



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations"

# Bluebird News



Volume 27 Issue 1

Winter 2017

## "2017 Expo Overview" by Jeanie Mortenson, Expo Chair

Greetings and Happy 2017 to all of you: It is hard to believe that 2016 is over and we've started another year. The time goes so fast, I guess that proves we are all so busy. All I know is that it was a very hectic year selling our country home and moving to town. It has been a big adjustment and everyone says change is good.

Our Expo for 2017 will be held at the Northfield Middle School, 2200 Division Street South, Northfield, on April 22. It is a beautiful school and a wonderful venue to have our Bluebird Expo. It is handicapped accessible, has plenty of room for all our needs, and they are a great group of people to work with.

We are also having our lunch catered at the school and the menu will be what they call the Classic Crowd Pleaser! It is an Italian Buffet that includes pasta and 3 sauces (Alfredo, marinara, meatballs w/red sauce), Caesar salad, bread sticks and cake or brownies. Milk, coffee and water will also be provided. People on special diets and vegetarians will appreciate the variety of sauces served. We had the same menu when we were there two years ago and everyone was very pleased with it and loved the variety.

Our speakers will be, and in this order: Keith Radel will talk on "Bluebird Trail Management." Keith is a Rice County Bluebirder and former Chairperson of BBRP and was my co/chair for a number of years. Mary and Bill Bailey have a talk titled "A Farm, a Forest, a Little Blue and the Future, or What Happens When a Farmer Marries a Bluebirder." They are people who are true stewards of the land and animals. Al Batt, our humorist, will make us laugh with his great stories. Dave Angel, wildlife and nature photographer, will walk us through his journey to photograph polar bears on Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba. He will talk about his travels, safety living with polar bears in the

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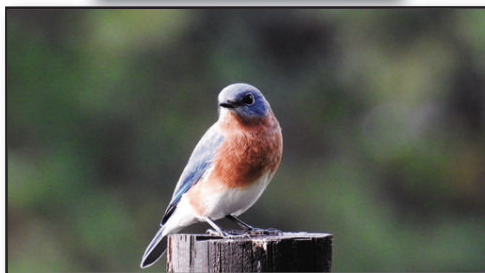
town of Churchill, the economics of eco-tourism, the impact of global warming on the populations of polar bears and more. Joel Dunnette has an interesting topic on "e-birding." His topic will fascinate adults and children. Our last speakers will be Alan Hale and John Gordon. They met at Sargent's Nursery while working there. They had common interests and they started attending different seminars on the use of Neonicotinoids in our home landscapes. They will be explaining about the dangers of this chemical and others we use in our gardens and landscapes. I think with our Expo being on Earth Day, this will be a very important subject for us. We all want to help the butterflies, bees and all our beautiful birds, so I feel we can all learn from this.

We will also be having some kids attending our Expo with their adult leaders. Mike got the idea to invite the kids, ages from 10 to 15 years, to come and learn some practices for nest boxes, feeders and birding as a hobby. He will show them the good and bad practices with regard to feeders and nest-boxes, and provide printed materials showing them feeder plans. They will attend the Polar Bear and E-birding presentations. We want to get kids interested in bluebirding and we feel this will be a good start. Thanks so much Mike for taking this on. What a great idea.

It will be so good to see all of you again. We appreciate all the support from monetary donations and goods for the silent auction to the wonderful cookies you bring for our breaks. All proceeds from this go towards our education programs. You guys donate such wonderful things. Last year we

got some beautiful quilted items from Sheila. One lady makes such yummy looking jams and jellies each year. It is so neat to see what everyone donates. It is so appreciated. So again thank you so much.

