can bring great rewards!

Baby Bluebird Is In A Hurry To Fledge

It was around 7 in the evening (the temperature had hit 110 degrees that day), and I was sitting in my backyard hoping to get an awesome photo of the baby bluebirds peeking out of their bluebird box when all of a sudden a baby bluebird jumped out of the box.

I quickly started snapping photos before it dawned on me that at 14 days it was too early for them to fledge. Then the other 3 babies followed the first. It was obvious they couldn't fly, and one baby could barely hop. I panicked. The

parents – 2 males and 1 female became hysterical. We have a hawk that hangs out in our yard always watching for it's next meal, and it would be dark soon. I knew if I didn't do something they wouldn't survive the night, so I grabbed some garden gloves, ran around picking up babies and putting them back in the box.

I was petrified as the parents frantically dive boomed me barely missing my head – I could feel the air as they came within a foot of my head. Once the babies were back in the

nest, and I moved to the other side of the yard, the parents settle down and returned to their perch. The next day, all was well. The parents resumed feeding the babies, they didn't peak out of the box anymore, and a week later they fledge.

I had assumed it was the heat inside the box that made them jump, so the next day I bought some solar screen at Lowes and put it

on all sides of the nest box – except for the door side of course.

Story and photo by Patricia Clowdus (Southlake)



Bluebirds At Jones State Park And Montgomery



Photos by Anita Wren, The Woodlands

Scenes Across Texas



This is the first year that I have had nesting boxes and I have been delighted with the bluebirds. Once the baby bluebirds arrived I visited the box every day. Every time I visited "Dad and Mom" would come and sit on the nearby fence just a few feet away. What a joy it was to chat with a bluebird! *Story and photo by Betty Windle, Brenham*



An Eastern Bluebird weathers out a rare central Texas blizzard, Union Grove Wildlife Management Area, Bell County. *Photo by Gary Holmes*



No snow, but the temperatures can dip low in Carthage. "Fluffing up" is a bird's best defense against the cold. This one is definitely fluffy! *Photo by Lindsey Smith*

View more TBS member photos on Flickr. Click on the **Photos** tab from our website. TBS is always interested in your bluebird photos. Go to the Photo tab for instructions on how to share your photos. A big thank you to Lynne Richards, TBS Photo Librarian, who keeps our photos organized.

We All Learn From Bear Creek Installation Issues

Dear Ms. Kinney,
I am writing to ask for authorization to make some modifications in the recent addition of 15 bird houses in Bear Creek Park. As you may know, my colleague, Barbara Ohlman and I have been monitoring the 11 bird houses in the park for several years. This activity takes place primarily during nesting season from February through July.

As information, Ms Ohlman and I are both members of the Texas Bluebird Society, though she is more active in that group than am I. Ms. Ohlman has also participated with the local Audubon Society. I am a certified Texas Master Naturalist and part of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists which meets monthly at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. CTMN also has an interest in ornithology as an organization as do many of it's individual members.

I was out of the country when the new boxes were put up and was not aware of the project. Nevertheless, Barb Ohlman and I immediately saw an opportunity to perfect that project through a couple of modifications.

Currently, the boxes are placed on trees and are about 8 to 10 feet off the ground (see photo). They start along the path that begins at Keller Smithfield Road and flows west. The last box to the west is on a tree that is about 1/8 of a mile east of Elaine Street.

Our current monitoring of the original 11 boxes includes the recording of progress – nest building, species identification, timing and numbers of eggs, timing of successful hatching and date of successful fledgling.

We also intervene to accomplish predator suppression and box maintenance. The information that is collected is reported to NestWatch, a website and data collection point of the Cornell School of Ornithology, supported by the National Science Foundation and the



Good intentions, but improper installations put bluebirds at risk from predators during nesting season.

Smithsonian Institute. Under a specific user name and password, this data, along with data from 21 boxes at the Sky Creek Ranch Golf Club is reported and summarized. Ultimately, it is aggregated with data reported from all over North America to develop a picture of the health, activity and ranges of many different kinds of birds.

The current placement of the boxes on trees facilitates predation by snakes, raccoons and other varmints. One box, for example, was attacked shortly after it was installed and occupied (photo on right). Boxes on poles are more difficult for predators to negotiate and easier for monitors to protect. Also, by bringing the boxes down to around 4' to 5', they can be monitored, with results reported as is now happening with the original 11. The current height of the boxes prevents this monitoring.

