

Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council, Inc  
13555 Beaver Dam Road  
Cockeysville, MD 21030

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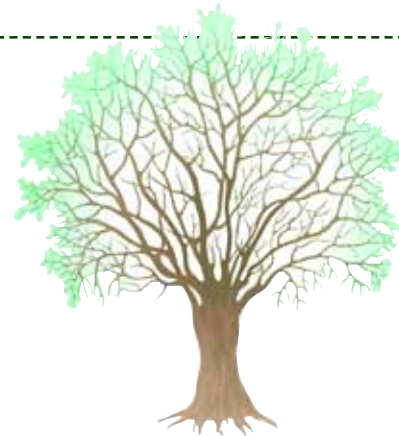
Is Your Membership  
Current?

# TRAILBLAZER

April/May/June 2013



Supporting Oregon Ridge Park  
and Nature Center for 31 years



## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND SIGN UP A FRIEND, TOO!

Just as it takes many branches to make a strong tree, it takes many members to make a strong Council. The expiration date and letter on your mailing label reveal your membership status. "C" means current, "E" means expired, and "X" means this is your last issue unless you renew now. Use this form to renew, or give it to a friend who would enjoy the Nature Center. Better yet, gift it to them.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 20 Family                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Corporate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 12 Senior Citizen/Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150 Lifetime   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 Non-Profit             |   |



Checks payable to ORNC Council, Inc., 13555 Beaver Dam Rd., Cockeysville, MD 21030

## MUSIC IN THE WOODS

May 11, 2013, 10 AM – 4 PM

This lively illustration has appeared in every April-June issue of the *Trailblazer* since Music in the Woods began over 8 years ago. It's creator, Sandy Glover, is a talented illustrator from Baltimore, now living in California. Her work appears in exhibits in ORNC and in the Irvine Natural Science Center. Her depiction of country folk, lost in bluegrass rapture while playing banjo and dulcimer, says all anyone needs to know about this toe-tapping music festival.

Musicians of every caliber gather here each spring with their mandolins, harmonicas, guitars, harps, flutes and other instruments to entertain visitors and themselves in the shady meadow outside of the Nature Center. Some return every year. Others may be first-timers who have just heard about this down-home fun event. People who come can just relax and listen, join a jam session with other musicians, or hop up on stage to sing, dance and play their instrument of choice. If you are sure you want to perform, call the Nature Center and they will assign you a spot on the schedule.

This year there will also be puppet shows, a children's sing-along, face painting, crafts, colonial dancing, and some good food. Various vendors will be selling their crafts and wares.

Why not grab your partner and doe-see-doe on over to Oregon Ridge Nature Center for a good ole time? (MJS)

[Volunteers are needed to run this event. If you are interested in helping, please email Pat Krasowski at pkrasowski@gmail.com.]



It's all about Good Times at  
**MUSIC IN THE WOODS!**

And,  
**It's FREE!**

# ORNCC SPEAKER SERIES

## BRINGING NATURE HOME

**Dr. Douglas W. Tallamy**

**Monday, April 15, 6:30 PM  
Oregon Ridge Lodge**

**\$10 (\$5 ORNCC Members)**

The past several issues of the *Trailblazer* have heralded Doug Tallamy's April lecture, *Bringing Nature Home*, which is also the name of his popular book that was awarded the Garden Writers Association of America's Silver Medal in 2008. The time is near, and with April showers comes this long anticipated talk and photographic presentation.

Dr. Tallamy would like all of us to view our property and gardens as wildlife preserves, strengthening the hope for sustaining native plants and animals that were once abundant in the United States. In an article titled *Gardening for Life*, he states, "We have never been taught how vital biodiversity is for our own well-being." He goes on to explain that parks and preserves are not enough to ensure biodiversity. People need to begin redesigning suburbia, first by changing their outlook on the function of their own gardens and wooded lots. During this presentation, Dr. Tallamy will explain the importance of biodiversity to our own existence and provide you with information to begin your journey toward preserving threatened and endangered plants and animals.

