

# Notice To Members: NABS Director's Election 2025

Per the NABS By-Laws, NABS holds an annual election for our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 through August 15, 2025 and ballots can be submitted during that time.

**Who can vote?** Members in good standing as of May 15, 2025 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 should 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, 2025.**

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 2028, are featured below:

**Dana Grayson** lives in Frederick County, Maryland, with her husband and dogs. She currently works as a marketing manager for a software company serving non-profit organizations. Dana grew up surrounded by countryside and farmland, and this is where she first gained her love of nature and animals of all kinds. When she began working from home full-time, Dana had more opportunities to witness nature in her own backyard, especially the birds. She was most captivated by the beauty and personalities of Eastern Bluebirds, and installed nestboxes for them and other native cavity nesters. In a relatively short time managing and monitoring nestboxes on her own property and several other private properties, she has helped fledge over 75 native cavity nesters since beginning her landlord journey. Dana became a member of the Maryland Bluebird Society to learn more about how to make the bluebirds' nesting seasons a success, and in 2019 she joined their Board of Directors. Dana also serves as a co-coordinator for Frederick County, providing advice, guidance, and best practices to local bluebird landlords. Dana is thrilled to further expand her service to the Board of the North American Bluebird Society. In addition to serving as 2nd Vice President of Community Relations, Dana has also taken on the position of Membership Committee Chair and the responsibilities of maintaining the NABS membership. Dana enjoys using her skills as a marketer to attract more people to birding and caretaking of bluebirds by engaging people through social media, creating online content, virtual events, newsletters, and more.

**Harold Sellers** lives in the city of Vernon in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. In a final career of retirement after rebranding himself several times over the years, going from electronics technician to hiking trail planner to entrepreneur to humanitarian aid management, he now enjoys unpaid jobs! 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 a director of the BC Bluebird Society. He and his wife monitors a 23-box bluebird trail that provides homes for Western Bluebirds and Tree Swallows.

**Joe Siegrist** lives with his family in Erie, Pennsylvania, and is President/CEO and directs research for the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Before focusing on martins, he conducted avian research for the University of Illinois and the Illinois Natural History Survey studying Acadian Flycatchers, Northern Bobwhite and Neotropical migrants in general. In addition to conservation research, he has also worked as an educator teaching high school science, a zookeeper, a naturalist and a stay-at-home parent. He has presented at both local and regional scientific conferences and frequently speaks at public events, representing the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA). He is focused on engaging the younger generation and instilling in them an understanding of the need for conservation of both aerial insectivores and cavity-nesting birds.

**Ralph Tanner** is a university English professor residing in Atlanta, Georgia. A lifelong resident of central Georgia—aside from a two-year period living in Costa Rica and Colombia—Ralph has combined his academic career with a deep, enduring interest in birds, particularly cavity-nesting birds.

Raised on a family farm in central Georgia, Ralph developed a strong connection to animals and the natural world from an early age. His fascination with cavity-nesting birds began around the age of 13 when his grandfather introduced him to bluebirds by installing a nest box in their front yard. That same nest box now resides in Ralph's backyard in Atlanta, serving as a meaningful symbol of his lifelong dedication to bird conservation.

Ralph currently builds, maintains, and monitors 220 nest boxes that support a variety of native species, including Eastern bluebirds, purple martins, wood ducks, prothonotary warblers (his personal favorite), hooded mergansers, great-crested flycatchers, and Carolina chickadees. His nest boxes are mostly located on his family's farm in central Georgia, at his home in Atlanta, and on the property of various family members and friends.

Ralph is an active member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association and the American Chestnut Foundation. Beyond his work in education and bird conservation, he enjoys music, gardening, native and carnivorous plants, travel, hiking, and fishing. Ralph's top five favorite birds in the world are, in no particular order: green peafowl, Southern cassowary, prothonotary warbler, Gouldian finch, and great argus pheasant.

**Peggy McKee** and her husband, Pat, have lived in Frederick County, Virginia since 1989, when they bought an historic farmhouse on a few acres of open pastureland, and moved from Alexandria, Virginia. Peggy retired from a career in education and non-profit management, during which she founded and advanced several organizations including the Lord Fairfax Association for the Education of Young Children and the Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum and was an advancement contractor for the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute. Peggy's first memory of birdwatching was when her mother hung a feeder right outside the kitchen window, and she and her brother and sister learned to name towhees, cardinals, titmice, nuthatches, and chickadees. From those days until the present, she has loved watching, feeding, counting, and learning about these fascinating and indispensable creatures. Her most recent accomplishment regarding avian life is her completion of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Comprehensive Bird Biology online course. Peggy and Pat are devoted to the task of eliminating invasive plant species from their fourteen acres and planting native species of trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers. They put up six bluebird nesting boxes in 2020 and are monitoring them. In 2021, they planted more than fifty native trees. Peggy's other hobbies include gardening, cooking, hiking, and, above all, spending time those three adorable grandchildren.

**Lori Jo Jamieson**

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

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