

# Bayou

# Foliage

July, 2001

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

Vol. 20, No. 7

## LOOKING AHEAD

- July 5 Vol. Board Mtg, 6pm
- July 10 *Bayou Foliage* deadline, 4pm
- July 12 Volunteer Mtg, 6:30pm  
Topic: Prairie Burns
- Aug 2 Vol, Board Mtg, 6pm
- Aug 7 *Bayou Foliage* deadline, 4pm
- Aug 9 Volunteer Mtg, 6:30pm  
Topic: Galapagos Islands
- Aug 15 Volunteer Orientation, 6:30-9pm
- Aug 18-Sept 22 Volunteer Training

## NOTES

Remember to bring your mosquito repellent and sunscreen when you are out and about at the Center. A hat is also a good thing to have.

Weekday classes are scheduled less frequently due to the summer EcoCamps (between June and the end of July).



## VOLUNTEER MEETING

- Date: July 12
- Time: 6:30 pm - Refreshments
- 7:30 pm - Program: Prairie Burns
- 8:00 pm - Business Meeting

### *Fire on the Prairie – A Good Thing*

Fire is generally thought of as bad for nature because it is destruc-

tive. However, fire is necessary for a healthy prairie. Fire helps grass seeds germinate and keeps out woody plants. A prairie will not continue to be a prairie without it. Mark Kramer will speak to us about the role of fire and in par-

*Continued on p. 3*

## 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 **all the ABNC Volunteers**. The Nature Center is halfway through the year 2001 and things have been running successfully thanks to the ABNC Volunteers. Some of the accomplishments as of the end of April 2001 are: In the education area, 471 children in weekday classes, 163 people in family activities, 608 participants in birthday parties, 3,847 people and kids informed by the outreach programs, and 5,981 people for general admission; With everyone's hard work we pulled off three successful special events, Down On The Farm, Earth Day and Bayou Boil; In the stewardship area many projects were completed such as Trash Bash and Marsh Mania plus many other behind-the-scenes projects. Speaking behind-the-scenes, in the facilities area several areas of the Nature Center have been

repaired and upgraded like the trails, the perimeter fencing and front gate, the pole barn, electricity in the maintenance shed and repair of the wagon and corrals in the farm area.

There are also several aspects of the Nature Center that keep going because of dedicated volunteers, for example: filling the bird feeders, putting up a monthly calendar in the lobby of the education building, distributing ABNC information to local businesses and cleaning of the farm house. The ABNC Volunteers showed great teamwork when they worked together and formed the *Bayou Foliage* team who has been producing a great newsletter and never missed an issue even when times were tough.

As you can see the Nature Center has been very busy so far this year and thanks to all the dedicated ABNC Volunteers it will continue to be a successful year.

—Kim Wasserman

# BUSINESS REPORTS

## MINUTES OF THE JUNE 16, 2001 VOLUNTEER MEETING

The Volunteer Meeting was called to order by Ed Adams at 7:50 p.m. The Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

Treasurer, Ken Russell, was absent so there was no report.

Committee Chairs Report: Farm and reptile demos are being held and classes are full.

Kim Wasserman, Staff, announced that the Volunteer of the Month is *all of the volunteers*. She presented the volunteers a large, luscious sheet cake to show her appre-

ciation of volunteer efforts.

Damage to the boathouse by Tropical Storm Allison has already been repaired. All animals at the farm are okay. A box is missing from the Martyn Trail

Upcoming Calendar of Events: Fall Festival theme was discussed by Polly Swerdlin. The theme will be Country Fair 1918. Polly passed around a sign up list for committee chairs and helpers.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Irene Ward, Secretary

## KHAKI SHIRT ORDERS

If you would like a khaki shirt (long or short sleeve) with the Armand Bayou Nature Center logo on it we are now in the process of compiling an order. These are the same shirts that you see the Staff wearing. We must have at least 12 requested before we can place an order. The cost per shirt is \$20 and you may pay in cash or with a check (made out to ABNC). If you're interested in ordering one or more shirts please leave your name, size, and sleeve preference in my mail box (Treasurer Box in the Volunteer Office). When we have enough orders we will contact you and ask that you leave your payment with Jo at the front desk.

