



Bayou Foliage

Volume 17 No. 2 February 1999

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
"Interested + Informed + Involved"

February Calendar

- 6 Stewardship Saturday (Trail, forest, facilities)
- 6 Volunteer Training Begins
- 7 Volunteer Board Meeting
- 11 Volunteer Meeting
- 11 Bayou Foliage Inputs Due
- 20 Stewardship (Prairie and Marsh)
- 20 & 21 Warm & Fuzzy Weekend

ABNCV MEETING

Thursday, February 11, 1999

ABNC Auditorium

6:30 - Snacks and Conversation

7:00 - Program

8:00 - Volunteer Meeting

9:00 - Adjourn

Our program this month is an update on the Atkinson Island Marsh Demonstration project that we learned about two years ago. Georgiana Collins of Turner, and Braden, Inc., will be our guest speaker. A lot has happened on this project since then; so, please join us for an informative presentation.

Happy Birthday

Kathleen Crabb	2/01	Patricia Martin	2/07
Dick Wettling	2/09	Ebby Creden	2/10
Cindy Eppelheimer	2/14	Stephania Rogers	2/17
Ed Adams	2/18	Ray Parker	2/19
Art Adair	2/21	Chris Bingham	2/22
Marian Higgins	2/23	Mark Kramer	2/25
Hanna Drago	2/26	Kathy Sosa	2/27

CONTINUING EDUCATION

PRAIRIE MONITORING WORKSHOP!

9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 13th

Outdoors at ABNC

Join Clean Water for Armand Bayou as we hold our second training at ABNC on Saturday, February 13th from 9 a.m. to 12 Noon. Dr. Barron Rector of Texas A&M University will be training volunteers in hands-on techniques for monitoring the tall grass prairies of Armand Bayou Nature Center. Dr. Rector is an enthusiastic instructor with an intimate knowledge of prairie history and ecology. This training will be part of Clean Water for Armand Bayou's long term monitoring project on the prairies of ABNC.

If you've never been to one of our training sessions, now is the time to join us! No plant identification experience is needed. We are asking that people who attend this training make a commitment to assist Clean Water for Armand Bayou personnel with monitoring work at least once a quarter (four times a year). This is an opportunity to participate in real science. All are welcome. This class will be held outside, so please dress for the weather and bring boots.

Call Colin Shackelford at (281) 291-0551 if you are interested in attending.

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING

Sunday, February 14th and Sunday, February 21st

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., ABNC Auditorium

This class teaches basic first aid and CPR for adults, children, and infants. Upon successful completion of the two sessions, the participants will get cards indicating they are First Aid and CPR certified. The First Aid certificate is good for three years; CPR certification is good for one year. A nominal fee, \$12.00, to cover the rental cost of the equipment will be charged. Books are supplied by ABNC, but are available for purchase if you want your own.

Native Edible Plants! Foragers!

10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 13th

ABNC Auditorium

Is it time to cook up something new for dinner? Looking for some unusual ideas? Barbara and Tim Skyles will show us through a slide presentation how to identify native edible plants. They will then demonstrate how to cook them and provide samples for tasting. Please join us for this interesting program.

The sign-up sheets for these programs can be found in the breakroom.

Jean Kruse

Printing Compliments of Celanese

MINUTES OF THE ABNCV MEETING
Thursday, January 11, 1999.

A business meeting, called to order by Susan Williams, followed the wonderful annual volunteer appreciation dinner provided and served by the ABNC staff. The minutes of the December meeting published in the *Bayou Foliage* were approved. In the Treasurer's report, Georgia Colyer announced current assets as 3508.48, which includes 2898.85 in the checking account and 609.63 in the savings account. Jean Kruse announced the Atkinson Island Update for the Feb. meeting. Upcoming CE classes will be on prairie monitoring, first aid and CPR training, and native plants.

