



Bayou Foliage



JANUARY 2000
Vol. 18 No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

"Interested + Involved + Informed"

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January Calendar

- Jan. 2 Volunteer Board Meeting (4:00 p.m.)
- Jan. 13 Volunteer Meeting (6:30 - 9:00 p.m.)
- Jan. 13 Bayou Foliage Deadline
- Jan. 15 Stewardship Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
- Jan. 22 ABNC Annual Members Day Meeting

ABNC VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2000
NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM

- 6:30 - Snacks and Conversation:
Get to know one another
- 7:00 - Volunteer Appreciation and Short Business Meeting
- 8:00 - Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Provided by Staff
- 9:00 - Adjourn

Our meeting this month will be the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is provided and served by the ABNC staff, to show their appreciation for all that you do during the year for the Nature Center. The hard work done by the volunteers in 1999, helped make the many events and operations of the nature center a big success.

Please remember to bring your own plates, cups, silverware, and napkins. Coffee and tea will be provided, but if you prefer some other liquid refreshment, feel free to bring it. The Volunteer of the Year will also be announced at the dinner. We hope to see you there!

Please remember to RSVP (281-474-2551) to a staff member if you are planning to attend.

**DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND ABNC'S
ANNUAL MEMBERS DAY MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2000, IN THE
NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM**

**PRINTING COMPLIMENTS
OF CELANESE**

Comments From the Chair

With the new millennium rapidly approaching, challenging our society, our resources, and our minds to adapt more and more quickly to ever changing venues in technology, multi-media communications, entertainment, and interstellar space exploration, to name a few; I feel especially blessed to be part of a much slower, quieter, and natural environment like ABNC.

This year's nominating committee has put in place a really talented Volunteer Board, which is charged with the responsibility of enabling us all to find our best avenue of service and thus, ensuring the preservation of this unique and exciting place.

With two Christines, Linda, Paula, Ken, Jane, Joan, Katerina, Ruby, Stephania, Anne, and Andrew on our team, we'll surely have a great and productive New Year. Thanks.

Ed Adams
Volunteer Chair

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Patsy Baukman	01/01	Claudine Hailey	01/02
Hilary Gibbs	01/09	Jennifer Pelletier	01/10
Marilyn Collings	01/13	Barbara Hill	01/16
Brad Hallmark	01/22	Susan Waggoner	01/22
Jana Callan	01/24	Jean Ashmore Block	01/26
Roland Borey	01/27	Stan Krauhs	01/28

ATTENTION WEEKEND TRAIL VOLUNTEERS

George Regmund has agreed to guide us on a "trail refresher" class in January. Anyone who is already doing trails or who would like to do trails is welcome to participate. As soon as a date is set, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Volunteer Office. Come join us!

Ruby Dilgren

PLEASE NOTE

**VOLUNTEER AND VOLUNTEER BOARD MAIL BOXES ARE
NOW LOCATED IN THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE**

MINUTES OF THE ABNC VOLUNTEER MEETING
December 9, 1999

Susan Williams opened the business meeting. The minutes of the November 1999 meeting were approved. Georgia Colyer gave the Treasurer's Report; we made \$534.00 in cookie sales. The Checking Balance \$2648.54 plus Savings Balance \$618.81 equals Current Assets of \$3267.35.

The nominees for the new Volunteer Board were elected. The *Bayou Foliage* editor position will be subject to approval by the new board in January. Thanks to all the members of the nominating committee.

Kim Wasserman announced Cherre House as the Volunteer of the Month. Each member of the board now has a mailbox in the Volunteer office; there is a general mailbox for all volunteers. Remember to report your volunteer hours by 12-16-99.

Susan announced the volunteer appreciation dinner for January 2000. The volunteer of the year will be announced during the dinner/meeting.

Mary Ann Tucker announced the winner of the handmade quilt as Kandice Belgau who lives in La Porte; she is a computer programmer who came in on Thanksgiving weekend and bought one ticket. The quilt grossed \$2359.00 less \$408.88, in expenses for a \$1950.12 net profit, our best quilting profit results ever.

