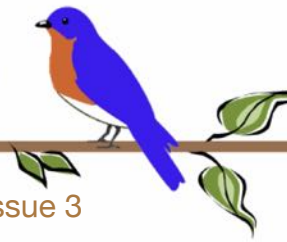


# TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter • July 2023 • Volume 22.Issue 3

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Federal law protects all native nesting birds!



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

Debbie Bradshaw Park,  
Editor

Send stories/photos to  
editor@txblues.org



Because It Is  
**HOT! HOT! HOT!**

*High Temperature?  
Higher Risk for Eggs  
and Babies!*



## Heat Shields

Charter member, David Shiels, has proven the effectiveness of the heat shields he designed specifically for TBS nestboxes. Full story and research results in [TX Blues](#) Feb/March 2003.

Build your own using TBS [Heatshield plans](#)

## Create A Simple A/C Unit

Wendy Lime explains her homemade air conditioner. "A styrofoam cooler and an ice pack help reduce the heat inside the nestbox. I bought a small cooler and cut holes for ventilation. I put it on from the back I secured styrofoam to top and backside (west), and an umbrella, to the box. I cut holes for ventilation where the slots in the nestbox are located.

Three baby bluebirds surviving the 103 heat here in Spring Texas. Changing out the ice packs twice a day in the styrofoam a/c unit!"



*Wendy W. Lime shares a creative way to help protect eggs/babies*



An **umbrella** sure helps when there is not a shade tree nearby.

**Paint** the exterior *only* with white, or a light color. Look for high Light Reflective Value (LRV%) paint. An overhanging roof and side vents, standard feature on TBS nestboxes, helps!



# Carey and Connie Hardesty Share Bluebird Experiences

*"Connie and I started going on guided bird walks and saw our first Eastern Bluebird. We had never seen such a beautiful bird before!"*

In November 2012, Connie and Carey attended an event in Waco. After visiting the TBS booth and discussing bluebird information, they decided to become Lifetime Members and went home with their first nestbox. Nine trails and 75 nestboxes later, the Hardesty's have a lot of bluebird memories and experiences to share.

## Creating Trails, Building Nestboxes and Reporting Activity

*"When we saw the movie at one of your events about an old man that had 100 bluebird nest boxes. This planted the seed in our heads. Then Connie had the opportunity to work on the bluebird nest box trail at Hagggerman NWR which contributed to the idea that we can have our own trail."*



In 2018 Connie and Carey added their first trail of 8 nestboxes in their 1.3 acre yard and added 7 nestboxes in the greenbelt area of their neighborhood. (Permission granted from HOA board to install the seven nestboxes.)

They began reporting all nesting activity in the Cornell Labs NestWatch application, becoming a member of the Citizen Scientist community.

*"After that we worked with a couple of Eagle Scouts for their final Eagle Scout projects. We required the scout to work with us to monitor the boxes and record the NestWatch data for the 1st breeding season. It was great!"*

Carey has been building all of the nestboxes used on the various trails they have created. Carey uses plans taken from a nestbox he purchased from a gentleman selling kits at Hagggerman Wildlife Refuge. Cary took the nestbox apart and made a few changes. His design preference includes nestboxes that open from a front door that is pinned/hinged at the bottom, rather than the side opening version.

Currently, Carey and Connie have about 65 nest boxes

installed over 9 trails all located in Collin County. At one point they had as many as 75 installed boxes but changes in the landscape at some of the nestbox locations, several nestboxes had to be removed.

