

# Bayou Foliage

December 2000

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

Vol. 19 No. 12

## LOOKING AHEAD

### DECEMBER CALENDAR

#### Dec. 2

- Yuletide Gathering, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Dec. 7

- Volunteer Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Dec. 10

- Down on the Farm committee meeting, 4 p.m. (*open to all*)

#### Dec. 14

- Volunteer Meeting and Christmas Party

### JANUARY CALENDAR

#### Jan. 4

- Volunteer Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

#### Jan. 12

- 6:30 p.m.—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Watch for more information in January.

#### Jan. 20

- Annual ABNC Members Meeting

### VOLUNTEER MEETING

**C**HRISTMAS POTLUCK and a Brief Meeting - December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: This year we will **NOT** have a gift exchange.

Volunteers, bring your significant others and join us for Christmas Potluck and a very short meeting.

Bring your favorite Christmas tape or showcase your talent. If you have an idea for entertainment, or if you would like to

produce a skit, contact Ed Adams or Stan Krauhs.

We ask that you bring a dish that will serve eight people. We need meats, vegetables, salads, and desserts (and a few dinner rolls). Nothing is assigned. Coffee, hot apple cider, ham and turkey will be available, but you may want to bring beverages of your choice for yourself. Plates, cups, utensils and napkins will be furnished.

The Volunteer Board is hoping all the volunteers will come to this gathering. It has been a great year and sharing a meal together would be a perfect finale.

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

**E**ach month an ABNC Volunteer is recognized for his or her outstanding service to the Nature Center. This month's special volunteer is **Jim Callan**. Jim is a native Texan, originally from Abilene. He and his wife, Jana who is also a volunteer, moved to this area in 1991. They wandered into the Nature Center one day and shortly after that

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*He works so hard out in the field that he often loses his nametag. I think he is on his fifth one.*

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they participated in Fall Festival. Jim and Jana went through volunteer training in February 1995 and became official ABNC Volunteers.

Jim is heavily involved in stewardship activities. He works so hard out in the field that he often loses his nametag. I think he is on his fifth one. Jim also does environmental work for Shell. He is a chemical engineer and says he tries to keep things clean. Besides stewardship, Jim is heavily involved in ABNC's special events. He says he enjoys interacting with the staff and volunteers and special events are a good time for everyone to get together.

Jim, ABNC enjoys having you around and appreciates all the hard work you do. Thank you.



# MINUTES

## MINUTES OF THE VOLUNTEER MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2000

Meeting was called to order by Ed Adams, Chairman of the Volunteer Board.

Prior to the business portion of the monthly meeting, Stan Krauhs, introduced our speaker for the night.

The minutes from the October meeting, as published in the *Bayou Foliage*, were approved.

Judy Sharp, Treasurer, was absent. Ed Adams, reported that current assets for November total \$1,894.72.

Stan Krauhs, Vice-Chair, reported that a continuing class on "Mushroom Hunting, Identification and Tasting" would be held in December.

Anne Tincher, Week-Day Outdoor Education Coordinator, reported that classes are pretty much filled for the remainder of the year. December 14th will be the last day of classes for this year.

Stephanie Rogers, Week-Day Farm Coordinator, wanted to thank everybody for the cookies that have been donated for Fall Festival.

Ruby Dilgren, Week-End Trails Coordinator, thanked volunteers that had signed up as trail guides for December. She will be recruiting for January soon, and hopes to have some new volunteers help out.

Eleanor Stanley, Weekend Demo Coordinator, reported that she needs volunteers for Christmas Eve, and New Year's Eve. If you would like to help during these

dates, please let her know.

Ken Russell, Stewardship Coordinator, was absent. Mark Kramer said that a prairie burn class will be scheduled soon for those wishing to participate in the burn season, which begins the first week in December.

Joan Henderson, Admissions Coordinator, reported details about the Christmas party. Please see the program for the next volunteer meeting for more details. If you are interested in decorating before the party, contact Ruby Dilgren.

A special THANK YOU was expressed to Joan Henderson, Irene Ward, Rita Barnes, and Wanda Hayden for putting together this last month's Bayou Foliage.

No report was given by Jane Bingel, Outreach Coordinator.

Kim Wasserman, announced that Jim Callan was volunteer of the month.

To learn more, see the "Volunteer of the Month" section of Bayou Foliage.

