



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

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

August 2002

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Vol. 21, No. 08

look AHEAD

August 2002

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 4 Fall Festival Committee Meeting, 4:00pm
- 6 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 28 Volunteer Orientation

September 2002

- 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Fall Festival Committee Meeting, 4:00pm
- 8 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 12 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

volunteers NEEDED

Volunteers are still needed for the 22nd Annual Martyn Farm Fall Festival. Activities will range from Quilt Squares to Syrup Making to Wash Day. For additional information please see page three of the Bayou Foliage or contact Polly Swerdlin.

- Sylvia Krzmarzick

volunteer OF THE MONTH

Who has lived through a tornado, been bitten by a snake and hiked the Grand Canyon? Laura Bradley has, but that's not why we are naming her this month's "Volunteer of the Month."

Laura jumped right into it when she first began volunteering at ABNC. She has already served on the Volunteer Board in two areas. She donates her time in weekday classes, outreach and stewardship,

and is currently the Outreach Coordinator. With a strong interest in the prairie, she helps with prescribed prairie burns, has taken continuing education classes on the prairie, and has recently agreed to develop a weekend demonstration about the prairie at the ABNC.

Laura set herself up for more work when she announced at a volunteer board meeting that she has a statistics background. The board jumped right on the opportunity and asked her to track some volunteering trends at ABNC.

Away from the Nature Center, Laura enjoys traveling (she must be on a trip right now, because I was never able to interview her for this article!). She also volunteers at a church resale shop.

Thank you, Laura, for all you do at ABNC.

-Linda Sumner



a b n c volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on July 11, 2002

The guest speaker was Dan Brooks of the Houston Museum of Natural History, who gave a presentation on Aquatic Birds of the Upper Texas Coastal Bend. Following the presentation, Chairman Stan Krauhs opened the business portion of the meeting. Mailing of the updated volunteer roster has been delayed because of the illness of Odie Asscherick. It will be issued within the next two weeks or so. Farmhouse cleaning during the hot summer months was raised as a concern at the last meeting. Arrangements have been made for female community service workers of the Harris County Community Service to assist with this. The minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report (Ken Russell) will be published in the Bayou Foliage. Area Reports: Vice Chair (Anne Tincher) - Next month's program will be an audio/visual presentation by a couple who are professional nature photographers and will feature underwater scenes. It should be especially interesting and all volunteers are urged to attend. Weekday Farm - The coordinator position remains vacant. Stan again urged volunteers to step forward. Weekend Trails (Odie Asscherick) - Odie expects to be released from the hospital tomorrow. He has continued to coordinate, however, and coverage for the August - September period is complete. Weekend Demos (Eleanor Stanley) - Volunteer help is need for August 11, 18, and 25. A manual entitled "Animal Information" has been prepared. It will be kept in the Volunteer Office for the use of all volunteers. Greeters (Ruby Dilgren) - The

title "Greeters" will replace "Information Services Interpreters" since it more accurately describes the activities of the volunteers who meet visitors in the Admissions Office. Stewardship (Jim Callan) - On the next Stewardship Saturday, a fence on the north side of the bayou will be moved. This will require in-the-water activity. Bayou Foliage (Jim and Sylvia Krzmarzick) - The July issue was delayed because of software problems. These have been overcome, and future issues should be on schedule. Volunteers are urged to submit articles as far ahead of the deadline as possible to ensure timely publication. ABNC Staff Report (Sam Harwell): Linda Sumner resigned effective July 12. The duties of this position will be restructured, and the Volunteer Coordinator position, currently unfilled, will be re-evaluated. EcoCamp continues to be a success. Enrollment is now at 745. There are 4 weeks left in the schedule, and classroom coverage is satisfactory. The nature center has suffered two cases of missing animals due to vandalism. A snake was missing and during a weekend the enclosure for the box turtles was cut and the turtles were taken. Police authorities have been contacted, and all volunteers are asked to be watchful for suspicious activity. Animal Planet was on site to film "Charlie", our resident rooster. The program can be viewed on July 29 and August 2. A pilot program is being instituted to evaluate weekend canoeing in Mays Pond. Interested volunteers should contact Sam Harwell. The Volunteer of the Month is Laura Bradley.

