



# Nest Box News

[www.southcarolinabluebirds.org](http://www.southcarolinabluebirds.org)



South Carolina Bluebird Society

**An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society**

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Spring 2015

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<sup>14</sup>  
**If I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes**

**Charles Lindbergh**

## We Are Making A Difference

**By: Terry McGrath**

**I get a newsletter from Cornell University called "Nest Watch." Such a prestigious institution probably has thousands of people on staff with a budget in the millions for their publication. The following statement from their newsletter says :**

*Our nest-monitoring data have been used in more than 130 scientific studies, yielding valuable information for scientists and land managers, such as:*

- *When, where, and how many eggs are laid by certain species across a wide range*
- *How to minimize the effects of forestry and agricultural practices on nesting birds*
- *Revealing that some species, such as Tree Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds, are nesting earlier as spring temperatures have risen.*

**The neat thing is, I know this. I know how the data we gather has lifted us to *serve and conserve* the cavity nesters of South Carolina and beyond. How a lofty idea sparked the interest of a core group who started doing big things for little birds. We've grown to 69 trails, 740 nest boxes and 212 current members since October 19, 2010. We have educated others to follow in our efforts, and with your help we can continue to make a difference.**

**On pages 10 and 11 you will find a list of how this organization runs, and who we need to keep it going. Please consider another way you would be able to help. Thank you!**



## SCBS DIRECTORY

### Officers

#### *President*

Jim Burke/jimburke271@gmail.com

#### *Vice President*

Maggi Howard/mhoward@golf lady.us

#### *Secretary*

Mary Shultz/shultzim@gmail.com

#### *Treasurer*

Tim Bendle/tim.bendle@gmail.com

### Directors

Steve Baker/sjbaker614@aol.com

Mike DeBruhl/cmdebruhl@atlanticbb.net

Glen Hendry/gwhendry@hotmail.com

Debbie Reed/reeddebbie@bfusa.com

### Bluebird Trail Committee

Ron Brenneman/birdbflies@aol.com

Roger Brock/rwbrock@mac.com

Glen & Gail Hendry/gwhendry@hotmail.com

### Membership

Sharon Burke/sharonburke271@gmail.com

### Website

www.southcarolinabluebirds.org

### Webmaster

Karen Raine/caveguru@yahoo.com

### Facebook Page Editor

Nancy Moseley/fmoseley@bellsouth.net

### SCBS Newsletter Editor

Terry McGrath/mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net



## **From The President... Jim Burke**

### **Fellow Bluebirders,**

Terry McGrath's article on Page 1 is center of target. Considering that we are mostly a bunch of "amateur wildlife biologists", we are making significant progress in our conservation efforts for cavity nesting birds and in educating the public about the need to protect wildlife habitat. We also see many people joining us and getting out of the house and enjoying interacting with the natural world. Our Facebook page is filled with examples of folks expressing the joy of seeing nests built, eggs laid and hatched and young birds fledged in their yards. Along the way they are also learning more about all sorts of wildlife critters.

I plan to step down as president of SCBS by the end of this year. It has been an enjoyable and rewarding time, but after five years, it is time for new leadership and new ideas. Pages 10 & 11 contain an outline for an operations manual I am writing for the new president and board of directors. I hope that it will make for a smooth transition.

If you are reading this and are not a member of SCBS, go to [www.southcarolinabluebirds.org](http://www.southcarolinabluebirds.org) and download a membership application. We need your support and you will be joining a group of very nice people who care about our environment.

Happy Bluebirding

Jim

**If you know of a group, club or other organization that would like to learn more about bluebirds and/or to set up a trail, email Jim Burke, SCBS President.**



## PUT A PIN IN IT!

By Terry McGrath



Whether a hatchling, nestling, fledgling, or egg—we're happy you all are in our nest!  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO EVERYONE WHO HATCHED** in February, March and April!



### Terry's Tips

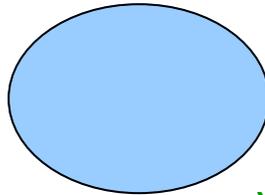
Bark butter, or tree icing—that spreadable peanut butter/suet concoction—goes on easily with one of those heavy duty plastic pan scrapers!



