

## Board of Directors Nominees

### In This Issue

- 02 Lonnie Resigns From Board But Not From Volunteering
- 04 Phyllis Shares Bluebird Story
- 05 Don Mitchell In Memoriam Nestbox Distributors
- 06 Leigh Ann Shares Bluebird Story
- 07 Share The Joy With Family And Friends
- 08 Kids Like Nature Too!
- 09 Road Trip!
- 10 Nestbox Mania
- 11 Board Changes
- 12 Fall Into Spring Activities

Federal law protects all native nesting birds!



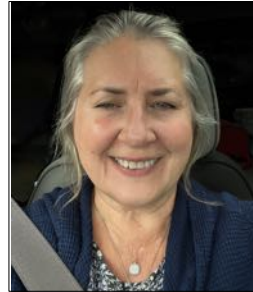
The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter is published: March - May - July - October

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Send stories/photos to  
editor@txblues.org



**Richard Cabrera**  
San Antonio



**Phyllis Campbell**  
Huntsville



**Leigh Ann Dye**  
Huntsville



**Catherine Edwards**  
Poolville



**Chris Michels**  
Conroe



**Aleks Smith**  
Dublin

TBS Directors returning  
to serve on  
2024 Board of Directors



**Ann Fox**  
Tyler



**Ron Tom**  
Mountain City



**Thomas Wheeler**  
Belliere



Watch email for link to election ballot in early November. Click on the link to access the ballot and vote.

Ballot is sent to email address on record. Changed your email? Send to records@txblues.org before October 29th.

No email? Send Yes/No ballot to:

Texas Bluebird Society  
PO Box 132101  
Spring, TX 77393.

# President Lonnie Castleman Resigns From Board But NOT From Volunteering!

## Starting in '16

When Lonnie and his wife, Letitia, retired, they decided to find an activity that would be of interest to them both, involve being outdoors, and wouldn't interfere with Lonnie's golfing schedule.

When they saw the advertisement for the 2016 Texas Bluebird Society, Symposium being held in February at Bastrop, and knowing they enjoyed birds, it seemed an ideal match. Indeed, the Castlemans joined at the symposium, whole-heartedly embracing the mission of TBS.



*Lonnie and Letitia join TBS*

By June, Lonnie was on the Board of Directors and accepted the task of Nestbox Construction Coordinator. In 2017, Lonnie added Vice-President, Executive Committee, and EventPlans Team, in addition to his responsibilities as Nestbox Construction Coordinator. In 2021, Lonnie became president.

## Nestbox Construction

Lonnie has now traveled a few thousand miles (and hours) visiting each builder and delivering supplies. He explains,

*“the volunteers who build our nestboxes are the heart and soul of*



*Lonnie delivers lumber and supplies to nestbox builder Shannon Ramsey.*

*this organization! Because of their dedication to building nestboxes, we are still in the business of fulfilling our mission.”*

Lonnie thoroughly enjoys his role as Nestbox Construction Coordinator. Don Lawrence created the Certified Nestbox Builder program as an innovative solution to TBS' transition from one builder, one location, to multiple builders, multiple locations.

The Certified Nestbox Builder Program process guarantees that each nestbox the organization distributes, regardless of who built it, will be essentially the same. An absolute priority for TBS is providing the exact same construction quality and materials in each nestbox.



*Reporting on the success of the certification process, and its amazing results.*

## Nestbox Builders Commit

This is such an important process as each builder commits to build at least

250 nestboxes during a two month period each year! Thank you, builders!

## What Does He Do?

The Nestbox Construction Coordinator does exactly what the title implies – coordinates which builder is available, orders, and sometimes in recent years, delivers, the lumber and supplies to the builder. The job continues with coordination of transporting completed nestboxes to one of the two storage facilities in Conroe or Kyle. A huge volunteer task. (TX Blues May 2018)

## Construction Team

Active builders keeping TBS supplied with certified nestboxes are Archie Manning, Gerald Mowery, Shannon Ramsey and our newest builders, husband and wife team, Paul and Judy Warner, who have been certified by Dee Myer. (TX Blues: Meet Our Builders in May, and July 2018, and March 2019 issues. March 2024 will feature the Warners.)

