

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

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center

Volunteers

Interested + Involved + Informed

January 2002

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 21, No. 01

Look AHEAD

January 2002

- 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 10 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
6:30pm
- 12 Annual Member Meeting
- 16 Vol. Orientation, 6:30pm
- 26 Vol. Training, 9am

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

April 2002

- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 9 Deadline Bayou Foliage, 4pm
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

The next volunteer orientation will be
Wednesday, January 16, 2002

from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Training will be held

Saturdays, Jan 26 - Feb 23

For more details or to sign-up call Linda

Sumner at 281-474-2551

abnc STAFF NEWS

Alcohol Policy Update

The ABNC Board of Trustees appointed a subcommittee to review the ABNC alcohol policy. The subcommittee received legal advise on the matter, and has reached the conclusion that the policy does not need to be revised. Please be advised that the Executive Director must give consent before any alcohol is brought onto grounds or consumed. In any case where consent is given, the second party must agree to indemnify and defend ABNC from all claims or actions at law. This policy is in place to protect ABNC, the staff, volunteers, guests and the community. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 Polly Swerdlin.

Polly grew up in Wellsville, New York and jumped at the first opportunity to leave home and the cold weather. Lucky for ABNC, she ended up in Houston. Polly first became interested in ABNC as a member and later became a volunteer in 1995. She has served on the Volunteer Board, taught weekday classes while working the night shift, leads trail hikes (she added, "just a few, I try to leave that to the experts"), gives weekend demos and interrupts the farm, besides all that she headed up this year's Fall Festival. Polly really out

did herself. A new twist was added to this year's festival, a theme of country fair 1918. Now don't think for a minute that Polly is new to Fall Festival. In the past, she has chaired "ice cream", helped recruit other volunteers and worked the event.

Away from the Nature Center and work (Southwestern Bell where she has worked for 28 years), she enjoys reading, moving going and SCUBA diving with her husband Fred. They have a trip planned for January to Hawaii. Seems that even TEXAS winters are too cold for Polly! Polly, you did an amazing job with Fall Festival. ABNC appreciates all of your hard work and dedication. Thank you!

abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on December 13, 2001

Following an introduction by John Eagle, the meeting was called to order by **Ed Adams** (Chair).

George Regmund invited participation in the annual Christmas Bird Count. This is an important event in the ABNC birding program. Volunteers will make bird counts (census) and list species sighted. It will start at 7:00 A.M. on Saturday, December 15.

Mark Kramer called attention to the new widgeon grass aquarium being set up in the Education Building lobby. Recognition was given to Joe Clem for the excellent carpentry work on the display. Mark also noted that the winter prairie burn season has begun. A very successful training class was held on December 1 with 26 participants. One burn has been completed so far. Mark gave recognition to Ed Adams, our outgoing Chairperson, and talked about his long association with Ed and Ed's love of camping.

Stan Krauhs (Vice Chair) announced that the program for the January 10 meeting will be Volunteer Appreciation. Stan also noted that there will be a number of training programs next year aimed at renewing previous training and upgrading skills. The first of these will be a continuing education class on Animal Handling (January 19, 9-11 AM), and the next will be a class on Birthday Parties (January 26, 9-11 AM).

Linda Sumner (Staff) reported that the search for personnel to fill the vacant Executive Director and Facilities Manager positions is continuing. The annual Member Meeting will be held on January 12. The Board has approved a new structure of membership levels, and more information will be available soon. The Board has also decided to maintain the existing policy on the use of alcohol.

Linda announced that the Volunteer of the Month is **Polly Swerdlin**. Polly was thanked for her good work in leading this

year's Fall Festival.

Anne Tincher (Nominating Committee) read the list of nominations for the 2002 Volunteer Board:

Chair	Stan Krauhs
Vice Chair	Anne Tincher
Secretary	Bill Cooke
Treasurer	Ken Russell
Stewardship	Jim Callan
Info Sev & Interp	Ruby Dilgren
Admissions	Sally Hall
Weekend Demos	Eleanor Stanley
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick
Weekday Farm	Tabatha Holt
Weekday Outdoor Educ	Jane Bingel
Outreach	Laura Bradley

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made to accept these candidates by acclamation, and following a second, the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned by Ed Adams.

Respectfully submitted, Bill Cooke

abnc VOLUNTEER NOTES

Special Thanks to Weekend Trail Volunteers

A huge thank you to the great volunteers who so generously donated time doing trails during my two years as Weekend Trail Coordinator. Your dedication and expertise made the trails an unforgettable experience for our visitors. I certainly appreciated your readiness to volunteer when called.

I really enjoyed working

with all of you and hope our paths (or trails!) cross when I assume the post of Information Services and Farm Interpretation Coordinator. Happy New Year.

