



Bayou Foliage

Vol. 12 No. 11 Nov. 1994

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Nov. 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 5 Fall Festival Workshops, 9:30 a.m.
- Nov. 6 Deadline for reservations for Fall Festival dinner
- Nov. 6 Project Wild Workshop, 1-7 p.m.
- Nov. 10 Volunteer meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 12-13 **FALL FESTIVAL**
- Nov. 15 *Bayou Foliage* deadline
- Nov. 24-25 Thanksgiving holidays - ABNC closed

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for September is Hilary Gibbs. Hilary has been an ABNC volunteer for six years. She currently serves on the Volunteer Board as Demonstration Coordinator. In addition to doing many demonstrations herself, especially study skin preparation, she spends innumerable hours working in the farm garden. She says she enjoys being a volunteer because she always feels calm at the Nature Center, regardless of how she was feeling before she got there. She became a volunteer because, "As a member with young children I was at ABNC fairly often and became interested in knowing more about the plants and wildlife there. I also wanted to get back to some teaching, but had limited time. I developed an interest in learning how to prepare bird study skins when I helped Sandy Cooper to get the adaptation boxes together. My neighbors now leave dead birds and animals on my doorstep!"

Thanks, Hilary! We certainly appreciate all your efforts when we show off the garden (and sample its goodies) or use some of your study skins in a class or demo.

ORDER YOUR SEED NOW

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER BIRDSEED FROM ABNC'S WILD, WILD BIRDSEED SALE IS THE SUNDAY OF FALL FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 13. There is an order form on page 5.

NOVEMBER ABNCV MEETING

THURSDAY, November 10

- 6:30 p.m. Coffee and Conversation
- 7:00 p.m. Program - Dr. Don Harper

The speaker for the November meeting will be Dr. Don Harper of Texas A&M University at Galveston. Dr. Harper is a marine biologist with a long-term interest in the ecology of the sandy beaches on Galveston Island which will be the subject of his presentation. The beaches on Galveston have been impacted by erosion, oil spills, development and vehicles. These influences have been the causes of change over time. Dr. Harper's lecture should be very informative and I'm sure none of you will want to miss it.

Tom

FALL FESTIVAL

FALL FESTIVAL IS ALMOST HERE! PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

1. **SIGN UP TO HELP!** We will be having a phone-a-thon to fill in the remaining spots. So if you haven't signed up, you'll be getting a phone call.
2. **TRAINING WORKSHOPS, NOVEMBER 5.** If you need training for your demo, please attend the training workshop on Saturday, November 5 beginning at 9:30 a.m.
3. **BAKE COOKIES!** We always run out of cookies to sell at Fall Festival. This is the main fund-raiser for the volunteer organization. Please bake all the cookies you can, even if you can't work at the festival.
4. **SIGN UP FOR THE VOLUNTEER DINNER ON SATURDAY NIGHT BY NOVEMBER 6.** See page 3 for details.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Sharon Riley	Nov. 2
Pamela Kneidler	Nov. 3
Marilyn Clark	Nov. 4
Mary Barton	Nov. 9
Sally Houk	Nov. 11
Pat Grimes	Nov. 13
Phyllis Louderback	Nov. 17
Steve Jester	Nov. 20
Marsha Allen	Nov. 22
Jennifer Dartez	Nov. 23
Pat Greenfield	Nov. 26
Mary Beth Pinkerton	Nov. 27
Joan Crane	Nov. 30

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

MINUTES

October 13, 1994, 7:05 pm., Chair Jane Bingel called the volunteer meeting to order. Vice-chair Tom Scarsella introduced Dr. Robert Newman, whose topic was Pharmacology: A Discipline of Murder, Magic, and Medicine. Dr. Newman shared some strange stories with us about the people, throughout history, who used plants and animals in all of the aforementioned categories. He finished his talk with a brief description of his current research on drugs derived from animals.

Jane thanked Dr. Newman for an enjoyable program. She began the business meeting by asking for corrections, if any, for the minutes, which were approved. There was no treasurer's report this month. Sue Miller, Weekend Trail Coordinator, announced that George Regmund will be teaching a weekend trail class this Sunday, Oct. 16, from 12-3 p.m. ABNC would like to reinstate the weekly guided hikes, but we need more volunteers who are trained and interested in this job.

Bill Howe, Stewardship Coordinator, reported that the new carpeting for the auditorium has been installed. This improvement was paid for with money from our volunteer organization.

Irene Ward, Nominating Committee member, reported that the committee needs two more officers: Volunteer Chair and Admissions Coordinator.

Stephania Rogers, Ways and Means Chairman, thanked the volunteers for supporting the cookie sales with donations of cookies, and asked everyone to donate even more cookies for the Fall Festival.

Jane Bingel, Sue Miller, Paula Kennedy and Tom Scarsella all had reminders and requests regarding Creepy Crawlers: distribute flyers, put up posters in area businesses, bring lanterns no later than Friday Oct. 28 by 5 pm., and/or dress up as an owl for the trail on Friday night.

Paula Kennedy announced that the Volunteer of the Month for September is Hilary Gibbs. Congratulations, Hilary.

