



# Bayou Foliage

Vol. 12 No. 12 Dec. 1994

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

## DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Dec. 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Fall Festival evaluation meeting, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Yuletide Gathering, 6-9 p.m.
- Dec. 14 Creepy Crawlers evaluation meeting, 6:00
- Dec. 15 Volunteer meeting and Holiday Party, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 15 *Bayou Foliage* deadline
- Dec. 17 ABNC Christmas Bird Count
- Dec. 25-26 Christmas holidays - ABNC closed
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve - ABNC closed
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day - ABNC closed

### OCTOBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for October is Jim Edwards. Jim says he's been around ABNC for so many years he can't remember how long he's been a volunteer. Jim does a lot of work behind the scenes mostly with stewardship projects. In the past few months he's been involved in the pouring of a permanent concrete stage and many, many other critical projects in preparation for Fall Festival. The event wouldn't be possible without his hard work.

Thanks, Jim. It's the labors of volunteers like you that keep ABNC alive.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**DON'T MISS THE  
VOLUNTEER PARTY AND  
ELECTIONS ON  
THURS., DEC. 15  
AT 7:00 p.m.**

## DECEMBER ABNCV MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Due to conflicts in building usage the volunteer December meeting and Holiday Party will be on the THIRD Thursday in December at 7:00 P.M.

The December volunteer meeting will be the traditional Holiday Party and Pot Luck Dinner. Bring a dish to share (a ham and a turkey will be provided). And don't forget to please bring your own plate, cup and utensils.

Either during or after dinner we will conduct a short business meeting including election of officers for 1995. See below for the nominees.

Then the fun really starts. Again this year we will have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a wrapped gift worth \$5 or less. It can be a serious present or a gag gift.

See you there and have Happy Holidays!

Tom

## NOMINATIONS FOR 1995

The Nomination Committee for the 1995 Volunteer Board consisting of Lou Wheatcraft, chairperson, Ed Adams, Mary Alice Trumble, Phyllis Louderback and Irene Ward, submit the following list of 1995 Volunteer Board candidates for the members consideration for office and election at the December 1994 volunteer meeting. Upon election these candidates will take office starting in January 1995. The members of the Nominating Committee thank you all for your input, guidance and suggestions.

Chair	Lou Wheatcraft
Vice Chair	Par Doerr
Secretary	Anne Tincher
Treasurer	Harvey Louderback
Stewardship Coordinator	Tom Scarsella
Interpretation Coordinator	Eldine Owens
Admissions Coordinator	Jane Bingel
Demonstration Coordinator	Hilary Gibbs
Weekend Trail Coord.	Melanie Weisman
Weekday Trail Coord.	Ed Adams
Weekday Farm Coord.	Chris Bingham

## DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR BIRDSEED

The pick-up days for birdseed ordered through the Wild, Wild Birdseed Sale are Friday, Dec. 9 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Any seed not picked up by Sunday, Dec. 11 becomes the property of ABNC, so DON'T FORGET!

## MINUTES

Chair Jane Bingel, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., Nov. 10, 1994. Vice Chair Tom Scarsella introduced Dr. Don Harper who presented a slide talk on the ecology of Galveston beaches and brought along some live specimens for us to see, first hand, what kind of animals live in the wet sand. It was a great program.

Jane then proceeded with the business meeting. The minutes were approved as printed in the Bayou Foliage. Since there were no other officers' reports, Jane called on Mary Alice Trumble to give us last minute information on Fall Festival coming up this weekend. Mary Alice said there were still a few time slots to fill if any of us could manage it. She especially asked for volunteer help with distributing flyers and posters to pizza delivery stores, video stores, hotels, motels, and churches on Sunday. Mary Alice then called on Bill Howe to explain the parking/transportation situation for this weekend. Bill said that the ground is dry enough to use the field for overflow parking. The service road must be left open for emergency vehicles and deliveries. Texas Bus Lines, Inc. is donating two buses and drivers, both Sat. and Sun., from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to transport people between the UHCL-DAB parking lot and ABNC. He asked us to thank the bus drivers for this generous donation on the part of their company.

