



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 5, 2007

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Bluebird Group and Reclaimed Flambeau Mine to Offer Nest Box Workshop

LADYSMITH, Wis. - Flambeau Mining Company and the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW) today announced they will be offering a workshop on Saturday, March 31 that will allow participants to learn more about bluebirds and their habitat and construct a wooden bluebird nest box. The free workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rusk County Community Library. Workshop participants must pre-register by calling the Rusk County Visitors Center at 715-532-2642.

The cedar wood for the nest boxes will be provided, precut, and ready to assemble. Nest boxes to be constructed will also come with a predator-proof mounting post. Participants are encouraged to bring a cordless drill and/or Phillips head screwdriver. Nest boxes will be limited to two boxes per family.

“This workshop will be a great family activity for bird lovers and nature enthusiasts,” said Jana Murphy, environmental manager at the reclaimed Flambeau Mine. “Spring is the time to get the houses built and put out around the area so we can help encourage bluebirds to nest and raise their young here.”

The two-hour bluebird workshop will include a presentation by Don Bartig, the Rusk County coordinator for BRAW, followed by the construction of the nest boxes. Participants will also be encouraged to visit the 29 bluebird nest boxes already in place at the reclaimed mine site, which since 2000 have succeeded in attracting nesting bluebirds and tree swallows to the site.

“I hope through outreach efforts like this workshop, birdwatching events and more, we can introduce more local residents to the bluebird and its wonderful attributes,” said Bartig. “Our previous nest box placements on the reclaimed mine site and elsewhere have been successful, and we hope workshop participants will soon have bluebirds nesting in their yards, too.”

The Flambeau Mine, just south of Ladysmith, Wis., operated from 1993 to 1997 and produced more than 181,000 tons of copper, as well as gold and silver. The mine site, which spans more than 180 acres, has since gone through a \$20 million reclamation and today is a nature area open to the public for events, hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, river fishing and more.

The purpose and mission of BRAW is to monitor and increase the production of the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity-nesting birds through a coordinated statewide nest box construction and monitoring program. BRAW seeks to expand public knowledge and enthusiasm for the Eastern Bluebird so that a growing number of people will have the desire to aid cavity nesters and have the knowledge about how to best accomplish this in their own communities.

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