



# OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

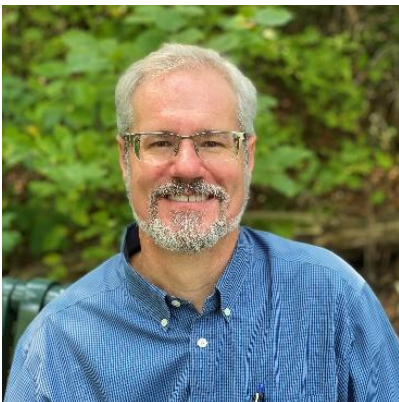
*Nesting in Nature!*

March 4, 2023

*Welcome to our esteemed speakers at the March 4, 2023 Ohio Bluebird Society annual conference.*



By Anna Rose



**Mark Dilley**  
**Chief Scientist, MAD Scientist Associates LLC**

## **It's a Process: The Trials and Travails (and Joys and Sorrows) of Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat in Suburbia**

As human population pressures on our environment mount, the need for naturalizing our landscapes is becoming abundantly clear. Individual property owners can play an important role in recovering local ecosystems through deliberate actions to restore native plant communities and support native wildlife. Mark and his wife Chris have been on a personal journey to replace non-native species on their property and grow more native plants to enhance their property's value for wildlife (including Eastern Bluebirds!). This labor of love is (selfishly) for their own enjoyment, but also for the satisfaction and pride that comes from being part of the solution and connecting with nature in meaningful ways. As part owners of Scioto Gardens Nursery, which specializes in native plants, they have an added motivation to lead by example. Mark will share the story of what is an ongoing transformation from suburban yard (*i.e.*, turf and ornamentals) to a Certified Wildlife Habitat and Humane Backyard.

**Mark Dilley** earned a B.S. in Natural Resources (Fisheries Management) in 1991 and a M.S. in Environmental Science (specializing in wetlands) in 2003, both from The Ohio State University School of Environment and Natural Resources. He and his wife Christine are co-owners of a WBE, WOSB, and EDGE-certified environmental consulting firm, MAD Scientist Associates, specializing in ecological and wetland consulting. Their company strives to *Make A Difference – through Science, Service and Education*. Mark has over 30 years of experience as a field biologist, ecologist, and wetland scientist. He is an Ohio EPA-certified Level 3 Qualified Data Collector (QDC) for fish and habitat studies in Ohio, a Certified Senior Ecologist, Certified Ecological Restoration Professional (CERP), and Senior Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS). He is also a lecturer at The Ohio State University, where he teaches Wetland Ecology & Restoration, and he currently serves as the President of the Ohio Wetlands Association and Chair of the Ohio Biological Survey.

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**Timothy McDermott DVM**  
Assistant Professor, Extension Educator  
Agriculture and Natural Resources, Franklin County  
College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences

**Title: An Update on Ticks in Ohio**

Ohio is on the forefront of tick and tick-vector disease expansion going from one tick of medical importance to humans, companion animals, and livestock twenty years ago to 5 today. Come learn the state of ticks in Ohio, what is on the horizon, and how you can keep you, your family, and your animals tick-safe.

**Bio:** Timothy McDermott has been an OSU Extension Educator for the past seven years after over twenty years in private practice veterinary medicine and surgery. He lectures locally to internationally to audiences including Universities, government agencies, industry, and public health organizations on ticks and tick-vector disease.

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**Diana Steele**

Nest-box monitor for Black River Audubon Society since 2016.

**Bluebirding 101 and Beyond: how to deepen your connection with bluebirds and the people who love them**

This talk will cover the basics of how to monitor bluebird nest boxes, but will take you beyond what you can learn from any written or online materials.

Those of us who have pets in our lives know that every domesticated animal has a distinct personality. We know this from intense observation and direct interaction with our pets every day. You may not realize that wild animals possess distinct personalities as well, because our interactions with them are far more limited. But the more you can take the time to observe and learn from the birds themselves—their likes and dislikes with regard to habitat, box selection, their care and investment in their young—the deeper enjoyment you will gain from monitoring nest boxes. It's possible to deepen your emotional connection with the birds without detracting from their “wildness.”

