

B a y F o l i a g e

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

Vol. 20, No. 10

Printing Compliments of Celanese

October 2001

Look AHEAD

September

- 29 Fall Festival Training, 9:30am
- 29 Volunteer Outing: George Ranch
9:30am

October

- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 6 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am
- 9 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 13 FFT-Rope & Yarn Dolls, 10-11
- 20 Breakfast w/ the Birds 7-10am
- 20 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am
- 20 Tree Identification, 9-11am
- 20 FFT-Soap&Candlemaking, 10-11
- 26-27 Creepy Crawlers

November

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 3 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am
- 3-9 Fall Festival Site Preparation
- 6 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 10-11 Fall Festival
- 17 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am

December

- No Volunteer Board Meeting
- 11 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 13 Volunteer Holiday Party 6:30pm

January 2002

- 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
 - Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
 - 10 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 6:30pm
- *FFT=Fall Festival Training*

abnc STAFF NEWS

Freeze in September.....Freeze?!?

No, not the weather, this one is a hiring freeze. The Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees has placed a hiring freeze on ABNC. Although the staff and Board of Trustees know how important the position of Volunteer Coordinator is, it was the only position currently open. In the meantime, Linda Sumner will continue to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator. Thank you to all of the volunteers who have offered their assistance.

--Linda Sumner

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 Candy Donahue.

Candy is a native Houstonian who worked 20 years as a CPA. In a 180-degree career change, Candy decided to go back to school and get a Masters in Environmental Science with the hopes to start a new career as an environmental consultant. Currently, she is finishing up her prerequisite courses.

It was John Jacobs' class in the Texas Master Naturalist program that lured Candy to

Armand Bayou Nature Center. She has been hooked ever since.

You can find her digging postholes in 107-degree weather, on the tractor mowing the back 40 or getting covered in mud planting widgeon grass.

Away from the Nature Center and school, Candy enjoys spending time with her husband and two teenaged children, volunteering with Girls Scouts and serving as the chair on the finance committee at her church. Candy has contributed so much in her 1 1/2 years at ABNC, and the staff appreciates all of her hard work and dedication.

Thank you, Candy!

--Linda Sumner

abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on September 13, 2001

Stan presided in Ed's absence. Minutes for the August 9, 2001 meeting were approved.

The Volunteer organization needs a secretary to finish out Irene's term for calendar year 2001, or to at least fill in month-to-month at both the Volunteer and Volunteer Board meetings. Upcoming training includes October 20th tree identification with Ray Parker, and a professor from Texas A&M will discuss bison at the October Volunteer meeting. Laura Bradley reported that weekday outdoor education classes are being well attended and that she is in need of help - she will gladly train anyone interested in teaching. Jim Callan reported that the Stewardship group will continue with widgeon grass planting and has successfully completed 5 of 7 restoration sites. An aquarium display is planned for the Education Building foyer. The 100-gallon tank comes to us as part of the Widgeon Grass Grant and will hold seagrass, fish, and invertebrates, and will have interpretive materials. Interpretive materials will also be installed at the Prairie Observation Platform to discuss prairie ecology.

Christine Hiscox can use help on Saturdays at Admissions to give Jo a break, even if for a brief period.

Linda Sumner reported that the Trustees have imposed a hiring freeze, leaving the volunteer coordinator staff slot vacant with Linda as acting coordinator - thanks Linda.

Barb Hill is leaving the Houston area after being a member of ABNC since 1975 and a volunteer since 1985. We'll miss Barb and wish her well. Linda also announced that Candy Donahue is volunteer of the month - congratulations Candy. The Resource Room is in service, but please be sure to access it via the outside door so as not to disturb any classes in session in adjacent rooms. Winter Camp enrollment is already underway.

A number of upcoming activities were announced or reviewed. Those interested in staffing the ABNC booth at the Bay Day Festival on October 20th can contact Linda Sumner. Creepy Crawlers is Friday and Saturday October 26th and 27th. As usual, the Fall Festival volunteer dinner will be held on Saturday of the festival, so please sign up for the \$6 meal by the

end of October. The October 7th Fall Festival Planning Committee Meeting has been postponed until October 14th.

Please sign up to staff an ABNC booth at the Quilt Show at the George R. Brown, Thursday Nov 1st through Sunday the 4th. Becky Brignac is planning a group trip to George Ranch on September 29th, departing from the ABNC parking lot at 9:30am - please RSVP to Becky.