We all congratulated the following volunteers who will be receiving permanent badges: Mike Allen, Helen Burton, Pam Dilworth-Christie, Susan DeFrank, Carol Graber, Helen Harger, Karen Lon, Jutta Weiss, Joan Shack.

Jane and the volunteer board extended a special thank you to the following people who weeded beyond the call of duty!: Bob and Laura Hendrix, Harvey and Phyllis Louderback, Mary Ann and Sheldon Tucker, and Hilary Gibbs. (I think this has special reference to Houston's heat.) They have done a fabulous job weeding the parking lot islands and around the farm and working in the farm garden.

Paula passed around a petition entitled "Texans opposed to spreading single dose baits of Compound 1080 poison for "rabies control."

Becky Brignac is looking into organizing pecan sales as another fund-raiser, possibly for Fall Festival.

Jane reported that the outreach farm program recently went to Kemah. She needs more volunteers for several programs in Pasadena Public Schools, before Fall Festival. The Pasadena Arts Development Council donated \$5,000. to ABNC with the proviso that we promote the festival in the schools through our outreach program.

Bill Howe brought us up-to-date on some of Steve Jester's recent work. Ten more acres of tallow trees have been hydro-axed. Cattle are now on this side of the bayou for intensive grazing; hence, electric fences are now on. The destruction of the tallow trees and the intensive grazing are part of our prairie restoration program. Bill asked us to explain these actions to the public, if questioned.

Jane announced that our next meeting would be Thursday, November 10. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Anne Tincher, Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER CAMPOUT

Break your usual weekend routine. Surround yourself with crickets chirping and the sounds of the forest at night. Awake to the early morning singing of birds, first the soloists, then the chorus.

The traditional volunteer campout at Brazos Bend State Park will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 2-4. George Regmund will join us on Saturday night for a campfire song-along, then lead us on a bird walk Sunday morning.

The sites are primarily tent sites, but several vans can be accommodated. A hot dog roast on Saturday night will be provided, but other meals will be each individual camper's responsibility. Some of us will arrive on Friday, others will come on Saturday.

Sign-up begins on Wednesday, November 2, at the reception desk where a clipboard will be available, but the receipt of a check will confirm your reservation. The cost is \$6 per person, payable to "ABNC Volunteers." Send checks to my home, 14918 Tallow Forest Ct., Houston, TX 77062, or catch Harvey or me at the Nature Center. There is also a \$5 per day per vehicle entrance fee to the park unless you have a Texas Conservation Passport (an annual pass to all Texas state parks.)

Phyllis Louderback

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAKERS: ALERT!

Thanks to all the great cookie bakers who have responded to the need for goodies for several events. Now we are asking for your help for the big one -- **Fall Festival**. We always sell a lot of cookies at the festival, so the need is there for bunches of them. Please, if you can, bake some and bring them when you come. Thanks again.

Stephania Rogers

VOLUNTEER BADGES AWARDED

I want to say congratulations and welcome to those of you who have earned your volunteer badges. We're glad to have you join us and look forward to working with you.

These people will find their new badges pinned to the burlap badge holder found in the teaching supply closet: Mike Allen, Helen Burton, Pam Dilworth-Christie, Susan DeFrank, Carol Graber, Helen Harger, Karen Lon, Jutta Weiss and Joan Shack.

Again, Welcome!

Jane

GARDEN UPDATE

By the time you read this, fall tomatoes will be ripe. The garden is looking great, but don't let that fool you. A LOT of time and hard work have gone into getting it back into shape, and the need for that work and time will never diminish! The seedlings need frequent water; older plants need more water (ed. note: Hilary obviously wrote this before the October 15-18 deluge!); weeds do not relax; and digging and composting work are necessary at least each week. If you get a chance to work in the garden with Art Adair, watch and listen carefully! We need to absorb his knowledge and ways of doing things for those times when he is not here as often.

Hilary Gibbs

FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER DINNER

A delicious barbecue meal and shared friendship follow the labors of Saturday's Fall Festival, November 12. Ask your spouse and family to join you if you would like. Those working only on Sunday, come join us Saturday night. In other words, come one, come all.

Sign the clipboard at the reception desk and pay Marsha \$3.25 per plate. Reservations must be made by Sunday, November 6.

Phyllis Louderback

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

MAKE IT A DATE

We all know how busy all the ABNC staff members are. There are a thousand demands on each one's time. But sometimes we forget that fact when we need to speak to one of them. It can be frustrating for us, too, when the staff member we came to the Nature Center to see is out in the field, or in a meeting, or just very busy with other pressing business. We can prevent the frustration on both sides if we make it a point to call first. Make sure the person you need to see will be available. Any one of them would be more than happy to set up a time to speak with you when it is convenient for both of you. Do yourself and the staff a favor and **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**. It doesn't have to be anything formal, just let them know when you will be there and about how much time you will need. It makes things easier for everyone. Thanks.

Paula

PROJECT WILD COMING TO ABNC

We will be hosting another Project Wild workshop at ABNC on Sunday, November 6 from 1-7 p.m. Space is limited to 30 participants and we already have at least 17 coming from UHCL. If you are interested, please call Mary Alice Trumble at the Nature Center as soon as possible to register.

