

# TEXAS Blues



The Newsletter of the Texas Bluebird Society Volume 8, Issue 2

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Look for “**TXblues.org**” in this issue. It is a shortcut to [texasbluebirdsocty.org](http://texasbluebirdsocty.org), which often gets hyphenated in print. Use 11 characters vs. 24 characters. Try it! Visit [www.TXblues.org](http://www.TXblues.org). Substitute “@TXBlues.org” with any of our custom email addresses.

## Planning the Future

*(adapted from post on Bluebird-L, 6/19/08)*

*Keith Kridler, Mt. Pleasant, Texas (Keith is our Technical Consultant, and author of “Bluebird Monitor’s Guide.” He was also our keynote speaker for our 2009 Symposium in Waxahachie, on August 8<sup>th</sup>).*

In life we must always plan on unexpected hardships but also plan on the future. Bluebirding is the same. Where will YOUR baby bluebirds try to nest next spring? Who will be there to protect them and put up nestboxes?

In the south we have non-migrating Eastern Bluebirds. Harry Krueger had one 6-year-old female Eastern Bluebird that nested in the same nestbox that she was born in for six years in a row! She had three different mates over these six years but she stayed with that nestbox. Every nesting attempt for six years Harry live trapped her and also trapped and banded each of the males with her helping her feed her young!

One year, in the next five or six closest nestboxes to her, Harry live-trapped FIVE of her daughters from the previous season that he had banded that successfully fledged and LIVED to reproduce the following year! He OFTEN found females that he had previously banded as nestlings in prior years but seldom found males that he had banded as nestlings.

Harry could only trap and color band the adults in 60 different nestboxes but he banded every year between 350-500 nestlings that went on to fledge each year. He banded nearly 3,000 bluebirds as I recall. WHERE did these young disperse to nest in later years?

His whole purpose for banding was to research nest site fidelity to see if the males or females were more prone to return to the same nestbox at the same location year after year. He was also researching mate fidelity to see if the same pairs would stay together year after year, one nesting attempt after another!

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Happy Bluebird Trails

*Nancy Nichols*

It was still dark at 7:00 on the morning of January 24 as I drove east from Dallas on Interstate 20 towards Lake Tawakoni State Park. The temperature was 34 degrees and the wind was blowing in hard from the north. Some of the gusts were 30 miles per hour. Trash and tree branches blew across the deserted highway. Out of nowhere a lone coyote appeared in my headlights only to disappear quickly, like a hallucination.



*Texas Parks and Wildlife kept the project running with hot coffee*

Why would any sane person be up this early on a Saturday morning in the cold of winter? Better yet, why would any sane person be headed to the wilderness of a state park to rebuild a Bluebird trail. Outdoor projects, like creating safe housing for Bluebirds, should be done on a cool crisp spring morning with the sun on your back.

The project wasn't cancelled because it was planned by Eagle Scout, Matthew Duerr. And Eagle Scouts don't let a little thing like foul weather get in their way. Troop 332 has a long history of being prepared—it is the oldest troop in Texas. It was originally chartered in 1927 by the late Mr. Madrin Bankston. From 1999 to 2004, the troop was headed by David Shiels; then by Mike Sherman from 2004 until 2006. Today Jim Duerr, Mat-

thew's father, is the Scout Master and they are sponsored by St. Ann Catholic Church in Kaufman, Texas.

Eight years ago Mathew was involved in building the



*Susan Duerr, David Shiels, Jake Stiltz, Jim Duerr & Peter B\**

original trail at Lake Tawakoni State Park. It was installed just before the park opened. "We all camped that weekend," says David Shiels, "It rained 13 inches but we have a policy to never quit so we stayed the entire time and got the job done. Some of us had 4 inches of water standing in our tents. I told the boys that it's weekends like that builds character."