Jonathan Perez, in appreciation from him and Patrick, for all the behind the scenes efforts, gave Merle Bunde a new nametag, Merle, "the Anvil" Bunde. Merle painted the Kaneka building, basically cleared the new trail extension by himself, and mowed grass whenever necessary.

George Regmund thanked all who participated in Fall Festival and Yuletide. He announced the Fall Festival post review meeting on 12-18-99 at 3pm.

The meeting was adjourned, and we had our holiday party.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hamlett, Secretary

THANK YOU SUSAN

Thank you, Susan, for your leadership during the past year. We on the volunteer board appreciated your guidance, direction, and fairness. You served through a phase-changing, uncertain, tumultuous period with a cool, steady demeanor.

Good luck on your future endeavors at ABNC.

Volunteer Board

NOTES FROM THE
VOLUNTEER OFFICE

I can't believe it's already December. Let's back up and take a look at November. Thanks to many hard working volunteers and staff, Fall Festival was a great success and a lot of fun. The total number of visitors was approximately 3,000. We surveyed 125 people and some of the results were as follows: 57% had never been before, 89% were not members, 29% heard about it from a friend and it was reported that "crafts" were enjoyed the most.

What have volunteers been busy doing in the education department? ABNC had 19 school groups, 3 birthday parties, 3 alpha classes and 4 outreach programs for a total of 984 students. ABNC had 61 visitors enjoy the family programs.

I would like to thank the 1999 volunteer board members for making me feel at home, and I look forward to working with the new board members in the year 2000.

Stop by the volunteer office or call to find out about odds and ends that need to be done around the Nature Center and the monthly education programs that are scheduled. No time like the present to observe or buddy with a volunteer so you can teach your own program. The next volunteer orientation will be Wednesday, January 12, 2000, from 7pm to 9pm. Training will be coming up in February, a schedule will come out soon, so think about training in a new area to expand your ABNC resume. Thanks to all volunteers for all that you do.

Kim Wasserman

1999 RAFFLE QUILT UPDATE

This will be my last quilt entry. We drew a winning ticket the night of the Yuletide Gathering (a lovely event), and the winner was Kandice Belgau of LaPorte, TX. Kandice is a computer programmer who commutes to her job, and her husband works for the city of Morgan's Point. They are fixing up an older home, and Kandice is very excited about the addition of the quilt to their furnishings. When she visited ABNC on Thanksgiving weekend, she saw the quilt on display at the Kaneka building and bought 1 (one) ticket.

The total money taken in with the sales was \$2,359.00. Our expenses totaled \$408.88. The profit to ABNC is \$1,950.12. The best we have ever done.

My thanks to all who worked on putting the quilt together. You have been working hard since January and deserve some time to let your fingers heal. Thanks also to all that sold and bought tickets. I wish we could have more than 1 winner.

Mary Ann Tucker

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Each month an ABNC Volunteer is recognized for his or her outstanding service to the nature center. This month's special volunteer is Cherre House. Cherre was a speech therapist when she lived in Oklahoma. She moved to Texas 22 years ago and has since been a full time Mom. With some of her spare time she became involved with The Assistance League. They introduced her to ABNC about 6 years ago and she's been coming out ever since. The Assistance League is an organization that coordinates volunteers and schedules them for other organizations in the community. ABNC has been apart of The Assistance League's program for some time. Their service has been a great contribution to ABNC's education program.

Thanks to Cherre and the Assistance League, ABNC brought "Hands on History" to 450 students this Fall. Besides her hard work with the farm classes she also helps out with some of our special events.

She says the farm classes are very unique and a lot of fun, but what she enjoys the most are the children. Cherre is always very concerned about the children and wants to make sure everything is perfect for them. We are very lucky to have her as an instructor and a volunteer.