## Picking Trail Locations

*"We like to pick locations that are well cared for and grass needs to be regularly mowed. I do volunteer work at one location and request that I can use the mower to mow a path to check all our nest boxes at that location. We try to stay close to home or at least in the Collin County area." ... continued on page 3*



## Dad To The Rescue!

One year we had a bluebird build a nest here at our home. We monitored up to the point where 5 bluebird eggs were laid. At some time (not sure of duration) after the eggs were laid, we found the mother bluebird dead on our concrete drive. We feed live mealworms to all our birds. We knew that if the eggs had not hatched prior to mom's death that the babies would not have a good chance. We watched the nest closely over the next few days and the father finally began feeding the baby chicks. The mother had at least completed her task of getting the babies hatched. Where the mother usually gets 2 or 3 live mealworms to feed the babies, dad decided that a whole mouthful would work better. He continued to feed the chicks until they fledged and they all made it. However, when we cleaned out the nestbox there were tons of live mealworms still in the nest material. Apparently, dad didn't know he was supposed to feed the babies individually. He just got a mouthful of worms and dropped them in the nest. It was also a very messy and dirty nest as dad never got the memo about removing the poop sacks to deter predators.



*...request that I can use the mower to mow a path to check all our nest boxes at that location. We try to stay close to home or at least in the Collin County area."*

Carey and Connie have established, and regularly monitor 9 nestbox trails in Collin County.



- Summerhill Farms neighbors
- Summerhill Farms HOA greenbelt area
- Crestwood Methodist Church
- Fitzhugh Cemetery
- Connemara Nature Conservancy
- Blackland Prairie Raptor Center
- Canyon Creek Wetlands near Hilton Garden Inn(Richardson)
- Canyon Creek neighborhood next to CC Country Club
- Hospital gardens at a Plano location

*"We identify a potential location and then proceed to find and contact the property owners and seek to secure permission to install the nestboxes and monitor them on a weekly basis during breeding season."*

**June 22, 2023  
NestWatch report  
summarizing nesting  
activity on all 9 trails.**

Total Nest Sites	84
Total Nesting Attempts	81
Total Eggs	304
Total Young	225
Total Fledglings	202

*"We have had such joy monitoring all of these nestboxes, it is just tough to describe."*

*There are times you open the nestbox and the mother bluebird remains on the nest and just looks at you like "go away", you are not invited to our home. Times when the mother is on the nest and when I lightly knock and announce that housekeeping is here to check the box, she reluctantly leaves.*



*There are times when both mom and pop will not leave the area when you are trying to check the box and they begin to dive bomb you aggressively. If the chicks are near or fully feathered, they will have their heads up until you open the box and then they all duck their heads like you will not see me if I do this. It is really an incredible feeling to see them progress from unhatched eggs to fledged birds. It can also be very sad to find a dead chick in the nest after all others have fledged. All in all monitoring nestboxes is a feeling like no other. We love it!*



**Hot or Cold - We Will Monitor The Trails**

Monitoring the trails you create is an essential task in providing a home for appropriate for bluebirds and other cavity nesters. In addition to recording and reporting NestWatch data, you should be checking the nestboxes for any necessary repairs, cleaning the nestbox after each brood (when possible). Have landscape changes impacted the nestbox location? Is the grass being mowed? Are there predator guards in place, any new threats noted? Has this area become a popular pedestrian destination?

*It takes dedication and initiative to help our feathered friends thrive in our ever-changing environment. Carey and Connie have done a tremendous job over the years creating and maintaining bluebird trails. Thank you!*



**Would you like to help us monitor a trail?**

Volunteer to help us monitor a portion of our trails. No need for prior experience, if you love bluebirds, we will teach you the monitoring procedures. Contact us at [clhtech@att.net](mailto:clhtech@att.net).

# Bluebirds On Holiday!!!

*By Donna and Chris Honkomp*

The US Army Corp of Engineers Holiday Park Campground, located on the southwest shore of Lake Benbrook, has proven to be an excellent habitat for the Eastern Bluebirds in our area. We are on our eighth year at the campground, and currently monitor 25 nest boxes with the help of the Cross Timbers Master Naturalists (Fort Worth/Tarrant County Chapter). As of June 15<sup>th</sup> of

this year, we have had 43 nesting attempts resulting in 75 fledglings so far (some eggs and young are still in the nest). We attribute these good numbers to a cool spring, and as expected, we have noticed a considerable downswing in second nesting attempts as the weather has heated up.