What we are proposing is to reinstall the boxes on poles, similar to the current 11 boxes at a level that will allow for monitoring. We would like to work with Dan Burger to develop an agreed upon plan for placement of these boxes in order to minimize any operational difficulties. We believe the birds (primarily eastern bluebirds, wrens, tufted titmice and chickadees) will have more success with a wider placement, described in the link below. A wider placement will also look less cluttered.

<http://nestwatch.org/learn/nest-box-resource-center/nest-box-placement/>

We hope to complete this project before nesting season begins in February, 2013 with donations and volunteer labor. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Article and photos by Mike Hagan



Fifteen nestboxes were installed on trees at Bear Creek Park. Nestbox in photo above attacked shortly after it was installed and occupied. TBS members, Mike Hagan and Barb Ohlman, contacted the Park Director requesting permission to relocate to appropriate locations.

Eagle Scouts had great intentions, but their lack of knowledge on appropriate sites for bluebird nestboxes put the bluebirds in jeopardy from local predators.

TBS members, Mike Hagan and Barb Ohlman, quickly recognized the predicament for nesting birds. They took steps to help solve the problem and make a safer habitat in Bear Creek Park for bluebird families.

Mr. Hagan,

Thank you for bringing this to my attention and for your dedication to ornithology. We appreciate the countless hours that you have volunteered maintaining the bird habitat within Keller.

The bird boxes were placed by an Eagle Scout. Unfortunately, we were not able to review his plans and approve the locations. I agree with your concerns of placing the boxes on the trees.

Thank you for offering to relocate the bird boxes to a proper location. Dan Burger would be happy to work with you to determine the best location

Sincerely,

Donna Ruth Kinney
City of Keller, Director of Parks and Recreation

Board of Directors**President**

Pauline Tom
Mountain City

Vice President

Executive Committee serves
as Vice President

Treasurer/AP

Katy Couvillion
The Woodlands

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Conroe

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Don Lawrence
Whitesboro

Board Nominations

Nancy Glover
Wills Point

Silent Auctions

Jimmie Konvicka
Stephenville

Contact Us

TBS
PO Box 40868
Austin, TX 78704

Pauline Tom
512.268.5678
pauline@xblues.org

Visit our website

www.txblues.org

Lifetime Members

Welcome Helen Mauro, our newest lifetime member. The North Carolina Bluebird Society has presented Helen with a lifetime membership to TBS as a going away gift for her move to Texas. Helen founded the North Carolina Bluebird organization. Hers is the group that produced the video of bluebirds in a nestbox that we play at events. Lifetime membership is \$250, available online or mail.

Other lifetime members:

Sue Abernathy
Edra Bogucki
Mark Byrd
Greg Grant
Diane & Eric Hale
Carey Hardesty
Brian & Judy Hetherington
Highland Shores Garden Club
Bob Houck
Maxey Kirkley
Keith, Sandy and Shawn Kridler
Leonard May

Donna Parker
Kathy & Billy Pinkerton
Charles & Jackie Post
Randy Reddemann
Doug and Karen Rohde
Ronny Rolf
Jason A. Seale
William & Linda Stevens
Byron Stone
Ron and Pauline Tom
Jack Vick
Dr. Thomas M. Wheeler
Marsha Winfield
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Welcome New Members

• Sue Abernathy • Kathy Albright • Angela Arndt • Richard Artisur • Ronald Bamberg • Kenneth Bar-ron • Clare Bennett • Pat Bermingham • Marguerite Corbello & Bill Broussard • Diane Blais • Faye Brown • Virginia Clark • Carol & Richard Clark • Judy Crow • Ken Dailey • Lonnette Davidson • Dudley Davis • Tony Dawson • Pat & Andy Dietrich • Mary Kay Dunay • Suzanne Elder • John Eng-lish • Kathleen Flick • Jennifer Flory • Royce Fountain • Debbie & Jim Fuxa • Kern Goss • Linda Han-son • Cathey Hardeman • Susan Havard • Lynette Hurley • Judy Johnson-Russell • Frances Jones • Charlotte Kaltenburgh • Jim Konvicka • Ken Kunker • Harold Latham • Kathy Laughlin • Rhonda Leshner • Lloyd Little • Diane Lunow • Joe & Jenny Lyons • Tony Manasseri • James Masuoka • Chris Mayo • Edmond McGee • Lillian J McHenry • Judy Melby • Vin Merrill • Marilyn Meyers • Patty Miller • John Milligan • Sheila Molandes • Jane Nettune • Pat Randall • P. Susan Rice • Rachel E. Rommel • Nancee Salzman • Stephanie Segovia • Patty Solo • Franceska Starcevic • Amy & Jack Stilley • Mary Lou Sullivan • Julie VanderMate • Shirley Walker • Bobby Warren • Kim Watson • Ralph Watter-son • Christi Wright • Charlotte & Carroll Wright

We print names of all new members who give to us permission on Membership Form.

