



Bayou Foliage

Vol. 13 No. 2 Feb. 1995

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

"INTERESTED + INFORMED + INVOLVED"

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb. 1 Garden Tour meeting, see pg. 5
- Feb. 3 Weekday Volunteer Training I of IV
- Feb. 4 Weekend Volunteer Training I of IV
- Feb. 8 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9 **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER,**
6:30 (See back page)
- Feb. 10 Weekday Volunteer Training II of IV
- Feb. 11 Weekend Volunteer Training II of IV
- Feb. 11-12 **WARM & FUZZY WEEKEND**
- Feb. 15 *Bayou Foliage* deadline
- Feb. 17 Weekday Volunteer Training III of IV
- Feb. 18 Weekend Volunteer Training III of IV
- Feb. 24 Weekday Volunteer Training IV of IV
- Feb. 26 Weekend Volunteer Training IV of IV

DECEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for December is Jim Hawkins. Jim is a fairly new volunteer, having trained in September of 1993; but being new hasn't held him back from jumping in and working hard. He helps primarily with stewardship projects, especially electrical work. For overseeing the setting up of the lighting for Creepy Crawlers, Jim was dubbed "Director of Enlightenment." He also spent quite a few fall weekends helping with construction of the bird observation blind.

Thanks, Jim. Your talents and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated.

FEBRUARY ABNCV MEETING AND VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:30 - Short Business Meeting - Vote on 1995 Budget, Volunteer of the Year

7:00 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The hard work by the volunteers helped make the many events in 1994 the most successful ever! As the staff has said many times, "The nature center could not survive with out you." To show the staff's gratitude they are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. I encourage as many of you as possible to come and accept this small token of the staff's appreciation for the multitude of things you do to support the nature center. You need to call Marsha at the nature center by Sunday, February 5 to make reservations so they know how much food to prepare. Please bring your own plate, cup and silverware. See you there!

Lou

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | |
|------------------|---------|
| Kathleen Crabb | Feb. 1 |
| Diane Shea | Feb. 7 |
| Kelly Kearns | Feb. 7 |
| Patricia Martin | Feb. 7 |
| Tom Burt | Feb. 13 |
| Jackie Corbett | Feb. 14 |
| Paul Rogers | Feb. 15 |
| Stephania Rogers | Feb. 17 |
| Ryan Spruill | Feb. 18 |
| Ed Adams | Feb. 18 |
| Ray Parker | Feb. 19 |
| Art Adair | Feb. 21 |
| Chris Bingham | Feb. 22 |
| Gary Dinsmore | Feb. 27 |
| Lu Skillern | Feb. 28 |

If your birthday not listed or is incorrect, please leave a note in the *Bayou Foliage* mailslot or call Paula Kennedy (479-7615).

VOLUNTEER TRAINING IS BEING HELD IN FEBRUARY. PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS OR ANYONE ELSE YOU KNOW WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ABNC VOLUNTEER.

PLAN TO ATTEND TO "REFRESH" YOUR SKILLS. SEE THE SCHEDULE ON PAGE 6. YOU WILL BE AWARDED CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS FOR ATTENDANCE. CALL MARY ALICE TO SIGN UP.

MINUTES

January Volunteer Meeting: Our program - "New Beginnings" - was presented by Suzi Howe, President - Board of Trustees, Denny Denman, Treasurer - Board of Trustees, and Mary Alice Trumble, Education Coordinator. If you missed these excellent and encouraging talks on the past year and the plans for 1995, look for the appropriate articles in *Bayou Foliage* and/or *Along the Bayou*.

Lou Wheatcraft, Chair, brought the business meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. He thanked departing board members: Bill Howe, Wanda Hayden, Sue Miller, Grace Lear, and Barb Hill. He also thanked Jane Bingel and Tom Scarsella for accepting other board positions.

The minutes of the December volunteer meeting were approved as printed in the *Bayou Foliage*.