So with character and Bluebird nesting box building ahead of us, we set out. Most of the old wooden houses were in sad shape—the once tiny holes had been pecked wider and used by larger birds. The roofs of many were split open. As we approached one of



*Completed nesting box with heat shields and faux holes designed and built by Troop 332 in Kaufman, Texas.*

*(Continued on page 5)*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*This list welcomes new members who joined between the last newsletter and August 31st. The membership form asks, "May we welcome you in our on-line newsletter?" If the question is answered "yes", we welcome by name. Otherwise, we welcome with initials and city.*

JA, Austin  
Eleanor Allen  
Norie Alvarez  
Cindy Amburgey  
Anita Anderson  
PA, Flint  
DA, The Woodlands  
Barbara Atkins  
KA, Village Mills  
Debbie Attaway  
JA, Austin  
LeeAnn Badum  
JB, Mineola  
Karen Baribeau  
Scherle Barth  
Annie Bates  
JB, Spring  
Bob & Kathy Beaird  
Phyllis Bearden  
Ruth Beaver  
Nasim Bell  
LB, Midlothian  
Fred Bilbo  
Patti Blanchet  
JB, Duncanville  
AB, Montgomery  
Lavada Borden  
Dorthy Bostic  
RB, Canton  
BB, Hemphill  
Martha Bowen  
Jim Braden  
JB, The Woodlands  
Joel Braswell  
Sandy Brent  
EB, Rusk  
Ken & Leah Burkhalter  
CB, Midlothian  
Jimmie Bush  
DB, Midlothian  
WB, Marshall

JC, Magnolia  
Anne Cassidy  
BC, Tenaha  
BC, The Woodlands  
LC, Corpus Christi  
WC, Wills Point  
Lou Ann Chapman  
Chris & Richard Clark  
SC, Hideaway  
Julie Clay  
David Cluck  
Wynelle Coats  
NC, Humble  
Charles Coffey  
Susan Cohagan  
MC, Willis  
AC, Spring Branch  
BC, DeQuincy  
J.D. Corley  
FC, The Woodlands  
BC, Dallas  
KC, Waxahachie  
KC, Red Oak  
Josie Cuellar  
Deborah Dalton  
BD, The Woodlands  
RD, Midlothian  
DD, Conroe  
MD, Austin  
TD, Kerrville  
Prambert deMaan  
Bernadette DeShields  
Helen Devine  
Jo & George Dolengowski  
Harvey & Nancy Dominy  
Judy Dunavant  
Phil Eby  
Ross & Pamela Edwards  
EE, Magnolia  
Janet Eshleman  
NE, Houston

Billie Jo Evans  
LF, Point  
Pat Fengler  
MF, Cypress  
SF, Pineland  
Cherry Fessenden  
BF, Crowley  
Janet Fitzsimon  
DF, Canton  
AF, Waxahachie  
Nancy Fox  
AF, Waxahachie  
J Frye  
LeeAnn Gabor  
MG, Houston  
JG, Fairfield  
DG, Montgomery  
Carl & Dixon Glaze  
Linda Goller  
CG, Midlothian  
Axel Green  
AG, Houston  
Yvonne Grouls  
Martin Gump  
Ethan Gurley  
Carolyn Guy  
JH, Waxahachie  
DH,  
Marilyn Harrell  
Charlie Harris  
JH, Dallas  
Linda Harrison  
Jon & Kathy Hayden  
Laura Hebert  
RH, Utopia  
SH, Kerrville  
Barbara Hibits  
Deborah Higgins  
Edena Hintze

*(Continued on page 4)*

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*(Continued from page 3)*

Matthew Hoag  
TH, Zavalla  
PH, Grandview  
JoAnn Honeycut  
MH, San Antonio  
Rick & Donna Huff  
Peggy Hugonin  
Barbara Hunter  
MH, Tomball  
Susan Hustace  
Carol Hyde  
Donna Jackson  
Thomas D Jefferson  
Jan Jewell  
MJ, Kerrville  
Sandra Jones  
MJ, Bandera  
PK, Kountze  
KK, Wills Point  
Peggy Kellen  
CK, Tomball  
Myrlene Kelnhofer  
DK, Houston  
James King  
Paula Kinnear  
James & Melinda Kocian  
MK, Magnolia  
Ann Lackey  
Phoebe Lake  
William & Brenda Lange  
ML, Comfort  
RL, Kerrville  
Matthew Lawrence  
SL, Cedar Hill  
John Leatherwood  
Cheryl & Bill Ledbetter  
Christine Leinweber  
PL, The Woodlands  
Florence Lewis  
Carolyn Leyendecker  
DL, Midlothian  
DL, Milford  
Richard & Julie Luhring, Jr

