

TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter • October 2021 • Volume 20.Issue 4

In This Issue

- 02 Holly Wilcox Gets The Gold!
- 04 Lisa Mabry Shares Her Story
- 08 Western Mayhaw
- 09 Bennie Is Silent Auction Queen
- 10 122 Lifetime Members
- 11 Volunteers! * Welcome New Members *Thank You Donors
- 12 20th Anniversary Facts

Federal law protects all native nesting birds!



Do not disturb birds or collect eggs

The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter is published:
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Debbie Bradshaw Park, Editor

Send stories/photos to
editor@txblues.org



Texas Bluebird Society 20th Anniversary 2001 - 2021



To spread "Bluebirds (and other native cavity-nesting birds) Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time" - through education; and, the installation of "NestWatch'd" nestboxes in appropriate habitat; and, sustaining and increasing their natural food supply (insects and berries of native plants) - while enjoying the process and the bluebirds.

Thanks to the vision and determination of co-founder, Pauline Tom and expert assistance from co-founder Keith Kridler, Texas Bluebird Society incorporated in September 2001. At the Board Meeting the following month, under oak trees in Pauline's backyard in Mountain City, a whirlwind brainstorm produced the slogan: Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time.

Co-founder Pauline Tom served as President from 2001 through 2020. Lonnie Castleman is the current president.

Visit our website and view [TX Blues October 2016](#) for the full story of TBS and the amazing achievements our volunteers have accomplished!

Holly Wilcox Gets The Gold!

Another TBS Super Teen Receives Highest Scout Award

CONGRATULATIONS HOLLY WILCOX, winner of the Girl Scout's highest honor, the Gold Award for her nature project at the Pure Hope Ranch in Talco, TX! Winners of the Gold Award "... tackle issues that are dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond." (Girl Scouts USA) The beginning of Holly's story is in *TX Blues, October 2020* issue.

"Holly has done such a tremendous job creating and bringing to life the birding trails at Pure Hope Ranch as a part of her Girl Scout Gold Award. She has so artfully infused her love of birds and her remarkable work ethic together with her passion for serving the young women of Pure Hope Foundation to create something really special to be enjoyed by many for years to come. Holly and her family recently hosted a workshop where our team learned to assemble and decorate bluebird houses to grace the trail at the ranch. Leading our time together was our local expert and certified bluebird house builder, Jerald Mowery. This project will provide both a therapeutic resource for victims of sex trafficking as well as a wonderful attraction for birding enthusiasts from around the country. We are so proud of Holly's accomplishment and very grateful for the gift this will be to our foundation."
Ryan Morris, COO/ Executive Director of [Pure Hope Foundation](#).

from Holly:

I am writing to thank you again for your support of my Girl Scout Gold Award Project and to give you an update. I am grateful for your help with the details for the Eastern Bluebird graphic panel for the birding trails at Pure Hope Ranch and for the lovely article in TX Blues. I have been working hard on my project and am happy to say that I have now completed the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award. Since I last talked with you, we have put in place at Pure Hope Ranch in Franklin County, Texas:

- * a 2/3 acre wildflower meadow supported by a grant from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

- * 6 bluebird nestboxes (one of which is in the wildflower meadow).

The nestboxes were assembled and decorated as a teambuilding project by the people of the Pure Hope Foundation. I can confirm that at least two of the boxes have hosted hatches of bluebirds this spring.

- * 3 nature trails with 11 graphic panels installed along the trails, including the beautiful bluebird panel with the Texas Bluebird Society logo in the lower left. Support for the panels was provided by the Franklin County Historical Association through the St. Clair Fund and by a Jack Linger Explorer Grant.

- * Nature Trails Welcome Center Pergola -- a concrete sidewalk leads out towards the meadow where there is a pergola (on a concrete pad) with information about the trails. The Welcome Center serves as the starting (and ending) point for the three nature trail loops.

My thanks to TBS for helping to make Pure Hope Ranch a place of renewal for all that pass through its gates.



Holly hard at work on her Gold Award project. "Pure Hope Foundation was really enthusiastic about my new vision of creating educational and interactive birding trails, which included setting up several Eastern Bluebird nestboxes."