Mary Alice Trumble announced that the Volunteer of the Month is Dewanna Norris. In the staff report, she announced a need for an Alpha teacher for each Wednesday this semester. Jane Bingel needs four people for the Water Wonders Girl Scout Badge Workshop on Jan 23. There is a birthday party request for a reptile presentation on Feb 14. Eight people signed up for volunteer training on Jan 13. We need mentors. Mark Kramer said that the equipment shed is making great progress. George Regmund is ill; a new co-director will be hired in a couple of weeks. The GLO Marsh Grant allowed the hiring of Jamie Schubert, the Marsh Restoration Coordinator and Rich Vincent, the Marsh Restoration Assistant. Mark said that help is needed for construction of fences and marsh grasses.

Volunteer training starts Feb 6. The 1999 Retention Committee members are Barb Hill, Christine Ribeiro, Ken Russell, Helen Burton, Patsy Cashion, and Mary Ann Tucker. Barb announced garden committee activities/meetings on Jan 23 and Jan 25. Grace Lear had heart surgery and needs blood donation credits to be done at the Clear Lake Medical Center Professional Building. The Annual Members Meeting is Jan 16 at 10am.

Susan Williams presented Helen Burton with an appreciation award for her past service as Chair.

Mary Alice thanked all the volunteers who have not gone through training, but volunteered their time, the volunteers who have gone through special training, the Assistance League of Bay Area, Brian Zemba who does the star parties, and all the volunteers who have contributed 11056 hours. Continuing Ed hours totaled 1356. The Volunteer of the Year is Ed Adams. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hamlett

ROSTER CHANGES

Shawn Mazzetti Joe Bryan
715 N Holiday Dr., # Slip-W20 Work Ph. (713)-247-5861
Galveston, TX 77550-3005

Tom Scarsella Patty Gill is now
Work Ph. (281)-483-4885 Patty Pennington

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

1998 Retention Committee

Barb Hill, Ken Russell, Christine Ribeiro, Mary Ann Tucker, Helen Burton, and Patsy Cashion will be serving on the Retention Committee this year. Thanks to all of you! This is an important committee, as it is responsible for matching mentors with volunteer trainees and for addressing issues which affect the continued growth and success of the ABNC volunteer organization. Please contact me or any of the members of the committee, with any ideas or suggestions you might have concerning volunteer recruitment, retention, etc.

Record Your 1998 Hours!

Please remember to log the hours you worked in 1998 as soon as possible. The 1998 logbook is still in the break room, along with a new book for the 1999 hours. It is always important that ABNC have an accurate count of the hours worked by volunteers. Thanks!

Susan Williams

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

1999 should be another busy year with some interesting opportunities for ABNC stewardship volunteers. For starters, significant work remains on the new equipment shed and trail bridge replacement. Prairie burns are already underway. The grant funded marsh expansion project has been initiated, and Clean Water for Armand Bayou (CWAB) is expecting stewardship help with east side prairie activity.

Plans are to continue for the two scheduled Stewardship Saturdays being held on the the 1st and 3rd week of every month. There will likely be opportunities on other Saturdays as needs or circumstances dictate. (CWAB needs could fall in this category). Reminders and solicitation for unscheduled activities will be via call list, as in 1998.

I hope to improve communications, recruit more new volunteers for stewardship, and force visibility on "small project" things that need to be done that don't necessarily require a large group of folks. I would appreciate input on ideas or improvements you might have that will keep stewardship at ABNC an interesting and rewarding experience. If you are interested in stewardship but aren't being contacted, please let me know by phone, note, or face-to-face. (no e-mail for me yet, but I'm working on it)

As a reminder, if you sign up as a volunteer (through John Jacob or Colin Shackelford) for CWAB prairie activity, any training or field work can be applied as volunteer hours toward continuing education or stewardship respectively. This activity is an excellent way to improve your naturalist knowledge with a specific focus on the nature center's grasses and plants.

Lastly I want to give a big thanks to Chuck Snyder for his time and effort as our 1998 Stewardship Coordinator.