Barry Mace  
MM, San Antonio  
SM, Spring  
Kathy Marney  
CM, Ferris  
Doris Matthews  
Nancy & Jack McClanahan  
Mary McCorkle  
Mary McCrummen  
VM, The Woodlands  
David McGlathery  
David M McKinnon  
DM, Kerrville  
Robert & Gayle McMullen  
MM, Willis  
Sandra Merrell  
WM, Fredericksburg  
DM, Waxahachie  
Diana Moore  
Danny Morchat  
Amanda Morris  
BM, Hempstead  
Christine Moss  
Karen Mullins  
Paul R. Nester  
KN, Kerens  
Judy Nunn  
Jim & Lori O'Malley  
JO, Canton  
Brian Overgoner  
Michael Owens  
PP, Buna  
Linda Paul  
Brenda Payne  
MP, Mansfield  
JP, Columbus  
Kere Post  
RP, Hockley  
PP, Buna  
Nancy Prikryl  
Paula Purcell  
MR, Magnolia  
PR, Burleson  
AR, Harper  
Tammy Riess

Paul Riggs  
SR, Houston  
JR, Hideaway  
JR, Highland Village  
Patricia Rinn  
Marlene Rios  
Shron Rodriquez  
AR, Austin  
Karen Rozier  
SR, Wills Point  
WR, Wills Point  
Dianne Russell  
Vickie Russell  
Sally Schroeder  
CS, Fairview  
ES, Midlothian  
Renay Shaddock  
Jessica Sheldon  
Mary Shepherd  
BS, Nacogdoches  
Donna Shults  
Melda Siebe  
Kay Simmons  
J.D. Simpson  
JS, Vidor  
Nancy Slade  
KS, Bandera  
BS, Mineola  
Carol Smith  
BS, Lufkin  
Ann C. Soop  
AS, Dallas  
Ina Sprapling  
Carol Stansbury  
Mary K Stayton  
Barbara Stidham  
Shannon Stoneham  
Jim & Kathleen Street  
Minnie Stucker  
LS, Grand Saline  
Gayla Taylor  
ET, Conroe  
John Thornhill  
LT, Hideaway  
ST, Mevina



# Bluebird Trails

*(Continued from page 2)*

the old nesting boxes near a clump of trees, a male Bluebird flew out and landed on the wire above our



*A female Bluebird decides to make the new nesting box her home.*

heads. If he could have spoken I'm sure he would have said, "It's about time."



*Eagle Scout Mathew Duerr and his father Jim install new Bluebird nesting box. A frost-bitten Peter B\* looks on.*



*Jim Duerr and Jake Stiltz custom fit the PVC baffle to each nesting box pole.*

Our goal for the day was to install 21 new boxes which had been preassembled by the troop in Matthew's garage. The boys took a Texas Bluebird Society standard nestbox and added plastic heat shields to protect the nesting birds from the hot Texas heat. Besides be-



*Mathew Duerr adheres nesting box to pole.*

# In Memorium

Skipper Miller honored Texas Bluebird Society by selecting TBS for memorial donations for his wife, Carole Ann Laird Miller. Two days after Carole Ann's death, he wrote, "She loved her bluebirds. We plan to ask for a donation to your society in lieu of flowers when we write her obituary." Linda Crum, Treasurer, notified Skip of these donations.



Carol Ann Laird Miller

Laura Grey Hejl Packer was a true bird enthusiast and dedicated conservationist. She shared her love of bluebirds with us at the 2007 TBS Summer Symposium held in Wichita Falls, where she presented her trail monitoring experiences at the Dyess AFB. In memory of Laura, TBS has sent a "True Blue Friend" plaque with the inscription; *her enthusiasm and diligence provided a future for "her" bluebirds that we all may share*, to the Packer family to attach to one of the nestboxes on the Dyess AFB bluebird trail. A gifted photographer, Laura's photos can be seen from the Photo Gallery tab on the TBS website.