Jane then called on Stephania Rogers who thanked everyone, in advance, for their generous donation of cookies for the volunteer organization's main fundraiser.

Mary Alice announced that Jim Edwards is the Volunteer of the Month for October.

Jane said that the badges for the new volunteers are on the burlap holder in the education storeroom. She then called on Lou Wheatcraft to give the report for the Nominating Committee. Lou announced the proposed candidates as follows: Weekday Farm Coordinator - Chris Bingham, Weekday Trail Coordinator - Ed Adams, Weekend Trail Coordinator - Melanie Weisman, Weekend Demonstration Coordinator - Hilary Gibbs, Admissions Coordinator - Jane Bingel, Interpretation Coordinator - Eldine Owens, Stewardship Coordinator - Tom Scarsella, Treasurer - Harvey Louderback, Secretary - Anne Tincher, Vice Chair - Pat Doerr, Chair - Lou Wheatcraft. We will have a short business meeting at our December party to take additional nominations and to vote on this slate of board officers.

We then considered a request that we allocate money to purchase 4 yards of mulch for the farm gardens. A motion, made and seconded, stated that if the money is available, the membership approves the purchase. Motion passed.

Jane announced that our December meeting will be Dec. 15 which is the 3rd Thurs. We will have our usual potluck dinner starting at 6 p.m. (Editor's note -

the time of the party has been changed to 7:00 p.m. due to a building use conflict.) Bring your own plate, silverware and cup. After dinner we will have a gift exchange for those interested in participating. Bring a wrapped gift - value \$5.00 or less.

Paula Kennedy reminded everyone that this is the last weekend to order birdseed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Anne Tincher, Secretary

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sandra Vedder	Dec. 3
Sherri Gibson	Dec. 10
Jim Edwards	Dec. 12
Frances Cerbins	Dec. 14
Susan Brooker	Dec. 15
Bob Wray	Dec. 18
Jackie Pace	Dec. 18
Judy Huston	Dec. 19
Laurie Gerken	Dec. 21
Mary Alice Trumble	Dec. 21
Sue Miller	Dec. 23
Marie Wilkinson	Dec. 24
Penny Woodward	Dec. 27
Cliff Meinhardt	Dec. 29
Eleanor Stanley	Dec. 30
Donna Waits	Dec. 30
Cristina Ramirez	Dec. 31

If your birthday is incorrect or not listed, please leave a note in the *Bayou Foliage* mailslot.

## RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Recycle your Christmas tree at ABNC this year! We need about 200 Christmas trees in support of the on-going marsh restoration being conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Galveston Bay Foundation. The trees will be wrapped in burlap bags and used to repair damage to the dike that was erected earlier this year.

Please bring your non-flocked trees to the ABNC parking lot on Friday, Jan. 6 between noon and 6 p.m. Bring them early because we can only accept 200 trees! If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer to help collect and bag trees or help repair the dike, please contact Cliff Meinhardt (480-5026) or Steve Jester at the Center.

## THANKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### TEACHERS NEEDED

Volunteers with teaching experience are needed for after-school and Saturday classes at ABNC. If you are interested in helping with this program, please send me the following information:

- 1.) Name
- 2.) Age children with whom you prefer to work. (Classes are divided as follows: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 year olds)
- 3.) Subject areas you prefer to teach. (Natural history topics, environmental history topics, storytime/games for preschoolers, or more adventurous activities for 9-10 year olds, such as canoeing or camping.)
- 4.) Days you are available.

For a complete description of the classes we have offered this fall, please see the September, October or November issues of "ALONG THE BAYOU."

We are also in need of volunteers who are willing to teach badge workshops for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. We are constantly asked to do programs for scout groups and need to have a ready list of those volunteers who are interested in this type of work.

Mary Alice Trumble

### THANKS!

Thanks to Mary Ann Tucker for organizing replacements for the admissions desk so that I could go to California to see my new little granddaughter. A big Thanks to Jane Bock, Pat Grimes, Grace Lear and Mary Ann Tucker for sitting in for me. I had a wonderful time and couldn't have gone without your help. Again, Thank you!