Beyond the emotional connection with wild creatures, monitoring nest boxes can help us make and nurture connections with other people: for example, other monitors, youth, and curious passers-by. I would argue that the single most important factor in successful nest-box monitoring is mentoring by experienced monitors. To that end, if you're brand new to nest-box monitoring or are intrigued and want to learn more, I'm going to help you connect with potential mentors. Once you are experienced, being open to teaching about nest-boxes and what goes on inside them can enhance other peoples' connection to and appreciation of wild creatures and places.

**Bio:** Diana is an avid birder and science writer living in Lorain County. She has been an Eastern bluebird and American kestrel nest-box monitor for Black River Audubon Society since 2016.

She served for four years on the board of the Ohio Ornithological Society as the Northeast Regional Director and Events committee co-chair. At Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge she volunteered as a bird banding assistant, and has guided field trips for The Biggest Week in American Birding and Black River Audubon Society. As a Girl Scout troop leader, she led her troop in constructing a chimney swift tower at the prairie of the Oberlin Preserve. Each member of the troop earned a Bronze Award for this project, the highest award available to a junior Girl Scout.

She has birded around the world, including in Antarctica, China, New Zealand, Germany, and Venezuela, in addition to North America. In 2019 she traveled to both her 50th state (Alaska) and her 6th continent (Asia). Of course, her bucket list includes birding in Africa.

She is also raising the next generation of environmental stewards, having introduced her two daughters to her birding, blue-birding, and bird banding hobbies.

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Mosquito Creek Lake



**Loyd Marshall**

Volunteer for Cavity Nest Project  
Army Corps of Engineers and State Park  
at Mosquito Creek Lake and a former OBS trustee

**Title: Mosquito Creek Lake Cavity Nesting Birds Project**

**Presentation:** Mosquito Creek Lake is the second largest lake in Ohio and provides a wide variety of habitat for many species of birds. Some are year-round residents and some only show up for the breeding season. While others use the lake for a brief resting place when migrating North or South in the Spring or Fall. There are even a few who come South to Ohio from the Artic. Loyd will give a brief history and function of the lake.

Loyd will present the cavity nesting birds projects form over the years and will discuss the results. This has been an all-volunteer monitoring program with little involvement from academia or nature related organizations.

**Biography:** Loyd was born and raised in a rural farming area with mostly fields, pastures, and woods. He spent most of his youth outdoors and entertained himself with all of Mother Nature’s world (mammals, birds, reptiles, plants, insects, and features of the land). He graduated from Youngstown State University in 1968 with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering Degree. He worked 36 Years for Packard Electric (a Division of GM) and retired in 2001. After retiring he began to seek out nature related projects with various conservation organizations. In the fall of 2009, he started volunteering for the Army Corps of Engineers at Mosquito Creek Lake. By the spring of 2010 he had also added the State Park and the Soil and Water conservation Districts to his volunteering organizations. The cavity nesting bird season of 2010 was the start of his leading the cavity nesting bird projects at Mosquito Creek Lake.