*Eastern Bluebird nestings*



We typically start seeing our first bluebirds at the end of January/beginning of February, so we use the first half of January to clean, repair and relocate our boxes. We have been able to extend the life of our boxes by taking them back to the workshop to replace rotted wood and seal up gaps in the roof to restore them to use. Review of data sheets from previous years helps us see which boxes tend to attract nesting pairs. If a box has had no broods in two years, we will relocate the box to a more attractive location.



It is nice to have several years of data to see what prime locations our bluebirds tend to prefer. We have recorded our first egg laid as early as February 13<sup>th</sup>, but a cool spring delayed things this year, with our first completed nest being recorded on February 20<sup>th</sup>.



Our bluebirds have been fairly consistent this year with 5 eggs per clutch, but we also wind up hosting wrens, titmice and chickadees with up to seven eggs per clutch. We even had a Tree Swallow one year, so we have a considerable diversity. With close proximity to the lake and plenty of open spaces, and especially lots of insects, the bluebirds are very successful in getting their young

raised and out of the nest. We normally have about 90% of our nesting attempts made by bluebirds, and have always had one or two boxes “vacant” in the area in case other couples come in, or if a couple with a newly fledged clutch want to try a new location. We also experience other wildlife, including deer, roadrunners, raptors and waterfowl. continued on page 5



### Bluebirds On Holiday!!!



*Both Carolina Chickadees and Wrens have used our nestboxes*

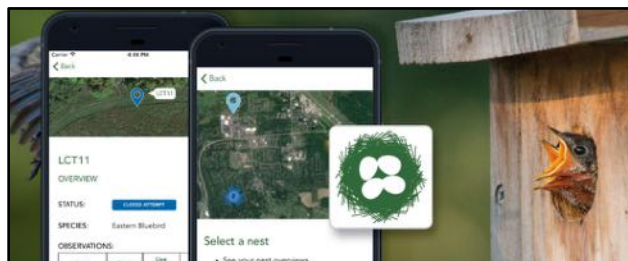


When we do our monitoring, we also try to do some outreach by advertising what we are doing to the many walkers, bikers, staff and campers in the park. A great way to encourage folks to stop and ask about our program has been to add a magnetic sign to our car doors to attract interest.



Members of a local bicycle group that rides in the park (they call themselves the “Rusty Chain Gang”) have commented that they have noticed an increase in Eastern Bluebirds. We have had a lot of conversations with folks who are interested in bluebirds and birding, or just want to pass on the success they have had with bluebird boxes in their own backyards.

In the past, we recorded our data by hand on the Cornell data sheets, and then transferred the information to the website once we got home. We have been using the Nestwatch App this season, which speeds up the data entry considerably. Why didn't we start this sooner????



We still normally close out nesting attempts at home since using the app makes it a little difficult to find key data, but overall, the app has been very useful.

As usual, we have had to take measures to discourage predators. This year a couple of boxes have been predated by snakes, so the use of cones, baffles and snake netting have helped. Applying tanglefoot has also been effective in keeping ants out of boxes. It is always sad to

return to a nest box to find it has been raided, and we have lost two clutches so far. It is a constant battle to “outsmart” these ever-present members of the food chain but then again that is nature.



It is mid-June now, and the 100 degree temperatures are headed

our way, but we continue to monitor as long as our birds continue to breed. We usually go through to the end of August, depending on the weather and season. Not sure what the rest of this year will bring...hopefully, lots of fledglings!

Lifetime members, Donna and Chris have been sharing their love of bluebirds with others in the Benbrook area. Full story of their bluebird trail at Benbrook Lake is in TX Blues May 2020.

In recognition of initiatives and accomplishments that support the mission of the Texas Bluebird Society, Donna received the 2019 Bluebird of the Year Award.



Full story of Donna's numerous activities is in TX Blues October 2019.

