



Bayou Foliage

Volume 17 No. 6 June 1999

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

June Calendar

5	Stewardship Saturday
5	Volunteer Board Retreat
12	Bayou Foliage Inputs Due
12	Volunteer Picnic
19	Stewardship Saturday

ABNCV PICNIC

Saturday, June 12, 6:00 p.m.
Farm House Porch

There will be no speaker this month, as the June volunteer meeting will be our annual summer picnic on the farm house porch. Volunteers are asked to bring a covered dish to serve 6. It can be a salad, appetizer, entree, bread, desert, or etc. Please remember to also bring your own table settings: plates, utensils, and beverage.

Volunteer of the Month

The Volunteer of the Month is Danny Yancey. Danny became a volunteer in September 1997 and since that time has helped the nature center in numerous ways. He serves as a greeter on the weekends, teaches weekday classes to school groups, participates in stewardship projects and works at several of our large events. It's always nice to have volunteers with such diverse interests. Thank you Danny for all you do for ABNC.

Volunteer Logbook Has Moved

Please note the Volunteer Logbook has been moved. It can now be found back in the breakroom along with the sign up sheets for continuing education classes.

Continuing Education

Ecosystems, Fire, and Mankind: A Brief History
Saturday, June 12, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
ABNC Auditorium

Join Colin Shackelford of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service as he gives a brief overview of the fire ecology of North American ecosystems. He will discuss fire behavior, impacts on vegetation and ecosystem composition as well as a brief history of humanity's relationship with wildfire. Colin will discuss fire management at ABNC and its role in prairie restoration.

Edible Plants

Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
ABNC Auditorium.

Learn to identify and prepare native edible plants, with Barbara and Tim Sykes. Bring your notebooks and your appetites, as samples will be provided.

Amphibians at ABNC

Saturday, July 10, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
ABNC Auditorium

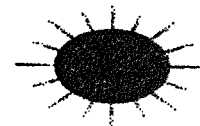
ABNC staff will present this class concerning Nature Center frogs, toads, and salamanders. Learn natural history, identification calls, taxonomy, and basic anatomy. This class will also be an introduction for volunteers, to the program from Amphibian Monitoring at ABNC. Also included a night hike later in the day at 8:00 p.m., for those interested.

Happy Birthday

Dick Miller	6/01	George Regmund	6/01
Goose Ganter	6/03	Anne Tincher	6/07
Karen L. Smith	6/07	Melanie Weisman	6/08
John Smith	6/18	Carol Harper	6/22
Christine Barrett	6/23	Marjorie Borey	6/23
Dottie Evans	6/24	Linda Hamlett	6/28

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed on the weekends to help out at the admissions desk. This may include filling in during lunch or helping out at other times. Please contact Hanna Drago at: 281-326-4149.



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday, May 13, 1999

Eric Duran introduced our speaker, Mary Ellen Whitworth, of the Bayou Preservation Association. The business meeting was called to order by Susan Williams; the minutes of the April meeting published in the Bayou Foliage were approved. In the Treasurer's Report, Georgia Colyer announced current assets as 2837.07 which includes 2222.87 in the checking account and 614.20 in the savings account. The 1999 Proposed Budget was approved.

Eric Duran announced the Introduction to the Wetlands class by John Jacobs on May 15, 1999. The sign up sheets and the log book will be in the breakroom. The Atkinson Island trip will be June 5. Colin Shackelford will teach Fire Ecology on June 12. Edible Plants will be on June 26. The June meeting will be the Volunteer Picnic on June 12 at 6pm. At the July meeting, the CE presentation will be on a mammal study. John Jacobs needs an office assistant for 15 to 20 hours/week for Clean Water for Armand Bayou.

Mary Alice announced that the Volunteer of the Month is Danny Yancey. Helpers are needed for Eco-Camp registration on Mondays. There will be a workshop, Adopt a Wetlands, on June 4th and 5th for teachers, scout groups, and anyone interested.; registration is 20.00; registration deadline is May 21.

Ephriam reported for Lynn that Bayou Boil had about 310 attendees, the highest attendance for that event to date. The auction revenues were more than last year's; ticket sales made 2,000.00 more than last year's. The event raised about 22,000.00 to 24,000.00. The Volunteer Appreciation dinner will be at Outback Steakhouse, 11:30am on May 22. RSVP to Lynn by May 19.

