



BAYOU FOLIAGE

Printing Compliments of Gelanese

SEPTEMBER 2000
Vol. 18 No. 9

A PUBLICATION OF THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

"Interested + Involved + Informed"

E-MAIL
BayouFoliage@aol.com

September Calendar

- Sept. 2 Volunteer Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
- Sept. 7 Volunteer Board Meeting (6:00 p.m.)
- Sept. 9 Trail Refresher (9:00 a.m.)
- Sept. 9 Volunteer Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
- Sept. 14 Volunteer Meeting (6:00 - 9:00)
(Please refer to "ABNC Volunteer Meeting")
- Sept. 14 **BAYOU FOLIAGE DEADLINE**
- Sept. 16 Volunteer Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
- Sept. 23 Volunteer Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)
- Sept. 30 Volunteer Saturday (Start at 8:30 a.m.)

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 **Brian Zemba**. He is originally from Boston, Massachusetts. Having become an electronic technician in the International Guard and wanting to stay near a military base, Brian was determined to work at NASA. In 1992 he left California in a mobile home, drove up to Ellington Field and was hired. In 1994 he fulfilled his goal and was hired by Johnson Space Center, where he works today as an electronic technician for mission control.

You may not have had the pleasure of meeting Brian because he generally volunteers his time on Saturday nights. He is the instructor for ABNC's Family Star Parties. Brian is an amateur astronomer and is a member of the Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society. In 1995 a telescope was donated to Armand Bayou Nature Center. With the help of Brian, many others and the generous donation of the Gary L. Kraus telescope, ABNC is able to offer the very successful Family Star Parties. He is also very proud in having assisted approximately 300 girl scouts in acquiring their Star Search Badge.

Having Brian as a volunteer has been a great addition to ABNC's education programs. Thanks Brian for your dedication and hard work.

ABNC VOLUNTEER MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2000
NATURE CENTER AUDITORIUM

- 6:00 - Snacks and Conversation:
FARMHOUSE
- 7:00 - Presentation
- 8:00 - Business Meeting
- 9:00 - Adjourn

Monarch butterflies will be flying south to Mexico this month from as far North as Canada. This incredible phenomenon will be presented by our September speaker, Carlos Hernandez, in "Monarch Migration to the Mexican Mountains". Mr. Hernandez is a nature photography guide to Coast Rica and Mexico. His beautiful photography has appeared in: Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas Highways, and Ranger Rick. He has a permanent butterfly exhibit at Mercer Arboretum where he is a volunteer. Come enjoy viewing butterfly-laden fir trees and talking to someone "who has been there"; many times observing Monarchs in their winter habitat.

Ruby Dilgren

PLEASE NOTE

Snacks & Conversation will be at the Farm House at 6:00 p.m. Biscuits will be baked in the new stove; jams and other refreshments will also be served, so please join us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Eric Duran	Aug. 01	Kathleen Helmore	Aug. 02
Sandy Parker	Sept. 09	Irene Ward	Sept. 11
Jane Bock	Sept. 14	Danny Yancey	Sept. 19
Alan Wenger	Sept. 24	Jim Yaeger	Sept. 24
Andrew Hamlett	Sept. 25	Christine Ribeiro	Sept. 27
Cynthia Jennings	Sept. 28	Lou Wheatcraft	Sept. 29
Louise Peck	Sept. 29	Michael Owens	Sept. 29

PLEASE NOTE THE REVISED VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION BYLAWS IN THIS ISSUE TO BE APPROVED.

MINUTES OF THE VOLUNTEER MEETING

AUGUST 10, 2000

Ed Adams, Chairman of the Volunteer Board, called the meeting to order.

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

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

Judy Sharp, Treasurer, reported that current assets for August were \$3,305.03. Also, since no one took advantage of the EcoCamp scholarships, \$350 was refunded back into the volunteer treasury. Judy also reported that so far \$1048 had been collected in stove donations.

Ruby Dilgren, reported to the volunteer group details about the stove. At last month's volunteer meeting, a motion was passed in support of purchasing a new stove. Roland Borey, along with a committee, evaluated a stove and paid \$1600 (\$1800 - \$200 trade-in for old stove). The volunteer board decided to issue a check to Roland for \$1600 with the contributions collected so far, and approximately \$550 out of the treasury. Ruby called for a motion to reimburse Roland, motion passed.

Ruby, next invited those who have not had a chance to see the new stove, to please do so. Make sure to come to next month's meeting. There will be a demo on the new stove and everyone is invited to eat some warm biscuits.

Ruby reported that September's guest speaker would be Carlos Hernandez. Please see the Vice-Chair's report for more about next month's guest speaker.

Anne Tincher, Week-Day Trails Coordinator, and Stephania Rogers, Week-Day Farm Coordinator reported that things have slowed down for the summer, but they are both getting ready for the new school year.

Ruby Dilgren, Week-End Trails Coordinator, reported with Stan Krauhs out temporarily, she would appreciate any new help with the trails. Also, a continuing education refresher course on the newly repaved Karankawa trail has been tentatively scheduled for September 23. This class is limited to fifteen people and the sign-up sheet can be found in the volunteer office.

Katerina Grudy, Weekend Demos Coordinator, reported she still needs volunteers for farm demos and especially for natural history. She also reported that Eleanor Stanley would be taking her place, starting in October. Katerina will be returning to Australia and will be greatly missed.

Jane Bingel, reported that Outreach will be very busy these upcoming months. Outreach will be presenting a program on October 14th for the Bay Oaks Country Club. On October 18th Outreach will be at NASA/JSC's Safety Program, and a program will also be presented at Friendswood's "Heritage Day". On August 31st, Outreach will be at the Houston Zoo Education

Building from 3:30-8:30 p.m. talking to educators about the mission of ABNC. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jane.

Ken Russell, Stewardship Coordinator, reported the bylaws are completed. In order to save postage on mailing, a summary of major changes will be printed in the *Bayou Foliage*. At the September meeting, the bylaws will be handed out and will also be available in the volunteer office. The bylaws will also be available on the ABNC website. Ken, next reported on stewardship. The Prairie ID class will be this upcoming Saturday.

No report was given for Interpretations & Front-Desk Greeters, or Admissions.

Kim Wasserman, announced that Brain Zemba was volunteer of the month. To learn more, see the "Volunteer of the Month" section of *Bayou Foliage*.

Kim also announced that volunteer training would begin on August 26th, and anyone interested in helping feel free to contact her. Also, Marsh Mania will be on October 7th. Sponsored by Galveston Bay Foundation, activities will be on the ABNC grounds, and anyone interested should call Mark Kramer. Mark would also like to thank everybody who participated in the prairie burn class.

Ephriam Dickson, next presented three landscape drawings of the corner of Red Bluff Road and Bay Area Boulevard. At the conclusion of the meeting, each volunteer voted on the design that they liked most.

Ruby, also welcomed Helen Hodges, President of the Board of Trustees, to the monthly volunteer meeting.

Under upcoming events, Scaly & Slimy will be August 19th. A sign-up sheet for Fall Festival was passed around. If interested, the sign-up sheet will be located in the volunteer office.

Under unfinished business, Polly Swerdlin, discussed the new "Ideas Notebook" in the volunteer office. To learn more, see the "Ideas Wanted" section of *Bayou Foliage*.

If anyone would like to name a volunteer for the nominating committee of next year's officers, please contact Ed Adams. Being on the nominating committee does not eliminate a volunteer from serving on the Board.

Last of all, Kim Wasserman was presented a card in appreciation for all her hard work and in celebration of her one-year anniversary at ABNC.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary
Martha Hood

Continuing Education

TRAIL REFRESHER
SEPTEMBER 9, 2000
9:00 A.M.

George Regmund will be taking us on a guided tour of the renovated Karankawa Trail. Registration will be limited to 15 people. Sign up sheets will be in the Volunteer Office.

Ruby Dilgren

FARMHOUSE STOVE DONATIONS

A big thanks to everyone who donated to the farmhouse kitchen stove replacement fund. As of August 3, folks had contributed \$ 958.00. Once again this is an outstanding demonstration of the willingness of our Volunteer Organization to step up when there is a need. The donation box will remain in the volunteer office for a while to make sure everyone has an opportunity to contribute.

Ken Russell

ATTENTION

It's costing \$0.83 per piece in postal fees for ADDRESS CORRECTION labels on *Bayou Foliage* mailings! Please help us avoid this cost by turning in address (and phone) changes to Kim as soon as you move. The mailing roster is being updated this month, so please let Kim know of any changes.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

SUPPLIES 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're not available for purchase.

GET WELL, CONGRATULATIONS, SYMPATHY, ETC.

Martha Hood, Volunteer Board Secretary, (281-286-6746) would like to know so she can send an appropriate card. "It's nice to be remembered". If you would like to donate some cards, please put them in the Secretary's mailbox in the Volunteer Office.

Fall Festival News

The busy fall season at the Nature Center is here and I would like to encourage all volunteers to participate in some of the "action".

The 19th annual Fall Festival at the Martyn Farm is scheduled for November 11 & 12, 2000. This major event requires a huge amount of volunteer participation, because of the great variety of things such as demonstrations, interpretation, and festival logistics with which assistance is needed.

By the time you get this newsletter, we hope you have all the area chair positions filled so that the volunteers holding them can begin to organize their area of the operation and be sure they have the people they need to help them. We will be calling on you to sign up to help in whatever place it is needed.

Please make this festival more authentic by dressing in period clothing. 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, and a shirt with a banded collar or chambray shirt, straw hat and boots.

The Saturday night barbecue dinner costs \$5.25 per person this year, including all the trimmings. Please sign up and leave your money in the Volunteer Office for this fun evening.

We need your help to make the upcoming special events a success. Thanks!

George Regmund
Fall Festival Staff Chair

RETURNING TO THE LAND DOWN UNDER

Being a Weekend Demos Coordinator means spending some time on the telephone, talking to answering machines and then spending more time on the telephone. Not to mention sitting in Board Meetings. Now I realize meetings of any kind are an important tool of communication, but, even so, they still do not rank high on my "ways to spend time" list.

To all volunteers contemplating taking on a future role as a volunteer coordinator, do not let my opening remarks put you off. It's a position that may not suit everybody, but if you possess a pertinacious nature coupled with at least some organizational skills and a good, clear phone voice, then the job can be yours!

Initially, I was only to serve on the Volunteer Board for six months since I was scheduled to return to Melbourne, Australia in June. However our time here in Houston has

continued on next page...

obviously been extended for a few extra months, and so too my time as Weekend Demos Coordinator. Due to my repatriation date being soon, yet unconfirmed, I thought it best to hand over the reins to our next coordinator, namely Eleanor Stanley. I am certain she will do a great job and I wish my latent partner in crime all the best for the rest of the year. For me the position has been a challenge, because changes do and will always occur. It also has been a learning experience, forcing me not only to refresh and enhance my computer (namely excel) skills, but also allowing me to associate what were once only names on paper with the people they belong too.

I wish to thank everyone who did ABNC a great service in not only sharing their time, but also their skills and knowledge when performing weekend demos. In particular, I would like to thank all the volunteers that I count count on just about every month to do one or more demos. Thank you, especially Polly Swerdlin for your time, knowledge, and timely advice. Thanks Mate! Thanks also to all the other board members for your thoughts and ideas on how to make weekend demos better.

My time here volunteering at ABNC has been delightful. I have enjoyed learning new skills, crafts, and amassing a wealth of knowledge from volunteers and staff members, both past and present. Even being an EcoCamp teacher two years running, minus pay, was a kick! I have met and worked with a "pretty good mob", as we say back in Australia. Thank you al for making my stay in Houston an enjoyable and memorable one. Who knows, maybe I'll see some of you Down Under one day!

P.S. For those who are interested, don't worry, I'm not officially/un-officially leaving until sometime in November.!

Katerina Grundy

VOLUNTEER E-MAIL

E-mail promises to be an excellent way to get out the word to a large number of people on short notice. Unforeseen last minute changes in plans, acute last-minute shortages of volunteers and the suddenly appearing of opportunities all require means of getting the word around quickly. While we recognize that perhaps the majority of volunteers do not use e-mail, we think it should be worthwhile to take advantage of those who do to help disseminate notices between monthly issues of the Bayou Foliage. To make sure no one is left out, we will always post a copy of new e-mail on the volunteer bulletin board within 24 hours. And of course, we have no plans to drop our use of the telephone. If you are interested in participating, please send a short message to hendrsn@texas.net. (Please notice the two missing vowels in Henderson).

Attention Volunteers

Active and Associate Volunteers receive the *Bayou Foliage* as a bonus. We would like to ask Inactive Volunteers to consider the following.

I WISH TO CONTINUE RECEIVING
THE BAYOU FOLIAGE AT \$ 5.00 PER YEAR.

I DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE
RECEIVING THE BAYOU FOLIAGE.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE CUT OUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

PLEASE MAIL BEFORE SEPTEMBER 14, 2000.

TO: KIM WASSERMAN
ABNC
P.O. BOX 58828
HOUSTON, TX 77258

Or you can e-mail it in to:
ABNC@ghgcorp.com

Thank you for your participation!

REVISED VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION BYLAWS

The Volunteer Board agreed at its August 3 meeting that the revised Volunteer Organization Bylaws were ready to be forwarded to the volunteer organization membership for review and approval. The revision is a product of much review and discussion by the 1999 Volunteer Board, the 2000 Volunteer Board, and the current ABNC Staff. The Bylaws even in small font is five pages long and therefore impractical to publish for review as part of the newsletter. Instead this article will be made available at the September Volunteer Meeting, in the Volunteer Office, and on the ABNC website. The Board is targeting for a vote of approval by the membership at the October Volunteer Meeting. If you have any questions about changes presented here you should contact Ruby Dilgren or Ken Russell.

There were a number of cosmetic and wordsmithing changes that did not change content or meaning and they are not included here. A copy of the old bylaws to compare changes against can be found in the volunteer training manual.

Article III – All volunteers are the same; eliminate the interpretive and non-interpretive definition.

Article III, Section 2 – Continuing education is no longer required, but is offered as a benefit. The ABNC Staff as required will specify specific training. Training and continuing education hours are to be counted as follows. Only 10 hours of training/continuing education can be included in your required 48 hours. However, all hours logged will go toward a volunteer's total hours, but the first 48 can only include 10 training/continuing education hours.

Article III, Section 4 – Add that the volunteer roster will be reviewed every six months for currency and volunteer status. The review will be conducted jointly by the ABNC appointed staff, the Volunteer Board Chair, and two volunteers nominated by the Chair and approved by the volunteer board.

Article III, Section 5 – Add that Associate Members age 14 through 17 must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Article III, Section 7 – Change that volunteers may request inactive status for up to one year, and add that they have no voting rights and that they must pay a fee to continue to receive the monthly newsletter.

Article III, Section 8 – Identify that people resigning must notify the ABNC Staff and Volunteer Board Chair and that reinstatement after resignation must be requested in writing. Reinstatement must be approved by the Volunteer Board and ABNC Staff.

Article IV, Section 2 – Clarify that Board members assume office on January 1 and must be elected in December.

Article IV, Section 4 – Clarify timeline for Volunteer Board Nominating Committee.

Article V, Section 6 – Change “Weekend Demonstrations Coordinator” to “Demonstration(s) Coordinator”.

Article V, Section 7 – Change “Weekday Trail Coordinator” to “Weekday Outdoor Education Coordinator”.

Article VI, Section 1 – Change 11 (eleven) elected officers to 12 (also changed in Article IV).

Article VI, Section 4 – Add that Board Members filling vacancies may be elected to serve up to 2 consecutive years in that position.

Article VII, Section 1 – Change Volunteer Meeting time and day of week.

Add new **Article XIII, OTHER POLICY** to point out that there may be other policies and procedures established jointly by ABNC Staff and the Volunteer Board not identified in these Bylaws, and that they will be treated as addenda to the Bylaws.

VOLUNTEER SATURDAY'S PROJECT LIST FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Projects	Time	Contact
Sept. 2nd	_ Project 1: Animal Care	8:30 am	Jonathan
	ü Project 2: Marsh Restoration See "Stewardship Saturday" for details	8:30 am	Ken/Mark
	ü Project 3: Carpentry Build shade structure for buffalo	8:30 am	Patrick
Sept. 9th	ü Project 1: Carpentry Recondition floor of barn loft for buffalo feed storage	8:30 am	Patrick
Sept. 16th	ü Project 1: Painting Paint the interior and exterior of the Raptor house.	8:30 am	Jonathan
	ü Project 2: Stewardship Water hyacinth clean up See "Stewardship Saturday" for details	8:30 am	Ken /Mark
	ü Project 3: Painting Paint second story of farmhouse	8:30 am	Patrick
Sept. 23rd	ü Project 1: Prairie Plant Monitoring See "Stewardship Saturday" for details	8:30 am	Ken/Mark
	ü Project 2: Trail Maintenance Clear Martin trail and remove old boardwalks	8:30 am	Patrick
Sept. 30th	_ Project 1: Animal Care	8:30 am	Jonathan

_ = inside
ü = outside

What you need to know:

- Meet in the ABNC parking lot at the project's designated time above (green house 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

MARSH MANIA PREPARATION UNDERWAY

Please join us for Stewardship Saturday activities on the first and third Saturday of every month. Restoration projects in September will focus on completing protective fencing around the restoration site that will be planted on Marsh Mania day (October 7th). This one day event is the single largest restoration day all year! Last year over 100 volunteers participated.

Additionally we will be taking canoes to collect water hyacinth on September 16th. This nonnative plant is very invasive and left uncontrolled can create many environmental problems. We will collect the plants by hand, transport them by canoe and return to the ABNC dumpster with them.

Wear OLD tennis shoes (no open toed shoes), OLD pants and shirt and a hat. We'll be going into the bayou so you might want to bring a change of clothes for the ride home.

PRAIRIE PLANT MONITORING

Please join us for our prairie plant identification classes: Wednesday September 6th from 6-8 pm and Saturday September 23rd from 8:30 – 11 am. Class will include grass and woody species ID. Information gathered during the classes will be used to further our prairie restoration efforts. Please wear long pants, a hat and bring a water bottle if you have one.

SEPTEMBER STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY

- September 2 Marsh restoration 8:30 am Ken/Mark
See Stewardship Saturday for details
- September 16 Water Hyacinth clean up day 8:30 am Ken/Mark
See Stewardship Saturday for details

PRAIRIE PLANT MONITORING

- September 6 Prairie plant monitoring 8:30 am Ken/Mark
See Stewardship Saturday for details
- September 23 Prairie plant monitoring 8:30 – 11 AM Ken/Mark
See Stewardship Saturday for details.

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - SEPTEMBER 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 DEMO
Sat. 9/2	Patty Pennington	Kelli Glenn			Joyce Roberts Quilting	Ruby Dilgren Arthropods
Sun. 9/3	--	Danny Yancey	Ken Russell		Polly Swerdlin Butter	
Mon. 9/4	--LABOR DAY--					
Sat. 9/9	Mike & Eldine Owens	Mary Barton	Joyce Roberts	Susan Williams	Tom Scarsella Wood Shop	Anne Tincher Microworld
Sun. 9/10	--	Martha Hood		Polly Swerdlin	Stephania Rogers Rope Making	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
Sat. 9/16	Louise Peck	Cris Santiago		Susan Hesley	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	
Sun. 9/17	--	Merle Bunde	Joan Shack	Marjorie Borey	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Eleanor Stanley Alligators
Sat. 9/23	Jim Crabb	Ray Parker	Hanna Drago	Eleanor Stanley	Jane Bingle Corn Husk Dolls	Pat Doerr Hummingbirds
Sun. 9/24	--	Melanie Weisman	Merle Bunde	Stephania Rogers	Dan & Jen Pelletier Rope Making	Joanna Wactor Owls
Sat. 9/30	Polly Swerdlin	Marianne Phillips		Janet Miller	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	

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	Chair	713-946-2754	Joan Henderson	Admissions
Christine Ribeiro	Vice Chair	281-326-3574	Katerina Grundy	Weekend Demos
Martha Hood	Secretary	281-286-6746	Ruby Dilgren	Weekend Trail
Judy Sharp	Treasurer	281-488-2762	Stephania Rogers	Weekday Farm
Ken Russell	Stewardship	281-488-0390	Anne Tincher	Weekday Trail
Christine Naspinski	Interpretation	281-291-9513	Andrew Hamlett	Newsletter
Jane Bingle	Outreach	281-554-5069	email: BayouFoliage@aol.com	

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