Ephriam reported on the proposed plans of Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to route a new rail line in the Clear Lake area. Anyone interested is encouraged to learn more by attending the public meeting planned for September 26th at 7pm in the ABNC auditorium. Ephriam also reported that the bike path planned for Red Bluff has been funded and that ABNC has been consulted during the project.

Finally, a Nominating Committee was named to begin the process of replacing Volunteer Board members whose terms expire this December.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Callan.

future VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Date: October 11, 2001

Time: 6:30 pm Refreshments

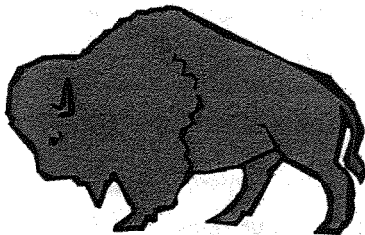
7:00 pm Program

8:00 pm Business Mtg.

The speaker for the

October Volunteer Meeting

will feature Dr. James Jensen, Associate Professor of Zoological Medicine at Texas A&M University - College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Jensen will discuss bison in



North America from prehistory to the present. Bison migrated from the old World over several thousand years by crossing land and ice bridges between what

today are Alaska and Russia. This lecture will also be opened to the public for a fee: Members \$5.00, Nonmembers \$6.00.

As a note at the **November Volunteer Meeting** Dennis Jones will give a presentation on taxidermy.

--by Stan Krauhs

abnc volunteer BUSINESS REPORTS

**Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
Treasurer's Report September 2001**

Beginning Balance	\$2749.27
Expenditures:	
Postage - Bayou Foliage (August 2001)	\$ 31.00
Bank Service Charge	\$ 2.00
Gift certificate for Kim	\$ 50.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 83.00
Income:	
Paper Recycling	\$ 60.89
Total Income	\$ 60.89
Current Balance	\$2727.16

abnc STAFF DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Ephriam D. Dickson III
Director of Education	Linda Sumner
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
Senior Naturalist	George Regmund
Facilities Coordinator	Patrick Hayes
Visitor Services Coordinator	Jo Evans
Front Desk	Dick Phelps
Animal Collections Assistant	Chris Battan
Education Coordinator	Melissa Aguilar
Accountant	Lynda Tanner



abnc FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival Volunteer Booth

Another reminder to start getting your ideas together and working on what you would like to sell at the *Fall Festival Volunteer Booth*. Money raised here goes to the Volunteer Budget. If you have talent in the areas of blacksmithing, woodworking, basket weaving, tatting, crocheting, and drawing or painting, we would love to sell your creations at the booth. Some other crafts or hobbies can also include pottery, cornhusk dolls, birdhouses, soap, candles, photos, and plants.

Remember items should be appropriate to ABNC and not compete with other vendors present.

If you are interested in helping out in the plant category, the Ways and Means Committee is interested in selling plants such as herbs that were used in farm life. A great idea would be selling an herb that is used in baking goods. Also, cuttings from native plants in your own yard and that attract butterflies, birds, etc. is another possibility.

Plant holders are available if needed.

Remember, **Fall Festival is November 10-11, 2001**. If you have any other ideas, we'd love to hear from you. Please call Jane Bingel at 281-554-5069 with any questions or ideas you might have. Here's to a great Fall Festival.

--Martha Hood

Fall Festival Committee Meetings

Oct 14 Sun 4pm
Nov 4 Sun 4pm
Dec 2 Sun 4pm (evaluation)

Fall Festival Volunteer Training

Sept 15 Sat 9-10:30am
Join the New volunteers
as they learn
"Hands-on-History"

Sept 29 Sat 9:30 am
Overview and Introduction

Oct 13 Sat 10-11am
Rope and Yarn Dolls

Oct 20 Sat 10-11am
Soap and Candles

Site Preparation
Nov 3-9 Help whenever
you can spare time
--Polly Swerdlin

Yarn Needed

We are asking all of you knitters and crocheters to please donate your extra yarn to us. It is needed to provide the material for making yarn dolls at Fall Festival. You can leave your yarn in the volunteer office. Just put a note with my name on it and I will pick it up. Thanks.