Holly designed the layout and created all of the artwork for 11 educational panels displayed along the nature trails. She even included QR codes that take you to videos or websites, such as TBS and Cornell, depending on the subject matter of the panel

"I first met Holly 8 years ago when I became her Girl Scout troop leader. She has always been a fun-loving and inquisitive scout, embracing any task or activity and giving it 110%. Her intelligence, compassion, and dedication are evident in her Gold Award project at Pure Hope Ranch. Holly is an inspiring young woman, and I can't wait to see what her future holds!"

Linda Walters, Troop Leader, Troop1440



Success, bluebird families in 2 nestboxes!

Pure Hope Foundation Celebrates Holly's Achievements

In recognition and celebration of Holly's Girl Scout Gold Award, The Pure Hope Foundation held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the three nature trails that Holly created. The ceremony was held at the Pure Hope Ranch Welcome Center pergola, also designed and created as part of Holly's project.



Family, friends, fellow Girl Scouts, and Pure Hope Staff and residents celebrate Holly's Gold Award accomplishments.



Pure Hope Foundation presented Holly with an appreciation plaque and added a permanent plaque on the Welcome Center pergola commemorating Holly's vision and commitment to helping others.



(Below) Holly designed a heart shaped Welcome Center garden and pergola with gates leading to the nature trails.



Holly gives a special thanks to her (left) troop leader, Linda Walters, and her Grandmother Donna MacFarland, for their support and guidance.



Holly leads a walk along one of the three nature trails she developed.

Building Teamwork & Nestboxes

Kathryn Lee is the founder of the Pure Hope Foundation. In conjunction with Holly's project, she decided it would be a fun teambuilding project for her residents to build nestboxes. Based on a suggestion from Donna and Bob McFarland (TBS members since 2014 and Holly's grandparents), Kathryn asked her new nextdoor neighbor, Jerald Mowery, to help with the project. Jerald is a TBS Certified Nestbox Builder. He cut out all of the nestbox pieces and he and his wife, Mary Lou, spent the day helping with the nestbox building teamwork project. A little nestbox decorating concluded a fun day for all involved!

Holly installed the nestboxes along her three trails following TBS guidelines including predator guards.

Holly is thrilled to report the bluebirds are already successful - nests, babies, and fledglings this season!



Volunteers helped residents build nestboxes, Holly installed along new bluebird trails.



Lisa Mabry Shares Her Story - Becoming A Wildlife Rehabilitator

licensed in Florida, Jan 2008-Dec 2018; Texas 2020 - Present



Lisa with a rescued fawn

I was raised in the Panama Canal Zone – A tropical, jungle paradise, an age where we only had 3 TV channels, 2 of which aired in Spanish and the 3rd was mostly news and weather reports – so I occupied my young, curious mind

by wandering through the jungle paths behind my home, fascinated by all the plants, trees and flowers. Soon the animals consumed my curiosity, shy at first, they quickly went on with their business as long as I stood still – quietly watching.

Both my parents worked so I had a wonderful caretaker, a Jamaican woman wise to the world having raised 4 kids of her own. Elena was her name, still hold a place in my heart for her, she was in charge of the house – all the meal prep, laundry, cleaning, gardening and me, of course – but she was happy to let me wander off “playing with friends” as long as I was home before dark! On occasion, I’d bring home some helpless creature so I could “study” but she always made me return it back exactly where I found it the next day – she talked of protecting the plants and flowers so the animals would have food. To be careful where I stepped so I didn’t crush the small worms and insects because they were important too – she taught me about the wonders of nature, how to collect seeds and other treasures -

In the 4th or 5th grade, our teacher presented a science project – chicken eggs in an incubator – we would draw straws to see who would get to take a chick home! Oh my, as fate would have it, I drew the correct straw; I ran all the way home clutching the little box in my arms to show Elena my new baby bird –

She helped me give it water and some grains that came with her – she was so tiny . . . Mom wasn’t happy at all! She thought the chicken should be put outside. I promised to keep her quiet in my room, they never knew she actually slept in my bed with me! Every morning

and after school I’d feed and play with Little Chick – watching her move around, hiding food to see how fast she could find it, how she would drink water, preen and do what baby chickens do. She grew fast.

