



## Blue Feather Award

The Blue Feather Award is a service award given by Texas Bluebird Society in appreciation for exemplary service benefiting our organization. In early years, nominations came from previous recipients. In recent years, a volunteer within the ranks rose to the top, as noticed by the president and approved by the EventPlans Team. It is our group's "significakudo" to an individual who has made extraordinary efforts and given countless hours of service to Texas Bluebird Society.

And the award goes to: **Roland and Pat Nail**



Pat and Roland Nail have a history of going above and beyond what's expected.

Latest example: Their road trips during the week before Symposium exemplified their level of service. Texas Bluebird Society needed nestboxes in Midlothian for the event. Pat and Roland took two vehicles from their home in Clayton to pick up nestboxes from Nacogdoches. They loaded 250 nestboxes, stuffing their two vehicles full to the gills. Once home (with aching backs), they unloaded the nestboxes. A few days later, they rented and loaded a trailer, hauling the nestboxes from their home in NE Texas to Midlothian, south of Fort Worth. After Symposium, they loaded the trailer with nestboxes that needed to travel to our Kyle

Storage south of Austin. So, on Sunday, once again they were unloading and stacking nestboxes.

Pat and Roland joined TBS in 2012. It wasn't long after that their volunteering efforts were noted and appreciated! Pat joined the Board of Directors in 2014 and served as secretary for several years. During that time Pat (and Roland) became involved in many different areas of volunteer activities. Pat continues to serve on the Board of Directors and participates on both the Executive Committee and the Event Planning Committee.



Pat and Roland have manned the Product Pickup booth for the last few years. Handing out and keeping track of all those nest boxes they keep moving from place to place.

Year after year their service comes with humility, a sweet attitude, and generosity. They have never requested reimbursement for a rented trailer or other expenses they incur.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**





## Bluebirder Of The Year: Donna Honlomp

*In recognition of initiatives and accomplishments that support the mission of the Texas Bluebird Society*



Donna Honkomp thanks a previous “Bluebirder of the Year”, Donna Piercy, for introducing her to bluebirds. Donna and her husband, Chris, attended a volunteer workday several years back in which Donna P. presented on the Eastern Bluebird. Donna H. was instantly hooked and knew she needed to find a venue to monitor bluebirds.

Donna showed up on TBS’ radar when we when we were recognizing those who NestWatch large numbers of nestboxes in 2018. At that time, she and Beth Almaraz monitored 30 bluebird boxes on the US Army Corps of Engineers property, Lake Benbrook.

This past year, their assignment was 20 nestboxes at Mustang Park.

On her own, Donna created a board with photos of bluebirds and began providing bluebird education at festivals. When Donna contacted Texas Bluebird Society in 2019 with word of her efforts, we recruited her to partner with us, maximizing efforts. She arranged to obtain nestboxes and new member materials offering a free nestbox with membership.

She and Chris hosted the NestWatch Signup station at our Symposium.

Donna plans to give Texas Bluebird Society a presence at multiple new festivals. In addition to promoting NestWatch, Donna is knowledgeable and passionate about native plants (which provide food for bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds by attracting insects and providing berries.) She’s the Membership Chairperson of the Native Plant Society of Texas.



And, she enjoys the process.

Donna epitomizes the TBS Mission Statement.

## Three Honorary Lifetime Memberships Presented

In appreciation of their personal commitment and dedication to our mission, three of our certified nestbox builders, who have completed at least 750 nestboxes, were given honorary lifetime memberships. It is volunteers like Donald Mitchell, Jerald Mowery, and Shannon Ramesy that make it possible for TBS to continue to fulfill its goal/mission, “Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time”



Donald Mitchell (May 2018)



Shannon Ramsey (May 2018)

*Read their interviews in the May and July 2018 Issues of TX Blues.*



Jerald Mowery (July 2018)



# Our Amazing Volunteers Begin Preparing For Symposium



Collecting  
Categorizing  
Admin Tasks  
Transporting  
Arranging  
Bidding  
Sold!  
**\$3,834**



