



# Bayou Foliage

Vol. 13 No. 1 Jan. 1995

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

## JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day -- ABNC closed
- Jan. 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 11 New Volunteer Pre-Orientation, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 12 Volunteer meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 15 *Bayou Foliage* deadline
- Jan. 19 New Volunteer Pre-Orientation, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 22 EARTH DAY EVERY DAY
- Jan. 28 ABNC Members' Day and Members' Meeting

## NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The Volunteer of the Month for November is Robin Sneed. Robin has been an ABNC volunteer since the spring of 1991. She puts in an incredible number of hours each year designing, purchasing materials for and supervising the stitching of the ABNC Volunteer Quilt. This year's dragonfly design (which was won by Pat Koteris) was especially attractive and brought in a record number of ticket sales. Robin can also be found giving demonstrations on farm life and helping with special events. She says she enjoys being a volunteer at the nature center because "I like working with all the people who care about ABNC and learning new turn-of-the-century crafts."

Thanks, Robin, it's the behind-the-scenes labors of volunteers like you that keep ABNC alive!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- |                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Steve Buckman      | Jan. 8  |
| Hilary Gibbs       | Jan. 9  |
| Rita Getman        | Jan. 16 |
| Barbara Hill       | Jan. 16 |
| Jean Ashmore Block | Jan. 26 |
| Roland Borey       | Jan. 27 |

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

## JANUARY ABNCV MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

6:30 Coffee and conversation

7:00 Program - "New Beginnings" - Suzi Howe, Mary Alice Trumble, Lou Wheatcraft.

8:00 Business Meeting

The theme for the January meeting will be "New Beginnings." The program will feature Suzi Howe, President of the ABNC Board of Trustees; Mary Alice Trumble, staff Education Coordinator; and Lou Wheatcraft, Chair of the Volunteer Board. Suzi will be presenting an overview of the Board of Trustee activities for 1994 and their plans for 1995; Mary Alice will review on-going projects and what is planned for 1995 and the role the volunteers will play in these efforts; and Lou will present his views on the roles of the volunteer organization, volunteer board, and you -- the volunteers -- along with his ideas for growing the volunteer organization both in quality as well as quantity.

Let's start the new year right and set an attendance record for this volunteer meeting!

Lou

## VOLUNTEER SURVEY

HELP!!!

We need your help -- EVERY ONE'S help. Your new volunteer board wants 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! We want to help the volunteer organization to grow, we want to keep our existing volunteers and we want to recruit new volunteers -- to do this we need your help in telling us how you think we can improve our already great organization. Please take the time to fill out the attached volunteer survey. Thanks for your time and effort.

Lou

## A LETTER FROM JANE

Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of you for the generous help and support you gave me during the last two years. I enjoyed being Volunteer Chair because it gave me the opportunity to work more closely with many of you and a chance to get to know you better. I also want to thank the members of the Volunteer Board. They made my job much easier to carry out.

Again, thanks. Have Happy Holidays and a healthy, happy 1995.

Jane

## MINUTES

Jane Bingel, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Dec. 15, 1994. The first order of business was to elect the new board. Those running for election were:

Chair -	Lou Wheatcraft
Vice Chair -	Pat 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 Coordinator -	Melanie Weisman
Weekday Trail Coordinator -	Ed Adams
Weekday Farm Coordinator -	Chris Bingham

Jane then asked for nominations from the floor. Since no nominations were forthcoming, she asked for a motion to approve the new board by acclimation. The motion was made and seconded and the new board was approved by a resounding Ye! vote.

George Regmund then gave a brief director's report to announce the November Volunteer of the Month goes to Robin Sneed. He also invited everyone to the staff's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner to be held in February on our usual meeting night.

Sue Miller, Membership Committee, reminded everyone to sign the log in sheets, as she is working on totaling everyone's volunteer hours.

The next volunteer meeting will be held on Thursday, January 12, 1995.

The joint board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5, 1995, at 6:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:27 p.m..

Anne Tincher, Secretary

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GARDEN TOUR SET FOR APRIL 8

Last Summer I commented to Phyllis Louderback that I thought it would be "nice" to have a garden tour to benefit ABNC. Well, here we are with two meetings under our belt and plans underway. Hold Saturday, April 8 open with a rain date of April 15th. We solicit all ideas, etc. Don't keep your ideas under a cabbage leaf. If you wish to be involved give either of us a call.

Barb Hill

## MORE THANKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EARRINGS FOUND AT FALL FESTIVAL

A pair of antique-looking clip-on earrings were found in the farmhouse after Fall Festival. Call Mary Alice for information.