The evening begins at 6:30 PM with light refreshments and an opportunity to talk with Dr. Tallamy, and to perhaps

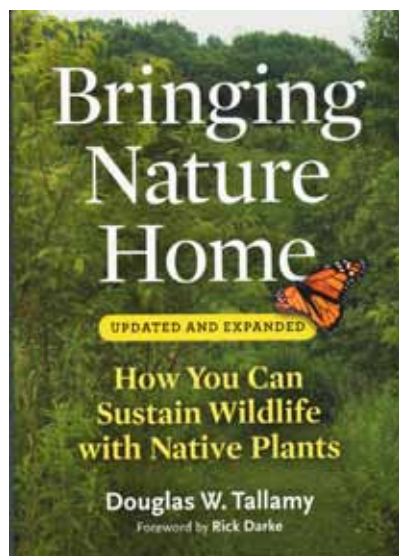


buy his book. Pick up some educational information and materials from the UM Entomology table, Honey Bee table, Valley View Native Plant table, Master Gardener table, or the Lights Out Baltimore (Birds) table.

The presentation begins at 7:30 PM, followed by a book signing. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at ORNC, or at the door. Only checks and cash will be accepted. Space at the Lodge is limited, so please try to make your reservations ahead of time by calling 410-887-1815.

Dr. Tallamy, Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, is a renowned writer and lecturer. For more information, visit our website [www.oregonridge.org](http://www.oregonridge.org) or <http://bringingnaturehome.net/>. This is a *not-to-be-missed* event. (MJS)

**Please make your reservations today!**



## VOLUNTEERING ~ An Important Part of Oregon Ridge

Volunteers are vital assets to Oregon Ridge. We serve thousands of park visitors and have hundreds of programs and special events throughout the year. Without volunteers, we would not be able to maintain the quality of programs, exhibits, and trails that we have at the Nature Center and within the Park.

To complete their final rank for the Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scouts must complete a service project in their community to demonstrate their leadership skills. Recently, we were fortunate to have three young men who wanted to complete their projects with ORNC. Logan Parrish submitted his proposal in 2011, but ran into a bump with getting approval from the County. He persevered and got the signature, completing the stump jump in the Nature Play Area located below the Center this past fall. Lucas Myers completed the wigwam, which is located near the Natural Play Area, after spending days collecting large strips of bark. Ronnie Mays, a young Eagle Scout candidate at age 13, built a new puppet show theater for the Nature Center within several months of proposing his plans (see photo below).



Master Naturalists are another group of volunteers at the Nature Center. They must attend 60 hours of training and then complete 40 service hours for the Center. Master Naturalists lead school hikes, make new program materials, design new exhibits, sit on the ORNC Council, answer phones, do trail maintenance, coordinate garden projects, assist with special events, and much more!

We would like to acknowledge the two Master Naturalist classes that graduated in 2012 and our newest class that finished their training in November.

Class of Spring 2012: Cindy Barretta, John Bainbridge, Jim Curtis, Nancy Mattingly, Paul Waldeman

Class of Fall 2012: Gary Anderson, Tami Bentz, Rob Bonfante, Alison Hansen, Martha Johnston, Melody Kraus, Amy Lang, Ed Layne, Nan Neely, Melissa Tillery, & Anita Tyler

Class of Fall 2013: Bluma Bier, Leigh Cochrane, Lynn Faulkner, Sybil Hebb, Nancy Lewis, Michele Steinitz



Fall 2012 Graduates of Master Naturalist Class



Master Naturalist Class from ORNC and Robert E. Lee Park to graduate Fall 2013

## GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES

The Baltimore County Master Gardeners established the Historical Garden in 2009 in the Nature Center meadow. There are many types of flowers and shrubs planted to reflect gardens of yesteryears. This year, responsibility for this garden is being transferred to Oregon Ridge Nature Center Master Naturalists.



Adult Tiger Swallowtail, photo by Doug Tallamy

This spring, the garden will be expanded to include a Butterfly Garden. There are many native plants and shrubs already in place that provide nectar and plants needed by butterflies to reproduce. We will add even more host plants to encourage a variety of caterpillars, and therefore, more butterflies to enjoy in the park. Plant them and they will come!

