

The Tennessee Bluebird

Welcome To The Tennessee Bluebird Society Quarterly Newsletter

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society



Photo by David Kinneer

David's photo above best describes where we are in the nesting season. Our hard work has paid off with our beautiful Bluebirds spreading their wings and now getting ready for the winter ahead. As we approach winter season, don't forget to put out freshwater and food daily for our Bluebirds and other native song birds. Most of the Bluebirds in Tennessee

do not migrate so keeping them nourished and hydrated is very important.

Please remind your friends and use social media to get the message out.

Happy Holidays

Chuck James, Newsletter Chair

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END OF THE YEAR DONATION'

As we approach the end of the year and you are looking at possible charities to donate money, please consider the Tennessee Bluebird Society. Even a gift of \$10 or \$25 will help us with the educational programs we want to start this coming year.

The Tennessee Bluebird Society is a



IRS approved 501(c)3 none profit. Your donations are tax deductible.

For our Society to have an impact on preserving and supporting our native cavity nesting birds we need your help.

Send donations to: **Tennessee Bluebird Society: 119 Talah Way, Loudon, TN 37774.**

Recap of the Tennessee Bluebird Society 2014 Annual Meeting and Introduction of the 2015 Board of Directors

The Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Bluebird Society (TBS) was held on Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the University of The Cumberland. Introduction of Board Members and guests were made. The only Board Member unable to attend was Kelley Atkinson who was moving that weekend.

The Treasurers report was read indicating that we were near break-even with our start-up expenses. The Treasurers report was approved.

The membership report indicated we have 89 members.

President Roe presented the Board with the Tennessee Bluebird Society Mission Statement and suggested that Chairs should be selected in order to promote the Society Mission Statement. The Mission Statement reads as follows: *"The Tennessee*

Bluebird Society, Inc. (TBS) was formed in 2013 for the purpose of supporting the recovery and perpetuation of the Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) and other native cavity nesting birds in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Bluebird Society is dedicated to: Promoting Bluebird and other native nesting bird conservation. Develop public awareness, educational programs and workshops. Encourage and aid in the development of nest box trails and collecting data for research. Also, to provide social opportunities for members to share information and experiences relating to bluebirds, birding, conservation and related topics."

The following committees were formed and assigned: Research Duane Rice, Publicity Rosalind Kurita, Youth Programs/Education Stan Colburn, Newsletter Chuck James, Membership Farrell Roe,

Finance Kelley Atkinson and Programs Stacey Roe.

Once Committee Chairs were assigned there was a great deal of enthusiastic brainstorming that developed into some great program ideas.

Rosalind Kurita will be contacting the Tennessee Wildlife and Resource Agency to see how we can partner with them in research and other areas. Rosalind also agreed to lend us a TV crew to develop an educational video on Bluebirding.



Duane Rice has agreed to work with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Nest Watch" coordinator to develop a better reporting system for groups that manage multiple nest boxes. The Tennessee Bluebird Society would like to recommend that all reporting on nest boxes be directed to the Cornell database, but

first we must address various issues.

Stan Colburn will be looking into education opportunities for TBS in the Classroom and for adult groups.

Brent Nickles and his wife Francine will be working to obtain grant money for our projects.

A motion was made, seconded by the Board and approved by the membership that the current TBS Board remain in place for 2015 to keep continuity. The goal is to develop more people interested in serving on the TBS Board next year.

The following pages introduces our 2015 Tennessee Bluebird Society Board Members and our Scientific Advisor Dr. Heather Wilkins.

Farrell Roe President



Farrell Parker Roe was born in Madison County, Tennessee and is married to Jane Helen Leslie . Farrell is a retired Manager of ATT and a retired Colonel of the Tennessee Army National Guard. He is a graduate of Cumberland University and the US Army Command and General Staff College .He was a Distinguished President of the Jackson Optimist Club and an Honor District Governor of

17 and a great grandfather of 5 children.

Farrell's involvement in "Blue Birding" started as a Telephone Pioneer member. He joined the North American Bluebird Society over 40 years ago and has participated in building and servicing Bluebird nesting boxes over 50 years. He serves as President of Bluebirds Across America, a west Tennessee Incorporated bird club with a plan to extend their Bluebird nesting trail (along US highway 70) across the United states. He presently monitors nest box trails at three local public schools in Jackson and Madison County. He is a member of the Jackson Life Member Club of Telephone Pioneers . Telephone pioneers have a "camp Bluebird" in West Tennessee and it has been in existence over 28 years. Camp Bluebird is a cancer camp meeting three days and two times a year. The camp serves to bring people together who have or have had cancer. During this time they have built over 4,800 nest boxes.