Ken Russell

Volunteer of the Year

ABNC's 1998 Volunteer of the Year is **Ed Adams**. Ed put in over 200 hours last year giving the nature center the benefit of his unlimited cheerfulness and energy. For ten years Ed has been one of ABNC's most active volunteers. He teaches classes to the many school groups that visit the center; he does Boy Scout and Girl Scout badge workshops, and he leads night hikes. In addition, he works at many of our large events, presents educational programs for birthday parties, takes outreach programs to schools and fairs, and serves on the volunteer board as Weekday Trail Coordinator. He leads almost everyone of our canoe outings. Last December he planned and guided the first "Yuletide Canoe Trip" on the bayou, even donating all the supplies for the breakfast. One year he single-handedly cooked for and served the lucky volunteers who attended the Volunteer camp out. Ed also teaches one of the Alpha classes at the center and for the past several years has been a teacher at our Summer Eco Camp. He always gives 100 per cent and surprisingly enough after giving so much to ABNC, he leads a canoe/camping trip every summer to the Boundary Waters in Canada. You would think there would be no time for anything else, but he also makes time to enjoy family life with his wife, Marie, their children and grandchildren. Ed, we truly appreciate all you do and are constantly amazed at your energy. You have made an incredible difference to Armand Bayou Nature Center

Congratulations Ed!

Many volunteers made important contributions to ABNC during 1998, but none was more deserving of the Volunteer of the Year award than Ed Adams. Ed brings his unique talents and energy, as well as his infectious exhilaration, to every task he undertakes. We're very happy that you've been recognized for your many contributions!

Susan.

Interpreter Thanks

Many thanks to all of you who so generously volunteered for Information Services and Farm Interpreter during 1998. From January through December, 46 of you wonderful volunteers worked from 1-13 times for a total of 203 sessions.

I really appreciate your cooperation and commitment, I'm looking forward to working with all of you in 1999. By the way, we'd love to have other volunteers join us.



Volunteer of the Month

Each month an ABNC volunteer is recognized for his or her outstanding service to the nature center. This month's volunteer is Dewanna Norris. Dewanna went through training in February 1997 and since that time has been quite busy serving the nature center in numerous ways. She does farm demos on the weekends, teaches classes, serves as greeter to the public, fills in during lunch for the receptionist, and has worked at Fall Festival and Creepy Crawlers. Dewanna taught in public school for 16 years, 14 of which were in CCISD. She said after being confined to a classroom, she was ready to be outdoors and learn more about nature, especially birds. When asked what she likes the most about volunteering, Dewanna enthusiastically said it was the people. She enjoys the diverse group of talented, interesting and unique people she has met who give so generously of their time and talent to ABNC. In addition to all she does for ABNC she also enjoys her new twin grandsons, courtesy of her son and daughter-in-law. To top it off, her daughter and son-in-law will present her and her husband with another grandson next May. Get ready to do a lot of babysitting! Thanks, Dewanna for all you do and the cheerfulness you always show others.

Thank You

A belated thank you to all who helped at the Yuletide Celebration. To everyone who baked those delicious cookies for both Fall Festival and Yuletide during such a busy time of the year, a big thank you. Some even froze the cookies we couldn't use for Fall Festival and brought them for Yuletide, while others baked especially for Yuletide.

To Helen Burton, who prepared the wassail and helped customers when we got very busy, and Eleanor Stanley who baked goodies and helped sell them as well, Thank You!

As always, the cookie sale depends on you and you always come through. Thank you again everyone!

Stephania Rogers

From the Editor

Thank You

I would like to thank the entire volunteer board for appointing me to be the new editor for the *Bayou Foliage*. When I first heard that they were looking for a new editor, I was immediately very interested, but didn't at first, actually think I would get the position. I've had a good time working on this first issue, and look forward to many more. Again, thank you!

Submissions for the Bayou Foliage

I would just like to take the time to mention that all Volunteers at ABNC are encouraged to submit information for the newsletter.