Laura Grey Hejl Packer



## Bluebird Facts At-A-Glance

-  All three species of bluebird can be found in Texas, especially during the winter months.
-  Eastern Bluebirds nest through the eastern 2/3 of the state. These birds are making a strong comeback since people began placing and maintaining nestboxes to replace lost cavities the birds traditionally used.
-  Western Bluebirds will nest in the Trans Pecos area of far west Texas, especially in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.
-  Bluebirds are members of the thrush family. Their musical song is very entertaining. They feed on insects most of the year, but will revert to fruit as a food source during winter months.
-  In winter months, you might plug nestbox side vents. Bluebirds sometimes use nestboxes as roost sites on cold nights. However, by leaving at least one side vent open, you may provide a safe winter roost for a bat.



# Bluebird Trails

*(Continued from page 5)*

ing a former Scout Master, David Shiels is a geologist. He got the idea of adding the heat shields to all sides and top of the nesting boxes by watching the Space Shuttle. "I thought if NASA could re-enter the atmosphere without burning up because of the heat shields on the space shuttle then surely we can come up with a



*Eagle Scout Mathew Duerr puts the finishing touches on a new Bluebird nesting box at Lake Tawakoni State Park. .*

way to protect the birds," said Shiels. "One thing led to another and now we have the HDPE heat shield."

The bundled up team of home builders consisted of Scouts Jake Mendoza, Matthew Duerr, Jake Stiltz, and Peter B\* plus Duerr's parents Susan and Jim, and David Shiels. Instead of walking from pole to pole, we jumped into three trucks, one loaded with tools (hey, they're Boy Scouts and they came prepared), and headed to our first pole. As the boys disassembled the old, David and Jim started measuring the height of the existing poles so that they could cut the PVC baffles to fit. Once the poles were covered with the baffle, the boys fitted the house on the top portion of the pole and then secured them to the pole with an electric drill.

Susan was armed with her compass and notebook and recorded the latitude, longitude, and direction the box was facing. The information goes on Netwatch.com. Once the trail is up and monitored, the notes will also



*Susan Duerr uses her compass to record the exact location of each nesting box.*

include courting time, number of eggs, broods, and any other information noted by monitors.

Highly motivated by the cold, we moved quickly down the trail pulling down the old and constructing the new. And all along the way we noticed Bluebirds watching our progress. We took the project seriously as we felt we had a reputation to help uphold—the 376.3-acre



*Jake Stiltz, Jake Mendoza, Jim Duerr, David Shiels, Peter B\*, and Matthew Duerr*

*(Continued on page 11)*

# CLASSIFIEDS

**CPA** - Review TBS 2008 financial records in Quick Books and give occasional pro bono advice to the Treasurer or Board.

**Writers** – Need individuals to write articles for the newsletter or for our home page on the TBS website. Articles must be submitted in a Word compatible file. One article, or a hundred, we can use your help!

**Excel Skills** – We need an individual familiar with filtering and sorting large spreadsheets to meet our ad-hoc needs to facilitate many of the administrative requirements of the organization

**Event Program Coordinator** - Responsible for managing staffing and nestbox inventory and for all “One Nestbox” events. We have many events coming up next year and need your help!

**Event Booth Coordinator** - Work with Event Program Coordinator to be responsible for all coordinating activities for a *specific* event. A little work but a lot of fun! Lots of events to choose from next year!

**Booth Staffer** – Help out for a few hours working in a booth at an event. You are supporting TBS and get a chance to check out the festival. Volunteer for a festival near you!