**Deadlines for submissions to The Nest Box News are: January 15th, April 15th, July 15th, October 15th** Send your ideas, pictures, comments or articles to: [mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net)



**Show your pride with an SCBS ball cap!**



(Not actual size)

**This is Eggbert**



You can email your guesses to :

Terry McGrath at [mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net) and the winner will receive their prize. Please include your mailing address, and good luck! You can't win if you don't guess! (In case of multiple guesses, the guess I receive with the earliest posted time will win).

*congratulations*

*Cheryl Crawford found Eggbert in the "O" in Ron on page 8. Cheryl is eligible to pick up an SCBS ball cap! We had lots of guesses this time! Thanks for everyone who guessed!*



SCBS now offers **Lifetime Memberships**. If you'd like to subscribe, email Sharon Burke, Membership Director at:

[sharonburke271@gmail.com](mailto:sharonburke271@gmail.com)



# Save The Date

Member Meetings\* **7:00 pm**

April 27, 2015

May-June 2015 (date to be determined)  
SCBS Picnic

September 21, 2015

October 2-3, 2015 SCBS 5th Anniversary Celebration

November 16, 2015

Board Meetings\* **6:30 pm**

May 11, 2015

August 10, 2015

November 9, 2015

Upcoming Bluebird Presentations & Displays for Outside Organizations

May 15-16, 10am-3pm, Aiken Garden Show



***Volunteers for SCBS' many community activities are always welcome!***

***Whether on the front line or behind the scenes, there is no task too small to help in the conservation of our cavity nesting birds here in South Carolina...please consider sharing your time and talents.***

***Thank you!***

Birds & Butterflies

2015 Nature Series

**Tuesday, May 5** *Hummingbirds-Nature's Jewels* 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, May 19** *Critters of the Night*  
Field trip 7:30 pm

**Tuesday, June 2** *Owls of South Carolina*  
(Incl. live owls ) 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 7** *Butterflies of SC and GA and Butterfly Gardening* 7:00 pm

**Saturday, July 25 (NEW)** *Allendale Kite Fields* Field trip 8:30 am

**Tuesday, August 11 (NEW)** *A Brief History of Hitchcock Woods and Its Trail Names*  
7:00 pm



More info and a complete Nature Series schedule is available at [Birds & Butterflies](http://www.birdsandbutterfliesaiken.com) or by visiting their website [www.birdsandbutterfliesaiken.com](http://www.birdsandbutterfliesaiken.com)

**\*Board and Members meetings are at Birds & Butterflies**





## The South Carolina Bluebird Society's

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Annual Meeting  
Friday evening October 2 from 5:00-8:15  
and Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 9:30AM-2:30 PM  
The Knights of Columbus Hall  
1003 Spaulding Drive, Aiken, SC 29803

**Cost: \$25 p/p which includes dinner and lunch**

**Registration fee includes Friday evening dinner, Saturday coffee and sweets, luncheon and conference programs. SCBS Anniversary Celebration is open to the general public. Make reservations by September 1, 2015. We have an exciting conference planned for you.**

### Friday's Schedule:

5:00 pm-6:00 pm: *Registration and Social Hour (Cash Bar Available)*

6:00 pm-7:00pm: *Welcome Remarks and Dinner*

7:00 pm-8:00 pm: *Guest Speaker – Dr. Drew Lanham Professor of Wildlife Ecology at Clemson University will present Friday evening's program titled, "The Bluebirds of Enlightenment: What Sialia sialis Taught Me about Life."*

### Saturday's Schedule:

9:30 am-10:00 am: *Registration, Coffee and Snacks*

10:00 am-11:00 am: *Speaker – Dr. James Barilla, Professor of Creative Writing at The University of South Carolina, Topic -"My Backyard Jungle: The Adventures of an Urban Wildlife Lover Who Turned His Yard Into Habitat and Learned to Live With It".*

11:00 am-11:30 pm: *Break*

11:30 am-12:15 pm: *SCBB Annual Membership Meeting and Awards*

12:15 pm-1:15 pm: *Lunch*

1:15pm-2:15pm: *Guest Speaker – Dr. Bill Hilton, Jr., aka The Piedmont Naturalist, Executive Director Of the Hilton Pond Center, York, SC – Topic-"Hummingbirds from your South Carolina yard to Costa Rica".*





## REGISTRATION FORM

**Advance registration is required.** Deadline for conference registration is September 1, 2015. Please include payment of \$25 per person by check or money order payable to the South Carolina Bluebird Society and mail with registration form to South Carolina Bluebird Society, P.O. Box 5151, Aiken, SC 29804-5151.