# Birds and Bees

*By Chris Michel, Master Beekeeper*

As a hobbyist beekeeper, I keep 18 hives on my small acreage just north of The Woodlands. I confess that over



*Swarm on a bait hive*

the years, I've evolved from seeing each hive box as a community with its own personality to an approach that includes numbering hives and tracking performance. I've shifted from seeing the bees as 'pets' to seeing them as livestock and accept the responsibility that comes with having them in my yard.



*Pollinating is a vital task*



While my beekeeping hobby has evolved, so has my relationship with the birds in my backyard. What started with a few nestboxes placed randomly around my yard is now a concerted effort to establish bird-friendly habitat with nestboxes, feeding stations, native plants, meadow spaces and a 'no cats' policy. As a result, the quantity of birds who call my back yard home – in numbers observed and the variety of birdsong – has increased.

Most mornings, a pair of cardinals check the porch gutters for bugs and other tidbits. The wrens fledging a clutch in the barn do a fine job gathering insects and tidbits to feed their chicks. Some days, I'm scolded for interrupting their routine and other days they ignore me. They are noisy and busy keeping their babies fed and safe.



*Carolina Wren seeks insects*

I enjoy their antics and interactions with one another.

Friends remark on the abundance of birds and the

variety of sounds they produce. Inevitably, they are curious about how the birds and bees live in the same space knowing that birds eat insects. What they don't know is that in peak production season, a single queen bee can lay up to 2,000 eggs a day. That's a lot of bees and more than the birds could ever consume.



That's not to say the wrens and cardinal don't eat bees. Occasionally hungry birds are interested in the bees. Just like a rancher, it's my job to monitor and protect the bees.



*Cardinals love bees*

Today, the wrens and their fledged chicks are feeding around the hives, picking up DEAD bees from the ground. In that regard, it's a favor to me because dead bees can attract other predators like hornets or skunks who could do more harm to the bees. So, I hope they keep at it!



*Bluebirds like bees too*

Because most birds in our area are omnivores who seek a diverse diet, they eat bees when it's convenient but move on as other food sources become available. There's a narrow window during the first warm spring days when bees might be the most attractive food source because other insects aren't available. During that time, I offer full feeders, suet and drone comb out of the freezer to supplement what's available for the birds.

The birds and bees in my backyard are part of the broader ecosystem that works together. I enjoy watching both and do my part to support them living together successfully.

*Chris Michel is a lifetime member residing in Conroe.*



# Volunteers Keep TBS Strong!

## WingDing Festival April 15<sup>th</sup> at Dinosaur Valley State Park



### Booth Hosts: Donna & Chris Honkomp

"In mid-April, we were able to volunteer at the TBS booth during the "WingDing" at Dinosaur Valley State Park, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. We had a lot of visitors, and were able to pass along more bluebird boxes to new members."

**Roberta Marshall** and **Twyla Doty** also hosted a NestWatch booth at this event.



## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Tomato Fest June 10<sup>th</sup> at Jacksonville



*Harold & Kathy and Pauline & Ron had another successful day at the festival. 23 new members + \$90 in donations!*

### Booth Hosts: Harold Latham & Ron Tom

TBS has hosted a booth at the Tomato Fest for many years. Fun for attendees and for our dedicated team **Harold Latham** and **Ron Tom**, who always manage to find time in their busy schedules for this event, which they consider their gig. Of course, they need a little help. **Pauline Tom**, who has always helped her husband for this all day event, was glad **Kathy Latham** chose to join them this year. Over the years, many of our new members have joined TBS at this festival. Continuing to help TBS promote Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time; Harold and Ron (with Kathy and Pauline) are already planning to host the TBS booth next year.

*The 5-block festival hosts over 300 vendors, Farmers Market, Tomato Eating Contest, \$500 Got Talent Contest, Car Show, Soccer Tournament, Kids Zone and so much more!*



*Pauline welcomes new members, sharing basic bluebird information and nestbox features .*



- Upcoming Event -

## Huntsville's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair on the Square

Downtown on the Square - 1100 University Ave. Saturday, October 7, 2023 @ 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Stop by Texas Bluebird Society's booth and visit with **Phyllis Campbell**, **Lee Ann Dye** and **Tita Tellez**. Over 400 vendors providing shopping, food, kids activities, entertainment and more!