I came home from school one day to find her missing. She had outgrown her “box” and the family dog had chased her, injuring her leg slightly. I was horrified to see her struggling to walk, hysterically I ran screaming to Elena that she was dying. Elena came to my aid, she took Little Chick in her hands, softly talking and stroking so Little Chick wouldn’t be scared. Elena stretched out her tiny leg and rubbed Vicks Vapor Rub all up and down and on her foot. Within minutes the bird squiggled to be let go, she was placed back down on the floor and miraculously she appeared better. She wasn’t limping as bad; she was back to chirping and moving around looking for food. We treated her for 2 more days, she was back to her usual self and that was the beginning . . . I knew from that moment I wanted to take care of animals, maybe become a veterinarian one day.

Little Chick lived with us till I headed to High School. Mom finally gave in to her living in the house when she started laying eggs!

One summer I volunteered at a local vet clinic, big and small animals. I learned how to clean cages, fill water bottles, give baths, read weight scales in grams, sweep floors and wash towels. Even watched a goat give birth to twins – which I got to bottle feed. I also met a neighbor, some days I would sneak out of the house with 2-3 eggs to take to him – he raised snakes and I was only allowed to stay if I was brave enough to hold a snake and not scream – it was a struggle with the bigger snakes but I was drawn to their beauty, their skin always cool to the touch, how their muscles would flex as they crawled up my arm; their intent stares and how quickly they would strike their prey (my eggs), swallowing them whole – (I still love snakes to this day)!



As the years rolled by, I would often find injured birds, or small animals that I would bring home to “doctor”- vet school got pushed back further and further, I was an uninterested school

student, much rather be outside observing nature at hand, so didn't make the necessary grades to get into vet school, instead went to college for a business degree.



Juvenile Bittern

January, 2008, I attended a meeting and social at our local Audubon Society. I was introduced to Kim Evans, my now longtime best friend ever. We realized that night we had many things in common, shared our love of birds,

nature and a dream started to take shape. She knew a lady who was a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, also owned a pet store – Julie Hart; we popped into her store the next morning and she was thrilled to take us up as volunteers, to share her knowledge and help us build our dream to own a wildlife sanctuary. You must train under a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for 1 year, earn 1000 hours, pass a 50-question exam and build a facility to house the type of animals you want to rehabilitate prior to obtaining your State and (for birds) Federal



Cooper's Hawk nestling

Permit. My permit allows me to obtain any migratory bird (most all bird species) for a period of 180 days for injury care.

Julie quickly put us to work – Springtime is Baby Season! Every female adult bird, regardless of species, builds

a nest, finds a mate, lays multiple eggs and soon thereafter, little chicks are everywhere! Some of the chicks get injured leaving their nest, some get lost or attacked by larger animals (cats), some just don't learn to hunt very well (new parents) and starve and others are picked up by well meaning humans thinking they are lost, when in fact, mommas were close by and watched



Red-shoulder Hawk

their baby get stolen. Rehabilitators are very busy spring through late summer.

Through my work connections (I sell real estate) I was given permission to build a wildlife sanctuary and gardens located under the pine trees of the Hombre Golf Course, Panama City Beach, Florida. We were at the back end

of the Maintenance facility. A perfect, secure location with access to the golf course in the evenings yet secluded from view by the surrounding homesites. Through Kim's Audubon membership, an attorney friend agreed to establish a non-profit corporation for us, file the necessary documents and handle all the legal fee's – Kritter, Inc Wildlife Sanctuary was officially opened, January, 2008.

Course we were a bare bones, grass roots, all volunteer organization so Kim and I borrowed, begged and collected donations – we enlisted boy scouts to build a few small cages, girl scouts to collect birdseed and other



Lisa rescues a Great Horned Owl

foods, cleaning supplies, dishes, dog/cat crates, even paper towels and tools. Goodwill discounted towels, blankets, heat pads and chairs. By March, baby birds were streaming in, as well as squirrels and tiny opossums; we needed volunteers - I reached out to our local TV station, would the 6 am anchor run a story for us? Yes, he agreed, he was curious, what is a Wildlife Sanctuary? He arrived at the sanctuary at 5 am (still dark) and was still there at 8 am. There had never been a wildlife center in the panhandle. He captured our passion to help wildlife, our dreams to create a place the public could come to learn, enrich the lives of children and adults alike, share nature, create butterfly gardens, picnic areas for photography, art classes, he was inspired and made it his mission to see it successful. Few days later, after the 45-minute condensed version had aired, I received a call - Home Depot wanted to grant us funds to build our educational facility and a 50% discount card would be given for all building and gardening materials for life!