## Lonnie Prefers Face to Face!

As much as Lonnie loves his role as Nestbox Construction Coordinator, his wife, Letitia, shares that he loves another task even more.

*“Lonnie thoroughly enjoys being a part of TBS. He loves people and he loves bluebirds. Lonnie promotes bluebirds to everyone ... he loves to spread the word to anyone he meets!”*

Lonnie agrees with Letitia. *“You know I will go anywhere anytime to give a bluebird presentation. I've never met a bluebirder I didn't like... they are good people.”*

...continued from page 2 **Lonnie Retires From The Board But Not From Volunteering!**

Even though Lonnie has now resigned as President, he will continue participating in his favorite TBS activities.

### Keep Spreading The Word

Lonnie loves giving presentations and sharing his knowledge and love of bluebirds to a wide variety of organizations and clubs. Through his presentations, Lonnie has already recruited 225 new members to date. Lonnie isn't slowing down; he is already planning for several presentations next year.

Another fun opportunity for people-loving Lonnie is hosting a TBS booth at festivals and events. A tradition he plans to continue at every opportunity.



*It's a family affair at Christmas On The Square in Crockett. Lonnie, Letitia, and their granddaughter host TBS booth.*



*Willis Point Bluebird Festival  
Lonnie encourages Mr. Bluebird.*

### Don't Forget The Nestbox Trails

In addition, Lonnie has either initiated or participated in establishing several



*Momma said there'd be days like this. Lonnie's golf cart gets stuck in the mud while checking nestboxes.*

bluebird trails. The latest project was helping his granddaughter, Ashley, install a nestbox trail at her high school in Porter. (TX Blues July 2018 and July 2023)



*Installing nestbox with granddaughter*

This article originated when Lonnie resigned as President (due to health issues) in August. At that time, Lonnie only wanted to continue as a nestbox distributor and giving bluebird presentations. Things change every day. Feeling better, Lonnie has now agreed to continue as Nestbox Construction Coordinator, with the caveat he will not serve on the board but will provide nestbox construction reports to the Board of Directors. Done and done!

### Recognition

Did I forget to mention, Lonnie was awarded TBS' highest honor, the 2017 Blue Feather Service Award? Only one year after joining, Lonnie's contributions, dedication and service to TBS earned him this prestigious award. (TX Blues May 2018)



*Pauline presents Blue Feather Award*

Thank you, Lonnie, for all the HARD WORK and dedication you have cheerfully given to TBS! Your many, many contributions have made TBS a stronger organization.

TBS is thrilled Lonnie will continue as Nestbox Construction Coordinator, presenter, booth host, nestbox distributor, and a much-appreciated TBS member.

### My Birdman

I first met Lonnie Castleman in July of 2016 after Don Lawrence resigned as nestbox coordinator, or whatever his title was.

At that time, Lonnie volunteered to accept the coordinator position and we have had a great relationship ever since.

Soon after we met, I began to refer to him as "my birdman." It is a term of affection that I came up with after he and I had several conversations and meetings in the shop over cups of coffee, piles of sawdust, and stacks of boards and nestboxes.

Lonnie is an all-around great guy. One of the things I admire about him is his faith in God. Furthermore, he is always supportive and helpful and I can depend on him to provide leadership any time I call him.

I'm sad to hear that he has resigned from the Board, but I'm happy that I am still able to call him "My Birdman."

Shannon Ramsey  
Certified Nestbox Builder

# New Interim President Shares Bluebird Story

*By Phyllis Campbell*

My love of bluebirds began almost 20 years ago when my older brother gave me my first two boxes that he had made, signed, dated and numbered. He gave our mother #1 and #2 and I got #3 and #4. I didn't put them up right away and then the unthinkable happened, he passed away suddenly and very unexpectedly. My life came to a sudden stop as did my whole family! It wasn't until some months afterwards that I remembered my bluebird boxes he had given me. I was so happy and sad at the same time to see them and didn't realize at the time how they were going to help me heal and put a smile on my face!