Andrew Hamlett

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

On January 14 the ABNC staff prepared and served a special gumbo dinner for the Volunteer Appreciation Night. The volunteers were honored for their contribution of over 11,000 hours during 1998. This amount of work represents full-time status for more than five additional staff. Without the help of the volunteers, programs, events and stewardship would be greatly diminished, if even possible to offer. This dinner was only a small token of the staff's gratitude to the volunteer organization. The following individuals were honored at the dinner for putting in at least the required 48 hours of service in 1998.

48-99 hours:

Christine Riberio
Colin Shackelford
Lou Wheatcraft
Tom Scarsella
Roland Borey
Kathleen Crabb
Andrew Hamlett
Zel Arbuckle
Judy Bouma
Stephanie Rogers
Pat Grimes
Irene Ward
Larry Kruse
Joan Henderson
Marjorie Borey
Patsy Cashion
Kristen Knoedler
Linda Hamlett
Eric Duran
Mary Alice Trumble
Norman Wong
Joan Shack
Jim Yaeger
Shirley Potter
Joe Bryan
Dewanna Norris
Mary Barton
Carol Harper
Jennifer Bingel
Jim Callan
Georgia Colyer
Melissa LaChance
Brad Hallmark
Emily Egan
Eleanor Haskew
Susan Hesley

100-199 hours:

Ken Russell
Chuck Snyder
Cris Santiago
Patrick Wormick
Barbara Hill
Helen Burton
Susan Williams
Eleanor Stanley
Jean Kruse
Jane Bock

Wanda Hayden
Carol MacGregor
James Crabb
Polly Swerdlin
Bill Howe
Paul Shack
Becky Brignac
Anne Tincher

200-299 hours:

Jim Edwards
Jim Hawkins
Hanna Drago
Ed Adams
Chris LaChance
Ruby Dilgren

300-399 hours:

Joe Clem
Jane Bingel
Merle Bunde

Over 400 hours:

Mary Ann Tucker

Over 500 hours:

Ann Brinly
Paula Kennedy

Environmental Notebook

Industrial Ecology, Part 3

by Lou Wheatcraft

In last month's article, I introduced the concepts of Industrial Ecology (IE) and how elimination of waste is a key part of this concept. In an age where it seemed that Earth's resources were unlimited and the Earth's capacity to absorb waste, we became a throw-away society. The environmental damage caused by obtaining raw materials, as well as the disposal of waste from the manufacturing process, were largely ignored as "external" factors and not considered part of the overall cost cycle of a product. Today we know better. In this article I will introduce the idea of the **Product Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Approach to Environmental Management.**

A fundamental part of the IE concept is Product Life Cycle Assessment Approach to environmental management which refers to the "systematic approach for examining the environmental and health consequences of a product at each stage of its life cycle and addressing such consequences in an integrated, cross functional decision-making process." This results in products that are environmentally sound.

Traditionally, designers used Life Cycle Cost (LCC) concepts to design industrial processes that insured the maximization of profit for the products produced. But the focus of LCC was internal to the industry. The parameters used to judge the costs, called boundary conditions, were different. Resources were assumed to be unlimited and cheap. The ability of the atmosphere, water, and ground to absorb or disperse pollutants was considered infinite as was the ability to dispose of waste products. Pollution and waste management costs were not driving factors in the process design - maximum production and maximum profit were of most importance. This is what the stockholders wanted, and the customers expressed little concern about possible environmental impacts.

Today the boundary conditions are quite different. This is due to the realization that natural resources may not be unlimited, the capacity of the environment to absorb and disperse pollution and wastes is not unlimited, and pollution and waste have an impact to human health. In addition, pollution is not just a local problem but regional and global as well. Laws make pollution and waste expensive to deal with and thus they are now a significant driving factor in new process design. Today, the stockholders and customers view environmental impacts and sustainable development as major concerns that must be addressed.