The treasurer's report showed \$560 in savings, \$1873.44 in checking, for a total of \$2434.28. The treasury annual audit will soon be conducted by Jane Bingel, Harvey Louderback, Lou Wheatcraft, and Christine Barrett. The 1995 proposed budget will be in the *Bayou Foliage* and voted on during a short February business meeting.

Barb Hill announced that April 8 will be the date for our first Garden Tour. She is working with Mary Ann Tucker and Phyllis Louderback to organize this event to benefit ABNC. They have written to 20 area garden clubs to ask for their support. If a garden club wishes to participate they are asked to purchase 20 tickets @ \$5 and select one garden for the tour. This date coincides with Wildflower Weekend at ABNC so there will be additional demos here for participants in the tour. Barb said that the organizers welcome any ideas and help.

Bill Howe, past Stewardship Coordinator, announced that Feb. 4, a group of 100 or more Shell Co. employees and retirees will be coming to ABNC for the morning to work on several projects, including painting the inside of the farm house and constructing an extension on the implement shed and a handrail around all the equipment in the shed to keep children from climbing on potentially dangerous items. Hilary Gibbs, Demo Coordinator, is organizing some farm demos and one nature demo, for this event, for the families of the Shell volunteers.

Lou then announced that there will be some changes in the committee structure. The membership committee will be deleted and the duties divided among the Volunteer Board members. New committees to be formed include an Interpretive Materials Development Committee, a Communication Committee, and a Stewardship Committee. Mary Alice Trumble will co-chair the Interpretive Materials Development Committee with a volunteer to be determined. Paula Kennedy will co-chair the Communication Committee with a TBD volunteer. This committee will include the mailing committee. The Stewardship Committee will be co-chaired by Tom Scarsella and TBD staff member.

Lou further announced that we have an urgent need for Earth Day co-chairs and Fall Festival co-chairs. A publicity meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 23 at 7:00 PM. Rita Getman, Development Coordinator, is part of this committee. Lou requested that active committee co-chairs attend volunteer board meetings. Lou talked about keeping volunteers by keeping them "interested, informed, and involved" and expressed the hope that every volunteer will be active on one or more committees.

Mary Alice announced that new member training is open on space available basis for current volunteers to earn continuing education hours and to brush up on ideas and skills. She asked that we make reservations.

Lou thanked Sue Miller for her work on totalling volunteer hours for 1994. He asked that we review the instructions on how to report hours because there were many problems this past year on how to assign hours.

Lou asked volunteers to contact respective board members to sign up for demos, greeters, trail tours, rather than waiting to be called!! Since the job of Interpretive Building Greeter can be "boring" on an inclement day when there are few visitors, the greeter can choose to call the front desk to see if he/she is needed.

Lou asked us to complete the survey mailed in the last *Bayou Foliage*. We want to know what you think about the Volunteer Organization.

Lou said that Mary Alice will be attending a Jan. 23 seminar in San Antonio which covers skills we can use here at ABNC. If three more volunteers want to attend this seminar, they can attend for the cost of three and the fourth goes free. If 4 volunteers are trained at this seminar, it will be easier to spread the information to the rest of us, therefore Lou asked that we consider funding this trip up to \$150 from our reserve funds. It was so moved, seconded, and approved.

Mary Alice announced that the December volunteer of the month is Jim Hawkins.

Lou announced that the next volunteer meeting will be at 7:00 PM February 9th - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. RSVP to Marsha at the front desk. [Ed. note: Since the dinner is primarily a social activity, the coffee and conversation time will not be held this month. The meeting will begin at 6:30 and the dinner at 7:00 p.m.]

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Anne Tincher
Secretary

PROPOSED 1995 ABNCV BUDGET

The proposed budget for 1995 for the volunteer organization follows. Due to the highly successful Fall Festival, the volunteer cookie sales brought in the additional income needed to meet our budgeted income for 1994. Thanks to all of you who baked the goodies for Fall Festival. The 1995 budget will be voted on at the short February business meeting.

