



Bayou Foliage

Vol. 17 No. 9 September 1999

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

September Calendar

Sept. 4	Stewardship Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
Sept. 5	Volunteer Board Meeting (4:00 p.m.)
Sept. 9	Volunteer Meeting (6:30 - 9:00)
Sept. 9	<i>Bayou Foliage</i> Inputs Due
Sept. 11	Volunteer Training Begins
Sept. 18	Stewardship Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)

ABNCV MEETING

Thursday, September 9, 1999
Nature Center Auditorium

6:30 - Snacks and Conversation
7:00 - Program
8:00 - Volunteer Meeting
9:00 - Adjourn

The speaker for this month will be John Forsythe, of the National Resource Center for Cephalopods at UTMB. Mr. Forsythe will talk about Cephalopods (octopus, squid, and cuttlefish) and the research he's been conducting with them over the past several years at UTMB. This should be quite an interesting talk on exciting scientific research going on in our area, so please come join us.

NEW NATURE CENTER HOURS

Please note, the nature center now has new hours. The gates will now be open from Tuesday - Saturday 9-5, and on Sunday 12 - 5.

Printing Compliments of Celanese

CONTINUING EDUCATION

GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY OF THE GULF COAST
Saturday, September 11th 10:00 a.m.,
Pole Barn

Pleistocene fossils recently discovered along Armand Bayou provide important clues about the dramatic environmental changes that have occurred in this region over the past 40,000 years. Join Ephriam Dickson, as he examines the geological history of Galveston Bay and discusses the impacts of this last ice age on the fauna and habitats of the Gulf Coast.

The sign up sheets for all continuing education programs can now be found in the volunteer office, located in the Heiman House.

Eric Duran.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

The volunteer of the month for this month is Dick Benoit. Dick is retired from a 36-year career teaching science in public schools, and he has given the Nature Center the benefit of his experience. Dick teaches a variety of classes here including a section of the Alpha Program with Clear Creek ISD. He is wonderful with young people and very knowledgeable of natural history and wildlife. He has a particular interest in birds of prey.

Dick volunteers at ABNC because he feels educating the public about the environment is important. "I believe in Environmental Education and working at the Nature Center has given me an opportunity to learn more about the ecosystems of the upper Texas coast".

We hope volunteering here is valuable to you, Dick, because your help to the nature center is surely valuable to us. Thanks!

VOLUNTEER FORUM

Please mark October 9th on your calendars. This will be the date of our Volunteer Forum. We will meet at 10:00 in the auditorium, and we will discuss the various roles volunteers play at ABNC, retention, training, and other concerns and issues. All volunteers, staff, and trustees are invited and encouraged to attend. As you all know, there have been many changes at the nature center in the last few months and this meeting will give each of us the opportunity to have input in the policies and procedures which affect our organization. It will also give a chance for the new staff members to learn more about the volunteers. Please make plans to attend this important meeting. (You are welcome to bring your lunch, too.)

Susan Williams

MINTUES OF THE MEETING

August 12, 1999

Susan Williams introduced our speaker, Jamie Schubert, who spoke about the ABNC Marsh Restoration.

The business meeting was called to order by Susan Williams; the minutes of the July meeting published in the *Bayou Foliage* were approved. Susan gave the Treasurer's Report in Georgia Colyer's absence; the current checking balance is 1953.85, and the current saving are 616.49, for total assets of 2570.34. Susan announced the future CE classes: Wading Birds of ABNC on 08-28-99, Geology and Paleontology of the Gulf Coast in September, and Moths and Butterflies of Houston in December. Susan stated that Eric Duran is no longer a staff member, but he is still a volunteer and the Vice Chair for the Volunteer Board.

Linda Sumner said that Ephriam Dickson was out of town; she was unable to get the Volunteer of the Month information before he had to leave. Jonathan Perez is now the lab manager. Kim Wasserman was announced to be the new education and volunteer coordinator; Kim has the signup list for volunteer training. A new Eco Adventures brochure mailing has gone out to the schools. Linda and Kim need help putting labels on the envelopes.

