



Greetings to All TWGC members,

Just a short note to let you all know that the next TWGC Newsletter will be in August. Enjoy your summer and your gardens!

Deb Tallman

TWGC Communications Chair

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.  
And  
Garden Clubs of North Carolina, Inc.

*TWGC Executive Board 2023-2025*

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# Monthly Program

Congratulations to our Hat contest winner Jan Cahoon and runner up June Boyd! (more photos on our website)



# TWGC Scholarships



**Congratulations to TWGC's 2023 Scholarship winners!**

Margaret McCollum attends New Bern High School and will be matriculated at Furman University in South Carolina.

Alitza Grzeika Nieves attends The Epiphany School of Global Studies and will be attending Craven Community College.

# Monthly Program



TWGC members were treated to a visit with Jody Horner, our three time TWGC scholarship winner and new graduate! It was so nice to hear from her about how much the scholarships meant to her and her plans to teach ecology at a local school.



Farewell to Gail McLamb TWGC President for the last two years.

# Welcome new TWGC Member Gale Evancho



Service Recognition Award winner Deb Tallman sincerely thanks everyone and is still stunned.

# Art in Bloom



## Youth Gardeners

TWGC members went on a very special trip to Cold Springs with the second graders of Oaks Road Academy. Everyone had a wonderful time learning about the flora and fauna of eastern North Carolina.



The hardworking Youth Gardeners committee was honored at Oaks Road Academy at a Volunteer Appreciation Reception, thanking them for all their hard work on behalf of the kids.



# Blue Star Memorial



The Beautification Committee has been busy in Trent Woods!



## GCNC District 11 Spring Meeting

TWGC members attended the GCNC District 11 Spring meeting in Goldsboro NC. Shown is our own Paula Hartman explaining the other District 11 garden clubs the requirements for Blue Star Markers in their area. Paula is the GCNC District 11 Director and National Garden Clubs State Chair for Blue Star Markers., and TWGC past President Looking on is Frances Eder, past TWGC President and past District 11 Director.

Trent Woods Garden Club decorated the Chapel house for the Historical Society's Spring House and Garden Tour. Arrangements by Paula Hartman and Deb Tallman



# Butterfly habits and how to attract more to your back yard

*By Judi Lloyd*

Butterfly watching, though unlikely to match the widespread popularity of bird watching, has gained significant favor in recent years. Butterflies are colorful, diverse, abundant, and active during the day in warm months, making them an ideal pursuit for wildlife watchers. In fact, wildlife watching as a whole, given impetus by the increased awareness of regional and ecological diversity, has become one of this country's fastest-growing outdoor recreational activities. Planting a variety of both nectar plants for adults and host plants for caterpillars in a sunny location will ensure many hours of viewing pleasure as butterflies visit your garden.

Some species (there are 175 different species in North Carolina) are found statewide, while others are restricted to a specific habitat type or region.

Butterflies and moths are unique because they change from a caterpillar to a winged adult through a process called metamorphosis. A typical butterfly's life begins as an egg, generally laid on the leaf of a host plant. A *host plant* is a plant that caterpillars like to eat. Eggs soon hatch into caterpillars. After a few weeks, the caterpillar molts into a mummy-like stage with a hard protective casing, called a pupa or chrysalis. While in the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms into an adult. At the end of about 2 weeks, the adult emerges from the chrysalis, spreads and dries its wings, and begins searching for food and a mate. Following successful mating, the female begins her search for a host plant on which to deposit her eggs, and the life cycle begins again. Depending upon the species, adult butterflies can live from 1 week to 9 months.

An effective butterfly habitat provides everything a butterfly needs to complete its life cycle.

Provide a good diversity of host plants to attract a variety of butterflies and their caterpillars. Caterpillars are voracious but picky eaters, and many feed only on a particular species of plant.

Visit butterfly gardens at local nature centers or botanical gardens and observe which flowering plants attract butterflies.

Do not get discouraged if a particular plant does not attract butterflies as anticipated. Experiment and find out which plants work in your butterfly habitat.

Plan your butterfly habitat before buying and putting in any plants, making sure to provide for all the basic butterfly needs (sun, shelter, larval host plants, and adult nectar plants).

Your butterfly habitat will function best in a sunny location. Most butterflies are active only in the sun, and many butterfly larval and nectar plants require sunny spots.

Provide a few large flat rocks for butterflies to perch on while basking in the sun.

Throughout the growing season, leave the dead flower heads and dead foliage on your plants or you may accidentally remove eggs or pupating butterflies.

To keep your garden looking and performing its best requires research, planning, and annual maintenance. Although you'll probably discover that many butterflies quickly find your new plantings, be patient until your butterfly garden becomes fully established and, therefore, fully appreciated by the butterflies. For more detailed information on which butterflies are in our area and some of their preferred plants, go to <https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/butterflies-in-your-backyard>

## Bird of the Month June/July

### Bluebird by Michael Creedon



What could be a more iconic bird of Eastern N.C. than our ubiquitous Bluebird. Everyone who reads this, if they have paid any attention, has seen this bird in their yards and on their walks, perched on a wire or on top of a bush or pole. The brilliant blue plumage of the breeding male is without a doubt a wonderful harbinger of spring. While we may think of this bird as ours, it actually is found east of the Rockies, from Canada to Nicaragua.



## *Mom on Poop Patrol*



However, it could not possibly be as prolific anywhere more than it is here.

An interesting and little-known fact is that there are actually no true blue birds. Birds with red, yellow and other color feathers get their color from pigments in the foods they eat. All blue birds get their color from the way light waves interact with the arrangement of their feathers and protein molecules called

keratin. So, if you look at a bluebird in the shade, and he will appear gray, almost like a completely different bird.

When not in breeding season they are social, sometimes gathering in flocks of up to a hundred, but during breeding season they will fiercely defend their feed-

## *Dad bringing home the bacon*



## *Hungry mouths*



ing area. Nests are in tree cavities, or, in our area, one of the many thousands of Bluebird nest boxes hung on trees and posts almost everywhere. The female lays from 3 to 7 light blue eggs and does the incubating, while being fed by the male.

The eggs hatch in about 2 weeks, then the fledglings are fed by both parents for another 2 weeks. The first brood is usually in April here, followed by a second brood mid-summer.

Food for the fledglings consists entirely of insects, any insect.

Adults will also consume some fruit and berries. They feed by perching on a high branch with a clear view of the ground, then swooping down to pluck an insect. Whether they migrate or not is strictly determined by the availability of food during the winter. As our area has an ample supply of food throughout the year, here they are residents year-round.

Another less discussed fact, birds that raise their young in a nest need to be concerned with hygiene.



*One hour after fledging*



They remove the egg shells and take them away from the nest, lest a predator assume there could be food above a pile of egg shells. When a parent feeds a chick in the nest, it will almost immediately defecate. They do so in a fecal sac, which the parent immediately grabs and removes from the nest. In most cases, the parent will then go and consume this sac, as it contains most of what the chick ate, but due to the fact they have not yet developed the bacteria in their guts to fully digest, is full of nutrients. This allows the parent to be less concerned with feeding itself and can concentrate on feeding the young.

*Checking on the family*



In days of old, they were referred to as a Blue Robin, due to their resemblance to the European Robin. And were always welcomed as harbingers of Spring.

Eastern Bluebirds live from 6 to 10 years, with the oldest recorded specimen 10 years and 5 months. However, the vast majority fail to see their first birthday, victims of squirrels, raccoons, snakes, Kestrel's and cats.

So do enjoy the feast for our eyes these birds put on year-round in our backyards.



*The family that bathes together...*