Lou Wheatcraft reported that as a result of the Trustee Board retreat, strategic planning will be represented by committees composed of volunteers and board members. See Ephriam if you want to be on a committee such as strategic planning, education, sponsorship, fund raising, etc.

Hanna asked for submission of any ideas that would make the Volunteers and the Board of Trustees a cohesive group.

Ephriam described the ABNC vision for the next five years as a focus on reconnecting the public to nature. The emphasis will be on education to enhance the visitor experience, expand education programs, enhance the public image, and to increase the percentage of generated revenues versus donations.

Mary Alice invited volunteers to participate in Fall Festival planning committees which meet once a month.

Susan reminded volunteers of the Volunteer Picnic on June 12 at 6pm. See Susan if you want to be the Farm Coordinator. Thanks to Geri Ross and Stan Krauhs for the refreshments. Hanna needs weekend volunteers for admissions for lunch on Saturdays and from 3pm to 4pm on Sundays. Thanks to Joan Shack, Christine Ribeiro, Ann Brinly, Joan Henderson, Mary Ann Tucker, and Jane Bingel for helping out with admissions. Thanks to Barb Hill for the Garden Tour.

Barb reported about 700 visitors to the Garden Tour from 29 zip codes and 35 communities outside of Houston. Expenses were about 250.00. The event took in about 5500.00. Next year will be a profile of the new garden at the farmhouse instead of the Garden Tour.

Ruby needs live caterpillars for her demos. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hamlett

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Volunteer Picnic

Our annual picnic is Saturday, June 12 at 6:00 at the farm site. Those of you who attend each year know what fun this event is. If you've never attended one, please join us this year. Everyone is asked to bring a salad, entree, bread, or dessert (enough to feed six) and your own plate, utensils, and beverage. Weather permitting there will be games and canoeing. If you're able to come out a little early and help set up, your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Garden Tour

This year's garden tour, Artistry in the Garden, was held April 24th and 25th. This was the fifth garden tour organized by the ABNC volunteers and local garden clubs and it was a wonderful success. The garden tours attract guests from all over the Houston area and is a wonderful way of making people aware of ABNC. Many, many people make the event special, including the homeowners who agree to let their gardens be part of the tour, ABNC volunteers, and local garden club members. Barbara Hill chaired the event once again this year and her talent, enthusiasm and love of gardening brought it all together. Chairing an event of this type takes many, many hours and lots of dedication. Thank you Barb!

Weekday Farm Coordinator

The position of Weekday Farm Coordinator is now vacant. Many schools bring children to ABNC on field trips, and the coordinator arranges classes for them by working with the volunteers who teach at the farm site and the ABNC staff. **THE PERSON WHO FILLS THIS JOB IS NOT REQUIRED TO WORK WEEKDAYS OR TO HAVE EXPERIENCE IN TEACHING THESE CLASSES.** This volunteer plays a crucial role in fulfilling the ABNC mission of providing an environmental education to our visitors and also serves on the Volunteer Board. Please call me at 281-487-3033 if you think you would like to make an important contribution to ABNC by seeing to it that our young guests have a memorable and valuable experience when they visit the Nature Center.

GARDEN TOUR - 99

The weather was fine. The outstanding article in the Houston Chronicle, *Texas Magazine* got lots of notice from the public and prompted lots of inquiring phone calls to the front desk. Thanks to Kesha and other front desk people for fielding all of those phone calls. Kathy Huber, garden editor of the Houston Chronicle got a great big thanks and a cookie bouquet for that outstanding job. She always does a very nice job for us. I wish you could have seen the really impressive Certificates of Appreciation that Paula created to send to the home owners, and the entertainers. The garden clubs were gracious with their help as well as the ABNC volunteers.

This year there were nine yards to woman/man. As you know it takes about 100 people to provide enough greeters. We had an additional need for people to direct parking, about 12 to 18 people. In addition, the ladies of the ABNC Garden Committee were in attendance as coordinators at each yard. Without calculating precisely, I think we are looking at about 150 people. Perhaps now you will understand why I sounded frustrated when you were unable to help.