In addition, this garden will be deer-fenced. There will be an access gate so that you can enter the garden and watch the butterflies close up. We are leaving the garden's dead fall plants in place because these plants may contain butterfly chrysalis and also provide shelter for over-wintering butterflies.

Do you want to know more about attracting butterflies to your garden? Attend Dr. Doug Tallamy's *Bringing Nature Home* talk on April 15 at the Oregon Ridge Lodge. More information on butterfly gardening and the Tallamy talk is available in the Nature Center. (NL & WT)



Tiger Swallowtail Caterpillars

### MEMBERS!

**Tippy Terrapin**  
says,

*If you see an "X" on your mailing label,  
this will be your  
last issue of the Trailblazer.*

**PLEASE RENEW TODAY!**



## NATURALIST TRAINING OFFERED SEPTEMBER 7

If you enjoy learning about the natural world and sharing that knowledge with others or using it to care for the earth, you should become a Master Naturalist. Modeled after the Master Gardener program, this program offers 60 hours of classroom and hands-on learning with expert instructors. Final certification comes with the completion of 40 hours of volunteer service.



Beginning Saturday, September 7, and continuing on Monday and Thursday evenings until October 28, classes will be held at either Oregon Ridge Nature Center or Robert E. Lee Park. There will be a few Saturday sessions. The \$250 fee includes materials and is due after you have been accepted into the training.

If you would like to know more, there will be an informative Open House on May 13, at 6 PM at ORNC, with refreshments. Please RSVP Winny Tan at wtan@baltimorecountymd.gov, or call 410-887-1815. Registration begins June 1. Download an application at the Master Naturalist website: [www.masternaturalist.umd.edu/piedmont.cfm](http://www.masternaturalist.umd.edu/piedmont.cfm) and return it to Winny Tan at ORNC, 13555 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030.

## FOUR SEASONS AT BOMBAY HOOK

Pat Ruchlewicz  
Educator

Monday, May 20, 7:30 PM

Delaware's Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is a nature lover's heaven on the Bay, especially for birders. As an amateur birder and photographer who has frequented wildlife refuges all along the eastern shore, Pat Ruchlewicz has settled on Bombay Hook as her favorite birding spot and as the most likely place to get that "shot of a lifetime." With over 278 recorded species of birds, 103 of which nest in the park, Pat says, "one is seldom disappointed in the number and variety of birds you will see regardless of the season." The park is located in the middle of the Atlantic Flyway making both spring and fall migration a lively time to visit. Its location near the Delaware Bay brings a large variety of shorebirds that come to feast on the horseshoe crabs when they spawn. In the winter, migratory ducks, snow geese, and grebes come to the fresh water impoundments.



Green Winged Teal in late winter at Bombay Hook  
Photo by Christine Shanks

Pat's photographs of Bombay Hook reveal the stimulating diversity of each season and will entice many members of her audience to go and experience the seasons personally. Its diverse habitat makes birding and observation stimulating as each season brings about a different variety of birds. Traveling to Bombay Hook via Delaware Rt. 9 and passing over the Reedy Point Bridge offers an extension to your birding adventure.

Pat has spent the last 13 years as a teacher for the Baltimore County Board of Education. Beginning as a music teacher, she is now a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Resource Teacher. She also continues to take college courses. Pat won a scholarship to Hog Island, Maine, through the Ornithological Society and visited Scotland to add more birds to her life list. The highlight of the trip was seeing huge flocks of puffins, which apparently are as common a sight there as starlings are in the U.S.

## PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY WEEKEND

MAY 4 and 5, 2013  
IT'S FREE

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**Friday:** Camping, \$1/person. Call 410-887-1815 to register. No food vendor this year.

### Saturday and Sunday, All Day

- Knappers chipping points
- Hands-on activities for all ages
- Shooting bows and arrows, blowguns  
tossing atlatls and making clay coils  
and pinch pots.