Kim also reported that she is working on getting a college intern to help out with the animals that will be at the Nature Center in the upcoming months. Also, the hawks should be in the exhibit this weekend.

Creepy Crawlers was a big success, with Friday night's attendance being 499 individuals, and Saturday with 495.

Under upcoming events, Polly Swerdlin reported that volunteers are still needed for Fall Festival. George Regmund and Mary Alice answered last minute questions about Fall Festival.

Under unfinished business, Barbara Hill, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, reported

that the slate for the new officers is complete.

Chairperson - Ed Adams  
Vice-Chair - Stan Krauhs  
Treasurer - Ken Russell  
Secretary - Irene Ward  
Week-Day Outdoor Education - Laura Bradley,  
Week-Day Farm - Stephanie Rogers  
Weekend Trails - Ruby Dilgren,  
Weekend Demos - Michael & Eldine Owens  
Outreach - Dottie Evans  
Interpretations & Front Desk Greeters - Jane Bingel  
Stewardship - Jim Callan  
Admissions - Christine Hiscox.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Secretary  
Martha Hood

# EVENTS

## DOWN ON THE FARM MEETING

Date: December 10, at 4 p.m.

Good news! Our Down on the Farm event has become so popular that we will be expanding the event to be a full day rather than from noon to five. It is scheduled for March 24, 2001. We want to have everything in good order and ready for a fun-filled day. That means we must start our planning now.

If you want to help organize Down on the Farm, please join Becky Brignac on December 10, 2000, at 4 p.m. in the Education Building. This meeting is open to all.

## BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS VOLUNTEERS ONLY

### *Volunteer Fundraiser*

Date: January 13, 2001

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Place: Farmhouse

Cost: \$20.00/person

Call: Jane Bingel at 281-554-5069

On January 13, 2001, you can hop out of bed early and join other bird watching enthusiasts at the farmhouse to do some great birding and then come and have a four, or maybe a five star, breakfast in the farmhouse.

Birding will be led by expert birder Paula Kennedy. After birding enjoy a superb breakfast of sausage, eggs, pancakes, and home-made biscuits—all cooked on the woodburning stove. Top those warm pancakes and biscuits with freshly churned butter.

We can only accommodate 14 people. Sign up early!

## OTHER BUSINESS

### NEW VOLUNTEER ROSTER

The new Active Volunteer Roster will be ready the second week of December. Pick up your copy in the Volunteer Office.

### NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2001 VOLUNTEER BOARD

Nominations for the Volunteer Board for the year 2001 are as follows. Voting will be conducted at the next Volunteer Meeting.

*Chairman*—Ed Adams

*Vice-Chairman*—Stan Krauhs

*Secretary*—Irene Ward

*Treasurer*—Ken Russell

*Stewardship*—Jim Callan

*Interpretations*—Jane Bingel

*Admissions*—Christine Hiscox

*Weekend Demos*—Eldine & Michael  
Owens

*Weekend Trails*—Ruby Dilgren

*Weekday Farm*—Stephania Rogers

*Weekday Outdoor Education*—  
Laura Bradley

*Outreach*—Dottie Evans

## GREETERS INTERPRETERS/DEMOS

Reminder: If you are doing a demo or acting as a greeter/interpreter, please check in with the front desk BEFORE reporting to your duty station. The front desk personnel keep track of which programs are a "go."

## LOCK THE FARMHOUSE

Reminder: If you unlock the farmhouse for whatever reason (cleaning, repair, demo, interpretation), please lock it up and return the key to the front desk. The farmhouse should never be left unlocked.

## RECYCLING REPORT

Congratulations, volunteers! You helped save 26.55 cubic yards of landfill space by making use of the Donohue Paper Retrievers (recycling bins). For the months of July through September 2000, proceeds from the bins earned a total of \$98.94 for our treasury. Be sure to save your newspapers, magazines, and other paper (see last month's *Bayou Foliage* for a detailed list) and drop them off in

the bins in the front parking lot. Planet Earth says, "Thanks."

Judy Sharp, Treasurer

## FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

### Supplies Still Needed

The Education Department is looking for more supplies. We need box turtle shells, cicada molts and clear tennis ball holders. If you see these items please collect them and bring them to the volunteer office. We use these items in our programs and they are not available for purchase.

### Say Cheese

I will be poking around taking pictures of all the wonderful activities y'all do here at ABNC. So just keep doing what you are doing. Thanks, Kim.

