



# Bayou Foliage

Volume 17 No. 4 April 1999

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers"

" Interested + Informed + Involved

## April Calendar

3	Down on the Farm
3	Stewardship Saturday
8	Volunteer Meeting
8	Bayou Foliage Inputs Due
17	Stewardship Saturday
17 & 18	Earth Days
24 & 25	Artistry in the Garden (Garden Tour)

### ABNCV Meeting

Thursday, April 8, 1999

Nature Center Auditorium

6:30 - Snacks and Conversation

7:00 - Program

8:00 - Volunteer Meeting

9:00 - Adjourn

Our guest speaker for this month will be Ephriam Dickson, our new Administrative Director here at ABNC. He will update us on what's happening at the Nature Center and what we can look forward to this next year. Please join us!

### Eco Camp Brochures

I need volunteers who will be able to deliver EcoCamp brochures to local schools. Please call Mary Alice if you can help. We need to get them to the schools as soon as possible. EcoCamp is right around the corner!

Thanks

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

### Introduction to the Spinning Wheel at ABNC!

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

ABNC Pole Barn

Students will learn to spin on the Nature Center's wheel. Maintenance of the wheel will also be covered. All wool will be provided for the class.

Instructor: Emily Egan

Please Note: There will be no Saturday continuing education classes in April.

The sign up sheets for CE classes can be found in the Kaneka building.

Jean Kruse

### Volunteer of the Month

The Volunteer of the Month is Emily Egan. Emily has volunteered at ABNC since 1995 and is a very active teacher and demonstrator. She is an expert weaver and spinner with a great knowledge of the techniques used to make cloth from fiber and the history of this ancient and important craft. She owns 6 spinning wheels, 2 of which are antique 19<sup>th</sup> century wheels that are fully restored and functional. She enjoys volunteering at the nature center because she wanted to be involved in the educational work done here. Emily saw the need ABNC had for someone that was knowledgeable about textiles. "Volunteering at the nature center gives me an excuse to practice my skills regularly", she said. Thanks so much Emily for all your great work here at ABNC. We appreciate you!

### Happy Birthday

Herman Burton	4/01	Suzanne Hicks	4/01
Sharon Dillard	4/02	Chuck Snyder	4/04
Chris Watenpool	4/06	Dick Benoit	4/06
Charles Ferguson	4/07	Patty Gill	4/07
Shawn Anzaldua	4/08	Dana Brown	4/10
Larry Veale	4/10	Marion Rotramel	4/12
Charlotte Teeter	4/12	Joan Shack	4/13
Paul Shack	4/13	Jim Hawkins	4/16
Lare Turner	4/18	John Siptak	4/19
Patrick Wornick	4/21	Wendy Peters	4/23
Doug Barfoot	4/28		

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**Thursday, March 11, 1999**

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Lynn Shigakawa announced Bayou Boil on May 8 as the only fund raiser that develops support for ABNC. Volunteers who signed up on 3-11 were given free passes to bowling, etc. Jean Kruse introduced our speaker, Eric Duran, who gave a presentation on Amphibians and Reptiles at ABNC. The business meeting was called to order by Susan Williams; the minutes of the February meeting published in the Bayou Foliage were approved. In the Treasurer's Report, Georgia Colyer announced current assets as 3747.57, which includes 3137.94 in the checking account and 609.63 in the savings account. Georgia presented the 1999 Proposed Budget; it was approved by the Board; it will be published in the March Bayou Foliage and voted on by volunteers in April. A dishwasher, fax machine, paper cutter, and bat study skins were requested from the volunteers for ABNC. The scholarship to sponsor 2 children at Eco Camp will be 350.00. Then Georgia presented a symbolic check of \$151,909.44 to George, Ephriam, and staff; it represents how much it would cost ABNC to staff what the volunteers have done this year.

Jean Kruse announced that the April CE meeting will be on what is going on at ABNC, given by Ehpriam Dickson and a member of the Board of Directors. March 14 is Weaving Rag Rugs. April 11 is Introduction to the Spinning Wheel. There is no Saturday CE class in April.

George Regmund announced that the Volunteer of the Month is Emily Egan. Mary Alice is at the Adopt a Wetlands Workshop in Corpus Christi. We need help with a birthday on 3-27, a girl scout badge workshop on 4-10 and 5-1 from 9:45am to 3pm, a Webelo scout workshop on 4-10 from 10am to 3pm, a birthday for 8 year olds on 4-25, and Eco Camp flier distribution to local schools. We have a 2 to 3 month delay on restoration of marsh lands due to trouble with permitting by the General Land Office; we may be able to get an extension. The burn season has made good progress. The General Land Office will put on the Trash Bash for ABNC on 3-27; they provide lunch; we contribute a boat to move the trash. Meet at 9am at Bay Area Park. Lunch will be at the Greenhouse. On 3-20, Mark Kramer wants to plant gamma grass already collected. George introduced the new Administrator Director, Ehpriam Dickson. The graduation of the new volunteers took place.