Expo continued on page 2



Photos by Doris Glander

### **"2017 Expo Overview" by Jeanie Mortenson, Expo Chair – Cont.**

For people needing motel accommodations, we have a block of rooms reserved UNTIL March 21st at Country Inn & Suites in Northfield, 300 Hwy. 3 South, Northfield. All requests for rooms under this block are in the name of "BBRP" you must mention this when you reserve your room. The reservation number guests can call is (507) 645-2286. A credit card guarantee is required when guests call in to make their individual reservations. Check-in is 3PM and check-out is 12:00 noon. There is a complimentary upscale Continental Breakfast served each morning. All rooms have a microwave and refrigerator. The price of the rooms is \$105.00 plus tax for 2 queen beds.

Have a great winter. I got an email from Mike Jeresek who is wintering down south and sees Eastern Bluebirds daily. I told him I'm jealous. He said in December, he saw Bluebirds on Hackberry trees while snowshoeing near Lanesboro. We get quite a few reports during the winter of people seeing Bluebirds. One winter I looked out and saw birds in our heated bird bath. I got the binoculars and here they were, our little gems of blue. I was so thrilled there were 13 of them. They look so beautiful in the snow. What colors!

We hope see you all in April. It is so good to see each of you yearly at the Expo. Good friends are made there. We are all out to help our Little Gems in Blue.

### **BBRP Information Technology Opportunity**

I want to Thank Shelia Smisek for her work and consistent support to the BBRP board and its members. Shelia has been managing all of the BBRP's technology and has resigned from the position. The board is exploring various options to fill the position. One option is to look to our membership for the skills and interest for filling the position. If you know someone or would be interested in volunteering to lead our technology efforts you may contact Larry Alderks at (larry@alderks.com). The board is looking for someone with experience and skills in these areas: Back up procedures for PC's, Web Site maintenance and development, data base management, data capture and reporting for the annual Bluebird report and Expo registration, maintaining an online calendar of events, managing email traffic, etc.

### **Bluebird Awards**

#### **Bluebird Awards**

These are generally presented at the Annual Bluebird Expo.

#### **Bluebirder of the Year**

Must be a member

Must have at least 10 sites

Person with the most fledged per site

Can only be won every five years

#### **Dick Peterson Award**

Given to a person who has shown dedication to BBRP and bluebirds for a long period or made a significant contribution. Once-in-a-lifetime award. Not necessarily given every year.



*Photo by Doris Glander*

### **New Members**

#### **August**

Bradely Pierson	Plymouth, MN
Ron & Paula Breid	Oronoco, MN
Robert & Joan Hursh	Edina, MN

#### **September**

Wilfred Woida	Alexandria, MN
Roxanne Oesterlin	Chatfield, MN
Stephanie Berg	Minnetrista, MN

Colleen Anderson	Zimmerman, MN
Kathleen MacMenamin	North Oats, MN
Jean Johnson	Princeton, MN
Jerry Westphal	New London, MN
Randy Becker	Farmington, MN
James Banks	Farmington, MN
Glen & Darlene Scott	Faribault, MN
Mary Nordmeier	Morristown, MN
Kris Nelson	Farmington, MN

#### **October**

Miranda & Chris Dibble	Owatonna, MN
Jason Lupkes	Milaca, MN
Andy Beim	Becker, MN
Christine Eastman	St. Paul, MN
Bellwood Oaks Golf Course	Hastings, MN

### **Directory**

The 2016 Bluebird Annual Report, often referred to as the "Directory" will not be published in paper format for distribution. The directory is being compiled and will be made available on the BBRP.org site shortly. If any of the members need a copy of the report before it is placed on the site, especially county coordinators, please contact Wally Swanson (swansonw@frontiernet.net) to request a copy which will be emailed to you

### 2017 Bluebird Expo Registration

I am (we are) coming. Please print name tags as:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like a table for display \_\_\_\_ (Non-profit organizations only)

I can bring a dozen store-bought or homemade cookies \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have an item to donate for the silent auction? Yes No

If Yes, please provide description: \_\_\_\_\_

Italian Buffet: pasta with 3 sauces (alfredo, marinara, meatballs w/red sauce), Caesar salad, bread sticks, cake, milk & coffee

Number of registrations \_\_\_\_ @\$12.00 each before 4/10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

After 4/10 @\$15.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lunch reservations \_\_\_\_ @\$10.50 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cash donations are welcome to purchase items for the silent auction \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations are tax deductible.*

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Call: JENean Mortenson 507-332-7003 • [jeanicandcarl@hotmail.com](mailto:jeanicandcarl@hotmail.com)

Please detach and send to:

Bluebird Recovery Program, c/o JENean Mortenson, 1703 Greenwood Place, Faribault, MN 55021.