As we all know April is a busy month and we all have lots of events to attend. So I really want all you helpers to know how much we appreciated that you gave us your time. Presently, we are contemplating some other type of garden event for the grand year 2000. Thus, we won't need to round up 150 people. I will list the figures for our income and expenses below. We'd like your input for a new event. Keep in touch. Barb Hill

Gross Ticket Sales	5,609.00
Expenses	<u>402.00</u>
Net Income	\$ 5,207.00

FRIENDLY REMINDER

The Maintenance staff (Patrick and Company) have asked me to remind everyone that the shop yard is off limits unless you have business there. Obviously, this doesn't apply to all you hard-working volunteers who are doing such a great job on the new maintenance shed. We had to install the fence around the area for liability reasons. There are lots of dangerous chemicals and equipment there that we wouldn't want anyone to get hurt on. So please remember not to cut through the maintenance area to go to the farm or the pole barn, and especially do not take groups of school children through the area. If you do have business there, please remember to close the gate after you enter. We have had too many visitors go into the area and allow their children to get on the equipment. All of the staff thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mary Alice Trumble

FALL FESTIVAL

If you've ever wanted to be a part of the planning for a major event at ABNC, now is your chance. We are looking for a few hard-working people with new ideas for the nature center's biggest event. If you're willing to give an hour or so of your time each month until October, and then maybe a little more until the second weekend of November, then you're just the person we're looking for to serve on the Fall Festival planning committee.

Our first meeting will be Sunday June 6th at 5:00 p.m. Please join us and be ready to accept a leadership position on this most important committee. Remember it takes all of us to make an event this size a success. We would greatly appreciate your help.

Mary Alice Trumble
Chris LaChance

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship at ABNC can involve a lot of activities some of which are not too noticeable. I thought it would be of interest to point out that over the last three months, stewardship volunteers have planted between two and three hundred pots of Eastern Gammagrass in the east and west side prairie areas. This is a native bunchgrass that ranges throughout southeast Texas, but is most frequent in the eastern part of the state. It was recovered (another stewardship activity) from areas in south Pasadena that are being developed. By the way, we still have a number of pots left to plant in the coming weeks.

You are really missing out on some excellent ecosystem training if you have not been participating in the prairie monitoring workshops that Colin Shackelford has organized as part of Clean Water for Armand Bayou. This activity is focused on learning the grasses and plants in the prairie areas, and gaining sufficient skill to participate in long term monitoring to determine the health of and progress of prairie restoration. Near term activity will center on becoming knowledgeable of approximately 30 of the most predominant species and collecting samples of them for the herbarium. Sign up; it will take you beyond wild flowers!

Ken Russell

Roster Changes

Gary Pinkerton 1315 Nasa Rd. 1 #125 Houston, TX 77058 281- 286-0480	Susan Cunningham 2606 Excalibur Dr. SE Huntsville, AL 35803-1928
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Cathy Jett- Searcy
2714 Carmel Woods Dr.
Seabrook, TX 77586
Ph. 281-291-0093

EcoCamp Help

EcoCamp is one of the largest programs we have at ABNC. This summer we are expecting over 300 campers to descend on the nature center and we need help on the first day of each camp session to get children checked in. It will only take about an hour of your time on the Monday of each week we have camp. The time is from 8-9 am on June 7, 14, July 12 and 19 and from 5:30-6:30 on June 21. We may also need a few people on Wednesday June 16 and Wednesday July 21 from 8-9 am to check in the 4 year olds who only come Wednesday through Friday. If you could help with this important endeavor, please call Mary Alice at the nature center.

The Vision for ABNC by Lou Wheatcraft

Today, we are primarily an urban society, with fewer opportunities to interact directly with the natural world. We have become disconnected from nature and as a consequence, often fail to recognize how our activities can have a profound impact on the environment.

Julie Packard, executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, recently stated: "New technologies have enabled us to extract natural resources at an unprecedented rate. In some cases, we're already reaching the limits natural systems can sustain. World fish catch peaked 10 years ago. Water supply is emerging as a serious limit to growth in many regions worldwide.

Perhaps the most striking development of the 20th century is this: For the first time, humans have moved from altering resources on a local or regional level to producing global-scale changes in Earth's natural systems. Earth's atmosphere is changing, species extinctions are accelerating, and the chemistry of our oceans and waterways is being altered, all as the result of human activities.