Susan announced that the Moss (mentor) Award and the Tree (volunteer trainee) Award will be presented in April. Sue Manley will be leaving the Volunteer Board in a couple of months. We will need a Weekday Farm Coordinator for teachers and schools. Georganna Collins is setting up an Atkinson Island

visit for volunteers on 5-1-99, tentatively. April 11 will be the going away party for Jean and Larry Kruse.

Becky Brignac gave the update on Down on the Farm. We need rodeo folk for the animals, a haystack keeper, a person for crowd control around the milk cow, and a survey taker from 3pm to 4:30pm at the Kaneka building. The caterers will have fruit juice, water, and soft drinks. Stephania is handling the cookie sale sign up sheet.

Barb Hill has requests for the Garden Tour of 4-24 and 4-25: volunteers to monitor the parking lot, to answer the phones, and to greet people at each of the 9 yards. Volunteers can hand out fliers for ABNC at Bayou Bend on 3-21 from 1 pm to 5pm.

Jean Kruse encouraged volunteers who are planning to attend the Native Edible Plants class on 3-12 to sign up on the sheet so that adequate samples for tasting can be provided.

Susan mentioned the Dianne McGuire surveys on what motivates volunteers. The next Board meeting will be 3-28 at 5pm. For volunteers who participate in Bayou Boil, Outback Steakhouse will cater a dinner. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Hamlett



**Volunteers Sought for Marsh Restoration Project**

As you many have been hearing for a few months, Armand Bayou Nature Center was awarded a Coastal Management Program grant to restore approximately 64,000 square feet of marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation (seagrass) habitats to Armand Bayou. We are currently in the process of getting the necessary permits from state and federal agencies. Once these hurdles are cleared, we will start doing the real work, transplanting and constructing fences to keep hungry and destructive grass carp from eating the transplants.

The success of this project like most of the other projects here at ABNC will depend on volunteers. If you are interested in getting your feet in mud and improving the habitat on Armand Bayou we sure could use your help. I am currently compiling lists of volunteers who would like to participate on the weekends and during the week. Please contact me, Jamie Schubert, in the stewardship office if you would like to be included on either one of the lists. Hopefully we'll be able to get wet and muddy starting in May or June. Thanks!

Jamie Schubert

## Comments From the Chair

### New Volunteers Welcome

Paul Baukman, Laurie Choate, Shelly Garza, Keely Hartsfield, Kay Jenkins, Diane McMahon, Jim McMahon, Dennis Minor, Gary Pinkerton, Ed Roberts, Nora Roberts and Mary Yurkovich have completed their training and are now part of the ABNC volunteer family. We are looking forward to getting to know you and to working with you as you begin to put your unique talents to work at the nature center. Please keep in mind that members of the volunteer board and your mentors will be happy to answer any questions you have and want to assist you in any way we can, so pick up the phone and call if you feel the need.

### Potluck Dinner for Larry and Jean Kruse

We will have the opportunity to spend some time with Jean and Larry before they move to Chicago. A potluck dinner/going away party will be held at the farm site on April 11 from 5:00 to 6:30. Bring something good to eat along with your utensils, plates, drinks, etc. This will be a wonderful chance to wish our friends well as they will be moving at the end of April.

### Board Vacancy

Unfortunately we will be losing another member of the volunteer board soon. Sue Manly and her husband will be moving, so the position of Weekday Farm Coordinator will be vacant in a few months. The person who has this job is responsible for arranging teachers for the classes which are held for children at the farm site during the week. We are lucky that Sue will be with us long enough to handle the spring assignments, as this is the busiest time of the year. It is NOT necessary for the person in this job to commit to working at the nature center during the week. Please call me (281.487.3033) if you are interested in serving on the Board and think you might want to fill this important job for the remainder of the year. We are very grateful to Sue for having taken on this responsibility and for doing such a good job, and we wish you the best as you leave us. Thank you Sue!

Susan Williams



## Down on the Farm

It's practically here, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for ABNC to show off the farm at DOWN ON THE FARM. This exciting and fun day is the Saturday of Easter weekend.

There are a few vacant spots which need filling. If you are interested please call me. The spots open are:

1. We really need someone to Sheer Sheep.
2. Helper for the Rodeo folks with the small petting animals (chicks, rabbits, and ducks).
3. Hay stack keeper - just rake into a pile after kids have played in it. Gloves & hat recommended.
4. Crowd control for the milking cow demonstration. This demonstration is about 155 minutes at 3:00 and 4:00. I ask that you wear your khaki shirt and name tag so the public will recognize you as "authorized" in the crowd control.
5. Survey taker at the Kaneka building as the public is leaving. The time is 3:00 - 4:30 for this.

Also, feel free to wear your "turn of the century" clothes, but it is not mandatory. Parking, weather permitting, will be the field next to the Martyn farmhouse, as at Fall Festival.

