

## Remembering Dr. Tom Boschen

Bud Weare. January 2, 2021 :

---

It is with deep sadness that we report the tragic passing of Dr. Tom Boschen. Tom died in hospice on December 12 after suffering a brain injury on November 1 from what initially seemed to be a minor fall from his bicycle. He was 80.



Tom Boschen

Tom began his relationship with Evergreen Audubon in the Brockner Era more than twenty years ago when it was known as TENAS–The Evergreen Naturalists Audubon Society. In 2003-2004, he served as a member of the board of directors and as treasurer.

Tom's enduring legacy, however, dates from 2007 when after the death of Dick Conrad, Tom rescued a long-standing fund-raising project: the building and selling of nesting boxes. Tom spent weeks researching and redesigning– perfecting the form and function of the boxes, and engineering templates and jigs to ease and standardize their construction. Over the next decade, under Tom's direction in his comfortably heated woodworking shop, Evergreen Audubon volunteers produced nearly a thousand state-of-the-art nesting boxes, earning substantial funds while enriching the natural environment.

In 2018, Tom and Ginny downsized, spelling an end to Tom's idyllic factory. Other volunteers have picked up where Tom left off, continuing to construct what he had designed, and now it seems more than appropriate that we thank him once again for the "Boschen Box."

Countless other organizations will be thanking Tom, especially the Evergreen Chorale. But for us, for Evergreen Audubon, perhaps there can be something poetic, even spiritual, about remembering Tom. This summer, as we hike among the nesting boxes in Elk Meadow, and we hear the bluebirds sing, let us think of bluebirds born in a Boschen Box. Let us remember that master craftsman, that singing pediatrician who built dream homes for baby birds in the mountain community he loved so much and served so well.