

B a y F o l i a g e u

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center
Volunteers

Interested + Involved + Informed

Vol. 20, No. 9

Printing Compliments of Celanese

September 2001

look AHEAD

September

- 1 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am
- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
Connections Committee, 7pm
- 8 Prairie Training Class, 2-4pm
- 11 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 15 Garden Days-Farmhouse, 9am
- 15 FFT-Hands on History, 9-10:30
- 22 Volunteer Training ends
- 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 FFT-Soap&Candlemaking, 10-11
- 26-27 Creepy Crawlers

November

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

abnc STAFF NEWS

Welcome Melissa!

Join me in welcoming Melissa Aguilar to the ABNC staff. She will serve as the Education Coordinator and Animal Collection Manager. I first had the pleasure of working with Melissa this summer where she worked as an EcoCamp intern.

Melissa is from San Antonio and graduated from Texas A&M with a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science with a specialty in Ecology. After graduation this last December, Melissa got married and moved to Houston to join her husband who works for United Space Alliance as an engineer in code verification. Melissa is very close to her family and is fortunate to have several family members living in the Houston area and a short car trip away in San Antonio. Her interest in animals shows in her choice of pets: a cat, a turtle and a snake! We are pleased to have Melissa on our staff. --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 Ray Parker.

Ray is a native Houstonian who worked 30 years for Crown Central Petrochemical Corp as a machinist. About 15 years ago, Ray came to the Nature Center after reading an ad for a native plant sale. He then began volunteering to help propagate plants.

Since the Nature Center no longer has native plant sales, Ray has found his place leading hikes

and working special events. There have been many Saturdays when Ray has led hikes for ABNC's Girl Scout Badge Program.

Away from the Nature Center, Ray enjoys retirement and serving on the board of the Native Plant Society. Ray is full of interesting plant information and all you have to do is say "BI- U" around Ray and he is sure to strike up a conversation. ABNC appreciates all of his 15 years of hard work and dedication.

Thank you, Ray!
--Linda Sumner

abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on August 9, 2001

The Volunteer Meeting was called to order by Ed Adams at 8:30 p.m. The Minutes of the July 12, 2001, meeting were approved.

Stan Krauhs, Vice Chair, reported that September's program would be about wildlife rehabilitation. The October meeting will be open to the public and will feature a speaker from Texas A&M giving a presentation on bison. In November Dennis Jones will give a presentation on taxidermy.

Laura Bradley, Weekday Outdoor Education, no report.

Stephania Rogers, Weekday Farm, said demos are covered.

Ruby Dilgren, Weekday Trails, was absent, but she continues to fill the trail guide slots.

Eldine Owens, Weekend Demos, absent, no report.

Dottie Evans, Outreach, reported that Outreach is going well.

Jane Bingel, Interpretations & Front Desk Greeters, reported that the front desk is covered.

Jim Callan, Stewardship, absent, no report.

Christine Hiscox, Admissions, reported that the Admissions desk has open slots the last two Saturdays in August.

Bayou Foliage: no report.

Linda Sumner, Staff, announced that the Volunteer of the Month is Ray Parker.

* EcoCamp is over and there were over 550 attendees.

* Full-time Education Coordinator/Animal Manager, Melissa Aguilar, has been hired.

* The nature center registered 107 new memberships during Ecocamp.

Upcoming Calendar of Events:
Fall Festival:

* Polly Swerdlin noted that there is a volunteer signup book in the volunteer office. There is a notebook with copies of newspaper articles and attire for 1918 for volunteers to look at.

Costumes from 1900 to 1918 can be worn. No Roaring Twenties costumes. Shifts will be 2 1/2 hours each

except for the Cupcake Walk and the Ice Cream Booth. The Cup Cake Walk is once each hour. Ice Cream is overlapping every two hours so there are always two (2) servers. More information later. Rope making, games and yarn dolls will have five (5) volunteers a shift to handle the large amounts of people that enjoy these exhibits. No chairperson for phones.

* Training for Fall Festival:

* September 15th - 9-10:30 a.m. Hands on History

* October 13th - 10-11 a.m. Rope Making and Yarn Dolls

* October 20th - 10-11 a.m. Soap and Candle Making

* Jane Bingel reminded volunteers to make things to contribute to the Volunteer Booth.

Unfinished Business: none

New Business: none.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Respectfully submitted,

Irene Ward, Secretary

future VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

The speaker for the **September Volunteer Meeting (Thurs, September 13th 6:30pm)** is Lisa Parker, president of the nonprofit organization Wildlife Rehab & Education. She is a certified wildlife rehabilitator.