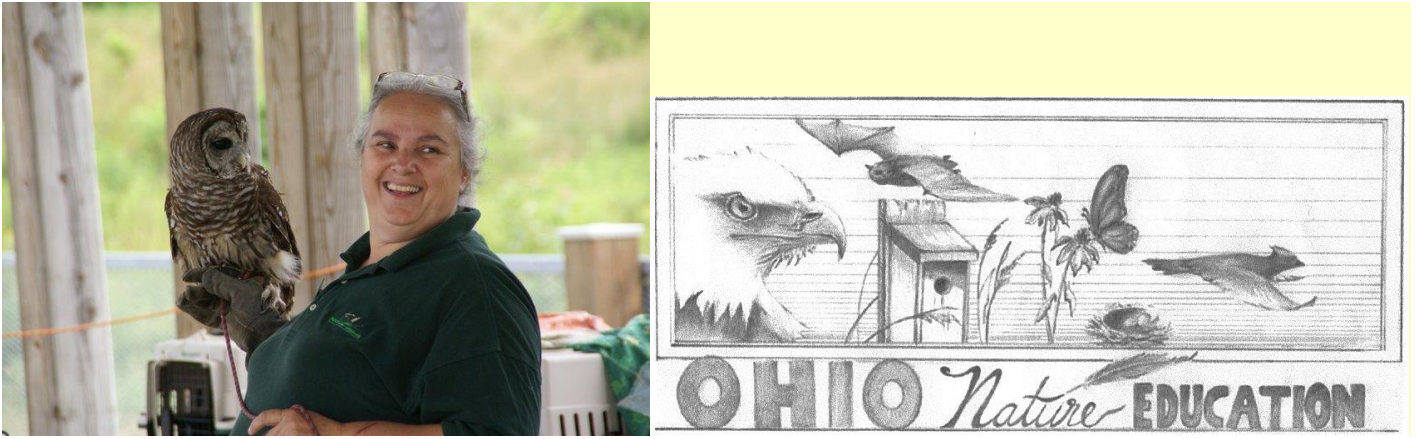


## **Heather Harris**

Founder of Bluebirds Across Ohio  
Social Media and a current OBS trustee

Using social media to connect with Ohio Bluebirders Advanced technology has allowed us to research anything we desire with just a touch of a button on the worldwide web, and the use of social media has skyrocketed. In May of 2020, Heather Harris created a private social media group on Facebook called Bluebirds Across Ohio. Heather learned the majority of Bluebirding 101 from the internet and joining various bluebird groups on Facebook and talking with other landlords. Her goal with the Bluebirds Across Ohio group was to create a fun and educational platform where local Ohio folks could join and network with one another and help each other problem solve by sharing stories and experiences. There is a nice balance of new landlords with experienced landlords and trail monitors, and some of the newer landlords have shared their first successful nesting season stories from last summer with the group! The group will occasionally host contests where participants can win a bluebird related prize, and also feature a "photo of the month" picture taken by one of the group's members. Bluebirds Across Ohio also recognizes the importance of promoting non-profit organizations like OBS and NABS, and because membership and donations are a huge part of their ability to keep functioning by providing grants and hosting conferences, the group frequently posts information and links directly to these organizations (mostly OBS) that make it easy for group members to become a new member or donate if they choose to. Members of the group can easily search for previously posted content with the topics tab in the group, and they have access to the group files anytime. The group also has a files tab with a wide variety of information, including things like nest box blueprints and how to build a sparrow spooker. Topics like nest box placement, predator guards, and invasive species are a frequent topic of discussion as many new members are seeking information and advice from experienced landlords. While Bluebirds Across Ohio primarily focuses on bluebirds, all of Ohio's cavity nesting birds are welcome as a topic of discussion. Members with emergencies in the group can contact Heather either by Facebook messenger, or on her cell phone anytime when the need arises. Bluebirds Across Ohio has now grown to over 1400 members from all over the state of Ohio, and has a great group of individuals helping one another with native bird conservation. Bluebirds Across Ohio also now has a website with general bluebird information and other important link quickly accessible to the public. You can visit their website at [www.bluebirdssacrosssohio.com](http://www.bluebirdssacrosssohio.com)

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Manon VanSchoyck  
Founder Ohio Nature Education



Recipient of the 2019 Ohio Department of Natural Resources *Cardinal Award*

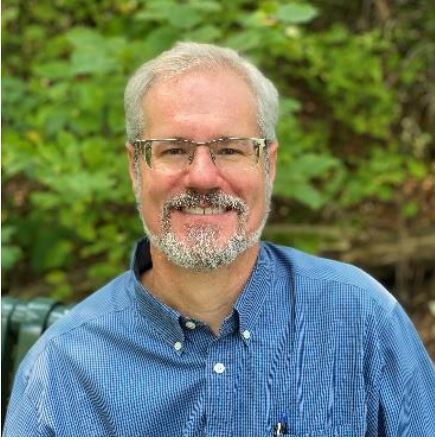
**Presentation:** Tips from ONE (Ohio Nature Education)

Ohio Nature Education is a private non-profit volunteer organization which provides a home for over forty wild animals that can no longer live in the wild. We incorporate these animals into environmental education programs for people of all ages. Our customers include schools, Scout troops, libraries, garden clubs, senior centers, metro parks, and community centers. Our programs include live education animals and collections of study skins, nests, and other natural materials useful as aids in learning about nature. We are able to utilize different formats for our programs— both in-person and virtual— and can customize for groups of any size and age range.