Marsha

### A TIP OF THE HAT TO WEEKDAY TRAIL LEADERS

While Barb Hill was vacationing I had the pleasure of calling teachers in her group for scheduled school classes. The response was tremendous. Some people offered to take more than one class. Several teachers signed up to buddy.

This enthusiasm for no pay except the pleasure of teaching children convinced me again of the many worthwhile activities that go on practically unnoticed at ABNC.

The class for the 200+ students from Baytown Junior High School was so well orchestrated by Barb and Mary Alice that there were very few glitches, I hear.

Some volunteers appear very prominently at ABNC. Others work quietly behind the scenes. There is a place here for everyone. The teachers are tops I think.

Grace Lear

### THANKS FOR YOUR SYMPATHIES

Many thanks to all of you who so kindly expressed sympathy on the death of my father. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Ruby Dilgren

### ROSTER CHANGES

Suzanne Percival has moved to St. Louis, MO.

Marlyn Thompson has moved to Chattanooga, TN.

Joe Bryan has a new mailing address:

P. O. Box 58960, Houston, TX 77258-8960

## FALL FESTIVAL AND CREEPY CRAWLERS ARE OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

### EVENT EVALUATION MEETINGS

The evaluation meeting for Fall Festival will be Sunday, December 4 at 4 p.m. It is important that the planning committee, as well as activity chairs, attend. Anyone else who has input on this year's festival is welcome also. We want to hear what you think worked, what didn't and how we can improve next year. Comments or ideas, written in advance of the meeting would be helpful. Activity chairs, please bring a list of all supplies purchased, used and left over. If any of you still have receipts for items purchased for the festival, please turn them in as soon as possible. After the fiscal year 1994 is over, there will be no reimbursements.

The evaluation meeting for Creepy Crawlers will be Wednesday, December 14 at 6 p.m. All the above comments apply to this meeting also.

Please attend or at least send in your comments and suggestions. Many times the workers in the various activities are the only ones who know where the problems were and often have the best suggestions for improvement.

### THANKS FROM THE CHAIR

I want to thank Mary Alice Trumble, Chris LaChance and the entire Fall Festival Committee as well as the individual event chairs for all your hard work and dedication. I also want to thank Tom Scarsella and the Creepy Crawlers Committee for the same reasons.

Also a word of thanks to all the volunteers and friends of ABNC who came out for either event and in some cases both events on both days to work at various activities. Without all of you this year's Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival wouldn't have been the great successes they were.

Jane

## FALL FESTIVAL AND CREEPY CRAWLERS, CONTINUED

### FROM THE CREEPY CRAWLERS CHAIR

I would like to thank each and every one of you who worked on Creepy Crawlers. Those of you who tolerated the numerous planning meetings did so with grace and patience. All of you worked so hard to insure that everything ran smoothly and that there was plenty of fun for our guests. You veteran volunteers displayed your usual talent for improvisation. I was delighted with the enthusiasm with which those of you who were new to Creepy Crawlers threw yourselves into the spirit of the event! And of course the staff's contributions were invaluable. We had a very successful Creepy Crawlers and it would not have been possible without all of your efforts.

Tom Scarsella

### FROM THE FALL FESTIVAL CHAIRS

Thanks a million times over to all the volunteers and staff who helped make this year's Fall Festival the best ever. Final figures are not in as of this writing, but we are sure it was highly successful in terms of income. In terms of weather, it couldn't have been better. And, of course, our volunteers, teamed with the fine folks from Houston Proud were outstanding.

Suzi Howe, our ABNC president, was here all weekend greeting visitors and lending a hand wherever needed. Trustees Lynn Shigekawa, Barbara Carroll, Graeme Marston and Fred Cerkan performed invaluable services by greeting, feeding us breakfast, getting visitor evaluations and taking photos. We are immensely grateful to trustee Bob Brinly for getting the two buses donated from Texas Bus Lines.