Tyndall AFB is a part of Bay County – their head of personnel contacted me, every month the new incoming enlistees must earn volunteer hours in their community - we kept them busy building cages, walkways, ramps, overhead trellis' and the biggest challenge, a 20x20x50' long flight cage.

A critical part to rehab is allowing birds pre-flight training to overcome their injuries, lessen stress of captivity, build strength in juveniles and offer large pools for diving/swimming birds, fish-eaters and floaters. The

flight cage was a gamechanger and updated my Permit status to include Bald Eagle rehab.



Treating a Bald Eagle

Our first Bald Eagle admit came with a donation check for \$5000! Many grade schoolers and adults were able to view him up close, several volunteers got the opportunity to hold him, tethered on a leash. 1000s of photos were taken of him and on his release party, more donations were collected both monetary and materially, our Master Gardener group lined our driveway with Bird of Paradise plants (*Strelitzia*) which is the flower of freedom – we used this release party as our “open house” ground breaking for the Chamber of Commerce organization which proved to be a tremendous avenue to gain volunteers for special events. Recognized by the school counselors at our local High Schools, students needing volunteer house from disciplinary problems to Beta Club activities, art/science class projects and a multitude of fundraisers.



Local high school clubs volunteer to help with fundraising.

I'm proud to have influenced and know, 3 of those HS volunteers are current licensed rehabbers themselves, 3 took the path of nursing, 2 are veterinarians, 1 is the assistant director for a zoo in Alaska and 1 is a marine biologist/master diver currently swimming with whale sharks for her doctorate in Honduras (Whaleshark Org Research Center).

Opening a rehab facility was initially about construction, getting volunteers, and fundraising. Kim and I needed to learn a whole lot more about treating injured animals, raising wildlings to be releasable and functional adult animals. We enrolled in many online classes, ordered and read books from memberships in National Wildlife Rehabilitation Association, Bluebird Society, Purple Martin Society, Opossum Society and attended our

annual Florida Wildlife Association symposiums to meet likeminded rehabilitators to collaborate on specific species, their injuries, habitat, food requirements and critical information like “how do you make the baby open his mouth (gape) to feed?” You really need to be trained to know how to feed and handle, when to feed and how often, where to release (habitat specific), what to do about . . . everything!

Along the way of wildlife rehab, Kim and I took a beekeeping class and started our 1st Apiary in 2012. I've sold bottles of honey every year since. Still going strong, also took a queen-rearing class, I sell queens and mentor to new beekeepers now.

A volunteer and I traveled to Ft Worth, Texas to attend Bat World's 4-day hands-on training class for insectivore bats, returned the next year for another 4 days of intensive medical and surgical treatment..



Surgery in progress.



Evening Bat displays teeth

I spent a week with a master falconer – I specialize in Raptors and needed experience handling, tethering, making jesses, feeding juveniles, flight training, housing, specific gloves for different specie and properly displaying these incredible creatures for educational programs, knowledge of wing spans and flight feathers versus tail feathers, primaries and secondaries, up lift and down, a lifetime of study, a passion to protect and heal – it never leaves your heart.



Maverick, a Red-tailed Hawk

You can't talk about rehab if you don't have a reliable veterinarian and we truly had the best – 1 in a million owner Kim Breeze and her staff of 4 vets, 6 technicians, office and kennel staff – graciously took everyone of those 1000s of birds, mammals and reptiles we took in over the years, treated them medically, performed multitudes of surgeries to repair fractured bones, offered homeopathic advise and treatments, housed, fed, x-rayed and taught us how to properly bandage, lavage (tube feed), topical wound cleansing,

debriding (cut away dead skin) and dressings, calculate drug formulas and was there to hug us when we had to face end-of-life euthanasia. All the above, for 10+ years, 100% free of charge.