Manon will discuss when to contact a rehabber and some do's and don'ts.

**Bio:** Manon VanSchoyck, or Mrs. Van to most, is the Founder & Executive Director of Ohio Nature Education. Manon has worked in the field of environmental education for more than 30 years and is passionate about educating people on how we can positively affect wildlife. She is an avid birdwatcher and enjoys gardening and cooking.

## OBS Panel : Participants are Mark Dilley, Carl Gleditsch and Paula Ziebarth



**Bio above**

**Mark Dilley, OBS Keynote speaker, Chief Scientist, MAD Scientist Associates LLC**



### **Carl Gleditsch**

**BIO:** Carl grew up in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Upon graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with Bachelor of Science degrees in both Wildlife Biology and Chemistry, he worked in the Clinical Nutrition Department of Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh doing research in Biochemistry. After five years and with a house payment and growing family, Carl decided to jump ship and landed a job with USS Chemicals as an industrial chemist, a position he held for 31 years. While in this role, Carl quickly moved up to a management position and, with the purchase of the company by Ashland Chemical in 1995, moved his family to Dublin Ohio. Along the way Carl and his wife Donna raised 3 boys. The entire family was heavily involved in Boy Scouts with all three boys attaining the level of Eagle Scout. Carl retired from Ashland in 2016 and knew he wanted to get back to the natural sciences. In 2018 he graduated from Ohio State's central Ohio OCVN (Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist) program and started volunteering with the Columbus Metro Parks, Stratford Ecological Center, Delaware County Preservation Parks and the City of Dublin. Carl has been a beekeeper since high school and, in 2020 graduated from the Ohio State's VPS (Volunteer Pollinator Specialist) program. Along with having a small apiary in his backyard, Carl also helps take care of the apiary at Stratford. Carl loves to give talks about native bees in Ohio and has two programs at Stratford focusing on native bees and plants. Loving all things natural, he also has helped design, install and monitor bluebird trails with the City of Dublin, Columbus's Glacier Ridge and Highbanks Metro Parks. He is on the board of trustees for the Ohio Bluebird Society, an active member of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and helps with various citizen science projects involving bird, butterfly, plant and bee surveys.

Paula Ziebarth, aka Madame Wingnut



**Paula is amazing with her scientific manner in which she handles her bluebird hobby. She is my sidekick in the field at Safari Golf Course. We bounce things around and love to do research and tests our ideas. She is a data magnet. She is the leader in Ohio working on Cornell Nestwatch and the data. The invasive species run/fly the other way when they see her coming. She writes in every issue of the OBS monitor and many are appreciative of her ideas and explanations. She is also a Purple Martin expert working trails at several locations in Ohio.**

***Paula Ziebarth – Delaware County and Ottawa County Area Contact for the Ohio Bluebird Society, Powell Parks Trail Monitor Coordinator, Delaware Preservation Parks Bluebird Trail Monitor Coordinator, Delaware County Chapter Coordinator for Cornell Nestwatch; Lake Erie Islands Conservancy Board Member***

Like the Eastern Bluebird, Paula is native to Ohio. She grew up on the west side of Cleveland and settled in central Ohio after graduating from Ohio State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. She began monitoring Bluebird Trails in 2002. Paula is an Ohio Bluebird Society Area Contact for Delaware and Ottawa Counties. She is also Coordinator of the Delaware County Chapter of Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s NestWatch. Last year Paula monitored over 500 nest sites in Delaware and Ottawa Counties. Birds she has worked with include Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, House Wrens, Northern Flickers, Great Crested Flycatchers, and Purple Martins. Aka: Madame Wingnut...

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**Thanks to Paula, Carl and Mark for sitting on the panel and helping others either in their backyard or out on their trails.**

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**A special thank you to our two major sponsors for the annual conference. Division of Wildlife and my former employer Cardinal Health Inc. We are lucky to have their support and funding for our non-profit conservation efforts around the state of Ohio.**

Awards, displays, silent auction and much more!  
Visit our website for more information and to see program updates!

<https://www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/>

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