

B a y F o l i a g e u

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

February 2002

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Vol. 21, No. 02

Look AHEAD

February 2002

- 2 Volunteer Training, 9am
- 7 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 12 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 14 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 16 Volunteer Training, 9am
- 23 Breakfast on the Bayou, am

March 2002

- 2 Volunteer Training
- 7 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 12 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 14 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 23 Down on the Farm
- 23 Trash Bash

April 2002

- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 9 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 20 Earth Day
- 27 Marsh Mania
- 27 Night Hike

TIME TO UPDATE THE VOLUNTEER ROSTER!

It is time to update the volunteer roster. If you have changed addresses, phone numbers or email anytime in 2001, please call those changes in to Jo Evans at the front desk @ 281-474-2551. Jo will pass the data onto Linda. A new roster will then be printed for all volunteers.

Thank you.

volunteer OF THE YEAR

ABNC's has named Lew Hornung Volunteer of the Year 2001. Lew logged 605 hours of his time and talents last year, and has been a loyal volunteer for over 7 years. 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 area where he married an East Texas girl. Lew recalls coming 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 for 198 through 1992.

During a challenging time of staff changes, he simply asked, "How can I help?" Since that day, he has been servicing as Facilities Coordinator. The staff has seen many great changes in that area and appreciate all of his hard work and support. 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 planning of events such as Fall Festival and Down on the Farm. When asked what he most enjoys about volunteering at the Nature Center, he replied "getting to talk with and meeting volunteers and staff". Lew was also named Volunteer of the Month in June and November of 2001. This is probably a first for an ABNC volunteer, and Lew is very deserving of all of these honors. He serves as a model to ABNC staff and volunteers.

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 Bill Cooke.

Bill was born in Louisiana and grew up in Vicksburg, Mississippi. After graduating from Georgia Tech and LSU, Bill started his career as a chemical engineer. Bill has live in Houston for 22 years, and recently retired from his position as President of MEMC Pasadena. On his way to work everyday, Bill would pass by Armand Bayou Nature Center and think longingly about have some leisure time to enjoy the Center more often. Now retirement has given him that opportunity.

Bill is a recent "Volunteer Graduate". He was a member of the

Fall 2001 class and has jumped in full steam ahead. (So much for retirement).

Not only has he already logged 69 hours in areas such as canoeing, events and filling in a Secretary in Irene Ward's absence, but also he is serving on the 2002 Volunteer Board in the same capacity.

Away from the Nature Center, Bill enjoys volunteering with Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity and for his church group repairing flooded homes. He enjoys cooking, plays the piano, holds a pilot license and was an aerobatic pilot and a flight instructor.

Bill, all of us at ABNC are grateful you volunteer your time here. Thank you for jumping in headfirst!

--Linda Sumner

abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on January 10, 2002

The meeting preceded the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and was called to order by Chairperson **Stan Krauhs**.

Stan called attention to the next two events, **Down on the Farm** and **Trash Bash**, both of which are scheduled for March 23. More information will be available shortly.

Anne Tincher (Vice Chair) requested ideas and suggestions for guest speakers and programs for future volunteer meetings.

Odie Asscherick (Weekend Trails)

said that coverage for Weekend Trails was set through February. He also mentioned that the Foliage mailing had been delayed because of Post Office volume during the holidays.

Jim Callan (Stewardship) pointed out the new widgeon grass display case in the lobby.

The new ABNC Executive Director, Sam Harwell, was introduced to the group.

George Regmund was recognized and given a gift for his 25 years of service to ABNC.

Lew Hornung was named Volunteer of the Year and was presented with a plaque.

Bill Cooke was named Volunteer of the Month.

Volunteer Appreciation Certificates were distributed.

Stan Krauhs closed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke

abnc VOLUNTEER NOTES

Special Thanks to Weekday Trail Instructors

2001 was my second year as a volunteer and so I did not quite know what I was getting into when I agreed to be Weekday Trail coordinator. I survived the year thanks help from 28 **wonderful** people.

There were a total of 2443 students come through the Nature Center to do trails during the week. There were 74 classes including: 6 Adaptations, 14 insects, 9 Nature Discovery, 14 Pond Pals, 25 Reptile, and 6 Trails.

Particular thanks to Ed Adams who helped with 33 different classes, Jane Bingle helped with 20, Dottie Evans with 13, Stephania Rogers with 11, Christine Hiscox with 7, Jim Mc Mahon with 7, and Mary Ann Tucker with 7. Anne Tincher assisted with 20 classes, including over

half of the Pond Pal classes (while it is probably the most fun class to teach it is the hardest one to find instructors). Ray Parker led trails on 18 different days, and was someone I knew I could call at the last minute and did on several occasions.