INCOME	1994 Budget	1994 Actual	1995 Budget
Cookbook Sales	300.00	260.00	250.00
Cookie Sales	680.00	880.15	740.00
Interest - Saving Acct.	20.00	10.84	10.00
TOTAL	1,000.00	1,150.99	1,000.00
EXPENSES			
Administrative Supplies	25.00	13.28	25.00
Contingency Fund	25.00	0.00	25.00
Contributions to ABNC	300.00	770.00	475.00
Cookbook Reprint	150.00	150.00	0.00
Entertainment & Refreshments	125.00	0.00	50.00
Flowers, Cards, Gifts	50.00	0.00	25.00
Mailings	325.00	371.32	400.00
TOTAL	1,000.00	1,304.60	1,000.00

ASSETS - JANUARY 1, 1995

Budget	1,000.00
Stock Memorial Fund	102.25
Cookbook Reprint Account	50.00
Reserve Fund	1,002.64
Trips	279.39
TOTAL	2,434.28

VOLUNTEER BOARD FOR 1995

		Home	Office
Lou Wheatcraft	Chair	486-9481	244-8536
Pat Doerr	Vice Chair	538-1800	280-2136
Anne Tincher	Secretary	486-5167	
Harvey Louderback	Treasurer	488-7884	335-1668
Tom Scarsella	Stewardship	532-1192	483-7757
Eldine Owens	Interpretation	486-7524	
Jane Bingel	Admissions	554-5069	
Hilary Gibbs	Weekend Demos	532-2216	
Melanie Weisman	Weekend Trail	488-7342	335-2578
Ed Adams	Weekday Trail	946-2754	
Chris Bingham	Weekday Farm	538-2085	
Paula Kennedy	Newsletter	479-7615	792-3226

Note: Please call a board member to give us your suggestions, ideas, sign up for demos, to be a greeter, or to give a trail tour. If you have a complaint or a problem to report, call us also - we can't fix something if we don't know it is broke. In the past there have been many false rumors spread around among the volunteers. This only serves to damage and degrade the organization and the nature center. If you hear a rumor please verify the facts before allowing mis-information to spread. Thanks.

Lou

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE CHANGES AND STATUS

The following changes are proposed to strengthen the volunteer organization, provide the staff with a focused and dedicated group of volunteers to provide support in required areas, and to provide a place for each volunteer to call "home". The new committees will have their official "first" meetings in March following the new volunteer training. A new volunteer interest inventory will be included in the March *Bayou Foliage* for you to indicate which of the new and existing committees you would like to be on. In the mean time call one of the co-chairs listed below to let them know you would like to be on their committee. Committees are how the work gets done at the nature center - all the planning and coordination for all activities and special events are done in a committee. I would like to see every volunteer be a member of at least one continuing committee as well as one of the special event committees.

Membership - This committee will be deleted: membership will be prime concern of the volunteer board.

New: Interpretive Materials Development Committee - Mary Alice Trumble co-chair & TBD volunteer. I am very excited about this committee. One of the nature center's prime missions is interpretation, and developing and making interpretive materials available to the public is one of the cheapest and highest visibility things that we can do. Development of interpretive farm signs, self guided trail tour booklets, interpretive building displays, demonstration materials, nature topic handouts, etc. are all possible tasks this committee will be involved in.

New: Communication Committee - Paula Kennedy co-chair with TBD volunteer. This committee will be divided into internal communications (production of the *Along the Bayou*, the *Bayou Foliage*, and other nature center publications, announcements, etc.) and external communications (publicity). The committee structure has not been fully determined, but it is planned to encompass the publicity committee. It will include the mailing committee and incorporate such tasks as organizing all the nature center's slides and photos.

New: Stewardship Committee - Co-chairs Tom Scarsella & TBD staff member. Stewardship is another one of the main missions of the nature center. There are many areas of stewardship: trail maintenance, prairie restoration, bayou restoration, facility maintenance, boardwalk and entry upkeep, parking lot upkeep, mowing, etc. To do all these things there need to be dedicated volunteers who are willing to help in these areas and be part of the work groups who accomplish these tasks. While these activities have been

going on for many years, I feel that having a committee will make it easier to plan and schedule the projects and work groups, ensure the resources are available when and where they are needed, and to communicate better within the volunteer organization the opportunities available in the area of stewardship.