Thank you Cherre for your time and dedication. It is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Thank you for all the support and help; so many of you provided for the Fall Festival and Yuletide cookies sale. Your response was wonderful! Many of you baked both days of the festival, some baking after working all day on Saturday. Some baked for both events in addition to helping at the booths. Everyone who signed up came right on time. Because of you, the Fall Festival cookie sale was a big success, as well as the Yuletide sale in spite of the rain.

Also appreciated are those who offered their help in setting up, moving tables, and in many other ways. This was truly a group effort.

Thank you again! You're the best!

Stephania Rogers

MORE THANKS

I didn't know what I would be facing when I volunteered to help Jane Bingel and Cris Santiago with Outreach and Weekend Trails. What I found were two groups of "great volunteers" who were eager to pitch in when called.

Thanks so much to all of you for making things easier for me!

Ruby Dilgren

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

I would like to start off the new year by thanking all the stewardship volunteers for their hard work during the past year. I have had some tentative conversations with Mark about setting aside one of the stewardship Saturdays in early 2000 for a half day field trip around the center habitat. The intent would be to give some exposure to the progress of restoration work done in past years, see some large scale mitigation work underway on the east side, and continue to get educated on the grasses, plants, flowers, and trees of ABNC. I think this would be interesting and educational for both old and new stewardship folks alike.

Ken Russell

ABNC HISTORICAL TRIVIA

One of ABNC's original 3 staff people, Wayne Clark, who came here from the Fort Worth Nature Center with the first director, Rick Pratt, came by to visit a few weeks ago. Wayne is now director of the Fort Worth Nature Center, for those of you who may remember Wayne.

Wayne gave me some information about that table in the Kaneka building. Apparently Rick and Wayne commissioned the table in 1976 from a couple of itinerant wood workers. The top is a slab of redwood from California, and the legs of the table are madrone tree roots from New Mexico. Wayne says he remembers we paid about \$900.00 for the table, and it was kept in the auditorium for many years. Just recently the table came out of storage when George moved into his new house and needed to bring the table back to it's original home. It is a nice addition to the Kaneka building and a work of art.

Mary Ann Tucker

INTERPRETER THANKS

I would like to say thank you many times over to all of you "terrific volunteers" who graciously donated your time and effort to serve as Information Service and Farm Interpreters during my almost three years as Interpretation Coordinator.

In 1999, you fulfilled 202 sessions, and through the years there was never an empty spot because of your generosity and dedication! I've really enjoyed working with you and I hope our friendship will continue.

Again, thanks, and Happy Y2K to all you!

Ruby Dilgren

SORRY FOR THE DELAY, HOWEVER A COMPLETE 1999 FALL FESTIVAL REPORT AND WRAP UP WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER.

COMMENTS FROM THE ABNC STAFF

A FEW THOUGHTS ABOUT CHANGE

It is human nature to resist change. Something within us instinctively raises our defenses as soon as we are faced with any aspect of change in our lives. As a parent of two small children, I find myself facing changes daily, often faster than I can adjust! And because organizations like ABNC are made up of people, it is understandable that they act and react in much the same manner. Organizations also resist change. The challenge for us at ABNC is to make this transition without losing sight of our mission and without robbing the Nature Center of that quality that makes it so special.

A volunteer recently commented to me that she felt that the changes she saw happening at the Nature Center were too rapid. It is strange how we can each look at the same events and see them so differently. From my vantage point, I think the changes have been excruciatingly slow. Are we reaching our full potential as a Nature Center? Can we educate more people? Are we doing all that we can to understand and to preserve our remaining ecosystems, our "living museum"?

After passing through a period of financial hardship (which many of you well remember), the Nature Center has enjoyed the last six years of operating in the black, with revenues exceeding expenses. In part, this is due to the efforts of the staff, board, and volunteers who kept expenses down and looked for ways to increase generated revenue. This is also due in part to the success of our development department, particularly to Lynn and those Board Members who assisted with fundraising. But another significant element has been the strong economy. When companies in the area prosper, donations increase. But are we prepared for a downturn in the economy?

The goals outlined in the *Strategic Business Plan for 2000-2003* are intended to help us become increasingly financially self-sufficient. By adding the Inner Loop with the live animal exhibits, for example, we feel that we can significantly increase the number of visitors to the Nature Center. An increase in visitation will help us fulfill our mission of education and generate additional revenue. We will also be able to reach a broader audience that may not have otherwise visited the Nature Center. So yes, I do feel a sense of urgency. The best time to add a capital improvement such as the Inner Loop is while the economy is still strong. This is an investment in our future.

Thank you for all that you do at ABNC, for sharing your time and talents and for your willingness to be a part of the Nature Center's growth. I appreciate each of you.

Wishing you and your family a happy holiday season.

Ephriam Dickson

P.S. You may read the current draft of the *Strategic Business Plan* on the ABNC website at www.ghg.net/abnc.

SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR YEAR 2000

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19
& SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20
WARM & FUZZY WEEKEND.**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 25
DOWN ON THE FARM**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15 & SUNDAY, APRIL 16
EARTH DAYS**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13
BAYOU BOIL**

**JUNE/JULY
ECOCAMP**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19
& SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
SCALY AND SLIMY WEEKEND**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27
& SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
CREEPY CRAWLERS**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11
& SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
FALL FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2000
YULETIDE GATHERING**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOG YOUR
VOLUNTEERS HOURS FOR 1999.**

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING IS BEING HELD IN
FEBRUARY. PLEASE TELL YOUR FRIENDS OR
ANYONE ELSE YOU KNOW WHO MAY BE
INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ABNC
VOLUNTEER.**

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - JANUARY 2000

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 EXHIBIT
Sat. 1/1						
Sun. 1/2	--	Ray Parker	Martha Hood	Susuan Williams		Eleanor Stanley (Alligators)
Sat. 1/8	Jim Crabb	John Siptak	Christine Naspinski	Janet Miller	Ed Adams (Wood Stove)	Ruby Dilgren (Mammals)
Sun. 1/9	--	Stan Krauhs	Ken Russell	Marjorie Borey	Stephania Rogers (Rope Making)	Cathy Searcy Jett (Snakes)
Sat. 1/15	Louise Peck	Melanie Weisman	Paul Brunkow	Stephania Rogers	Zel Arbuckle (Wood Stove)	Louise Peck (Owls)
Sun. 1/16	--	Ray Parker	Merle Bunde	Eleanor Stanley	Mary Ann Tucker (Basket Weaving)	Marianne & Brain Phillips (Snakes)
Sat. 1/22	Ramon McKinney	Michael & Edline Owens	Katerina Grundy	Sandy Parker	Chris Bingham (Stereoscope)	Anne Tincher (Pond Life)
Sun. 1/23	--	Merle Bunde	Christine Ribeiro	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarcella (Wood Shop)	
Sat. 1/29	Martha Hood	Cris Santiago	Joan Shack	Jane Bingel	Dan & Jen Pelletier (Rope Making)	Pat Doerr (Bird Feeder Watching)
Sun. 1/30	--	Stan Krauhs	Danny Yancey	Cathy Searcy Jett	Emily Egan (Weaving)	Christine Ribeiro (Bats)

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

2000 VOLUNTEER BOARD

	Home	Office
Ed Adams	Chair 281-487-3033	
Christine Ribeiro	Vice Chair 281-326-3574	Joan Henderson Admissions 281-291-0453
Linda Hamlett	Secretary 281-487-1268	Katerina Grundy Weekend Demos 281-286-7554
Paula Kennedy	Treasurer 281-479-7615	Ruby Dilgren Weekend Trail 281-488-1727
Ken Russell	Stewardship 281-488-0390	Stephania Rogers Weekday Farm 713-473-4329
Christine Naspinski	Interpretation 281-291-9513	Anne Tincher Weekday Trail 281-486-5167
Jane Bingel	Outreach 281-554-5069	Andrew Hamlett Newsletter 281-487-1268
		email: BayouFoliage@aol.com

02/28
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