



Nest Box News

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South Carolina Bluebird Society

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

SPECIAL EDITION

Oct. 3-5, 2013

36th Annual North American Bluebird Society Conference A Huge Success!

By Terry McGrath

They arrived early, they arrived late—but arrive they did! One hundred and sixty two dedicated, knowledgeable and passionate bluebird lovers gathered for an informational, fun-packed three days of tours, lectures, dinners and friendship in our town of Aiken, SC. Hosted this year by our own South Carolina Bluebird Society, it appears we “wowed” the crowd! Our president, Jim Burke, supplied the expertise and vision...and we all flew on board to make this conference a memorable one!

Please enjoy the photos—a small taste of the Conference to share with those unable to attend but with us in spirit! Bless the birds and bless you all...



The NABS board meeting on Wednesday—Jim Burke, center, and Sherry Linn, NABS President to the left.



Farrell Roe, left, prepping for a long meeting.

Setting up, Tuesday at Birds and Butterflies



Just the tip of the iceberg of items heading for the SCBS store.



Many thanks to Ron Brenneman and Audrey Hendry for helping with the set up of our SCBS store at Birds and Butterflies. An unofficial count had **\$520.00** feathering the SCBS nest!

Set up at The Arts Center, Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Nancy makes sure David put on the tablecloths *just* right.



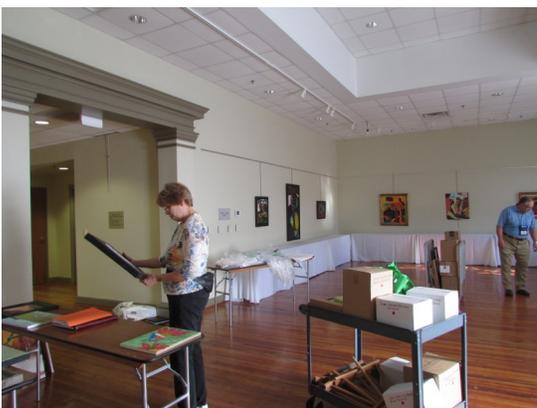
A few of the 80+ items!!!



Sharon Burke discusses the Silent Auction set up with David and Nancy Moseley and Sandy Tucker.



Gail Hendry, center right, directs the Silent Auction traffic.



Sandy takes a good look at a piece of artwork...maybe she's planning on a bid during the Silent Auction?



Maggi Howard answers questions at the Silent Auction.

The set up continues...



Sharon checks for item placement...



Registration table, guess the "eggs" and the popular map of the attendees hometowns!

The Vendor Room



Sharon cuts fabric for the table coverings.



Paul Koehler, director of the Silver Bluff Audubon Center, poses with Terry McGrath at the Audubon's table, above.



A vendor sets up his wireless camera display for nest boxes.

The fruits of our labor...the Silent Auction area at the Aiken Center for the Arts...



The tables,



The walls,



Oh, my!

The Vendor Area Was Buzzing With Activity...



Author and speaker T. David Pitts signs copies of his book Studying Eastern Bluebirds before his lecture.



David Pitts lecture on what bluebirds *do* and *don't* do at night was fascinating!



The wireless nest box camera was a popular stop. Sara Wampole had the winning bid on the one in the Silent Auction!



The SCBS table was popular along with information about chimney swifts. The City of Aiken and Hitchcock Woods displays were also well received.



The Audubon table had a nice variety of items-a popular stop after Thursday mornings tour by forty-two attendees.

Special Thanks To Just A Few...



Terry McGrath and her map pinpointing the guests from 22 states, 2 Canadian provinces and Germany!



Terry McGrath, Sharon Burke, Nancy & David Moseley.



SCBS member Judge Rembert, (her name not her profession!) helps Ron Tom from Mountain City, Texas navigate the breakfast area at the hotel



Roger Brock and Silver Bluff Audubon director Paul Koelher after the morning tour.



This lovely bouquet was donated by the Sand River Women's Club. The painting on the wall was donated by the artist, Guy Milligan.

It's all about knowledge; and a little fun...



Before, above and after, at right



David Moseley and Terry McGrath turned the Brown Pavilion into a lecture hall in about 45 minutes! Thanks to Nancy Moseley for her finishing "tweaks" that turned empty into *fabulous!*



Whit Gibbons says Bluebirds, Reptiles and Amphibians have a lot in Common.



Bet Zimmerman-Smith speaks on Managing Challenges: House Sparrows, House Wrens and Paper Wasps.



Robert Kennamer on the "Ecology of Breeding Wood Ducks".



Ssssss!



Whit Gibbons chats with NABS president Sherry Linn at the Awards Dinner

Sharing some moments on the trail in Hitchcock Woods...



Dr. Harry Shealy ponders plant life on the morning tour.



The red cockaded woodpeckers at Savannah River Site...

And downtown Aiken...

Phil Berry, above and Jackie Berry of Gulf Breeze, Florida inspect the habitat of the endangered woodpecker at SRS.



L to R Fritz and Penny Brandau from Amherst, OH, Ron and Pauline Tom from Mountain City, TX and Dale Hampton, SCBS member from Aiken, SC.

A morning tour to The Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary...

A full bus takes our guests to the Audubon Center.