So that no one individual is overburdened, I feel all committees should be structured like the Fall Festival Committees have been in the past. Each committee will have co-chairs and will have "lieutenants" in charge of each of the sub-areas being worked by the committee. The co-chairs will attend the volunteer board meetings and provide a status of their activities at the volunteer meetings and in the *Bayou Foliage*.

Lou

RE: LOGSHEETS

I had the dubious honor of looking at everyone's logsheets this year and I noticed some problems and misunderstandings. I'll try to clear up some of the most common problems here, but there is a very good explanation and example logsheet taped to the inside cover of the logbook. Maybe that would clarify some questions you have. Please take time to read it.

When you take a Continuing Education class or buddy with someone or learn how to use the cash register, etc., this should be entered on the logsheet ONLY under "Cont. Ed." (Don't also add it under "Educ." nor add it in your "Reg." cumulative hours.)

On the right hand side of the logsheet there are two columns under the heading "Cumulative Hours." These two columns are to be used to keep a running tally of your hours of service.

I know you've heard (or read) this 2,222 times before, but please keep your logsheet as current as possible. The nature center can get grants based on the number of volunteer hours. Also, it is often helpful to know how long a project will actually take to complete, so an accurate logsheet is essential.

I'm sure there will be many more questions, but please refer to the sheet on the inside cover of the logbook for guidance.

Thanks and Happy New Year!

Sue Miller

ANNUAL TREASURY AUDIT

Per the volunteer bylaws, an annual audit committee has been named. Jane Bingel, Harvey Louderback, Lou Wheatcraft and Christine Barrett have agreed to perform the audit.

MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND THANKS

VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Thanks to those who have taken the time to fill out the Volunteer Survey that was in last month's Bayou Foliage - but a lot of you still have not filled yours out. We really need to know how you feel about the volunteer organization, about being a volunteer, about volunteer training, and about the volunteer meetings. I know you all have something to say about these subjects so here is your chance! Please take the time to fill out the volunteer survey attached to last month's *Bayou Foliage*. Thanks again for your time and effort.

Lou

EARTH DAY ALERT

Spring is almost here and we need help with the upcoming Earth Day event. This year Earth Day will be held on Saturday, April 22, so put it on your calendars, sign up, and think sunshine. We need help in natural history demos, environmental demos, guided trail hikes (plant guides and bird guides), and crafts. We would also like to have a volunteer ABNC trash clean up on that day, rain or shine. Don't wait for us to call you, take the initiative!

Chairs: Jonathan Perez (477-4901)
and Michael Vu (471-1114)

CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

New member volunteer training is taking place this month and is open to existing volunteers on a space available basis. See the agenda for each day on page 6, and make reservations with Mary Alice if you want to attend. Mary Alice stated that the first day of each class is mostly orientation topics which may not be too interesting for existing volunteers. She is arranging for staff and outside instructors for each of the topics. I encourage you all to take advantage of this opportunity. You will not only be able to "refresh" your knowledge, but will learn some new things, learn how the staff would like information to be presented, and you will meet and get to know the new volunteers.

Lou

GARDEN TOUR PLANNED

The first annual ABNC Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 1995 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to unique gardens of this area. Tickets will be \$5 each. The planning committee's next meeting will be Wednesday, February 1 at Barb Hill's home at 10 a.m. If you wish to participate please call -- I'll give you directions. We've had some good input from committee members since we started the project. And we appreciate your support.

Barb Hill (488-2653)

DEMOS, GREETERS, TRAIL TOUR SIGN-UP

Please contact the respective board members to sign up for demos, greeters, trail tours - don't wait to be called!! This way you can do what you want when you want to. Call early and get the date and time you want. We also want to start increasing the number of trail tours we offer the public. Many people show up wanting a tour and we should be able to meet their expectations. Please call Melanie and let her know that you would be willing to conduct one or more trail tours per month and when and what time slot you would like.