Sadly, in June, 2017, after an amazing decade caring for 1000s upon 1000s of wildlife, 25 full time volunteers, 30+ cages of various sizes, an Education building where we taught classes on everything we learned, brought in



Staff and volunteers of Kritters Inc. Wildlife Sanctuary

speakers to instruct on various nature inspired topics, built a greenhouse, neo-natal nursery, established a certified monarch butterfly tagging station, hosted photography enthusiast, art students, established community walking tours, quarterly TV news updates, magazine articles, through all the sweat, tears, and success stories, the property owner succumbed to Alzheimer's, and the family sold the property. I was given 3 months to tear down/move the Sanctuary so the new owner could build apartments.

Epilogue

Within a month of new ownership, our beautiful Sanctuary was bulldozed and scrapped into a heap to be burned. The existing homeowners surrounding the pristine golf course, disgusted with the new plans sued the new owner in an attempt to stop construction of the apartments. He has never been granted a Permit to build and the land sits idle, a wasteland of weeds still to this day.

After closing down the wildlife sanctuary, I had lots of free time on my hands - I have background in construction and married to a General Contractor - so I was asked by my daughter to help her "fix up" their "old farm house" - I renovated the entire house (8 months) - flew back to Florida and they sold the place a month later - and they moved to Missouri! My husband was building restaurants throughout Texas and asked if I would join him to be a job superintendent - so, I flew in with Hurricane Harvey (2017) to Houston, Texas - that year the Astros won the world series - I completely fell in love with the people, their spirit and I speak Spanish so fit right in. After we finished building that particular restaurant - I decided to "drive around East Texas and check things out - the land, trees, ranches - lifestyle - I had no reason to go back to Florida

I salvaged what I could, stored furniture, medical

supplies, appliances and portable crates. Few volunteers tore apart cages in order to rebuild at their homes. Some volunteers took home plants, garden equipment and tools. All wildlife was released or transferred to other facilities and in September, the dream was over . . .

- so, sold our home and bought 25 acres in Canton (Whitton community) - we are an hour east of Dallas (needed an airport) - So moved from the 14th floor of high rise condo, we built a beautiful ranch home, have registered beefmaster cattle, a flock of chickens, 30 bee hives (honey and queen production), greenhouse and 30 raised flower beds (I sell cut flowers), two stocked catfish ponds, rehab wildlife and a tractor to boot!! Texas has been really good to us - we love it here . . .

But my lust for wandering is returning - Covid forced me to stay home but now I'm ready to start traveling again to visit friends, see some sites - daughter is having a 4th baby in February - past volunteer is a native Alaskan and wants us to visit to go halibut fishing! Other daughter in Seattle just bought a 35' sailboat - they want us to go whale watching this winter around the San Juan Islands - my best friend since middle school returned to the states after years living in Germany - she has a condo in Panama, Republic of Panama - where we grew up - she wants me to spend New Years with her and friends - so - 2022 will be filled with various adventures - some with kids, some with friends, some just with husband to sites unknown.



* Lisa joined Texas Bluebird Society in 2020. She was elected to the TBS Board of Directors last year and is currently serving as TBS Secretary and Executive Committee Board Member. With so many new adventures on the horizon, Lisa will be resigning from her positions at the end of this year. Thank you for your excellent service and support of TBS. Happy Travels!



Western Mayhaw, *Crataegus opaca*

By Linda Crum, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist

There are two main types of mayhaw, both of which are species of hawthorn – eastern mayhaw (*Crataegus aestivalis*) and western mayhaw (*C. opaca*). There are a number of cultivars included.

Mayhaw presents itself as a small deciduous tree or a large shrub. It has spiny branches and blooms in February or March with white or pink flowers. The fruit, resembling miniature crabapples, ripen in May and June to a red color. Mayhaw fruit is ready to harvest about twelve weeks after the first blossoms appear. The fruit is rather tart and relished by wildlife, including bluebirds. It also makes great jelly.



Mayhaw can be found from East Texas to Georgia and north to Kentucky.

