

BLUEBIRD NOTES

WELCOME SPRING 2018

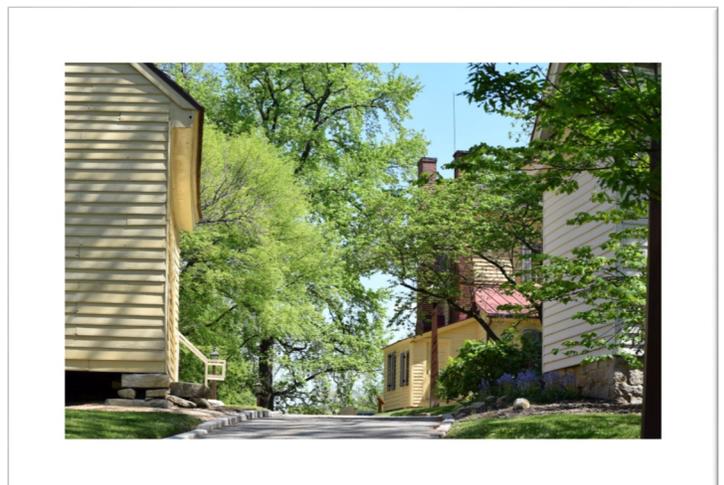
Hurrah for Spring!!!

After the bitter winter we have experienced in North Carolina, we are guessing everyone is more than ready for warmer weather. Photos of some sights of spring by Glenda Ryan.



The joy of seeing our bluebirds will be extra special this season. We have included some baby bluebird pictures from two of our County Coordinators who excel at photography. Page 4 shows some Cleveland Baby Blue Cuties snapped by Jim Kunkle. Little Bluebirds of Buncombe by Russ Bauman can be found on page 13.

The time for our Annual Conference at Haw River State Park (April 27 & 28) is almost here! We are so excited to be going back to this scenic wonderland. This will be the fourth time our festival will be at this awesome location. Check out ncbluebirdannualconference.org and newsletter archives on ncbluebird.org for more about past years at Haw River (2013, 2016, & 2017). Agenda and registration for 2018 can be found on page 9.





**North Carolina Bluebird Society
(NCBS)
Mission Statement**

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds native to our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society. www.ncbluebird.org

Report from NCBS President

Spring Greetings, Bluebirders. A lot of fantastic news to report. Special thanks to Bill Abbey, Forsyth County's Mr. Bluebird. He gave a wonderful Bluebird presentation on February 10th at Wild Birds Unlimited at Pavilions Shopping Center in Winston-Salem. His program included a 4 hour question and answer session. Over 100 people attended. Well done, Bill! I was fortunate to be able to spend some time in Raleigh recently with the "Bluebird Man" of Wake County. See more on pages 6 & 12. Also in this issue we have provided much about the upcoming conference (April 27-28) at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC. Photos below taken on our 2017 visit at this lovely place. Hope to see you there this April. Ken Kernodle, Durham, North Carolina



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Your bluebird stories and photos are welcome for newsletter/online content.

Please submit to Glenda Ryan, Editor/WebMaster

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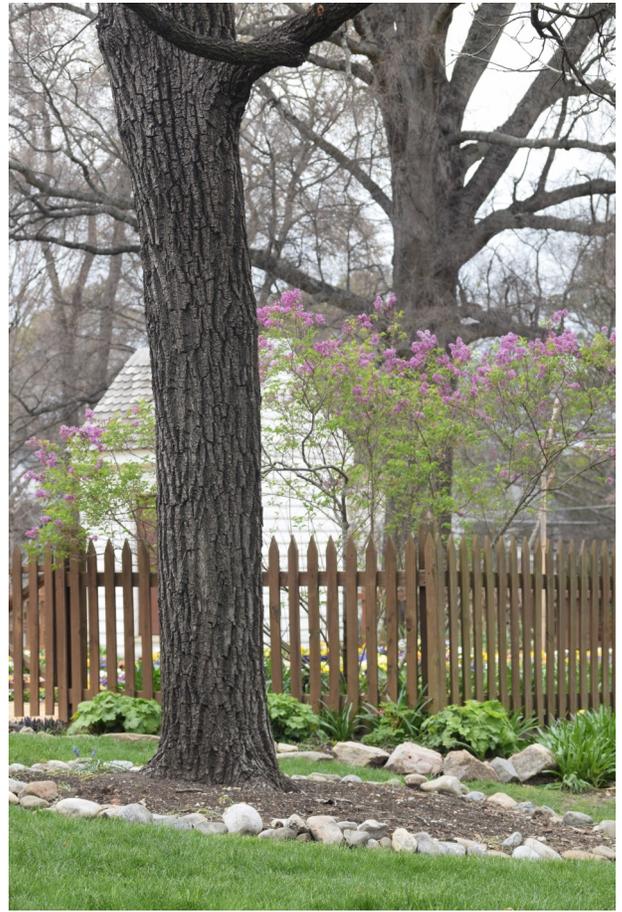
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SPRING IN NORTH CAROLINA