Optimist International, a Distinguished President of the ATT pioneers, Convention Chairman of the 35th Annual Convention of Optimist International. He has just rotated off the Board of The North American Bluebird Society and he chaired their 34th Annual Convention. A father of six children, a grandfather of

Chuck James Vice President



Chuck James was born in Wyandotte, MI. Chuck and his wife Terry have been married for 37 years. After finishing high school he moved to Chicago, IL to Major in Social Group Work at George Williams College and later in Business at Northwestern University. Chuck is retired from Transonic Systems where he served as Vice President of Sales. Transonic is known as a world leader in open heart and

neurosurgery blood flow monitoring products.

where he serves as Program Chair and Donation Chair for Troutfest benefitting the Fishery Department of The Great Smoky Mountains and Trout Camp for youth.

Chuck became interested in Bluebirds, about 12 years ago, through his wife's niece and husband Kathy and Mike Hartke. The Hartke's are Life Time Members of NABS and have attended NABS annual meeting for about 15 years. At the 2013 NABS Annual Meeting in Aiken, SC Chuck was very impressed with the SC Bluebird Society and Jim Burke's organization. At that meeting Chuck talked to Farrell Roe about developing a strong Statewide Bluebird Society in Tennessee. Shortly after TBS was formed.

Ten years ago Chuck and Terry moved from Inverness, IL to Loudon, TN in the Eastern TN where Chuck continued to work until retiring in 2009. Chuck fills his retirement time serving on several non-profit Boards. He is the Past President of the Knoxville Opera Guild Board. He currently serves on the Knoxville Opera Board and Marble City Opera Board. In addition to opera Chuck is a Board Member of the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Chuck believes through a strong state effort in conservation and education we can continue to see the Bluebird and other native cavity nesting bird population thrive, however, it is imperative we start educating the next generation.

Kelley Atkinson
Treasurer



A westerner by upbringing, Kelley was raised and educated in Fort Worth and Phoenix with degrees in physics (Texas Christian University) and business (MBA from Arizona State University). His entire working career was spent in the business of

an adjunct professor of healthcare economics at Mercer University while CEO of United Healthcare of Georgia. Today he is a resigned observer as his classroom predictions come true of healthcare chaos in the nation when health spending neared 20 percent of the economy.

Having made many relocations over the years, he today enjoys retirement in lovely East Tennessee near children and grandchildren in Atlanta (and one non-conforming family in Pittsburgh). He has no future plans to relocate.

Kelley became interested in Bluebirds through his friend and fellow TBS Board Member Stan Colburn.



healthcare, including drug chemicals, medical devices, and health insurance. In 1984, he was the 700th employee of United Healthcare, today the nations largest health insurer.

Beginning in sales, he worked successively in marketing and general management, and for 17 years was CEO of United Healthcare's Utah and Georgia subsidiaries. For two years he was also

Stacey Roe
Secretary



Stacey Roe is a native of Jackson, Tennessee where she has lived for forty-one years. During high school, she was introduced to the legal field as a part of the Southside mock trial team and she quickly started seeking a job in that field. She started her college experience at the University of Tennessee at Martin but soon realized that she wasn't in

employed with a personal injury attorney and enjoys the challenges of a busy career.

Stacey's family has always been involved with their community and Stacey has been a member and president of the Jackson Optimist Club and the Jackson Southside Optimist Club. She is currently serving on the financial committee of the Jackson-Madison Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was introduced to bluebirding when her father developed a plan for a bluebird trail along Highway 70 in Jackson. It was at that time, that she was made aware of the dwindling habitat for these beautiful cavity dwellers and that the bluebirds were slowly disappearing. Over the years, reading and seeing the reports of those how are committed to conservation of the bluebird habitat and monitoring the nest boxes has opened her eyes to the need of study and gentle assistance to native wildlife when our urban lifestyles encroach upon the natural habitats of animals.

such a hurry to complete her schooling. So, Ms. Roe began working as a paralegal and learned about how the law protects the community in its various forms. After 15 years as a paralegal she finally decided to return to college and graduated from the University of Memphis with a Bachelor of Professional Studies degree in 2004. Stacey is currently

Stan Colburn
Director



Stan Colburn has always had a love of all nature, great and small, especially wild birds. He spent his summer vacations bringing home crayfish and frogs from a local pond or trying to catch birds with a cardboard box, stick and a string. In the winter he was tracking rabbits and Bobwhite Quail in the snow in the nearby woods.

daughter, Tiffany and son-in-law, Roger who live in Farragut, Tennessee. When not birding or fishing out of his kayak he is an Emergency Medical Responder with the Tellico Village Volunteer Fire Department.