It prefers moist, acidic soil found in bottomland and along river's edge. It will grow in standing water as well as your landscape if the soil is kept moist. Once established, mayhaw can withstand drought.



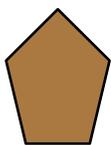
Propagation is by seed or soft-wood cuttings. Gather the fruit when ripe but not fully mature and soak the fruit in water a few days to loosen the pulp. Seeds need a cold treatment for germination. Collect the seeds and store in damp sand in the refrigerator for twelve weeks. Plant in late winter. For soft-wood cuttings, cut the mayhaw stem when firm. Remove all leaves except the top two. Dip the cutting in rooting hormone and place in a potting

mix. Cover the cuttings with plastic to create a greenhouse atmosphere. Place in indirect light. Water to keep soil moist. Remove plastic when new growth appears. Plant fully rooted plants in spring to a larger container. Allow them to mature a bit before planting in the landscape.

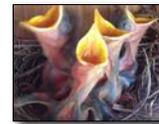


If you have a wet spot in your landscape, consider planting a mayhaw.

Both birds and humans enjoy mayhaw fruit.



It's not too late! Have you reported this season's nesting activity to nestwatch.org?



NO BOARD ELECTIONS NEEDED THIS YEAR

2021 TBS Board of Directors were elected for a two year term.

Lonnie Castleman will continue as President. Peggy Tolboom will serve as Vice President. Secretary and Treasurer will be nominated from the board in January as current Secretary Lisa Mabry, and Treasurer Nelda Reid, will be resigning from the board at the end of this year. Bennie Konvicka, who has served on the board since 2012 as Silent Auction Coordinator, and Event Planning Committee, will also retire at year end.

Benni Konvicka Is Queen of The Silent Auction



Benni Konvicka has been crowned Queen of the Silent Auction for her incredible legacy of improving every aspect of the extremely successful TBS fundraiser, the ever popular, Silent Auction. Bid high and bid often!



Benni orchestrates the final bid, closing the Silent Auction; again raising thousands of dollars to buy lumber/materials for nestboxes.



Co-founder, Keith Kridler, gives Benni a big thank you hug for her extraordinary efforts that make the Silent Auction such a huge success!



In recognition of extraordinary service to TBS, President Pauline Tom presents the prestigious Blue Feather Award to Benni.

So many tables with interesting items; a little browsing, a little bidding, and yahoo! You are the highest bidder and TBS has more dollars to buy nestbox lumber and supplies. Easy peasy? NOT! You just experienced the culmination of the hundreds of volunteer hours expended to organize, coordinate and execute a successful Silent Auction FUNdraiser. Who do we have to thank for this? The undisputed Queen of the Auction, Benni Konvicka!

Long-time bluebird friend, Benni, and her husband Jimmie joined as charter member #65. Benni and Jimmie have a history of volunteering. Jimmie served on the Board of Directors in 2011 and 2012. In 2011 the Konvickas co-coordinated the TBS Summer Symposium. During the next year, Benni began focusing on streamlining the entire auction process, including the administrative requirements and financial reporting.

As the auction activities have increased, Benni has assembled an amazing core team of volunteers to assist at various stages of the process. Special thanks to Beverly, her right-hand woman, for her assistance! (And husband Walt!)

Over time, Benni has introduced several innovative ways to streamline the administrative side. With the help of Rex Reves, an auction database was developed to contain every detail for each item. Yes, someone has to key in the data. Bid-sheets are programmatically created. When auction is closed, bid-sheets are collected, data entered, and receipts generated. All auction related reporting can now be system generated. Items are collected, recorded, and stored months before the auction. Then it is loading, transporting, unloading, unwrapping, displaying on arranged tables,

matching the bid-sheet to the item, and placing appropriate signage. Bennie instructs and coordinates volunteers. She monitors the bidding process and ends auction bidding. Collect bid information, enter data, match receipts to items and arrange by last name for pick-up. Instruct winners on payment process: cash/ credit card to cashiers, checks left with bid sheets on pick-up tables. Then, collect checks for cashiers, gather and pack all signage, paraphernalia, tablecloths, electronics, and transport all of the auction related bins to storage. There is barely time for the team to catch its breath before it is time to start preparing the next symposium.