Wanda said that we need better communication between the staff and volunteers. "It is very poor." Kim will try to help with the communication in the volunteer office. Cris Santiago suggested putting a big sign out front of ABNC advising the public of volunteer opportunities. Susan Williams announced a Volunteer Forum at 10AM on 10-9-99 where you can voice your input on changes. Ramon McKinney said that we need a meeting now, but Susan said that it couldn't be scheduled until October because of volunteer training. If you want to be on the nominating committee for the next Volunteer Board, let Susan know.

Jane Bingel has the signup sheet for Fall Festival. One chair is still needed to oversee getting the tickets to the ticket booths. Becky Brignac and Judy Houston have gotten the crafts and entertainment in place. You don't have to wear a costume to Fall Festival, but you are encouraged to do so. The supplies are being provided to make aprons if you would like to sew and get volunteer hours.

Ruby and Polly said that the demos will be from 1pm to 4pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Susan thanked Cris, Irene, and Patrick for the refreshments; volunteers are needed for the refreshments in September.

Hanna announced a need for admissions volunteers. Keshia is back. Hanna encouraged everyone to come to the Trustee Board meetings every third Thursday at 5pm to observe and listen.; if you want to speak, you must get on the docket first by talking to one of the staff; you must also tell someone in the Executive Committee of the Trustee Board what you are going to talk about. Kim said that the minutes of the Board of Trustee meetings are posted on the bulleting board in the

volunteer office. Give changes of address to Ruby. Per Linda Sumner, go to Kim as your contact with the staff. At present, Linda Sumner and Kim Wasserman work Tue - Sat. George Regmund works Wed - Sun. Ephriam Dickson and Lynn work Mon - Fri. Patrick works Tue - Sat. Mark works Wed - Sun. School groups can come on Tuesday now. Jane Bingel said that we have training if you don't know how to do something. The meeting was adjourned.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hamlett**

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

ABNC Volunteer Board

There will be several open positions on the volunteer board next year including Treasurer, Admissions Coordinator, Weekday Farm Coordinator, Weekday Trail Coordinator, Weekend Trail Coordinator, Interpretation Coordinator, and Weekend Demo Coordinator. Please take some time to consider serving in one of these important jobs. We also need a few more people to help out on the Nominating Committee. Call me at (281) 487-3033, or send me an e-mail (sfwilliams@pdq.net) if you would like to help out with any of these jobs or would like to learn more about them.
Volunteer Office

Volunteer Office

The logbook and sign-up sheets for continuing education classes are now located in the Heiman House in the room which now also serves as an office for the volunteer coordinator, Kim Wasserman.

Susan Williams, Chair

FALL FESTIVAL NEWS

Fall Festival is fast approaching I know November 13th and 14th seem to be far away, but it takes a lot of people and a lot of preparation to make it a success.

I urge you to please sign up early. That way, you have a better chance to get the activity you want to participate in. It would be great if you would sign up for two slots a day. You're out there anyway, so why not make it a full day: one slot for you to do your thing and two to work and have fun.

Also, period dresses are optional this year, but we do urge you to wear one. They can be as simple as a long skirt and a comfortable blouse. However, if you do feel more comfortable in jeans, that's ok too. The important thing is to come out, help, and have fun. Thanks for all your help

The sign up sheets are in the Heiman House, in the new volunteer room. The sheets will be on the small desk right next to the Volunteer logbook.

Jane Bingel

TO THE VOLUNTEERS OF ABNC

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kim Wasserman, and I am very excited to be a new employee at ABNC. My title is Education/Volunteer Coordinator.

For the last 4 ½ years I worked at the Houston Zoo for a Houston ISD third grade environmental education program. It's called the Wildlife Discovery Program, and it focuses on endangered species and conservation. During my summers off I participated in several volunteer programs, so I can certainly relate to the needs of the volunteers.

I plan on making my new position a resource to you. We have a new volunteer office located in the Heiman House, next to the green house. This will be a central location to find out about ABNC's special events, programs, volunteer opportunities, and what's new with you. One of my goals will be to keep the communication open among the volunteers and between the volunteers and ABNC. I know you are making a strong difference at the nature center, and I want to help with that process.

I would greatly appreciate any ideas or requests you may have for the new office, and would like to invite you to come visit your new home. I look forward to meeting you.