Growing up we always had a bird house whether it be on a tree, or a post in the garden, but I wanted a very special place for these two bird houses, so I started researching where to put them. My husband dug holes and we placed them on t-posts in our back yard, close to our house, so I could watch and enjoy them! Those two boxes started up what is now known as the "Back Forty Bluebird Habitat" in Huntsville, TX, Walker County.

After researching information on the do's and don'ts of putting up a nestbox we began putting up the nestboxes. I started with a couple more and I was so excited to add to the ones that I had been enjoying my brother had given me! Unfortunately, by this time those original boxes were falling apart and had served their purpose, to show me the love and appreciation to family that bluebirds have to each other and their babies!

I was sad but ok that we had to take those nestboxes down and put up some new ones. So, my husband, Huey, started digging and measuring to make sure they were perfectly in place and ready to go! We put a couple close to the house so I could still watch and enjoy them! It wasn't

long after that, that I had bluebirds in every nestbox and I was excited and very happy!

We live west of Huntsville and very blessed that we have some acreage and lots of areas that are perfect for the nestboxes.

I was really enjoying my new nestboxes and there was a 100% occupancy. So again, very excited and happy!

While researching and learning more about the Eastern Bluebird, I happened to stumble onto the website for the Texas Bluebird Society. It had so much information on these beautiful birds and I was thrilled to learn and read all the information. Also, there was information on signing up to become a member. I gladly paid our family membership fees and we have been members since 2015.

It wasn't long after becoming a new member and reading the newsletter that I saw the society was having a TBS conference in Bryan/College Station and I registered to attend with my daughter, Whitney and granddaughter Campbell. It was such a fun and very informational day and we all came home with new nestboxes.

We added two more nestboxes to our little piece of heaven on earth and the next year another two and then you got it, another two more! So, we currently have a total of ten nestboxes on the Back Forty! All numbered (like my brother did!) so I can keep up with records on what's happening and going on with each nestbox. So far this year, I have raised approx 200+ babies.

I have a couple of boxes close to our house so that I can watch and enjoy the male and female work together to build their little nest. I watch her go in and out laying her eggs, and once the eggs hatch, they are both really busy

feeding and taking care of their family!

It is a little sad when the babies grow up and leave their nest, because I have to remove the empty nest, but then I remember, that they are going to bring someone else all the happiness and smiles that they bring me and it's all ok!

I think a lot of them stay close by, because within days or weeks of removing the old nest another couple are working together and building another one. It's amazing to watch!

Much to my delight, I had 7 eggs in one nestbox a couple of months ago. That's a FULL nest, and when they start growing, it gets kinda crowded, but they don't seem to mind being all piled up together!

Since I have enjoyed having and raising bluebirds so much, in May of this year, I became a TBS Nestbox Distributor. From the TBS website ([txblues.org](http://txblues.org)) you can find a list of distributors in your area and information on installing your nestbox. It's that easy to start up and learn all about the Eastern Bluebird, the "The Bluebird of Happiness" They live up to their nicknames, because over all the years of having my nestboxes and bluebirds they have brought so much happiness to me and my family!

I get so excited helping others sign up and getting them started with their nestboxes because I know the joy and happiness they will receive now and in the future watching and raising these beautiful birds!



*Huey and Phyllis install a new nestbox for their neighbor.*

## In Memoriam

### Don Was Original Certified Builder

Don Mitchell joined TBS in 2010 and shortly thereafter volunteered to build nestboxes for our organization. He became one of our original "certified" builders (trained by Don Lawrence). Over the next 13 years he produced over 1500 TBS nestboxes, often with the help of his friends from the Indian Trail Texas Master Naturalists.

Don was awarded a Lifetime membership in appreciation for his dedication and commitment to TBS. His true servant's heart, his fantastic humor, the twinkle in his eyes, and love for family and friends will always be remembered and cherished.

Lonnie Castleman  
Past President  
Nestbox Coordinator  
TBS Friend

*\*excerpt from TX Blues May 2018, page 4.*

### Don Shares Building Fun

"Need another batch of nestboxes? No problem, it is nestbox party time!" Don shares the nestbox building fun with his wife and fellow Indian Trail Texas Master Naturalists. (It is my understanding that a reliable supply of doughnuts and or cookies make the magic happen.)