Every effort is made by many hands to ensure the Silent Auction Fundraising process is smooth at every step and FUN for the members. Symposium evaluations give the FUNdraiser top ratings! The auction requires all of Benni's attention during the symposium so she is unable to attend presentations. We appreciate your dedication!

Benni joined the Board of Directors in 2012. Benni didn't limit her talents to just auction activities. She was a full time English Professor at Tarleton State University. With her background and technological skills, she was able to assist with a variety of projects. She helped write and produce the symposium agendas, symposium registration form, and update the membership forms. Benni serves on the board Event Planning Team and Auction Coordinator, and has served on the Executive Committee prior to this year. In 2013, Benni received the prestigious TBS Blue Feather Award.

Benni is retiring from the Board of Directors at the end of this year.

Thank You Benni!

Lifetime Members

00001 Keith and Sandy Kridler
00002 Ricky Walker
00006 Mark Klym
00007 Ron and Pauline Tom
00009 Doug and Karen Rohde
00024 Highland Shores Garden Club
00032 Lysle Mockler
00045 Maxey Kirkley
00054 William and Linda Stevens
00065 Jimmie and Benni Konvicka
00068 Charles and Jackie Post
00092 Dr. Thomas M. Wheeler
00102 Cliff and Julie Shackelford
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00846 Barbara Ohlman
00869 Barbara Vinson
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00952 Angela Austin
00957 Nancy Podio
00963 Diane and Eric Hale
00976 Glenn and Gwenda Vinkler
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01198 Carla and Jim Muldrow
01202 Beth and Tom Frantes
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01666 Edra Bogucki
01723 Nancy Etheridge

01793 Susan Tracy
01899 Jim Weatherly
01999 Shirley Hrobar
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02135 Pam Moes
02159 Greg Grant
02175 Randy Reddemann
02299 Don and Cathy Mitchell
02384 Leonard May
02431 Shannon Ramsey
02447 Beverly & Walter Davis
02599 Charles and Sue Wiseman
02710 Mark Byrd
02713 Brant and Annette Edwards
02857 Katherine Peake
03136 Greg and Glenda Marsh
03285 Jason A. Seale
03393 Annette Harbaugh
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03577 Alan Imrek
03590 Jeanene Steinle Betros
03599 Kathy P. Weinhold
03604 Carey and Constance Hardesty
03623 Clyde and Kathi Camp
03690 Sue Abernathy
03718 Ainsley Lewis
03866 Bryan and Diane Jones
03900 Doug and Beth Grijalva
03922 Stan Cole
04090 Cheryl Franklin
04123 Lauri Blake
04345 Cathy Brown
04392 Mary Lou and Jerald Mowery
04397 Jeff and Mary O. Parker
04440 D.A. Horn
04455 Jeff Raimer
04530 Mike and Thelma Woodruff
04649 Sarah Andry
04664 Sarah Feagin
04836 Mickey Dufilho
04964 David W Work

04983 Sherry Conner
05245 The Studio in the Woods,
G. Brown
05284 Jeffie Cappadonna
05342 Joe Beard
05373 Cristina Abazajian
05390 Jeff Pray
05409 David Kinneer
05438 Linda Ross
05560 James Cummings
05682 Warren and Kay Parker
05710 Deborah & Gary Tugwell
05819 Yolanda Berry
05883 Dr. Michael Buley
05884 Sandra Spurlock
05900 Jean Marie Wesson
05968 Kathy Bernobich
05976 Mike LaDeau
06025 Paul Shinsky
06063 Boyd Heath
06067 Doyal Nelms
06185 Donna and Chris Honkomp
06187 Sharon Clark
06274 Grace Scalzo
06367 Diana Rice
06457 Terry Dinerman
06513 Lacey Cloud
06537 Marilyn Conger
06597 Patricia Illeen Coyle
06656 Ann Fox
06684 Robert Hoefler
06787 Christopher Murray
06878 Daryl Garner
07053 Edison Pereira
07107 Russell Cravey
07136 Britt Causey
07177 Kathleen Daly
07188 Kristina Casanova
07202 Julie Crum
07223 Cynthia Akeroyd