In the next century, for the first time, environmental issues and resource availability will drive our decisions, not the concerns of just a few members of society. Continued advances in science and technology will solve many of the problems we face today."

But solutions will require that we embrace two concepts: First, Earth's basic non-living natural resources are finite; and second, the services we derive from Earth's natural systems need to be protected in a new era of stewardship. In short we have to connect people back to nature.

Frank Capra, author of "Web of Life", adds By reconnecting with nature means "we will be able to build and nurture sustainable communities in which we can satisfy our needs and aspirations without diminishing the chances of future

generations. For this task we can learn valuable lessons from the study of ecosystems, which are sustainable communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms. To understand these lessons, we need to learn the basic principles of ecology. We need to become, as it were, ecologically literate. Being ecologically literate, or "ecoliterate," means understanding the principles of organization of ecological communities (ecosystems) and using those principles for creating sustainable human communities. We need to revitalize our communities-including our educational communities, business communities, and political communities-so that the principles of ecology become manifest in them as principles of education, management, and politics."

As this century comes to a close and we go toward the beginning of a new millennium, the survival of humanity will depend on our ecological literacy, on our ability to understand these principles of ecology and live accordingly. Most important, our future will depend on how committed we are today to giving our children the tools to create a viable tomorrow -- a solid science education, compassion for others and a connection with the natural world that sustains us all.

The central vision of Armand Bayou Nature Center is to reconnect people to nature. Through enriching experiences and educational programs, ABNC teaches a deeper understanding of natural science, and hence a greater appreciation for its complexity and fragileness. Through knowledge comes understanding and appreciation, the first steps toward conservation [and the ultimate goal of a sustainable way of life.]

At the core of the Nature Center's mission is education, supported by habitat preservation and public outdoor recreation.

Environmental Notebook Industrial Ecology, Part 5 by Lou Wheatcraft

In the last four articles, I have introduced the concepts of Sustainability, Industrial Ecology (IE) the Product Life Cycle Assessment approach to environmental management, and discussed some real life examples of Industrial Ecology. 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 final article in this series on Industrial Ecology, I will present the conclusion to this series.

Adopting an International Standard

To help companies adopt management practices that consider environmental impacts of their operations, the international accepted standards for environmental

management have been defined in ISO 14000. Where levels of environmental management vary greatly from country to country, ISO 14000 attempts to provide one language for environmental management that everyone can understand. ISO 14000 provides a structure within which companies establish, achieve and control whatever level of environmental performance they set for themselves. In a world where economic and political concerns continue to dominate the ability of business, ISO 14000 offers a new and sensible approach to pollution control. While some companies have been highly successful in reducing environmental costs, few have done so in a highly systematic way that addresses all aspects of operations, products and services. Implementation of ISO 14000 can be used to drive improvements in business performance.

Conclusion

Existing industrial systems are and will increasingly be under selective pressure to evolve so as to move from linear (Type I) to semi-cyclic (Type II) or cyclic (Type III) modes of operation. Industrial Ecology addresses these problems within one integrated approach that facilitates the evolution of manufacturing from Type I to Type II to Type III behavior with the central goal of achieving sustainable development.

An article^[10] by Manning and Tillou that recently appeared in several newspapers around the country illustrates very clearly that the concepts outlined in this paper are entering the mainstream of industry. "When Lee A. Iacocca is hawking electric vehicles and General Motors chief John F. Smith Jr. predicts that no auto maker will succeed in the 21st century if it relies on internal-combustion engines, you know something funny is going on. In fact, there is a quiet revolution underway in the auto industry, spurred in part by California's zero-emissions laws. It is likely to change the face of private transportation by the year 2020 and leave enviros scratching their heads. How the hard-nosed auto industry suddenly "got religion" on the environment is a tale revealing the importance—and the limits—of environmental pressure and government regulation, on the one hand, and the power of market-driven competition, on the other. Present trends demonstrate market competition is fueling the quest for more eco-friendly technologies. Green activists will claim credit, while others will credit the invisible hand of the marketplace. But auto companies will make profits and the future will be more livable."