Kim Wasserman

HELP WANTED

September is volunteer training month. Your expertise is needed. Volunteer education training is September 25th and October 2nd. If you have a specialty like forest ecology, prairie ecology, or wood crafting and would like to break in a new volunteer, please come sign up. Volunteers are also invited and encouraged to attend any of the training sessions to expand your ABNC resume. Anyone interested, come visit the volunteer office (Heiman House) or call Kim Wasserman at (281)-474-2551. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

A big thanks to all the stewardship volunteers who have turned out in the last few weeks to support the marsh restoration work. As of August 21st, volunteers have worked 9 consecutive weekends setting posts, installing netting, and planting several thousand smooth cordgrass plants. We are presently working at the third site (it takes time; they are large) and have several more before the project is complete. Work is planned to continue every weekend into the fall. If you are interested, even if it's only for one time, and I haven't been contacting you, please give me a call.

Ken Russell,
Stewardship Coordinator

EDUCATION NEWS

New Eco-Adventures Brochure

A new EcoAdventures education program brochure has been developed. The programs are still the same, but the formatting and graphic design are much more eye catching. This goes along with ABNC's goal to increase youth group attendance. We are in the process of distributing 5,000 copies to Houston area schools and youth groups. Come by the volunteer office (Heiman House) and check it out.

ABNC Attendance Offer

In another effort to increase ABNC attendance, we are excited to offer free admissions to schools and youth groups registering on or before October 1st. This offer includes general admission; therefore, it will not require any additional volunteer hours. A flyer will be distributed along with the new Eco-Adventures brochure.

A BIG THANKS

I would like to say a big thanks to all of my trail guides. You've been awesome!

Cris Santiago

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jean Kruse	9/07	Sandy Parker	9/09
Irene Ward	9/11	Jane Bock	9/14
Joshua Baukman	9/18	Danny Yancey	9/19
Marian Rouse	9/20	Jim Yaeger	9/24
Alan Wenger	9/24	Andrew Hamlett	9/25
Christine Ribeiro	9/27	Cynthia Jennings	9/28
Lou Wheatcraft	9/29	Trang Le	9/29
Michael Owens	9/29	Louise Peck	9/29

FROM THE EDITOR

I would again like to encourage any volunteers who have an interest in contributing to the newsletter to please do so. As well, if you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments about "our" newsletter, I would enjoy hearing from you.

Also, if you are not being listed in the Birthday Roster or have been listed incorrectly, please drop me a note. I realize some volunteers may not be getting listed and would like to correct that as soon as possible.

Feel free to drop a note by the *Bayou Foliage* box or e-mail me at (Bachwblr@aol.com) anytime. Thanks!

Andrew Hamlett

Raffle Quilt

"Fields of Blue"



The 1999 raffle quilt, hand made by ABNC volunteers, is a knockout. The quilt is made up of 28 squares of stylized bluebonnets, alternating with 28 nine-patch squares. Each square is different but the overall effect is blue.

This is a large quilt, 95 x 108.

The back of the quilt is decorated with 2 bluebonnet squares and a patched map of Texas, each ecological zone a different color.

The quilting of the project is especially unique. All is done by hand. Each square has a different quilting design. Anyone who can locate a butterfly with folded wings will win a free raffle ticket.

The quilt will be on display in the Kaneka building every weekend beginning the first week of October. The drawing will take place at the Yuletide Market event on December 4, 1999.

You may order your raffle tickets by mail by filling out the form below. Your stubs will be added to the pot, and your tickets will be mailed to you.

The ticket price is \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for 5.00. Make checks payable to Armand Bayou Nature Center.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

**Mail to: Armand Bayou Nature Center
Quilt Raffle
P.O. Box 58828
Houston, Texas 77258**

The World We Live In

By: Jonathan Perez

The Gulf of Mexico is an important source of oil, gas, recreation, and habitat. Over the years, however, there has been little effort to study the marine mammals of the Gulf and the possible effects oil and gas exploration may have on them. The focus of this article will be on one group of marine mammals, the cetaceans, found in the offshore Gulf of Mexico.

The order *Cetacea* includes whales, dolphins, and porpoises. The order is typically divided up into smaller groups or suborders, called *Odontoceti*, or the toothed whales, and *Mysticeti*, or the baleen whales. The toothed whales include the dolphins, porpoises, sperm and beaked whales, and the baleen whales include the gray and right whales. The baleen whales, with the possible exception of Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*), are rare, if not non-existent in the Gulf.

