

October 2000

BAYOU FOLIAGE

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

Vol. 18 No. 10

October Calendar

- Oct. 5 Volunteer Board Meeting 6 p.m.
- Oct. 7 Volunteer/Stewardship Saturday
- Oct. 7 Continuing Ed – Wood Stove
- Oct. 12 Volunteer Meeting –
DEADLINE FOR FOLIAGE
- Oct. 14 Continuing Ed – Trees
- Oct. 14 Volunteer Saturday –
Boardwalk removal
- Oct. 21 Volunteer/Stewardship Saturday
- Oct. 27 Creepy Crawlers – Event
- Oct. 28 Creepy Crawlers – Event
- Oct. 29 Clean up – 12:30 p.m.

ABNC Volunteer Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2000
Nature Center Auditorium

- 6:30 – Snacks and Conversation
- 7:00 – Program – Snakes
- 8:00 – Business Meeting (including Creepy
Crawlers info)
- 9:00 – Adjourn

SNAKE PROGRAM – The Houston area is home to 36 different snake species and we will have the opportunity to get to know each one better. Dr. Paul Freed, Supervisor of Herpetology for the Houston Zoo, will present a slide program, "Snakes of Houston." Paul, as he prefers to be addressed, has worked at the Houston Zoo for 21 years and is a most interesting speaker. Remember, you might meet any one of these snakes, so it is most important to know which are venomous and which are not.

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 **Joanna Wactor**. Having a dad in the military, Joanna moved around a lot but has spent most of her time in South Carolina. To encourage Joanna to move to Houston, Texas, her husband, knowing how much she loved nature, brought her for a visit to ABNC. The rest was history. She immediately signed up for the Fall 1992 volunteer training class.

With her love for animals and nature she quickly became a great asset to the education program at ABNC with the help of mentoring from Ruby Dilgren. Besides volunteering at ABNC, Joanna is involved in several different environmental education programs throughout the community including being currently permitted as a wildlife rehabilitator for WR&E. She has just taken on a full-time job as a substitute teacher but still comes out on the weekends and does her infamous animal demonstrations. Joanna is a busy lady doing great things for the community, but she sets aside time to do things like take Tae Kwon Do classes with her daughter.

Joanna commented that ABNC is a beautiful place and hopes it always remains, and ABNC hopes that Joanna always remains an ABNC Volunteer. Thanks Joanna for your hard work.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ramon McKinney	Oct. 3	Laurie Choate	Oct. 21
Deborah Ritter	Oct. 5	Cammy Mullinax	Oct. 21
Susan Williams	Oct. 6	Jonathan Perez	Oct. 22
Joan Henderson	Oct. 6	Jennifer Bingel	Oct. 25
Becky Brignac	Oct. 7	Carolyn Sue Manley	Oct. 27
Alan Jackson	Oct. 8	Dewanna Norris	Oct. 30
Bill Howe	Oct. 15	Bob Hendrix	Oct. 30
Colleen Ecord	Oct. 18	Bill Stephens	Oct. 31
Joyce Roberts	Oct. 20		

Check Out The New Arrivals!

Three new "arrivals" for our growing animal family: an Emperor Scorpion in the lab, a snapping turtle and a new softshell turtle in Classroom 1.

MINUTES OF THE VOLUNTEER MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2000

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

Prior to the business portion of the monthly meeting, Ruby Dilgren, introduced our speaker for the night.

Hanna Drago, informed the volunteers that the Board of Trustees is beginning a month-long membership drive. To increase membership, a packet will be given to those interested volunteers, beginning next week. Volunteers are needed to make phone calls to friends, co-workers, family, etc. Volunteers can log their hours and the final goal is 200 new members by the end of the month.

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

Judy Sharp, Treasurer, reported that current assets for September were \$1,802.74. Farmhouse donations now total \$1,108.00. Way to go volunteers!

Stan Krauhs, Vice-Chair, reported that October's program would be "Snakes of Houston". See "ABNC Volunteer Meeting" section of the *Bayou Foliage* for more details. Also, look for the exciting continuing education classes that will be offered.

Ruby Dilgren gave the Week-Day Outdoor Education Coordinator report for Anne Tincher, who was absent. A class on Pond Pals will be this Saturday for those interested in teaching and helping out during the week.

Ruby Dilgren, Week-End Trails Coordinator, reported that the Karankawa refresher course given by George Regmund was a great success.

Jane Bingel, Outreach Coordinator, reported that Outreach will be very busy giving numerous programs during October. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for cleaning the farmhouse. This group of volunteers will be meeting once a month on Monday's, when the Nature Center is closed to the public.

Mark Kramer discussed the upcoming Marsh Mania, to be held on October 7th. Call Mark to pre-register. On September 30th and October 4th, about 1500 one-gallon potted plants will be moved to the marsh site. Meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m. to help.

Ken Russell, Stewardship Coordinator, reported the bylaws are complete. The bylaws are on the ABNC website and you can also pick up a copy in the volunteer office. The vote on the bylaws will take place in October.

No report was given by Stephania Rogers, Week-Day Farm Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley, Weekend Demos Coordinator, and Christine Naspinski, Interpretations & Front-Desk Greeters Coordinator or Joan Henderson, Admissions.

Mark Kramer, announced that Joanna Wactor was volunteer of the month. To learn more, see the "Volunteer of the Month" section of *Bayou Foliage*.

Under upcoming events, George Regmund requested ice chests for Fall Festival. Please put your name on the ice chest, so that it can be returned. Also, there is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to bring breakfast on both days of the Fall Festival event. Volunteers are needed both the Friday before and the Monday after Fall Festival. Don't forget to sign-up for the BBQ dinner to be held the Saturday during Fall Festival.

Under unfinished business, Polly Swerdlin, and Becky Brignac showed appropriate period clothing for Fall Festival. Contact either one of them for more information about what to wear and where to shop. However, dressing up is not required to volunteer at Fall Festival.

Next, the floor was open for nominations to the Nominating Committee. Barbara Hill, Mary Barton, Alan Wenger, Dottie Evans, and Linda Hamlett will be the five active members on the Committee. This Nominating Committee will prepare a Slate of Officers and present it to the membership during November's volunteer meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary,
Martha Hood

Continuing Education

- Firing Up and Operating the "New" Wood-burning Stove

When: Saturday, September 30 at 9 a.m.
Saturday, October 7 at 9 a.m.

Lew Hornig will teach the pyromaniacs among us how to build a fire and operate the "new" turn-of-the-century stove in the farmhouse. We want this stove to last another 100 years and it may, with proper care in operating it. Lew will also demonstrate kerosene lamps. He previously was the manager of the farm when it was populated with livestock and farm animals, so as a bonus, he can fill you in on some of the history of ABNC as well. **NOTE:** Please meet at the farmhouse for both days.

- Tree Identification on the Trail

When: Saturday, October 14 at 11 a.m. (meet on the back porch)

Bring your notebooks and learn how to identify trees with Ray Parker. Ray has been volunteering at ABNC for many years. The class will hike one of the trails, learning how to identify the trees along the way. What better way to spend a beautiful fall day and enhance your knowledge of the trees at ABNC?

Help needed at the Farmhouse!

With the cool weather approaching and attendance increasing at both the Center and the farm house, especially on weekends, we are looking for a few dedicated people to help keep the farm house neat and clean.

This is especially important because there are a large number of farm oriented school field classes coming to the farmhouse and it needs to be kept in good shape. If you would be willing to clean the house please call Kim at the Nature Center.

Both Marjorie and I appreciate any help you can give us. In all probability a team would only have to clean every other month and if enough people sign up, it could work out to once every three or four months. Here's hoping that will be the case.

Thanks. Jane Bingel and Majorie Borey

Recycling Report

The Donohue Recycling bins, located in the perimeter of the front parking lot, are an important source of income for our volunteer treasury. They help make it possible for us to pay for such items as mailing the Bayou Foliage and purchasing a "new" farmhouse stove. Unfortunately, some of our previous sources for scrap paper for the bins have become unproductive. Therefore, we as volunteers need to make an EXTRA effort to bring all our old newspapers, magazines, catalogs, cardboard (flattened), phone books, and scrap paper from home and deposit them in the bins. Let's keep them filled to the brim, and clean clutter out of our homes at the same time!

Judy Sharp, Treasurer

COOKIES! COOKIES! COOKIES!

Fall Festival is going to be here before we know it and with it our biggest (hopefully) cookie sale of the year.

As always, we depend on all of you wonderful cookie bakers to supply these tasty cookies that sell so well. All types of cookies, brownies, gingersnaps, oatmeal, etc., sell well. So, if you have a favorite, share it with us to sell.

The funds that are raised through the sales are used by the volunteer organization to cover something that is needed at the center—one year it was a much needed floor covering for the breakroom (now a classroom).

You always have made this sale a success. We're asking you to do it again. Sign up on the sheet in the Volunteer Office or call Stephania Rogers at 713-473-4324. Thank you in advance. You're the best!



Creepy Crawlers—Oct. 27 & 28
Fall Festival—Nov. 11 & 12

A Really Good Book

Travel seems popular in the book publishing biz. Larry McMurrtry, a well-known Texas writer, has hit the highway with **ROADS, DRIVING AMERICA'S GREAT HIGHWAYS**. He travels main interstates as well as some unknown byways. He tells us of some famous authors, where he is traveling, personal incidents and a great deal of history. The unknown has always called him, since growing up in west Texas on the fringe of the Great Plains and adjacent to Route 281, now known as the NAFTA Highway. His knowledge of Indian and cowboy history is well known if you have read *Lonesome Dove*, just one of over twenty books he has written. If you finish the 200-page book, you'll know where the most beautiful state is and where there is really great highway to travel upon. I hated for the "Trip" to be over!! I strongly suggest you get the road atlas out before you start. It makes a new kind of interactive reading!! Barb Hill

Want A Great Job? Be An Editor!

Looking for a few GREAT men or women to help write, coordinate, type, and pull together our monthly **BAYOU FOLIAGE**. If you like to write, be creative, and organize projects, this will be a fun job for you. One volunteer has agreed to be a co-editor. Please call Kim at the Nature Center for details.

An Inner Loop Update

Since the last update concerning the new Inner Loop Trail System, we have accomplished many things in the hope of attracting more visitors. Some things aren't as apparent as say the bison enclosure fence going up (thanks to Merle Bunde) or the raptor house being complete. Many projects are "behind the scenes" and I would like to update everyone on the status of our new trail system.

A designer has been awarded our contract for developing a master plan and will be visiting us within the next month from Arizona. He will be developing a master plan of the Inner Loop so that we can use this vital piece of "eye candy" as a fundraising tool.

Our permits have been underway for our raptors for quite some time now. But everyone knows how the government works! We have to go through both the state and federal government in order to receive the appropriate permits.

CREEPY CRAWLERS Is Slinking Our Way!

Oh! Event season is here! And the first big one is **CREEPY CRAWLERS** October 27 and 28. Many people have already committed their time to help on these evenings, but there are still lots of activities where more help is needed:

- Admissions/Check in: greet and check off the names of visitors as they arrive
- Children's Crafts: Assist the kids with several Halloween crafts such as "Make a mask with natural decorations"
- Cookie Decorating: Help visitors decorate a Halloween cookie with icing and sprinkles
- Face Painting
- Hay Rides: Help visitors board and disembark from prairie hay rides. Ride along and make sure everyone stays safe on the rides. Drive a hay ride vehicle.
- Hay Stack Candy Dive: Maintain a small hay stack with bags of candy mixed in for visiting kids to jump into and get candy from
- Trail Guides: Lead groups of visitors down the trail to meet the costumed animal characters there
- Trail Character Refreshments: Provide refreshments for the costumed trail characters
- Witches Brew: Help serve "witches brew" drink (apple juice) to visitors in the farm house kitchen

Those helping with this event should plan to arrive by 5 p.m. so as to allow plenty of time to be in position by 5:30. The event is slated to begin at 6 p.m., but visitors begin arriving early. Sign up sheets for **Creepy Crawlers** are in the volunteer office. Thanks for all your help!!

George Regmund
Creepy Crawlers Staff Chair

With the increase in the number of animals as well as for those we already have, I am always looking for volunteers who have a passion for working with animals. If you, or anyone you know, has an interest in working with our educational animals or if you would like more information on the Inner Loop, please feel free to contact me at (281) 474-2551. Thank you.

Jonathan Perez

FALL FESTIVAL Is Right Around The Corner!

It is really getting into Fall Festival time and ABNC needs everyone's help for this event. The festival is scheduled for November 11 and 12, 2000 and it is coming FAST!

Polly Swerdlin has been diligently filling the volunteer sign up list for all the festival activities and thanks go to the many volunteers that have already committed to work. But there are still positions that need filling so sign up to help if you can.

We will need extra ice chests for this event, so if you can loan one for the weekend it would be a big help. Be sure to label it clearly with your name so we can get it back to you. Leave them on the back porch of the Education Building.

Volunteers are needed to help provide breakfast for both Saturday and Sunday mornings. This is a big help to our own volunteers working the festival but also open to and much appreciated by the vendors and demonstrators who give of their time for the event. The sign up sheet for helping provide breakfast is in the volunteer office.

Please sign up and pay for the Saturday night Bar-B-Que dinner if you wish to attend. The cost is \$5.25 per person for dinner with all the trimmings. The deadline for reservations for this fun evening is November 4th. The sign up sheet and payment envelope is also in the volunteer office.

Volunteer parking for the event will be inside the service gate passed the paved parking area, on the grass adjacent to the farm (weather permitting). If conditions are wet, volunteers can park in the main ABNC parking lot. We would like for you to park on the grass if possible so the paved area would be available to the visitors (besides, it's closer to the farm!).

Please remember to go to the information tent first when you come to work at the festival. We need you to sign in there and get tickets for free soft drinks.

We also need help setting up for the festival and cleaning up after it. There will be a work party for general set up on Friday November 10 starting at 9 a.m. Much of the equipment and materials from the festival are returned and put away on Monday November 13th - clean up day! We will meet at 9 a.m. and could really use your help.

Please make this festival more authentic by dressing in period clothing if you are working the event. Examples for women: long dresses, long skirts with long sleeve blouse, an apron or bonnet and high-topped, dark shoes. Examples for men: overalls, jeans with suspenders, a shirt with a banded collar or chambray shirt, straw hat and boots.

Thanks for your commitment to help make our 20th Fall Festival a great success!

George Regmund
Fall Festival Staff Chair

Research Opportunity in Amphibian Monitoring



As part of the Texas Amphibian Watch, we have been conducting an amphibian monitoring program at the Nature Center. We are always looking for new and interested volunteers to help us in studying these bio-indicators. If you, or anyone you know (you don't have to be an official volunteer to help, 14—17 year olds must be accompanied by an adult) is interested in participating in the various projects (either the call surveys or actually trekking the woods for amphibians), please give me a call!

Jonathan Perez

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.

Thanks From Wanda

To my ABNC friends,

Thank you very much for your help during my illness. I sincerely appreciate your prayers, visits, calls, flowers, cards, and food – especially the food! Hope to be back “in swing” soon.

Wanda Charline Hayden

VOLUNTEER SATURDAY'S PROJECT LIST FOR OCTOBER

<u>Date</u>	<u>Projects</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Oct. 7	Project 1: Stewardship (Outside) Marsh Mania See "Stewardship Saturday" below for details	8:30 a.m.	Ken/Mark
	Project 2: Animal Care (Inside)	8:30 a.m.	Kim/Jonathan
Oct. 14	Project 1: Boardwalk removal (Outside)	8:30 a.m.	Patrick
	Project 2: Animal Care (Inside)	8:30 a.m.	Jonathan
Oct. 21	Project 1: Cleanup and trim along Bay Area Blvd. fence (Outside)	8:30 a.m.	Patrick
	Project 2: Stewardship (Outside) Prairie grass introduction See "Stewardship Saturday" below for details	8:30 a.m.	Ken/Mark
Oct. 29	Project 1: Creepy Crawlers Clean-up (Outside)	12:00 p.m.	Patrick/George

What you need to know:

- Meet in the ABNC parking lot at the project's designated time above (greenhouse if it's raining).
- Dress appropriate 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're between the ages of 14 and 17, you must be accompanied at all times by an adult.
- You're welcome to bring a water bottle and a snack.
- Bring a sack lunch if you want to join the picnic.
- Log your hours before you leave.

OCTOBER – STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

October 7 – Marsh Mania 8:30 am Ken/Mark
This is the largest marsh restoration day of the year. Over 175 volunteers are expected to help plant ½ acre of marsh on Armand Bayou. Be sure to call to the Galveston Bay Foundation at 281-486-9500 to pre-register.

October 21 - Prairie Grass Introduction 8:30 am Ken/Mark
Planting day to reintroduce locally rare grasses into the east bank prairie.

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - OCTOBER 2000

In an attempt to take some of the load off 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 and 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
Sun 10/1	X	Joe Bryan	Kelli Glen	Paula Thorson		Zel Arbuckle- Reptiles
Sat 10/7	Kelli Glenn	Ray Parker		Jane Bingel	Eleanor Stanley - Knitting	
Sun 10/8	X	Martha Hood	Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin	Polly Swerdlin - Stereoscope	
Sat 10/14	Jim Crabb	Betty Snider	Mary Barton	Susan Williams	Stephania Rogers - Rope	Eldine Owens - Snakes
Sun 10/15	X	Merle Bundle	Doug Barfoot		Mary Ann Tucker - Basket-weaving	Eleanor Stanley - Alligators
Sat 10/21	Louise Peck	Marianne Phillips	Pat Bates		Chris Bingham - Stereoscope	Pat Doerr - Bird Feeder Watching
Sun 10/22	X	John Siptak	Martha Hood		Tom Scarsella - Woodshop	Polly Swerdlin - Insects
Sat 10/28	Patty Pennington	Mike & Eldine Owens		Chris Bingham	Jane Bingel - Cheese	Anne Tincher - Pond Life
Sun 10/29	X	Stan Krauhs		Stephania Rogers		Kathy Searcy-Jett - Snakes

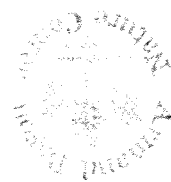
If you can fill in any of the blank spots, please call the appropriate coordinator. Thanks!

2000 Volunteer Board

	Home	Office		Home	Office
Ed Adams	713 946-2754		Joan Henderson	Admissions	281 291-0453
Stan Krauhs	281 470-2744		Eleanor Stanley	Weekend Demos	713 455-1502
Martha Hood	281 286-6746		Ruby Dilgren	Weekend Trail	281 488-1727
Judy Sharp	281 488-2762		Stephania Rogers	Weekday Farm	713 473-4324
Ken Russell	281 488-0390		Anne Tincher	Weekday Trail	281 486-5167
Christine Naspinski	281 291-9513		Jane Bingel	Outreach	281 544-5069

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