

Outdoor classroom for the birds

Powell's outdoor classroom has some brand new residents. Four bluebird families have set up housekeeping in boxes built and hung over the winter.

built and hung nine bird boxes in the outdoor classroom. Box types range from owl to wood duck to warbler. And, of course, bluebird.

Doineau arranged for Harold Cox of Project Bluebird to speak to Powell High School students about bluebird monitoring.

"I learned that bluebirds have been on the decline, but now their numbers are stabilizing," Doineau said.

Then, she drew up a monitoring sheet. She's spent this spring monitoring the birds and teaching PHS students how it's done.

Doineau said she was prepared for the birds to take several seasons to find the boxes and

nest there. It appears, though, that the real estate was so prime that the birds moved right in.

"We were really pleased with that," she said.

Doineau plans to report on the fledglings' success. She hopes that PHS students will continue monitoring the boxes next year.

"Hopefully, it's something that will be a school thing and not just an AmeriCorps thing," Doineau said.

PHS students in Rosemary Calvert's and Will Roberts' classes spent last Friday removing privet, an invasive exotic plant, from the pathway leading to the outdoor classroom.

Community sponsors for the bird box project include Dr. Bob Collier, Roy Arthur, Daniel Horne, the Beaver Creek Watershed Association, and Hallsdale-Powell Utility District.

Contact Shannon Carey at shannon@hallsnews.com.



Shannon Carey

CAC AmeriCorps volunteer Eileigh Doineau coordinated the project.

With help from some community sponsors, Doineau and other AmeriCorps folks researched,



CAC AmeriCorps volunteer Eileigh Doineau checks up on some bluebird fledglings in the Powell outdoor classroom.

(Photo by S. Carey)