Thanks!

—Ken Russell

### ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS TREASURER'S REPORT JUNE 2001

Beginning Balance		\$ 2874.60
Expenditures:		
Postage - Bayou Foliage (May 2001)	\$31.00	
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	\$33.00	
Income:		
Paper Recycling	14.74	
<i>Total Income</i>	\$14.74	
Current Balance		\$ <u>2856.34</u>



## *Fire on the Prairie, Cont'd from p. 1*

particular will focus on the use of prescribed fire to maintain the prairie at the Nature Center. His presentation will include fire ecology, fire behavior, and burning techniques. If you are interested in participating in prescribed prairie burns, classes are offered periodically that go into more depth and include safety, equipment use, governing laws, and the burning of a small demonstration plot.

—Stan Krauhs

## STEWARDSHIP

Things are taking root in the Stewardship program this summer. Literally. Mark Kramer and volunteers are busy planting grass both in the Bayou and out. Anyone interested is urged to join the fun. Stewardship activities will occur during the week throughout the summer. Stewardship Saturday is every 1st and 3rd Saturday (year-round). Call the Center for more info, or contact Jim Callan at 281-824-9411 to have your name added to the call-out list.

Planting marsh Widgeon grass is the main Stewardship effort for the summer and the Coastal Management Plan Grant is supporting that. Mark is coordinating weekday volunteers to go to the Reliant Energy site to prepare grass propagules (young plants) and to collect data in preparation for planting. Those interested in this weekday effort are encouraged to call Mark Kramer at the Center. The Stewardship group have activities on the Bayou twice weekly during the summer, in

addition to the regular first and third Saturday Stewardship activities.

Now on the drier side, Prairie Fridays are a chance for any and all volunteers to learn more about prairie plant ecology and restoration efforts. This weekly activity will involve vegetation monitoring and

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***A management plan is being prepared and is in review and editing by the Stewardship Committee of the Board of Trustees. This plan lays out the long-range vision for the Center's preserve activities.***

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data gathering at the prairie transect lines, plus planting of the remaining tall grass plants (Gamma and Switch Grass). Volunteers are also especially needed (preferably on Fridays) for mowing the tall grass plots. It's more fun than mowing your lawn. Contact Mark for training on the tractors and to schedule your time. To further support prairie grass restoration, two prairie burns are planned for the summer in July and August.

A management plan is being prepared and is in review and editing by the Stewardship Committee of the Board of Trustees. This plan lays out the long-range vision for the Center's preserve activities. Once complete it will be available to all Volunteers for review and comment. Mark Kramer has spent a significant amount of time on this valuable effort, which will point the way for our future Stewardship work.

As you can see, the Stewardship department has its feet planted firmly in the ground (and Bayou) this summer. Join us in the fun while learning more about this vital resource. Remember, contact Mark Kramer or the Center for info on weekday activities. Stewardship Saturday is every 1st and 3rd Saturday. Call the Center for more info, and contact Jim Callan to be added to the call-out list.

—Jim Callan  
Volunteer

Stewardship Coordinator



## FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

### EcoCamp Supplies

Here is a list of some items the education staff could use for EcoCamp and you might have around the house:

- Lids – small ones from soda bottles, pill bottles, toothpaste, etc.
- Six-pack rings
- Tennis ball holders (we need these all-year-round)
- Plastic containers like butter dishes
- Flat, level bottomed clear plastic bottles
- Glass jars with lids (all sizes)

Please drop off these items at the Heiman House, if possible.

### EcoCamp

All summer vacancies are full. Thanks for your support.