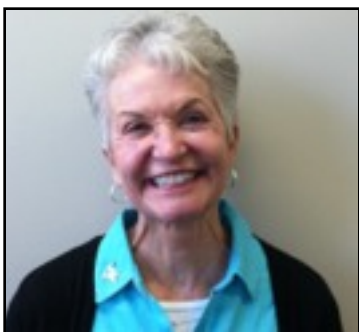
Stan is an active member of the Tellico Village Birders Club. Three years ago Stan established a nest box trail at the Tanasi Golf Course building many of the nest boxes. This nest box trail of 30 nest boxes fledged 96 Bluebirds during 2014.



Stan's Favorite Bird

Stan is a retired General Motors employee from Northeast Ohio. He spent two years in the U. S. Army. He graduated from Kent State University, majoring in Biology. Stan and his wife Linda moved to Loudon Tennessee in 2010 to be closer to their

Rosalind Kurita
Director



Rosalind Kurita is Health Policy Advisor to the Tennessee Commissioner of Health. She is a former Speaker Pro Tempore in the Tennessee State Senate where she served for 12 years. Prior to serving in the Senate she served in local government as a County Commissioner in Montgomery County. She is a Registered Nurse and has a B.A in Anthropology.

She is married, has three grown children and is a joyful grandmother of three.

In addition to her state senate activities Rosalind has been a very active member of the community. She has served on the Board of Directors of the following organizations: Tennessee Women Legislators, Nurses for New Borns, Tennessee Economic Council on

Women, Center for Nursing, Urban Ministries which provides domestic violence shelters. Rosalind has also been involved in many community volunteer activities: Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, MADD, Nashville Gun Club, Tennessee Shooting Sports Association and the Eagle Skeet Club at Fort Campbell.

Interest in Bluebirds started when she noticed a pair nesting in the newspaper box. Rosalind knew that wasn't a very safe spot so she started watching them. It was not a good place to raise a family, they gave up and went away. She wanted to help them find a more suitable place and that is how it started. Rosalind contacted renowned Tennessee Bluebirder Duane Rice who has become her mentor. He is the one who really galvanized her interest in Bluebirds.

Brent Nickles
Director



Brent has been employed for the past 35 years at New World Imports where he is Customer Service and Shipping Logistics Manager. Married to Francine, he has one step daughter Tiffany.

Brent's hobbies include farming, fishing and camping, he belongs to

WIT "Winnebago-Itasca Travelers Club" of which he is a past State President of Vol State Winnies and the current local chapter President of the Music City Winnies.

Brent became involved in Bluebirds all by chance. While shopping at Walmart in the clearance section he picked up a bird house and asked Francine if she would like him to put up a bird house, naturally she said yes.

Then one day while he was mowing his neighbor Dwayne stopped by and mentioned he noticed he put up a bluebird house. Brent had no idea, to him it was just a bird house. When Duane opened it and showed him what was inside he was hooked. Brent said he had plenty of room to add more and since he had just took a cedar tree to the sawmill for lumber he made several more. We now has 11 nest boxes.

Duane Rice
Director



Duane was born and raised in Searcy Arkansas where his Mother and Grandmother taught him how to identify the common yard birds. When he was in the fourth grade, a gentleman brought several bird skins and a stuffed Golden Eagle to his science class. This took his interest to a new level.

Duane's Father had a pair of binoculars he would take duck hunting, so Duane borrowed them and began taking a closer look at birds. Bluebirds were rare then. The only time he remember seeing them, was when he discovered a nest in a fence post. Like most young men, Duane's interest waned in his teen years. Although his eyes were always covertly scanning the skies for anything special.

Fast forward twenty years to when he lived in Nashville and saw a flyer about a Bluebird program to be given by Steve and Regina Garr. He attended and was hooked from then on. So much so, that he tagged along to help them set up a trail at Shelby Bottoms. As they say, the rest is history. Since then his "trail" started with one box in his suburban yard in Nashville to over 100 nest boxes covering three counties in Middle Tennessee.