*Pre-registration Deadline is April 10, 2016*

Thank You -- Gift of \$25 sent by Judith Freund, Treasurer and Board Member of Tropical Wings, Inc. in the name of Robert Walz.

### ***"Surprise find on June 22, 2016!!" By Ruth Schneider, Lake City***

My bluebird trail is located in Frontenac State Park. My husband Ed maintains the 80 houses in the Park and I have a trail of 20 houses, a mixture of PVC, Peterson and box houses. We have five other people who help the three other trails.

The location has been a good producer of tree swallows. This PVC house had 6 tree swallow hatchings in it the week before. I could smell the deterioration of the nest before I got very near it. To my shock, there was a large bull snake



hanging out of the nest box and he was dead! He had gone through one of the ventilation holes near the top of the house. It looked like he got stuck after consuming the hatchings and was unable to back out. I had to go to the Park Office to get help from one of the Park assistants. She pulled the snake out of the house.

I checked the house the next week. There was an empty nest with lots of bird poop. We have since moved the pair of houses to a more open area.



## ***“2016 Bluebird Recovery Program”***

The reported number of bluebirds fledged in Minnesota for 2016 is **15,709**. Down about 9% from 2015, but up from the two prior years. Out-of-State Members from Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin fledged 2,359 bluebirds. Making a grand total of **18,068** bluebirds fledged in 2016 from nestboxes provided and monitored by BBRP members.

***Congratulations members and a sincere thank you for your constant dedication to Bluebirds.*** Each Bluebird enjoys the nest box you provide. Your efforts on the trails is greatly appreciated. By working together we are, ***“Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!”***

***Four counties:*** *Dakota, Fillmore, Hennepin and Rice each fledged over 1,000 bluebirds. These counties produced 57% of the Minnesota Grand Total*

**Minnesota BBRP members** submitted 415 reports with the following results.

19,687	Eggs Laid
16,506	Bluebirds hatched
<b>15,709</b>	<b>Bluebirds fledged</b>

**BBRP members outside of Minnesota** submitted 12 reports with the following results.

3,106	Eggs Laid
2,538	Bluebirds hatched
<b>2,359</b>	<b>Bluebirds fledged</b>

**Total bluebirds reported fledged 18,068 (Minnesota and Out-of-State)**

### ***THANK YOU FOR REPORTING***

The numbers of reports submitted for 2016 was 415, down by 6% from 2015 (443). By reporting your results, you are providing the data from which the above information is compiled. They also provide feedback to the organization on what is happening with monitored trails. Your reports give us information on issues and concerns that need to be addressed and what is working well.

When it is time to report, give a friendly reminder to fellow bluebirders to submit their yearend trail reports. Bluebirding is a continual learning experience for trail monitors. Take time to visit with other bluebirders, compare your trail experiences and you may be surprised at what you will learn from each other.

**Thank you** for taking the time to submit your trail reports.

**Special thanks** for compiling this information goes to **Wally Swanson**, Chairman of the Annual Trail Report, **Sheila Smisek** Data Base designer and consultant, **Carrol Johnson and Wally Swanson** for reviewing the database and making updates and **Fern Vesledahl** for her help in publication.

If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact us at:

[Info@bbrrp.org](mailto:Info@bbrrp.org) or find us on the web at [WWW.BBRP.ORG](http://WWW.BBRP.ORG) or contact your local county coordinator listed on the [BBRP.ORG](http://BBRP.ORG) web site.