Your name as it will appear on your Name Tag (PLEASE PRINT)

REGISTRANT #1

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: DAY \_\_\_\_\_ EVE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRANT #2

\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: DAY \_\_\_\_\_ EVE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please email Maggi Howard at [mhoward@@southcarolinabluebirds.org](mailto:mhoward@@southcarolinabluebirds.org) if you have any questions.





We ran these "**Trail Safety Tips**", courtesy of Trail Committee and SCBS member **Roger Brock** back in our **Spring 2013** issue of the **Nest Box News**.

Normally, all goes well when we are monitoring our bluebird trails. Sometimes the unexpected can happen. Here are some suggestions based on my 10 year experience monitoring bluebird trails:

**Before you leave the house**, think about what you will need on the trail. Take a cell phone and let someone know where you are headed.

**Always take your monitor's bucket!** Most of the items are "just in case you need them" kind of items, and if you don't have 'em, you'll need 'em! Bug spray, sunscreen...you get the idea.

**Stay hydrated.** Take some bottled water with you, especially as we get into late July and August-important with our 100 degree days and high humidity!

**Wasps.** Yes, I have been stung and had a bad reaction. The "Safer" brand of wasp spray, available at **Birds & Butterflies**, is endorsed by the North American Bluebird Society. Hard to see, the wasps favor the inside roof and corners of the nest box-and don't forget to check under the baffles!

**Fire Ants.** We all know how nasty fire ants are. Be aware of where you walk and stand around the nest box. Closed toed shoes and socks will help keep your tootsies bite free! Several bait and killer granules are available. Use around the base of nest box poles-and remember, **DON'T** disturb the ant hill when applying-you want to eradicate the ants, not send them scurrying for a bait- free zone!

**Rabid animals.** If you encounter an animal that is acting unusual, a raccoon in the middle of the day, for instance-it may be rabid. Most wild animals will run away from you. My neighbor got bitten unexpectedly by a rabid fox a few months ago that had been hanging around her yard. With your **CELL PHONE**, you can get in touch with Animal Control by calling **803-642-7620**.

**Wear your gloves.** I would never have been stung by the wasps if I had my gloves on! Good protection for stings, bites, poisonous plants, etc. If you notice any problem on the trail that the owner should be made aware of, don't hesitate to let them know. We represent another set of eyes as far as noticing problems is concerned.

Hopefully these tips will give you some ideas or emphasize what you already know from your own trail experiences.