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. 11/5	-----	-----		Eric Franklin - Biscuits on Wood Stove	Pat Doerr - Feathers		-----
Sun. 11/6	-----	-----		P. & S. Rogers - Rope Making	Eleanor Stanley - Reptiles		-----
Sat 11/12	Jennie Plunkett	Carol MacGregor 3:30 - Jennie Plunkett	FALL FESTIVAL	FALL FESTIVAL	-----	FALL FESTIVAL	-----
Sun 11/13	Judy Mayes	David Heise 3:30 - Judy Mayes	FALL FESTIVAL	FALL FESTIVAL	-----	FALL FESTIVAL	-----
Sat 11/19	-----	-----		Chris Bingham - Cheese Making	Pat Grimes - Snakes		-----
Sun 11/20	-----	-----		Laura Hendrix - Tea & Cookies on Wood Stove	Anne Tincher - Pond Life	Bob Hendrix	-----
Sat 11/26	-----	-----		Irene Ward - Gingerbread Cookies on Wood Stove	Ruby Dilgren - Mammal Adaptations	Larry Veale	-----
Sun 11/27	-----	-----		Karen Lon - Wood Shop	Jennie Plunkett - Marine Life		-----

IF YOU CAN FILL IN ANY OF THE BLANK SPOTS IN FARM INTERPRETER OR INFO. SERVICES INTERPRETER, PLEASE CALL GRACE LEAR AT 486-4141.

WE CHANGED TO CENTRAL STANDARD TIME ON OCTOBER 30. THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR LATE CLOSING VOLUNTEERS ON SUNDAYS UNTIL SPRING.

WILD, WILD BIRDSEED SALE

Order Information

The Armand Bayou Nature Center's winter birdseed sale offers a variety of high quality seeds and mixes in bulk. All proceeds from the sale benefit ABNC education and preservation programs. To ensure your order is processed, it must be received with payment by Sunday, November 13, and YOU MUST PICK UP YOUR SEED ON DECEMBER 9 or 10 because it cannot be stored without additional expense. Unclaimed seed becomes Nature Center property after December 11. Please help keep the price of this seed down by picking it up on time.

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED is small black seed highly preferred by most seed-eating birds such as cardinals, chickadees, titmice and doves. This is the seed used most often at the Nature Center.

SPECIAL WILD BIRD MIX is a blend of 30% black oil sunflower, with millet, milo, wheat and peanuts. The high sunflower content shows the quality of this seed and beats the socks off most grocery mixes. It is formulated to appeal to many different birds.

SAFFLOWER SEED is a white seed relished by cardinals, chickadees and titmice. Its color confuses some birds at first, but they soon learn how good they are, and squirrels do not care for them.

THISTLE SEED (Niger) is a tiny black seed which is highly attractive to goldfinches and their relatives. Often 20-50 birds can be sighted at the Nature Center feeder on colder winter days. Although the seed is expensive and requires a special feeder, you may see new birds if you put out thistle.

**Make checks to Armand Bayou Nature Center
detach here and mail form below to:
ABNC, P. O. Box 58828, Houston, TX 77258**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

NAME _____ PHONE (work): _____ (home): _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

No. of Bags	Description	Price/Bag	Total
	25 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower	\$11.00	
	50 lbs. Black Oil Sunflower	\$21.00	
	20 lbs. Special Wild Bird Mix	\$ 9.00	
	40 lbs. Special Wild Bird Mix	\$17.00	
	5 lbs. Safflower Seed	\$ 3.50	
	25 lbs. Safflower Seed	\$16.00	
	8 lbs. Thistle Seed	\$ 9.00	
	25 lbs. Thistle Seed	\$26.00	
Subtotal			
10% ABNC Members Discount			—
Subtotal			
7 1/4% Tax			
TOTAL			

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS!

CAN YOU FIX A LAWNMOWER?

The Nature Center lawnmowers have fallen into disrepair. It's understandable considering the amount of mowing required and the coarse nature of the grasses. If you or someone you know would be willing to donate their time and take on the job of evaluating the mowers and making repairs to those that are not "goners," please call Steve Jester at the Center at 474-2551. The cost of parts will be reimbursed by ABNC.

THANKS, WEEDERS!

A special word of thanks goes to some very dedicated and hard-working weeders. The parking lot islands, the front of the Interpretive Building, the farm grounds and the vegetable garden are looking much, much better. Thanks especially to Bob and Laura Hendrix, Phyllis Louderback, Mary Ann and Sheldon Tucker, Hilary Gibbs and her vegetable garden crew, and Art Adair for his help and support.

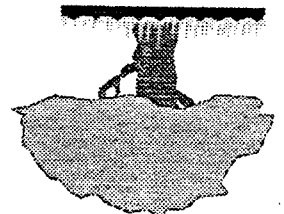
Let's all get more involved in helping to maintain the grounds so the place looks great, not only for Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival but all the time.

Jane

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

8500 Bay Area Blvd.
P.O. Box 58828
Houston, Texas 77258
713-474-2551

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER



TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

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