# Volunteers Keep TBS Strong!

## Volunteers Try New Approach

Pauline Tom and Harold Latham decided to utilize social media to attract potential members to attend a reinstated festival being held in Ravenna, the 2023 Jack Phillips Bluebird Festival.

For this event, Pauline created a targeted ad on Facebook. In 5 days it reached over 5,000 within about 50 miles of Ravenna with interests such as birdwatching, gardening, and camping.

FREE Bluebird Nestbox and full color Bluebirds in Texas with new [Texas Bluebird Society www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org) membership (\$20) this Saturday, June 17, 2023 at the [Jack Phillips Bluebird Festival](#) in Ravenna.

Come early. Supply of nestboxes is limited.

Where is Ravenna? Way up near the Red River. Only about 1.5 hours from Dallas.

Already a member or a past member? Come chat about bluebirds and renew your membership. Still only \$20/year for household membership.

Please share this post with friends and family who might be interested.

## Volunteer Harold Latham Shares His Experience

On a sunny June 17th morning of 2023 a short drive northeast of DFW and just a few miles south of the Red River located in Fannin County is the small rural community of Ravenna, Texas. A post office, fire station and City Hall buildings and a couple of stop signs pretty much mark town center.

Dedicated volunteers from this community hosted a memorial event to honor one of community's own, Jack Phillips, a resident which lived on Elm Street. Jack volunteered to make his community a better place. Jack made a real difference connecting the greater community. His compassion made it a better place. Jack's impact on the community did not go unrecognized nor did the hosting volunteers.

A special gratitude to those who find time, compassion and interest to help out with the smallest tasks that make a real difference to communities its people and the animals that share our lives. Thank you Jack Phillips

On a personal note, I find pride and enjoyment in my volunteer work. Volunteering is fun and fulfilling in the sense you're enacting people to make change in their lives. You meet new folks, sharing a common interest and sometimes traveling to Texas communities small and large.

*"I invite you with your spare time to bring your motivation to a meaningful and rewarding team of volunteers, where you make a difference. Come join the Texas Bluebird Society Festival Booth Volunteers. Connect with a local community, make it and yourself better with people of common interest."*

*Harold Latham is a Texas Master Naturalist (Bois d' Arc Chapter) Texas Bluebird Society member, Nestbox Distributor and is a Festival Booth Extraordinaire, having hosted MANY festivals and events over the last decade.*



*Volunteer Harold Latham begins setting up the TBS booth nestbox display for the 2023 Jack Phillips Bluebird Festival held in Ravenna on June 17th.*

*Kathy and Harold Latham were TBS booth hosts for this event.*

*Harold and Kathy add the finishing touches to the displays. The TBS booth is now ready for the festival to begin.*





Reprinted North Texas e-News. Editor's note: With the **Jack Phillips Memorial Bluebird Festival** coming up Saturday in Ravenna, we thought this would be a good time to run an article about eastern bluebirds that Mr. Phillips wrote in 2009.



## Birds of Fannin County: Eastern Bluebird

By Jack Phillips

Ravenna, Texas -- Being raised in Fannin County and living half of my life here, I was always fascinated by the many different birds we are privileged to share our lives with. Growing up during the great depression we didn't spend any money for bird feed and only occasionally someone would build a birdhouse.

I enjoy living on Elm St. in Ravenna on the property across the dirt road where we often tied out our milk cow. There was one bois d'arc fence post with a natural nesting cavity used by a bluebird family every year. It was barely big enough for a small grass nest and they only raised one batch of birds until someone told me to tear out the old nest after the young fledged and they would build another nest and raise another brood. The change in fence building using treated post, steel t-post, or welded pipe eliminated the nest cavities for the bluebirds. In addition to fence building progress there was a reduction in fruit tree orchards which created cavities with the pruning of the trees.