### Saturday Demonstrations and Talks

- 11:00 am Doug Meyer on making *River Cane Fish Spears*
- 12:30 am Scott Silsby on *Hafting Strategies for Grooved Stone Axes*
- 1:30 pm Rick Hueston, *Forage for Wild Edibles. Make a stew.*
- 2:00 pm Guy R. Neal, *Hot and Cold Method of Smoke Curing and Preserving Fish*
- 3:00 pm Dan Coates and Jack Davis, *Slate Tools Presentation*
- 8:00 pm Saturday Evening Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Schindler: *Interpreting the Past, A Report on a Unique Immersion Experience*

### Sunday Events

- 8:00 am Traditional Bow Shoot.
- 11:00 am Auditorium presentation on using plant poisons with fishing arrows to kill fish.

For a detailed agenda,  
call 410-887-2817.

## PICNIC UNDER THE STARS

**Monday, June 17, 6 PM**  
**Oregon Ridge Lake**

MEMBERS! Welcome summer under the stars at the Oregon Ridge Lake. Take an early evening swim or a woodland stroll, paddle a canoe into the twilight, stretch out on the beach, and when it is good and dark, gather round for campfire songs and roasting marshmallows over hot coals for tasty s'mores.

Pack a picnic basket with hamburgers, chicken or whatever you would like to eat, and maybe a bottle of cheer. The grills will be all set with hot coals. It's FREE, so bring family and friends. (MJS)



## LOOKING FORWARD TO SUMMER AND FALL!

**MEMBERS! OUR CAMP REGISTRATION BEGINS 4/15!** Our summer camps are affordable and popular for hands-on, dirty-shoes, and just-plain-fun activities. Council members are given the first opportunity to register. Check out your summer calendar and call on the April 15. Don't delay! Camps fill quickly!

**TRAIL GUIDE TRAINING** - September 3 to 6, from 10 AM to 1 PM. The \$25 fee is refundable after leading your first solo hike. Learn about bees and other insects, primitive technology, and more.

**Honey Harvest!** Mark your calendar for October 5 & 6, 11 AM to 4 PM, FREE! It's a Honey of a Festival!

## THERE'S STILL ROOM IN WEEKEND PROGRAMS

Our *Winter/Spring Calendar* was mailed late, so we still have openings in our spring weekend events. Some of these fun and informative programs are listed below. If you've misplaced your calendar, look for it on our website: [www.oregonridge.org](http://www.oregonridge.org).

- April Fool's Day, April 6 & 7**
- Nature Love Songs Evening Hike, April 12**
- The Nature of Soap, April 13 & 14**
- Birding the Ridge, April 21 & May 19**
- Earth Day Weekend, April 20 and 21**
- April Showers and Flowers, April 27 & 28**
- Breakfast with the Birds, May 4**
- A Miner's Tale, May 18 & 19**
- Fairies and Elves, May 25 & 26**

## NEW BENCHES BEING BUILT AT OREGON RIDGE

Our favorite chainsaw sculptor, Mr. Pat Hundley, has just finished a new wooden bench. Ms. Alyson Dietz and her siblings provided funds for the bench, located near our archaeology building, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Layne.

The Council has also hired Mr. Hundley to build several benches to replace damaged and deteriorated benches around the Park. So, if you hear the roar of a chainsaw in the Park, don't be alarmed. Hopefully it will be Mr. Hundley building a new bench. If you would like to see more of Mr. Hundley's work, please visit our Natural Play area in the meadow below the Nature Center. Pat has created most of the carvings and sculptures in this area. (Text and photo by Jim Curtis)



## MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

*(This is the third in a series of articles introducing the Board members of the Oregon Ridge Nature Center Council.)*

GINNA NAYLOR has been actively volunteering at Oregon Ridge Nature Center for 26 years, ever since she responded to an announcement about trail guide training in 1987. "I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about nature," she explains, "and loved making new friends with the other trail guides who shared that joy." She continued trail guiding until 2005, when a move away from her northern Baltimore County home to Canton in SE Baltimore City forced her to make choices about how best to serve ORNC. Her 10-minute drive down Falls Road was replaced by a 40-minute slog out I-95 and the beltway, so she decided to concentrate her efforts around her responsibilities as the Oregon Ridge Nature Center librarian.