Lisa believes Texans should make an attempt to coexist with Texas wildlife. There are currently only 25 permitted rehabilitators and 60 permitted handlers in the Bay area. Many wild animals are injured

or orphaned ultimately because of the increasing number of people in the Houston-Galveston area.

Lisa will explain the Wildlife Rehab & Education organization and tell us some do's and don'ts for when we think we have discovered an injured or orphaned wild animal.

For further information on Wildlife Rehab & Education call 713-643-WILD.

As a note, the **October Volunteer Meeting** will be open to

the public and will feature a speaker from Texas A&M University (whoop). The speaker will give a presentation on bison.

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



--by Stan Krauhs

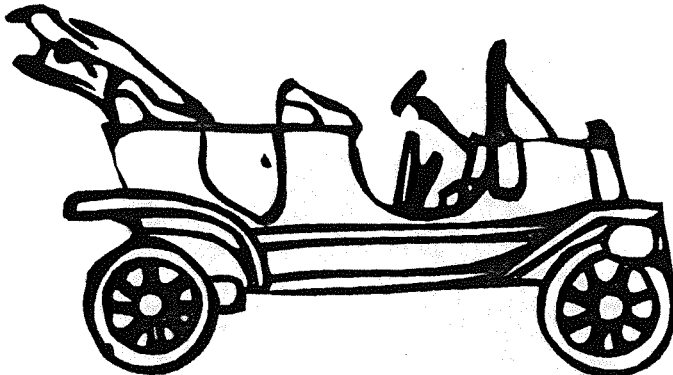
abnc volunteer BUSINESS REPORTS

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers Treasurer's Report August 2001

Beginning Balance	\$2823.34
Expenditures:	
Postage - Bayou Foliage (July 2001)	\$ 31.00
Bank Service Charge	\$ 2.00
EcoCamp Scholarship for 2001 (one)	\$105.00
Total Expenditures	\$138.00
Income:	
Paper Recycling	\$ 63.93
Total Income	\$ 63.93
Current Balance	\$2749.27

fall festival SETTING THE STAGE

This year the theme for the Fall Festival is Country Fair circa 1918. The dates for the festival are November 10-11, 2001. The turn of the century brought us new fangled inventions, such as the Model T car or the women's right to vote movement. You will see World



War I recruiters roaming the grounds and canoe rides on May's Pond. The costume 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.

A simple description of a lady's attire from 1918 could be a long sleeve blouse with a loose large collar, long straight skirt but it shows the ankles. Add a hat with a broad brim. Take a look at the newspaper clippings and other pictures in the Volunteer Office to get more ideas. For training dates and further information see following pages.

--Polly Swerdlin

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

abnc volunteer EVENTS

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

Breakfast with the Birds

Cost: \$20.00 per person
Date: Oct 20, 2001
Time: 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.

Fall Festival Committee MEETINGS

Sept 9 Sun	4pm
Oct 7 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"
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Oct 13 Sat	10-11am	Rope and Yarn Dolls
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Oct 20 Sat	10-11am	Soap and Candles
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Site Preparation

Nov 3-9	Help whenever you can spare time --Polly Swerdlin
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abnc volunteer BANTER

Volunteer Board Meeting

After the Volunteer Board Meeting on Thursday September 6th, Helen Hodges, President of the ABNC Board of Trustees, will conduct a meeting with the Volunteer Board to discuss common Center issues. This is a meeting of the Connections Committee.

The Connections Committee has been created as an avenue of communication between the two boards to exchange ideas towards building a better nature center. These meetings will be held quarterly and the Volunteer Board solicits your input on these meetings.

Don't forget that the monthly Volunteer meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm!

Bayou Foliage

We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Irene Ward** for her work as the previous Bayou Foliage Editor. The August issue was Irene's last issue. She will be sorely missed. Every month Irene put in a great deal of time pulling together the Foliage so that it would look nice for the volunteers. Irene wanted to spend more time volunteering at the Center and less time in front of the computer. So join me in thanking her for her efforts. Next time you see her

around the Center give her a pat on the back for her work as Editor or send her an email at iward@swbell.net.

Thank you, Irene, for your hard work as Bayou Foliage Editor!