### ***Our Mission***

***“To encourage, inspire, educate and assist individuals and organizations to become actively involved in the restoration and preservation efforts to sustain a healthy and expanding population of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters.”***



Photos  
by  
Doris Glander



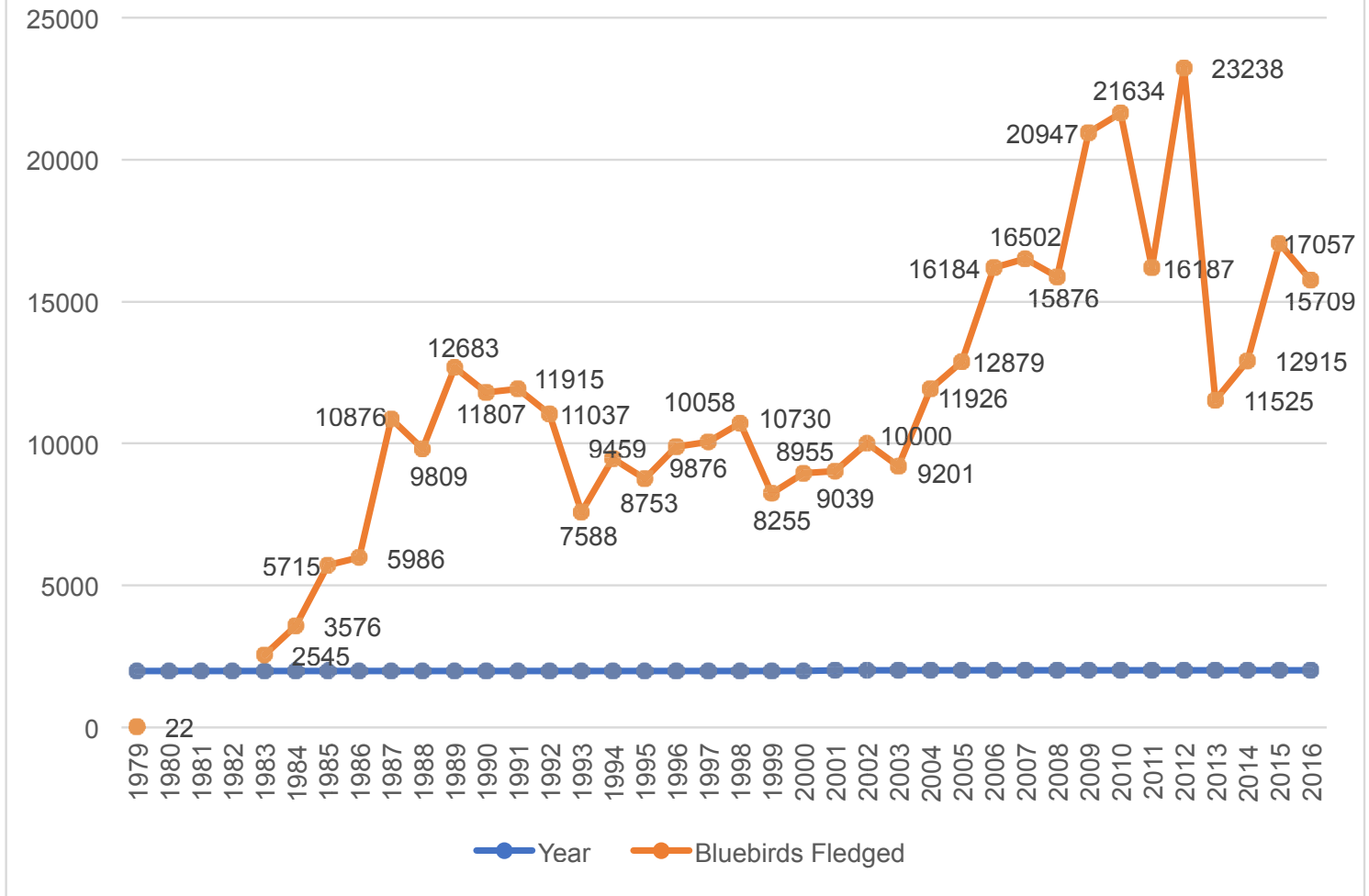
# 2016 Fledged Bluebirds by County



Photos  
by  
Doris Glander

	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of	Number of
	Paired	Single	Eggs	Eggs	Bluebirds
County	Monitored	Monitored	Laid	Hatched	Fledged
Anoka	27	41	338	275	256
Beltrami	11	5	54	47	39
Benton	5	23	108	71	69
Blue Earth	12	0	75	54	54
Brown	1	2	10	10	10
Carlton	5	2	21	12	8
Carver	4	3	13	11	11
Cass	0	83	367	329	329
Chippewa	3	6	0	0	0
Chisago	36	10	197	155	144
Crow Wing	3	1	4	4	4
Dakota	307	255	2035	1631	1560
Dodge	0	24	110	86	82
Douglas	0	9	15	11	11
Fillmore	37	188	1477	1167	1084
Freeborn	0	15	26	24	19
Goodhue	93	71	665	554	514
Hennepin	292	177	1814	1559	1492
Houston	7	113	498	424	360
Hubbard	11	76	270	260	245
Isanti	0	2	5	5	5
Itasca	8	3	14	13	13
Jackson	0	1	9	8	7
Kanabec	118	2	558	513	501
Kandiyohi	19	1	121	103	102
Le Sueur	39	9	191	142	128
Mille Lacs	5	1	19	19	19
Morrison	17	91	378	313	313
Mower	79	4	356	287	269
Nicollet	9	0	54	50	48
Olmsted	202	76	1210	1033	983
Ottertail	0	2	4	4	4
Pennington	2	10	10	10	10
Pine	27	25	65	54	50
Pope	0	30	67	57	51
Ramsey	68	45	266	228	202
Rice	1038	158	5853	4957	4783
Scott	24	22	157	125	118
Sherburne	19	8	125	109	104
St Louis	13	1	34	18	18
Stearns	26	28	304	215	204
Steele	64	66	290	225	225
Wabasha	11	22	77	68	64
Wadena	9	3	39	33	33
