

RTPI eNews

May 2026

Museum Hours:

Wed-Sun, 10 am to 4 pm

Mon-Tue, by appointment (call 716-665-2473)



Dear RTPI Friend,

Summer is just about here and so are many of the migratory birds we see this time of year. We have baby bluebirds in one of our nest boxes and the rose-breasted grosbeak has been gracing our feeders!

I hope you'll bring your family to our **2nd annual Bluebird Festival** on Saturday, May 30. It's only \$5 per person and that includes several hands-on activities, guided bird walks and admission to the museum! Don't miss out! Details below.

We're also getting out in the community a lot right now. I just got back from the Presque Isle Festival of the Birds to help spread the word about RTPI, and other staff are taking part in Jamestown's Third on Third evening events on every Third Thursday to support the Chautauqua Chamber of Commerce.

We're also getting ready for **Give Big Chautauqua** and hope that you'll get June 11 on the calendar and consider making a donation to support us as we work to carry on the legacy of naturalist and artist Roger Tory Peterson, preserve his collection, and inspire new generations of birders and naturalists!

Gratefully,

Stacey Otte-Demangate, CEO

2ND ANNUAL
**BLUEBIRD
 FESTIVAL**



**MAY 30TH, 2026
 10 AM-4 PM**

**VENDORS
 FOOD TRUCKS
 BLUEBIRD BOX BUILDING
 ART & EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

\$5 ADMISSION

 **Roger Tory
 Peterson
 INSTITUTE**
 Art That Matters to the Planet

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 OPPORTUNITY** | **Council on
 the Arts**

The Bluebirds Are Here!

For many years RTPI has had bluebird nest boxes and carefully monitored them. Every fall they are cleaned out before winter and then in spring, checked continuously. This year Box 3 has a lovely young, hungry family quickly growing in it...they may still be here for Bluebird Festival!



Bluebird Gifts!

If you love bluebirds as much as our store manager Bekka Bauer does, our shop is for you! She's found some fun, informative and cute merchandise that will make you happy--just like bluebirds do! You'll find some available online (link below) and more in our store here at RTPI!

[Shop Online](#)



Meet our new Artist-in-Residence!

We're delighted to have artist Tanya Piatz of Minnesota as one of our Artists-in-Residence here at RTPI. She just finished a week with us studying some of Roger's original artworks as well as reading in the archives. During her residency, she also spent time in our Preserve gathering reference photos for her series of artworks, "Species of Special Concern."



She has been using Minnesota's DNR list "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" to illustrate birds that have been experiencing declining populations. The most common reason for reductions is habitat loss and human interference. The species she would like to specifically research is the Henslow's sparrow, which is found both in New York and Minnesota.

She has been very impressed with both the artistry and technical skill she has seen repeatedly in a range of original works by Roger, like the sheet of owl heads you see here done primarily in gouache (essentially an opaque watercolor).

California Condor Film Screening & Discussion

June 18, 1 pm EST

Join us online for a **FREE film screening of *The Condor's Shadow: A Documentary Film*** by Jeff McLoughlin followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and Estelle Sandhouse, Vice President of Conservation and Science of the Santa Barbara Zoo, which has been a vital partner in the efforts to restore California Condors in the wild. As our exhibition by artist Jennifer Anderson, ***Enduring Beauty: Portraits of the California Condor and American Kestrel***, draws to a close (the last day is June 21st), we bring you this final program which will share the past, present and hoped for future of these amazing birds whose wingspans average 9 feet. Thanks to the efforts of a group of individuals and organizations who refused to let them disappear, their wild population is growing, but not without some challenges. Learn more at the webinar!

Register Here!



Cover image by Tim Huntington
www.webinectar.com



A drypoint etching of a California Condor by Jennifer Anderson. Hurry to see her show before it leaves us on June 21st!



RTPI Out and About!

Our team is excited to spread the word about the Institute, legendary Roger Tory Peterson and our programs whenever we can. We became a sponsor of the annual **Presque Isle Festival of the Birds** and CEO Stacey Otte-Demangate joined the fun, manning a table to let people know about RTPI as well as enjoying some birding with others who were mainly from the Pennsylvania and Ohio areas. Only



a few were aware of RTPi, so we are hoping that some of them come visit us soon.

Our programs and events team of Claire Johnson and Liam McSteen offered an activity at the **Chautauqua County 4-H Youth Development 2026 Conservation Field Days** event. Over 300 students attended, visiting booths from over 30 organizations. Liam organized a potato stamping activity relating to our upcoming Bluebird Festival on May 30th. Over 140 fifth-graders visited our station. This was our first time at this event, and we are grateful to 4-H Youth Development Coordinator Sarah Hatfield for inviting us.

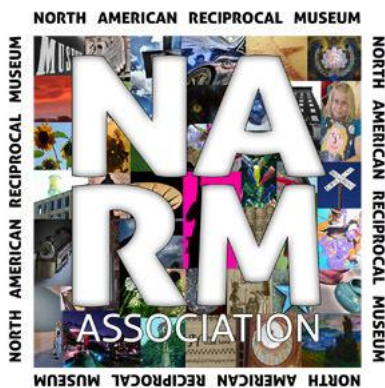
Next up on June 27 is the **Prendergast Library Community Block Party** event and then on August 2nd you'll find us at the **Chautauqua County History Expo** in Mayville! If you would like to join us a volunteer and help us table at these and other community events, please reach out to Liam at lmcsteen@rtpi.org

Give Big Chautauqua

June 11, 2026

RTPi has evolved over the last several years and now we are stretching our wings and reaching out to the community to offer a diverse roster of programs. If you're enthused to see us at community events and offering more family friendly programs than ever before (like our upcoming Bluebird Festival), we hope you can support us during Give Big Chq!

We are looking for someone to offer a matching gift of \$1,000 or above. We know that the challenge of a match is very motivating to potential donors, so if you would like to offer that, please contact our development director, Jeanne Fralick, at jfralick@rtpi.org.



Reciprocal Museum Membership!

We recently joined the North American Reciprocal Museum Association for you! If you join at the \$100 Northern Cardinal level or above you will be part of a network of over 1400 museums in the US, Canada and more that gives you free or reduced admission and often other member benefits. You can see the list of participating museums [HERE](#). If you have questions about your membership level or status, just call (716-665-2473 ext. 226) or [email](#) Jeanne Fralick, our development director.

Join or Upgrade TODAY

Plan Your Visit Today

For a full Schedule of exhibitions and programs, please visit our website at
RTPI.ORG



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