GINNA is a lifelong book lover, so the librarian's job has been a perfect fit. Since 1994, she has transformed the library into a useful tool for anyone researching various nature topics. She has enhanced the Children's Corner, stocking many of the most popular and award-winning children's nature books. As librarian, Ginna buys new books, culls old ones, maintains a current catalog, preserves order (a difficult task), refreshes featured books seasonally, and keeps the collection as current as her budget allows.

In the early 1990's, Ginna helped with the successful "Save the Ridge" campaign to add 177 acres of the Merryman tract to the Park boundaries. She has served as editor of the *Trailblazer*, held the office of ORNC Council Vice President, volunteered at special events, and for the last 10 years has served as the kitchen manager on the Committee that runs ORNC Council's annual Pancake Breakfast.

GINNA also volunteers at her community Canton Garden Association and with an excellent Maryland SPCA organization in Hampden. She works mainly with cats and helps unwanted, lost or abandoned animals find loving homes. Ginna explains, "My work there ties in with my efforts at Oregon Ridge — to promote love and respect for all animals and to maintain their place in our ever encroaching world." For fun, Ginna loves camping throughout the US, gardening, and enjoying her family and her cats at home.



Even as a small child, Dr. Polly Roberts was fascinated with plants and wildlife. Since Oregon Ridge is nearly in her backyard, she has carried on her love of nature by volunteering at the Nature Center. In 1998, Polly was invited to serve on the Council as a Director. When her three-year term was completed, she assumed the Chair of the Scholarship Committee and has continued in that capacity. Polly finds working on this committee gratifying, explaining:

*It is inspiring and heartwarming to meet the accomplished young people who apply for our scholarships, and to learn of their incredible commitment and passion for the environment. It gives me hope for our planet's future.*

Each spring, Polly and her committee (Co-Chair Joe Salvaggio, Noot Canoles, and Katharine Patterson) send notices to Baltimore County and City high schools, offering seniors with a 3.0+ GPA

the opportunity to apply for a scholarship of \$3000 upwards. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to the environment and show intent to pursue environmental studies in the college of their choice. After reviewing all of the applications, interviews are conducted with the top candidates and as many as five candidates are awarded scholarships. The committee also encourages donations from the public to build up the Scholarship

Fund so more students can be assisted. Since 2001, Polly has overseen the award of 40 scholarships, totally over \$100,000. That is quite an achievement!

Polly is a Habitat Steward for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and is an avid gardener, including water gardening. She is in the process of replacing her lawn with native plants/shrubs/trees. Her yard, which includes a pond, is certified as an official wildlife habitat by NWF. Her gardens have attracted many unique visitors, including a zebra swallowtail butterfly, a red-eared slider turtle, an albino Blue Jay, and a pair of Baltimore Orioles who enjoy bathing in the pond. Dr. Roberts is a retired pediatrician, but continues to do some clinic work for the Baltimore County Health Department.

The Council benefits from having Ginna Naylor and Polly Roberts on the Board. We thank them for their devotion to Oregon Ridge. (MJS)

*(Photo by Jim Curtis: Ginna on the left, Polly on the right)*

## RIDGE RUNNER SCOUT STEIN: It's Destiny

Scout Stein was destined to be a Ridge Runner at Oregon Ridge. "I have always wanted to become a Ridge Runner," she exclaims, "Since I was very young, I've always loved animals, and I always loved ORNC." From the time she could walk, Scout has been coming to the Park with her grandmother, Jeanne Cole. Jeanne has volunteered in just about every way one can at ORNC...as a trail guide, Council President, Membership/Volunteer Chair, special events coordinator...someone who can always be counted on.

Scout is a sprout from the proverbial apple tree. She is reliable and diligent at her job. She especially enjoys working with the kids at Summer Camp. However, she says the *best* thing about being a Ridge Runner is meeting other volunteers. "We are all very close and I love that."