*Interested in one of these volunteer opportunities? Contact Pauline Tom, pauline@TXblues.org or 512.268.5678.*

## TBS Annual Membership Meeting

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

**WHERE:** Montgomery County Agriculture Ext. Agency  
Master Gardener Education Building  
9020 FM 1484, Conroe, Texas 77303

*Join us for an afternoon of a little business and a lot of fun!*

**Presentations \* Awards \* Board Elections**

**Door Prizes \* Snacks**

Purchase unlimited number of Nestboxes  
(to members only on 10/3)

**RSVP Requested**  
**debbiep@texasbluebirdsociety.org**

or call **409.287.4020**

# Upcoming Events

October							November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

**Saturday, October 3, 1pm-3pm**

**Annual Membership Meeting**

Montgomery County Agriculture Extension Agency  
Master Gardener Education Bldg  
9020 FM 1484, Conroe, TX, 77303

**Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am-10pm**

**Celebrate Roanoke!**

Downtown Roanoke, Texas

**Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am-7pm**

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Birding at Hornsby Bend**

Center for Environmental Research [CER]  
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725

**Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am**

**Presentation at Arbor Gate Nursery**

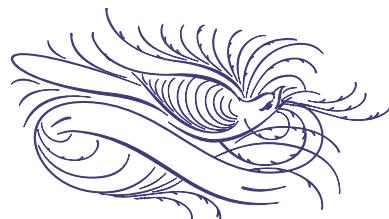
Tomball, Texas

**Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm**

**Heritage Syrup Festival**

Downtown Henderson, Texas

Visit “Events” on our website at [texasbluebirdsociety.org](http://texasbluebirdsociety.org) for more event details.





## Planning the Future

*(Continued from page 1)*

I only lived 45 miles from Harry by road. As the crow or bluebirds fly I was only about 32 miles away! My nearest nestboxes to his trail were only 20 miles away and I NEVER recovered a single bird that he banded on my trail. Of all of these banded bluebirds only one was ever recovered by someone other than Harry, recapturing the adults on his trail. One female bluebird was found dead in a Purple Martin House about 15 miles from his trail. *(In Oct. 1984 Sandy and I took a back road on our way to our first NABS meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. We saw a few of Harry's REALLY nice nestboxes; he only had 12 boxes back then. We left a note in an empty bluebird box along the highway and he contacted us. I became his bluebird mentor for a couple of years, got him up to about 160 nestboxes, and then the rolls reversed. I became the "student" till his death in 1993. He removed about 100 nestboxes to concentrate on his research.)*

Don Hutchings was fledging about 200 bluebirds a year on the western edge of my bluebird trails and he was 12 miles further west from Harry's banded bluebirds. Robert McKinney was checking about 160 nestboxes north and west of my trails, due north of Don's trails. *(Robert worked as production editor for the local newspaper. I wrote a bluebird article about Don and his young son Jeffery checking the bluebird nestboxes on their trail. This article inspired Robert to start bluebirding! He pushed me to write a weekly newspaper article for over five years and he produced a monthly Bluebird News until his health and finances failed him in 1995.)*

Between the three of us we were checking upwards of 700 nestboxes, building and giving away about that many more nestboxes a year. Each of us was mentoring dozens more new people each year. We were finding (and other people were bringing us) more dead adult bluebirds than I really care to tell you about and we NEVER found a single banded bird from the thousands banded just 40 or 50 miles away! *(I met Don in 1982 after I wrote a note on the side of a really nicely made nestbox I found on a back county road. 25 years later we still work the bluebird programs together. He was REALLY afraid that I was going to be*

*mad about his copying one of my nestbox styles. He got his first Texas Bluebird nestbox from my brother in a give-away program. Buy a fruit or shade tree at Kridler Gardens and get a Keith Kridler made free nestbox.)*

Dr. Shirl Brunnell, author of *I Hear Bluebirds* (a book about baby bluebirds rescued after a House Sparrow attack), lived 60 miles east of Sandy and I and we later connected my bluebird trail with hers there in Arkansas with about 60 nestboxes (one per mile) checking these once a month. Again, no dead adult bluebirds ever showed up on this trail with one of Harry's bands and none of the bluebirders in Dr. Brunnell's group ever found one of Harry's banded bluebirds even though they were only about 40 miles away from Harry. *(We met Dr. Brunnell at NABS 1985 in Wagner Oklahoma and got together about 8 times a year with them to help build nestboxes and give programs until her death a couple of years ago.)*

