



Bayou Foliage

Volume 17 No. 5 May 1999

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

May Calendar

- 1 Stewardship Saturday
- 2 Volunteer Board Meeting
- 8 Bayou Boil
- 14 Volunteer Meeting
- 14 Bayou Foliage Inputs Due
- 15 Stewardship Saturday

ABNCV Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 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 Mary Ellen Whitworth from the Bayou Preservation Association. She will be discussing the BPA, its mission, and current local bayou issues.

Happy Birthday

Joanna Wactor	5/01	Emily Egan	5/03
Marianne Phillips	5/06	Joe Bryan	5/06
Laura Hendrix	5/10	Paul Brunkow	5/13
Rae Gillespie	5/14	Mary Ann Tucker	5/19
Eldine Owens	5/24	Joe Weber	5/31
Ross White	5/31		

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Continuing Education

Introduction to Wetlands

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Saturday, May 15

ABNC Auditorium

This class will cover the basics of what makes a wetland and the different types of wetlands. Time will be spent both in class and the field.

Instructor: Dr. John Jacob

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

Eric Duran

Volunteer of the Month

The Volunteer of the Month is Christine Ribeiro. Christine has been a volunteer since September 1997 and has been quite active since that time. Christine is a biomedical engineer with NASA's Cardiovascular Lab, but still finds time to devote her talents and smiling face to ABNC. As a volunteer she has served on the Fall Festival Planning Committee and the Volunteer Retention Committee. She works at most of our major events, does demonstrations, serves as a greeter and farm interpreter, works on the Mailing Committee and is helping work on this year's volunteer quilt to be raffled at Fall Festival. Christine is one of those people you can ask to undertake a project and know she will give it 100% and do it in a professional manner. Thank you Christine for everything you do for ABNC.

Thank You Everyone!

We wish to say thank you to everyone who came to the potluck dinner for us recently at ABNC. The farmhouse porch was a very fitting place to hold our last get-together with all of you. We have enjoyed being a part of the volunteer organization these past 3 years, and are grateful for the many friendships we have made and have lots of happy memories to take with us. If you would like to contact us, our new address is:

Jean & Larry Kruse
1860 Middlebury Drive
Aurora, IL 60504.

In this Issue

Bayou Boil Information
Birding Atkinson Island
Volunteer Opportunities
Revised 1999 Budget



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 1999

Jean Kruse introduced our speaker, Ephriam Dickson, the new Administrative Director who spoke about the important mission of ABNC. He noted that as our community, and our society, become increasingly urban, people have fewer opportunities to interact directly with the natural world. As a consequence, we have become disconnected from nature and often fail to recognize how our activities can have a profound impact on the environment. The central mission of ABNC is to reconnect people with nature through enriching experiences and educational programs. Through knowledge comes understanding and appreciation, the first steps toward conservation. Ephriam added that the Board of Trustees will be participating in a retreat on April 24 to review and refine the Nature Center's goals. Anyone with input was invited to pass it on to him prior to that meeting.

The business meeting was called to order by Susan Williams; the minutes of the March meeting published in the Bayou Foliage were approved with one correction: instead of "bat study skins," it should read as "bat skeleton and bat study skins." Georgia Colyer was not present to announce the revisions in the Jan., Feb., and March Treasury Reports; the 1999 Revised Proposed Budget was not yet available.

Jean Kruse announced that April 11 will be Introduction to the Spinning Wheel by Emily Egan. Mary Alice announced the Volunteer of the Month, Christine Ribeiro. Mary Alice thanked Lou Wheatcraft for the wonderful ideas that came out of the educational planning meetings held in March. Becky Brignac was recognized for a job well done in organizing Down on the Farm. Per Barb Hill, Stephania Rogers sold \$180.00 in cookies at Down on the Farm. Mary Alice listed the volunteer opportunities for Eco Camp on the first day of each week of each session, helping with check in, a 45 minute job: June 7 and June 14 (8am - 8:45am and 12pm to 12:45pm); June 16 (8am to 8:45am for 4 year olds); June 21 Twilight Camp (5:30pm to 6:15pm); July 12 and July 19 (8am to 8:45am and 12pm to 12:45pm); and July 21 (8am to 8:45am). See Mary Alice to help with the Girl Scout Badge Workshop on 5-1-99 (9:45am to 12pm). Mark needs demos for Earth Day; see Mary Alice or Polly Swerdlin. Stewardship Saturday will be setting up for Earth Day, April 17. Mark is still waiting on permits from the Marsh Grant. On April 15, there will be a reception for Cliff Meinhardt from 5pm to 7pm at Texas Chiropractic College; he was named artist of the year in Pasadena by the Cultural Arts Committee; the reception is open to the public, but reservations are required at 281-487-7871; his photography will be on display. Irene Ward received e-mail from Norman Wong in Aberdeen.