Scout had to think hard when asked which animal was her favorite, but she finally chose Copper the Corn Snake. She shared a funny story about Copper:

*One of my first weeks of being a Ridge Runner, I was holding Copper and he pooped all over me. Landon (another volunteer) laughed at me. So, later, when D-Drake pooped, I made him clean it up.*

Not only does Scout enjoy taking care of ORNC's critters, she has a number at home to keep her busy. She has her dog Sadie, Fred the parakeet, a bearded dragon named Rico, hermit crabs, a fire belly toad she calls Houdini, and Yoki, a dwarf hamster. She still finds time to play saxophone (she is in her school's marching band), maintain a 3.86 average in school

(her favorite subjects being Latin and American Government), listen to music, and read — a Harry Potter fan, of course. She excels in sports, playing rugby and soccer, and she fences. That is quite a resume for a high school freshman.

Scout encourages her friends to join her as an ORNC Ridgie. "It is super fun, and it gives you lots of service learning hours!" We are lucky to have Scout on the Ridge Runner team. We are grateful she inherited Jeanne's genes! (MJS)



NATURE CENTER STAFF	
Director	Vacant
Naturalist/CS1	Winnie Tan
Administrative Aide	Vacant
Building Maintenance	Pat Bedgar
Part-Time Naturalists:	Gabe Al-Najjar Rob Bonfante Jackie Devine Alison Hansen Amy Lang Lauren Leffer Walter Massey Laura Soder Melissa Tillery Pam Ward
Interns:	Rachel Tuchman Melissa Sobolewski
Building Attendants	Noot Canoles
BCPS Teacher	Andi Musser

### TRAILBLAZER STAFF

Editor and Design/Layout: Mary Jane Shanks

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

##### Writers

Jim Curtis, Martha Johnston, Nancy Lewis, Mary Jane Shanks, Winnie Tan

##### Photographers

Jim Curtis, Bill Diegel, Martha Johnston, Christine Shanks, Doug Tallamy, Staff

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Articles for the Sept/Oct issue are due June 25.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE: Nestbox Monitoring at Oregon Ridge

By Martha Johnston, Master Naturalist

Since 1988, more than 1,200 Eastern bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) and 1,100 tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) have fledged from nestboxes monitored by volunteers at Oregon Ridge Park (ORP). ORP's nestboxes are part of a national success story to restore and conserve populations of bluebirds, as well as tree swallows and other small-cavity nesters threatened by loss of habitat and by invasive species.

Many of ORP's beloved bluebirds are year-round residents, over-wintering as well as breeding here. During the fall and winter, bluebirds can be seen feeding on berries at treetop height, and in warmer weather, foraging near the ground. ORP's less-familiar tree swallows return north to breed after wintering in Florida and Central America. In the spring and summer, these acrobatic flyers can be seen looping and soaring over ORP's meadows, feeding on flying insects that make up most of their diet.

Urbanization, suburbanization, and trends toward manicured outdoor settings and removal of decayed trees reduce the availability of the small cavities these and certain other native birds need for nesting. Further, non-native species, particularly the aggressive house sparrow and European starling that have thrived in urbanized America, out-compete for limited nesting space and destroy the nests and nestlings of native species.

Nestbox monitoring aims to address the dual threats posed by habitat loss and nest competition as well as predation, pests, and weather. In 2012, led by 15-year veterans Paul Kilduff and Mary Scholl, volunteers at Oregon Ridge monitored three trails with a total of 48 boxes.