• CA, Crosby • AA, Bastrop • DA, Arlington • JB, Denton • CB, Wimberley • SB, Denton • CB, Alvord • CC, Allen • SC, Magnolia • CC, Cypress • SC, Houston • BC, Nacogdoches • BC, Spring • KC, Montgomery • LD, New Braunfels • PD, Wimberley • LG, Wimberley • M&CG, Conroe • TG, Magnolia • CG, Iola • LH, Tomball • BH, Lufkin • JH, Valley View • MH, Lufkin • CJ, Wimberley • WL, Liberty • SL, The Woodlands • CL, Leesburg • ML, Wimberley • AL, Houston • PL, Center • JL, Lufkin • BL, Liberty • TL, Bullard • AM, Cypress • LM, Denton • BM, Magnolia • MM, Denton • CN, Center • GP, Magnolia • KQ, San Marcos • CS, Nacogdoches • FS, Nocona • CS, Buna • BS, Gladewater • CS, Athens • JS, Wimberley • MS, Roanoke • TS, Pittsburg • CS, Denton • JS, Moscow • HS, Garrison • DS, Nacogdoches • GT, Nacogdoches • DT, Denton • JT, Houston • SW, Wimberley • WW, Cen-ter • DW, Magnolia

Election Time! Nominees For 2013 Board of Directors



BENNI KONVICKA
Stephenville, TX



REX REEVES
Waxahachie, TX



LYNNE RICHARDS
Denton, TX



Cast Vote for TBS Board Members in Cyberspace Polling Booth, November 1st - 15th

Watch for ballot from on or near November 1st

- ▶ There is no "competition." Each nominee, if elected, will serve.
- ▶ We will email a ballot to each email address in our records on or near November 1st. Simply click on the link provided to access the BallotBin.com ballot.
- ▶ If you want to **provide /change your email address** (or confirm that we have it correctly), provide your email address to records@txblues.org on or before October 20th.
- ▶ **If you do not receive the emailed ballot** form by November 4th, please **notify** execs@txblues.org.
- ▶ If you do not have an email address, you may mail a ballot to TBS, PO Box, 40868, Austin TX 78704.
- ▶ To nominate a Board Member:
The ballot allows for write-in candidates. *Secure permission from the nominee before submitting the name.*

Current Board members continuing their terms are:

- Pauline Tom*** (President)
- Katy Couvillion** (Treasurer)
- Linda Crum*** (Assistant Treasurer)
- Judy Hetherington*** (Secretary)
- Caryn Brewer*** (Membership/AR)
- Don Lawrence** (New Members)

*after a 2-year term, a Board Member may be elected to additional 1-year terms, after approval by the Board of Directors

A big thank you to **Nancy Glover** and **Jimmie Konvicka** for their hard work and dedication as TBS Board Members. They both have completed their two year terms and have opted to rotate off the Board of Directors.

Texas Bluebird Society is a non-profit organization that is totally dependent on volunteers for everything!

*"As a former 2 year Board Member, I can attest to the hard work, dedication, and the enormous amount of time it takes, serving on the Board to keep TBS running smoothly. Please vote to elect our new board members. And, if possible, volunteer—at a local event, perform an administrative task, or give a presentation to promote the conservation of our bluebird friends.
TBS DEPENDS ON YOU! Thank you." Debbie Bradshaw*

Season Kick-off In Kerrville February 9, 2013

It will be cold, possibly wet, overcast, dreary—middle of February—you need to be thinking now about signing up for the 2013 Season Kickoff.

February 9, 2013 we will meet in Kerrville, the west central area of the Texas Hill Country. We can't promise any of our beautiful state flowers but we can promise a day or two of fun learning about bluebirds and meeting with old friends. If you live nearby, you can join us just for the day. If you need lodging, the Inn of The Hills Resort has accommodations set aside for our group. They are laying out the red carpet for your comfort, at an affordable price, in a beautiful setting.

Our old friend Mark Klym will be talking about Wildscaping Options for Bluebird Enthusiasts and Seasonal Movement of Bluebirds. Mark is a man of many

hats with Texas Parks and Wildlife and is guaranteed to give you some information to help attract and care for bluebirds. John English, an accomplished wildlife photographer and a Texas Master Naturalist, will be giving tips on creating successful photos.