**HAPPY TRAILS,**

**Roger Brock**



## **What To Do If You Find A Baby Bird**

**By: Terry McGrath**



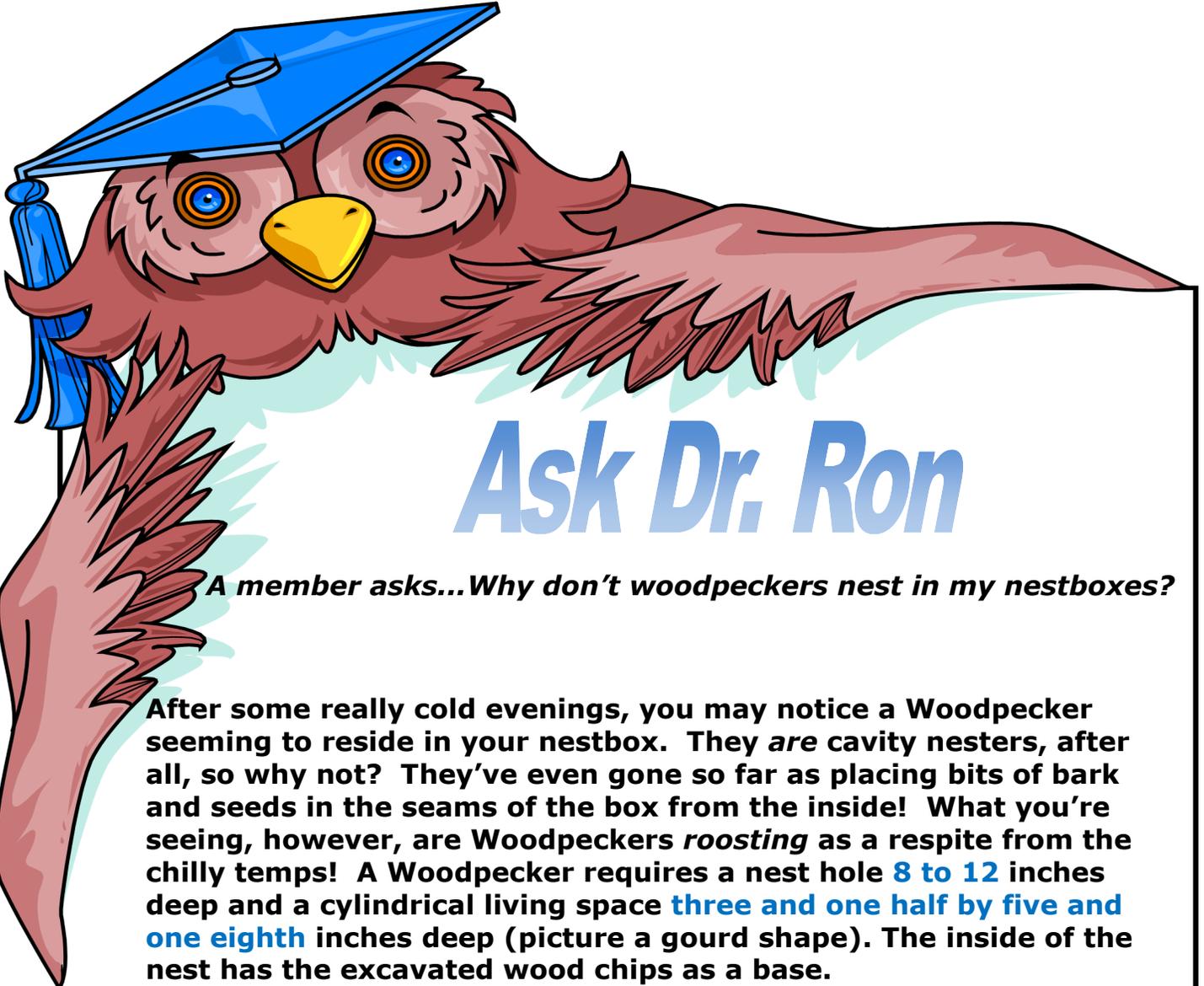
**As we get out more in our yards, on walks, or on the trails, chances are you may come upon the “abandoned” bird. You know the one—feathered yet not quite flying, on the ground with no parents around and surely a snack for that roaming feline. But wait! Before you intervene, ask yourself:**

### **Nestling or Fledgling?**

**If the bird is not in-an “orphan” is almost may happen upon will in the final process of have left the nest). it perch on your finger. it’s a fledgling and the baby bird in a shrub or ground and out of**



**jured, the chance of it being always NO! Most birds we be recent fledglings that are actually flying (that is, they Gently pick the bird up and let If it grips your finger firmly, best thing to do is place the tree, (somewhat above harm’s way), and leave it alone. Birds have a very poor sense of smell and the parents *will not* reject it. If the bird doesn’t have a good grip, it is likely a nestling. Look around for the nest, and if you find one, simply place the bird back inside. If the nest cannot be located, you can make a temporary nest out of a berry basket (with holes in the bottom for drainage). Line it with tissues or another soft material, tie it in a tree, put the baby inside and leave it alone. This is usually all you will need to do. The parents, who probably have been watching you the entire time, will continue to feed and care for their young. Remember, they’ve gone through an awful lot to bring their babies into the world!**

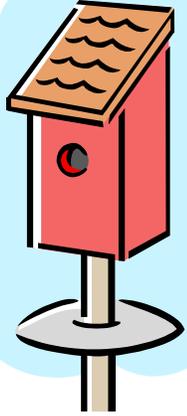


# Ask Dr. Ron

*A member asks...Why don't woodpeckers nest in my nestboxes?*

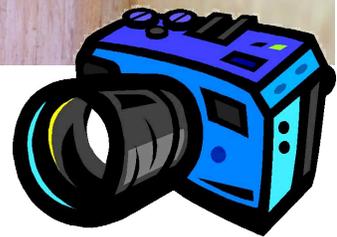
After some really cold evenings, you may notice a Woodpecker seeming to reside in your nestbox. They *are* cavity nesters, after all, so why not? They've even gone so far as placing bits of bark and seeds in the seams of the box from the inside! What you're seeing, however, are Woodpeckers *roosting* as a respite from the chilly temps! A Woodpecker requires a nest hole **8 to 12** inches deep and a cylindrical living space **three and one half by five and one eighth** inches deep (picture a gourd shape). The inside of the nest has the excavated wood chips as a base.