The success of any nestbox trail is the result of off-season work and planning. Visitors at Oregon Ridge can observe nestbox locations and designs drawn from decades of ever-evolving lessons learned locally and nationally. Using tested model designs that best accommodate bluebird-nesting preferences, Oregon Ridge nestboxes feature:

- Locations in meadows away from tree lines to reduce competition with house wrens, a native but aggressive species, and distant from dumpsters and other house sparrow attractions

- Groups of two or three nestboxes. Both bluebirds and tree swallows are willing to nest near another tree swallow nest. (Bluebirds will not nest close to another nesting bluebird.) Grouping two or more boxes may reduce nest takeover by house wrens.
- White paint and solar guards to mitigate summer's baking heat
- Baffles to deter snakes and other climbing predators
- Hole sizes and guards that accommodate favored native birds while deterring egg and nestling predation by starlings

The nesting season at Oregon Ridge runs from April to late July. Bluebirds lay 2-7 eggs with a 12-14 day incubation period, which starts on the day when the next to the last egg is laid. The young fledge 16-22 days after hatching. Bluebird pairs may have more than one successful clutch in a season. Tree swallows lay 2-8 eggs in nests lined with feathers and incubate for 14-15 days; nestlings fledge after 16-22 days. For both bluebirds and tree swallows, males as well as females help feed and protect nestlings, although only females brood.



(Tree Swallow photo by Martha Johnston)

During nesting season, monitors visit each nestbox at least weekly to remove and mitigate a variety of pests such as non-native wasps, make needed repairs to boxes and predator guards, and address emergencies. Monitors also collect data regarding nesting attempts and dates, number of eggs, number of hatchlings and hatchling survival. By reporting this data to Cornell University's NestWatch database, the nestbox monitoring program at Oregon Ridge contributes to a national understanding of trends in the reproductive biology of birds.

### 2012 NESTBOX DATA

#### Eastern bluebirds:

17 nesting attempts; 14 active nests;  
72 eggs; 52 nestlings; 50 fledglings

#### Tree swallows:

32 nesting attempts; 20 active nests;  
161 eggs; 102 nestlings; 83 fledglings

### 2000 FLOCK TO MAPLE SUGARING WEEKENDS 1300 MARCH IN FOR HOTCAKES

This winter's gray, fickle weather did not stop over 2000 people from flocking to February's Maple Sugaring Weekends. Trail guides led groups to the sugar bush to show them how to tap sap from maples, and even black walnut trees, and tested their taste buds with samplings of the different tree saps. Back at the sugar shack they tasted the syrup and sugar made from the various saps. There were demos on how sugar and syrup were made in the past and the present. This year, staff and volunteers collected over 100 gallons of sap from the trees around the park. Manning two evaporators, they spent hours boiling down the sap to produce only one quart of black walnut syrup and three quarts of maple syrup for the season!

March 2013's Pancake Breakfast ran as smooth as maple syrup, netting a profit of \$7472 to support Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Over 1300 people attended, and 75 became new or renewed members of the ORNC Council, the sponsor of this and other fund-raising events to promote educational programs and exhibits at ORNC. That is a real success story.

After 26 years of the Council hosting this breakfast, it may appear to some to run on automatic. Nothing is further from the truth. A hard-core group of Council board members spends months planning every detail and forecasting every potential obstacle. Bill LaBarre chairs the committee, which includes Inventory/Kitchen Manager Ginna Naylor, Treasurer Anne Canoles, Gift Shop Coordinator Noot Canoles, President Jim Curtis, Volunteer Chair Pat Krasowski, Newsletter Editor Mary Jane Shanks, Baltimore County CSI Winnie Tan, Raffle Box Coordinator John Canoles, Speaker Series Chair Sue Leslie, Membership Chair Marcia Dysart,

Supply Coordinators Cas and Joe Warfield, and Flower Coordinator Polly Roberts.

With the ORNC Dulcimer Gathering and the Oregon Ridge Band providing a rousing musical backdrop to the event, people feasted, visited, and bought syrup, seconds on the sausage, spring flowers, gifts, ORNCC memberships, and of course, raffle tickets. While Master of Ceremonies Walter Massey called out winners for the fun \$.25 raffles, people perused the ever-popular box raffles. This was the 10<sup>th</sup> year for the box raffles, and we want to especially recognize our ten-year contributors: Boordy Vineyards (wine basket), Brookes Huff Tire and Auto (car care), Ladew Topiary Gardens (guest passes), Ginna Naylor's beautiful wine baskets (a big ticket seller), and Oregon Ridge Beach (beach membership).