Waseca	8	3	58	41	35
Washington	57	110	473	407	371
Winona	27	51	421	401	393
Wright	166	21	432	384	365
<b>County Totals</b>	<b>2909</b>	<b>1899</b>	<b>19687</b>	<b>16506</b>	<b>15709</b>

## Fledging of Bluebirds Trending Data 1979 to 2016



**400,446 Bluebirds have fledged in Minnesota during these 37 years.**

### BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT & RENEWAL

Enrollment in the Bluebird Recovery Program includes: initial Information Packet containing a full color Trail Guide, Top Ten Tips including colored Nest Guide, Record Keeping booklet, Pole Assembly instruction sheet, yearly Report Form & quarterly Newsletter. There are also annual informational meetings and a yearly Bluebird Expo. Consultation and advice are available by phone, e-mail, correspondence or in the field.

**Enrollment contributions are tax deductible.**

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership periods are:

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 years \$23.00      \_\_\_\_\_ 5 years \$55.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$150.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Gift Membership \* - indicate amount & period of gift \_\_\_\_\_



*Bring back Bluebirds  
for Future Generations!*

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* If giving a Gift Membership, please provide your name so that the recipient can be informed of your generosity. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

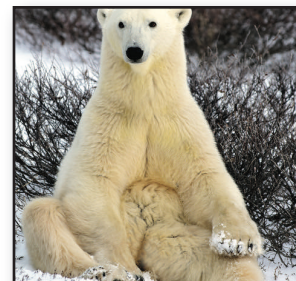
Bluebird Recovery Program, c/o Brianna Frisch  
395 Williams Street • Lewiston, MN 55952