## Our Volunteers Are The BEST!

Janna Blanchard  
Debbie Bradshaw  
Clyde Camp  
Kathi Camp  
Lonnie Castleman  
Letitia Castleman  
Maryann Coleridge  
Traci Cromwell  
Linda Crum  
Walter Davis  
Beverly Davis  
Bert Dieringer  
Jean Dotson  
Bill Johnson  
Susie Johnson  
Terry Jones  
Benni Konvicka  
jimmie Konvicka  
Harold Latham  
Kathy Latham  
Jim Marshall  
Jan Marshall  
Roberta Marshall  
Don Mitchell

Cathy Mitchell  
Kenneth Munoz  
Lisa Munoz  
Dee Myers  
Pat Nail  
Roland Nail  
Kelly Nelson  
Paul Nelson  
Kevin Nelson  
Ken Ray  
Judy Ray  
Pauline Tom  
Ron Tom  
Deborah Tugwell  
Gary Tugwell  
Barbara Vinson  
(Indian Trail TMN)  
Sue Frary  
Sara Gouge  
Don Mitchell  
Cathy Mitchell  
Elaine Ruby  
Austin Weatherly  
Amanda Weatherly



**A Special Thanks to our President Pauline Tom who oversees every task and is involved in every decision!** A big thanks and pat on the back to Pauline's husband, Ron, who serves as Pauline's "Oh gosh, well, I can get Ron to do that for us." Thank you Ron! You do so much behind the scenes to help TBS.

## Whew!

It takes, literally, *hundreds* of man-hours to plan, organize, and execute the annual symposium and Friday night social. Through the years the Event Planning Team and volunteers have tweaked and improved every aspect required to launch a successful event.

Even with all of our past experiences and advanced preparations, when the day before finally arrives... It is still a lot of WORK!

So many members have helped in so many ways. Especially the members listed below who have made major contributions year after year.

**Bennie Konvicka and Beverly Davis** deserve an extra special thank you for serving tirelessly over the *entire* year to ensure that the FUNdraising Silent Auction is a success! Because of their efforts over the years, we have raised thousands of \$ at every auction!

Thank you **Jimmie Konvicka** and **Walter Davis**. You are a big help, especially with all of the set up tasks required before the event.

Money, money, money! It is coming in from all directions - registration, nestbox sales, auction revenue - and funds going out for event expenses. Thank you **Linda Crum**! She has been keeping track of the accounting/financial transactions for all of our symposiums!

**Pat and Roland Nail** have become the official nestbox truckers! Countless hours and miles moving nestboxes where they are needed. They are a big help on set-up day!

**Ken and Judy Ray** have helped from day when they joined done and take on any and all tasks with a smile! Ken became our event photographer at the last minute for us this year.

**Kenny Munoz** joined when he was only 12 in 2013 and has helped every year since. Kenny designed the nestbox arrangement (photo pg 4). He also volunteers his mom, **Lisa**, who handles creating all of the name badges and any other task where she is needed.

**Paul Nelson**, our emcee for the last decade, keeps the actual event flowing smoothly and deftly handles any last minute changes and problems.

**Lonnie Castleman** helps keep us sane throughout and does so many different tasks to even begin to name them all. His wife Letitia keeps him sane!

***All of our volunteers are appreciated!***

A big THANK YOU from TBS!

*It is because of YOUR efforts that we have been able to host so many successful events.*



## Frostweed – A Perfect Wildscape Plant

By **Linda Crum**, Master Gardener/Master Naturalist



*When designing your wildscape garden, you want to choose plants that will actually attract wildlife. Native plants fit the bill perfectly. They are well-adapted to the area and wildlife recognize them as a source of food. For birders out there, do not think of those plants that just attract birds. Think of plants that will also attract insects because insects attract birds. A native, nectar-rich plant that is showcasing its beauty in the fall is frostweed, *Verbesina virginica*.*

Frostweed goes unnoticed most of the year until August when it begins to bloom. Its bloom time extends into November. Clusters of small white flowers begin to open in late August just in time for fall migration of the

monarch butterfly. Other pollinators such as wasps, bees and other butterflies also enjoy the nectar-rich flowers. The foliage is also a larval host for the Summer Azure, Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot butterflies. The plant is highly deer-resistant.



