



# RESURRECTION UNIVERSITY PARISH

## Land Stewardship Committee

### MR. BLUEBIRD'S ON MY SHOULDER

Bluebirds Always Bring a Smile. Can you remember Walt Disney's film Song of the South? "*Zippity do dah zippity yeah. Wonderful feeling, wonderful day.*" Too far back? Well how about Marvin Rainwater (1957) lamenting lost love? "*Goin' to find me a Blue Bird and let him sing me a song. Cuz my heart's been broken much too long.*"



What is it about bluebirds? They just seem to be one of the most endearing birds to be found anywhere...but why?

Maybe it's their gentle demeanor. Social by nature and seldom alone, they rarely appear excitable or aggressive and seem to treat each other with the good-natured and calm deportment of an old friend. Truly the type of friend we all wish we had. Could it be their melodious and enchanting song? Always pleasing to the ear and rarely missing when a family of bluebirds is nearby. Their common call note is a sweet sounding *tura* or *turalee*, and their song is a happy, musical phrase that says *cheerily...cheer...cheerful...charmer*. Step out into the yard, and their musical interludes will immediately bring a smile to your face!

Or is it because they are just so incredibly beautiful? It would be hard to find anything as dazzling as a bluebird standing on a fence post in the early morning sun. Its brilliant blue plumage might even be said to rival the sky itself. Indeed it does.

It might be the unique relationship that has developed between us and them.

Bluebirds were always cherished by early settlers, but the settlers' use of the land resulted in habitat changes that left bluebird numbers in steep decline by the mid 1960's. Recognizing the issue, countless people began erecting nest boxes across the land, much to the benefit of bluebirds. Today, they are commonplace, not only in the countryside, but also in gracing us with their presence in our urban backyards. Regardless of the reason, many of us cherish our relationship with our bluebirds. They are a true source of joy and our day simply would not be the same without them.

#### ^^^^^^^^ PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL ^^^^^^^^

But ask the animals and they will teach you:  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you:  
Ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.

GREEN



## SHORT SHOTS.

### ANSWERING THE CALL AND THE OPPORTUNITY

Sydney Kroneberger is the newest addition to the Land Stewardship Committee and the Green Leaf team. A Colorado native, Sydney grew up exploring the Rocky Mountains and fell in love with the majesty of God's creation through recreational activity and travel. With a degree in Landscape Architecture, she is able to combine her love of nature and art through work designing public recreational resources for community economic development. Sydney and her fiancé are new to Bozeman but like many, instantly fell in love with Big Sky Country. Eager to become a part of the Resurrection University Parish family, Sydney is looking forward to upcoming Land Stewardship events and learning the methods of the Green Leaf publication.



Truly a welcome addition for the Green Leaf as her background has more than enough printers ink coursing in her veins.

### UP UP AND AWAY

Josh Moller has solved the vagaries and vicissitudes of hoechoka.com, the web site for Land Stewardship Committee at Resurrection University Parish. Drop in, take a look, send your comments. And maybe join the membership of the Land Stewardship Committee. Comments, kudos, affirmations, salutes, are always welcome as are suggestions for articles. If you want, pitch pennies. But we would prefer dollars--and if so, make sure the donation is earmarked for use of the Land Stewardship Committee.

### WISDOM OF THE FIRST PEOPLE

There are 776 Native Americans representing 46 tribes attending Montana State University.(MSU). The majority tribes represented are Blackfoot and Crow. If you have the time, visit the Native American College garden display of American Indian vegetable, plants, and natural history item at the MSU campus College of American Indian Studies. It is an on-campus treasure-trove of information about the life and history of the "First People."

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