A huge thank you goes to the following volunteers who chaired specific demonstrations and booths: Ed Adams, Jean Ashmore-Block, Chris Bingham, Laura Hendrix, Paula Kennedy, Harvey Louderback, Phyllis Louderback, Martha Munies, Eldine Owens, Sandy Parker, Jonathan Perez, Paul Rogers, Stephania Rogers, Ed Rouse, Tom Scarsella, Eleanor Stanley, Mary Ann Tucker, Joanna Wactor, Irene Ward and Lou Wheatcraft.

Special thanks go to Grace Lear for answering the phones all day both days, to Mary Ann Tucker for painting craftspeople signs, to Art Adair and Hilary Gibbs for interpreting the garden and to Ed Rouse and Bob Hendrix for trekking to the wilds of Louisiana cane fields to purchase sugar cane. The prize for coming the farthest to work Fall Festival goes to Sam and Gary Dinsmore who drove from Iowa to be here.

As always, the staff put aside everything else and made Fall Festival their top priority for many days. Thanks to Marsha, Rita, Christine, Steve, Eric, Jonathan, Michael, Robert and, of course, George.

An event this size requires many months of planning and this year's committee began work in December 1993. Most of you will never know the amount of

work and time these people put in, but without them we could not have had this event. An enormous debt of gratitude goes to Jane Bingel, Roland Borey, Jim Edwards, Bill Howe, Paula Kennedy, Barb Lindberg, Harvey Louderback, Phyllis Louderback, George Regmund and to Sam and Gary Dinsmore who were on the committee before they moved to Iowa. All of you deserve gold stars!

Chris LaChance and Mary Alice Trumble

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

#### FALL FESTIVAL AND CREEPY CRAWLERS: SUCCESSSES BECAUSE OF VOLUNTEERS!

ABNC's two biggest yearly events were both resounding successes and this is, in the main, due to the tremendous amount of help and support which all of the volunteer staff contributes. These activities require much planning and preparation and most of this work is done by volunteers.

Our somewhat expanded Creepy Crawlers worked well and I heard nothing but positive comments from visitors. It was fun and informative -- a great combination for learning about nature at ABNC.

Fall Festival was the most productive ever, not only due to the great weather, but due to the great publicity blitz (thanks to Rita Getman and Phyllis Louderback), the great array of demonstrators and the many interesting things for visitors to see and do.

All of you who participated in these events deserve a huge THANK YOU for your help.

For Creepy Crawlers, special thanks go to Tom Scarsella, chair of the Creepy Crawlers Committee and the following volunteers who worked on specific area of the event: Paula Kennedy, Sue Miller, Jane Bingel, Grace Lear, Chris Bingham, Bill Howe, Susan Hesley and Jim Hawkins.

For Fall Festival, special thanks go the Chris LaChance and Mary Alice Trumble, co-chairs of the Fall Festival Committee, the Fall Festival Committee members, the event chairs, and all the other volunteers and trustees already mentioned by Chris and Mary Alice, who took on special responsibilities at the festival.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

George Regmund

### FROM PHYLLIS

We did it! What a great weekend Fall Festival was. Even the weather cooperated. The extreme efforts to put on this event stagger the mind. It is pulling together of all volunteers and staff which bond and strengthen the organization.

## FALL FESTIVAL AND CREEPY CRAWLERS, CONTINUED

I had my hands in two different pies and will try to acknowledge those who contributed.

**PUBLICITY.** Without it no one would come. A special thank you to Rita Getman who worked so hard getting our 1/4 page flyers copied (gratis) then distributed throughout the community. Rita also coordinated the news releases with me. Paula Kennedy who so capably worked the computer to design all flyers and the road signs which she then had copied. She produced the large sign on Bay Area Blvd. which worked very effectively. Mary Alice Trumble assisted with news releases.