Spring in North Carolina is breathtaking. Hope you enjoy these photos snapped by Glenda Ryan in the season of renewal in the Tar Heel state.



BLUEBIRD FLEDGLING SPRING PARADE

Jim Kunkle, the NCBS representative in Cleveland County, has donated so many beautiful pictures. We retrieved some of his young bluebird photos from our archives to create a spring showcase. Hope these Baby Blues from Shelby, NC brighten your day. Jim will be a guest speaker again at this year's Annual Conference. You won't want to miss a chance to see his photos in person. See page 9 for agenda and registration form. More of Jim's pictures and articles can be seen in past *Bluebird Notes*. See ncbluebird.org and look for the Newsletter Archives link in the left side navigation.



BLUEBIRD INFO BOOTH AT YATES MILL PARK

Joye Stephenson and Bill Satterwhite (photo below) spent March 3 hosting a bluebird information booth at Yates Mill Park in partnership with others concerned for the environment. Several nest boxes and nest cups were displayed, along with the bluebird flag always present at the Wake County Bluebirder meetings and events. *Bluebird Notes* newsletters and *Bluebird Tips* were available to those who stopped to say hello. Continued thanks to these two Wake County residents devoted to helping educate people about bluebirds.



In addition to managing the Bluebirders of Wake Club, Joye and Bill are consistently putting forth effort to help the Blues in so many ways. See bluebirdersofwake.org for details about upcoming and past events. Check out page 6 for more about the 98th birthday celebration for Mr. Bill, held the day after he manned the Yates Mill booth. The love of bluebirds must be the secret to helping Bill keep up with such a busy schedule.



Article & photos by Glenda Ryan with input from Joye Stephenson

There were many nature lovers in the area on this sunny day for the 4th Annual Aldo Leopold Celebration. Randy Senzig, President of C.H.E.R. (Center for Human—Earth Restoration), was helping get the message out about his conservation work. Randy's passion and effort includes managing bluebird trails. He has been a guest speaker at Bluebirders of Wake meetings. Check out his website centerforhuman-earthrestoration.com.



Randy Senzig, Joye Stephenson, Bill Satterwhite



Historic Yates Mill County Park, Raleigh NC

CELEBRATION AT BLUEBIRD CITY

Such a happy occasion in early March to acknowledge the 98th birthday of the “Bluebird Man” of Wake County, Mr. Bill Satterwhite. It was standing room only in his house, as well as his yard. An impressive turnout of family and friends gathered to celebrate this milestone with Bill. His sister traveled from Burke County and his son from Tennessee to join the festivities. Several Bluebirders, including Joye Stephenson, Carrie & Dave Helston, Ken Kernodle, and Glenda Ryan, were fortunate to attend this event.



