

Bayou Foliage

June 2001

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

Vol. 20 No.4

LOOKING AHEAD

- June 2 Garden Days-Hanson House, 9 am
- June 2 Birthday-Trail Hike, 10 am (Call to teach)
- June 7 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6-8 pm
- June 9 Prairie Burn Class-Auditorium, 10a-2p
- June 12 Deadline for Bayou Foliage, 4 pm
- June 16 Volunteer Potluck Picnic, 6 pm (replaces meeting)
- June 16 Garden Days-Hanson House, 9 am
- July 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6 pm
- July 10 Deadline for Bayou Foliage, 4 pm
- July 12 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm; Prairie Burns
- Aug 2 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6 pm
- Aug 7 Deadline for Bayou Foliage, 4 pm
- Aug 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm; Galapagos Islands

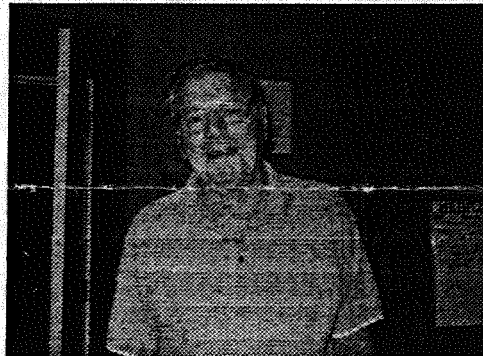
VOLUNTEER MEETING

PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 16

Mark your calendars now for the annual volunteer summer picnic at the farmhouse on Saturday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. The picnic will replace the normal monthly volunteer meeting in June. The program will be social conversation for you and a guest. (There will be no formal speaker.) Volunteers are asked to bring a covered dish to serve 6. It can be any food from an appetizer to an entrée to dessert. Salads, breads, and special dishes are also welcome. See you there!

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 **Lew Hornung**. Lew grew up in upstate New York where he spent a lot of time on a dairy farm. His job as a medical equipment salesman brought him to the Houston



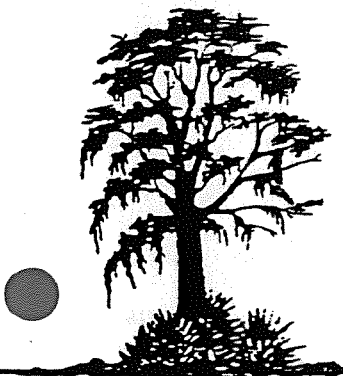
Currently you will find Lew hanging out in the maintenance yard with Patrick and the "Jim Crew". Through the years Lew has become quite a skilled craftsman and helps with carpentry and repairs. He especially enjoys doing repairs in the farm area and helps with the planning of events like Fall Festival and Down On The Farm. When

area where he married an East Texas girl. Lew recalls coming to ABNC's Fall Festival in 1983 and then becoming a volunteer in 1984.

With his experience in farming, Lew was hired as the ABNC farm manager from 1989 through 1992.

asked Lew says his favorite thing about volunteering at the Nature Center is "getting to talk with and meeting volunteers and staff".

Lew, it is always a pleasure talking to you, and ABNC appreciates all your hard work and dedication for so many years.



**MINUTES OF THE
MAY 10, 2001
VOLUNTEER
MEETING**

The Volunteer Meeting was called to order by Stan Krauhs at 8:05 p.m. The Minutes of the April meeting were approved. Treasurer Ken Russell reported that a cart to carry displays for the Outreach volunteers was purchased. The cart holds up to 500 pounds.

Stan Krauhs, Vice Chair, said that on May 19th, Mark Kramer will conduct a Forest Plant ID continuing education class from 2 - 4 p.m. Stan reminded volunteers that on June 9th from 10 to 2 Mark Kramer will conduct a Prairie Burn class.

Laura Bradley, Weekday Outdoor Education, reported that she has four openings for next week. Stephanie Rogers, Weekday Farm, said she needs volunteer help on May 16th and 17th. Ruby Dilgren,

Weekday Trails, was absent, no report. Eldine Owens, Weekend Demos, was absent, no report. Dottie Evans, Outreach, said the last outreach for the time being is at Johnson Space Center. Jane Bingel, Interpretations & Front Desk Greeters, was absent; no report.