With the industrial advances created by World War II and the end of the depression, people started to build bluebird houses. There have been at least a dozen different designs. The most popular design is about 10 inches high and 4 inches wide and 4 inches deep. The entry hole is 1 1/2 inch or an opening across the top of 1 1/2 inches from the top. The second is my preference because if a sparrow tries to hem the bluebird in the house and peck him to death there is a better chance of escape than with the hole. The birds use one as quick as the other. Sparrows are the biggest enemy because they want to use the nest box.

I have found many dead bluebirds in a nest that was covered with the trash and feathers of a sparrow's nest. The next enemy is rat snakes. They seem to be able to smell the little birds when they start to grow feathers. Snakes can wrap themselves around a t-post and climb up the house. I have found snakes in purple martin houses 16 ft. high. There are some guards that you can add to the post to keep snakes and other animals from the nest but they are cost prohibitive when you have a lot of houses.

I monitor about 60 houses from 121 and 898 & 274 to Ravenna and on back roads surrounding Ravenna. I recently cleaned the houses and got them ready for the 09 season. Some of the houses had 3 nests which means they raised 3 batches of little



... continued on page 10

... continued on page 9

birds. I know that some didn't make it because of predators but I counted 152 distinct nests and there is a good chance 125 hatches made it. I hope we added close to 500 new bluebirds to the population.

I have made over 1200 houses over 12 yrs. and each time I see a bluebird I like to think that is one of my kids. They are getting ready for the new season and some have already started to pick mates and houses and start another family. It is not unusual for them to pick a new mate every year.

The mating season lasts until about July. After that it is too hot for them to stay in the boxes. During the mating season the male takes on a cobalt blue color brighter than his fall and winter coat. Thoreau called them the little bird with the sky on their back.

The boxes should be mounted on a post (I use a t-post) in open grassy country and spaced about 100 yds apart. My houses are made with a hinged front so I can check on the progress of the nest. Open them gently and many times the mother will stay on the nest. Children really enjoy seeing the little birds. IF YOU TOUCH THEM THE MOTHER WILL NOT ABANDON THE NEST. DO NOT PUT THEM ON A TREE TRUNK OR YOUR FRONT PORCH. About 100 feet from the house is very good, but place them in the open

I have 12 houses in and outside the Ravenna cemetery and every house had three nests. I have a lot in that cemetery and hope I can look forward to their presence for a long time.



Photos by Allen Rich

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## Ravenna Establishes Annual Jack Phillips Memorial Bluebird Festival In 2012

Jack Phillips constructed over 2500 bluebird houses during his lifetime. He taught others to share his passion for bluebirds. If you have seen a bluebird house on a fence post in Fannin County or in someone's yard, you know Jack Phillips had a hand in it when you see his distinctive "JP" brand burned into the side panel.

On Memorial Day 2011, twenty-five bluebird houses were erected by the Bois d'Arc Chapter of

Texas Master Naturalists on a trail named for the man who inspired so many to love bluebirds in Fannin County, Texas. The "Jack Phillips Bluebird Trail" was dedicated that fall.

This festival is named in honor of the late Jack Phillips (1/18/1930 - 2/18/2011), a former resident of Randolph who treasured Eastern Bluebirds and build more than 1,200 bluebird houses during one 12-year span. In acknowledgement and appreciation of Jack Phillips, the city of Ravenna established the Jack Phillips Memorial Bluebird Festival, celebrating Jack's love of bluebirds, and the annual arrival of nesting bluebirds in Fannin County.