--Jane Bingel 281-554-5069

Roving Reporters needed

If you would like to contribute to the Bayou Foliage all you have to do is start writing. The Bayou Foliage welcomes your stories and reports. We are especially interested in receiving your reports from our special events, such as Creepy Crawlers or Fall Festival. If you would like to contribute to the Bayou Foliage as a volunteer Roving Reporter please call or email Molly Ganter at gantdan@aol.com.

Country Fair circa 1918

Don't forget the theme for the Fall Festival is Country Fair circa 1918. The turn of the century brought us new fangled inventions, such as the Model T car or the women's right to vote movement. Costumes of choice will be anything from the turn of the century up till 1919. Don't give up your outfit from previous years...keep the style that you are comfortable with. Take a look at the newspaper clippings and other pictures in the Volunteer Office to get more ideas. No matter what you wear Volunteers are still needed!

--Polly Swerdlin
pfollyred@yahoo.com or
281-814-4606 cell

abnc volunteer BANTER

Grocery Shopping and Philanthropy..

...go hand in hand. Maybe you haven't heard but the ABNC Volunteer Program and ABNC are enrolled in charitable giving programs at various grocery stores. If you shop at Kroger, Randalls or Arlan's Market you can designate your favorite charity (hint..hint... ABNC) to receive a percentage of your grocery purchase. It is pretty easy, all you have to do is contact ABNC for your ABNC *Kroger Share Card* or the Randalls *Good Neighbor* number or contact Polly Swerdlin for the Arlan's Market number. Then the next time you shop at any of these stores, you can show your card or give the number of ABNC and a portion of your purchases will be donated to ABNC. What an easy way to support your favorite charity (ABNC!!) and do your shopping.

Goodbye to a Volunteer

The ABNC Volunteers would like to say good bye to a wonderful volunteer, Barb Hill. Barb has been a volunteer since 1985, a member of the Volunteer Board and an all-around supporter of ABNC.

Barb is moving to Massachusetts in the near future and we want to wish her well and express our thanks for all that she has done.

Breakfast with the Birds

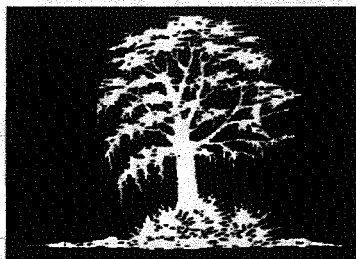
Cost: \$20.00 per person
Date: Oct 20, 2001 7-10 am
Leader: Pat Doerr
Reservations required

Again the volunteers are being offered an opportunity to go birding at ABNC. So come join your fellow volunteers on October 20, 2001 and hike the grounds and discover the migratory birds that should be around.

Then after about 2 hours of birding, led by volunteer Pat Doerr, return to the farm house for an old-fashioned breakfast. The breakfast menu consists of O.J., sausage, eggs, pancakes, home-baked biscuits, fresh churned butter, tea and coffee. Here's an opportunity for you to meet your fellow volunteers and get to know each other.

We can accommodate only 12 people. Reservations must be made by October 13, 2001.

There will be a sign-up envelope in the Volunteer Office or you can call Jane Bingel at 281-554-5069.



Volunteer Board

We're Looking for a Few Good Lead Volunteers. As the birds begin flying south for the winter, the Volunteer Board begins the process of finding volunteers willing to serve on the Volunteer Board for the coming year. It is great how every volunteer does their part to make the nature center function.

A volunteer is also needed to coordinate the volunteers in each of the major areas to ensure that the area is covered. Here is an opportunity to work more closely with fellow volunteers, be a part of some of the decisions made, and practice your leadership skills. All 12 of the positions are open if you want to run for election, but the following 8 positions are currently uncontested: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Admissions, Weekend Demos, Weekend Trail, Weekday Farm, and Weekday Outdoor Education.

If you are interested in any position, please contact the search committee or the current board member for that position. Be all you can be as an ABNC Volunteer Board Member.