Don began his nestbox building career by providing neighbors with nestboxes and feeders so all could enjoy the local birds. He "googled" and joined TBS in 2010. Don noticed the request for nestbox builders in an issue of TX Blues and volunteered to become one of the first participants in the Nestbox Builder Certification process. Don Lawrence quickly certified Don. A certified nest box builder commits to building a "batch" of 250 nestboxes.

Once the pieces have been cut it is time to call in reinforcements.



**Donald Glen Mitchell**

July 1, 1947 - September 23, 2023

Don's family honored Texas Bluebird Society by selecting TBS for memorial donations. Donations can be made online [texasbluebirdsociety.org](https://texasbluebirdsociety.org)

TBS is lucky to have Don and his friends on the nestbox construction team. They make it look easy, but it is a complicated process that requires strong organizational skills. Don adds, "the wonderful cedar smell permeating the workshop is a pleasant side effect of the building process."


## TBS Certified Nestboxes Available Across Texas



### Built specifically for Texas environment by TBS Certified Nestbox Builders

Special features include:

- Roof overhangs on all sides
- 3/4" wood for greater insulation
- Ventilation slots/holes
- Floor has drainage holes/cut out corners
- Entrance hole 1 9/16" diameter and smooth
- Roof overhangs on all sides

Contact information and location maps for each distributor is available on TBS website ([txblues.org](https://txblues.org)). Click 

## Nestbox Distributors

### Distributor Area

Aubrey, TX  
Buda, TX Area  
Corpus Christi, TX Area  
Fischer, TX Area  
Grapeland, TX Area  
Hunt, TX Area  
Huntsville, TX Area  
Ivanhoe, TX Area  
Kountze, TX Area  
Liberty, TX Area  
Medina, TX Area  
Montgomery, TX Area  
Montgomery, TX Area  
Montgomery, TX Area  
Mt Pleasant, TX Area  
Prosper, TX Area  
The Woodlands, TX Area  
Timpson, TX Area  
Tyler, TX Area  
Utopia, TX Area  
Washington County TX

### Distributor Name

James and Sharon Miggans  
Ron and Pauline Tom  
Abigail Rosenberg  
Jeri Porter  
Jim Renfro  
Vicki VanPelt  
Phyllis Campbell  
Harold Latham  
Randal (Randy) Beehn  
Charles Post  
Carol Hagemeyer  
Archie Manning  
Dee Myers  
Lonnie and Letitia Castleman  
Keith Kridler  
Paul Nelson  
Linda Crum  
Shannon Ramsey  
Ann Fox  
LeAnn Sharp  
Barbara Boucher

# New Interim Secretary Shares Bluebird Story

By Leigh Ann Dye

My bluebird story has just started this year. On April 18th of 2023, my family was eating at a favorite local restaurant in Huntsville. My father started visiting with Phyllis Campbell and her family at the next table.

Phyllis and I started our conversation about the Eastern Bluebirds my husband and I had spotted in a park below our home.

Phyllis shared her knowledge and photos of her bluebird trail. I got extremely excited about helping this beautiful bird have a safe place to nest in my community. Phyllis' love of bluebirds is very infectious, and she suggested we join the Texas Bluebird Society.



The next day Phyllis' husband, Huey, gave my husband a personal demonstration on how to properly mount our nestboxes.

Within a week we had one occupied nestbox and enjoyed watching the building of the nest of our chalet nestbox. Once our nestbox was filled with five beautiful Eastern Bluebird eggs, I was hooked.



I joined TBS this past May and received their beautiful member packet publications by mail.

By this time, Phyllis became a TBS nestbox distributor. She called and I joined her in traveling to meet Lonnie Castleman to pick up her first 25 Bluebird nestboxes from Conroe Storage facility. Story on page 9.

I can brag about being her first person to sign up to join TBS and receive her first nestbox.

On July 4th, my four visiting grandchildren, daughter-in-law and husband helped me assemble and decorate two golf carts in our neighborhood Golf Cart Parade.