About this time Harry Holman owner of Holman Furniture manufacturing bought 800+ nestbox kits from the North American Bluebird Society and gave ALL of these away to local people and his customers in Pittsburg Texas just 17 miles due south of my house. He shut down the furniture business once a year and he and his employee's built several thousand nestboxes from culled lumber collected during the year and printed thousands of information sheets for give away nestboxes each year. *(His wife attended a 20 minute garden club meeting I gave on bluebirds and cavity nesters about 1980 and took NABS information home to her husband and he went nuts over bluebirds! He passed away in the late 1980s but I gave a program to her garden club just a couple of years ago. There were dozens of bluebirds in her yard the day of the last program.)*

Talk with neighbors about putting up better nestboxes. Teach them about better mounting poles and guards. Some of these meetings will develop over the years into lifelong friendships. Others, many others, will "pay it forward," and the knowledge you share will continue to spread like the wind across the prairie grass. I am just one of the many youngsters who were taught by Dr. Zeleny and William G. Duncan and all the great bluebirds since! —KK

# 2009 Summer Symposium Silent Auction Donations

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the following contributors to our 2009 Silent Auction. Their generosity helped to make this event a resounding success!

**Belk Department Store (Waxahachie)**

**Betty Reuscher**

**Boyce "The Feed Store" (Waxahachie)**

**Carino's Italian Restaurant (Waxahachie)**

**Carolyn Gritzmaker**

**Carolyn Trego**

**Caryn Brewer**

**Chili's Grill & Bar (Waxahachie)**

**Deborah Rayfield**

**Dra. Foster & Smith**

**Greenery (Waxahachie)**

**Harry Evans**

**Hill Country Nature Center (near Utopia)**

**Home Depot (Waxahachie)**

**HomeSweetBird.com**

**Howard Williams**

**Jane Wilemon**

**Jeanette's Custom Embroidery (Waxahachie)**

**Lowe's**

**Texas Ornithological Society**

**Lysle Mockler**

**Mark Klym**

**Mary Rabien**

**Nancy Krosley**

**Olive Garden (Waxahachie)**

**R. David Shiels**

**REI (Farmer's Branch)**

**Rio Frio Lodging (near Garner State Park)**

**Ron & Pauline Tom**

**The Heard Natural Science Museum**

**Toy Allison**

**Unipeck USA**

**Wild Bird Center (Wataugua)**

**Wild Birds Unlimited (Lover Ln. Dallas)**

**Wild Birds Unlimited (Carmel IN)**

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## **New Members** *(Continued)*

Carolyn Trego

Walter & Catherine Tucker

Gail Tully

JT, The Woodlands

Theresa Turner

DT, Kerrville

BT, Hideaway

GV, Spring

KV, Mexia

Barbara VonAhn

Sharon Walker

SW, The Woodlands

Mary Frances Watson

Jim Weatherly

BW, Hemphill

Larry W Wilhoite

CW, Cypress

BW, Lufkin

Lisa Wolfe

PW, San Augustine

Cathy Wright

TY, Hempstead

GZ, Austin

CZ, Magnolia

Jenifer Zipp

Debie Zumwalt

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## **THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GAVE A DONATION SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER.**

*Per Board decision, all  
undesignated donations in  
2009 will go towards the  
purchase of lumber for TBS  
nestboxes.*