Fall Festival (Polly Swerdlin): The Fall Festival is scheduled for November 9 and 10. A sign-up list has been prepared and will be posted in the Volunteer Office. Festival activities will include canoeing and hoecakes, and entertainment will include Scottish dancing and the Model T group. There will be a Volunteer Booth. More information on these and other activities will be announced in the following weeks. Polly made a motion that: a Fall Festival BBQ be held on Saturday evening, November 9, with an increase of \$1 per person to provide Constable coverage so that volunteers can bring the beverage of their choice. The motion passed. Committees: Recruitment and Assimilation: A chairperson is still needed. Recognition: There was no activity. Bylaws Committee (Ken Russell, Ruby Dilgren, Roland Borey): Nine amendments, including the establishment of a new Volunteer Board position, have been proposed. These will be published in the August Bayou Foliage and will be voted upon by the volunteer membership during the September meeting. Old Business: Polly Swerdlin proposed that a volunteer social be held during the first or second weekend in October at the Alpine Brauhaus restaurant in Webster. Polly also identified some alternate locations. A list, along with menus and prices, will be posted in the Volunteer Office to allow volunteers to note preferences and comments. New Business: There were no new business items. Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Cooke

22nd annual MARTYN FARM FALL FESTIVAL

This year's event is Saturday, November 9 from 9am to 5pm and Sunday, November 10 from noon to 5pm. Our "timeframe" will be 1900 to 1915, or thereabouts. All of last year's activities will be in place, needing folks to help out, plus Hoe Cakes and Scarecrows are making a return appearance. The popular Canoes will now be a regular item. For outside exhibitors, we're hoping that the Model Ts repeat their visit and we also plan to add some local farmers selling vegetables. Our sources have turned up some Scottish dancers and other new entertainers.

Please sign up for Fall Festival volunteer activities in the Volunteer Office.



Thank You

Fall Festival Planning Committee

Jane Bingel, Sam Harwell, Joan Henderson,

Tabitha Holt, Lew Hornung, Polly Swerdlin,

Mary Ann Tucker, Fred Vickers

goodbye & BEST WISHES

Some of you may already know by now that I resigned from my position at the Armand Bayou Nature Center. I am moving to Denver, Colorado and look forward to starting a new adventure. It has been a great experience working at the Nature Center over the last three years. Without the dedicated volunteers, ABNC would not be able to offer so many wonderful opportunities. I wish you all continued success.

Sincerely,
Linda Sumner

website OF THE MONTH

In honor of one of the Foliage editors having her first-ever encounter with a tick during a recent Stewardship Saturday, this month's website is www.ticktexas.org, sponsored by the State of Texas. This site is packed with information about ticks in Texas. Topics include types of ticks and their distributions, life cycle and anatomy, diseases, prevention and removal. There is an area for kids and also a section with some downloadable presentations. (Our little friend was an American Dog Tick.)

- Jim Krzmarzick

i n T H E G A R D E N

Take a stroll along a curving path and witness a riot of color, texture and scent. Watch butterflies, hummingbirds, dragonflies and chickadees attending to their business, not caring about yours. Sit in the shade and feel gentle breezes drift over you as you absorb the serenity. Now, suppose I told you this place isn't some exotic paradise, though it could be, or isn't some secret oasis, though it is to some, but a garden right under our noses, literally. Visit the Hanson House Heirloom Conservationscape next time you're at the nature center. This gem is too precious not to be shared and enjoyed by everyone. Take notice also, that despite the intense heat and torrential downpours of late, the

choice of plant material is a testament to the resilience of heirloom and native plants.

The success of this garden depends on many things. . . nurturing hands, sturdy backs (amen), and no small measure of grace. However, for the really big stuff, like the sawing, building, cement pouring and patching punctured irrigation hoses, we depend on a special group of people who just don't ever seem to say no—thankfully for us! We now have a beautiful rose arbor, wonderful bench, sun pouring in where there was too much shade, a trellis for the morning glories, no leaks (for now!) and a much needed concrete floor for our tool shed. We are so very

thankful to Ken Lester, Jim Edwards, Joe Clem, Roland Borey, Chuck Snyder, Merle Bunde, Bob Paxton, Lew Hornung and JT Chapman for all they do for us. Of course Kathleen Crabb's scones do help to sweeten the requests!