abnc volunteer CALENDAR

Oct 4	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
Oct 6	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Oct 9	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Molly Ganter
Oct 11	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Ed Adams
Oct 13	Sat	Fall Fest Training:Rope&Yarn Dolls	10-11am	Polly Swerdlin/Jane Bingel
Oct 20	Sat	Breakfast with the Birds	7-10am	Pat Doerr-Leader
Oct 20	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Jane Bingel-Reservations
Oct 20	Sat	Tree Identification	9-11:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Oct 20	Sat	Fall Fest. Training:Soap&Candlemaking	10-11am	Ray Parker
Oct 26-27	Fri-Sat	Creepy Crawlers		Polly Swerdlin
Nov 1	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Linda Sumner
Nov 3	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Ed Adams
Nov 3-9	Sat-Fri	Fall Festival Site Preparation	daily	Mary Alice Trumble
Nov 6	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Polly Swerdlin
Nov 8	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Molly Ganter
Nov 10-11	Sat-Sun	Fall Festival		Ed Adams
Nov 17	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Martha Hood
There will be no Volunteer Board Meeting in December				
Dec 11	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Mary Alice Trumble
Dec 13	Thurs	Volunteer Holiday Party	6:30pm	Molly Ganter
Jan 3, 2002	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
Jan 8, 2002	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Ed Adams
Jan 10, 2002	Thurs	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	6:30pm	Molly Ganter
				Linda Sumner

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.

Garden Days - At the Farmhouse are held each month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9:00 am (unless otherwise stated).

Prairie Days -- Every Friday is Prairie Day. Contact Mark Kramer for more information.

abnc INFO

New Resource Room

The room behind classroom 1, located in the Education Building, has had many names, including "Lynn's old office". The Education Department is excited and pleased to announce that the room now has an official title and a valuable purpose. The new *Resource Room* can be described as a smorgasbord of educational materials and tools.

Supplies range from microscopes (a whopping 46 of them) to flashlights, feathers, and raffia. There will be no more desperate searching for supplies in the tiny closet in classroom 2. Microscopes, insect boxes, and posters can

be easily accessed and a filing cabinet in the room will soon become a categorized picture library. There is a clipboard hanging from the back wall that contains a working list of all the supplies kept in the room. We hope the new Resource Room will be a big help to the dedicated volunteers and staff. --Melissa Aguilar

Creepy Crawlers

It is time once again to prepare for our annual Creepy Crawlers special event, scheduled for Friday, October 26th and Saturday, October 27th.

Volunteers are needed

for many activities on both evenings, including: admissions, barn show doorman, children's crafts, cookie decorating, farm house assistant, face painting, hay rides, hay stack candy drive, trail guides, refreshments, front greeters and wildlife demos. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, contact Ephriam at 281-474-2551.

Wash Tubs Needed

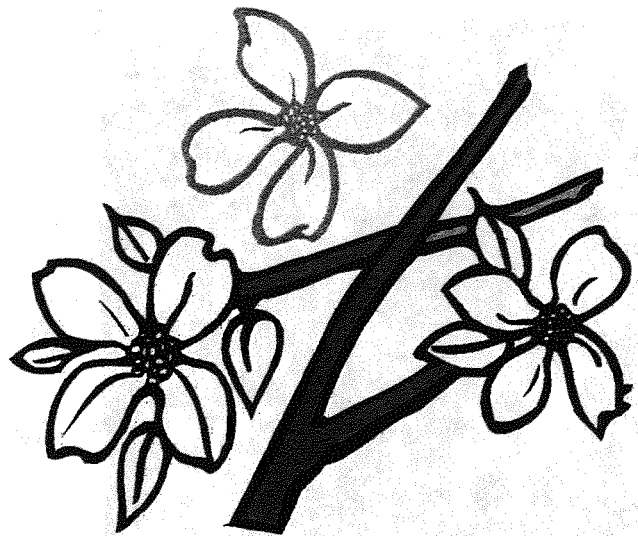
Metal wash tubs are needed for Fall Festival for use in dispensing canned and bottled drinks. If you have a tub or tubs to loan, please notify Jim Callan at 281-824-9411. Thanks.

abnc volunteer CLASS

Tree Identification at ABNC

Date: Saturday October 20, 2001
 Time: 9:00 am
 Instructors: Ray Parker

Bring your notebooks on Saturday, October 20th at 9am and learn how to identify trees with Ray Parker. Ray has been volunteering at ABNC for many years and is a member of the Native Plant Society. The class will consist of a hike on one of the trails or maybe a stroll around the farm, 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 the Nature Center.



--by Stan Krauhs

abnc volunteer MANUAL

Armand Bayou Nature Center Interpretive Ecology

Each month The Bayou Foliage will highlight information from the ABNC Volunteer Manual

The biosphere is the narrow layer, approximately nine miles thick, consisting of air (atmosphere), water (hydrosphere), soil (lithosphere) that surrounds our planet. This sphere supports all life. If we compared Earth to an apple, all life and all the supplies necessary for sustaining life would be found in its skin. Because the biosphere is a closed system, the materials vital to life - water, mineral, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorous, and other chemical building blocks must be recycled again and again for life to continue.