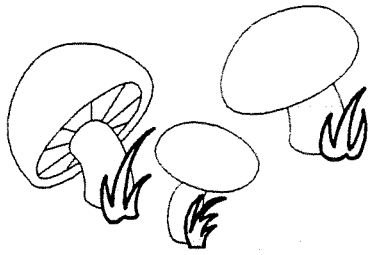
### Reminder

It is getting close to the end of the year, so please, please get your hours up-to-date.



### Animal Care Internship

ABNC is in the process of creating an unpaid animal care internship position. We will be trying to recruit college students who need this kind of experience to complete degrees related to this area. If you have any ideas or know anyone interested please contact Kim Wasserman at the Nature Center.



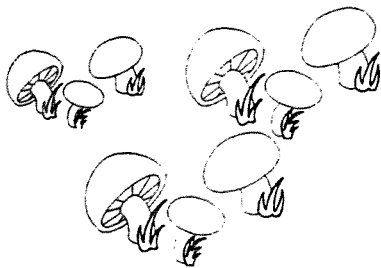
## CONTINUING ED

### CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR DECEMBER

Program: Mushroom Hunting,  
Identification, and Tasting  
When: Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30 a.m., weather permitting  
(meet inside the Education  
Building entryway)  
Length: 2 hours (approx)

What better way to learn about mushrooms than hunting for them in the wild, learning about those found and then experiencing the delicate flavor of those that are edible. *Jim Crabb*, our own volunteer expert on mushrooms, will take a maximum of 15 people out on the trails to hunt for and identify mushrooms. Jim will teach us about the fungi found at ABNC and instruct us on which are edible and which are not. The program will conclude with the collected edible mushrooms being sautéed for all to taste.

This program is dependent on weather conditions. Those signed up will be notified if the program has to be rescheduled.



## BAYOU BANTER

### BOOK REVIEW *GREAT PLAINS*

Recently a singer/songwriter on Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home Companion on NPR talked about the influence of a book called *Great Plains* by Ian Frazier. Since ABNC is restoring prairie, I thought this book would be an interesting read.

In the "olden days" the Great Plains covered large portions of ten midwestern states including Texas. Presently there are just vestiges of those millions of grassland acres. The number of stories the author gathers far exceeds those original states.

He has a keen interest in Indian history and lore and as he travels up and down these states he gathers information, facts and figures and meets lots of interesting people. This is particularly true when he stops at the library of Fort Robinson Museum in McCook, Nebraska. Who does he meet but our own *Ephriam Dickson III*. Ask Ephriam to tell you how and why!

If you want to do a quick peruse there are over fifty pages of notes and index. There are several pages of photos and a couple of maps of the Great Plains area, one showing the area covered by the author.

I personally wish this map were better illustrated. If you want to "visit" an area perhaps unknown to you as it was to me, this is a very enjoyable book!

Barb Hill

## INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Let us hear from you. This is YOUR volunteer newsletter. Each one of you is encouraged to submit information and comments. Is there a story you would like us to report? Rita Barnes is our volunteer reporter and loves to write. Talk with Rita at 281-480-0770 or by e-mail (via Joan Henderson) at [hendrsn@texas.net](mailto:hendrsn@texas.net). The submission deadline is the second Tuesday of each month.

### NEW ANIMALS

*Jonathan Perez* says that good news is just around the corner regarding the raptors and the bisons. As of press time he was unable to release details but hinted that things are moving along rapidly. Keep your eyes peeled for new animals.

### SPECIAL THANKS!

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, *Christine Hiscox* and *Laura Bradley* became TV stars!

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce was at ABNC filming a commercial and short video. Everyone teaching on that day was put on full alert that his or her group might be filmed. Christine and Laura were the lucky ones (I am not so sure they see it that way).

Thanks for dealing with the interruptions and your help. You both did a GREAT job!

See you on the small screen!  
Linda Sumner

## ALL CANNERS READ THIS

The canned vegetables in the jars at the farmhouse have become pale and unappealing with age. Do you have a jar or two of freshly canned vegetables or fruit that you can donate to the Nature Center? Six to eight jars would fill the cupboard nicely.

Please call Mary Alice Trumble at 281-486-9418 or bring them to the Volunteer Office.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

To all the cookie bakers and helpers at the cookie booth at Fall Festival - a resounding cheer!

Thanks to *Polly Swerdlin* and her crew for providing a cover for the booth so that the chocolate chips did not melt. Important!