I know that some of you get discouraged when you show up and the public doesn't, due to weather, etc. but this is part of the job. On one Sunday in January the weather was really nice, and the public decided that ABNC was the place to go. But we had no greeter scheduled for the interpretive building, and the person at the desk had to both take visitors' money and try to answer their questions. With the number of people that showed up, this wasn't possible, and people had to either wait in line or not get their questions answered. The end result was this wasn't the best experience for them, and we may have lost potential new members and/or volunteers!! To address some of your concerns we have decided to allow those signing up for Interpretive Building Greeter to call the front desk on bad weather days before coming. If it is felt you should come (because there are a lot of folks coming anyway or because the weather is better at ABNC than at your home) then come. If you are told you do not have to come then, it is your choice to come and do something else or to stay home.

FALL FESTIVAL 1995

Yes it is time to start thinking about Fall Festival 1995!!!! This is THE major event of the year and demands that planning start now to make it a success. This year it will be held on November 11 and 12. We urgently need two resourceful people (volunteers and staff) to stand up and volunteer to co-chair the Fall Festival 1995 Committee. Please call me and let me know ASAP. Thanks.

Lou

THANKS TO 1994 BOARD MEMBERS!!

I want to pass on a special "Thank you for all your hard work during 1994!" to the 1994 volunteer board members: Jane Bingel, Tom Scarsella, Anne Tincher, Harvey Louderback, Bill Howe, Wanda Hayden, Hilary Gibbs, Sue Miller, Grace Lear, Chris Bingham, Barb Hill and Paula Kennedy. I am also grateful that Anne, Harvey, Hilary, Chris and Paula agreed to serve on the 1995 board in their same jobs and that Jane and Tom agreed to accept other jobs to stay on the board.

Lou

VOLUNTEER TRAINING SCHEDULE

WEEKDAY TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Friday, February 3:

8:15 - 9:00 Registration & ice-breaker
 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome & introductions
 9:15 - 9:45 "Urban Wilderness" video
 9:45 - 10:00 Volunteer opportunities
 10:00 - 10:15 Break
 10:15 - 10:45 Overview of ABNC ecosystems
 10:45 - 12:00 Tour of ABNC
 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
 12:30 - 1:45 Ecological concepts with games
 1:45 - 2:00 Break
 2:00 - 3:00 Volunteer manuals, logbook, meetings, policies, etc.

Friday, February 10:

9:00 - 9:45 Forest Ecosystem
 9:45 - 10:30 Bayou Ecosystem
 10:30 - 10:45 Break
 10:45 - 12:15 Trail Tour
 12:15 - 12:45 Lunch
 12:45 - 1:15 Teaching tips
 1:15 - 1:45 Insects
 1:45 - 3:00 Insect program

GOOD WEATHER PLAN FOR Friday, February 10:
 Group A will go the Bay Area Park for pontoon boat ride; Group B will walk trail to bayou, then switch with Group A who will walk back to Interpretive Building. (9:00 - 12:15)

Friday, February 17:

9:00 - 11:00 Animal Adaptations program
 11:00 - 11:15 Break
 11:15 - 12:00 Animal handling
 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
 12:30 - 1:30 Nature Discovery program
 1:30 - 3:00 Earth Education activities

Friday, February 24:

9:00 - 10:00 Track the Trails
 10:00 - 11:00 Pond Study
 11:00 - 11:15 Break
 11:15 - 12:15 Farm Life
 12:15 - 12:45 Lunch
 12:45 - 2:15 Hands on History
 2:15 - 3:00 Questions/answers, buddy sign-up, continuing education, stewardship and administrative training, evaluations, etc.

WEEKEND TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Saturday, February 4:

8:15 - 9:00 Registration & ice-breaker
 9:00 - 9:15 Welcome & introductions
 9:15 - 9:45 "Urban Wilderness" video
 9:45 - 10:00 Volunteer opportunities
 10:00 - 10:15 Break
 10:15 - 10:45 Overview of ABNC ecosystems
 10:45 - 12:00 Tour of ABNC
 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
 12:30 - 1:45 Ecological concepts with games
 1:45 - 2:00 Break
 2:00 - 3:00 Volunteer manuals, logbook, meetings, policies, etc.