The sun provides the fuel for all life on Earth. It warms the earth and provides energy for the photosynthesis of green plants, which in turn provide food or carbon compounds to sustain other life forms. The sun runs the biosphere in the same way that gasoline runs your car.

An ecosystem is an area with a boundary through which the input and output of materials can be measured and related to some unifying environmental factor. A forest, a pond, a fallen log, or a terrarium may be an ecosystem. The large major aquatic ecosystems are lakes, ponds, rivers, swamps, springs, estuaries, coral reefs, seas, and oceans. On land, the large major ecosystems are the forests, grasslands, savannas, chaparral, tundra, and deserts. Also known as biomes, these ecosystems are defined by their predominant vegetation and climatic conditions. An ecotone is the perimeter of two ecosystems which overlap. This area always supports more life forms, a greater diversity, than either of the ecosystems. Ecosystems and the resulting ecotones combine to support diverse plant and animal communities. A community is a group of animal and plant populations that live together and are bound by interdependencies.

abnc GOODBYE



ABNC Volunteer Board Chair Ed Adams presents ABNC Volunteer Coordinator Kim Wasserman with an appreciation gift at the August Volunteer Meeting. Kim Wasserman resigned in August for a teaching position. The ABNC Volunteers wish her well in the future.

abnc volunteer DUTY ROSTER

In an attempt to take some of the load off the Coordinators, and to help cut down on our "no show" rate the Bayou Foliage will print a monthly list of folks who have volunteered for various assignments. If you are scheduled for a particular duty and you are unable to attend, please find your own substitute. You may be able to trade weekends or swap a day with someone who has another duty during the month. Use the roster below to find your substitute. Please inform the ABNC desk and the activity coordinator if you trade assignments. Also, if you can fill in any of the blank spots, please call the appropriate Coordinator. When you do your assignment please check in at the front desk with Joe Evans. Thank you.

DATE	11:00 TRAIL Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	2:00 TRAIL Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	INFO SERVICES Coordinator, Jane Bingel	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Jane Bingel	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eldine Owens	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eldine Owens
SAT 10/6	<i>Kelli Glenn</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella</i>	<i>Betty Snider</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers</i>	<i>Joyce Roberts Quilts</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley Reptiles</i>
SUN 10/7	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Stan Krauhs</i>	<i>Ken Russell</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing</i>	<i>Zel Arbuckle Snakes</i>
SAT 10/13	<i>Jim Crabb</i>	<i>Charles Buren</i>	<i>Danny Yancey</i>	<i>Chris Bingham</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin Ropemaking</i>	
SUN 10/14	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Dina Supple</i>	<i>Merle Bunde</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers Ropemaking</i>	
SAT 10/20	<i>Louise Peck</i>	<i>Ray Parker</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Jane Bingel & Joan Brunkow</i>	<i>Chris Bingham Stereopticon</i>	
SUN 10/21	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Stan Krauhs</i>	<i>Martha Hood</i>	<i>Marjorie Borey</i>	<i>Mary Ann Tucker Basketweaving</i>	<i>Anne Tincher Microworld</i>
SAT 10/27	<i>Anne Tincher</i>	<i>Joe Bryan</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Paula Thorsen</i>	<i>Irene Ward Stereopticon</i>	
SUN 10/28	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>John Siplak</i>	<i>Mary Barton</i>	<i>Sandy Parker</i>		

2001 Volunteer Board

Chair	Ed Adams	713-946-2754	
Vice Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@wr.net
Secretary			
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Stewardship	Jim Callan	281-824-9411	jpcallan@shellus.com
Info Serv & Interp	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Admissions	Chris Hiscox	281-286-1609	matchris@swbell.net
Weekend Demos	Eldine Owens	281-486-7524	meowens@msn.com
Weekend Trail	Ruby Dilgren	281-488-1727	
Weekday Farm	Stephania Rogers	713-473-4324	
Weekday Outdoor Educ	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	brad9@flash.net
Outreach	Dottie Evans	281-532-1273	docentmom@aol.com

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If you have articles for the *Bayou Foliage* you may phone or email them to **Molly Ganter** (see above).

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Bayou Folio

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