Frostweed is a native found in shaded forests in the Eastern half of Texas. Its range extends from Pennsylvania west to

central Texas, south to Florida. It thrives in dry woodlands and streambanks. It is part of my natural landscape and I never have to irrigate it. It may need a little irrigation if you choose to grow it in full sun. It really prefers a shady to dappled shady spot in the landscape where it can form sizable colonies with its spreading rhizomes. Its average height is two to four feet. Under moist conditions it can reach six feet. Trimming it back in June will give you a fuller plant with more blooms. The stems of the plant produce long, green, ribbon-like flanges or wings that run the length of the stem. The leaves used by native Americans to treat fever, chills and body aches. Also dried and used as tobacco by some indigenous peoples.

Propagation is by spreading underground rhizomes and by seed. Collect the seed when fully mature and sow in late fall. Root cuttings can also be taken in winter when plant is dormant.



Consider adding frostweed to your natural landscape, perhaps pairing it with beautyberry. The combination of white flowers of the frostweed paired with the purple berries of the beautyberry makes a stunning statement in the shady landscape.

*Frostweed gets its name from the plant's ability to squeeze water from the stem when it freezes in winter. As the water is squeezed out, it forms ribbons of ice crystals that can take on quite beautiful shapes.*



---

---

## ***Election And Annual Survey Time!***



- Watch email for link to ballot and annual survey on or about November 1st.
- This is not a “competition.” Each nominee on the ballot, if elected, will serve.
- We email a ballot to each address in our records. Simply click on the link provided to access the email ballot. If you want to provide/change (or confirm we have your correct address), provide your email address to [records@txblues.org](mailto:records@txblues.org) on or before October 20th.
- If you do not receive your election email by November 4th, please notify [tbs@txblues.org](mailto:tbs@txblues.org)
- If you do not have email, mail your ballot choice (Yes or No) to: TBS, PO Box 40868 Austin, TX 78704.
- The ballot allows for write-in candidates. Secure his/her permission before submitting name.

---

---

### **Board of Director Changes -**

We are happy to welcome our two new nominees, Roberta Marshall and Traci Cromwell to the Board of Directors. They will be a great asset to our team! Current board members will continue for another term.

Lonnie Castleman, who has served as the VP for the last 3 years, has resigned due to medical reasons. We wish Lonnie a speedy recovery, and a huge THANK YOU for his dedication to promoting the mission of TBS with everyone he met! He has taken on many tasks during his tenure for TBS. The most significant has been his management of the Nestbox Builder Certification Program and oversight of the builders and the process. Lonnie has traveled over a thousand miles meeting our certified builders across the state. He has worked extensively with Dee Myers, who agreed to take over management of the current nestbox builders and training for the certification process. (project details in TX Blues March 2018)



**Roberta Marshall**  
(Fort Worth)

*Be sure to vote and  
take our survey online!*

**Traci Cromwell**  
(Wortham)





# 2019 Bluebird Symposium Held Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> In Midlothian

Paul Nelson has been the TBS emcee for the last decade.



## Symposium Presentations Online!

The speakers have graciously allowed us to link their presentations for reference. Please respect their copyright and do not copy or otherwise use without their permission.

[View all photos in TBS album on Flickr](#)

Seeing old friends, making new friends, and networking during breaks is a long standing tradition at the symposium. In addition to great presentations, Chat with the Speakers, Build A Nestbox Workshop, and Lunch With A Speaker were added to the agenda. Of course, as always the FUNdraiser Silent Auction was a big hit.