Jim Callan, Stewardship, reported on Marsh Mania and expressed Mark Kramer's appreciation for the help of volunteers who participated. On May 19th the protective fencing will be removed from the older restored sites. On weekdays there will be sea grass planting. If interested, volunteers are to call Mark directly. Christine Hiscox, Admissions, was absent, no report. Bayou Foliage, no report. Kim Wasserman, Staff, announced that the Volunteer of the Month is Lew Hornung. EcoCamp needs interns and teachers.

Bayou Foliage will have a list of materials that ABNC hopes volunteers and/or others will donate. The electrical upgrades are

nearly finished, and the telescope house has been repaired.

The center will be receiving about 75 radios shortly. Bayou Boil needs volunteers for demos.

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

Bayou Boil is a big money maker for the center, so volunteers were encouraged to help.

The annual volunteer picnic will be held June 16th. There is a signup sheet for volunteers to bring napkins, plates, and utensils.

Unfinished Business: none.

New Business: The Board of Trustees will meet with the Volunteer Board after the next Volunteer Board Meeting so that the two boards can share ideas and information. Also, the Board of Trustees has proposed that their by-laws be changed to state that a volunteer will be a member of the Board of Trustees nominating committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Ward, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT MAY 2001

Beginning Balance		\$2692.22
Expenditures:		
Postage - Bayou Foliage (April 2001)	\$31.00	
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00	
Cart for Outreach Volunteers	\$38.90	
Total Expenditures		\$71.90
Income:		
Paper Recycling (Feb)	\$19.15	
Paper Recycling	\$16.88	
Donation from a Volunteer	\$20.00	
Cookie Sales (Down on the Farm)	\$198.25	
Total Income		\$254.28
Current Balance		\$2874.60

—Ken Russell

FOREST PLANT IDENTIFICATION CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASS

When: Saturday, May 19 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (meet on the back porch of education building).

Bring your notebooks and get to know the trees, vines, and other flora of the riparian forest with Mark Kramer. Mark is most knowledgeable about the ecosystems at ABNC and anxious to impart his knowledge to the volunteers. This is a not-to-miss class for those volunteers doing guided trail hikes. Mark will take the class down one of the trails, identifying the flora and answering questions. What better way to spend an afternoon and enhance your knowledge of the forest at ABNC?

PRESCRIBED PRAIRIE BURN CLASS

When: Saturday, June 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet in the auditorium.

Teacher Mark Kramer will focus on the use of prescribed fire to maintain the prairie at the Nature Center. Topics to be discussed include fire ecology, fire behavior, burning techniques, safety, equipment use, and governing laws. A

small plot will be burned to demonstrate this activity, if conditions are favorable.

Please wear appropriate clothing, that is, cotton shirt and long pants, boots, hat, bandana, and work gloves. This class is required before a volunteer can participate in a prairie burn. If you have not attended a previous class and want to participate in a future prairie burn, then you must attend. Please sign up on the class activity sheet or call the front desk to be registered.

—Stan Krauhs

OUTREACH

What do we mean when we say "Outreach"? For Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers-Outreach means a busy Spring. Our Outreach programs go into our neighborhoods, schools and businesses to tell people about who we are and what wonderful things are happening at ABNC.

Within the past month we have spent two weekend afternoons at the Kemah Waterfront participating in the Kemah Kid's Fest. We took animals and Eco-Camp information to this event and had a great time meeting many residents and visitors to the Clear Lake Area.

We also visited two local elementary schools to let the students and parents know about our Eco-Camp and encourage them to join us for outdoor fun this summer. Four volunteers and Chris Battan spent at day at a Pasadena Elementary School demonstrating "Hands

on History" crafts and telling the students about our turn-of-the-century farm.

And we took our volunteers and reptiles to Johnson Space Center on May 11th for The NASA Spring Safety Fair.

