

The Anderson Nature Preserve Bluebird Trail



Big Bend resident Dan Savin volunteered to construct and manage a bluebird trail at the Waukesha Land Conservancy's Anderson Nature Preserve. The following is Dan's report on his success.

"This was my first attempt at installing and managing a bluebird trail. Information from the library and from BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin) and NABS (North American Bluebird Society) helped me a lot. The Anderson Nature Preserve Bluebird Trail is now recognized as being part of the Transcontinental Bluebird Trail (TBT). The TBT is a network of trails spanning North America.

For the year 2000 the Anderson Bluebird Trail contained 15 bluebird boxes. The type of boxes I made were of the Peterson and standard rectangular box design. The boxes functioned well and had no problems from predators. Twenty-four bluebirds and thirty-six tree swallows were fledged.

For the year 2001 the trail contained seventeen bluebird boxes. I made four boxes of my own experimental design and replaced some of the older boxes. I had trouble with a cat or a raccoon this year. I installed predator guards to my boxes and that solved the problem so far. Several nests and female tree swallows were taken over different nights. Fortunately none of the bluebirds was disturbed. Twenty-one bluebirds and forty-one tree swallows were fledged.

For the year 2002 the trail will contain eleven bluebird boxes and five wren boxes. The wren boxes will be placed near the outer perimeter of the fields, and I hope they will keep the wrens out of the bluebird boxes. The wren boxes have a 1 1/2 inch entrance hole, which will also accept downy woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches.

The male bluebirds arrive in early April and nest building starts when the female arrives. Up to six eggs are laid each round, and three rounds of eggs can be laid for the year. Three rounds of baby bluebirds fledge in late May, late June-to-early-July and early-to-mid August. The best time to view the bluebirds is when

(Continued on Page 2)

The Anderson Nature Preserve Bluebird Trail *(Continued from Page 1)*

they are feeding their young. As the nestlings mature, they require more food, and the parents are kept busy all day.

Young bluebirds are banded when they are seven to thirteen days old. This year the second hatching was banded by Mike and Yvonne Fort. The third hatching was banded by Cathy Chybowski and Yvonne Fort.

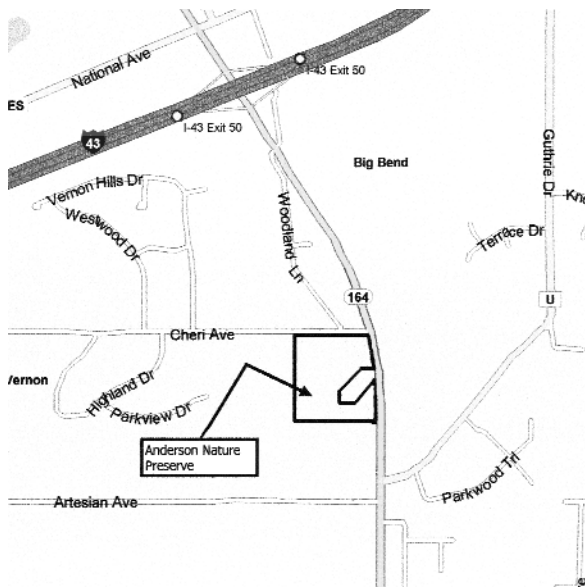
I grew up not far from what has recently become the Anderson Nature Preserve. I lived about ½ mile east of the property on Guthrie Road. Our family moved there in 1960 when I was eleven years old. There were open fields and pasture land around our home. With my dad, brother, and our beagle, I would hunt that area. We saw pheasants, partridge, woodcock, and in the summer, there would be meadowlarks. Today those open fields contain homes, and the birds that lived and thrived there are gone.

It is a pleasure to manage the bluebird trail at the Anderson Nature Preserve. I look forward to the bluebirds' arrival every spring and enjoy watching them all summer."

*written by Dan Savin
10-28-01*



Bluebirds



Location of Anderson Nature Preserve

How to Find the Anderson Nature Preserve

The Anderson Nature Preserve is located on Hwy 164 approx 0.6 miles south of the intersection of I-43. The property is located on the SW corner of Hwy 164 and Cheri Lane and includes a wooded area on the NW corner of the Preserve, open fields along the NE and also along the south portion of the property. For those interested in visiting the site, the house, garage, old barn and the 4 acres surrounding the house are private property. Waukesha Land Conservancy has an access easement starting at the driveway and extending both north and south along the east property line. **Please be careful not to obstruct the driveway or disturb the residents if you are visiting.**



The Anderson Nature Preserve willed to the Waukesha Land Conservancy by Mary Margaret Anderson.

HOW IMPORTANT IS A WILL?

A bequest is a gift made by a Will. A bequest to the Waukesha Land Conservancy, Inc., is an additional way to support the Waukesha Land Conservancy's Land Acquisition programs.

A Will is the document in which you direct how your assets are to be distributed after your death. If you die without a valid Will, the laws of the state of your residence will control how those assets are distributed.

A will provides the following advantages:

- * It allows you to direct how your assets are distributed after your death.
- * It allows you to provide for your heirs in the manner you choose rather than how the state law directs.

- * You choose a personal representative to guide your estate through the probate process.
- * You can nominate a guardian and/or a trustee to protect the interests of minor children.
- * You can include estate planning and tax minimization planning provisions that meet your individual needs and goals.
- * You can give a portion of your estate to your favorite charity.

Spring 2002 Calendar of Hikes and Work Days

April 13th - 12:00 noon. Work day at Eagle Prairie. We need lots of helpers to burn the Eagle Centre Prairie. Join us and learn how this necessary work is done. There will also be a guided hike to see if the pasqueflowers are blooming. Hwy 67 south of the Village of Eagle. Park in the driveway of the Eagle Centre House Bed and Breakfast.

May 19th - 1:00 PM. Bluebird hike at Anderson Nature Preserve in Big Bend. A guided hike on our registered bluebird trail. See these flashy residents of our property, learn about their lifestyle and how to attract them to your yard. The Anderson Nature preserve is located 1/2 mile south of I-43 on Big Bend Road (Hwy 164). See the map on page 2 of this newsletter.

July 14th - 1:00 PM. Prairie wildflower hike at Eagle Centre Prairie. We should see Bergamot and Blazing star, Prairie clover and New Jersey tea blooming. You will learn to recognize the state-threatened kintail plants and many kinds of prairie grasses. Hwy 67 south of the Village of Eagle. Park in the driveway of the Eagle Centre House Bed and Breakfast.