131 Bluebirders joined us in Midlothian



Long time members, **Lysle Mockler** and **Harry Evans**, share stories with co-founder and presenter, **Keith Kridler**.





## Thoughts On The TBS Symposium

By Kim Roulias

I was so excited to be a part of the Texas Bluebird Society symposium in Midlothian in August, and I appreciate the invitation to speak. It was such an honor, considering I'm so new at monitoring, to be amongst so many birding experts. I'm so thankful that everyone appeared to stay awake during my little presentation! My original 20 minute topic stretched into 40 minutes. I learned so much at the symposium, and I can't wait for the next one. It was great to meet and fellowship with others who share the passion for these sweet little birds. Thanks to all the hardworking volunteers who took the time to coordinate and set it up. It took a great deal of effort from many many people to set up everything from the registration to the food, and the audio-visuals. It was overall just a first class event.

*New member, Kim Roulias, is a regular contributor to Tx Blues and agreed to share her NestWatching experiences at the symposium. (pg 10 for more of Kim's story.)*



New! Our Certified Nestbox Builder Coordinator, **Dee Myers**, held a Build Your Own Nestbox Workshop. 20 participants went home with a perfect TBS nest box and the know-how to build more.



New! Chat with the speakers was a popular break time activity. **Jesse Huth** has great recommendations in his presentation "[Birding In Texas.](#)" Visit TBS for details on Jesse's online presentation.

**Carol Clark** both entertained and educated us at the Friday Night Social with her presentation "Monarch Waystations." Saturday her presentation "Planting For Bluebird Success" included integrating native plants whenever possible. [View presentations online.](#)

# I Looked — Bluebirds At Home — But None In Alaska!

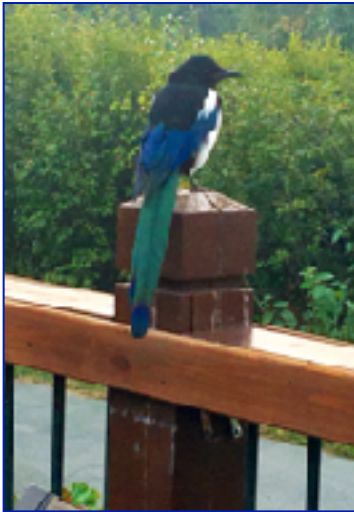
By Kim Roulias

It was very late and hot in the season, but at the time of the conference on August 3rd, I had three bluebird eggs in my nestbox. Two of them hatched, and on August 27th they both fledged, with much fanfare from the proud parents. I'm lucky I got to witness their fledging, because.....

The next day, on August 28th, I left for Alaska for a 12-day journey from Fairbanks to Vancouver, and of course I was looking for bluebirds while I was there. All I saw, however, was moose, caribou, bears, salmon, ducks, bald eagles, magpies and gray jays. It is my understanding that the mountain bluebird makes its summer

home in eastern and central Alaska, and it would have been special to see one, but alas, no such luck. However, the birds I did see were very memorable and breath-taking. I have included some photos here, taken with my phone camera.

Thanks for reading ... and til next time, may all your days be bluebird days!



Magpie at Denali National Park



Gray Jay at Denali National Park

## ★ Lifetime Members ★

Cristina Abazajian  
Sue Abernathy  
Sarah Andry  
Angela Austin  
Joe Beard  
Kathy Bernobich  
Yolanda Berry  
Jeanene Steinle Betros  
Lauri Blake  
Edra Bogucki  
Cathy Brown  
Mark Byrd  
Jeffie Cappadonna  
Lacey Cloud  
Stan Cole  
Sherry Conner  
Patricia Coyle  
Beverly Davis  
Kathy Denison  
Terry Dinerman  
Mickey Dufilho  
Brant & Annette Edwards  
Nancy Etheridge  
Candace Faber