Our grandchildren were so excited to help transform my husband's blue golf cart into a male Eastern Bluebird with the slogan Uncle Sam Wants You to Join the Texas Bluebird Society.



The second golf cart was the nest with the slogan Uncle Sam Wants You to Give Eastern Bluebirds a Home. We received 4th place and many neighbors inquired about TBS and the Eastern Bluebirds. (TX Blues July 2023)

I was proud my grandchild learned so much about the Eastern Bluebirds while constructing the parade carts.



They were excited to be Bluebird ambassadors when talking to adults that stopped to ask questions.

On August 16th I traveled with Phyllis and her daughter Whitney to Timpson, Texas to help transport nestboxes. (see page X)

We are preparing to volunteer to set up the TBS booth at the 49th Annual Fair on the Square in Huntsville, Texas.

I look forward to volunteering for the Texas Bluebird Society at any capacity that I am needed. Phyllis and I have many goals that we want to meet in the future - including create a bluebird trail in our neighborhood, adding trails along with educational session at local grade schools, install nestboxes at local nursing homes - more ideas to follow.

I am excited to volunteer with the enthusiastic and passionate volunteers of TBS to spread nestboxes across Texas for the Eastern Bluebirds.

**We are just getting started!**



Interim President Phyllis Campbell and Interim Secretary Leigh Ann Dye encourage everyone to volunteer!

# Share The Joy With Family And Friends

Arjun Jenigiri, our youngest member, has begun introducing his family and friends to the joys of observing bluebirds, taking action to help provide appropriate habitat, and of course, reporting the nesting results to NestWatch. Arjun also shares his love of photography with his cousin, Varun Cherukuru and his best friend, Neal.



**L-R Arjun, Neal and Varun—the three phototeers**

Nancy Payne, with Arjun's help, installed 4 nestboxes at Valley Ranch/ Irving in January 2022. (TX Blues March 2022) Arjun passed the NestWatch Monitor Certification and accepted the responsibility of being the official Nestwatcher for their trail. In addition, Arjun also checks the nestboxes, removing old nests, and checking for signs of predators.

Arjun and Varun share their story.

*Arjun reports: I manage 4 Eastern Bluebird houses. This year we had two bluebird broods. I take my cousin to my bluebird houses when I check on them. Then, he got interested in bird photography and taking care of bluebirds.*

*When we went to his school (Westlake Academy) on the weekend, we saw 2 old bluebird*



**Arjun shows Varun how to monitor nestboxes**

*houses in a pollinator garden that had not been taken care of. We opened them and saw that they had old bird nests and active wasp nests.*

Varun continues the report:

*My mom and I got permission to take care of the bluebird houses and a bird feeder on the school campus. We cleaned up the bluebird houses by removing the old nests and the wasp nests. We then rubbed soap on the bluebird houses to stop wasps from coming again. We also installed 2 new bluebird boxes and predator guards. Within a few weeks, nests were being built in the 2 old bluebird nests by a Carolina Chickadee and an Eastern Bluebird. After those chicks fledged, the 2 new houses currently have Eastern Bluebirds building nests in them, and one has chicks already!*

Varun joined TBS in January. He has also completed the NestWatch certification,, reports nesting activity and monitors the nestboxes.

Even though monitoring nestboxes is a serious responsibility, the boys still find time for their other love, photography.

Last year Arjun won the top award in his category in the Bird Photographer of the Year contest. Both Arjun's and Varun's photos are often featured in Ranger Rick's magazine as Editor's Photo Pick of the Month.



**L-R Varun, Neal and Arjun holding their award winning photoscertificates.**

All three boys, Arjun, Varun, and Neal entered the Heard Museum's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Photography Contest. Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary is in McKinney, Texas.

All three boys have photos that placed either 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> in Youth Junior Category, with Varun winning the Overall Best of Show. Visit the amazing [winner collection photos](#).

Both Arjun and Varun have entered the 2023 Nature Photo Contest sponsored by Week Junior magazine.



They have already been notified their photo has been selected in the top10 finalists for their respective categories.

It is never too early or too late to become a bluebird enthusiast!