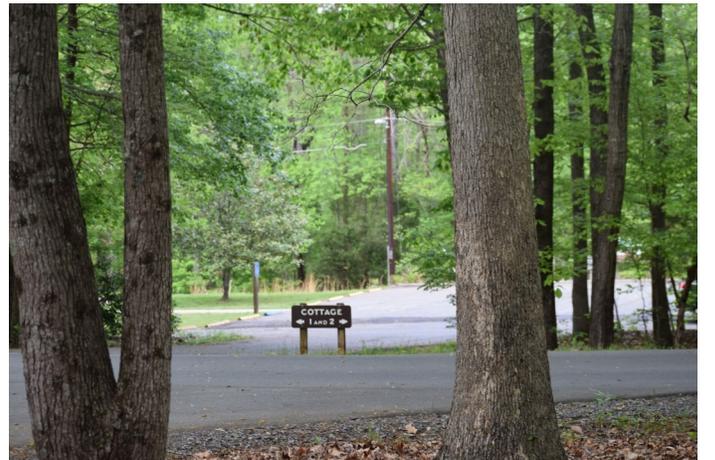
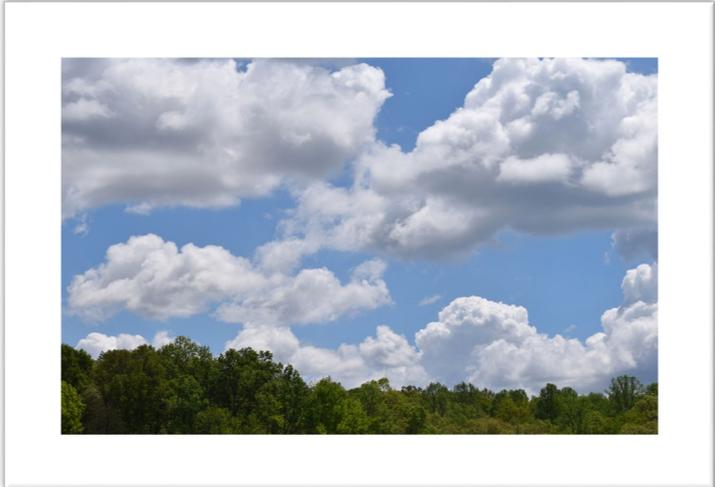
Even if there wasn't a packed house and Wolfpack tent, it was easy to see which place belonged to Bill. His property and home is truly devoted to his precious bluebirds, as well as flowers and other birds. The name "Bluebird City" came to mind to describe his beautiful environment. Mr. Bill clearly adores his blue feathered friends. They are so lucky he is one of their advocates.



Photos by Glenda Ryan

SNAPSHOTS AT HAW RIVER PARK(1of 2)

We have held the annual NCBS Conference at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC several times and are going back again this year (April 27-28, 2018). Pictures often speak better than words, so we are including some photos to highlight the exciting adventure and educational opportunity enjoyed at our retreat at this charming place. A scenic drive to the location, beautiful natural setting, peace and tranquility, rustic accommodations, guest speakers, bluebird experts, a chance to win prizes, great food & coffee. The fun is here!!! Agenda & registration for this year are on page 9. If questions: Call **919-724-9470** or **919-577-6824**.



SNAPSHOTS AT HAW RIVER PARK (2 of 2)



Photos by Glenda Ryan



2017 NEST BOX SURVEY COMMENTS (1 of 2)



Diane Hankins (Buncombe) – Some of us do not have e-mail. Could the newsletter give a snail mail name and address for newsletter submissions? You never know when we might have something to submit.

Bill Marvin (Catawba) – These boxes (8) surround a large athletic field complex. There are a lot of people around the area during the fore events.

Gene Moore (Catawba) – Fed dried meal worms for the first time. Adults & fledglings enjoyed eating the worms. First time we saw fledglings near the nest box.

Carmen Moore (Cherokee) – Not a good year, especially for tree swallows. Abandoned bluebird and tree swallows nest for no apparent reason. Ants and bugs in tree swallow nests resulting in dead babies.

Carol and Ed Reid (Cherokee & Clay) – Blackberry winter with freezing temps killed baby bluebirds. In the future I hope to add nesting insulation when a freezing forecast.

Kay Cameron (Cherokee & Forsyth) – In Forsyth County, the day after the 1st bluebird egg was laid, a wren took over the nest. I found the bluebird egg on the ground. No birds in 2nd box in Forsyth. In Cherokee, one box stayed empty all year. Overall, less activity this year.