Andrew Frechtling  
Cheryl Franklin  
**Daryl Garner\***  
Cathy Gero  
Greg Grant  
Doug & Beth Grijalva  
Diane & Eric Hale  
Annette Harbaugh  
Carey & Constance Hardesty  
Boyd Heath  
Brian & Judy Hetherington  
Highland Shores Garden Club  
Donna Honkomp  
D.A. Horn  
Bob Houck  
Shirley Hrobar  
Dr. John & Mrs. Judy Hutka  
Alan Imrek, D.D.S.  
Charlene Johnston  
Bryan & Diane Jones  
David Kinneer  
Maxey Kirkley

Mark Klym  
Jimmy & Benni Konvicka  
Keith, Sandy and Shawn Kridler  
Ainsley Lewis  
Greg & Glenda Marsh  
Leonard May  
**Don & Cathy Mitchell\***  
Lysle Mockler  
Pam Moes  
**Jerald Mowery\***  
Carla & Jim Muldrow  
**Christopher Murray\***  
Doyal Nelms  
Barbara Ohlman  
Annette T Paiva  
Donna Parker  
Jeff and Mary O. Parker  
Warren & Kay Parker  
Katherine Peake  
Chuck Peterson  
Kathy & Billy Pinkerton  
Nancy Podio  
Charles & Jackie Post  
Jeff Raimer  
**Shannon Ramsey\***  
Randy Reddemann  
Diana Rice

Doug and Karen Rohde  
Ronny Rolf  
Linda Ross  
Jason A. Seale  
LeAnn Garrison Sharp  
Paul Shinsky  
Norman Shoemaker  
Sandra Spurlock  
William & Linda Stevens  
Byron Stone  
(Gay Brown) The Studio in the Woods  
Ron and Pauline Tom  
Susan Tracy  
Deborah Tugwell  
Jack Vick  
Barbara Vinson  
Ricky Walker  
Melinda Walker  
Jim Weatherly  
Kathy P. Weinhold  
Jean Marie Wesson  
Dr. Thomas M. Wheeler  
Marsha Winfield  
Charles & Sue Wiseman  
Mike & Thelma Woodruff

\* joined as lifers this year



## Board of Directors

### Pauline Tom

President  
Executive Committee  
EventPlans Team  
(Mountain City)

### Lonnie Castleman

Nestbox Const. Coord.  
(Trinity)

### Linda Crum

Treasurer  
(The Woodlands)

### Benni Konvicka

Executive Committee  
Fundraising Auctions  
EventPlans Team  
(Stephenville)

### Pat Nail

Executive Committee  
EventPlans Team  
(Clayton)

### Beverly Davis

Auction Inventory  
EventPlans Team  
(Conroe)

### Brian Sinclair

New Member Welcome  
(Conroe)

### Jane Jenkins

(Conroe)

## Advisory Board

### Harold Latham

Event Speaker Support  
(Ivanhoe)

### Ken Ray

Executive Committee  
EventPlans Team  
(Ovilla)

Inventory  
(Bexar)

### Contact Us:

tbs@txblues.org,  
PO Box 40868  
Austin, TX 78704  
512-268-5678 (Pauline Tom)

## Silent Auction Donors

### Alamo Inn B&B

### Aspects, Inc.

Barbara Vinson  
Janna Blanchard

### Bluebird Designs LLC

Kathy Byrd

Carol Clark

Maryann Coleridge

### Conversational Pieces

### Cornell Lab of Ornithology

### Dean Crouser

Linda Crum

### Walter and Beverly Davis

### Erva Tool & Manufacturing Co., Inc.

### Ann Hoffpauir Fine Art

Jesse Huth

### Jabebo

Jane Jenkins

Bill and Susie Johnson

Keith Kridler

Jimmie and Benni Konvick

### Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### McCoy's Building Supply, Midlothian