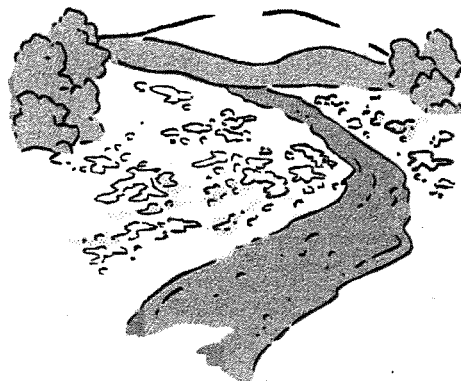
I was worried how I was going to replace Ruby when her husband got sick, but Carl Cognata and Jane Bingle both stepped in and handled reptiles. Jane even had a special training session on reaching into buckets and pulling out snakes. Betty Snider started volunteering at a time when many of the regulars were on vacation and I know Jane hopes to see her continue in 2002.

Also helping were Vickie Schuckhart, Russell Gibbs, John Bean, Merle Bunde, Ruby Dilgren, Tracy Phillip, Sandra Watters, Alan Wenger, Zel Arbuckle, Pat Bates, Dick Benoit, Sigrid Chase, Barbara Hill, and Ken Russell.

We occasionally could not find the needed instructors, and staff members Kim Wasserman and Chris Battan filled in these times.

Thanks again to everyone who helped in 2001.

-Laura Bradley.



abnc volunteer BUSINESS REPORTS

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers Treasurer's Report January 2002

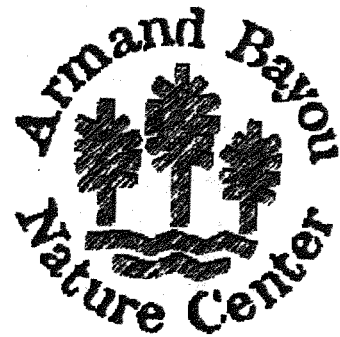
Beginning Balance		\$4007.14*
Expenditures:		
Postage - Bayou Foliage (December 2001)	\$ 33.17	
Bank Service Charge	\$ 2.00	
Turkey (Christmas Party)	\$ 18.15	
Ham (Christmas Party)	\$ 14.22	
Gift Certificates (George Regmund)	\$250.00	
Total Expenditures	\$317.54	
Income:		
Paper Recycling	\$ 13.62	
Total Income	\$ 13.62	
Current Balance		\$3703.22

*Adjusted by minus \$.07 for error in May 2001 report

ABNC IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE HIRE OF OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SAM HARWELL!

abnc STAFF DIRECTORY

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



abnc volunteer CALENDAR 2002

Feb 2 Sat	Clear Creek High School Outreach		Outreach Coor.
Feb 2 Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30am	Mark Kramer
Feb 2 Sat	Volunteer Training		Linda Sumner
Feb 2 Sat	Reptile Birthday	10-noon & 2-4pm	Melissa Aguilar
Feb 3 Sun	Project Prairie Bird	9-noon	Chris Battan
Feb 3 Sun	Reptile Birthday	2-4pm	Melissa Aguilar
Feb 7 Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Stan Krauhs
Feb 9 Sat	Girl Scouts Earth Connections	9:45-3pm	Melissa Aguilar
Feb 10 Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Feb 12 Tue	Deadline Bayou Foliage	4pm	Molly Ganter
Feb 14 Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30pm	Stan Krauhs
Feb 16 Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30 am	Mark Kramer
Feb 16 Sat	Volunteer Training		Linda Sumner
Feb 17 Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Feb 22 Fri	Girls Scouts Wildlife Badge	Sleepover	Melissa Aguilar
Feb 23 Sat	Breakfast on the Bayou	am	Jo Evans
Feb 24 Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Mar 2S Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30am	Mark Kramer
Mar 2S Sat	Volunteer Training		Linda Sumner
Mar 5 Tues	Nature Discovery	10am	Wkday Outdr Crd
Mar 6 Wed	Nature Discovery	10am	Wkday Outdr Crd
Mar 7 Thur	Nature Discovery	10am	Wkday Outdr Crd
Mar 7 Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Stan Krauhs
Mar 9 Sat	Girl Scout Wildlife	9:45-3pm	Melissa Aguilar
Mar 12 Tue	Deadline Bayou Foliage	4 pm	Molly Ganter
Mar 14 Thurs	Volunteer Meeting	6:30 pm	Stan Krauhs
Mar 16 Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30 am	Mark Kramer

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, held each month on 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 9:00 am (unless otherwise stated).

