



Blue Birds On The Golf Course

By **Lila Kuta**, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent, Hartford Golf Club

Earlier this season the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) contacted the Hartford Golf Club to inquire if we would like a Bluebird Trail on our golf course.

With the support of the General Manager / Golf Professional Bill Roebuck we decided to move ahead with the project.

Bob Tamm, Tom Schaefer and Melissa Bruder from BRAW joined me to look over our golf course and stake areas for houses. Selection went well except for some locations they picked I had to explain would not work for the golfers even though they were perfect for bluebirds. But eventually we found homes for 20 nest boxes.

This was a wonderful experience for me because the BRAW volunteers were so enthusiastic and so devoted to their cause of having more bluebirds in our lovely state of Wisconsin. The next week they showed up with brand new boxes built just for Bluebirds and with a mounting system to install them at no expense to us.

The only thing we would have to do is monitor the boxes once a week and document our findings. Then at the end of the nesting season which is usually August we would send our report to BRAW headquarters. Well I really got lucky because Tom Schaefer said he would be our monitor, if he could have the use of a golf cart to do the monitoring of boxes. Since he already monitors 55 other boxes in our area, he could easily add our 20 to that total.

Now I have to tell you about Bob Tamm and his assistant Melissa Bruder. They both were extremely cooperative and understanding about how the nest boxes had to be located on a golf course and appreciated the fact that I had to say no to certain areas. Trust me, their dedication to these lovely birds and their total cooperation with us is a testament to both parties wanting to help wildlife on our golf courses.

Our membership at Harford is just thrilled; we have golfers yelling at us "do we have eggs yet"? On April 30th we had 5 houses with Bluebirds and 19 eggs, and as of May 12 we have 7 houses with 35 eggs, also Tree Swallows in 3 houses with 10 eggs and they are totally acceptable, where house sparrows are not! Hopefully since it is only May we will be still counting midseason since Bluebirds do produce broods twice a year. This project helps to disprove the negative stereotype of golf courses being unfriendly to wildlife.

Overall this has been a wonderful experience. I

highly recommend contacting BRAW or Bob Tamm at 262-679-2068 or viewing the website at www.braw.org. Donations are much appreciated but joining BRAW is not required.

I HOPE ALL OF YOU ARE SEEING BLUE! 🌿



The Bluebird Team Ready to Go Out. Bob Tamm, Melissa Bruder, Lila Kuta, Tom Schaefer and Shari Kastner.

The Finished House Ready for Residents



Installation of the posts.