Susan announced the Moss Award as Anne Tincher; the Tree Award winner was Katerina Grundy. We need a Weekday Farm Coordinator; you don't have to be an experienced teacher or come out on weekdays; Mary Alice needs volunteers for teaching farm classes: cheese making, rope making, wood puzzles, carding and spinning. If you are available during the week, consider training. There are a few vacancies left for the 5-1-99 Atkinson Island trip.

April 11 is the potluck dinner out at the farmhouse for Jean and Larry Kruse. Barb Hill and Stephania Rogers supplied the refreshments; see the sign up sheet if you would like to help in the future. On 4-24-99, Barb needs greeters and a parking lot monitor; Barb has Garden Tour fliers and tickets. Becky Brignac expressed her pride in being part of the ABNC Volunteers. Hanna invited everyone to her garden club's plant sale on April 9 at 304 Lakeshore Drive from 8am to 10am and from 4pm to 5pm. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hamlett

Down on the Farm News

Down on the Farm was a big success because you helped bring it all together. I owe thanks to so many of you, including the entire staff. We had over 600 people show up on the weather threatening Easter weekend - can't wait until next year. I promise it won't be on Easter weekend again. The surveys taken indicated that all would return next year and that most were non-members. Five filled out the form wanting information on membership and volunteering. Hopefully they will become both!

Here are excerpts from a letter from the Captain of the speaker committee of the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo: "I would like to thank you for all performers from the HLS&R for allowing us to participate in your event again this year. Each and every one expressed their complete happiness with the treatment they received from you, the staff, and the volunteers at the event. Since children are what the Rodeo is all about, we thoroughly enjoy performing for so many children at the center." - Gene Hollier

Kudos to Jim Edwards, Jim Hawkins, and Roland Borey, including their wives Joy, Arlene, and Marjorie respectively, for being patient with the many phone calls, Susan Williams, Hanna Drago, Barb Hill, Stephania Rogers, Ken Russell, Chuck Snyder, Paul and Joan Brunkow, Mary Barton, Mary Yurkovich, Emily Egan, Ann Brinly, Ruby Dilgren, Ed Adams, Jane Bingel, Tom Scarcella, Judy Huston, Dan & Jennifer Pelletier, Paula Kennedy, Martha Hood, Shellie Garza, Cheryl & Doug Barfoot, Drew & Shirley Potter, Polly Swerdlin, Joe Bryan, Joan Shack, Larry Kruse, Mary Ann Tucker, Joe Clem, Merle Bunde, Marjorie Borey, and last but not least Shawn Mazzetti. If your name is missing, please forgive me.

Thank you again. I am very proud of being a fellow volunteer with you.

Be seen ya next year,
Coordinator "Down on the Farm"
Becky Brignac

Comments From the Chair

Board Vacancy

The position of Weekday Farm Coordinator will be open next month. 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. The current Weekday Farm Coordinator, Sue Manley, will be moving soon but is able to take care of the requests for classes through May. 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.

M.O.S.S. and T.R.E.E. Award Winners

The recipients of the M.O.S.S. (Mentor of Super Stature) and T.R.E.E. (Terrific Rookie Exhibiting Enthusiasm) awards were announced at the April 8 meeting. Anne Tincher received the M.O.S.S. award, and Katerina Grundy - who was mentored by Anne - received the T.R.E.E. award. Both winners have received gift certificates to Wild Birds Unlimited. Anne is an outstanding volunteer who has worked in many capacities at ABNC, so it is no surprise that she would also excel as a mentor. We are most fortunate to have new volunteers, such as Katerina, who bring their special talents and enthusiasm with them as they complete their training and begin working with us. Congratulations to both Anne and Katerina.

Down on the Farm

For the second year, Down on the Farm was a wonderful success, and our appreciation goes to Becky Brignac, who coordinated the event, and all the other volunteers who made it possible. Thanks also go to everyone who baked cookies or other treats for sale at Down on the Farm. Your efforts brought in \$144.05 to the volunteer organization. Stephania Rogers, in her usual gracious way, oversaw the sale of the cookies and made this important fund-raising project succeed.

Susan Williams

Bayou Boil Volunteers in Action

We had a wonderful and immediate response to our request for volunteers for Bayou Boil on Saturday, May 8 from 6 to 10 p.m.