In 2008 Duane was awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency and *Tennessee Wildside* filmed a short video of him as he monitored several nest boxes on his trails.

This year (2014) the bluebirds he monitored fledged 405 chicks. Duane tries not to make it a numbers game, their welfare is his main concern, but they do have to be counted.

**Heather Wilkins,
PhD
Scientific Advisor
University of TN
Martin**



Dr. Wilkins received her B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Wildlife Biology from the University of Tennessee at Martin. She received her M.S. in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Applied Ecology from Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Wilkins master's thesis focused on acoustic communication in Red-bellied Woodpeckers. She received her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Mississippi State University. Dr. Wilkins dissertation focused on the winter foraging ecology of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

She is currently a professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she teaches a number of classes including Animal Ecology, Ecological Methodology, Field Investigations in Biology, Conservation Biology, and Ornithology. In addition, Dr. Wilkins teaches Field Ornithology in the summer at the Reelfoot Lake Environmental Field Station.

Her undergraduate research program investigates different aspects of the life history and ecology of common birds in northwest Tennessee. She is primarily interested in the woodpecker communities in bottomland hardwood forests, but she also works with other species including chickadees, titmice, owls, herons/egrets, and osprey. She can be reached at hwilkins@utm.edu.

Interesting Birding Websites

Here are some websites you should checkout:

Tennessee Bluebird Society:
www.tnbluebirdsociety.org

Bet Zimmerman's website Sialis has links to everything you want to know about Bluebirds. The Sialis website is: www.sialis.org.

The North American Bluebird Website has interesting articles and information. www.nabluebirdsociety.org

At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website you can learn about all birds. www.allaboutbirds.org

Interested in being a citizen scientist? You can report the nests activity on your trail or in your yard to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. www.nestwatch.org

If you have an injured bird you find a certified rehab center by going to: www.tn.gov/twra/pdfs/rehabdirectory.pdf

Follow the Tennessee Bluebird Society on Facebook.



*TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY REGIONS BY COUNTY***Eastern Region**

Anderson
Bledsoe
Blount
Bradley Campbell
Carter
Claiborne
Cocke
Cumberland
Graniger
Greene
Hambien
Hamilton
Hancock
Hawkins
Jefferson
Johnson
Knox
Loudon
McMinn
Meggis
Monroe
Morgan
Polk
Rhea
Roane
Scott
Sevier
Sullivan
Unicol
Union
Washington

Central Region

Bedford
Cannon
Cheatham
Clay
Coffee
Davidson
DeKalb
Dickson
Fentress
Franklin
Giles
Grundy
Hickman
Jackson
Lawrence
Lewis
Lincoln
Macon
Marion
Marshall
Maury
Montgomery
Moore
Overton
Pickett
Putnam
Robertson
Rutherford
Sequatchie
Smith
Sumner
Trousdale
Van Buren
Warren

White
Williamson
Wilson

Western Region

Benton
Carroll
Chester
Crockett
Decatur
Dyer
Fayette
Gibson
Hardin
Haywood
Henderson
Henry
Houston
Humpheys
Lauderdale
Madison
McNairy
Obion
Perry
Shelby
Stewart
Tipton
Wayne
Weakley

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES CAN BE MAILED TODAY. PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBERSHIP FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE AND MAIL TO THE ADDRESS LISTED. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY.

TBS Membership Application

Membership Dues Paid Now will Apply to 2015

<u>Category</u>	<u>1 Year</u>	<u>3year</u>	<u>Lifetime</u>
Household	\$15	\$35	\$150
Chapter (Bird Club)	\$125 (Up to 25 members)		
Corporate	\$150		

Add an only \$15 to a household membership and become a member of the North American Bluebird Society a \$30 value. You will receive four issues of Bluebird, the journal of the North American Bluebird Society.

Please send your application and payment to the address at the bottom of this form

Name/ First:_____ Last:_____
Organization:_____
Address/ Street_____ Apt:_____
City:_____ County:_____ State:_____ ZIP:_____
Telephone/ Home:_____ Cell: _____
Email: _____

Membership Type:_____ Amount: _____ NABS \$15(Y/N) _____
Total:_____

I have interest in helping the following areas: Newsletter____, Membership____, Education____,
Website Management____, Data Collection____, Becoming a board member
of Tennessee Bluebird Society____

Send your application and check to: Tennessee Bluebird Society
119 Talah Way
Loudon, TN 37774

Thank You!!!!!!!!!!