



# Introducing the 2022 Missouri Bluebird Society Conference Presenters!

## Friday evening July 8<sup>th</sup> Program

### Heather Parker

Friends of the Garden, Executive Director



### “Friends of the Garden- Supporting the Springfield Botanical Gardens”

Heather joined Friends of the Garden in May 2021 from the Springfield Fire Department, where she served as the Fire and Life Safety Educator. She has also worked two separate terms with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department as the Community Health Advocate Program coordinator and public health investigator, a biologist for the National Park Service, an environmental scientist, and a park ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Heather has educational backgrounds in both wildlife conservation/management and plant science. She served on the board of Friends of the Garden from 2009 to 2015 and is excited to be working at the

Springfield Botanical Gardens in her current role.

## Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> Programs

### Kristen Heath-Acre

### “Natural history and ecology of cavity-nesting birds (with special emphasis on Brown-headed Nuthatch) “

Kristen got her Bachelor’s Texas Tech University in 2009. After that, her work focused on songbird forest ecology across North and Central America, including Hawai’i. After 6 years, she got her Master’s degree at Texas Tech University working on Snowy Plover movement ecology. Currently, she works for the University of Missouri, focusing on woodland songbird abundance and survival in response to reintroduction and land management practices like prescribed fire and tree thinning in the Missouri Ozarks. Her work is also centered around the 2020 and 2021 translocation of the Brown-headed Nuthatch (BHNU). She helped lead the capture, translocation, and release of 102 nuthatch from Arkansas to Missouri. She currently leads BHNU monitoring and data analyses.



### Bob Siemer and Ann Earley

### “Native Plants: For Bluebirds and Beyond”

Ann Earley and Bob Siemer have been active in local nature organizations, including St. Louis Wild Ones and Missouri Native Plant Society, for the last twenty years. They also volunteer in various capacities as Missouri Master Naturalists, with **Missouri Prairie Foundation/Grow Native** and the Missouri Bluebird Society, and at Shaw Nature Reserve, Missouri Botanical Garden and The Butterfly House. Their work over the years has earned them volunteer recognition and awards from Missouri Prairie Foundation, Missouri Bluebird Society, and Missouri Native Plant Society. **FYI....Bob and Ann are also 2019 recipients of MOBS’ “True Blue Service Award”!**





## 2022 Missouri Bluebird Society Conference Presenters, continued

### **Jim Rathert** **“Bluebird Basics” .... from the perspective of a “non-trail” Bluebirder!**

Jim Rathert spent 25 years behind a blind capturing some of the most spectacular photographs of birds as a *Missouri Conservationist* wildlife photographer. He is also a founding Board Member of the Missouri Bluebird Society and the Inaugural recipient of the Society’s True Blue Service Award. These days Jim spends his time tending to the Bluebirds in his own yard and producing fabulous giftware from his collection of stunning photographs. Jim brings the heart and soul of a birder along with the artistic and technical precision to produce some of the finest quality bird and nature mugs, along with a variety of sophisticated nature enthusiast products.



### **Steve Garr** **“Nest starts!”** Identifying cavity-nester nests when they are just getting started.



While it is not difficult to acquire information and images which help us distinguish between nests and eggs of various cavity-nesting species...it can still be difficult to determine who’s attempting to utilize your nest box in the very early stages of nest-building. Steve will guide us through a brief presentation of pics and tips to help make those IDs easier. Steve is the current president of the Missouri Bluebird Society, a former president of the North American Bluebird Society, and a recipient of NABS’ John and Nora Lane Award for “Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Bluebird Conservation”. He has monitored and maintained nest boxes in a variety of habitats since 1979- from rural

settings to residential subdivisions –even less than three miles from the Titans football stadium in downtown Nashville!

### **Laura Samuel** **“A New Online Tool for Reporting your Nesting Data”**

Laura has been the co-chair of MOBS’ Auction Raffle committee for more than six years. MOBS is very appreciative of her hard work and organizational skills! Laura is an educator by profession—a teacher at Strafford Elementary School. We are looking forward to learning a new way to report our nesting data from her as she guides us through step by step directions in using this straightforward program to make our nesting data easier and quicker to report! (Of course, nesting reports mailed USPS as usual are certainly still accepted!). Always willing to pitch in at the conferences, and any MOBS projects and programs, Laura (along with her husband Greg) is **a 2020 recipient of the Missouri Bluebird Society’s True Blue Service Award!**