Throughout the world, there are approximately 76 species of cetaceans, with 27 being documented for the Gulf of Mexico. The bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) is not included in this number because it is more a coastal species, although more are being found in the outer continental shelf and slope or "offshore area" of the Gulf. According to Jefferson and Schiro (1997) who reviewed 1,223 records of cetacean reports, which include sightings, stranding, captures, and for the sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), old whaling records, "offshore cetaceans are defined here to include all those whose members of the order *Cetacea* found in the Gulf of Mexico, with the exception of the bottlenose dolphin."

What follows is a brief breakdown and description of the species of cetaceans found in the offshore Gulf of Mexico. The dates represent the time the sighting or account of the cetacean was first reported and published.

Northern Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*) - The Northern Right Whale is not a normal inhabitant of the Gulf, and only two confirmed accounts have been made. One account was a spring sighting off of Florida, in 1963, and the other was a winter stranding in Texas in 1972. Three other records are questionable due to incomplete evidence of their presence. It is concluded that the records that do exist for this whale are of those that wandered from their normal distribution off the southeastern US coast from Georgia to northeastern Florida.

Rorquals (*Balaenoptera spp.*) - There are five species in the genus *Balaenoptera*. They are all cosmopolitan and occur in all oceans and major seas. All five species have been observed in the Gulf of Mexico.

Blue Whale (*B. musculus*) - There have only been two reliable records of the blue whale in the Gulf. Both of these records were of strandings and were positively identified to be blue whales. Two other reports of blue whales have been made but are questionable, and some records of unidentified balaenopterids could possibly be blue whales. As of now, however, there is little justification for considering the blue whale to be a regular inhabitant of the Gulf.

Fin Whale (*B. physalus*) - Seven reports of the fin whale in the Gulf are considered reliable while four others are questionable. It is apparent that the fin whale is not abundant in the Gulf but is possible that the Gulf represents a part of the range of a small population of fin whales located in the western Atlantic (or some other area). It is also likely that a small relict population is resident

in this area of the Gulf or that the records are extralimital, which is most likely the cause of the few sightings reported.

Sei Whale (*B. borealis*) - This whale occurs primarily in temperate waters and are represented in the Gulf by only four reliable records and one questionable record. This species is generally considered to be the one most likely to wander and be accidentally found in the Gulf, however, three of the four reliable records are from strandings in eastern Louisiana.

Bryde's Whale (*B. edeni*) - This species is represented by more records than any other species of baleen whale (fifteen verified records and three questionable) although they are probably not common in the Gulf. Bryde's whale inhabits tropical and subtropical waters all year round. Stranding records for the Gulf were found to be throughout the year, and it is likely that the Gulf represents a small portion of the range of a dispersed, resident population of Bryde's whale. Even though these whales are uncommon, the Bryde's whale is more likely to be found than any other baleen whale in the Gulf.

Minke Whale (*B. acutorostrata*) - There are ten reliable and two questionable records of Minke's whales in the Gulf. All are of strandings and seven of these reports were from the winter or spring, suggesting that either a small group of Minke's whales migrates regularly into the Gulf in the winter time, or that these records were of strays that wandered into the Gulf from the low latitude breeding grounds of the western north Atlantic. The latter hypothesis is considered to be the more likely of the two.

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) - There are seven records of humpback whales in the Gulf of Mexico that are considered reliable and two that are questionable. The records are all of sightings with all of them, except for one, being seen in shallow, near shore waters. The breeding grounds for one population of humpback whales are in the north Atlantic in the West Indies. Most of these humpbacks migrate in the wintertime towards the Dominican Republic while some venture as far south as Venezuela. It is possible that some stray into the Gulf, either migrating south towards the over wintering grounds or while migrating back north towards the West Indies. The time of year the sightings occurred (six were in winter and spring) and the small size of the animals (most likely inexperienced yearlings on their first return migration) support this hypothesis.

Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*) - Sperm whales have massive distribution, ranging from the tropics to ice edges in deep waters of both hemispheres. There are numerous records of sperm whale in the Gulf, 189 reliable records and only two questionable ones. Other than the Atlantic spotted dolphin, the sperm whale has the highest number of records than any other cetacean found in the Gulf. The records show no seasonal pattern, perhaps the lower number of winter sightings are due to low visibility and a decrease in offshore activity. Sperm whales are found primarily in deep waters beyond the continental shelf, although there are a few records of sperm whales from over the shelf. It appears that there is a resident population of sperm whales in the Gulf of Mexico, and there is no doubt that the sperm whale, by far, is the most common large whale found in the Gulf at any given time of year.

Pygmy and Dwarf Sperm Whales (*Kogia spp.*) - Two species of *Kogia* are currently known, and it is only recently that scientists agreed upon separating the two species. Because of this taxonomic problem and the difficulty identifying these animals, there are forty-eight records that cannot be confidently assigned to either species. Sixty-one reliable records exist for the pygmy whale

(*K. breviseps*, all of them are strandings) and thirty-nine for the dwarf sperm whale (*K. simus*, most are of strandings).

Cuvier's Beaked Whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) – Most of the records for the Cuvier's beaked whale are of strandings, with twenty-four reliable and one questionable record being documented for the Gulf. This is the most common cosmopolitan of all the beaked whales and is probably the most common beaked whale in the Gulf. It is scattered more or less equally throughout the four seasons.

Mesoplodonts (*Mesoplodon spp.*) – Three of the thirteen species of mesoplodonts have been reliably reported for the Gulf of Mexico. The taxonomy of the species is still being debated, and there is a tremendous amount of difficulty in identifying the species. The three species of mesoplodonts that have been positively identified for the Gulf are the Gervais' beaked whale (*M. europaeus*), Blainville's beaked whales (*M. densirostris*, and Sowerby's beaked whale (*M. bidens*). It is quite possible that other species, such as True's beaked whale (*M. mirus*), could possibly be found in the Gulf.

Killer Whale (*Orcinus orca*) – Killer whales, or orcas, are found in all oceans and seas and is probably the most widely distributed cetacean in the entire world. There are fifteen reliable records of killer whales in the Gulf and two that are questionable. Most of these records are of sightings at sea and are recorded for all four seasons, although there is a slight spring/summer peak. However, this may be due to the increased activity and visibility during this time of year. It seems likely that there are a small number of pods that use the offshore waters of the Gulf as all or part of their normal range.

Short-finned Pilot Whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*) – There are sixty-four reliable records for this whale and seventeen questionable ones. Historically, these whales were commonly spotted in the offshore Gulf of Mexico (they were the fifth most common cetacean in the Gulf) Over the past few decades, however, their abundance and distribution has changed so that recent sightings are relatively uncommon.

False Killer Whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) – The false killer whale has been reliably reported recorded for the Gulf of Mexico twenty-seven times. Most of the sightings have been past the continental shelf, but few have been seen in nearby oceanic waters. It is mentioned that there is some inshore movement associated with the movement of prey and warm water currents. There is a large peak of strandings in the summertime, but the sample size is too small to tell if this peak is significant or indicative of seasonal abundance.

Pygmy Killer Whale (*Feresa attenuata*) – Pygmy killer whales do not appear to be common in the Gulf. There are nineteen reliable records for the Gulf, most of them of strandings. There is a wintertime peak but again, the sample size is too small to positively correlate seasonally with abundance.

Melon-headed Whale (*Peponocephala electra*) – The first records of the melon-headed whale were only recently obtained. These records consist of two strandings, one in Texas in 1990 and the other in Louisiana in 1991. Since these dates, there have been a number of recent reliable sightings, totaling twelve records. Most of these sightings were in deep waters well past the edge of the continental shelf.

Risso's Dolphin (*Grampus griseus*) – Risso's dolphin was considered to be rare in the Gulf before 1966. Today, there are

ninety-six reliable records with the vast majority of them to be of sightings. The number of Risso's dolphin has dramatically increased in recent years and although the reason for their change in frequency is still being researched, it is concluded that this species is not rare in the Gulf.

Rough-toothed Dolphin (*Steno bredanensis*) – Although not very common, the records of the rough-toothed dolphin indicate that it can be found in the Gulf at any given time during a year. There are twenty-one reliable and one questionable record for this species.

