

**September 16, 2010**

**(this is the 3rd Thursday due to a county furlough day)**



## Bluebirds and Boxes

*Presented by Mary Miller*

7:00 pm ~ Hillsborough Extension Office  
5339 CR 579, Seffner



The North American bluebirds are cavity nesters and were almost wiped out when the English house sparrow was introduced in 1851 and took over their nesting cavities. This presentation tells of the remarkable recovery of the bluebird through conservation efforts of individuals and the American Bluebird Society, which instituted the concept of bluebird trails. The Tampa Audubon Society maintains 45 bluebird boxes at Flatwoods Park along the walking/biking/skating trail. Even though the trail has been there for 20 years, it has only been monitored for the last 6 years and this presentation will give you the very encouraging results.

Our speaker, Mary Miller is a Missouri native, University of Missouri and University of South Florida graduate and has lived in Panama, Delaware, and Puerto Rico before settling in Tampa 34 years ago. Mary began her professional career as an elementary teacher and ended as the Recycling Coordinator for the Pasco County School District. She lives with her husband, John, and eagerly jumped at the chance to monitor the Flatwoods Park Bluebird Trail when she retired six years ago. She is an active member of the Suncoast Native Plant Society, a Friends of the Library bookstore volunteer, and in addition to being a birder, loves to travel, garden, and read.

*Bluebird photos by John Miller*



*Nest photo taken by Pat  
Lewis on the bluebird  
hike at Flatwoods Park  
in April  
Led by Mary*