# Kids Like Birds & Nature Too!

By Twyla Doty

The Texas Bluebird Society was well represented at the Glen Rose WingDing Festival on April 15, 2023. It was a beautiful spring day in Dinosaur State Park. Along with Roberta Marshall, who organized our booth, Donna & Chris Honkomp and I were able to visit with many adults and children alike.

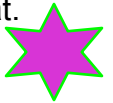
Most outdoor festivals have a family emphasis, so it's a good idea to bring a few things to attract children to the booth, and therefore attract adults to our nest boxes. You can never start too early educating children about bluebirds. Here's a few ideas you might consider at the next festival.



Fill a 13x9 cake pan with sand. Cut pipe cleaners to mimic mealworms.

Have the kids use clothespins to feed the bluebird (I found my chirping bluebird years ago at Walgreens, but any stuffed bird would do).

The children enjoy pretending to feed the bird, which provided sensory stimulation as well as an opportunity to teach what bluebirds prefer to eat.

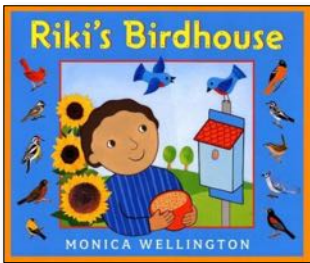


Another activity is to have little ones build a nest. This requires a supply of twigs, scraps, and feathers for children to mold together and gives them something to take home. (any jellybeans on hand to use for eggs?)

Don't forget coloring pages, there are several bluebird pages and other games available on Pinterest to download and print.



Here's a sweet book to have on hand to explain bluebird homes and nest boxes.



My grandchildren have always loved to use their kid-sized binoculars (by Zoster) to watch for bluebirds alongside their Nana.

**Have fun working/playing with future bluebird enthusiasts!**



Download North American Bluebird Society's newest book for kids, *Get To Know Bluebirds*: [nabluebirdsociety.org](http://nabluebirdsociety.org) click on book cover.

Here are a few links to educational (and fun) birding sites for your kids and grandkids.

Fledgling magazine: [aba.org](http://aba.org) select Young Birders

Ranger Rick: [rangerrick.org](http://rangerrick.org)



# Volunteers Keep TBS Strong!

## Road Trip!



**L-R Delmar Jaschke, Betty Larson and Phyllis Campbell in Victoria, after unloading 24 nestboxes to be picked up by Abigail Rosenberg, a TBS Distributor in Corpus Christi. We put them in Delmar's garage and she came later in the day and picked them up. So PURDY!!!**



**Ready for pickup. Nestboxes are needed all over Texas for events, presentations, and inventory for our many nestbox**

A certified nestbox builder has 250 newly constructed nestboxes ready to go. The nestbox builder is either in Montgomery, Timpson, or Mount Vernon. The storage facilities are in Conroe and Kyle.

See where I am going with this? TBS must get the nestboxes to the storage facilities. Well, this happens the same way every other job happens in TBS, by our VOLUNTEERS!

Over the past couple of years our past president, Lonnie Castleman, has been trekking up and down the Texas highways transporting nestboxes from one location to another. When Lonnie was unable to continue, Phyllis Campbell volunteered to transport the next load of nestboxes.

Always ready to share the fun, Phyllis asked family and TBS friends to join her. Delmae Jaschke, Betty Larson, Leigh Ann Dye, and Phyllis' daughter, Whitney agreed to help Phyllis. Road Trip!

Phyllis and company drove from Huntsville to nestbox builder, Shannon Ramsey, in Timpson. Shannon helped the crew load 178 nestboxes onto Phyllis' trailer. The team regrouped and started the next leg of their adventure – to the storage facility in Kyle. Upon arrival they were met by another TBS volunteer, Walter Davis, who opened the TBS unit and helped with inventory and stacking the new load of nestboxes. It takes a community to build and transport nestboxes. What happens to all those nestboxes and how do they get distributed? That is a volunteer story for another day.