Fraser's Dolphin (*Lagenodelphis hosei*) – There are very few records of this species from the Atlantic Ocean and until 1992, there was only one record from the Gulf of Mexico, a mass stranding in the Florida Keys. The first sightings were documented in 1992 and since then, there have been a number of others (seven reliable records from all four seasons).

Common Dolphin (*Delphinus spp.*) – After much debate, it is generally agreed upon that the short and long-beaked variety of the common dolphin are now separate species. The short-beaked common dolphin (*D. delphis*) is known from the east coast of Florida while the nearest occurrence of the long-beaked dolphin (*D. capensis*) is from Venezuelan waters. There have been a number of recorded sightings and strandings of dolphins that claim to have been common dolphins. However, upon further research, they were all dismissed and determined to be other species of dolphin. To date, there are no reliable records or specimens of common dolphins from the Gulf, and it is therefore concluded that this species is not known to occur in these waters. However, because of their known distribution and proximity to the Gulf, it is quite possible that they may be sighted or found in the near future.

Atlantic Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*) This species is endemic to the tropical to warm temperate waters of the Atlantic Ocean. There are more records of Atlantic spotted Dolphin than any other offshore cetacean. 194 reliable records exist for this species. This is the only species, other than the bottlenose dolphin, which commonly occurs over the continental shelf, although most of the sightings were made past the shelf.

Pantropical Spotted Dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*) – Recent research and evidence has shown that this tropical dolphin is the most common and abundant dolphin in the oceanic waters of the Gulf (deeper than 200 meters). There are 112 records mostly of sightings, with many of these resulting from recent deep-water surveys of the northern Gulf.

Striped Dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) – There are relatively few verified records of the striped dolphin (only twenty-seven) but many questionable ones (forty-one). In most areas of the world, the primary habitat of the striped dolphin appears to be in deep waters greater than 200 meters, and because of this, the accuracy of many of these sightings is questioned.

Spinner Dolphin (*Stenella longirostris*) – Nineteen verified records and ten questionable records exist for this species of dolphin from the Gulf of Mexico. This is fewer than any other species of *Stenella*, but there are records from all four seasons. However, because of the small sample size, no conclusions can be made on its seasonality.

Clymene Dolphin (*Stenella clymene*) – The Clymene dolphin is endemic to the Atlantic and is typically found in tropical and subtropical waters. There are fifty verified records from the Gulf and once questionable record. This indicates that this species is probably not rare in the offshore Gulf. Also, there is no evidence for seasonal difference in sightings or strandings.

Environmental Notebook
Sustainability, Part 1
By Lou Wheatcraft

In this article I will begin a new series that looks into key aspects of what it means to have a sustainable future.

The Issue:

As the Earth's population increases and resources are depleted, the need to achieve long term sustainability becomes critical.

The importance of this issue was brought to global center stage during the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. A major outcome of the Rio Earth Summit was Agenda 21 which highlighted the potential risks to ecology and long-term economic development created by past and current industrialization practices. Agenda 21 stressed the need for fundamental changes in order to conserve natural and biological resources, limit pollution, and to pay greater attention to the issue of sustainable development. Agenda 21 states: "Achieving the goals of environmental quality and sustainable development will require efficiencies in production and changes in consumption patterns in order to emphasize optimization of resource use and minimization of wastes."^[1]

The central vision of Armand Bayou Nature Center is to reconnect people to nature. Through knowledge comes understanding and appreciation, the first steps toward conservation [and the ultimate goal of a sustainable way of life.] In order to achieve this goal it is important for all of us to understand just what sustainability means and what it will take to achieve a sustainable way of life.

The National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America in Detroit was held on May 2-5, 1999, in Detroit, Michigan. Billed as the first such "Town Meeting" of its kind, this was probably the largest congregation of U.S. political, environmental, and industrial heavy hitters to be assembled in one place at one time all with a common vision to create a "long term" and "sustainable" future for America. The National Town Meeting was held to engage all Americans in charting a course for prosperity in the years ahead. Concepts like "sustainability" and "smart growth" are about improving quality of life for all, both in present and future generations. At the "National Town Meeting For A Sustainable America" we, as a nation, began this process by focusing on solutions being generated in our own homes, communities and workplaces.