There will also be presentations on Bluebird Basics, House Sparrow Control, Nest Watching techniques and other topics to whet your appetite when it comes time to get those boxes ready!

Friday night we will meet for social time and dinner at the hotel; Saturday is crammed full of activities with speakers, our silent auction, new members will receive a free bluebird box with a membership, current members may purchase boxes for \$15. each, you will learn how to monitor and report your bird sightings and receive a free box

if you sign up for a monitoring/reporting option. Hours will be from 9:00 AM to 2:30, lunch at the hotel is included in your registration fee.

Kerrville is a charming little town with the Guadalupe River running through it. There's a chocolate festival scheduled in town the same weekend as our event, there are lots of shops for browsing, it's the home of James Avery, so make a weekend of it if you can. It's located in a beautiful setting and makes for a relaxing weekend.

There are lots of reasons you should attend this seminar but the best one is the reward you will receive when you begin seeing increased numbers of bluebirds in your area. We hope to see you there!

By Jeri Porter. Kickoff Coordinator



Inn of the Hills
1001 Junction Highway
Kerrville TX 78028

Call (877)830-4796 for lodging reservations (ask for TBS discount).

RV sites available at Guadalupe River RV Resort 2606 Junction Highway (877)367-5676.

Registration form page 11.

Or, register online at:

www.rsvpbook.com/2013Kickoff

Auction Donors Provide Fun For Bidders — \$ For TBS

Anita Spiller	Jim Marshall
Ann Hoffpauir	Jimmie and Benni Konvicka
Appweavers, Nigel Hall	John English
Aspects, Inc, Trisha Torres	Judy & Brian Hetherington
Barbara Haviland	Just for the Birds
Bill and Susie Johnson	Katy Couvillion
Caryn Brewer	Keith Kridler
Clyde Camp	Linda Crum
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Robyn Bailey	Lynne Richards
Dan Hanan	Margaret Aycock
Don & Kenlyn Lawrence	Mike Scarbrough, Republic National Distributing Co.
Dorothy Szepesi	Nature's Way, Tim Vocke
Droll Yankees Inc., Betsy Puckett	Ron & Pauline Tom
Eleanor Allen	Texas Bluebird Society
Greg Grant	Troyer's Birds' Paradise, Andy Troyer
Grubco Incorporated, Sherita Turner	Val Beardsley
Janna Blanchard	Vanessa & Richard Voisinnet



TBS has always depended on the success of our Silent Auctions to help raise funds to purchase the lumber and building supplies needed form the thousands of nestboxes our volunteer members build. Raising these funds would not be possible without the generous donation of auction items from our members and solicited vendors. Keep shopping, we need the funds!

If you would like to donate an item to the next Silent Auction being held at the Season Kickoff in Kerrville

contact: **Bennie and Jimmie Konvicka**
1315 North Dale Avenue
Stephenville, TX 76401-1604
(254) 988-6663
auction@texasbluebirdsociety.org



2013 Season Kickoff in Kerrville (with Silent Auction Fundraiser)

Presented by Texas Bluebird Society

Saturday, February 9, 2013
Inn of the Hills, 1001 Junction Highway, Kerrville, TX 78028

9:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Door open at 8:30 for Registration and Silent Auction



FEATURED SPEAKERS:

Mark Klym, Wildlife Biologist and author with Texas Parks and Wildlife
Wildscaping Options for Bluebird Enthusiasts
Seasonal Movement of Bluebirds
John English, Photographer and Texas Master Naturalist
Photographing Cavity-Nesting Birds
Other Presentations:
Bluebird Basics, House Sparrow Control, NestWatching, and more

REGISTRATION COSTS AND DEADLINES

Early Bird Advance Registration: \$20.00 Hot Lunch and 10 door prize tickets. Deadline: January 9, 2013

Advance Registration: \$20.00. Hot Lunch and 1 door prize ticket. Deadline: January 26, 2013

At-the-door Registration: \$60.00. No lunch and no door prize chances

Friday Evening Social Dinner at Inn of the Hills Resort: 7 PM Shrimp-Peel Seafood Buffet: \$16.95. (6:00 PM Happy Hour in Executive Rooms #1 & 2 – BYOB). Deadline: January 26, 2013. (No money collected in advance)

Lodging: The Inn of the Hills: \$99.00. Ask for the Texas Bluebird Society rate. (877) 830-4796

RV Hookups available at Guadalupe River RV Resort: 2005 Junction Highway (830) 367-5878

On-line registration available at <http://www.rsvpbook.com/2013Kickoff>

FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell Lab of Ornithology through www.NestWatch.org)

For More Information:

Jeri Porter
jeripster@gmail.com, (512) 773-1076

To Donate a Silent Auction Item:*

Jimmie & Benni Konvicka
1315 North Dale Ave
Stephenville, TX 76401-1604
Auction@texasbluebirdsociety.org
(254) 968-8863

If donating, you can either mail auction items in advance or bring them with you. If you are bringing items, email (1) what the item is and (2) its retail value so that we can make prepared bid sheets for each item. Donation information received after January 26 will not be printed in the Kickoff program.