It doesn't get any better than this! Linda Burgess, center and Maggi Howard, right, enjoy this beautiful setting.

Horses, birds and nature—it doesn't get any better than this at the Equine Rescue of Aiken ...



Jim Rhodes, managing director of Equine Rescue, welcomes the afternoon tour.

A group picture-everyone say "Giddy-up"!



The group, hosted by Maggi Howard, used a different kind of "horsepower" to get around the 80 acre farm.

Whit Gibbons and his critters had the audience on the edge of their seats...



Rosie Schulz from Germany poses with Whit and the snake.



Looks like Rosie is negotiating a way to bring the snake home with her!



Now that's a lot of teeth to brush!



Sherry Linn, NABS President and Anne Sturm of Barnesville, MD- close up and personal with one of Whit's snakes. Don't worry, ladies -that's not the "business" end!



"Can you believe I use to be a tadpole?"

A lot of delicious food and a lot of entertainment at the Southern Welcome Dinner at the Woodside Plantation Country Club...



Ron Brennenman helps with programs while Sharon Burke chats with Mary Ann Brock.



Our guests begin seating



Master of Ceremonies, our own Mike DeBruhl!



Elliott Levy gives a history lesson on Aiken and Aiken County at the Southern Welcome Dinner.



Our guests are spellbound by Elliott Levy.

Lunches at Newberry Hall were filled with good food, new friends and some goodies to take home...



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Old friends, Jim Burke and Don Hendry share a moment.



Juan Brown of Anderson, SC takes home a prize.



Jo-Ann Coller of Santa Ana, CA poses with Rosie Schulz from Germany and her new birdhouse!

The grand finale-the Awards Dinner at Woodside Plantation Country Club...



Old friends,



New friends,



Smart friends-Rudy Mancke shares his talk on "Connectivity In Nature" at the Awards Dinner.



And family. Cookie Caruso and her 94 year young mother, Frances Hollander.

Awards given to a few of our "stars"...



NABS President Sherry Linn and Anne Sturm present to our own Ron Brenneman the award for "Outstanding contribution to the field of bluebird conservation". Well deserved and congratulations, Ron!



Sharon and Jim Burke, SCBS "first couple", get a chuckle out of Terry McGrath's bag choice!



Wait for it....



All speakers received a hand painted vase

Sharon Burke receives a token of SCBS' appreciation in the form of wine and flowers, while Jim Burke shows everyone the crystal plaque.

Love Is Powerful Stuff

They came from many states....
They came from several countries...
They arrived many different ways...
They had one plan....

In their hearts was a common love....
Love of a little blue bird....
Love of the outdoors...
Love of nature....

That common love can lead to more loves....
Love of any kind is a strange critter...
Love divides and multiplies...
Love of a bird can multiply into...
Love of more animals...
Then into love of nature in general...
Then into love of humans....

This special group of people...
People from different places....
People from different walks of life...
Male, female, sorta old and sorta young...
Immediately these strangers bonded...
Bonded into one family....

A family bonded by a love....
One sunny afternoon there was a miracle...
No one noticed as it happened...
It just happened...
Love is powerful stuff...

There were smiles...
There were hugs...
There was laughter...
There was real caring...
This is 2013 and thank God...
Love is still powerful....

For four and one half days...
In a little town called Aiken...
In the state of South Carolina...
This miracle lived...

Many people were touched by this miracle....
The town was touched by this miracle...
Miracles are powerful as well...
All who were touched felt the love....

Some may not have recognized love....
But they felt something...
Something that made them feel better...
Something that made them smile...
Something that made their heart warm....

Unselfish love is not common...
Unselfish love is rare in 2013...
It is the fast pace of the times...
Maybe little blue birds are more than birds.

Maybe they are locators....
Maybe they are God's locators...
Locators of hearts that spread love...
Maybe not.... but...

But there was one old lady in that group...
She had the honor of spending time...
Watching love work...
Watching love work that miracle...
She will draw off of that experience...
She was touched by each smile...
She was touched by each caring heart...

She will carry that memory of love...
She will share it with others...
She will go to bed at night and thank God...
Thank God for allowing her to learn...
Learn about the power of love...

It was called the Annual Meeting of the
North American Bluebird Society...
But it was so much more...
It was a love in action...
It was a quiet miracle....

Judge Rembert

October 6, 2013

Last but not least...

*To our friend, mentor,
and a very special man...
SCBS was proud to present
Jim Burke this award:*



Thanks to all of you who made this possible

A final "thank you"...like any production some names will be missed, but the passion you all gave to this 36th Annual North American Bluebird Society Conference will never be forgotten!

Aiken Center for the Arts

Newberry Hall

Woodside Plantation Country Club

Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce

The City of Aiken

Hilton Garden Inn

***Bella* Magazine**

***South Carolina Wildlife* magazine**

The Aiken Downtown Development Association

Tim and Mary Bendle

Glen and Gail Hendry

Sandy Tucker

Ron Brenneman

Mike DeBruhl

Judge Rembert

Our esteemed speakers, contributing artists, set up crews and 40 members of SCBS who gave their time and energy

***Photo credits:* David Kinneer, Nancy Moseley, Maggi Howard**

For the bluebirds from the start

You gave from your hearts.

Then you gave once again

***For the birds, and new friends.* Terry McGrath**