Mary & Bill Bailey

# 2017 ANNUAL

## BLUEBIRD EXPO



Dave Angel  
Photographer

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
**NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
2200 Division Street South, Northfield MN



**Registration: 8:00 am - 8:50 am • Program: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

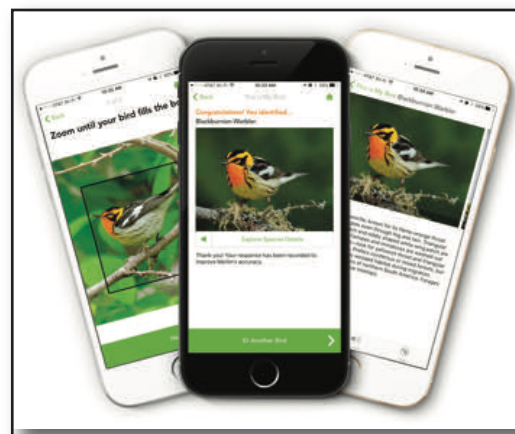


**Keith Radel**

"Bluebird  
Trail Management"

**WANT TO ATTRACT  
BLUEBIRDS?  
THIS IS THE PLACE  
TO LEARN HOW!**  
[www.bbrp.org](http://www.bbrp.org)

**Exhibits - Silent Auction**



**Joel Dunnette**

"e-birding"

### ***SPEAKERS:***

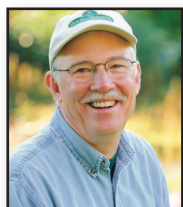
**Dave Angel: Wildlife and Nature Photographer**

*"Dave will walk us through his journey to photograph polar bears on the Hudson Bay near Churchill, Manitoba"*

**Mary and Bill Bailey** - *"A Farm, a Forest, a Little Blue and the Future, or What Happens When a Farmer marries a Bluebird"*

**Alan Hale and John Gordon** - *"Dangers of Neonicotinoids in Home Landscaping"*

**Al Batt** - *"Humorist Storyteller"*



**Alan Hale**



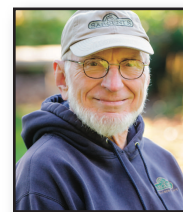
Photo by Doris Glander



**Al Batt**



Photo by Doris Glander



**John Gordon**



**Bluebird Recovery Program  
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis**



**P.O. Box 984  
Faribault, MN 55021**

*"Raising our Bluebirds for Future Generations!"*

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Editor BB News: Virginia Windschitl,  
edbbnews@outlook.com

Photo by Doris Glander

**THE NEXT BLUEBIRD EXPO  
WILL BE HELD AT THE  
NORTHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ON APRIL 22, 2017.**

### *Upcoming Events*

**March 11, 2017 – Saturday – 8:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.**

**Horticulture Day**

*(Sponsored by Rice County Master Gardeners)*

Viking Lounge and Crossroads West Hall  
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN

**April 22, 2017 – Saturday, 8 a.m.**

**Annual BBRP Expo**

Northfield Middle School,  
2200 Division St S  
Northfield, MN 55057

**September 15, 2017**

**Trail Reports for the 2017 Nesting Season Due**

**September 16, 2017 – Saturday - noon**

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeastern Minnesota Bluebirders' Picnic**

Chatfield United Methodist Church  
124 Winona St. SE., Chatfield, MN 55923

**September 23, 2017, - Saturday - 5:30 p.m.**

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual South Central Bluebirders' Picnic**

Riverbend Nature Center, Faribault, MN 55021

*Our Mission:*

*"To encourage, inspire, educate and assist individuals and organizations to become actively involved in the restoration and preservation efforts to sustain a healthy and expanding population of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters."*



*Photos by Doris Glander*

*Thank you to everyone who wrote articles, provided photographs or helped with the mailing of this publication of the Bluebird News.*