Outreach programs are scheduled year-around and if you are interested in joining us please let me know. You can help take the message about Armand Bayou Nature Center out to our community. We have at least two volunteers for each Outreach program. You can "buddy up" until you feel comfortable enough to take off on your own. It's fun, it's easy and it's good for ABNC. Reach out with Outreach.

—Dottie Evans,
Outreach Coordinator

REMINDERS

Keep your eyes open for our snake friends around ABNC. The warm spring weather tends to bring the snakes out of their hiding places. And speaking of snakes, a cottonmouth has been added to the display in the lab.

Don't forget. The new fee for adult admission is now \$3. Still \$1. for seniors and children ages 5-to 17. Free for children 4 and under.



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ABNC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you all for working so hard to make Armand Bayou Nature Center a success! At this writing, we are preparing for one of the best attended Bayou Boils ever. Certainly the fabulous quilt and other art pieces to be auctioned at the event will provide much appreciated financial support to the Center.

On the business side of things, we continue to urge you to attend Board of Trustee meetings whenever you can as the meetings provide an overview of issues and activities on-going with the Trustee Board. Anyone interested in a particular item can become part of the board committee responsible.

Standard Operating Procedures and setting guidelines for the farm component of the inner loop among other things. The Stewardship Committee is considering the impact of recent rulings on Federal wetlands policy. The Facilities Committee is developing policies, standard practices and requirements

We continue to urge you to attend Board of Trustee meetings whenever you can as the meetings provide an overview of issues and activities on-going with the Trustee Board.

The successes this year are astounding. Down on the Farm received rave reviews and had many memorable activities. Earth Day was a roaring success. We have recently had ribbon cuttings at the Bison and Raptor Exhibits. All the while, regular education classes and weekend activities continue to draw eager students, both young and not-so-young. Thank you again.

For example, at the last meeting, the requested Bylaws change concerning the composition of the Nominating Committee was presented by the Bylaws Committee and approved; the change will be put into effect immediately and voted on at the next annual meeting of the membership. Comments on the change will be reviewed between now and the annual meeting to assure all ideas have been considered. The Education Committee is developing

projections. You can see from this quick (incomplete) review that the Board is busy.

A Connections Meeting concept is being developed in order to enhance communications between the Volunteer and Trustee Boards. The hope is to assure a more timely interchange of ideas and concerns, thereby improving and streamlining operations for all involved. Thank you again for helping the Center to achieve its goals.

Sincerely,
Helen I. Hodges

SUBMISSIONS TO BAYOU FOLIAGE



Don't forget to turn in your submissions for the Bayou Foliage the Tuesday before each Monthly Volunteer Meeting. Your articles, notices, and info are welcome additions to the newsletter.

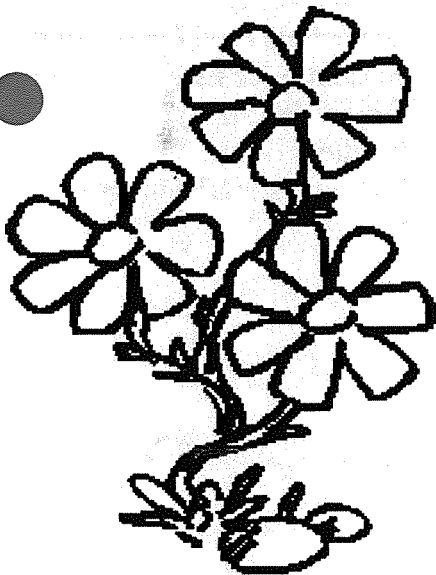
Molly O'Brien Ganter
 Volunteer Publisher - Bayou Foliage
 281-484-5021 home (voice mail if you want to leave your info)
 281-481-2337 fax at home
 713-526-4000 ext 315 work
 Mobrien@kpft.org (work email- I also collect my work email at home)

BOOK REVIEW

Habitat Gardening for Houston by Mark Bowen and Mary Bowen - 1998

Available in the ABNC Gift Shop for \$21.95

As an avid gardener, I am always on the lookout for books that I can refer to over and over for quick information. *Habitat Gardening for Houston* is just that kind of book. There are already plenty of dirty fingerprints and torn pages on this book because I use it a lot. I initially bought it to find out how I might make "my habitat" more



appealing to hummingbirds...only to find that it is making my habitat more appealing for humans, too.