Saturday, February 11:

9:00 - 9:45 Forest Ecosystem
 9:45 - 10:30 Bayou Ecosystem
 10:30 - 10:45 Break
 10:45 - 12:15 Trail Tour
 12:15 - 12:45 Lunch
 12:45 - 1:15 Presenting a demo
 1:15 - 1:45 Animal handling
 1:45 - 2:00 Break
 1:45 - 3:00 Natural history demo

GOOD WEATHER PLAN FOR Friday, February 10:
 Group A will go the Bay Area Park for pontoon boat ride; Group B will walk trail to bayou, then switch with Group A who will walk back to Interpretive Building. (9:00 - 12:15)

Saturday, February 18:

9:00 - 9:45 History of Martyn Farm
 9:45 - 10:45 Ecological concepts as related to farm
 10:45 - 11:00 Break
 11:00 - 12:00 Farm tour
 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch
 12:30 - 1:00 Farmhouse tour
 1:00 - 1:45 Farm Interpreter
 1:45 - 2:00 Break
 2:00 - 3:00 Farm demo

Sunday, February 26:

1:00 - 1:45 Prairie ecology
 1:45 - 3:00 Prairie tour
 3:00 - 3:15 Break
 3:15 - 3:45 Interpreter tips
 3:45 - 4:45 Pond study
 4:45 - 5:15 Review of ecological concepts
 5:15 - 6:00 Questions/answers, buddy sign-up, continuing education, stewardship and administrative training, evaluations, etc.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Note: The following is the text of the portion of the January Volunteer Meeting that Lou presented. Mary Alice also presented an overview of 1994 and upcoming events in 1995 which appear following Lou's article. The presentation made by Suzi Howe and Denny Denman will appear in the *Along the Bayou* as their subject is of equal value to the general membership as it is to the volunteer organization.

We are at the beginning of a new year and as stated by Suzi and Mary Alice in their portions of the program the coming year should prove interesting. We face several key challenges in providing the required high quality and quantity of support to the ABNC staff in the areas of administrative support, interpretation, special events, fund raising, publicity, and stewardship. With the limited staff, the role of the volunteer organization is more important than ever. To meet these challenges and carry out our required tasks, the new volunteer board will focus our attention on you the members and on expanding and strengthening the volunteer organization. Our prime goals will be to increase the number of volunteers, increase the average number of volunteer hours per volunteer, and decrease the turnover rate.

In order to do this we will be trying various ideas during the next several months. Our first step was the volunteer survey attached to the *Bayou Foliage*. If you haven't completed this survey please do so - we want to know your opinions and suggestions. The second step is for the volunteer board to accept the duties of the membership committee, and the third step is a restructuring of the committees. To be successful I think it is helpful to examine what makes a volunteer a good volunteer.

Just like a fire can not exist without three vital ingredients (heat, fuel, air) I don't think a person will be a dedicated, productive, and happy volunteer without the three main ingredients which I refer to as the three I's: Interested, Informed, and Involved.

Interested: When a person decides they want to become a ABNC volunteer they are showing they are interested in some aspect of ABNC. This may be an interest in environmental education, ecology, horticulture, turn-of-the-century farm lifestyles, nature, getting away from the city, returning to the good old days, social, etc. Whatever the interests, reasons or expectations, each person is showing a willingness to get involved by putting in the time it takes for volunteer training. Our challenge is to keep their interests and meet the new volunteers expectations, so they become "old" volunteers. To do this we need the other two ingredients -- Informed and Involved.

Informed: Once a new volunteer has received their initial training they need to be kept informed. What events are coming up? What can I get involved in? I am ready to work, what can I do? I am ready, why doesn't someone call me? I must not be needed - no one has called me - I think I will find something else to do! STOP! What went wrong? This sequence happens all too often. We have to improve our communications and keep all the members informed.

