

## Awards Presented at NABS 2008 in Kearney Nebraska

The North American Bluebird Society annually recognizes individuals and groups who have made major contributions to Bluebird conservation. The following 2008 awards were presented on March 8, 2008 at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Kearney, Nebraska.

Carol LaPres  
Greg and Terry Tellier  
Bet Zimmerman  
Aldo Leopold Audubon Society  
Jim McLochlin  
Tony Dohmen  
Bob Walshaw  
Pauline Tom  
Judy Guinan



### **Carol LaPres Muskegon, MI Lifetime Achievement Bluebird Conservation**

Carol and Bob's involvement with Bluebirds started in 1966 and flourished in 1976 with ten boxes. Their first ten boxes were vandalized within days of installation. They knew they had to *educate*. Countless hours were spent over the years educating youth, volunteering at nature centers, coordinating and presenting workshops for the DNR, civic groups and schools. Having boxes in so many locations, Carol has gotten volunteers in place to help monitor the continuous growth and patterns of Bluebird populations. With forty years of experience and 165 nestboxes Carol has fledged over 9000 Bluebirds, 6,000 Tree Swallows and 3000 Chickadee's. Carol has been a long time member of NABS

and promotes the organization with every opportunity.



### **Greg and Terry Tellier Penticton, BC John & Nora Lane Award Bluebird Conservation**

The team of Greg and Terry started their small trail in the early 90's. They attended their first NABS convention in 1998 in Regina, Saskatchewan. They were instrumental in planning and implementing the NABS 2002 Silver Anniversary convention in Penticton, British Columbia. Greg constructed a portable display that would travel around the province and the

United States to educate individuals about native cavity nesting species and promote bluebird conservation. The display has visited 3-4 NABS conferences over the years. In 2005, Greg and Terry purchased property at Osprey Lake where they began developing a small fishing resort with cabins and camping. They have a whole new group of residents and vacationers they have been introducing to bluebirds. Greg & Terry are current members of the North American Bluebird Society. Their message is to spread the "Bluebird Word".



**Bet Zimmerman Woodstock Valley, CT John & Nora Lane  
Award Bluebird Conservation**

Bet observed her first eastern Bluebird in 1998 and was hooked after that first flash of blue. Bet and husband, Doug, have established several trails totaling seventy boxes. Bet is a life member of NABS. She maintains an educational website about Bluebirds and small cavity nester conservation at [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org). Its purpose is to provide open access to accurate, comprehensive information to anyone interested in cavity nesters. The website covers history, resources, activities for children, feeding and plantings, myths, nest and egg identification, nest box styles pros and cons, predator control, starting and monitoring a trail, supplies, photos, videos and more. From 2002-2007 Bet fledged 616 native birds including 154 Eastern Bluebirds.



**Aldo Leopold Audubon Society Stevens Point, WI Lawrence  
Zeleny Award Bluebird Conservation**

In 2001, the society had 620 members and began a trail with 89 boxes. The first year they had an occupancy rate of 50%, fledging 188 Bluebirds. In 2002 they introduced an "Adopt A Box" program that in four years generated \$6,080.00 for the society to expand their trails. In 2006, they achieved a 92% occupancy rate and in six years fledged 9,526 Bluebirds. This year they will have 928 boxes in place for native cavity nesting birds. Kent Hall is the coordinator of their Bluebird project.



**Jim McLochlin Omaha, NE Mary Janetatos Award  
Distinguished Service**

Jim became active in bluebirding as a volunteer at the local nature center in Omaha, NE in 1986. In 1991 he began participating and discussing bluebirds on internet news groups. In 1992 he created one of the first bluebirding web sites, "The Bluebird Box" <http://audubon-omaha.org/bbbox/index.htm>; the goal of the site being to make bluebirding resources available to as many people as are interested. Over the years Jim has maintained or started web sites for six NABS affiliates. Jim has served as a past board member and is a life member of NABS. Jim currently serves as the webmaster of the North American Bluebird Society. The NABS website address is

[www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org). Jim was instrumental in implementing web based data collection for the Transcontinental Bluebird Trail (TBT).



**Tony Dohmen Norfolk, NE Individual Award Bluebird Conservation**

Tony promotes bluebirds in four counties in east central Nebraska. He coordinates at least ten workshops per year since 2004 resulting in approximately 200 new members for NABS affiliate organization, Bluebirds Across Nebraska (BAN). Tony fledges in excess of 800 Bluebirds per year on his trails totaling 170 boxes. Tony's great admiration for bluebirds and people skills are great assets to the area. Tony is a current member

of the North American Bluebird Society.

**Bob Walshaw Coweta, OK Commendable Service in the Field of Bluebird Conservation**

Oklahoma master naturalist Bob Walshaw maintains a 100 box trail in rural areas surrounding Coweta, Oklahoma and has been "bluebirding" for fifteen years. He routinely fledges over 300 bluebirds per year. Bob's thirty plus presentations per year reach in excess of 1,000 individuals. He aggressively promotes House Sparrow control and is open to new ideas to improve his trail results. Bob is very involved on the All Experts web site lending educational advice to all that inquire. He is a current NABS member and is on the Speakers Bureau. He actively shares his knowledge of bluebirds with schools, garden clubs and retired/service groups.



**Pauline Tom Mountain City, TX President's Award**

As former Membership Chair and with the work of her committee, NABS membership was increased 43% during 2006 to 2007 to a new level of 2065 NABS memberships. Pauline assisted in creating and initiating the "Please Come Back" campaign to re-attract those in the NABS database who have expired memberships. She was influential in motivating the Board to make a major contribution from the general fund into the

NABS Zeleny Endowment Fund, which now has a balance that exceeds \$124,000.00. Pauline maintains a trail in her home area and is very active in the management of the Texas Bluebird Society.





### **Judy Guinan Radford, VA Research Award**

Judy Guinan was introduced to bluebirding while she was a graduate student at the University of Georgia. In 1994, she established two study sites with over 100 nest boxes around Flagstaff, Arizona for her dissertation work on Western Bluebird reproductive behavior. She quickly became addicted to observing these beautiful birds. Over the course of her four year project, she witnessed the successful completion of 109 new Western Bluebird families, as well as a number of successful Mountain Bluebird, Pygmy Nuthatch, White Breasted Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee nests. In 2000, she co-authored the Western Bluebird account of the Birds of North America Series with Patty Gowaty and Elsie Eltzroth. The updated version of that account she authored will be available online in 2008. She is now an Associate Professor of Biology and Director of the Environmental Center at Radford University in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia. By necessity, her passion for Western Bluebird watching is now from afar but she is partnering with some colleagues from Radford University and the Virginia Bluebird Society and soon hopes to be active in bluebird work once again, this time with the eastern branch of the genus.



### **Greg Beavers presenting NABS 2008 Awards**

**Do you know of an individual, group, or business that deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contributions to bluebird conservation?** If so, we want to hear from you! Please complete this NABS award nomination form by August 15, 2009. 2009 Awards will be presented during the 2009 NABS Convention, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society in Pennsylvania September 2009. Please download the form at <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/awards/award.htm> and submit on line or mail to Greg Beavers 8365 S Old State Road 37 Bloomington, IN

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