**Photos and captions by Phyllis Campbell**



**Shannon Ramsey In Timpson, where the magic happens with the nestboxes! Shannon is the BEST!!! He met us at the door to his shop, with a huge smile and ready to help load them on the cargo trailer and take to Conroe and put in storage building. Nestbox Builder Shannon confirms, "We had a great time. It's never taken so long to load that many nestboxes. But!!! It was definitely fun!!!"**



**L-R Whitney Campbell, Phyllis Campbell, Shannon Ramsey and Leigh Ann Dye load nestboxes.**

**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS who make Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time POSSIBLE!**



**Walter Davis, Conroe Storage. Each time we pick up or drop off, we were met with a BIG ol' Texas smile! He's the BEST and very much appreciated for all he does for TBS!!!**

# Volunteers Keep TBS Strong!



*Nestboxes circle the stage at the 2019 Bluebird Symposium held at Midlothian Conference Center.*

## Nestbox Mania

TBS has always been all about nestboxes! Our logo promotes our mission to increase nesting sites for cavity-nesters.

In the beginning (2001), TBS co-founder, Keith Kridler, built hundreds of nestboxes from scratch for fellow members and friends.



*Keith loved to involve kids in the process. Fun and educational!*

In 2003, Pauline suggested, and it was tested, an idea that has become an integral activity in everything we do as an organization! Free nestbox with (in person) membership. This concept is the main marketing tool to encourage membership, the purpose of fundraising (to buy cedar), the perfect vehicle to educate the public, and supports our mission of increasing the number of nesting sites for our bluebirds.

By this time, we had an official nestbox specifically designed for Texas and approved by the North American Bluebird Society.

Brian and Judy Hetherington built the official TBS nestbox after attending a bluebird workshop. Along with Bob Houck and their naturalist club, they

built over 10,000 nestboxes in their 8 years of volunteering before moving to Australia in 2014.

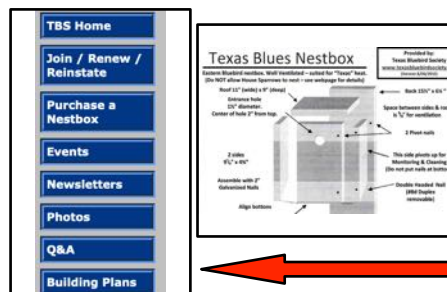
The departure of our long-time builders Brian and Judy, inspired Don Lawrence to create the Nestbox Certification Program. The program is in place and thriving, headed by Lonnie Castleman, Nestbox Construction Coordinator.

After a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication by a variety of volunteers, Lonnie was thrilled to announce this year:

## TBS volunteers have built over 20,000 nestboxes

You don't have to be a certified nestbox builder to help spread Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time.

Build your own nest box! Involve your family and friends and make several. Find TBS Nestbox Building plans at [www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org).



TBS nestboxes are designed to meet the demands of the Texas

environment. The design plans are sized for Eastern Bluebirds and will accommodate other small cavity nesters. Follow installation instructions, and don't forget heat shields and predator guards.



*Shannon Ramsey was one of the first volunteers when the Nestbox Certification Program began. There has been many transporting nestbox visits to Shannon's workshop in Timpson. When his current batch of 164 nestboxes is complete, Shannon will have personally built 2,300 nestboxes for TBS! In recognition of Shannon's dedication to the TBS mission, he was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership.*



*More Volunteer Builders! Meet our new certified nestbox builders in the March TX Blues.*

## Board of Directors

### Phyllis Campbell

Interim President  
Huntsville

### Nelda Reid

Treasurer  
Klondike

### Leigh Ann Dye

Interim Secretary  
Huntsville

### Carrie Brown

Fundraising Consultant  
Angelina

### Ann Fox

Tyler

### Roberta Marshall

Event Listings  
Fort Worth

### Ron Tom

Speaking Engagement  
Coordinator  
Mountain City

### Steve Watkins

Aubrey

### Thomas Wheeler

Bellaire

Interim Directors

### Richard Cabera

San Antonio

### Catherine Edwards

Poolville

### Chris Michels

Conroe

### Aleks Sirovia Smith

Dublin



## Board of Director Changes

Due to health issues, Lonnie Castleman has resigned as president. Phyllis Campbell was approved by the board to come on as interim president until the end of the year. Leigh Ann Dye is also in an interim position on the board and serving as secretary until the end of the year. These two individuals and four others are on the slate to be voted on by the membership in November. Returning Board members who will complete their second year of their second term are Ann Fox, Ron Tom, and Tom Wheeler. The following members have resigned: Carrie Brown (eff. 12/31/23), Roberta Marshall (eff. 12/31/23), Nelda Reid (eff. 12/31/23), Peggy Tolboom (eff. 9/27/23), and Steve Watkins (eff. 12/31/23)