The information doesn't go into a lot of detail; however, what you get are overviews of various subjects such as plant choices,

insects, natives, perennials, etc. At a glance, you can locate the treatment of snails or the best location to plant butterfly weed. You even get a couple of plan sketches to give you ideas on design.

The humans in my habitat can often be found sitting (without purpose) on the porch admiring the plants and enjoying the smells. Now let's see if the hummingbirds find the habitat as appealing.

—Molly Ganter

FALL FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER BOOTH

The Ways and Means Committee has proposed the idea of a Volunteer Booth at Fall Festival that would sell craft and hobby items donated by volunteers as a means of raising money for the Volunteer Budget. The ABNC Staff has approved the idea so the Volunteer Organization needs to start planning toward that end. This does not replace the selling of cookies. Baked goods that go beyond cookies, and that do not compete with the vendors present are also a possibility for the booth.

—Ken Russell

NEW CART FOR OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

The Outreach Volunteers have been asking for a cart to help them when they go "on the road." Thanks to the efforts of Barb Hill (who

noticed one in a catalog and ordered it for us at my request) we now have a very nice flatbed four-wheel cart with fold down handle and a carrying capacity of several hundred pounds. The price was right too! Thanks Barb!

—Ken Russell

BAYOU BRIEFS

- 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).

- Stan Krauhs will chair the Volunteer Board Meeting on Thursday June 7th. The meeting will start at 6:00pm and will finish at 7:00 pm. At 7:00pm Helen Hodges, President of the ABNC Board of Trustees will conduct a meeting with the Volunteer Board to discuss common Center issues.

- The Martyn Trail is complete. The next trails to be worked on are Lady Bird and Marsh Trail. There will be new signage for the trails by next month.

- ABNC will be updating its web page soon thanks to a working volunteer from the refinery.

FROM THE VOLUNTEER OFFICE

New Radios

Solvay Polymers has generously donated 50 radios (walkie talkies) to ABNC. These radios will be a tremendous help for our special events, stewardship projects, EcoCamp, trail hikes, classes, and daily communications. Thank you Stan Krauhs for helping us to secure these radios.

At this time the radios are being inventoried. As soon as the inventory is done and the radios find their permanent home more info will be available.

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)
- Large coffee cans with lids

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

Thank you.

Teachers Needed For EcoCamp

We are in need of qualified, experienced teachers for EcoCamp, our summer day camp program. Qualifications include teaching and/or substantial experience with children ages 4-13. Environmental education background is a plus. Half day, full day and twilight opportunities are available.

Interns Needed For Eco Camp

We are now interviewing for summer interns for our annual EcoCamp. Prospective interns should be at least 18 years of age, have experience/interest in environmental education and some experience working with children. Duties include assisting teachers, before and after camp childcare and material preparation.

Teen Volunteer Coordinator

ABNC is also looking for a Summer Teen Volunteer Coordinator Intern. As a teen volunteer coordinator you would be responsible for coordinating a group of approximately 20 teens between the ages of 14 and 17 who are volunteering to help with ABNC's Summer EcoCamp. To qualify you must be at least a sophomore in college, a full-time student this Spring 2001 and a returning full-time student in the Fall 2001.

Teen Volunteers

We are having a teen volunteer program again this year. Last year was the first year and it was very successful. Teens should be between the ages of 14 and 17 and have a desire to help your community and the environment. Teen

volunteers will assist teachers during summer EcoCamp.

Call the Nature Center (281-474-2551) and ask for Kim Wasserman or Linda Sumner for more details.

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER WISH LIST

As a non-profit organization, ABNC often finds itself in need of items or services that sometimes we cannot purchase. We are asking for your help in acquiring these items or services. If you have any of the items or skills needed listed below and would like to donate them to ABNC please contact Kim Wasserman at 281-474-2551.