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*The weather made it necessary to very quickly close down on Sunday evening. I think we set a record for packing up and leaving in order to get ahead of the approaching storm.*

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When I arrived at the cookie booth on Saturday I couldn't believe how many cookies had already been delivered there. You had been busy! *Marie Adams*, wife of *Ed*, had baked an amazing eight dozen delicious cookies! Right away, *Barb Hill* arrived to

help me set up the booth, something she does every year as well as baking goodies.

Thanks so much to *Chris Bingham, Ruth Elder, Patsy Cashion, Stan Krauhs* (both days), *Joan Shack, Judy Sharp, Sigrid Chase and Geri Ross* for running the booth so well. In addition I want to thank the others who came by and offered to help so that we could take a break.

We had a need for Handi-Wrap so *Paul Shack* called *Joan* on his cell phone to bring some when she came to help at the booth.

The weather made it necessary to very quickly close down on Sunday evening. I think we set a record for packing up and leaving in order to get ahead of the approaching storm. *Marjorie Borey* insisted on staying until everything was packed into my car before she went home to a worried Roland.

Thank you for all you do.

Stephania Rogers

## YOUR NEWSLETTER

This note is to appeal to your patience as I learn how to use my software more proficiently and as I tamper with the layout. Also, I hope this answers some of the questions you may have had about what is happening with the *Bayou Foliage*. My vision is to create an attractive newsletter that not only informs, but also informs quickly and efficiently. Because of this, contributing volunteers may notice that I've done some editing of their original submission. I do this to facilitate the reader's ability to gain information quickly, or to make a

piece fit within the space I have to work with.

Remember that this is your newsletter. The *Bayou Foliage's* staff is merely a conduit for all that you do. If you have suggestions or contributions you'd like to make, they are welcome. There is only one requirement from me—please give all contributions to Joan Henderson. Because of a busy schedule I do not have the time to gather and type everything that goes into the newsletter. Joan gathers all the information, types it, and then e-mails it to me for layout.

Mary Yurkovich helps with the layout when I don't have the time. As you've read earlier in this newsletter Rita Barnes will contribute articles. Needless-to-say, we all know Wanda Hayden and how hard she works to get this newsletter mailed on time—even when I get it to her late.

You will notice that a new calendar has been added to the newsletter. I wish I could take credit for it, but it wasn't my idea. I find it very informative and hope you do too.

Irene Ward

**Happy Holidays!**



# DUTY ROSTER FOR DECEMBER 2000

If you are scheduled for a particular duty and you are unable to attend, please find your own substitute. If you cannot trade or find a new worker, please be sure to call the appropriate coordinator and the ABNC front desk to inform them. If you can fill in any of the blank spots, please call the appropriate coordinator. Thanks!

## Dec. 3 Saturday

Info Service	None
Farm Interpreter	Jane Bingel
Trail 11 a.m.	Jim Crabb
Trail 2 p.m.	Ray Parker
Farm Demo-Butter	B. Patterson
Natural Hist Demo	None

## Dec. 9 Saturday

Info Services	None
Farm Interpreter	S. Hesley
Trail 11 a.m.	Kelli Glenn
Trail 2 p.m.	Joe Bryan
Farm Demo-Stove	I. Ward
Natural Hist Demo- Bird Adaptations	Pat Doerr

## Dec. 16 Saturday

Info Services	None
Farm Interpreter	S. Williams
Trail 11 a.m.	Louise Peck
Trail 2 p.m.	P. Pennington
Farm Demo-Yarn Dolls	Jane Bingel
Natural Hist Demo- Squirrels	M. Clark

## Dec. 4 Sunday

Info Services	Ken Russell
Farm Interpreter	None
Trail 2 p.m.	M. Hood
Farm Demo-Rope	S. Rogers
Natural Hist-Reptiles	E. Stanley Diana Hardy

## Dec. 10 Sunday

Info Services	Dina Supple
Farm Interpreter	P. Swerdlin
Trail 2 p.m.	C. Santiago
Farm Demo- Bobbin Lace	Ann Brinley
Natural Hist Demo- Snakes	E. Owens

## Dec. 17 Sunday

Info Services	Dina Supple
Farm Interpreter	M. Borey

**NOTE:** Education Classes - If you plan to buddy or observe a program it would be a good idea to let the coordinator know so he/she can call you in case of a cancellation. Please keep in mind that instructors arrive at least 30 minutes before the program to set-up and stay after to clean up. Set-up and clean up are part of the program. See EcoAdventures Brochure for a program description.