## Volunteers Are Appreciated

Huey Campbell	Susie Johnson
Phyllis Campbell	Betty Larson
Whitney Campbell	Archie Manning
Lonnie Castleman	Jerald Mowery
Linda Crum	Dee Myers
Walter Davis	John Park
Alan Dye	Shannon Ramsey
Leigh Ann Dye	Nelda Reid
Barbara Irving	Aleks Smith
Linda James	Tita Tellez
Delmar Jaschke	Pauline Tom
Bill Johnson	Vanessa Voisinnet
Robert Johnston	



*(L-R) Bethzy Garcia, Daya Mares, Peggy Tolboom, Peggy Tolboom hosted the TBS booth at the Texas Master Naturalist Nature Fest in Stephenville. Future Texas Master Naturalist students guided children through a NestWatch activity.*

*Connie and Ronnie Knox generously loaned their beautiful bluebird car to TBS to help attract potential members to our booth at Fair On The Square in Huntsville. It was a big hit!*



## Welcome New Members

- Emily Cassidy
- GERALYN Cornelius
- Shannon Florence
- Lori & George Grunau
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# Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time

## NestWatch Reports Nationwide 2022 Results

Rank	Species	2022 Total nests reported	2022 Average clutch size	2022 Average fledg- lings	2022 Average nesting success (%)	Previous 10-year average success (%)
1	Eastern Bluebird	3,856	4.4	3.7	79.2	77.3
Texas NestWatch Report for 2022		580	4.6	3.0	76.90	

In The March TX Blues



### TBS and NestWatch!

Our involvement and support thru the years, NestWatch Chapters, special projects and more.



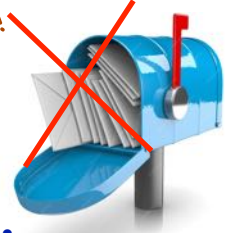
### Bluebird Basics

New feature column by co-founder and past president, Pauline Tom, will explore a specific aspect of bluebird behavior, experiences and advice, and the role of the nestbox landlord in each issue.

New Year's Resolution:

Renew TBS Membership Online

Save valuable volunteer manhours from processing paper!



**Renew Online**

at [txblues.org](http://txblues.org)

Click here to **Join or Renew or Reinstate** your membership

Thank you for renewing your membership online!



## FALL Into SPRING Activities

*The time to prepare for nesting season is now!*

Clean out old nesting materials, spray inside with 10% chlorine solution if necessary.

- Trim away any plant materials encroaching on the nestbox space.
- Mow often, low vegetation encourages insects which is the staple summer food source.
- Paint nestbox exterior white, or other light color, to help reduce impact of our hot Texas summers.
- Install HeatShields on your nestbox or place in location with afternoon shade.
- Soap the inside roof to discourage wasps from building a nest.
- Install a Kingston Predator Baffle on the pole to serve as a predator deterrent.
- Build more nestboxes. Download the complete TBS [nestbox plans](#).
- Plant berry-producing shrubs for winter food. (American holly, American beautyberry, parsley, hawthorn, flame-leaf sumac, pokeweed, elderberry. Download TBS [plant list](#)).

***“Food is the biggest issue for birds when we have severe ice and or snow storms. IF they have good quality food sources all during these storms, then the birds will survive fine. If they go a couple of days with all of their food covered in ice and snow, then in just two or three days they will burn off what little fat they have stored, their body temperatures will slowly drop and they will end up dying, more from a lack of food than from actual cold temperatures.”***  
Keith Kridler (TBS Co-founder, “co-author Monitoring Bluebirds” and our resident bluebird expert)