GREETERS: Becky Brignac, Joan Henderson, and Cherry Barfoot

CASHIERS: Christine Ribeiro & Susan Hesley

AUCTION ASSISTANTS: Eleanor Stanley, Diane McMahon, and Susan Williams

CANTALOUPE CUTTER: Eleanor Stanley

BROWNIE BAKER: Mary Ann Tucker

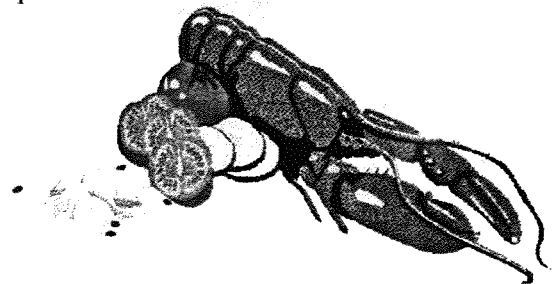
VIP WAITERS: Ed Adams, Cris Santiago, Patrick Worknick, and Ruby Dilgren

PHYSICAL SET-UP and/or CLEAN-UP: (still waiting for some special people)

We will celebrate our success as a Bayou Boil volunteer team at a free luncheon on Saturday a week or two later after the event at Outback Steakhouse on Bay Area Blvd., courtesy of the managing partner, Gus Dunn.

Although the response was wonderful, we still need one more VIP waiter, a few more brownie bakers, another cantaloupe cutter, and surprisingly enough, we had no one sign up for clean-up or set-up. It must have been that no one saw this page because I know that there are people out there who would rather work before or after the actual event when it isn't so noisy and frantic. Please think about the advantages of these jobs that are still open. Please call me if you have any questions about the job descriptions. The sign-up sheet is in the breakroom of the main building. Thanks again in advance for your eagerness to help with our annual fund raising event. You can reach me direct, Monday through Friday at 281-474-3748.

Lynn Shigekawa,
Development Director



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Farm Teachers Needed

We have had numerous requests for the Hands-On History class this spring and are in desperate need of more farm teachers. If you are available during the week and want to learn a new skill that is a lot of fun, please call Mary Alice to set up training. It's easy and will help the nature center tremendously. We appreciate all the help you can give.

Girl Scout Wildlife Badge Workshop

Saturday, May 1, 9:45 - noon

Pond Pals Birthday Party

Saturday, May 15, 11:15 - noon

Webelos Naturalist/Forester Badge Workshop

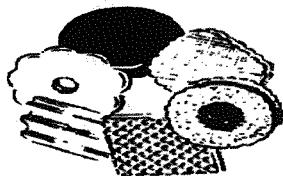
Sunday, May 16, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Four 10-year-old boys

Eco Camp Help

We will need help this summer checking people in on the first day of each camp session. All that is involved is checking registration forms to be sure they have been completed, handing out name tags, and directing campers to the right location. The following are the dates and times needed. Please call Mary Alice if you can help.

June 7	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	&	12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
June 14	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	&	12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
June 16	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.		
June 21	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.		
July 12	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	&	12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
July 16	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.		
July 19	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.	&	12:00 - 12:45 p.m.
July 21	8:00 - 8:45 a.m.		



Thank You

Thank you to all who responded with cookies and help in other ways for the Down on the Farm event. The sale went very well. Everyone likes homemade cookies!

We depend on you for something to sell and you always come through. You're the greatest!

Stephanie Rogers

Prairie Monitoring Workshop the Sequel



Join clean water for Armand Bayou as we hold our revised prairie monitoring training at ABNC on Saturday, May 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dr. Larry White of Texas A&M University will be training volunteers in hands-on techniques for monitoring the tallgrass prairies of Armand Bayou Nature Center. Dr. White 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 prairies of ABNC.

If you've never been to one of our training sessions, now is the time to join us! If you've been to one before you'll appreciate that we've revised our monitoring technique and made things easier. 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.

Volunteer Trip to Atkinson Island/Bird Count

ABNC volunteers will have the opportunity to visit Atkinson Island on June 5 and those who would like to may also participate that day in a bird count being conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department. Atkinson Island is the experimental marsh development project which was created from the dredge which resulted from the expansion of the Houston Ship Channel and is a fascinating place to visit.

We will leave at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 1:00. Please bring your binoculars, water, insect repellent, and a hat. We will depart from the boat launch which is near the marina located on the Baytown side of the Fred Hartman Bridge. Take the first exit after the bridge as you go into Baytown, then take the first right. Take a left when you enter the parking lot and you'll see the boat launch. (It's near Ninfa's.) Call Susan Williams at 281-487-3033 for more information. The sign-up sheet for this trip is in the Admissions (Kaneka) Building.