I specifically called on twenty-seven people to help distribute Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival flyers: Jane Bingel, Chris Bingham, Becky Brignac, Susan Brooker, Pam Christie, Van Edwards, Carol Graber, Gib Harper, Sterling Heller, Laura Hendrix, Bob Hendrix, Susan Hesley, Sally Houk, Pamela Kneeder, Barbara Lindberg, Grace Lear, Carol MacGregor, Blanca Noel, Ellen Pendleton, Stephania Rogers, Paul Rogers, Patti Smith, Nancy Stansfield, Anne Tincher, Pat Walker, Lou Wheatcraft and Penny Woodward. Other volunteers also aided in this effort that I am not aware of, so a special thank you is owed to everyone who helped us spread the word!

Fifty-two road signs were placed in the Clear Lake, Pasadena and South Houston area. Those responsible were Becky Brignac, Tom Burt, Joe Bryan, Stephania and Paul Rogers. Harvey put in a lot of hours assembling the signs. Thank you all!

**FOOD.** This is definitely the way to go, after all we are in this to raise money for ABNC. Along with the support of the Houston Proud organization there were many ABNC volunteers that helped so efficiently. Thanks to Tom Burt, Sam Dinsmore (an unexpected pleasure to have), Bob Gallant, Helen Harger, Sally Houk, Martha Munies, Blanca Noel, Missy Perry and Peggy Antone (Paula Kennedy's friend). A special mention that Tom Burt and Bob Gallant worked the hard job, cooking on the smoker which Bill Howe secured from Sterling Chemical for our use. And how can we forget Harvey, who planned, shopped and then worst of all slaved over the old hot grill both days.

Rita Getman, supreme bargain hunter, found aprons and tablecloths that displayed the food booth attractively. For our apples, Mary Ann Tucker lent ABNC a special basket that she had crafted. These individuals, plus, Chris LaChance, Barbara Lindberg and Mary Alice Trumble contributed supplies that were used in the preparation and serving of the food.

Recognition also should be given to Jim Edwards for setting up the electricity supply along with Sheldon Tucker's help, and to the boys: Eric Duran, Robert Dell'osso, Jonathan Perez and Michael Vu for their help in moving the refrigerator to the food booth site.

Phyllis Louderback

### LASTLY, BUT MOST APPRECIATED, FROM ONE OF OUR FALL FESTIVAL DEMONSTRATORS

11/14/94

Dear Board and Festival Volunteers,

Just a note to thank you for including me again at the Fall Festival. As usual it was wonderful. You all worked so hard and I can't help but think that the perennial success of the festival is due to the intelligent sense of simplicity and of tenacious commitment to 19th century ambiance that everyone shows. I know you run the operation on a shoestring, but please, please continue to resist commercializing it. As festivals go, yours is the jewel among them all, and I have seen a lot. Continue to encourage all demonstrators and vendors to be aware of anachronisms in their displays, so that the parity of the festival can be maintained. To me, that is all important. What you guys pull off is amazing. Thanks for your energy, and thanks for a great time.

Sincerely,  
Dan Phillips  
(the guy with the lathe)

[Received written on a wooden plank.]

## VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE

Since this is a short month, and because we have no late closing volunteers and no trail tours scheduled I am printed an abbreviated duty roster. I will return to the usual format next month.

DATE	FARM DEMO	NAT. HIST. DEMO	FARM INTERP.
Sat. 12/3	L. Hendrix - cookies on woodstove	E. Owens - snakes	B. Hendrix
Sun. 12/4	M. A. Tucker - baskets @ 2.p.m.: C. Graber - butter	A. Tincher - seashells	M. Munies
Sat. 12/10	S. & P. Rogers- wash day	M. Clark - bird treats	P. Thorson
Sun. 12/11	R. Collins - blacksmithing K. Lon - woodshop	E. Stanley - reptiles	Greenfields
Sat. 12/17	J. Bingel - cheese	M. Vu - ducks	
Sun. 12/18	T. Scarsella - blacksmithing	J. Perez - mammals	
Sat. 12/24	ABNC closed		
Sun. 12/25	ABNC closed		
Sat. 12/31	ABNC closed		