If you'd like an opportunity to volunteer in the garden, call Mary Alice Trumble: 281-486-9418 or email: MAT2727@msn.com Workdays are the first and third Saturdays of the month from 8:30-11:00.

- Chris LaChance

2002 VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@wt.net
Vice Chair	Anne Tincher	281-486-5167	annealone3@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bill Cooke	281-480-2441	billcooke@msn.com
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Stewardship	Jim Callan	281-824-9411	jcullan@shellus.com
Info Serv & Interp	Ruby Dilgren	281-488-1727	
Admissions	Sally Hall	281-282-0036	sallyh15@juno.com
Weekend Demos	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	doctorodie@webtv.net
Weekday Farm			
Weekday Outdoor Educ	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Outreach	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	brad9@flash.net
<u>Bayou Foliage</u>			
Editors	Jim & Sylvia Krzmarzick	281-557-2505	sylkyj@ev1.net
Circulation	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	doctorodie@webtv.net

If you have articles for the *Bayou Foliage* you may phone or email them to Jim and Sylvia Krzmarzick (see above).

proposed BYLA W CHANGES

Proposed Changes to the Volunteer Organization Bylaws

Dated: September 1, 2000

Outlined below is a summary of the proposed changes to the Volunteer Organization Bylaws. The proposed changes resulted from discussions at the Volunteer Board Retreat on May 19, 2002, the Volunteer Board Meeting on June 6, a meeting of the Bylaws Committee (Ken Russell, Ruby Dilgren, and Roland Borey) on June 25, and a final review at the Volunteer Board Meeting on July 11. The Board will ask for a vote of approval at the September volunteer meeting.

Article III, Section 4 - Modify the second sentence to read as follows: "The volunteer roster will be reviewed annually in February to determine volunteer status."

Article IV, Section TBD - Add a Facilities Coordinator position to the Volunteer Board (this was discussed in the past when the ABNC Staff split the facilities and stewardship activity and created a new staff position to manage the facilities but no action was taken at the time).

Article IV, Section 4 - Modify the last part of the first sentence "elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at a general meeting at least

two (2) months prior to the general December meeting" to "elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting at the September general meeting."

Article V, Section 3 - In the second sentence delete "including distribution of volunteer mail at the board and general meeting." Modify the last sentence to read as follows: "A file of all committee charters, membership roster records, Volunteer Coordinator duty descriptions, Volunteer Organization Bylaws, and other appropriate records will be maintained in the Volunteer office."

Article V, Section 4 - Add the following sentence to the duties: "The Treasurer shall coordinate an annual audit of the Organization's financial records by the ABNC Staff accountant."

Article V, Section 5 through 13 - Delete the eight (8) Volunteer Coordinator and Volunteer Newsletter Editor duty descriptions. Replace with a new Section 5 that reads as follows: "The nine (9) Volunteer Coordinators shall serve on the Volunteer Board as representatives of their volunteers and their duties and that of the Volunteer Newsletter Editor shall be defined in the Volunteer Training Manual."

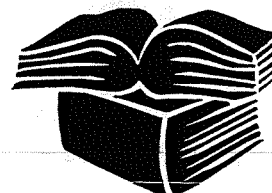
Article V, Section 14 - Renumber as

Section 6.

Article VI, Section 1 - Modify the first part of the sentence "The Volunteer Board shall consist of twelve (12) elected officers" to "The Volunteer Board shall consist of thirteen (13) elected officers."

Article VI - Add a new Section 5 that reads as follows: "A quorum of the Board shall consist of half the currently filled positions or six (6) members, whichever is less."

Article X - Modify the first sentence to read as follows: "The organization shall establish an annual budget by the end of each calendar year which shall be approved by the membership and the ABNC Staff." Modify the second sentence to read as follows: "An audit shall be conducted annually by the ABNC Staff accountant or at any time requested by the Board or ABNC Staff." Add the following sentences: "Any unbudgeted expenditure exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) shall be reviewed with the Volunteer Organization for approval. Total unbudgeted expenditures shall not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) a year without approval of the Volunteer Organization."