Volunteer Outing

Join us for a volunteer trip to the George Ranch on Saturday, September 29, 2001. This trip is for all volunteers including volunteers who are participating in Fall Festival training that morning. Meet us in the ABNC Education Building at 9:30a.m. You may bring your lunch or purchase food in their restaurant. In addition to touring the historical farms, we will meet with a member of the staff to learn more about their costumed interpreters. We will return to the Nature Center by 4 p.m. If you would like to attend, you must r.s.v.p by September 4th to the ABNC. Call 281-474-2551 or Ephriam for more information.

Fall Festival Training

Training for Fall Festival this year will be held on Saturday, September 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We will meet at the Nature Center for an overview of this year's event and an introduction to living history methods. There will also be an optional volunteer outing. We will load up on a bus and head out to the George Ranch for an outing together.

In addition to touring the various living history farms, a member of the staff will share with us some of their experiences regarding this interpretive method. We plan to return back to the Nature Center by 4p.m. Join us for a fun outing together.



abnc volunteer CALENDAR

Sept 1	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Sept 6	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
		Connections Committee:	7pm	Helen Hodges-Chair
Sept 8	Sat	Prairie Training Class	2-4pm	Mark Kramer
Sept 11	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Molly Ganter
Sept 13	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Ed Adams
Sept 15	Sat	Fall Fest. Training: Hands on History	9-10:30	Polly Swerdlin
Sept 15	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Sept 22	Sat	Volunteer Training-Ends		Volunteer Coordinator
Sept 29	Sat	Fall Festival Training	9:30am	Polly Swerdlin
Sept 29	Sat	Volunteer Outing: George Ranch	9:30am	Volunteer Coordinator
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 Jane Bingel-Reservations
Oct 20	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Oct 20	Sat	Fall Fest. Training: Soap & Candlemaking	10-11am	Polly Swerdlin
Oct 26-27	Fri-Sat	Creepy Crawlers		
Nov 1	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Ed Adams
Nov 3	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble
Nov 3-9	Sat-Fri	Fall Festival Site Preparation	daily	Polly Swerdlin
Nov 6	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Molly Ganter
Nov 8	Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Ed Adams
Nov 10-11	Sat-Sun	Fall Festival		Martha Hood
Nov 17	Sat	Garden Days-Farmhouse	9:00am	Mary Alice Trumble

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.

Outreach - none till October 2001.

fall festival VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Come one! Come all! A new and improved Fall Festival is planned for Nov. 10 - 11, 2001. A wonderful combination of the old and the new. The Fall Festival theme will be a 1918-1920 Country Fair.

- Old: Butter Churning, candlemaking, ropemaking, wood stove biscuits, yarn dolls, etc.
- Old but different: Visitors baling hay by hand. New games such as horse shoes as well as the old ones.
- New: A baking contest where the public will be asked to contribute their favorite pie to be judged by local mayors and other political leaders.
- Entertainment with a new twist: Along with the usual entertainment there will be music of the era including sing-a-longs.
- Special Events: Some of the new events will be conducted by outside organizations. Some examples are a reenactment of WWI soldiers recruiting men to join the army, suffragettes demonstrating for women's right to vote, and a snickering contest (no it isn't what you think).

These are just some of the events that are being planned. There will be plenty of others involving the public, the staff and the Volunteers. Especially volunteers. We'll need a lot of help. So please volunteer sign-up early and get your favorite craft or be daring and try a new one AND an old one. We promise you will get training before Fall Festival begins and you will receive continuing education credit. --Polly Swerdlin & Jane Bingel

abnc PRAIRIE TRAINING CLASS SET

Prairies were once the largest ecosystem found in the Houston area. Today less than 1% of the habitat survives throughout its original range. ABNC actively manages over 600 acres coastal tallgrass prairie. Prairies survive at ABNC thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers. Prairie volunteers assist with prescribed burns, vegetation monitoring, native plant introduction, and many other management activities. To become a Prairie volunteer join us for a training class September 8th at 2-4pm.

Join the crew who is responsible for the successful Prairie Friday workday and learn more about ABNC prairie management efforts during this training session. This is great way to learn more about prairie plant identification, prairie ecology and prairie management. Meet some folks who will help you to appreciate this beautiful and vanishing ecosystem. Please dress for a day in the prairie.

- Date: Saturday September 8th
Time: 2-4pm
Instructors: Mark Kramer & Prairie Friday Crew

a case study MARSH RESTORATION IN ARMAND BAYOU

During the 1960's, and 70's, Armand Bayou suffered extensive marsh loss. This loss occurred primarily due subsidence or the sinking the ground. In the Houston area, subsidence is caused by the pumping of massive quantities of ground water. It is estimated that areas along the bayou sank or subsided between four and nine feet. This shift in topography drowned over 90% of the emergent marsh vegetation along Armand Bayou. Marsh habitats play an important role in the life cycle of many marsh dependant species of fish, invertebrates and waterfowl. Recognizing the important values and functions of marshes, several resource management agencies and organizations began to experiment with restoring these critical habitats.