A Note from the Treasurer

The audit found a couple of mistakes which changed our present total assets. Therefore, the board felt that the volunteers should have the opportunity to see how this adjustment would effect the budget. With the proposed budget our surplus would be \$1508.26. We will be voting on this budget at the May volunteer board meeting. Sorry for the confusion and delay.

Georgia Colyer

Proposed 1999 Budget

Income:

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

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)	
<u>Total Budgeted Expenditures</u>	\$ 2,178.50

Present Assets	2,528.76
Proposed Income	+ <u>1,158.00</u>
Subtotal	3,686.76
Proposed Expenditures	- <u>2,178.50</u>

Surplus **\$ 1,508.26**



Photo by: Andrew Hamlett



Photo by: Hanna Drago

Volunteers in Action at Down on the Farm

All Photos by: Hanna Drago



Pictured from left to right: Jim Hawkins, Roland Borey, Jim Edwards, Shawn Mazzetti, Becky Brignac, and Jean Kruse: taking a break at the syrup shed.



Here's Tom Scarcella demonstrating woodworking.



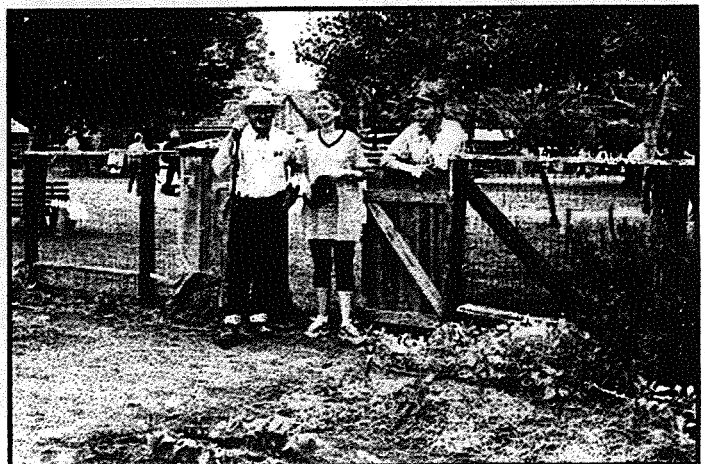
Ruby Dilgren seen here, helping children make rope.



Jane Bingel makes cheese.



Pictured from left to right: Jim Hawkins and Jim Edwards talking to a visitor and fellow volunteer, Ramon McKinney, about old farm equipment.



Joe Clem shows off the farm vegetable garden.

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - May 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. 5/1	--	Stan Krauhs	Joan Shack	Eleanor Stanley	Irene Ward (Butter)	Ruby Dilgren (Insects) Zel Arbuckle (Snakes)
Sun. 5/2	--	Cris Santiago	Ken Russell	Stephania Rogers	Patrick Wornick (Blacksmith)	
Sat. 5/8	Marianne Phillips	John Siptak	Georgia Colyer	Diane & Jim McMahon	Larry Veale (Indian Crafts) Ann Brinly (Bobbin Lace)	Jim Crabb (Mushrooms) Eleanor Stanley (Alligators)
Sun. 5/9	--	Mothers Day	Merle Bunde	Polly Swerdlin		
Sat. 5/15	Louise Peck	Joe Bryan	Paul Brunkow	Jane Bingel (Paul Baukman)	Chris Bingham (Stereopticon) Emily Egan (Spin or Weave)	The Hendrix (Bird Adaptations) Christine Ribeiro (TBA)
Sun. 5/16	--	Raymond McKinney	Cindy Eppelheimer	Marjorie Borey		
Sat. 5/22	Jim Crabb	Eldine & Mike Owens	Danny Yancey	Paul Baukman	Ed Adams (Wood Stove)	Pat Doerr (Bird Nest at ABNC)
Sun. 5/23	--	Patty Pennington	Doug Barfoot	Christine Ribeiro	Stephania Rogers (Rope Making)	Cathy Searcy/Jett (Snakes)
Sat. 5/29	Susan Hesley	Ray Parker	Patsy Cashion	Susan Williams	Jane Bingel (Cheese)	Anne Tincher (Microworld)
Sun. 5/30	--	Merle Bunde	Ruby Dilgren	Marsha Goss	Irene Ward (Butter)	--

1999 VOLUNTEER BOARD

	Home	Office
Susan Williams	281-487-3033	713-743-8863
Eric Duran	281-487-3033	Hanna Drago
Linda Hamlett	281-286-6764	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
		281-998-7317/Fax
		281-326-4149
		281-488-8193
		281-471-0979
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