David Cole / Loraine Simpson (Durham) – My mother-in-law, Loraine Simpson and I were thrilled to attend a bluebird seminar last Fall at Wild Birds Unlimited, Chapel Hill. Beverly Frassinelli, the Orange County representative for the NC Bluebird Society, was so enthusiastic and informative which motivated us to participate in our first survey. We have a bluebird box in our “Zen” garden that provides hours of relaxation and wonderment from our Morning Room window. After two years of waiting, we were delighted to have Mr. and Mrs. Bluebird choose our home for their three broods! Thank you for the good work the NCBS does for the NC bird lovers!

Rhett Johnson / Bill Abbey (Forsyth) – In one box found 2 black snakes together and a single snake in another box. Found flying squirrels in two different boxes.

Ray Welch (Forsyth) – Over all, great bluebird season! The Blues managed to get started ahead of the sparrows this year. Lost one nest of four babies about fledging age. In conversation with Dr. Siefferman, we concluded that the death of four babies was probably caused by Blow Flies.

Bruce Billings (Guilford) – Two separate clutches (4 chicks each) were abandoned resulting in death of 8 chicks. A black snake was found in 1 box resulting in the death of 5 chicks. Two volunteers observed a chick coming out of its shell.

Barbara Hughes (Guilford) – Early start / end of season. Hot scorching weather. No Brown Headed Nuthatch in Brown Headed Nuthatch boxes Chickadees.

Lisa Spainhour (Harnett) – 2017 Buies Creek Garden Club Birdwatch on the Nancy Blair Eliason Bluebird Trail along the Keith Hills Golf Course experienced another successful year. The club members monitoring the boxes were Barbara Taylor and Lisa Spainhour.

2017 NEST BOX SURVEY COMMENTS (2 of 2)

Noreen Quinn (Henderson) – Three broods this year: 5 eggs, 5 eggs, 4 eggs. First brood 3/24/27; 2nd 5/14/17; 3rd 7/3/17 all hatched.

Ethelene Allen (Johnston) – I had heart failure in April and surgery in May and not able to monitor all nest boxes this year.

Joyce Allen (Montgomery) – I have had a joyous time taking care of my eastern bluebirds! I couldn't believe that I had a 4th Brood with 1 house and the same pair. All this started the middle of February. I invite you to take a look at my YOU Tube Channel. I have many videos of my bluebirds. I even installed a spy cam on the birdhouse so I can watch them from my TV. The link to my channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuKuS-CY0Ec2VvWI1R18Cww>.

Jim & Jean Walker (Moore) – Each of the four brown headed nest boxes on our trail were occupied. In one box, Titmice built on top of 5 laid nuthatch eggs, on top of the titmice eggs 7 brown headed nuthatch eggs were laid, and those 7 eggs hatched and birds were fledged. We had 3 white bluebird eggs laid in one nest box. These were the first white eggs since about 5 years ago. None of the white eggs hatched. For the 2nd year in a row we have had a Great Crested flycatcher use one of our BB nest boxes. In each case all the flycatchers fledged. Bluebirds built a nest and laid 4 eggs in a water cooler box on the golf course. None of the egg hatched, I suspect due to the water cooler box being opened each day to replace the water cooler.

Judy Wesoloski (New Hanover) – Landfall is a large golf community consisting of 5 courses. Therefore, we have a team monitoring boxes on the periphery of each course. About 20 people are involved in the Landfall bluebird Project.

Chuck Bliss (Randolph) – Eggs laid in March did not hatch due to cold weather.

Joye Stephenson (Wake) – Our other species were Carolina Chickadees and Brown Headed Nuthatches. The CAD took over the BHN boxes. The BHN used a BB box. Unfortunately I was unaware that the bottom of the cup had been pecked out and the BHN didn't have time to build a good nest. When I removed the nest cup, the sparse leaves blew out and the eggs fell through the hole. What a day! They are fragile. The House Wren built in several boxes but abandoned without laying eggs.