# JULY 2001 CALENDAR

## Summer 2001 Calendar

July 5	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
	Thurs	Class-Reptiles	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
July 6	Fri	Class-Reptiles	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
July 10	Tue	Deadline for Bayou Foliage	4pm	Molly Ganter
July 12	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Ed Adams
		Vol Meeting Presentation: Prairie Burns		Mark Kramer
July 20	Fri	Class-Reptiles	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
July 25	Wed	Class-Reptiles	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
July 26	Thurs	Class-Reptiles	10:30 am	Laura Bradley
	Thurs	Class-Nature Discovery	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
July 27	Fri	Class-Reptiles	10:00 am	Laura Bradley
Aug 2	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
Aug 7	Tue	Deadline for Bayou Foliage	4pm	Molly Ganter
Aug 9	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30 pm	Ed Adams
		Vol Meeting Presentation: Galapagos Islands		Helen Hodges
Aug 15	Wed	Volunteer Orientation	6:30-9 pm	Volunteer Coordinator
August 18 – September 22		Volunteer Training		Volunteer Coordinator

**Weekday classes are scheduled less frequently due to the summer EcoCamps (during June and July).**

**NOTES: 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. Remember to wear your nametag and your khaki uniform shirt when doing your volunteer duties. Depending on your activities at the Center, it is a good idea to bring mosquito repellent and sunscreen.

**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.

**Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Manual Corner**  
Every month The *Bayou Foliage* will highlight information from the ABNC Volunteer Manual.

### *Armand Bayou Nature Center Mission Statement*

**Armand Bayou Nature Center's Mission** is to connect people with nature by providing environmental education and preserving our three unique, vanishing ecosystems: an estuarine bayou, tall grass coastal prairie and woodland.

Volunteers help the Armand Bayou Nature Center fulfill its mission of education and stewardship by:

- Serving as interpretive guides to lead public tours
- Providing natural and cultural history demonstrations for the public
- Instructing classes which introduce children to environmental and cultural subjects
- Helping with special events that have cultural, recreational, or educational significance
- Assisting with stewardship programs that maintain and enhance natural resources
- Providing additional services which support the operation of the center and its programs

# DUTY ROSTER FOR JULY 2001

## VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - July 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 7/1	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Marie Asscherick	Ken Russell	Eleanor Stanley	Irene Ward	Mary Barton
Sat 7/7	Kelli Glenn	Charles Buren	Mary Barton	Stephanie Rogers	Stereopticon	Bird Adaptations
Sun 7/8	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Stan Krauhs	Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin	Sandy Parker	Eleanor Stanley
Sat 7/14	Jim Crabb	Cris Santiago	Paul Brunkow	Paula Thorson	Rita Barnes Butter	Reptiles
Sun 7/15	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Robin Maltsberger	Dina Supple	Cathy Jett	Stephanie Rogers	Eldine Owens
Sat 7/21	Louise Peck	Charles Buren	Pat Bates	Jane Bingle	Ropemaking	Snakes
Sun 7/22	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Stan Krauhs	Kelli Glenn	Jen & Dan Pelletier	Jane Bingle	Marilyn Clark
Sat 7/28	Kathy Ching	Ray Parker	Joe Bryan	Susan Williams	Corn Husk Dolls	Lizards
Sun 7/29	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Danny Yancey	Pat Bates	Sandy Parker	Mary Ann Tucker	
					Basketweaving	
					Anne Brinly	Pat Doerr
					Bobbin Lace	Mary Garrett
						Hummingbirds
						Polly Swerdlin
						Kathy Ching
						Insects
						Anne Tincher
						Microworld

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	Chris Hiscox	Admissions	281-286-1609	Bayou Foliage
Stan Krauhs	Vice Chair	281-470-2744	Eldine Owens	Weekend Demos	281-486-7524	Molly Ganter, publisher
Irene Ward	Secretary	281-992-3912	Ruby Dilgren	Weekend Trail	281-488-1727	Irene Ward - Co-Editor
Ken Russell	Treasurer	281-488-0390	Stephanie Rogers	Weekday Farm	713-473-4324	Mary Yurkovich - Co-Editor
Jim Callan	Stewardship	281-824-9411	Laura Bradley	Wkdy Outdoor Ed	281-992-2604	Rita Barnes - Reporter
Jane Bingle	Interpretation	281-554-5069	Dottie Evans	Outreach	281-532-1273	Wanda Hayden - Circulation

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