Dr. Michael Amsden

Bastrop Co. Audubon

Dorothy Borders

Edra Bogucki

Martha Carlson

Barbara Coldwell

Harry Evans

Jo Ann Graves

Bill Griffith

R. L. Langley

Cathie Lehman

Marijane Lipscomb

Ed Melson

Barb Ohlman

Jeri Porter

Charles & Jackie Post

Larry Rankin

Jo & Ruth Reeves

Robson Ranch

Paula Santagata

Melinda Walker

Ricky Walker

K. & Melanie Welch

Mike Whelan

## *Special Thanks to Volunteers!*

### **Nestbox Construction in Conroe**

**Jack and Nancy McClanahan** for providing a construction location at Storage 105, Inc. **Montgomery County Master Gardener Association** for the loan of tables. **Bill Griffith**, Team Captain, and the Many hands that were needed in the construction all those Nestboxes! **Gene Prejean, Bill & Patti Marshall, Don & Caryn Brewer, Sheryl Noble, Meg Scamman, Pete Fusco, Carol Palmer, Eva Berger, and Fred & Linda Crum. Patti Guyton** who came by and took photos. **Caryn Brewer, Meg Scamman** and **Patti Marshall** for helping Linda Crum with her April presentation. **Bill Griffith, Larry LeGrand, Susan Stull and her husband and son** who transported Nestboxes to storage.

**TBS “One Nestbox” Booth at Festivals**(offering free nestbox with membership and discounted nestbox with renewal)

Red Bud Festival, *2nd Saturday in March, Buna*: **John & Debbie Park**

Bluebird Festival, *4th Saturday in April, Wills Point*: **Barb Ohlman** (co-ordinator); **Evelyn Thomason; David & Nita Allen; Lysle Mockler; Scott Strickland; Glenn & Gwenda Vinkler**. A special thanks to Evelyn, who stored “festival stuff” until the week before the Blueberry Festival.

Blueberry Festival, *2nd Saturday in June, Nacogdoches*: **Barb Ohlman** (last minute coordinator); **Virginia & Bob Knibb; Maxey Kirkley**. Also, thanks to **Norm Shoemaker**, who provided truck and know-how at set-up and take-down.

Pace Creek Blooms, *1st Saturday in April, Hemphill*: **Ron & Pauline Tom**

### **Nestbox Installation at Crane’s Mill Park on Canyon Lake**

**Barbara Vinson** (coordinator); **Bruce Jones; Christy Richards**

### **Newsletter Layout**

**Char Diehm**, Graphic Designer, Illuminated Designs (*illuminatedesigns.com*), Newark, DE (through *VolunteerMatch.org*)

## **Bluebird Trails**

*(Continued from page 7)*

Lake Tawakoni State Park is located just outside of Wills Point, the Bluebird Capitol of Texas.

Thanks to the Scouts dedication to conservation and protection of the local Bluebird population, Lake Tawakoni State Park has a new trail of low-cost highly efficient housing—Shiels figures the heat shields will keep the temperature inside the nesting box 10 degrees cooler which could extend the nesting season and mating pairs can still fledge birds into September.

With efforts like Troop 332’s, Wills Point could become the Bluebird Capital of the World.

*\*Surname withheld at parents’ request.*



*Photo by Byron Stone, M.D.  
Austin, TX*

Dr. Byron Stone, TBS Life Member, funded a project he suggested – a nestbox trail at Crane’s Mill Park on Canyon Lake where a flock of Western Bluebirds wintered from late January well into March. In early

March, Byron sent word, “Some of the females appeared to me to be prospecting for cavities” and asked if we would consider a trail there. We did! Through our “Start With Five” initiative, 5 nestboxes were installed at the end of March – just after the Western Bluebirds left. The park is also good habitat for Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds.



# BLUES NEWS

We inadvertently published the wrong credit for this picture:



Photo by Howard Williams, Dripping Springs.

Our sincere apologies to the photographer, Howard Williams.

*How dedicated are Eagle Scouts? Very! Read how inclement weather does not get in the way of their dedication in "Happy Bluebird Trails" by Nancy Nichols. Page 3.*

Bluebirds fledged, House Sparrows moved in and built a nest, Bluebirds evicted the House Sparrows and laid eggs. When the young Bluebirds fledged, the nest was filled with Choke Cherry or Black Cherry seeds.



Photo by Keith Kridler

Texas Bluebird Society  
PO Box 40868  
Austin TX 78704



Remember to RSVP for  
the Annual Membership  
Meeting October 3rd!  
(See page 11)

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #444  
Buda TX 78610

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



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