Notice to Members: NABS Director’s Election 2020

Per our by-laws NABS holds a yearly election of our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 to August 15 and ballots can be submitted during that time.

Who can vote? Members in good standing as of May 15, 2020 shall be eligible to vote in the Annual Election. (NABS by-laws Article XVIII.4).

How to vote? Please locate the two self-addressed (not franked) post cards inserted in your Summer (this) copy of Bluebird. If you have an individual membership you are entitled to one vote (mail in one ballot). If you have a “family” membership you are allowed to mail in both ballots. To be counted your ballot must be signed and dated.

The Director nominations closed on May 1st and the following slate was submitted by the Nominations chair and approved by the Board of Directors. To comply with NABS by-laws, the slate was posted on the NABS website (by June 15th) and printed in the Summer 2020 issue of Bluebird.

Short biographies of the 6 candidates (alphabetical order) are included below:

Class of 2023 Running for a 3-year term:

Jim Burke is co-founder and past president of the South Carolina Bluebird Society. He was the Chairman of the planning committee for NABS 2013 in Aiken, SC, and NABS 2020 in Kearney, NE. Jim has been a NABS board member since 2012; he currently serves as the Second Vice President of Community Relations and as Chairman of the NABS Membership Committee.

Mike DeBruhl is an Air Force veteran and retired Business/Human Resources executive and business consultant. His final employment was with a Native Alaska firm in Anchorage, where he traveled throughout Alaska and gained a fascination and respect for northern and Arctic wildlife. Brought up on a farm in the mountains of North Carolina, he had early developed a love of wildlife. He and wife Peg moved to Aiken, South Carolina, in 2008 from Reston, Virginia, and discovered they had beautiful blue-colored birds in their yard. In 2011, he joined the newly formed South Carolina Bluebird Society (SCBS) and became a trail monitor. Hooked on bluebirds he now manages a “neighborhood” trail of 44 nestboxes. Mike went from being a presenter, to a Director, and he now serves as the President of the SCBS. He remains a strong proponent of establishing neighborhood trails as a method of getting people involved, providing practical cavity-dweller education, and sharing the enjoyment.

Kathy Kremnitzer is a retired educator and has been a bluebird landlord for over 30 years after her father built some nestboxes for her birthday. She currently monitors 80 boxes each week in Frederick and Washington counties in Maryland, and is a part of the four-person monitoring team for the Antietam National Battlefield bluebird trail’s 100 nestboxes in Sharpsburg. She is the immediate past president of the Maryland Bluebird Society, of which she is a Life member, and serves as County Coordinator for Frederick County. Kathy has been a NABS board member since 2009 and has served as Secretary since 2011. She is as an administrator for both the NABS and Maryland Bluebird Society Facebook pages and responds to the many requests for information and assistance, especially during nesting season. Kathy lives in Knoxville, Maryland, with her husband and loves to spend as much time as possible with her children and her three grandchildren.

Sky (Schuyler) Rector was born and raised in Wisconsin and for the last 50 years has resided with his wife Diana in Atlanta, Georgia. Over the years he has been actively involved in several neighborhood organizations whose purpose is to preserve and protect the community. His favorite pastimes are bridge, golf, gardening, and woodworking. His fondness for bluebirds goes back about 20 years. He has built and installed over 200 Peterson nestboxes and monitors a bluebird trail of 20 nestboxes. He is a Life member of NABS, actively seeks new members, and builds nestboxes at cost for those willing to make a donation to NABS.
Del Straub is a resident of Portland, Oregon, and is a licensed bird bander and a member and Director of Mountain Bluebird Trails, a NABS Affiliate. He is also a current member of the NABS Board of Directors. Del managed a 90-nestbox trail in Montana for nearly a decade. He specializes in organizational financial management of 501.c.3 tax-exempt nonprofits and is also involved in long-term citizen science projects in his area. He is a member of several NABS committees including development, finance, and affiliates.

Class of 2022 Running for a 2-year term:

Harold Sellers lives in the city of Vernon in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. So far he has avoided retirement by rebranding himself several times, going from electronics technician to hiking trail planner to entrepreneur to humanitarian aid management. A life-long interest in the natural world is behind involvement in nature, trails and outdoor societies for several decades. Harold has held numerous posts, all of which have been good learning experiences as well as opportunities to help wherever needed. He is the president of the Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Society, in British Columbia. He monitors a 23-box bluebird trail that provides homes for Western Bluebirds and, some years, a Mountain Bluebird or two.

NABS by-laws are found at: www.nabluebirdsociety.org/Board/boardofdirectors.htm