



Bayou Foliage

Vol. 12 No. 6 June 1994

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

JUNE CALENDAR

- June 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Deadline for reservations for the Bayou Boil.
- June 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- June 15 *Bayou Foliage* deadline
- June 18 **BAYOU BOIL**
- June 25 Registration deadline for July EcoCamp sessions.
- June 25-26 **FARM DAYS**
- July 2 Deadline for reservations for the Chuckwagon Dinner
- July 9 **VOLUNTEER TRAINING- ORIENTATION**
- July 16 **CHUCKWAGON DINNER**

HI! FROM THE DINSMORES

Hello to all our friends at ABNC!

Arrived in Iowa safe and sound. Wish our belongings had also, but only minor breakage -- nothing that can't be fixed. The weather is fantastic. The birds wake us up every morning since it gets light at 4:30. Thank you to everyone for the wonderful party and gifts. A special thanks to Mary Alice. We wish all of you well and miss you.

Love to everybody. We'll write more later.

Sam and Gary

**SON OF A GUN, GONNA HAVE
BIG FUN ON THE BAYOU!**

**DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS FOR THE**

**BAYOU BOIL
Saturday, June 18**

JUNE ABNCV MEETING

THURSDAY, June 9

6:30 p.m. Coffee and Conversation

7:00 p.m. Program: Dr. Robert Newman

Meeting to follow the program.

The program for the June meeting will be Dr. Robert Newman of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He will present an overview of his research in new anti-cancer drugs from snakes, sea creatures and the rainforest. Don't miss it!

Tom

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

George Regmund	June 1
Goose Ganter	June 3
Anne Tincher	June 7
Melanie Weisman	June 8
Sandy Sandifer	June 10
Cathy Haltom	June 15
Laura Dement	June 19
Carol Toole	June 22
Christine Barrett	June 23
Marjorie Borey	June 23
Margaret Frick	June 24
Harvey Louderback	June 26
Deanna Stewart	June 26
Suzanne Sawyer	June 27

If your birthday is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please leave a note in the Bayou Foliage mailslot in the breakroom. Thanks.

APRIL VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for April is Sally Houk. Sally has been a volunteer for about seven years. She teaches weekday trail classes and helps in the gift shop and with admissions. Sally says, "ABNC is an oasis in this miserable Houston area" She became a volunteer because she believes ABNC is a place worth preserving. She feels we have an obligation to pass on to future generations evidence of how things were in the past. "I'm glad it was snatched up from the developers."

We're glad too, Sally. And glad to have you as an ABNC volunteer!

MINUTES

May 12, 1994, 7:14 p.m., Chair, Jane Bingel called the volunteer meeting to order.

Ruby Dilgren presented a check, from the volunteers, to Sharon Schmalz for the Wildlife Rehab & Education group, as a token of our appreciation for their participation with animals and displays at many of our special events.

Vice Chair, Tom Scarsella, introduced Justin Wilkinson of NASA, who discussed environmental changes as observed from space. He explained that his observations are based on photos taken by the astronauts in the space shuttle during their free time. His work has been of greater interest to the Russians, than our own government to this point, but he hopes to maintain the minimum level of his current funding.

After this very interesting program, Jane continued with the business meeting. She urged the volunteers present to invite more volunteers to attend the monthly meetings to enjoy the excellent programs that Tom has scheduled for us.

The April minutes were corrected as follows: Jackie Corbett and Pat Doerr are Co-chairs of the committee which is organizing the silent and live auction for the Bayou Boil on June 18.

Wanda Hayden reported that she needs more volunteers to work at the admission desk on Sunday evenings and Thursday mornings during staff meetings.

Heather Marcom, since April 1, has been working on organizing Earthkeepers, a summer ecocamp for 10-15 yr. olds. The camp sounds like one that will be interesting and challenging, and teaches some important ecological principles in a concrete way. Heather asked us to help her in locating some macrame cord in light blue, dark blue and brown: 300 ft. of each.

Tom gave Harvey Louderback's treasurer's report. There is \$554.70 in the savings account and \$1788.61 in the checking account.

The volunteer board has recommended that we spend up to \$500 of the money in the cookbook reprint fund (savings account) toward carpeting for the auditorium. We currently have 400 copies of the cookbook and have been selling them at a very slow rate. It was then moved and seconded that we authorize the use of the money for the carpeting. Motion passed.

Kathleen Crabb is planning to work on the gardens around the farm house and needs lots of helpers. If interested, let her know or call Jane.

Our next meeting will be Thurs. June 9, at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Tincher, secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS

FROM THE FARM COORDINATOR

The farm classes this spring have been a success thanks to these special volunteers: Ed Adams, Jane Bingel, Joan Crane, Wanda Brawley, Jean Block, Hilary Gibbs, Sterling Heller, Judy Huston, Jacqui Lowrie, Patricia Martin, Paul Rogers, Stephania Rogers, Mary Alice Trumble and Penny Woodward.

See you again in August,

Chris Bingham

TO ALL HORT VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS OF THE FARM

Kathleen Crabb is going to redo the kitchen herb garden and help to restore the other gardens around the farmhouse. Needless to say I'm going to help and I hope that many of you will come join us.

Once everything is organized I'll be calling for your help.