### THANKS COOKIE BAKERS!

THANK YOU! to all the wonderful bakers and workers for the Fall Festival cookie sale! Even though it was a busy time for all of you, you managed to bake and bring the cookie that made the sale a big success. Many of you supplied cookies on both days! Everything was sold, even broken cookies, on both days. You're the greatest!

Stephania Rogers

### WISH LIST FROM THE LAB

We are in constant need of supplies and equipment. So, I'm asking for your help. Mainly we are in need of animal food, all the time. Your donations of apples, oranges, lettuce (not iceberg), potatoes, fish flakes, dry dog and cat food, sunflower seeds, alfalfa pellets, turtle food, unpopped popcorn, and/or live crickets would help us out greatly. We could also use rodent water bottles; 5-gallon buckets; 2.5, 5, 10 and 20-gallon aquariums; small carrying cases for animals; natural-colored aquarium gravel; aquarium filters, thermometers and lids; heat lamps; and light bulbs. Your donations would relieve a little of the strain on the lab's fund and secure your place in heaven.

Eric Duran

### TO WEEKDAY TRAIL PEOPLE

The year is rolling to the end and here is a summary of the work that you all did. There were not as many programs as this spring. But, do not be alarmed, there are already 14 programs scheduled for spring 1995.

Here is a summary from September to December:

Trail Hikes (2)	45 kids
Adaptations (13)	159 kids
Insects (4)	217 kids
Nature Discovery (0)	

GRAND TOTAL: 19 classes, 421 children

In addition there were 200 children from Baytown here on one day and those children are not included in the above totals.

Thanks again, Grace for covering the time I was away. Thanks to all of you for your willingness and availability for all the classes. Carry that good will on to Ed Adams for the new year.

Barb Hill

## 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. 1/7	-----	-----	-----	Robin Sneed - Soap Making	Eldine Owens - Snakes	Carol Toole	-----
Sun. 1/8	-----	-----	-----	Susan & Lauren DeFrank - Rope Making	Marilyn Clark - Spoonbills	Marjorie Borey	-----
Sat 1/14	-----	-----	-----	P. & S. Rogers Rope Making	Jonathan Perez - Mammals	Jane Bingel	-----
Sun 1/15	-----	-----	-----	Karen Lon - Wood Shop	Joanna Wactor - Mammals in Winter	Penny Woodward	-----
Sat 1/21	-----	-----	-----	Laura Hendrix - Cooking on the Woodstove	Helen Harger - Feathers	Bob Hendrix	-----
Sun 1/22	-----	-----	-----	Gay Smither -	Karen Beveridge - Bats Eleanor Stanley - Making Envelopes Bob Smither - Non-Toxic Cleaners Mary Ann Tucker - Green Shopping Jennifer Bingel - Paper Making A. Tincher & H. Gibbs Turning Tide/Trash	Virgil & Pat Greenfield	-----
Sat 1/28	-----	-----	-----	Weaving Chris Bingham - Cheese Making	Pat Doerr - Bird Adaptations	Irene Ward	-----
Sun 1/29	-----	-----	-----	Tom Scarsella - Blacksmithing	Zel Arbuckle - Snakes	Jane Bingel	-----

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

147W 195

## Volunteer Survey

Either mail the survey directly to Lou at: Lou Wheatcraft, 15415 Cobre Valley Circle, Houston, Texas, 77062 or drop the completed survey in the Volunteer Board Mail slot.  
(If you need more space, please attach additional pages.)

1. Do you enjoy being a volunteer? Do you take time out to have FUN once in awhile?
2. What is the best thing you like about the volunteer organization and being a volunteer?
3. What is your main complaint about the volunteer organization or being a volunteer?
4. What would you do to improve the volunteer organization?
5. When you became a volunteer you had certain expectations -
  - a. What were these expectations? (Help ABNC, environment, social, education, etc.)
  - b. Were these expectations fulfilled? If not, explain.
6. What do you think about the initial volunteer training (organization, content, time, etc.)? How would you improve it? Does the training adequately prepare you for what you are asked to do?
7. What do you think about the continuing education program? What would you do to improve it? What kind of training would you like? When would you like the training to occur and for how long?
8. Do you attend the volunteer meetings? How often? If not tell us why. (Also tell us which night would be best for you to have the meetings.)
9. What do you think of the programs presented at each volunteer meeting? If you don't like the programs, what kinds of programs would you like to see? Topics? Length?
10. What do you think about the business meetings? (Organization, length, conduct) Should the business meeting be before or after the program?