UNIVERSITY OF USI SOUTHERN INDIANA

NEWS RELEASE

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Photo opportunity

Bluebirds return to USI

Dr. Charles Price, chair of the USI Teacher Education Department, will join volunteers at 9 a.m. on Saturday, February 27 to begin clean up and maintenance of bluebird nesting boxes along the USI Bluebird Trail. Volunteers will meet at the Grimes Haus located on Bennett Lane, near the baseball diamond.

The USI Bluebird Trail was established by the Westwood Garden Club in 1972 with 25 houses. Over the years, it fell into disrepair and was re-established in 1996. The trail now holds approximately 50 bluebird houses.

In the fourth year for the annual cleanup, Dr. Price's interest in the project occurred by teaching science education and nature photography at USI. He coordinates trail maintenance with assistance from several areas on campus. The staff at the USI Physical Plant built the houses, grounds crews mow paths to some of the houses, a student-faculty grant program supports the employment of a student monitor, and faculty and staff help monitor the trail and assist in annual cleanups.

"In the past two years, we have fledged about 100 bluebirds annually," Dr. Price said.

Bluebirds normally start nesting in this area in mid-March with hatching occurring around April 1.