*(left) Don Lawrence and Paul Nelson hosted the TBS booth at the first Jack Phillips celebration on May 12, 2012.*

*When the festival was reinstated in 2023, Harold Latham began hosting the TBS booth and plans to make it an annual tradition.*





# Welcome New Members

## Board of Directors

### Lonnie Castleman

President  
Nestbox Const. Coord.  
New Caney

### Peggy Tolboom

Co-Treasurer  
Dublin

### Nelda Reid

Co-Treasurer  
Klondike

### Charles Hubbard

Secretary  
Midlothian

### 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

Contact Us:

[tbs@txblues.org](mailto:tbs@txblues.org)

- Josh Ainsworth
- Holly Beadle
- Mary Bernard
- Paul Bertrand
- Jan Blackwood
- Max Bly
- Terry Box
- Dorayne Breedlove
- Diann Brodnax
- Jennie Combs
- Judy Comeaux
- James Con
- Catherine Corrigan
- Beth Dean
- Angela & Dan DeGroot
- Dennis Durkee
- Robert Fannette
- Kerry Franks
- Joanie Garinger
- Jame Gehalo
- Brandi Gibson
- Bill Goldsby
- Kathy Good
- Rick & Marilyn Guidry
- Judy Hagan
- Art Halleen
- Cindy Haneline
- Richard Hart
- Susie Doc Hickman
- Clara Hubacek
- Marissa Hudgins
- Bethany Jesseph
- Ronald C. Krauss
- Frankie LaGrone
- Janette Land
- Claude & Rose Lewis
- Danny Mahan
- Tim & Lynn Malone
- Gary Marks
- Vicki McCann
- Bill Mizeil
- Eldridge Moak
- Lisa M. Moise
- John Morgan
- Indira & Lee Morrow
- Vicki Newby
- Judy Newsom
- John Nichols
- Nolley Family
- Mary Orms
- Shelby Paye
- Gretchen Pettis
- Lane Phillips
- Pam Priest
- Angie Raiford
- Mark Redmond
- Allen & Cindy Rich
- Sharon Roberts
- Allen Robinson
- Andrew Rydeak
- Joe Savoie
- Robert Selph
- Donna Setzer
- Karen Sharp
- Rachel Stambaugh
- Ashley Stanford
- Diane Thompson
- Dale Walker
- Donald Warden
- Sharon Wells
- Marcia Wutke
- Charles Zenor
- Girl Scout Troop #1128

## Volunteers Are Appreciated!

Lonnie Castleman	Archie Manning
Linda Crum	Roberta Marshall
Twyla Doty	Jerald Mowery
Chris Honkomp	Dee Myers
Donna Honkomp	John Park
Linda James	Shannon Ramsey
Robert Johnston	Nelda Reid
Bill Johnson	Pauline Tom
Susie Johnson	Ron Tom
Harold Latham	Vanessa Voisinnet
Kathy Latham	

## Thank You for your donation!

Amazon Smile	David/Ora Keetly	Jessie/Denise Seals
Mary Dunker;y	Connie Kuehl	Donna Setzer
Girl Scout Troop #1128	Mason Manry	Sue Smith
Anna Goodman	Key Moore	Sam/Christiane
Joy Jones	Jerry Powell	Stevenson
Gloria Kaminiski	James Rieman	Stacey Stotzer

TBS is a 501c3 organization. Does your employer have a donation matching program? It never hurts to check!

## Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time



There are many ways to showcase TBS and recruit new members. Leigh Ann used a unique approach to spread the message!

Leigh Ann Dye shared her July 4<sup>th</sup> adventure: "My family helped recruit new members during 4th of July Golf Cart Parade held at Elkin Lake in Huntsville. We won 4th place."

\* very creative nest building!



Longtime member, Jennifer Fleming is giving her bluebirds a lovely setting for their afternoon cup of ... mealworms.



David Kinneer makes sure the kids get their share too!

Love the TBS nestbox!

The overhanging roof and side vents really help beat the Texas heat! Photo by John Park



**Tidbits for today:** Ever wonder what a bluebird's tongue looks like? The picture on the left shows you what it looks like. In the photo to the right, the bluebirds nostrils (nares) are the two circular holes on the upper portion of its beak. Bluebirds' ears are found on either side of the head right below the eye. They are only visible prior to the eruption of feathers. And now you know....