## 2000 VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Ed Adams	713-946-2754
Vice Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744
Secretary	Martha Hood	281-286-6746
Treasurer	Judy Sharp	281-488-2762
Stewardship	Ken Russell	281-488-0390
Interpretation	Christine Naspinski	281-291-9513
Admissions	Joan Henderson	281-291-0453
Weekend Demos	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502
Weekend Trail	Ruby Dilgren	281-488-172
Weekday Farm	Stephania Rogers	713-473-4324
Weekday Outdoor Education	Anne Tincher	281-486-5167
Outreach	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069

## *BAYOU FOLIAGE*

Publisher	Joan Henderson	hendrsn@texas.net
Co-Editor	Irene Ward	
Co-Editor	Mary Yurkovich	
Reporter	Rita Barnes	
Circulation	Wanda Hayden	

# D E C E M B E R 2 0 0 0 C A L E N D A R

Dec. 1	Fri.	Farm Life Class (1st grade)	10:00 a.m.	Stephania Rogers (713-473-4324)
		Nature Discovery (6-10 yr. olds)	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher (281-486-5167)
Dec. 2	Sat.	Reptile (Birthday- 3rd gr.)	10:30 a.m.	Kim Wasserman (281-474-2551)
		Yuletide Gathering	4 - 8 p.m.	George Regmund
		Stewardship Project	8:30 a.m.	Ken Russell or Mark Kramer
		Hanson Garden Workday	9:00 a.m.	Chris LaChance
Dec. 5	Tues.	Reptiles (3rd gr.)	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
Dec. 6	Wed	Pond Pals	10:00 a.m.	Anne Tincher
Dec. 7	Thurs.	Reptiles (3rd gr.)	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
		Volunteer Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Ed Adams
Dec. 8	Fri.	Nature Discovery (1st gr.)	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
Dec. 10	Sun.	Down on the Farm Meeting	4:00 p.m.	Becky Brignac
Dec. 9	Sat.	Volunteer Saturday - Outside Work	8:30 a.m.	Patrick Haynes at ABNC
		Night Hike (5 yr. - Adult)	6:30 p.m.	Ruby Dilgren (281-488-1727)
Dec. 12	Tues.	Reptiles	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
Dec. 13	Wed.	Reptiles	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
Dec. 14	Thurs.	Reptiles	10:30 a.m.	Anne Tincher
		Volunteer Christmas Potluck/Meeting	6:30 p.m.	Ed Adams
Dec. 16	Sat.	Continuing Ed - Mushrooms	9:30 a.m.	Jim Crabb
		Stewardship Project	8:30 a.m.	Ken Russell or Mark Kramer
		Volunteer Saturday - Outside Work	8:30 a.m.	Patrick Haynes at ABNC
		Trails (Birthday)	1:30 p.m.	Kim Wasserman
		Girl Scout Badge Work (3rd - 5th gr.)	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Kim Wasserman
Dec. 21	Thurs.	Hanson Garden Workday	9:00 a.m.	Chris LaChance
Dec. 23	Sat.	Volunteer Saturday - Outside Work	8:30 a.m.	Patrick Haynes at ABNC
Dec. 24	Sun.	Nature Center is open.		
Dec. 25	Mon.	Merry Christmas		
Dec. 30	Sat.	Volunteer Saturday - Outside Work	8:30 a.m.	Patrick Haynes at ABNC
Dec. 31	Sun.	Nature Center is open.		

NOTE: Education Classes - If you plan to buddy or observe a program it would be a good idea to let the coordinator know so he/she can call you in case of a cancellation. Please keep in mind that instructors arrive at least 30 minutes before the program to set-up and stay after to clean up. Set-up and clean up are part of the program. See EcoAdventures Brochure for a program description.

NOTE: Volunteer/Stewardship Saturday - Meet in the ABNC parking lot at the project's designated time (Green House if it is raining). Dress appropriately for activity. Sign up for an activity when you arrive. There may be a limit of volunteers for certain projects. If you have never volunteered at ABNC, you must fill out appropriate forms. If you are between the ages of 14 and 17 you must be accompanied at all times by an adult. You are welcome to bring a drink and a snack. Log your hours before you leave.

A Publication of the Armand Bayou  
 Nature Center Volunteers  
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