This conference was sponsored by the President's Council on Sustainable Development and the Global Environment and Technology Foundation. The President's Council on Sustainable Development has a very progressive vision statement.

"Our vision is of a life-sustaining Earth. We are committed to the achievement of a dignified, peaceful, and equitable existence. A sustainable United States will have a growing economy that provides equitable opportunities for satisfying

livelihoods and a safe, healthy, high quality of life for current and future generations. Our nation will protect its environment, its natural resources base, and the functions and viability of natural systems on which all life depends."

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S. Vice President: Al Gore; Detroit Mayor: Dennis W. Archer; Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation: Rodney Slater; Secretary of Commerce: William M. Daley; GM CEO: John Smith; Dow Chemical CEO: William S. Stavropoulos; Ford Vice Chairman: Peter J. Pestillo; Earth Day Founder: Denis Hayes; Alternative Energy Guru: Amory Lovins; Eco-Industrial Pioneer: Ray Anderson; and World Resources Institute President: Jonathan Lash

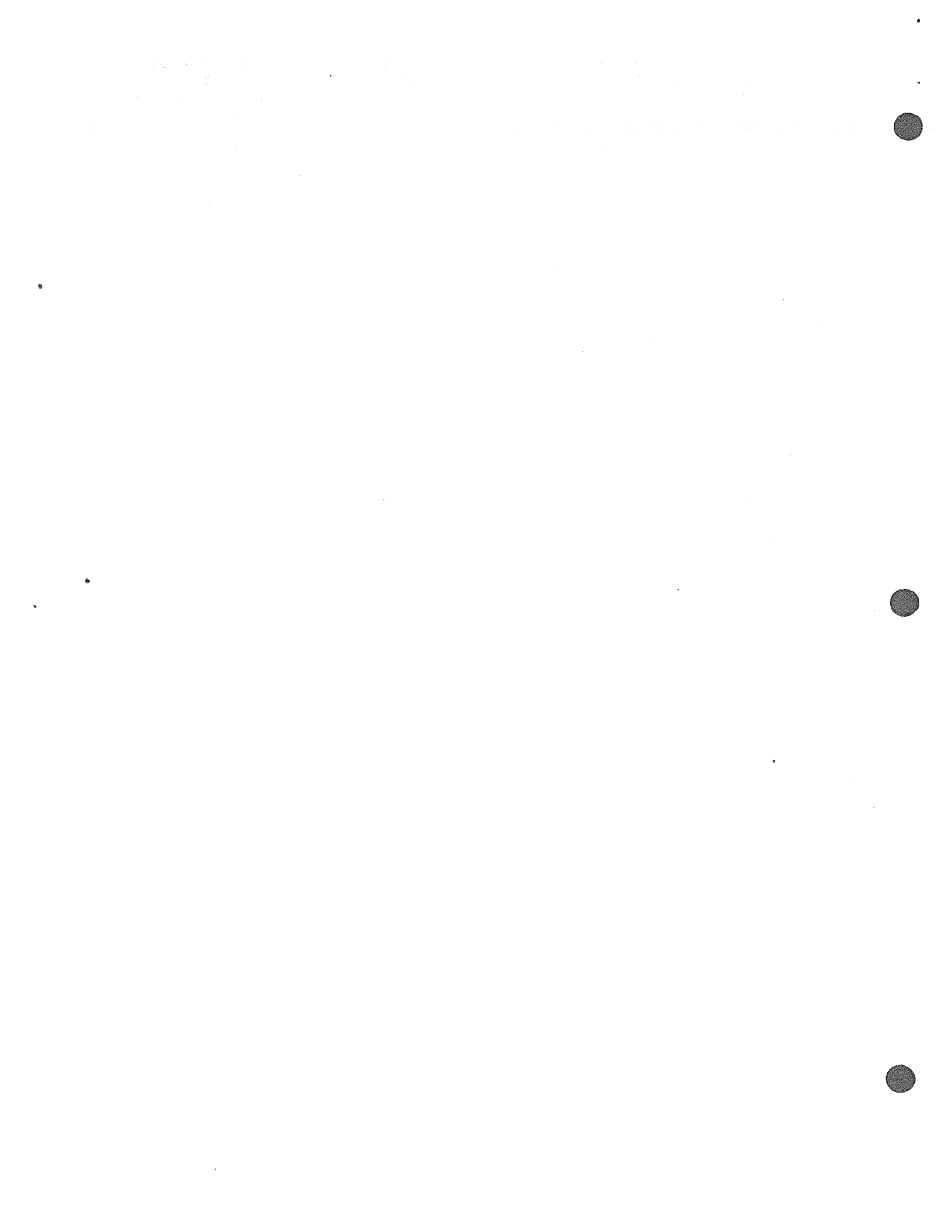
MAIN THEMES:

- (1) Evolution of a new economic paradigm (now called "Ecological Economics", with concepts such as "Natural Capital") which accounts for "ecological services" as the basis for all cost accounting in regards to the use of natural resources. Retiring of the obsolete neoclassical economic model.
- (2) Industrial design to be "closed loop". Zero pollution. All processes and materials to be accounted for through recycling, reuse or resale. Nothing to be added into a waste stream. All companies accountable for all products they manufacture for all time. If you make it your responsible for it. Period.
- (3) No sewage. Waste Equals Food. Closed loop design in regards to water use. No wastewater returned to the environment. All wastewater locally purified through natural non-polluting methods (particularly methods of natural bio-breakdown).
- (4) Design to be "Environmental Regenerative". It is not enough simply to design in ways which "minimize harm", we have to actually "improve" the lot. Design for "environmental restoration". (The prairie restoration we do at ABNC falls into this area.)
- (5) Design for future generations - Consider the future of all species for all time. As Jim McDonough put it, we need to design as if our goal were "To love all the children of all species for all time".
- (6) Complete migration away from all fossil fuels and CO2 emissions.
- (7) Rapid adoption of non-polluting hydro-electric fuel cells and solar power as fundamental elements of a new energy paradigm for home, industry, and travel.

In future articles I will be going into more depth in each of these areas.

Bibliography:

1. "Eco-Efficiency, The Business Link to Sustainable Development"; Livio D. DeSimone, Frank Popoff; MIT Press, 1997
2. "THE OASIS THAT IS NOT A MIRAGE A Personal Report on The National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America" by Seth J. Itzkan, Planet-TECH Associates
3. SUNetwork Sustainable America.com, web page at: <http://www.sustainableusa.org/default.cfm>



VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 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.

Please note, because of the recent hours change at the nature center, all demo's, farm interpretation, and information services being done on Sundays will be from (1-4).

DATE	11:00 TRAIL	2:00 TRAIL	INFO. SERVICES	FARM INTER.	FARM DEMO	NAT. HISTORY DEMO
Sat. 9/4	Jim Crabb	--	Christine Naspinski	Jane Bingel	Irene Ward (Butter)	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
Sun. 9/5	--	Ray Parker	Ken Russell	Penny Woodward	Ann Brinly (Weaving)	Cathy Searcy Jett (Roseate Spoonbills)
Sat. 9/11	Marianne Phillips	John Siptak	Danny Yancey	Eleanor Stanley	Jane Bingel (Butter)	Ed Adams (Reptiles)
Sun. 9/12	--	Martha Hood	Doug Barfoot	Polly Swerdlin	Patrick Wornick (Blacksmith)	Christine Ribeiro (Armadillos)
Sat. 9/18	Louise Peck	Melanie Weisman	Georgia Colyer	Dan & Jen Pelletier (Stereopticon)	Chris Bingham (Mammals)	Patsy Cashion Opossums
Sun. 9/19	--	Patty Pennington	Merle Bunde	Christine Ribeiro	Stephania Rogers (Rope Making)	Eleanor Stanley (Alligators)
Sat. 9/25	Cris Santiago	--	Joan Shack	Stephania Rogers	Irene Ward (Stereopticon)	Pat Doerr (Hummingbirds)
Sun. 9/26	--	Merle Bunde	Katerina Grundy	Cathy Searcy Jett	Jim Callan (Farm Equipment)	Zel Arbuckle (Reptiles)

IF YOU CAN FILL IN ANY OF THE BLANK SPOTS, PLEASE CALL THE APPROPRIATE COORDINATOR. THANKS!

1999 VOLUNTEER BOARD

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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