volunteer BUDGET

Armand Bayou Nature Center
Volunteers Treasurer's Report
JULY 2002

<i>Beginning Balance</i>		\$3472.46
Expenditures:		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
	Total Expenditures:	\$2.00
Income:		
Paper Recycling (two months)	156.28	
Bayou Foliage Postage (Emily Egan)	5.00	
	Total Income:	\$161.28
<i>Current Balance:</i>		\$3631.74

summer VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

When I accepted the position as Teen Volunteer Coordinator at Armand Bayou Nature Center, I knew that I was in for a summer of hard work, learning, a bit of adventure and a lot of fun. ExxonMobil's Community Summer Jobs Program, which gave out many grants this summer to different nonprofit agencies all over the Houston area, provided Armand Bayou Nature Center with the resources to bring me on board to help with EcoCamp.

Part of my daily job consists of working with and coordinating all the incredibly dedicated teen volunteers who show up daily and sometimes weekly, always with a smile and an excited attitude. Not only do I work with the teen volunteers, but also I have the privilege of working with dedicated staff, teachers and other interns, to make sure that EcoCamp runs smoothly.

I am an economics major who will be entering my third year at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas. This summer has been my first opportunity to work in an environment that gave me so much responsibility and as many challenges, while also providing such strong and dependable support from a fantastic group of colleagues.

To all the students, teachers, interns, staff and volunteers: I want to thank each and every one of you for all your hard work, teamwork, dedication and enthusiasm. My summer experience here at ABNC would not have been the same without all of you. I hope everyone laughed and enjoyed this summer as much as I. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard this summer for this was truly a summer I will never forget!

-Katherine Campbell

view from THE CHAIR

Action Items From the Volunteer Board Retreat

Your volunteer board had a retreat on Sunday afternoon, May 19, at the nature center. It was held at the suggestion of a few board members and was a great opportunity to bring up issues for discussion over several hours. Many things are going well for the volunteer board and volunteer corps, but there is always room for improvement. Some of the action items below, and others, will become proposed changes to the volunteer bylaws and will be discussed in the September newsletter. Other action items are for specific volunteer coordinator positions and will not affect the whole volunteer corps, so I am omitting them from this list.

Scheduling of Outreach Programs

Outreach programs have been scheduled through both the ABNC staff and the Outreach Coordinator at different times in the past. To ensure the efforts of the volunteers are directed in the areas desired by the nature center, all requests for outreach programs should be made through the front desk. If you are contacted by an organization or wish to propose an outreach program to ABNC, please contact Jo. She will log the request and the ABNC staff will determine which ones are scheduled.

Update from the President of the Board of Trustees

The volunteer board felt that the volunteers are interested in the financial status and various programs of ABNC. In the past, the president of the board of trustees has presented an

evening program and met with the volunteer board a few times. These activities are not communicated to the majority of the volunteers. So I have asked Cliff Meinhardt, the current president of the board of trustees, to write an article for the August newsletter, and he has agreed. We want this to become a semiannual update in the *Bayou Foliage*.

Prairie Education Program

Several volunteers have expressed an interest in a class about the prairie for older school children and the public. The nature center is indeed interested in having such programs for older children. Unfortunately, prairie programs have not been in big demand from the public. ABNC staff may consider a class in the future, but only as a program taught by staff (like Bayou Studies). This is because of the difficulty in assuring that volunteers would always be available. The prairie can always be taught as part of existing activities, such as taking the Ladybird Trail for trail hikes. The board thought another good idea would be to put together a weekend demo on the prairie as a way of making it available to the public. Laura Bradley volunteered to investigate creating such a demo and she welcomes the assistance of others interested in developing it.

Update of Volunteer Roster

The volunteer roster has been updated and will soon be printed and mailed to

each volunteer. You may have already received it by now. This annual update will become part of the bylaws and will be done in February for mailing in March or April each year.

Timing of Budget and Nominating Committee Process

The budget and nominating processes did not work well this year. Proposals to change the bylaws should remedy these situations. The budget process will begin in the fall, include earlier input from the volunteer corps before voting on it, and require approval of the budget in December, before its effective date. The schedule for selecting the nominating committee has also been moved back. This will give the nominating committee more time to qualify nominees. It will also give prospective nominees more time to determine if being on the volunteer board will fit into their schedule for the next year.