ABNC began marsh restoration efforts in 1992. Early efforts focused on creating a protective boundary (exlosure) around the restoration site to minimize wave energy and keep out herbivorous animals. After the exlosure was completed, the site was planted with marsh grasses. These original exlosure were built using hay bales held in place by placing bamboo poles through the bales and into the bottom. Unfortunately, hay bale technology didn't prove to be durable enough to withstand the turbulent environment of the bayou on windy days. The bales fell apart and the planted marsh grasses were uprooted.

In 1994 the Clear Lake Marsh Restoration Task Force was created. This group was organized by the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) and composed of local resource agencies and organizations including ABNC. The goal of the group was to determine the best restoration strategies to restore tidal marsh in the Clear Lake area. GBF began restoration efforts in Armand Bayou, planting eight marsh sites along the edges of the bayou. The exlosures were built of black and orange construction fencing. This plastic fencing material proved much more durable than the previous hay bale exlosure. Plant materials placed within the protective fencing were composed mainly of Smooth cordgrass (*spartina alterniflora*).

In 1995, with the help of the Clear Lake Marsh Restoration Task Force, the most ambitious Armand Bayou marsh creation project was begun. A six-acre site was identified on the eastern shore of the bayou. Sediments were relocated with the use of a dredge to recreate the appropriate water depth to support marsh vegetation. Shortly after the sediments were deposited, the area was planted with Smooth cordgrass. Today this site is a thriving marsh, the largest restored marsh on the bayou.

In 1998 ABNC began marsh restoration work with the help of CMP Grant funding. This project created 2.6 acres of fringe marsh along the edges of Mud Lake, Armand Bayou and Horsepen Bayou. Most of the plant material for this project, and every project that has ever been planted along Armand Bayou was donated by Reliant Energy. Reliant Energy owns and operates a native plant nursery located on Cedar Bayou in Baytown. If you are canoeing Armand Bayou, you may distinguish the ABNC sites from the GBF sites by the color of the fencing surrounding the restoration site. ABNC sites have green fencing and GBF sites have orange fencing around the sites.

In 1999 ABNC participated in the first annual planting event titled Marsh Mania. The event is organized by GBF and is held at different planting sites around Galveston Bay. This is the single biggest marsh restoration day of the year often attracting over 100 volunteers to ABNC to get in on the action. Marsh Mania 1999, 2000, and 2001 have created a total of 1.8 acres of marsh along the bayou. Marsh restoration efforts have largely been a success in Armand Bayou. Working with partnerships, grants, mitigation projects and a dedicated group of volunteers, over 12 acres of inter-tidal marsh have been restored along the bayou. If you are interested helping with restoration work at ABNC call Mark at 281-474-2551.

--by Mark Kramer

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. 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 9/1	Jim Crabb	Paul Buren	Joyce Roberts	Eleanor Stanley		
SUN 9/2	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Kelli Glenn	Pat Bates	Stephania Rogers		
SAT 9/8	Danny Yancey	Paul Buren	Paul Braunkow	Chris Bingham	Stephania Rogers Ropemaking	Marilyn Clark Hummingbirds
SUN 9/9	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Melanie Weisman	Kelli Glenn	Polly Swerdlin		Eleanor Stanley Lizards
SAT 9/15	Louise Peck	Ray Parker	Joan Henderson	Paula Thorson	Jane Bingel Cheese	Polly Swerdlin Turtles
SUN 9/16	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Stan Krauhs	Pat Bates	Sandy Parker	Mary Ann Tucker Basketweaving	
SAT 9/22	John Siptak	Paul Buren	Susan Williams	Paula Thorson	Chris Bingham Stereopticon	Kathy Jett Snakes
SUN 9/23	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Martha Hood	Marjorie Borey		Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 9/29	Kathy Ching	Paul Buren	Jane Bingel	Joyce Roberts	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hilary Gibbs Study Skins
SUN 9/30	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Joe Bryan	Dottie Evans		

2001 Volunteer Board

Chair	Ed Adams	713-946-2754	
Vice Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@wt.net
Secretary	Irene Ward	281-992-3912	iward@swbell.net
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).

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

B a y o u F o l i a g e

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www.dbnrc.org

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