Diane Woerner (Wake) – Shortage of male BBs again this year. Total of 36 eggs were laid in boxes #9 and #10. Five eggs disappeared in Box 9 and we believe none of the rest were fertilized. Five eggs also disappeared in Box #8 – probably a snake. This box will be moved away from a fence that could have enabled a snake to crawl onto the baffle and into the box.

Susan Wyatt (Wake) – Other bird species were titmouse, tree swallow, chickadee. No predator issues. A lot of non- fertile eggs that did not hatch.

Zane Walsh (Wilkes) – Out of 21 nest boxes, only three attempts at the third nesting.



NOTE: The 2017 Nesting Survey Data will be posted in the Summer edition of *Bluebird Notes*. Thanks so much to Stella Rideout for managing the feedback from the nest box data.



FEBRUARY FUN FOR BLUEBIRDERS OF WAKE

People in Wake County, North Carolina are dedicated to bluebirds. This county has the highest number of NCBS memberships in the state. A great Bluebirder meeting on February 12 was led by Bill Satterwhite and Joye Stephenson (pictured below) that included many interesting stories.



NCBS President, Ken Kernodle and immediate past Editor, Cheryl Gay, were among those in attendance. A special guest was Bill's daughter, Billie Jean (pictured below with Bill).



I was there to take photos and listen to some bluebird talk. Discussion of interest included a Sparrow Spooker. A past issue of *Bluebird Notes* included information about this item created by Jane Myers per instructions on website of Sialis.

A demonstration by Jane at the meeting offered a chance to get some more pictures. See Winter 2015 *Bluebird Notes* for more details (online newsletter archives) and www.sialis.org.



There were several new attendees at this meeting. One was the lucky winner of a credit union nest box donated by Bill. Bill and Joye also had nest cups and *Bluebird Tips* pamphlets available to hand out. See the club website at bluebirdersofwake.org.

BABY BLUE PICTURE SHOW

The Baby Blues of Biltmore Lake, NC are a sight for sore eyes in the spring. Thanks to Buncombe County Coordinator, Russ Bauman, for sending in these snapshots in previous years. So glad we saved them. They are too cute. Enjoy! Check out nbluebird.org for many more wonderful images captured by Russ.



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SPRING HAPPINESS

NCBS MEMBERSHIP FORM

My favorite season began Tuesday, March 20. I always have a countdown for this day of new beginnings (that starts early in the winter). I love the feeling of knowing the cold months are behind us for a long while. So grateful for sunshine, birds singing, bright flowers everywhere, and Carolina blue skies.

This spring is even more welcome than most, with the past North Carolina winter seeming more like the ones I used to deal with growing up in Indiana. So thankful now that the sights and sounds of warmer days and nicer weather is on the horizon.

Thanks to Raleigh Bluebirder, Lyn Cochrane, for some beautiful daffodils early in March. They brought me cheer and hope that spring was almost here at a time when it seemed the cold and snow would never stop.



Don't forget to check out our online resources:

Website: ncbluebird.org

Microsite: ncbluebirdannualconference.org

Links to our Facebook & Online Store can be easily found from both sites listed above.

Glenda Ryan, Knightdale, North Carolina

Have a wonderful spring, everyone.

NCBS memberships options are one or three years.

Dues: \$10.00 per year or \$25 for three years

Gift membership from _____ to:

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Address _____

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[] Check box if you prefer to access the *Bluebird Notes* via the Internet instead of a printed copy by postal mail.

Please complete this form and send it with your check payable to "NCBS" to:

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Renewal []

Check Amount: \$ _____

Please indicate if you also have an interest in:

- Assisting with the annual meeting
- Serving as a NCBS Board Member
- Helping with the newsletter
- Conducting a bluebird workshop
- Contacting my local paper with news
- Volunteering to be a NCBS County Coordinator
- Other (please explain)

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SPRING GREETINGS 2018, BLUEBIRDERS!!!

Hope everyone's spring is off to a great start. We are looking forward to a season of pretty colors & new Baby Blues.



Thanks to Barbara Kinner of western North Carolina for these precious photos.