Getting these action items done should meet some of the needs of the volunteer corps and make us a more efficient and effective organization. I thank those board members who participated in the retreat and all who are working to follow through with results. Please take time to express your thanks, too, when you see a member of the board.

- Stan Krauhs: Chair of the
Volunteer Board

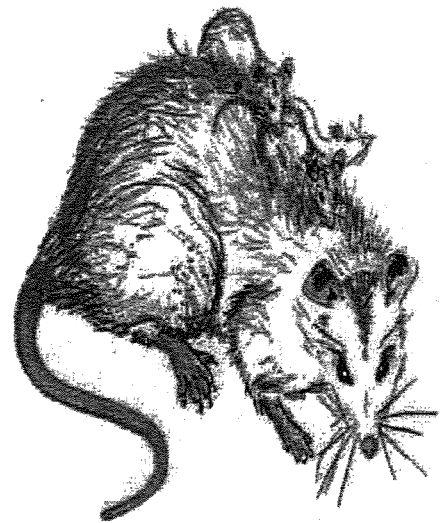
did YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the common opossum, *Didelphis marsupialis*, typically has two litters per year and has approximately ten babies per litter. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica the gestation period is a short thirteen days and "Just before birth, the mother thoroughly cleans the pouch and her belly fur, licking a smooth path from the birth canal to the pouch.

When expelled from the birth canal, the newborn are no larger

than honeybees. Blind and grublike, except for their well-developed, clawed forelimbs, they emerge and immediately begin grasping and swimming-like movements along the mother's dampened fur." Only about sixty percent of the newborn survive the journey to the pouch. The young stay with the mother for ninety to one hundred days.

Source: Encyclopaedia
Britannica 1982



staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Director of Education	
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
Volunteer Coordinator	
Senior Naturalist	George Regmund
Visitor Services Coordinator	Jo Evans
Front Desk	Dick Phelps
Animal Collections Assistant	Chris Battan
Education Coordinator	Melissa Aguilar
Facilities Coordinator	Ken Lester
Accountant	Pat Slaughter/ Linda Tanner
Webmaster	Richard Coleman

Phone 281-474-2551

Email: abnc@ghgcorp.com Web: www.abnc.org

don't FORGET

Volunteers are still needed for the 22nd Annual Martyn Farm Fall Festival. Activities will range from Yarn Dolls to Candle Making to Seed Mosaics. For additional information please see page three of the Bayou Foliage or contact Polly Swerdlin.

- Sylvia Krzmarzick

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 Jo Evans. Thank you.

DATE	11:00 TRAIL Coordinator, Odie Asscherick	2:00 TRAIL Coordinator, Odie Asscherick	NIGHT HIKE Coordinator Odie Asscherick	INFO SERVICES Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SAT 8/3	Ruth Elder	Stan Krauhs		Doug Barfoot	Cherry Barfoot	Irene Ward Rope	Ann Tincher Microworld
SUN 8/4	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick		Ken Russell	Stephania Rogers	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Polly Swerdlin Animal Tracks
SAT 8/10	Jim Crabb	Polly Swerdlin		Joyce Roberts	Nigel & Ian Wright	Stephania Rogers Rope	Ruby Dilgren Bats
SUN 8/11	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick		Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarcella Blacksmithing	Hilary Gibbs Study Skins
SAT 8/17	Anne Tincher	Ray Parker	Stan Krauhs (Paula Thorson)	Danny Yancey	Susan Williams	Jane Bingel Corn Husk Dolls	Marilyn Clark Hummingbirds
SUN 8/18	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Charles Buren		Betty Snider	Anne Prosser	Tom Scarcella Farm Demo	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 8/24	Joe Bryan	Stan Krauhs		Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley	Joyce Roberts Quilting	Marilyn Clark Lizards
SUN 8/25	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Merle Bunde		Judy Schaefer	Cathy Jett		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 8/31	Pat Doerr	Melanie Weisman		Martha Hood	Paula Thorson	Stephania Rogers Rope	Polly Swerdlin Insects

new VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Do you know someone who would be a good volunteer? The fall volunteer training session is fast approaching. Orientation for new volunteers is August 28 and training will be a week or so later. Registration for the orientation is required. Flyers about volunteering are in the Admissions Building or interested persons may register by calling Jo Evans at 281-474-2551.



A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
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