Because of the new boundary conditions designers can not just look at the internal LCC but now must look at

the external factors as well. They must consider the limited nature of resources and think how some resources can be obtained using concepts of reuse and recycling. To avoid the high costs of pollution and waste management, pollution and wastes generated as a part of the process must be minimized – if not totally eliminated. Finally, they must consider the impacts their products may have on the environment. The internal LCC approach is being replaced today by Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) approaches that are more externally focused as illustrated below:

- Product Design – Chemical usage, ease of recycling, ease of reuse, ease of disassembly (e.g. modular design), and size
- Raw materials – use of renewable resources and reducing impact from transport
- Manufacture, sales, distribution – pollution prevention, waste minimization process hazards management
- Packaging – Reduced packaging, vegetable-based inks, concentrating product
- Use – Aerosol-free cleaning agents and low-dosage pesticides
- Final disposal – Recycling, degradability, and combustion product.

Capra refers to “eco-auditing” as a form of LCA: “To remain competitive, managers and entrepreneurs will need to become ecologically literate. In particular, detailed knowledge of the flow of energy and matter through a company will be essential, and this is why the newly developed practice of “eco-auditing” will be of paramount importance. An eco-audit is concerned with the environmental consequences of the flows of material, energy, and people through a company and therefore with the true costs of production.”

Two pioneers the field of IE, B. R. Allenby, research vice president of technology and environment, Bell Labs, and T.E. Graedel, distinguished member of the technical staff at AT&T Bell Labs, are working on “Design for the Environment” tools to help engineers and operating managers build environment friendliness into every step of the production process, as well as into the product itself. One is a matrix based approach that allows a manager to assign a “green” score to a potential product or process. This score tells product and process engineers where the greatest areas of environmental concern are, and where the greatest green strides can be made. This approach brings environmental concerns into the equation. Another tool which Graedel has invented is a streamlined version of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) that allows engineers to compare alternative products and processes at each and every stage of development, from obtaining the initial raw materials to reincarnating the product after its use. This “cradle-to-cradle” accounting is great for comparing alternative

products and processes. This streamlined approach can be done in days rather than the years in which it took to complete the older LCAs.

DeSimone and Popoff explain that every business forms part of a product chain that transforms raw materials into goods and services for consumption and eventual disposal. A product LCA approach implies companies have a responsibility to consider the upstream and downstream implications of their activities and take actions to mitigate them. For example: redesign processes and products to minimize environmental impact, maximize efficiency, and create additional value. The ultimate LCA goal is encompassed in the broader concept of “Industrial Ecology”.

Sources: “Eco-Efficiency, The Business Link to Sustainable Development”; Livio D. DeSimone, Frank Popoff; MIT Press, 1997. . “Biomimicry”; Janine M. Benyus; William Morrow & Company; 1997. “The Web of Life”; Fritjof Capra, An Anchor Book, Doubleday, 1996.

In next month’s article I will illustrate a real life example of Industrial Ecology.

Sights of ABNC



Photos by: Andrew Hamlett

**ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER
VOLUNTEER TRAINING
February 1998**

WEEKEND AND WEEKDAY VOLUNTEERS

February 6

8:30-9:00 Registration and ice-breaker
 9:00-9:15 Welcome, introductions, "housekeeping" and pre-test
 9:15-10:00 General Ecology
 10:00-10:15 Break
 10:15-11:15 Ecological Concepts with games
 11:15-12:00 Ecosystems: Forest Ecology Part I
 12:00-12:30 Lunch
 12:30-1:00 Tour of MIB, NDR, HH, and telescope
 1:00-1:45 Ecosystems: Pond Ecology Part I
 1:45-2:30 Ecosystems: Pond Ecology Part II (collection/analysis)
 2:30-3:00 Volunteer manuals, log book

February 13

9:00-9:30 Animal Handling
 9:30-10:00 History of Martyn Farm slide presentation
 10:00-10:15 Break
 10:15-11:00 Ecological concepts as related to the farm
 11:00-12:00 Farm tour/interpretation
 12:00-12:30 Lunch
 12:30-1:30 Farm tour/interpretation
 1:30-1:45 Break
 1:45-3:00 Farm Demos