Remember the fun we had when a group of us got together on a regular basis to prune, weed and just generally spruce up the place. We did have a good time and the farm grounds looked great.

So let's get together, have fun and refurbish the farm area so it looks good.

If you are interested in helping, please call me at 554-5069 for more information. You can be sure I'll be calling you!

Jane Bingel

THANKS TO ALL YOU GREAT VOLUNTEERS

The school year is winding down and most school field trips are over, so I want to say thanks to Barb Hill, Judy Huston and Chris Bingham for all their efforts in getting volunteers to come out and teach the classes. But more importantly I want to thank all of you who did teach the classes. Because of your efforts the weekday trail and farm classes were a great success. Both teachers and students left singing your praises, and better still, planning and looking forward to next year's field trip to ABNC.

Also a word of thanks to all who made a commitment and did demos, acted as greeters, covered the admissions desk, acted as farm interpreters, helped with mailings, whacked tallow trees and did so many other things. I don't want to forget to thank all the volunteer board members and committee chairs. All your efforts and dedication are truly appreciated.

Thank you,

Jane Bingel

SELF-EVALUATION CHECKLIST FOR DEMOS

1. Did I wear my nametag?
2. Did I have information for a wide audience?
3. What was my "hook"? How well did it work?
4. What was there for visitors to do?
5. Was my enthusiasm high all through my demo?
6. How much information did I offer? Did I exceed the recommended ten minutes worth? Did I overwhelm, stimulate or bore my audience?
7. Did I display a sign with a title for visitors?
8. What was my main focus?
Did I relate it to the philosophy and habitats of Armand Bayou Nature Center?
9. Did I research my topic enough to feel comfortable with it?
Did I have references available for interested visitors?
Did I feel comfortable saying, "I don't know, but I'll get back to you with information"?
10. If I offered a hand-out, was it useful or interesting enough to be worth the paper?
Was it approved by the Nature Center staff?
11. Did I invite people to look out for anything specific on the Nature Center grounds? or to think further about a concept I had presented?
12. How did I present myself?
Did I look too busy with food or friends?
Or could visitors tell that I was there especially for them?
13. If I used a live animal:
Did I point out that ABNC demo animals are not pets?
Did I use native animals?
Did I tell whether or not my specimen was native? -- and if not, why I used it?
Did I hold the animal myself, and allow visitors to touch only?
14. Did I enjoy my demo?

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOW TO USE THIS CHECKLIST:

1. Read it through before I prepare my demo.
2. Read it through just before I do my demo.
3. Answer the questions soon after I finish my demo.
4. Take it with me when I go to observe more experienced volunteers.
5. Take it with me when I go to observe different demos.
6. Be brave! Ask a buddy or other willing volunteer to answer these questions about my demo.
7. Use it in this form:

On a scale of 1 to 6, 6 being best:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Variety of information						
Sufficiency of information						
Effectiveness of "hook"						
Visitor interaction						
Focus of theme						
Relation of topic to ABNC						
Extension of concept(s)						
My observable enthusiasm						
Live animal presentation						
Personal enjoyment						

Here is a checklist to use to evaluate yourself on doing a demonstration either in the Interpretive Building or at the farm. It is similar to the one for teaching classes that is included in the Volunteer Manual. Nothing is printed on the back so you can take this page out of the Bayou Foliage for future reference.

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE

In an attempt to take some of the load off the Coordinators, and to help cut down on our "no show" rate, a list of the persons who have volunteered for various assignments will be printed in the Bayou Foliage each month. If you are scheduled for a particular duty and you are unable to attend, please use this schedule to try to find your own substitute. You may be able to trade weekends, or swap a Saturday for a Sunday with someone who has the same duty another time during the month. If you do trade, please be sure to call the appropriate coordinator and the ABNC desk to inform them.

DATE	11:00 TRAIL	2:00 TRAIL	INFO. SERVICES	FARM DEMO	NAT. HIST. DEMO	FARM INTERP.	CLOSE
Sat. 6/4	-----	-----		-----	Marilyn Clark - Hummingbirds		-----
Sun. 6/5	-----	-----		-----	Eleanor Stanley - Reptiles		Jonathan Perez
Sat. 6/11	-----	-----		-----	Pat Grimes Reptiles		-----
Sun. 6/12	-----	-----		-----	Joanna Wactor Frogs		Stephania Rogers
Sat 6/18	-----	-----		-----	Eric Duran - Amphibians		-----
Sun 6/19	-----	-----		-----	P. & H. Louderback - Bird Adaptations		Louise Peck
Sat 6/25	Bob Smither	Joe Bryan		FARM DAYS: ABNC Quilters - Quilting P. & S. Rogers - Ropemaking Laura Hendrix - Butter Churning Bob Hendrix - Farm Life Paula Kennedy - Tatting	Anne Tincher - Mollusks	FARM DAYS	-----
Sun 6/26	-----	Jennie Plunkett		FARM DAYS ABNC Quilters - Quilting Tom Scarsella - Tin Lantern Making Julie Bannerman - Butter Churning Joanna Wactor - Drop Spindle	Zel Arbuckle - Snakes	FARM DAYS	Sherrri Gibson

IF YOU CAN FILL IN ANY OF THE BLANK SPOTS, PLEASE CALL THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATOR.