

Bayou Foliage

April 2001

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

Vol. 20 No. 4

LOOKING AHEAD

March - April Calendar

- Mar. 31 - Star Party
- Apr. 05 - Volunteer Brd Mtg, 6pm
- Apr. 10 - Deadline *Bayou Foliage*
- Apr. 12 - Volunteer Mtg, 6:30pm
- Apr. 21 - Earth Day
- May 05 - Marsh Mania
- May 12 - Bayou Boil

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Date: April 12, 2001

Time: 6:30 p.m. — Refreshments

7:00 p.m. — Program — *Raptors of the Upper Texas Coast*

8:00 p.m. — Business meeting

Join us for a slide and specimen presentation about the raptors of the Upper Texas Coast. Dick Benoit, a Hawk Watch and ABNC volunteer, will present this one-hour talk about the natural history of raptors you can see along the Upper Texas Coast.

REMINDER

ABNC Volunteers ... remember to wear your nametag and your Khaki uniform shirt when doing your volunteer duty.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

There will be NO Yuletide event this year.

If you have any articles or notices that you would like to contribute to the *Bayou Foliage*, please contact the Publisher, Molly Ganter at mobrien@kpft.org or 281-484-5021. Submissions to the *Bayou Foliage* are printed at the discretion of the editor of the *Bayou Foliage* and ABNC staff.

Former ABNC volunteers may continue to receive the *Bayou Foliage* for a yearly donation of \$5.00. This \$5.00 donation helps defray the cost of the newsletter. Please contact Ken Russell for further information.

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 volunteers are Roland and Marjorie Borey. Originally from Louisiana they moved to the Houston area where Roland worked for Brown & Root and Marjorie worked as a housewife and a dedicated mother. In 1988 Roland retired and Marjorie decided they needed something to do. She had heard of ABNC and thought it would be a good idea to

volunteer there. Knowing that Marjorie is always right, Roland gladly went along with the idea.

Their favorite aspect of the Nature Center is the farm. They are both very active with farm activities, especially Marjorie. She is also very devoted to working on the quilt that is raffled off to make money for the Nature Center. Roland comes out here almost every Tuesday and Saturday to work hard in the facilities area with Patrick and some other very dedicated volunteers. Recently they have both had some medical problems, but that has hardly slowed them down. They have both been seen out here a week after being in the hospital. With dedication and loyalty like that ABNC is sure to be successful.

Thank you, Roland and Marjorie for all that you do.

—Kim Wasserman

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2001 VOLUNTEER MEETING

The Volunteer Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. The Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

Treasurer, Ken Russell, reported that the Volunteer Board had approved the proposed budget for year 2001. It will be published in the *Bayou Foliage*. Volunteers will vote on the Proposed Budget at the April meeting. Volunteers can order khaki shirts with ABNC logo through Ken.

Stan Krauhs, Vice Chair, said the program for the April meeting will be open to the public. Dick Benoit will be lecturing about raptors. There will be a Star Party on March 31st for volunteers and their families. It will be counted as continuing education.

Laura Bradley, Weekday Outdoor Education, reported that she has openings in March. A signup sheet was available. April has classes scheduled every available day. There was a request from one school for a Prairie class so something will be developed. Ed Adams asked for a show of hands from those who would be interested in a class to learn about the prairie. Several people raised their hands.

Stephania, Weekday Farm, was absent but she left a report with Ed. She reported that things are going well for March. Cookies will be sold at Down on the Farm so she needs the volunteers to bake

cookies and sign up to help sell them.

Ruby Dilgren, Weekday Trails, was absent, but Joan Henderson said that everything is in order.

Eldine Owens, Weekend Demos, was absent.

Dottie Evans, Outreach, said there was a special request from the Houston Zoo for an outreach about bird migration on April 21st. She asked for volunteers to help.

Jane Bingel, Ways and Means Committee, was absent.

Jim Callan, Stewardship, said that there will be demos around the farm yard on Earth Day. March 5th is Marsh Mania. In June Mark Kramar will hold a prairie burn class.

Christine Hiscox, was absent so Joan Henderson reported for her. Joan said that Christine needs help. Christine will train volunteers on the phone and in other areas such as data entry.

Bayou Foliage: Joan Henderson reported that Molly Ganter is the new Publisher for the *Foliage*. The deadline for the newsletter will remain the same, the Tuesday before the volunteer meeting. Polly Swerdlin asked if the *Bayou Foliage* could be emailed or placed on the web site.

Kim Wasserman, Staff, announced that the Volunteer(s) of the Month are Marjorie and Roland Borey. She reported that the Whooping Crane trip didn't make, and the Big Thicket trip is coming up. March 22nd is the deadline. Pole Barn is being repaired. The staff is getting ready for EcoCamp. They are working hard on developing the lesson plans. The new volunteers

who have completed training were recognized and given certificates.

Upcoming Calendar of Events.

Ed Adams said more volunteers were needed for Saturday, March 10th, for the canoe trip headed by Dan Pelletier. Meet at Bay Area Park at 7:45 AM.

Becky Brignac presented job descriptions for Down on the Farm (DOF). She reported that she needs someone to shear the sheep. Lou Hornung will have a farm class on March 10th to teach people about the farm. Sign in when come to work DOF and get free hotdog, chips, and drink. She asked that volunteers dress in 1900 prairie attire. Also requested was help on Friday and Sunday, the days before and after DOF, for setup and cleanup.

Polly Swerdlin will be calling people to help with DOF. She asked for two chairpersons, one for rope making, and one for the exit interviews.

Ed Adams asked for six more paying customers to "make" an overnight canoe trip to Village Creek. The trip is the last weekend in April. Rain date is the first weekend in May.

Unfinished Business: Ed announced that the volunteer overnight campout was a success with fun, plenty of food, opportunities to meet new volunteers and canoeing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Ward, Secretary

**ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS
TREASURER'S REPORT
MARCH 2001**

Beginning Balance		\$ 2,628.70
Expenditures:		
Postage - Bayou Foliage (February 2001)	30.00	
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 32.00</u>
Income:		
Stove Fund	10.00	
Appreciation Dinner Photos	2.00	
Foliage Dues (Inactive Member)	16.93	
Total Income		<u>\$ 28.93</u>
Current Balance		<u>\$ 2,625.63</u>

Requesting approval by vote at the April Volunteer Meeting. If you have any questions please contact Ed Adams or Ken Russell, Volunteer Board Members.

**ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS
PROPOSED BUDGET - 2001**

Income:		
Breakfast with the Birds (3@200)	600.00	
Pontoon Boat Ride with Wine & Cheese (1@150)	150.00	
Paper Recycling	500.00	
Cookie Sales	600.00	
Cookbook Sales	50.00	
Bayou Foliage Postage (Inactive Members)	70.00	
Total		<u>1900.00</u>
Expenditures:		
Postage (Bayou Foliage)	400.00	
Bank Service Charge	24.00	
Administrative/Supplies	50.00	
Cards/Flowers/Contingency	176.00	
Hauling Cart for Outreach Volunteers	55.00	
Two Eco Camp Scholarships	350.00	
Total		<u>1,055.00</u>
Assets on 1-1-01	2,436.52	
Proposed Income	1,900.00	
		4,336.52
Proposed Expenditures		1,055.00
Balance		<u>\$ 3,281.52</u>

EVENTS

SPRING EVENTS

Many of you help each year with the Earth Day, Marsh Mania, and Bayou Boil. For you volunteers, who have not participated in these really fun happenings, please come join us for some fun and worthwhile hard work.

EARTH DAY 2001

ABNC will be celebrating Earth Day on Saturday April 21st from 9am-5pm. Scheduled activities will include guided hikes, pontoon boat rides, canoeing, and environmental demonstrations. Mark Kramer will be the chairperson for the event, so feel free to give him a call if you're interested in helping with one of the events. Also, there is a clipboard in the volunteer office if you want to help with one of the activities. All of the activities are FREE with regular admission so pack a lunch and plan on spending the day enjoying the celebration. At least 30 volunteers are needed.

MARSH MANIA SITE COMPLETED

Sometimes it takes a while for a plan to come together. The one-half acre marsh restoration site located in the southern part of Armand Bayou was just such a project. During the summer of 2000, ABNC Stewardship Volunteers began construction of protective fencing around the restoration site. Over a period of four Stew-

ardship Saturdays, volunteers successfully completed the "brush dike" fence. This dual row fence is designed to contain recycled Christmas trees. The fence/trees are an important feature of the restoration project serving to exclude grazing animals like nutria and grass carp. The brush dike also helps to minimize wave activity, which could injure or uproot the young marsh grasses.

On October 5, 2000 many of the same Stewardship Saturday volunteers returned to the site to participate in a bay wide marsh restoration event called Marsh Mania. ABNC Stewardship Volunteers participated in this manic day of marsh grass planting by serving as "Team Captains". These "Team Captains" served to direct over 100 volunteers from around the bay area to plant over 1400 one gallon plants of smooth cordgrass in the restoration site in just two hours!

On Stewardship Saturday January 20, 2001 the final element of this seven-month project was completed. Installation of the recycled trees was a particularly memorable and sloppy part of the project. Thanks to a donation of over 400 Christmas trees from Home Depot Clear Lake, there were plenty of trees to install in the 500-foot brush dike. Good job to every one who participated in the event, and a special thanks to everyone who was involved through the entire process of fencing, planting and Christmas tree relocation. —Mark Kramer

BAYOU BOIL

Bayou Boil is a very important fund-raiser for the Center and just a lot of fun for us volunteers. It is scheduled for Saturday, May 12th. Volunteers are need to set up, to serve food, to assist with the auction, to greet attendees, and to do clean up on Sunday.

SEA GRASS RESTORATION GRANT

The long awaited grant for sea grass restoration has been awarded. It establishes a fixed time for the work and requires that a certain amount be accomplished each month. Therefore, there will be intensive planting this summer. Students from the University of Houston-Clear Lake will be helping, but we need a good number of our own volunteers to help in order to meet our objectives. Come join us for some wet but cool work. Look in next month's issue of the Bayou Foliage for more details.



ABNC PAST AND PRESENT



Feb 17th, 2001. Volunteers at Armand Bayou Nature Center worked in the Bayou along the west bank to lay trees between 2 layers of protective fencing, creating a brush dike. The trees help to minimize wave energy from uprooting the tender, young plants, and also keep certain fish from feeding on the marsh grass.

RECYCLED TREES PROTECT PLANTINGS

Restoration of a half acre of marsh at the southern end of Armand Bayou began in October with Marsh Mania, an annual Galveston Bay Foundation project where marsh grass is planted at various sites around the Bay. Mark Kramer, Stewardship Coordinator at ABNC, was leader of the Armand Bayou site this past year. He had help from ABNC volunteers, corporate volunteer organizations, government agencies and the public.

In December 400 Christmas trees were donated by Home Depot. The trees are being used to protect the plantings from high wave energy in Mud Lake (at the southernmost part of Armand Bayou).

Mark Kramer said the trees go into a protective double fence called a brush dike. This helps to minimize wave energy from uprooting the young plants, and also keeps certain fish from feeding on the grass. According to Mark, "it acts as a kind of wall, letting some of the energy through but dissipating a large amount of it. A solid wall would be beaten to pieces by that type of marine environment." After the marsh grass had an opportunity to re-establish itself, the brush dike can be removed.

Nine volunteers, over two Stewardship Saturdays, made great progress on placing the trees in the brush dike. Another Saturday of work should see the task completed.

—Rita Barnes

BAYOU BANTER

BOOK REVIEW

A Walk in the Woods

Have you always wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail? Not enough time? Too much effort?

Too cold? Well, I have the answer. Save time. Don't exert too much energy. Find a nice, cozy spot. Now sit down and enjoy Bill Bryson as he walks us down the Appalachian Trail in his book *A Walk in the Woods*.

There are many asides regarding the bears, the National Park Service, gourmet foods, and backpacks. Bryson's style of writing will keep you amused and eager to turn the page. This read is every bit as good as actually doing the hike!

—Barb Hill



ABNC is pleased to welcome our new volunteers. Back Row - Wayne Beck, Rich Fair, Leroy McKinley, Odie Asscherick. Front Row - Bonnie McKinley, Lisa Sessions, Marie Asscherick.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

The year 2001 is off with a bang. Everyone is working hard and doing a great job! Thanks ABNC Volunteers for all that you do.

A BIG THANKS TO CHRISTINE NAPINSKI

I want to send out a huge thank you to *Christine Napinski*, for developing the Excel spreadsheet

to add up all the hours the volunteers work each and every month.

This nifty spreadsheet is going to save Kim a lot of time by adding up all the hours each volunteer has logged.

Part of Kim's job is to track where the volunteer work effort is going by using a calculator. No more calculators!

This nifty spreadsheet is going

to save Kim a lot of time by adding up all the hours each volunteer has logged. Now, I can help by entering hours at the end of the month.

Volunteer work hours are included in a monthly admission report that I generate. The new spreadsheet makes reporting a lot easier. Chris did all of us a huge favor by designing this spreadsheet. Thank you, Chris, for taking your time to develop a very useful tool for ABNC.