How can this be done? There are several ways: 1) Volunteer meetings, 2) *Bayou Foliage*, 3) *Along the Bayou*, 4) Continuing Education, 5) Committee meetings, 6) Phone requests to do demos, to be a greeter, to do mailings, stewardship work groups, etc. Being informed is a two-way street. The volunteer organization and staff need to provide the means to keep everyone informed, but unless the volunteers come to the volunteer or committee meetings, participate in work groups, or read the *Bayou Foliage* and *Along the Bayou* these efforts will not do any good. That is where the last ingredient, Involved, comes in.

Involved: I do not feel there can be a part-time ABNC volunteer. A person that is really interested and stays informed and who really wants to be an ABNC volunteer will want to be involved. Each volunteer needs to find their niche and let the appropriate people know what this niche is. The main way of doing this is the volunteer interest inventory which will be included in the March *Bayou Foliage*. Another way is to call the applicable volunteer board member or a committee member and state your interest. With the restructuring of committees there is a committee for everyone and everyone should be a member of one or more of the committees. If you want to be a greeter, give a demo, or give a tour next month, don't wait for a call, make the call yourself and get the date and time you want. Get involved and be a part of what's happening.

How many hours should a volunteer put in? I think if you only put in the mandatory 4 hours a month, you will not be meeting your original expectations and you will lose interest. You have to stay involved! Come to the volunteer meeting (1 hour admin, 1 hour continuing education), be part of a committee (2 hours meeting, 2 hours support work), attend an additional continuing education class (2 hours), and be a greeter or conduct a weekday class (3 hours). That's 11 hours without really trying!

In conclusion, keep your interest, stay informed, and get involved, and be the best ABNC volunteer you can be. Your rewards? A sense of belonging, a sense of accomplishment, and being able to do something you enjoy with people you like. One last thing - getting involved, keeping informed, and staying interested also means taking advantage of all that ABNC offers: go on morning and evening nature hikes or field trips, attend a special class like birding, hike the trail on your own -- in short take time to have fun and enjoy the Nature Center. 1995 will be a fun and challenging year and your help is needed and appreciated. Thanks in advance for your support and help.

NEW BEGINNINGS, CONTINUED:

1994 was a busy year for Armand Bayou Nature Center. With our education program we served over 300 children including both those who visited the center for field trips and those who enjoyed our outreach programs. In addition, we offered EcoCamp to 538 students during the summer. After school and on weekends we offered classes and Girl Scout workshops.

We gave the public many memorable events such as Earth Day, Chuckwagon Dinner, the very popular Creepy Crawlers which we enlarged this year, the highly successful Fall Festival where we saw a record income, and the return of a long-time favorite, Yuletide. We also hosted a fun-filled fundraising event, Bayou Boil.

In 1995 we are anticipating continuing our successful programs, expanding some and offering new ones. We plan to offer more classes at EcoCamp and extend the hours. We are hoping to offer Boy Scout workshops as well as the ones that will continue for Girl Scouts. This spring a Garden Tour of area homes is being planned by volunteers.

As always, we cannot offer these programs without the help of volunteers. This spring we are almost fully reserved for school field trips. While we do not wish to "burn out" our volunteers, we, on the other hand, cannot afford to turn down schools who wish to visit. If you are interested in helping with weekday school programs and have not been trained, please sign up for our volunteer training scheduled for February. We need you.

Other ongoing or new projects coming up in 1995 are as follows:

1. Trend Development Corp. mitigation program is to construct woodland and prairie ponds and enlarge the existing entrance pond. This will be done as soon as soil wetness conditions allow equipment in to do the work.

2. The second part of the Trend Development project is the Bayou Trail along the old Martyn Road to the bayou. This work will be done after the ponds are complete.

3. The boat house for the pontoon boat should be completed this year. Final plans are now being produced.

4. Cattle grazing is to continue as well as prairie mowing and prescribed burning.

5. Interpretive signs for the entrance boardwalk should be on their way within two months. Purchased with a grant from Exxon Company USA, these will be wildlife identification and educational signs of very good outdoor quality. They should be in place in early spring.

6. A grant from Rohm and Haas Texas will provide major repair to the farmhouse and site as well as

interpretive materials. Grant money is in the bank and we will be proceeding on a budget for these funds.

