



## Trail Boss Duties

Procedure #2  
Updated Aug 2021

Being a trail boss for the Bella Vista Bluebird Society is a commitment that should be taken seriously by all trail bosses. Maintaining the boxes, poles and guards is absolutely necessary for us to have success in fledging bluebirds. Trail bosses also give the monitors someone to rely on not only for caring for the trails, but also for advice on what is happening in their nest boxes.

This procedure provides the basic requirements for maintaining bluebird trails. It is hoped that it will provide whatever trail bosses need to be the best they can.

- 1) During the nesting season (mid-March to mid-August), trail boss duties are minimal, requiring only replacement or repair of boxes damaged during this period, and assisting monitors with nest box pests or other problems when requested.
- 2) After the nesting season, trail bosses should check out the trails to determine and perform whatever box maintenance is required. Particularly check for roof cracks or gaps between the roof & back or sides that would allow water to get to the nest. Also, using the monitor report sheets, determine which boxes should be moved because of bluebird inactivity for three consecutive years. These duties are best performed in September-November. Check again in February or early March or even earlier if flooding has occurred.
- 3) When installing a box, the hole or slot should preferably be placed on the pole facing east to southeast, away from the prevailing wind. Box numbers are best marked on the box directly. There will be occasions where you need to refresh the markings.
- 4) Tools and supplies you may need include the following:
  - Wire cutters, pliers, a lightweight hammer
  - Scraper/putty knife and/or paint brush for cleaning out the boxes
  - Galvanized box nails for box closure
  - 16 gauge multipurpose wire, pre-cut to 9" saves trail time
  - Bags for nest disposal
  - Bluebird boxes, PVC pipe, T-posts
  - Post pounder and puller
  - Towels or equal to protect golf cart seats from damage
  - Pam spray and/or bar soap for wasp nests.

Bluebird boxes, PVC pipe, T-post, post pounder and puller, nails and wire are provided by the BVBBS.

- 5) See [Procedure #3 - Nest Box Pests](#) and [Procedure #4 - The Bluebird Shed & Installing Neighborhood Boxes](#), for additional trail boss duties.