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Thomas Wheeler
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tbs@txblues.org

936-439-7114 (Lonnie Castleman)



Welcome New Members

- Vick Ammar
- Teresa Baker
- James and Alison Barrow
- Sydney Beers
- Adam Bosl
- Silvia Espino Cara
- Rohan Davis
- Rena Dodd
- Natalie Dunphy
- Jennifer Evans
- Dale Everitt
- Linda Gaither
- John Geiger
- Debbie Griffin
- Peggy Hebert
- Dr. Elizabeth Howard
- Brenda Kenner
- Rick Kirk
- Lisa Kleopfer
- Dan Krischke
- Mary Pat Lambert
- Laurie LeBarre
- Yvonne Maxwell
- Adrienne Maxwell
- Elise May
- Reggie McCollum
- Arlene Moye
- Melissa Mullins
- Jim Russell
- Shea Savage
- Anna Scheurich
- Kit Scott
- Margie Shaffer
- Christine Sicker
- Debbie Tripp
- Catherine Truman
- Koren Watts
- Robert Weaver

Volunteers Are Appreciated!

Caryn Brewer
Lonnie Castleman
Letitia Castleman
Linda Crum
Jon Hranicky
Linda James

Robert Johnston
Archie Manning
Patti Marshall
Don Mitchell
Jerald Mowery
Mary Lou Mowery

Dee Myers
John Park
Shannon Ramsey
Pauline Tom
Vanessa Vosinett



Thank You
for your
donation!

Jeanne Alfred
Alice Anderson
Peggy Bailey
Teresa Baker
John Barrow
Cheryl Beesby
Sharon Clark
Dennis George
Patti Hickman
Rick Kirk
Jerry Krampota
Nancy Reeder
Nelda Reid
Shea Savage
Grace Scalzo
Lorraine Schneider
Catherine Truman

Let's Go Shopping!

9 out of 10 bluebirds surveyed prefer the TX style nestbox during the long hot summers!

- Extra wide roof for shade
- Wide vents for better air flow
- Interior corners for drainage
- Easy lift side panel for viewing

Find your local Nestbox Distributor

Shopping On Amazon?

Don't forget to choose TBS as your charity on [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) first. A portion of your total purchases will be donated to help us help bluebirds!

Shop txblues.org

Perfect gift for everyone, "Texas" style

Variety of items

Bluebird Nestbox Use on a nestbox, in your backyard or in a park

Donate to TBS

Other internet suggestions

- Van Ert Trap
- Kingston Baffles
- Sparrow Spookers
- Mealworms
- Nursery Gift Card
- NABS Membership

[smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) generates donations

Go to this page at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time

TBS MEMBERS

- ★ 100 members joined first full year.
- ★ Of the original charter members, 7 are now lifetime, and 11 renew every year!
- ★ Our members represent 823 cities and 227 counties in TX.
- ★ You don't have to live in TX; 95 members living in 34 other states, Victoria, Australia and Ontario, Canada.
- ★ There are 122 lifetime members.
- ★ Member #7,396 just joined!

TEXAS-STYLE NESTBOXES



- ★ 2003 - Offered Free nestbox with membership.
- ★ First official nestbox builders - Brian and Judy Heatherington and Bob Houck.
- ★ Don Lawrence created the Certified Builder Program in 2014. Now - 5 certified builders.
- ★ Nestboxes customized specifically for Texas and can also be built camera ready.
- ★ Since 2003 built over 19,000 nestboxes
- ★ 2021 paying \$84 per cedar board. Switched to longer-lasting cypress, \$36 per board.

★ FIRST ★

- 2001: First meeting
- 2002: First newsletter
- 2002: First event and Silent Auction FUNdraiser
- 2003: First web presence
- 2008: First Blue Feather Award given
- 2010: First launched Facebook page



Photo by Larry Melamed



This made by day. My Eastern Bluebirds came back home after a 1 1/2 month trip to who knows where. I think some of these may be the ones born earlier this year — at Casa De Melamed, Lake Lewisville.

Photos by Larry Melamed



Photo by David Kinneer