

## Bluebird Festival Coming to Grand Rapids

By Mary Mason



The Michigan Bluebird Society is pleased to announce its annual **Spring Bluebird Festival** on Saturday, March 25th at the Prince Conference Center in Grand Rapids. This all-day educational event will include programs on bluebirds and other bird topics, a Bluebird Expo featuring products for sale and nature/environmental exhibits, kid's activities, and nature hike at the Bunker Interpretive Center. The keynote program will be by Naturalist and filmmaker Charles St. Charles who has been working with MBS on a fascinating film about bluebirds highlighting their nesting cycle.

To obtain more information on the event, go to:

[www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival](http://www.michiganbluebirds.org/springfestival).

The Eastern Bluebird used to be a very common bird across Michigan. However, habitat loss, the introduction of farming chemicals, and competition from non-native species caused their numbers to plummet dramatically in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Fortunately, conservation efforts by people starting in the 1960's have helped bring the bluebird back to many parts of the State. The placement and monitoring of large numbers of nest boxes in open habitats was one of the key actions

that has contributed to their recent comeback. The Michigan Bluebird Society's main purpose is to educate the public about how they can help these beautiful native birds, and to help initiate projects which increase bluebird nesting habitats in Michigan.

*Mary Mason is the Publicity Director and Genesee and Livingston Counties Coordinator for The Michigan Bluebird Society, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to education and conservation of bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds. She has been a bluebird landlord for almost 30 years and gives presentations on bluebirds and other native-cavity nesting birds in Michigan. Mary is also on The Board of Directors for The North American Bluebird Society.*

*Photo courtesy of Lisa Fulton*