

NABS Awards Presented in Grantville, PA

The NABS Bluebird Conservation Award to Kathy Clark of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania. Kathy was the first President of the BSP and she is now the current President of BSP. She has served as Conference Chair for several past BSP Annual Conferences and was the Conference Chair of our NABS 2009 Annual Conference hosted by the Bluebird Society of PA. She works as a monitor of the State Parks Bluebird Trail Program at Pinchot Park and is actively engaged in bluebird education wherever she goes.

The NABS Bluebird Conservation Award to Don Wiesnet of the Virginia Bluebird Society. Don began assisting Ed McKnight in actively monitoring an extensive bluebird trail in Stafford County, VA in 1988. After Ed's death in 1992 until he retired in 2004, Don was responsible for weekly trips to monitor the trail and kept all the records for the trail. This trail has fledged over 7,600 bluebirds since its inception in 1966. Don is an excellent birder and has educated many birders to become active bluebird conservationist like himself.

The NABS Bluebird Conservation Award to “The Bluebird Brigade of Bickleton” (Washington). In 1966, Jess and Elva Brinkerhoff started a bluebird nestbox trail of one nestbox which has grown over the past forty plus years to a trail of two thousand boxes. The Brinkerhoffs were honored by NABS in 1983 and now it is time to honor the whole town, population 113. Every year, “a bluebird brigade” of residents, farmers and students volunteer to maintain the nestboxes. Bickleton calls itself “The Bluebird Capital of the World” and we think this title is most fitting.

A Special Bluebird Conservation Certificate to *Parade Magazine*. On November 25, 1979, *Parade* had a cover story written by Joan Rattner Heilman entitled “The Bluebirds Will Return if You Help.” Over 80,000 readers sent in twenty-five cents for plans to make their own bluebird nesting boxes. This story truly gave a huge rocket boost to our new North American Bluebird Society. After almost thirty years, we feel it is time to mark this milestone publicity.