

NABS Awards 2011

The following individuals received awards at the Annual Conference of NABS hosted by Bluebirds Across America in Jackson, Tennessee, in September.

Katherine Phelps of Plympton, Massachusetts received the NABS award for Outstanding Contribution to Bluebird Conservation. Katherine was honored for her work in promoting conservation while creating new habitats for bluebirds and other cavity-nesting birds at Ocean Spray Corporate Headquarters in Lakeville, Massachusetts.



Brian Swanson presents Katherine Phelps with the NABS award for Outstanding Contribution to Bluebird Conservation.

Kathy was instrumental in establishing bluebird trails on the campus of the Ocean Spray headquarters near Boston, where she serves as Database Manager and Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

To her left is NABS President Johnathan Ridgeway.

Photo by Dave Kinner.

When Katherine reached a corporate milestone of 25 years of employment, rather than have a traditional celebration, she asked to restore the old nestbox trail on the Ocean Spray corporate campus with 25 new nest boxes, which she donated. Eastern Bluebirds (her favorite bird), titmice, chickadees, and Tree Swallows are just a few of our native cavity-nesting birds that benefited from the new trail. Her donation inspired Ocean Spray to create a new Wildlife Committee at their Corporate Headquarters. This committee's charter is to "make Ocean Spray showcase by improving our corporate habitat for the benefit of people, birds, and wildlife and to be a part of the company's sustainability strategy, supporting those initiatives." She educated the company and others with exhibits at the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day in 2010. Katherine was honored for raising awareness of the need for corporations and private individuals to use the local landscape to promote wildlife conservation.

Jim Burke of Aiken, South Carolina was presented the NABS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Bluebird Conservation. Jim was honored for his many efforts to promote bluebird conservation, which include creating bluebird trails, and organizing and educating monitors to oversee the trails.

Jim Burke, President of the recently formed South Carolina Bluebird Society, received the NABS award for Outstanding Contribution to Bluebird Conservation. On his right is Phil Berry, 1st VP for Affiliate Relations, and the left, Johnathan Ridgeway, President of NABS.

Photo by Dave Kinner.



Jim tirelessly educates the public about the need for bluebird conservation, speaking to garden clubs, golf courses, and other organizations interested in joining this vital conservation effort. His community outreach has included participating in the City of Aiken Earth Day Celebration and the Master Gardeners Day at the Aiken County Farmer's Market, and speaking and exhibiting at the Aiken Garden Show. He personally helped in the preparation of 281 nestboxes to go out on the numerous bluebird trails.

Jim spearheaded the effort to form the South Carolina Bluebird Society, dedicated to the conservation of the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity-nesting birds. He is presently the President of the SCBS, working hard to spread the word on how all residents of South Carolina can help bluebird survive.

Steve and Regina Garr of Jefferson City, Missouri were presented with the John and Nora Lane Award from NABS for outstanding work in the field of Bluebird Conservation. Longtime NABS member Ron Kingston received the award on their behalf in Jackson, Tennessee. Then Greg Beavers, NABS Treasurer, presented the award to the Garrs at the Missouri Bluebird Conference on October 1.



Steve and Regina Garr accept the NABS John and Nora Lane Award for outstanding contributions to Bluebird Conservation.

The award was presented by Greg Beavers (*right*).

Photo by Jim Rathert.

Steve Garr has worked tirelessly since 1979 educating the public through his newspaper columns, magazine articles, television appearances, and personal appearances at various conferences and events on how to

help the bluebird. He personally erected and monitored many nestbox trails in both Tennessee and Missouri.

He co-founded two NABS Affiliates: Tennessee Bluebird Trails (2000) and the Missouri Bluebird Society (2006). Besides doing field work, Steve volunteered for NABS by serving on the Board of Directors as Vice President and President (2000–2006). Regina Garr has been an enthusiastic partner in all of his conservation work, helping spread the bluebird conservation message. Even though Steve has had a Life Membership in NABS for decades, he continues to support NABS with additional Corporate memberships. He and Regina have donated NABS memberships for door prizes at countless seminars on bluebird conservation — giving many people their start in an association with NABS and organized bluebird conservation. Steve and Regina Garr continue to promote bluebird conservation on all fronts: education, in the field, and in leadership roles in the organizations that promote bluebird conservation.