Appreciation goes to others who generously contributed to the box raffles this year: Pat Krasowski (4 Natl. Aquarium passes), Jack and Anne Kerns (dog treat basket and a picnic basket), Oregon Ridge Gift Shop (Kid's Nature Basket), Earth Treks (2 climbing passes), Auto Spa (\$50 gift certificate), Brick

Bodies (3 month membership), Donna's Hallmark Shrewsbury (Vera Bradley floral bag), Wild Bird Center in Mays Chapel (fruit and nut suet feeder), and Aqua Ventures (snorkeling set).

One hundred-five hardy volunteers — who led hikes, boiled syrup, cooked, flipped, grilled, served, waited tables, mixed batter, washed dishes, displayed salesmanship at various stations, took admissions, painted faces, set-up and cleaned up, and played music — were, as always, the backbone of our Maple Sugaring Season. **THANK YOU!** (MJS & WT)



Kelly Bostwick loves our Pancake Breakfast



Dun Yee Wong, Lena Appleby, Winnie Tan



Ed Bull, face painter extraordinaire



Lou and Emily Witt grill sausage



Top: Dave and Pam Ward, Rachel Tuchman  
Bottom: Nan Neeley  
Upper Center: John Canoles  
Lower Center: Joe Warfield



Top: Winnie Tan with Ridge Runners Mary Genovese, Seth Dawson, Summer Riddle, Grace Meredith, Scout Stein, Joey Devine  
Bottom: Tami Bentz



(Bostwick photo by Bill Diegel  
All other photos by Jim Curtis)



### OUR VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF ARE GRADE A!

Andy Anders  
Lena Appleby  
Carole Armor  
Gary Anderson  
Jesse Anderson  
Cindy Atkinson  
Griff Atkinson  
John Bainbridge  
Tami Bentz  
Rob Bonfante  
Elise Brahm  
Ed Bull  
Mike Burns  
Ann Canoles  
John Canoles  
Noot Canoles  
Jeanne Cole  
Jim Curtis  
Jocelyn Curtis  
Seth Dawson  
Joey Devine  
Frank Dickinson

Bill Diegel  
Kirk Dreier  
Winnie Dreier  
Zeke Eclarino  
Dave Erhardt  
Lynn Faulkner  
Georgette Frederick  
Mary Genovese  
Susan Genovese  
Mark Gingerich  
Lisa Hopkins  
Christopher James  
Ann Kerns  
Jack Kerns  
Jerry Kirkwood  
Laura Kleinmann  
Pat Krasowski  
Melody Kraus  
Bill LaBarre  
Seth Dawson, Jr.  
Holly LaBarre  
Amy Lang

Christopher Lang  
Sue Leslie  
Shivani Madhu  
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Martha Johnston  
Bob Meier  
Gayle Meier  
Kathy McAllister  
Sandy McCann  
Erin McCleary  
Angie McDaniel  
Steve McDaniel  
April L. Melato  
Dan Melato  
Grace Meredith  
Dean Merritt  
Bradley Moore  
Ruth Moore  
Ed Morse  
Marcia Murphy  
Ginna Naylor  
Nan Neely

Kathy Obbagy  
Kevin O'Neill  
Christina Panousos  
Cheryl Parrish  
Katharine Patterson  
Beth Patterson  
Jim Potter  
David Power  
Sue Reif  
Summer Riddle  
Polly Roberts  
Scott Roberts  
Sylvia Sackleh  
Joe Salvaggio  
Mary Scott  
Ashby Shanks  
Mary Jane Shanks  
Landon Silverman  
Bob Stanhope  
Becky Stein  
Scout Stein  
Derrick Tan

Rachel Tuchman  
Anita Tyler  
Paul Waldman  
Mike Walsh  
Bella Wanis  
Josh Ward  
Katy Ward  
Meagan Ward  
Pam Ward  
Cas Warfield  
Joe Warfield  
Alex Waugh  
Bob Willasch  
Emily Witt  
Lou Witt  
Dun Yee Wong  
Willy Wong  
  
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**A GREAT TEAM!**