Remember, we are having a caterer to feed the public and you if you get hungry. Also, the volunteers will be selling cookies at this event, which will help the volunteer organization, so cook up a storm. Stephania Rogers is your contact on the cookie sales.

Becky Brignac  
713 - 947- 0216  
Coordinator of Down on the Farm

## The 1999 Garden Tour

Please save some time to help out at the garden tour, April 24 & 25. We will be needing some additional people this year. One yard on Beacon Hill in Seabrook has space for only handicap parking. We have permission at Robinette and Doyle Caterers on Kirby to use their parking lot. We will need two people at a time to help monitor traffic there. In addition, we need a few people to help with ticket sales at the admissions building on the two days of the event. To help the receptionist we need folks to field the telephone questions and of course we need lots of smiling faced greeters at our FABULOUS gardens. Please call me if you would like to work this event. (281-488-2653) or sign up at the clip boards in the break room. We want you...all of you! Thanks

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## Proposed 1999 Budget

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### Income:

Cookbook Sales	100.00
Cookie Sale	500.00
Paper Recycling	350.00
Plant Sales	200.00
Savings Account Interest	<u>8.00</u>
<b><u>Total Budgeted Income</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,158.00</b>

### Expenditures:

Contribution to ABNC (includes previous unspent portions)	1,000.00
Administration/Supplies	50.00
Contingency	30.00
Entertainment/Refreshments	50.00
Cards/Gifts/Flowers	50.00
Postage	350.00
Volunteer Recognition	100.00
Scholarship (Summer Eco Camp)	350.00
Memorial Funds	<u>198.50</u>
(Memorial Funds received previously)	
<b><u>Total Budgeted Expenditures</u></b>	<b>\$ 2,178.50</b>

Present Assets	3,508.48
Proposed Income	<u>+ 1,158.00</u>
Subtotal	4,666.48
Proposed Expenditures	<u>- 2,178.50</u>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 2,487.98</b>

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### Volunteer Opportunities

March 27	Birthday Party - Pond (1:15 - 2:00)
April 1	Girl Scout Badge Workshop "Wildlife" (9:45 am - 3 pm)
April 10	Girl Scout Badge Workshop "Wildlife" (9:45 am - 3 pm)
April 10	Webelos Scout Workshop - Forester & Naturalist (10 am - 3 pm)
April 25	Birthday Party - Farm Fun 8 yr. old boys (2:15 - 3:00)

PLEASE call Mary Alice if you can help in any of these activities. It will be greatly appreciated.

# VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - April 1999

In an attempt to take some of the load off of 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 INTER.	FARM DEMO	NAT. HISTORY DEMO
Sat. 4/3	Jim Crabb	Carol MacGregor	Paul Brunkow Georgia Colyer Mary Yurkovich	Marjorie Borey Eleanor Haskew Shellie Garza	Irene Ward (Butter)	Pat Grimes (Snakes)
Sun. 4/4	Easter	--	Ken Russell	Penny Woodward	Paula Kennedy (Dyeing Easter Eggs)	Eric Duran (Amphibians)
Sat. 4/10	Cris Santiago	Raymond McKinney	Geri Ross	Marjorie Borey	Susan Hesley (Yarn Dolls)	Anne Tincher (Shells of Galveston Bay)
Sun. 4/11	--	Merle Bunde	Doug Barfoot	Polly Swerdlin	Mary Ann Tucker (Basket Weaving)	Eldine Owens (Snakes)
Sat. 4/17	Louise Peck	Ray Parker	Joyce Roberts	Paula Thorson	Larry Veale (Indian Crafts) + other Demos	Eleanor Stanley (Gators)
Sun. 4/18	--	Marianne Phillips	Merle Bunde	Eleanor Stanley	Tom Scarcella (Blacksmith) + other Demos	Christine Ribeiro (Bats)
Sat. 4/24	Susan Hesley	Joe Bryan	Katerina Grundy	Susan Williams	Chris Bingham (Cheese)	The Hendrix (Front Porch Birding)
Sun. 4/25	--	Patty Pennington	Cindy Eppelheimer	Sandy Parker	--	Ruby Dilgren (Amphibians)

## 1999 VOLUNTEER BOARD

	Home	Office
Susan Williams	281-487-3033	713-743-8863
Jean Kruse	281-487-3033	Hanna Drago
Linda Hamlett	281-486-0787	Polly Swerdlin
Georgia Colyer	281-487-1268	Cris Santiago
Ken Russell	281-996-7888	Sue Manley
Ruby Dilgren	281-488-0390	Ed Adams
Jane Bingel	281-488-1727	Andrew Hamlett
	281-554-5069	Newsletter
		281-487-1268
		281-326-4149
		281-488-8193
		281-471-0979
		281-992-0836
		713-946-2754
		281-487-1268
		281-283-8430

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