7. A telescope donated by the NASA Astronomy Club is being mounted in the field beside the greenhouse. We are hoping it will be in use by February.

8. Shell Oil Co. employees are holding a work day here on February 4 at the farm. In addition to painting the inside of the farmhouse they will be doing other construction and repair projects at the farm.

As you can see we have a full year ahead. With your help we will have an extremely successful one.

Mary Alice Trumble

TRIPS!

BIRDS AND BATS!

Just an early announcement that plans are in the works for a volunteer trip to central Texas to the Frio Bat Cave for bat watching and bird watching. This trip will be very similar to the members' trip that was offered last May except we will leave on a Thursday morning rather than Friday to have more time to enjoy the wildlife and fun of central Texas. The trip is scheduled for Thursday, May 18 through Sunday, May 21. This is a volunteer-only trip and is run on a cost basis, so it shouldn't be too expensive. Watch the *Bayou Foliage* in coming months for information on costs and sign-ups.

WHOOPIING CRANE WATCHING

There is still room available on the nature center's member's trip to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to observe the Whooping Cranes that winter there. Come enjoy great birding, good food and fun. The trip is Friday morning, March 10 through Sunday, March 12, and the cost is \$200 which includes transportation by van, a boat trip to see the Whooping Cranes, overnight accommodations and guide services (George). Reservations are required by February 25. This trip is open to all members and guests. Join us for an up-close and personal look at some magnificent birds and help the nature center earn a little money as well. See *Along the Bayou* for full trip details.

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	FARM DEMO	NAT. HIST. DEMO	FARM INTERP.	CLOSE
Sat. 2/4	-----	-----		Julie Bannerman - Butter Churning		Ruby Dilgren - Opossums	Marian Rouse	-----
Sun. 2/5	-----	-----	Wanda Hayden	Tom Scarsella - Blacksmithing		Pam Christie - Pond Life	Marjorie Borey	-----
Sat 2/11	Judy Mayes	Susan Hesley		Robin Sneed - Needlework		Eric Duran - Raccoons Karen Beveridge - Bats Jonathan Perez - Rodents ? Mammals of ABNC	Cristina Ramirez	-----
Sun 2/12	-----	-----		Karen Lon - Wood Shop		Hilary Gibbs - Squirrels Jonathan Perez - Rodents Sue Miller - Bats	Martha Munies	-----
Sat 2/18	-----	-----		P. & S. Rogers - Rope Making		Pat Grimes - Snakes	Pat & Virgil Greenfield	-----
Sun 2/19	-----	-----		Mary Ann Tucker - Basketweaving		Anne Tincher - Pond Life	Penny Woodward	-----
Sat 2/25	-----	-----		Laura Hendrix - Woodstove Cookery		Helen Harger - Feathers	Bob Hendrix	-----
Sun 2/26	-----	-----		Colleen Ecord - Crocheting		Joanna Wactor - Snakes	Martha Munies	-----

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

WHILE WE ARE ON CENTRAL STANDARD THERE WILL BE NO NEED FOR LATE CLOSING VOLUNTEERS.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

As a small way of showing our gratitude for all the hard work volunteers do at ABNC, the staff would like to extend an invitation to each and every one of you to come to our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held on February 9, 1995 at the nature center. We plan to prepare and serve a barbecue dinner with all the trimmings and refreshments, and have an enjoyable get together.

The dinner will be preceded by a short volunteer meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m.

All of you do so much for ABNC, but with the busy schedule that the staff keeps, it is sometimes difficult to thank you adequately for your tremendous help to the nature center. This evening is an opportunity for us to express our thanks to you in a formal and more tangible way.

Please let us know you are coming by signing up with Marsha at the front desk by Sunday, February 5.

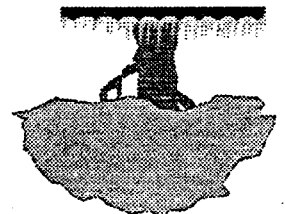
Y'all come! We'll have the cook fire going!

George and the staff

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER



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