# What's In Your Backyard?

Not a belfry, but this Little Brown Bat is quite at home on SCBS member and trail monitor **Linda Burgess'** trail!



This Towhee is a beau-tee! Sitting pre-tee for **Terry McGrath!**



A devoted pair delights **Tonya Crutchfield Whitaker** at her home in Fort Mill, SC.



# South Carolina Bluebird Society

## Management Operations Manual



### **I. Mission**

### **II. General**

### **III. Administration**

- A. By-laws**
- B. Conflict of Interest Policy**
- C. Board Meetings**
  - 1. Schedule**
  - 2. Agenda**
  - 3. Minutes**
- D. IRS & SC Tax Returns**
- E. Annual Registration with SC Secretary of State**
- F. Election of Directors**
- G. Source for Computer Equipment & Software**
- H. Summary of Major Activities for the Year**
- I. Records**

### **IV. Finance**

- A. QuickBooks**
- B. Bank Account**
- C. Debit Card**
- D. Records (paid invoices, bank statements)**
- E. UPS Click & Ship Account**

### **V. Membership**

- A. New Members**
  - 1. Recruiting Members**
  - 2. Membership Form**
  - 3. Excel List of Members**
  - 4. Email List of Members**
  - 5. Welcome Letter & Gift Certificate**
- B. Renewing Memberships**
  - 1. Membership Form**
  - 2. Quarterly Email Notice of Time to Renew**
  - 3. Update Member List & Email List**
- C. Membership Meetings**
  - 1. Schedule**
  - 2. Guest Speaker**
  - 3. Meeting Reminder**
  - 4. Agenda**
  - 5. Hospitality**
- D. Other Meetings (conferences, picnics, field trips, A-Tax, etc.)**
- E. Update Email of Activities to Members**

- VI. Bluebird Presentations
  - A. Scheduling
  - B. Volunteers
  - C. Handouts
  - D. Equipment
- VII. Event/Activity Displays
  - A. Scheduling
  - B. Volunteers
  - C. Handouts
  - D. Equipment
- VIII. Nest Box Trails
  - A. Excel List of Trails & Monitors
  - B. Training
  - C. Supplies
  - D. Database & Reports
- VIX. Communications
  - A. Newsletter
  - B. Facebook
  - C. Website
  - D. Printed Materials
  - E. Media Relations

Please let me know how you would like to help.

**Jim Burke, 803-644-0235**  
**Jimburke271@gmail.com**



## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

*And how's this for a coincidence? I was just commenting on the opportunities to get involved with the SCBS...and what do you know? We have our **annual picnic** coming up in May or June (date to be determined)!!! We had such a fun time last year!! I would love to hear your most fantastic sure fire hostess tips, party game ideas, grill masters extraordinaire, decorators, butchers, bakers and candlestick makers...okay, maybe not all that; but you know what I mean! Grab me at the next meeting or give me a call-I'd love to have your help! **Terry McGrath H. 803.649.6708***

**C. 803.292.1340**



# Name That Photo!

Calling all birders!! Just what goes on in a birds' mind?? Better yet, what *exactly* comes out of their mouths (or beaks)?? Send your funniest, sassiest or most thought provoking caption to The Nest Box News!



**Donna Lee Houle**, an SCBS member from Gaffney, SC came up with this caption...I love it!



Contact me at: [mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net)



## Name That Photo!

The caption contest was fun! Let's try to come up with a caption for *this* photo, taken by SCBS member and fab photographer, [Nancy Moseley!](#)



Contact me at: [mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net)



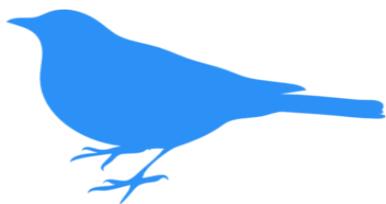
**Did you know:** a single clutch of 4-6 Carolina Chickadee chicks will gobble up more than **9,000** caterpillars in the 16 days between hatch and fledge! Yummy!!



Like us on Facebook! For answers to your questions and membership information to the **South Carolina Bluebird Society** and the **North American Bluebird Society** go to:

<http://www.southcarolinabluebirds.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthCarolinaBluebirdSociety>



**South Carolina Bluebird Society**

**P.O. Box 5151**

**Aiken, SC 29803-5151**

**TO:**