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Defining the ABNC Organization and How to Communicate Within It

Many organization newsletters include a column by the president, and I'd like to start that custom in the *Bayou Foliage* for the board chair. My column this month gives an overview of the organization that is Armand Bayou Nature Center and communicating within it. Most of you are aware of the different pieces of the organization such as the board of trustees, the executive director and staff, and the volunteer organization. Each of these parts has a clear and very important role in accomplishing the mission of the nature center.

What seems to me to be less well understood by many of us is the relationships among all of these pieces. Each piece has defined responsibilities and there are clear paths for communicating among them. The accompanying diagram shows the various pieces with the paths of communication represented by the lines connecting them.

Starting at the top (see accompanying diagram), the board of trustees has the ultimate responsibility for the nature center. They establish the policies to accomplish the mission described in the mission statement, select the executive director, and with him or her determine the number of staff. The executive director is responsible for selecting the staff and overseeing all the daily activities of the nature center. Each of the specific activities such as stewardship, education, etc. is the responsibility of a designated staff member. The Volunteer Coordinator acts as the liaison to the volunteer board. The Volunteer

Coordinator has the responsibility of communicating directly to the volunteer board and the volunteers through attending their monthly meetings and writing articles in the volunteer newsletter.

The volunteer board is responsible for coordinating the volunteers in service to the nature center. Each volunteer is responsible for taking an active part in accomplishing the mission statement by volunteering 4 hours per month (on average). The best way to function smoothly is to communicate through the lowest level person on the organization chart who is responsible for the situation you have to discuss. In the case of a volunteer with a question, suggestion, or problem, the first point of contact should be the volunteer board member who has responsibility for that area. They are listed in the *Bayou Foliage*. This gets the issue resolved at the lowest level.

But what if that person doesn't know the answer or can't help? Well, we all are in training all of the time and a board member who does not know the answer should find it out from a more experienced board member or by asking the vice-chair or chair. I can hear some of you even now grumbling that you could just ask a staff person and get the answer or voice your suggestion or complaint higher up the ladder.

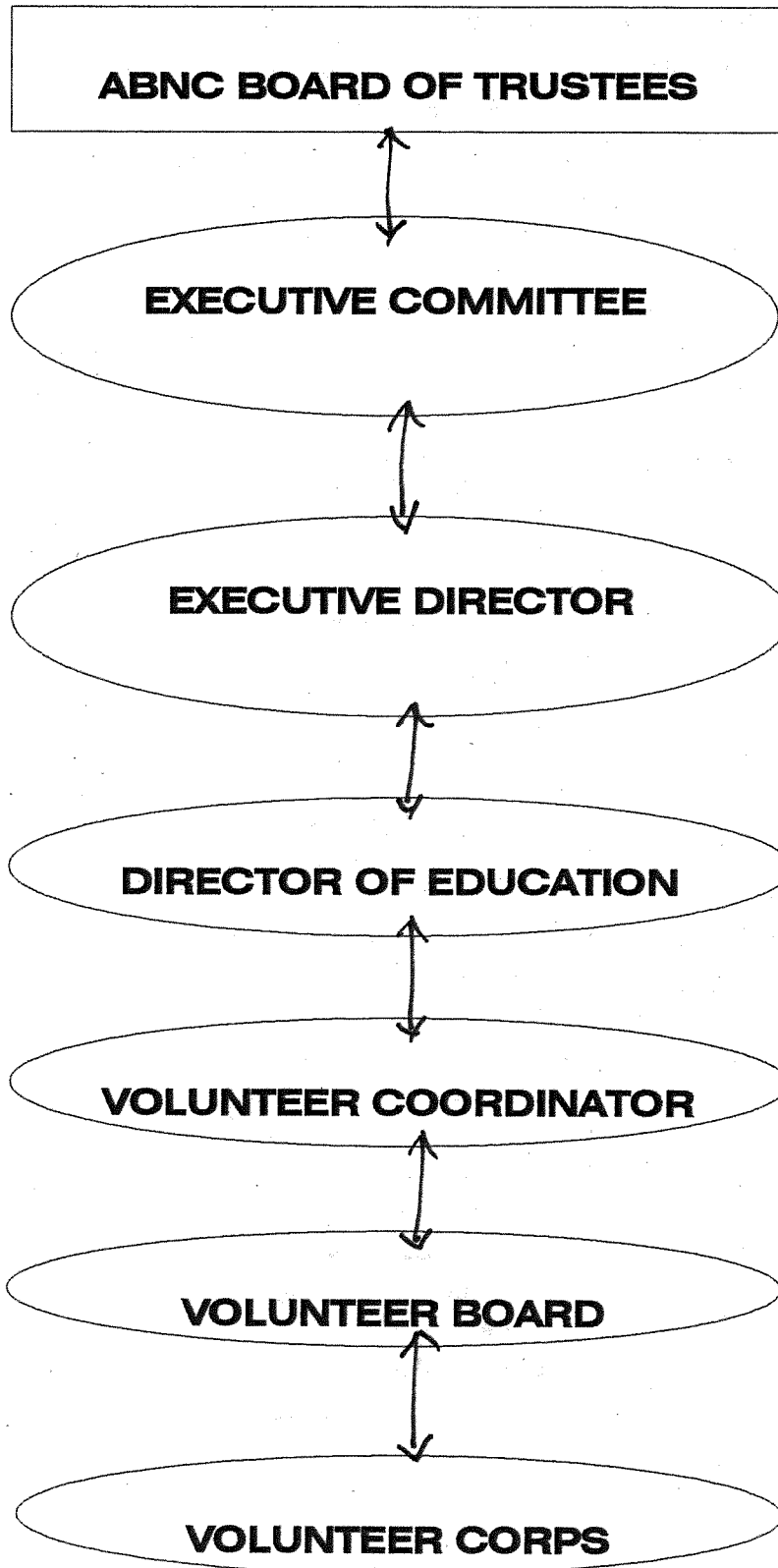
There are two reasons why this is not the best course of action. First, your suggestion or complaint will carry more weight if the volunteer board agrees with it. And second,