As these new concepts reach the corporate mainstream, will companies truly realize their potential? What are the benefits – and challenges – inherent in pursuing a path toward Sustainable Development? How will emerging technologies help shape eco-efficient processes? What are the implications for competitiveness? Corporate leaders need to address these important questions and decide how they can develop strategic plans for their futures, how they can adapt to the changing business environmental conditions where resources must be conserved and pollution and waste must be minimized. Failure to do so could result in their company becoming extinct, just like in nature where species who fail to adapt become extinct. Easterbrook^[6] points out that the principles that make for environmentally benign operation – low-input manufacturing, low waste, recycling of by-products, avoidance of liability – are the same types of efficiencies that

confer competitive advantages on all aspects of business operations. New efficiencies forged by environmental strictures will make Western industry capable of continuing to operate without exhausting its resource base or welcome; they will also help prepare Western industry for coming competition with industrial sophistication in the developing world.

Fried^[11] maintains that the corporation must make a strategic determination on how their competitive position is best served, by deciding to be either an adopter, an adapter, or an inventor of technology. Adopters tend to use existing technology, trailing others in technology acquisitions, and are content to follow their competitors. Adapters tend to make technology an essential element of their value-based planning and use new technology in innovative ways – keeping up with their competitors. Inventors tend to seek opportunities by creating new or innovative technology to stay far ahead of their competition. Those corporations that choose to be the industrial ecology "inventors" will have the competitive advantage for survival – they will be the ones selling this new technology to the adopters and adapters. Like in nature the fundamental law will be "survival of the fittest."

I believe that the concepts outlined in this series of articles will play a big role in shaping industry in the future. These concepts not only will work in the future, but are working today. The following quote summarizes my view best:

"Industrial ecology is not merely some feel-good movement, but a vital necessity in this time of concern about pollution hazards and finite natural resources. Indeed, it serves as the paradigm around which much industrial design and development activity centers. The word ecology implies that one should conserve and reuse resources of all kinds. Industrial ecology, a movement that is less than a decade old, encourages cooperation between business executives and environmental scientists during the planning, product design and customer response stages. The tools of industrial ecology include product life-cycle assessment, design for the environment and materials flow analysis. Get used to these terms because they are the business terms of the next century."

-- Thomas E. Graedel, professor of industrial ecology at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies^[8].

Bibliography:

6. "A Moment on The Earth - The coming age of environmental Optimism"; G. Easterbrook; Penguin Books, 1995
8. "Technology poised to aid the environment"; Environmental News Network; Friday, February 20, 1998
10. "Car Makers: The New Greens", R. A. Manning, S. L. Tillou; Los Angeles Times, Mar 1, 1998;
11. *Managing Information Technology in Turbulent Times*; L. Fried, John Wiley & Sons, 1995.

Starting next month I will begin a new series that looks into other key aspects of what it means to have a sustainable future.

Editor's Note

Please leave all inputs for the Bayou Foliage and other nature center/ volunteer related items for me in my Bayou Foliage mail box. Its easier that way for me. Thanks!



VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - June 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. 6/5	Jim Crabb	Joe Bryan	Joan Shack	Fran & Carl Cagnota	Jane Bingle (Butter) Irene Ward (Stereopticon)	Ruby Dilgren (Bats) Zel Arbuckle (Pond Life)
Sun. 6/6	--	Martha Hood	Joyce Roberts	Stephania Rogers		
Sat. 6/12	--	Ray Parker	Georgia Colyer	Penny Woodward	Larry Veale (Indian Crafts) Mary Ann Tucker (Basket Weaving)	Pat Doerr (Bird Adaptations)
Sun. 6/13	--	Melanie Weisman	Paul Brunkow	Polly Swerdlin		--
Sat. 6/19	Louise Peck	Mary Ann Phillips	Joan Henderson	Jen & Dan Pelletier	Ed Adams (Rope Making) Patrick Wornick (Blacksmith)	Keely Hartsfield (Turtles) Eleanor Stanley (Reptiles)
Sun. 6/20	--	Merle Bunde	Ken Russell	Cathy Jett Searcy		
Sat. 6/26	Susan Hesley	Ron Natole	Katerina Grundy	Jane Bingle	Irene Ward (Butter) Emily Egan (Spin of Weave)	Anne Tincher (Shells) Christine Ritbeiro (Exotic Species)
Sun. 6/27	--	Cris Santiago	Merle Bunde	Eleanor Stanley		

1999 VOLUNTEER BOARD

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Eric Duran	Vice Chair	281-286-6764
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	Weekday Trail	713-946-2754
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