

Notice To Members: NABS Director's Election 2024

Per the NABS By-Laws, NABS holds an annual election for our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 through August 15, 2024 and ballots can be submitted during that time.

Who can vote? Members in good standing as of May 15, 2024 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, 2024.**

The Director nominations closed on May 15th 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 15th) 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 2027, are featured below:

Jane Brockway and her husband, Alan live in Mineral County located in western Montana. She started bluebirding in 1998. Jane and her husband purchased part of his family's ranch and they had been told by Alan's grandparents that there had always been bluebirds in the area, nesting in fence posts. Mineral County is prime bluebird habitat, with mostly Western Bluebirds, but also Mountain Bluebirds. Jane continues to work for bluebird conservation and education and is now a master bander with Mountain Bluebird Trails (MBT), a NABS affiliate. During the nesting season she weekly monitors (and bands) an 80+ nestbox trail that is spread over 20 miles. In addition to being a NABS director, Jane also serves as the editor of the MBT's newsletter and has been a director in the organization for over 10 years. Jane is an avid bluebird photographer.

Bernie Daniel is a retired environmental research scientist who lives in Symmes Township of southwestern Ohio. Bernie joined NABS in 1999 and is a life member of the Society. He has served as President, Editor of *Bluebird*, and chair of the grants, development, and education committees and other duties as assigned. He is a life member, and past president of the Ohio Bluebird Society and has been bluebirding (off and on!) when he can find some appropriate habitat since 1953. During his professional career, he published some 140-research peer-reviewed papers in environmental science and has participated in the North American Breeding Bird Survey since 1996. He enjoys the study of bird song and the challenge of "birding by ear". His current scientific interest is understanding the population status of the three bluebird species.

Cathy Hindman lives in Manassas, Virginia monitoring three trails and serving as co-coordinator of trails for Prince William County for the Virginia Bluebird Society. She enjoyed identifying backyard birds with a field guide in childhood and was introduced to bluebird conservation in Bermuda when her husband was stationed there with the US Navy from 1987-1990. Cathy has monitored nest boxes for over 20 years and served as president of the Virginia Bluebird Society for 4 years. A

lifelong learner, she never tires of opening a nest box and discovering a new life. Cathy currently serves NABS as Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee.

Bet Zimmerman Smith worked in environmental protection for three decades. She now volunteers for several open space and conservation organizations. She maintains an educational website about small cavity-nester conservation at www.Sialis.org. Bet is also a regular contributor of articles to the NABS Journal, Bluebird, is a NABS director, and serves on the NABS Grants, Education, Nestbox and Website Committees. She manages about 100 nestboxes in Northeastern CT

Jeff Peterson is a retired educator from Georgia. He and his wife, Cindy live on High Falls State Park Lake in Jackson, Georgia. He has been a bluebird landlord for over 30 years, and his boxes were approved by NABS in 2001. He started a bluebird trail at Stone Mountain Park that grew to 92 boxes. Jeff started a trail in his neighborhood where he and his wife retired. It is now up to about 50 boxes. His newest adventure is to help improve and repair the boxes at Dauset Trails in Jackson, home to the groundhog, General Lee who predicts the arrival of spring in Georgia. Jeff continues to build boxes to encourage people to help bluebirds in Georgia. He has also built 10 wood duck boxes and placed them on the state park lake. All were used last year. Jeff's hobbies include playing golf and guitar, woodworking, and hiking. He and his wife also enjoy watching their children coaching and playing with their seven grandchildren.

Jim Bearden was born and raised on a working farm in north Alabama. One of six kids – everyone pitched in and helped with the crops. “What I remember most is the wonderful large vegetable garden my dad always planted. He was a great farmer and could grow just about anything. I also remember the many bluebirds and their songs as they flew around the flowers, vegetable garden, open fields and pastures making their nests in fence posts and tree cavities. They were beautiful!

Jim spent his career working in the Airline, Tour and Travel related industries. He is now retired as of the end of 2020, before retiring his work was facilitating large Incentive Meetings and Events for New York Life around the world. When not traveling, Jim spends most of his time on the Bluebird Trail or in the Community Garden at Green Meadows Preserve. Jim graduated from the (MGVOCC) Master Gardener Volunteer of Cobb County program through the UGA Extension in January 2013.

Jim is married to his best friend (KC) Kathy for 39 years and they have two beautiful daughters. He is fondly called Da by his sweet 12-year old granddaughter Avery James and nest box 20 is in her name along the trail!

NABS By-Laws can be found on our website at:

<https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/NABS%20By-Laws%20Adopted%209-17-19.pdf>