*TBS is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c3) "charitable" organization. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.

ADVANCE Registration (includes Hot Lunch)

On-line registration available at <http://www.rsvpbook.com/2013Kickoff>
Registrant #1

Name _____ 1st Name for Name Tag _____
Street Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Contact Phone _____ E-mail _____
Registrant #2 (same street address)

Name _____ 1st Name for Name Tag _____
Contact Phone _____ E-mail _____

# Registrants (Please circle)	Description	Cost
1	2 Member	\$20.00
2	Non Member	\$20.00
1	2 Friday Night Dinner (circle # attending)	\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash		Total Due:

New \$15 Membership at this event includes **FREE** nestbox!
Do you plan to join at the meeting? Y N
(This is not a firm commitment for membership or Friday. Please do not send membership dues now.)

For Planning Purposes Only

1. TBS Members and New Members: TBS will provide to you FREE a nestbox at this event if you pledge to "NestWatch" at least 2 nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell Lab of Ornithology through www.nestbox.org)

Do you plan to participate? Yes No Undecided

2. Renewing members can purchase a nestbox for \$10.00.

Do you plan to renew? Yes No Undecided

3. \$15 Nestboxes available for purchase (based upon availability). How many do you plan to purchase? _____

How did you hear of this event? _____

Mail Registration Form with Payment made payable to "Texas Bluebird Society" to
Jeri Porter
P.O. Box 125
Fischer, TX 78623



Use this QR code to register with your SmartPhone

EARLY BIRD Registration: Deadline Jan 9, 2013

ADVANCE Registration: Deadline Jan 26, 2013

AT-THE-DOOR Registration available (no lunch or door prize chances)
CODE: Newsletter



The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter, *TX Blues*, is published four times a year: March ■ May ■ July ■ October
Debbie Bradshaw, Editor

Send street or email address changes to Caryn Brewer at: records@texasbluebirdsociety.org or send to our P.O. Box.

ALL NATIVE CAVITY-NESTERS are protected by federal law. Do not disturb the birds or the nest.

Monitor the nest and report to NestWatch.

Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time



AWARDS page 1 & 2
ELECTIONS page 9
KICK-OFF REGISTRATION FORM page 1
Members Share page 5, 6, & 7

Thanks For Sharing!
Member stories/photos make the newsletter interesting! Please share your story, photos, and questions—send to editor@txblues.org



**Now That's A brood!
7 Eggs In One Nest**

Cindy Compton discovered this unusual nest (Bluebirds normally lay 3-6 eggs) while monitoring the Ft. Worth Project Bluebird trail.

Keith Kridler responds:

"Different egg sizes! Four eggs from one female with the three upper right hand eggs from another female."

Eggs are really glossy which shows they have been incubated and turned and rolled around for quite a while."



But Wait, There's More!

A few days later Cindy saw 11 eggs. Unfortunately, none of the eggs hatched in the hot August weather. Cindy recorded her unusual, but not rare, findings in NestWatch.

Faithful monitoring and recording provides valuable data, such as this "nest sharing," to researchers around the globe looking for trends and seeking answers to unresolved questions about the habits and behavior of our bluebird friends.



Ideas for my bluebird friends!

Check out SALES tab on our website

Gift Memberships

HATS!

Bluebird Habitat
Perfect for backyards, nestboxes or in a park

"Texas" Style Nestbox
Perfect gift for everyone

Variety of apparel items with TBS logo available.

TRUE BLUE FRIEND

True Blue Friend
Roger & Lora B. Garrison
This devoted trail cat, 1986, is Dedicated to Honor of Many Devoted Years to Texas Bluebirds, and For Allowing Others to Come Here To Share in Their Passion.
Given by Larkie, Anthony & Mark
December 2014

Your words on plaque with TBS logo. Great for any location, can be posted inside or outside.

Donate to TBS

\$\$\$\$

Don't forget...

**Sparrow Spookers
Kingston Baffles
Van Ert Traps**