

Meet MOBS' Vice-President, Larry Dobson

Larry Dobson, serving in his first term as vice president, first joined MOBS in 2006 as a Charter Member. Larry and his wife, Mary, have two grown children and one grandson. They live on acreage in Raymore, MO. Larry is a retired educator, having spent 41 years serving the Raymore-Peculiar, Blue Springs and Belton School Districts. Larry monitors about 20 nest boxes around the Raymore and Peculiar communities. One of Larry's favorite bluebird activities is presenting a power-point presentation to area schools' fourth graders. In the spring of 2011 he visited several different elementary schools and presented to nearly 500 fourth graders. He makes certain the students understand why the eastern bluebird was selected as Missouri's state bird. Next he describes the construction details of a nest box, and gives an explanation of the bluebird's favorite habitat, as well as feeding and nesting habits of the bluebird. The students love seeing his shoebox full of mealworms and listen intently to him explaining how to grow and feed mealworms to the bluebirds. His presentation includes many lovely pictures of adult and young bluebirds, nest with eggs and a variety of nest box styles. The students are taught to recognize a male and female bluebird, learn to identify the bluebird's song, and identify the bluebird's favorite habitats and foods. Larry is noted for being able to train his backyard bluebirds to come to a feeder of mealworms when he rings a bell. Larry is eager to present to other groups as well and already has several presentations scheduled for the spring of 2012. Larry is pictured here adding the finishing touches to a nest box made of cedar.



Meet MOBS' Treasurer, Susan Reinagel



My bluebirding experience began 5 years ago. A new component had been added to my job at Trail of Tears State Park as an Interpretive Resource Specialist, which was resource management & stewardship. I saw an article in the Missouri Conservationist Magazine about the 1st annual conference of the Missouri Bluebird Society in Jefferson City at Runge Nature Center. I asked my supervisor if I could attend, & to my pleasant surprise, she said yes. So, I made arrangements to attend, and from the minute I walked in, I knew this was something I wanted to pursue. Afterwards, my supervisor agreed to allow me to do a monitoring study along with a student intern from SEMO University, a 3 year study which I continued & completed before retiring from there last July 2010. I will have to admit, it had become the most favorite aspect of my job. Monitoring the weekly progress of nest building, egg laying & hatching, and nestling growing &

fledging filled my soul with the thrill of new life. It got me out in the park, not only to monitor the bluebirds, but to see what was blooming, what wildlife animals made their home there, as well as the many ways humans enjoyed the park.

Since then, I began my part-time "retirement job" with the MO Dept. of Conservation's Open River & Wetlands Field Station in Jackson, MO, where I put up more bluebird nest boxes and look forward not only to enjoying many more seasons of bluebirding, but to serve as the Treasurer of the Missouri Bluebird Society.

Susan Reinagel

"Stay tuned" to meet more MOBS Board members in future issues!

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by Jim Rathert Photography

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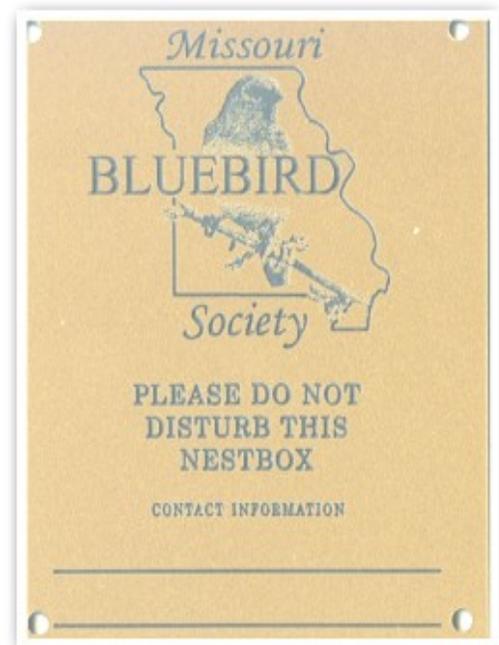
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Latest Nest Box Grant Program Recipient!



A Report from the Missouri Master Naturalists, Confluence Chapter

February 6, 2012

by *Leslie Limberg, chapter President*



Yesterday we installed 15 Bluebird houses at Quail Ridge Park just south of Wentzville, Mo.

The park is home to lots of public activity. There's an active dog park, miles of walking trails, water quality testing sites along the Peruque Creek where high school kids have field trips and river clean ups, a beautiful lodge with huge glass windows, a horseshoe museum, not to mention acres and acres of mowed grass, restored prairie, wetland,

& woodland filled with lots of flowers & BUGS for bluebirds.

Six of us Missouri Master Naturalists showed up to install the donated boxes. And I have to say it was the easiest install we have had ever....good pole & house design!

Our next install is in early March at Spring Bend Park. I'll send more pics then.

Enclosed are 2 of our best photos.

Thanks again for your generous donation

Leslie Limberg
Missouri Master Naturalist
Confluence Chapter President

Download a Nest Box Grant Application: www.missouribluebird.org

Need to Renew your MOBS Membership? Use the Membership Application/Renewal form below and mail to:
MOBS/ P.O. Box 105830/ Jefferson City, Mo 65110

All MOBS Membership dues expire December 31st on the year of their expiration. For Example, if you have a one year family Membership for 2011, your renewal dues were due 01/01/12 (Please enclose check for dues with this membership application)

Name _____

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(Mail check to: PO Box 105830/Jefferson City, MO 65110)

- ___ Individual one year membership \$9.00
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- ___ Family one year membership \$15.00
- ___ Family two year membership \$28.00
- ___ DONOR (Annual) \$50.00
- ___ SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00

Number of Boxes you monitor? _____

MOBS greatly appreciates the support of ALL of our members!

2012 Missouri Bluebird Conference

July 13-15th, 2012
Jefferson City, Missouri



Featuring:

Brad Jacobs: Missouri Department of Conservation and author of [Birds in Missouri](#)

T. David Pitts: author of [Studying Eastern Bluebirds: A Biologist's Report and Reflections](#)

Kris Leech: Missouri Master Gardener presenting a program on **Gardening for Wildlife**

Rich Stanton: University of Missouri, researching the **possible reintroduction of Brown-headed Nuthatches to Missouri.**

Eastern Bluebirds in Honduras?? Yes! **Brad Jacobs** will talk to us about the bluebirds in the upland pine woodlands and savannas of Honduras. MDC has had an increased focus on conservation efforts in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean migratory stopover sites and wintering grounds. MDC is involved in projects in several locations in Canada and Tropical America....so we'll get to hear about the work being done with many of the wonderful birds we enjoy in North America—from breeding to migration to wintering.

Top-notch research meets Master Story-teller! **David Pitts** is a Professor, scientist, author, and a researcher who has spent over 40 years investigating Eastern Bluebirds! He has been a recipient of NABS research grants and (to the benefit of bluebirders everywhere) Dr. Pitts has studied some aspects of bluebirds and other cavity-nesters seldom presented in other research. A spectacular photographer and captivating speaker, his programs reflect a wonderful mixture of data and story-telling. A segment of his book is titled: "Biographies of some Individual Bluebirds"!

Speaker programs will be Saturday, July 14, 2012

The conference will also feature

Field Trips, Terrific Food, and a Friday evening Social!

Find out more at:

www.missouribluebird.org

Contact Steve or Regina Garr 573-638-2473 steve@birds-i-view.biz



Eastern Bluebird
Photo by Steve Garr



Brown-headed Nuthatch
Photo by Keith Kridler