Thank you.

ABNC Needs:

Immediate need for Supplies for Eco Camp (see list)
Canoes (all sizes)
Paddles
Computers/PC (Pentium or better)



DUTY ROSTER FOR JUNE 2001

VOLUNTEER DUTY SCHEDULE - June 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 Folio 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
Sat 5/26	PollySwerdin	Dina Supple	Kelli Glenn	Jane Biegel	Joyce Roberts Quilts	Anne Tinchler Microworld
Sun 5/27	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Stan Krauths	Pat Bates	Paula Thorson	Irene Ward Stereopticon	PollySwerdin Turtles
Sat 6/2	Kelli Glenn	Ray Parker	Harna Dragg	Susan Williams	Jane Birgle Hoe Cakes/Cheese	
Sun 6/3	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	John Siptak	Ken Russell	Den Pelittier Jen Pelittier	Mary Ann Tucker Basketing/Making	Eldine Owens Lena O'Donnell Snakes
Sat 6/9	Jim Crabb	Paul Buren	Paul Bruskow	Paula Thorson	Stephanie Rogers Ropemaking	Pat Doerr Nesting Birds
Sun 6/10	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Stan Krauths	Merle Bundy	Eleanor Stanley		
Sat 6/16	Louise Peck	Dina Supple	Kelli Glenn	Stephanie Rogers	Chris Bingham Stereopticon	
Sun 6/17	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Marie Asscherick	Dina Supple	PollySwerdin		
Sat 6/23	Joe Bryan	Patty Perrington	Patsy Cashion	Susan Hesley		Anne Tinchler Microworld
Sun 6/24	No Trails on Sunday at 11:00	Stan Krauths	Pat Bates	Paula Thorson	PollySwerdin Butter	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
Sat 6/30	Kathy Ching	Paul Buren	Joyce Roberts	Chris Bingham	Tam Scarcella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Study Skills

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 Hiscok	Administrators	281-286-1609	Bayou Folio
Stan Krauths	Vice Chair	281-470-2744	Eldine Owens	Weekend Demos	281-486-7524	Molly Carter, publisher
Irene Ward	Secretary	281-992-3912	Ruby Dilgen	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 Biegel	Interpretation	281-544-5069	Dotie Evans	Outreach	281-532-1273	Wanda Hayden - Circulation

SUMMER 2001 CALENDAR

May 25	Fri	Class-Farm Life	10-11:30 am	Stephania Rogers
	Fri	Class-Reptiles	10 am	Laura Bradley
June 2	Sat	Garden Days – Hanson House	9-11:30 am	Mary Alice Trumble
June 2	Sat	Birthday-Trail Hike	10 am-12 pm	Kim Wasserman
		(Please call Kim Wasserman to teach or buddy)		
June 7	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6 pm	Stan Krauhs
		ABNC Board of Trustees	7 pm	Helen Hodges

The Board of Trustees will meet with the Volunteer Board after the regular meeting to discuss common issues.

June 8	Fri	Class-Trails	10-11:30 am	Laura Bradley
June 9	Sat	Class-Prairie Burn Auditorium	10 am-2 pm	Mark Kramer
June 12	Tue	Deadline for Bayou Foliage	4 pm	Molly Ganter

*** No Volunteer Meeting in June; instead you and a guest are invited to the Volunteer Potluck Picnic***

June 16	Sat	Volunteer Potluck Picnic	6 pm	Stan Krauhs
		Garden Days – Hanson House	9-11:30am	Mary Alice Trumble/Kathleen Crabb
July 5	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6 pm	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	4 pm	Molly Ganter
July 12	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30 pm	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	6 pm	Ed Adams
Aug 7	Tue	Deadline for Bayou Foliage	4 pm	Molly Ganter
Aug 9	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30 pm	Ed Adams
		Vol Meeting Presentation: Galapagos Islands		Helen Hodges

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.

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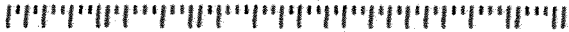
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