

Just Farmers

March 16, 2019

"Learn and Build" describes the bluebird (and swallow) nesting workshop led by John Franken, local bird expert, held at Round Lake Hall on March 16, 2019.

More than forty adults and children attended the event, sponsored by Chickadee Acres Bed and Breakfast and Eskerhazy Farm.

Attendees learned through photos and tales about how Mr. Franken first awoke to the creation as a child and how—at one pivotal moment—he was led to see just how significant "beholding" birds was: more important than even a wall slightly out of level.

We saw photos of habitat, enemies of mountain bluebirds and tree swallows, saw photos of the babies at different stages of development, where to place boxes in ideal habitat, and many more things.

Special Edition: Mountain Bluebirds (and tree swallows)



I'm glad you didn't totally forget about me!



After hearing interesting stories and facts—"Did you know that tree swallows will grab feathers out of the air to line their nests?" "Did you know that some black bears actually get into the habit of wrecking birdhouses in order to get at the young birds?"—we had a snack and then . . .

We Let the Pounding Begin!

Mr. and Mrs. Franken had cut out the tops, bottoms, sides, fronts, and backs of 25 bluebird houses and predrilled holes.

Children (helped by adults) assembled the birdhouses on the porch of the Hall. Not that the noise was deafening. . . OK, we are glad that no one from the

Workman's Compensation Branch was listening to the din.

One of the highlights of the construction part of the program for Mr. Gesch was seeing some



older children helping younger



children wield their hammers.

Here are some pictures of the children whacking away, adults



the Creator for allowing the privilege of helping care for the world.



giving or getting advice, and everyone having a good time, with no mashed thumbs reported at press time.

We could not include photos of every adult and every child, but the ones here are representative.



Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. VanderMeulen and Mr. Oosterhoff for helping us get the sound and projector going, setting up and cleaning up, and to Smithers Lumber Yard for donating plywood. Thank you to the children, for being who they are.

We acknowledge that we were learning on lands of the traditional territory of the Witsuet'in people and





Planning



An impressionist view of a child on a mission.



Let the nails beware!

Helping each other.



"Me and my dad, we did it!"





Smiles all
around.





We did it!