—Jo Ev

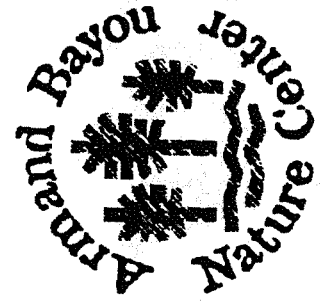
DUTY ROSTER FOR APRIL 2001

PLUNTER DUTY SCHEDULE - APRIL 2001

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 4/1		Kathy Ching	Joe Bryan	Dan & Jen Pelletier		
Sat 4/7	Diana Hardy	Martha Hood	Danny Yarney	Janet Miller	Jane Bingle Butter	
Sun 4/8		Stan Krauhs	Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin	Polly Swerdlin Rope Making	
Sat 4/14	Jim Crabb	Ray Parker	Doug Barfoot	Stephania Rogers	Chris Bingham Stereopticon	
Sun 4/15		Patty Pennington	Mary Yurkovich		Easter	
Sat 4/21	Louise Peck	Danny Yarney	Betty Snyder	Chris Bingham	Polly Swerdlin Farm Recycling	Eleanor Stanley Lizards
Sun 4/22		Dina Supple	Martha Hood	Eleanor Stanley	Tom Scarocella Woodworking	Zel Arbuckle Pond Study
Sat 4/28	Kelli Glenn	Melanie Weisman	Kelli Glenn	Susan Hesley		Joanne Wachter Opossums
Sun 4/29		Stan Krauhs	Dina Supple	Jane Bingle	Emily Etan Weaving	

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



2001 Volunteer Board

Ed Adams	Chair	713-946-2754
Stan Krauhs	Vice Chair	281-470-2744
Irene Ward	Secretary	281-992-3912
Ken Russell	Treasurer	281-488-0390
Jim Callan	Stewardship	281-488-5753
Jane Bingle	Interpretation	281-554-5069
Chris Hiscox	Admissions	281-286-1609
Eldine Owens	Weekend Demos	281-486-7524
Ruby Dilgren	Weekend Trail	281-488-1727
Stephania Rogers	Weekday Farm	713-473-4324
Laura Bradley	Wkdy Outdoor Ed	281-992-2604
Dottie Evans	Outreach	281-532-1273

Bayou Foliage

Molly OBrien - Publisher
 Irene Ward - Co-Editor
 Mary Yurkovich - Co-Editor
 Rita Barnes - Reporter
 Wanda Hayden - Circulation
 E-mail your articles to
 mobrien@kpft.org

APRIL 2001 CALENDAR

April 2001 Calendar

April 5	Thurs	Class-Insect Explorations	11-12:30	Laura Bradley
		Quilters	1-3pm	Joyce Roberts
		Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
April 6	Fri	Class-Pond Pals	10-11:30	Laura Bradley
April 7	Sat	Birthday-Reptiles	10-12	Kim Wasserman
		Stewardship Project	8:30am	Jim Callen
April 10	Tue	Class-Nature Discovery	10-11:30	Laura Bradley
		Class-Farm Life	10-11:30	Stephania Rogers
		Deadline for Bayou Foliage		Molly Ganter
April 11	Wed	Class-Nature Discovery	10-11:30	Laura Bradley
		Class-Farm Life	10-11:30	Stephania Rogers
April 12	Thur	Quilters	1-3pm	Joyce Roberts
		Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Ed Adams
April 14	Sat	Birthday-Insects	2-4pm	Kim Wasserman
April 17	Tue	Class-Insect Explorations	10:30-12	Laura Bradley
April 18	Wed	Class-Insect Explorations	10:30-12	Laura Bradley
April 19	Thur	Class-Insect Explorations	10:30-12	Laura Bradley
		Class-Farm Life	10-11:30	Stephania Rogers
		Quilters	1-3pm	Joyce Roberts
		Board of Trustees mtg.	5-6pm	Ephraim Dickson
April 21	Sat	Earth Day	9-5pm	Mark Kramer
		Stewardship Project	8:30am	Jim Callen
April 26	Thur	Quilters	1-3pm	Joyce Roberts
April 27	Thur	Class-Reptiles	10-11:30	Laura Bradley
April 28	Sat	Girl Scouts-Water Wonder	9:45-3pm	Kim Wasserman

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: Stewardship Saturdays - Meet in the ABNC parking lot at the project's designated time (Green House if it is raining). Dress appropriately for the 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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