since the staff liaison attends the board meetings, that person will better understand the volunteer point of view and will be able to give the nature center perspective on the topic for a more informed discussion. If you take your suggestion or complaint directly to another staff person, they most likely will defer responding and take it to the Volunteer Coordinator, who will bring it back to the volunteer board for discussion or simply explaining the nature center view or policy. There are many things, actually most things, over which the volunteers have no control because they are the responsibility of the staff alone. For example, you may want to make suggestions or complain about prices charged, hours of operation, events scheduled or not, etc., but these are not volunteer issues. That does not mean that we should not voice our opinion or that our opinion is not appreciated. The proper action is to put your suggestion or complaint in writing and send it or bring it to the volunteer board.

The members of the board, including the Volunteer Coordinator, will discuss the item. The Volunteer Coordinator will pass it along to a staff person or the executive director for further consideration, as appropriate. We, the volunteer board members, are there for you and to support you. Please contact us first.

--Stan Krauhs, Chair of the Volunteer Board

ORGANIZATION OF ABNC



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, Odie Asscherick	2:00 TRAIL Coordinator, Odie Asscherick	INFO SERVICES Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SAT 2/2	Russell Gibbs	Stan Krauhs	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Jane Bingel Cheese	Anne Tincher Pond Life
SUN 2/3	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Pat Bates	Stephanie Rogers	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Polly Swerdlin Turtles
SAT 2/9	Jim Crabb	Charles Buren	Betty Snider	Chris Bingham	Irene Ward Woodstove	Ruby Dilgren Mammals
SUN 2/10	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Melanie Weisman	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Zel Arbuckle Woodstove	Eldine Owens Snakes
SAT 2/16	Anne Tincher	Charles Buren	Joan Henderson	Stephanie Rogers	Irene Ward Woodstove	Patsy Cashion Lizards
SUN 2/17	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Martha Hood	Marjorie Borey	Emily Egan Spinning	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 2/23	Stan Krauhs	Roy Parker	Pat Bates	Jane Bingel	Polly Swerdlin Rope Making	Mary Barton Bird Adaptation
SUN 2/24	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Dina Supple	Danny Yancy	Eleanor Stanley	Tom Scarsella Woodshop	Hilary Gibbs Study Skins

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	ipcullan@shellus.com
Info Serv & Interp	Ruby Dilgren	281-488-1727	
Admissions	Sally Hall	281-282-0036	sallyh15@juno.com
Weekend Demos	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1512	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	doctorodie@webtv.net
Weekday Farm	Tabatha Holt	281-922-6939	odieboy@compuserve.com
Weekday Outdoor Educ	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Outreach	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	brad9@flash.net

Bayou Foliage

Publisher/Editor	Molly Ganter	281-484-5021	gantclan@aol.com
Co-Editor	Mary Yurkovich	281-535-1004	yurko@wans.net
Reporter			
Circulation			

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

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