Jim Marshall

Patti Marshall

Roberta Marshall

Lysle Mockler

### Montgomery County MG Association

Helen Munro

Dee Myers

Pat & Roland Nail

Paul Nelson

### Nature's Way

### North American Bluebird Society

Jeff and Mary O. Parker

### The Promise, Glen Rose

Ken and Judy Ray

Robert and Lucy Reese

Dean C. Rust

Carol Schoch

Clifford Shackelford

Judy Smitherman

Dorothy Szepesi

Douglas & Cindy Tallamy

Ron and Pauline Tom

Gary and Deborah Tugewell

### Wild Bird Center of Lakeway

### Wild Birds Unlimited, Dripping Springs

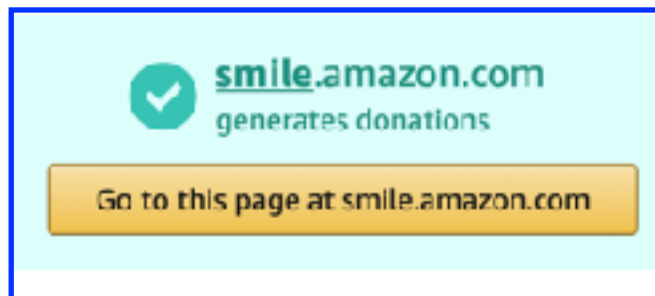
### Wild Birds Unlimited, Katy

### Wild Birds Unlimited, The Woodlands

## Welcome New Members!

- Jeanne Alfred
- Alice Anderson
- Amy Ayers
- Eunjoo Bae
- Kathleen Bennington
- Matt Brown
- Teresa Bruszer
- Errol J. Candy
- Susan Chiusano
- Barbara Durden
- Carol Estes
- Ruth Ann Forrester
- Dorothy Franklin
- Daryl Garner
- Susan Gerhardt
- Karen Hall
- Jannette Hortma
- Priyamka Kumar
- Kathleen Lewis
- Luke and Meredith Lorick
- Laurie Lucas
- Denise Mercier
- Bobbie Morrison
- Joanna Muirhead
- Cal Newnam
- Amy Nichols
- Warren Petersen
- Adrianna Quinn
- Brenda Reeves
- Cynthia and Mark Richison
- Lynnette Thornton
- Mary R Turner
- Patricia Williams
- Virginia Young
- Jennifer Zarate
- DA, Mustang
- SB, Burleson
- KB, Richardson
- MB, Tyler
- MC, Cedar Park
- DC, San Antonio
- JF, Weatherford
- SF, Waxahachie
- LH, Georgetown
- TJ, Burleson
- JK, Spring
- CK, Albuquerque
- LM, Boise City
- MO, Austin
- FR, Trinity
- MT, Dublin
- LU, Highland Village
- FV, Magnolia
- MW, Live Oak
- MW, Saint Hedwig

*\*New members who give us permission to print their name.*



## Remember Your Bluebird Friends This Holiday Season!

Select TBS as your charity and use [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) to place your orders. A portion of your total purchases will be donated to TBS.

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

The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter, *TX Blues*, is published four times a year: March ■ May ■ July ■ October  
Debbie Bradshaw Park, Editor  
Send stories/photos to editor@txblues.org

### Moved?

Send email/address changes to records@txblues.org



TEXAS BLUEBIRD SOCIETY  
PO BOX 132101  
SPRING, TX 77393

### *Federal law protects all native nesting birds!*

- *Do not disturb birds or collect nests/eggs.*
- *Monitor and report activity to NestWatch.*

*As previously announced, TBS will not be hosting a bluebird symposium in 2020. We are encouraging our members to attend the North American Bluebird Society Convention.*



**2020 NABS CONFERENCE**  
**HOSTED BY BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA**  
**MARCH 11-15**  
**HOLIDAY INN, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA**

**SANDHILL CRANE BLIND TRIPS**      **PRAIRIE CULTURE FIELD TRIP**  
**BIRDING FIELD TRIP**      **WORKSHOPS**  
**NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS**      **RAFFLE, LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS**



[NABS Conference Information](#)