February 20

9:00-9:45 Ecosystems: Bayou Ecology Part I
 9:45-12:45 Ecosystems: Forest Part II (hike); Bayou Part II (tour)
 (Group A - pontoon boat ride; Group B - forest hike)
 Groups switch: Group A - hike, Group B - boat
 Lunch
 12:45-1:15 Ecosystems: Prairie Ecology Part I
 1:15-2:00 Ecosystems: Prairie Ecology Part II (tour)
 2:00-3:00

February 26

9:00-9:45 Greeter/Administrative training
 9:45-10:15 Presenting a Demo
 10:15-10:30 Break
 10:30-11:15 Nature History Demo (in small groups)
 11:15-11:45 "Urban Wilderness" video
 11:45-12:45 Questions/answers, buddy sign-up, policies, safety, continuing education, evaluations, post-test, etc.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS

WEEKDAY TEACHERS

February 26

9:00-9:30 Teaching tips
 9:30-10:45 Eco/Adventures: *Hands on History*
 10:45-11:00 Break
 11:00-12:00 Eco/Adventures: *Hands on History continued*
 12:00-12:30 Lunch
 12:30-2:30 Eco/Adventures: *Hands on History continued*
 2:30-4:00 Eco/Adventures: *Farm Life*

March 5

9:00-9:45 Teaching along the boardwalk
 9:45-10:30 Eco Adventures: *Insect Explorations*
 10:30-10:45 Break
 10:45-11:30 Eco Adventures: *Insect Explorations continued*
 11:30-12:00 Lunch
 12:00-12:45 Eco Adventures: *Reptile Rendezvous*
 12:45-2:00 Eco Adventures: *Nature Discovery*
 2:00-2:15 Break
 2:15-3:30 Eco Adventures: *Amazing Adaptations*
 3:30-4:00 Questions/answers, buddy sign-up, policies, safety, continuing education, evaluations, post-test, etc.

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY 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.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>11:00 TRAIL</u>	<u>2:00 TRAIL</u>	<u>INFO. SERVICES</u>	<u>FARM INTER.</u>	<u>FARM DEMO</u>	<u>NAT. HISTORY DEMO</u>
Sat. 2/6	Jim Crabb	John Siptak	Paul Brunkow	Christine Ribeiro	Ed Adams (Wood Stove)	Ruby Dilgren (Opossums)
Sun 2/7	--	Patty Pennington	Doug Barfoot	Eleanor Stanley	Ann Brinley (Bobbin Lace)	Polly Swerdlin (Insects)
Sat. 2/13	Helen Powell	Ray Parker	Georgia Colyer	Jane Bingel	Chris Bingham (Cheese)	Ann Tincher (Pond Life)
Sun 2/14	--	--	Joyce Roberts	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarcella (Blacksmith)	--
Sat. 2/20	Louise Peck	Ann Tincher	Danny Yancey	Susan Williams	Jim Callen (Farm Equipment)	Marilyn Clark (Squirrels)
Sun. 2/21	--	Melanie Weisman	Ken Russel	Stephania Rogers	Zel Arbuckle (Wood Stove)	Polly Swerdlin (Animal Tracks)
Sat. 2/27	JoDana Jones	Cris Santiago	Joan Shack	Eleanor Haskew	Jane Bingel (Rope Making)	Pat Doerr (Feathers)
Sun. 2/28	--	Merle Bunde	Cindy Eppelheimer	Marsha Goss	Emily Egan (Spin or Weave)	Eldine Owens (Snakes)

1999 VOLUNTEER BOARD

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Georgia Colyer	281-996-7888	Cris Santiago
Ken Russell	281-488-0390	Sue Manley
Ruby Dilgren	281-488-1727	Ed Adams
Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	Andrew Hamlett
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