

## Woodcrest Villa Nature Trail & Arboretum

<http://rhodyman.net/WCV>

August 2025 Newsletter

[PDF of Newsletter](#)

*Woodcrest Villa Arboretum is Dedicated To Those Recognized with Trees & Benches*

### Bluebirds Find Warm Welcome On Woodcrest Villa's Campus

Bluebirds are known for their vibrant blue and rust-colored plumage — especially the males (photo on right) — and are considered symbols of happiness and hope by many. Some Eastern Bluebirds are permanent residents in Lancaster County, while others migrate south for the winter, returning to Pennsylvania in early March.

Bluebirds may raise two or even three broods per season, sometimes building their second nest directly on top of the first. During the breeding season, their diet consists primarily of insects, including grasshoppers, crickets, and caterpillars. In winter, when insects are scarce, they rely more heavily on fruits and berries. Common food sources include sumac, greenbrier, spicebush, and wild rose.

To survive cold weather, overwintering bluebirds need sheltered roosting sites. Eastern Bluebirds are secondary cavity nesters, meaning they depend on existing cavities — such as old woodpecker holes or



birdhouses — for nesting. Fortunately, they readily use nest boxes, and the widespread availability of these boxes has played a significant role in helping their populations recover.

While they avoid dense forests, bluebirds are common in Lancaster County's rural areas. They prefer open landscapes with scattered trees, such as farmland, parks, golf courses, and the Woodcrest Villa campus. They are often found near woodland edges, where they can find insects for food and cavities for nesting.

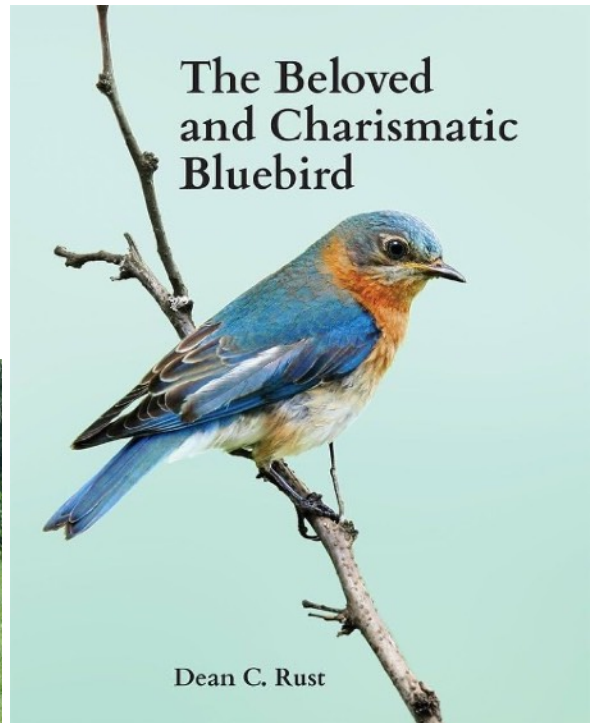
Bluebird populations declined in the past due to habitat loss and competition for nesting cavities. At Woodcrest Villa, Mike Fritz has led the Nature Trail & Arboretum Caretaker's efforts to attract bluebirds by installing nest boxes, offering mealworms, and planting berry-producing shrubs. The availability of nest boxes has been a major factor in the bluebirds' comeback.



*Female Bluebird feeding a fledgling.*

## President of Bluebird Society of PA Leads WCV Bluebird Walk

**Dr. Dean Rust**, President of the Bluebird Society of PA, recently led a Bluebird walk on our campus. Pictured below are Laura Griffith, Mike Fritz and Dr. Rust. He inspected the Bluebird Houses on campus and offered both congratulations and helpful suggestions. A recent addition to the WCV Nature Library near the Bistro is Dr. Rust's book (right), *The Beloved and Charismatic Bluebird*, a guide to Bluebirds, providing interesting facts and photos, and ways we can aid their survival.



## Honor & Memory Benches Available

Now, both the original arboretum and the expansion area are filled with honor and memory trees. A new opportunity to honor or remember a loved one is with a bench, either a campus bench or an arboretum/nature trail bench. Each bench includes a plaque where you can place your message. For more information contact Steve Henning at [acer103@earthlink.net](mailto:acer103@earthlink.net) or call 7116.

### IN MEMOR OR HONOR OF SOMEONE

Message Here (up to 55 characters & spaces per line)  
...remembrance, dedication, sponsorship, inspiration...

## Thanks for Donations

Thanks to those who donated for the Trail Crew to buy supplies for the Nature Trail & Arboretum such as saw blades for trimming, mulch for the trail, and service for the tractor.

Make donations out to:

**Tandem Living**

with the note:

**WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum**

Send all donations to:

Bruce Metzler, Treasurer  
WCV Nature Trail & Arboretum  
2001 Harrisburg Pike, PH 305  
Lancaster, PA 17601

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