

## Notice To Members: NABS Director's Election 2023

Per the NABS By-Laws, NABS holds an annual election for our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 through August 15, 2023 and ballots can be submitted during that time.

**Who can vote?** Members in good standing as of May 15, 2023 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) postcards inserted in your Summer (this issue) copy of *Bluebird*. For an individual membership, you are entitled to one vote, so only one ballot would be mailed in. For a "family" membership, two votes are allowed, so both ballots would be mailed in. **Note: To be counted as eligible, ballots must be signed, dated and postmarked on or before August 15, 2023.**

The Director nominations closed on May 15<sup>th</sup> and the following slate was submitted by NABS Nominating Committee Chair, Jane Brockway and was then approved by the NABS Board of Directors. To comply with NABS By-Laws, the slate is posted on the NABS website (by June 15<sup>th</sup>) and is also printed in the summer issue of *Bluebird* (this issue).

Short biographies of the candidates for the NABS Board of Directors, class of 2026, are featured below:

**Jim Burke** is a retired U.S. Army Infantry officer and retired business owner. He and his wife Sharon moved from Alexandria, VA to Aiken, SC in 2007 where they became enamored with Eastern Bluebirds on their property and surrounding golf course. In 2010 Jim co-founded and served as president of the South Carolina Bluebird Society for five years. He has been a NABS board member since 2012 and served as the 2nd Vice President for Community Relations and as Chairman of the NABS Membership Committee for nine years. He was Chairman of the Planning Committee for the NABS 2013 Conference in Aiken, SC. He and Sharon moved from Aiken, SC to the River Landing at Sandy Ridge retirement community in High Point, NC in 2017. There he launched the River Landing Bird Club that monitors 65 bluebird nestboxes on the 220-acre campus and has monthly wildlife presentations and tours for the residents. He is also a board member of the North Carolina Bluebird Society.

**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. He and wife Peg moved to Aiken, SC 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 50 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. He is a frequent presenter to garden clubs, civic and education groups and other community organizations. Mike is a big proponent of providing such educational programs on our bluebirds and other cavity dwellers and is a Life member of NABS. He currently serves as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of Affiliate Relations as well as chairing the Affiliate Committee and serving on the Executive and Developmental Committees.

**Schuyler (Sky) Rector** was born and raised in WI 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 currently 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.

**Jillian Adams** is a proud Marylander who lives with her husband, two children, three cats and a yard full of native plants. She found NABS when researching for establishing a community bluebird trail installation (which is now up and responsibly running, thanks to NABS guidance and support). She is a Maryland Tree Steward and a Weed Warrior. When not staring quizzically at little brown birds or clipping porcelain berry vines around her community, Jill can often be found pedaling around on her e-cargo bike.

**Del Straub** is currently a resident of Portland, Oregon. For many years he lived in Gallatin Gateway in south central Montana and was a licensed bluebird bander. He monitored a nestbox of over a hundred boxes for more than a decade. That trail was dedicated to a long-term citizen science project and Del has completed a 10-year longitudinal study on nesting competition between bluebirds and tree swallows in a high-density habitat. He is working to publish his findings with help from Jane Brockway of Mountain Bluebird Trails. Del has served numerous 501.c.3 non-profit organizations as a director/trustee and specializes in non-profit financial management. In addition to serving as a NABS director, Del also serves on the Development Committee.

**Kathy Kremnitzer** is a retired educator and has been a bluebird landlord and trail monitor for over 30 years. During nesting season, she monitors 5 different trails in Frederick and Washington Counties in Maryland, and is also a part of the 4-person monitoring team for the Antietam National Battlefield's 100+ nestboxes in Sharpsburg. She is a three-term past president and Lifetime member of the Maryland Bluebird Society and also serves as State Coordinator as well as co-county coordinator for Frederick and Washington Counties. Kathy has been a NABS board member since 2009 and served as NABS secretary from 2011 until 2023. She currently serves NABS as president and chairs/serves on several committees, including the Executive, Facebook, Hotline, Awards, Nestbox, Speakers and Website Committees. She is an administrator for both the NABS and Maryland Bluebird Society Facebook pages and responds to many requests for information and assistance from bluebirders, especially during nesting season. Kathy lives in Knoxville, Maryland with her husband and scotty dog, George, and when not on the bluebird trails, loves to spend time with her children and four grandsons.

NABS By-Laws are found on our website at:

<https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/NABS%20By-Laws%20Adopted%2009-17-19.pdf>