-Ruby Dilgren



Volunteer Appreciation

The program for the Thursday, January 10, 2002 Volunteer Meeting is a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It starts at 6:30 pm and is hosted by the ABNC staff. There will be an Awards Program during the dinner.

One special award will be presented to George Regmund for his 25 years with the Nature Center. Come & enjoy a wonderful evening with your fellow volunteers.

abnc volunteer BUSINESS REPORTS

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers Treasurer's Report December 2001

Beginning Balance	\$2738.70
Expenditures:	
Postage - Bayou Foliage (November 2001)	\$ 33.48
Bank Service Charge	\$ 2.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 35.48
Income:	
Paper Recycling	\$ 10.77
Fall Festival - Cookie Sale	\$444.22
Fall Festival - Volunteer Booth	\$469.00
Volunteer Handmade Pillow Sales	\$380.00
Total Income	\$1303.90
Current Balance	\$4007.21

abnc STAFF DIRECTORY

Interim Executive Director	Linda Sumner
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
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



abnc NEWS

ABNC Outreach

Our volunteers have been very active this year with the Armand Bayou Nature Center Outreach Program. I want to thank the many people who participated. We went to many different places to tell people about ABNC. We spent several weekend afternoons on the Kemah Waterfront at the Kids Fest; we took our Hands on History program to Bayou Bend in the spring and fall for Sunday Family Days; NASA and United Space Alliance enjoyed our reptiles and our outdoor tips at the Safety Days Program; we concluded our yearly activities with four blockbuster days at the International Quilt Show in the George R. Brown convention center. All of the community events were in addition to our regular school visits and other local outreach events. This year we reached over 12,000 people with our Outreach Program. We hope to see many of those people come out to visit ABNC.

We enjoy meeting new people and telling them about ABNC and we would like to encourage you to sign up with Laura Bradley in the future if she reaches out to you to join our Outreach program. Outreach is an important part of our Education program. Help promote ABNC by becoming an Outreach volunteer.

--Dottie Evans, 2001 Outreach Chair

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!

Jane and I would like to thank everybody for the wonderful items donated to make the first ever Fall Festival Volunteer Booth a HUGE SUCCESS! The volunteer booth alone made \$849 and together with the cookie sales, the total was just short of \$1300! A huge thank you to Mary Ann Tucker who initiated the idea for the volunteer booth. Many thanks go to the following people, which helped make the wonderful items for the booth--Marjorie & Roland Borey, Ann Brinley, Colleen Ecord, Molly Ganter, Helen Harger, Joan Henderson, Barbara Hill, Joyce Roberts, Eleanor Stanley, and Mary Ann Tucker. Thanks also to the quilters, Joyce Roberts, Colleen Ecord, Marjorie Borey, Joan Henderson, Pat Bates, Barbara Hill, and Mary Ann Tucker. I also want to thank the mystery person who donated the beautiful planter. Also, thanks go out to Irene Ward, Judy Sharp, Molly Ganter, Ann Tincher, Marjorie Borey, Jim and Diane McMahon, Bonny & Leroy McKinley, and Helen Harger for helping out at the booth during Fall Festival.

If any of you have suggestions for next year's booth, please feel free to contact Jane or me. Since this

was our first year, I am sure we can improve for next year. Next year we hope to make even more money for the volunteer fund. Thanks again for the ideas, support, hard work and love put into the items donated. Last but not least, we would like to thank George Regmund for helping setting up the canopy on Sunday. THANKS!

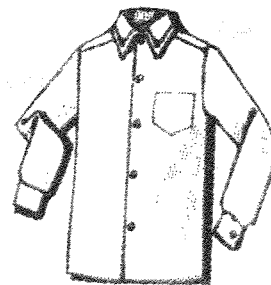
--Martha Hood & Jane Bingel

ABNC Khaki Shirts

If you submitted a request for an ABNC khaki shirt(s) in the last few months you might be wondering what's happening to that request. The order is still pending right now. The prices keep changing and now the Volunteer Organization will be handling the details. If you are on the list, don't worry, I have the paperwork and after I work out the details I will contact you for payment when the order is complete. Please do not put money or checks in the treasurer's mailbox unless requested to do so.

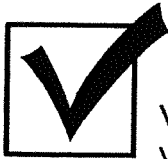
Thanks
for your
patience!

Ken Russell



abnc volunteer BANTER

Volunteer Board Elections were held December 13th



We have found a Few Good Leader Volunteers. The Volunteer Board

Nominating committee is happy to announce the new Volunteer Board has been voted in by acclamation.

The newly elected Volunteer Board members for 2002 are:

Chair-Stan Krauhs
 Vice Chair-Anne Tinch
 Secretary-Bill Cooke
 Treasurer-Ken Russell
 Stewardship-Jim Callan
 Info Services & Interp.-Ruby Dilgren
 Admissions-Sally Hall
 Weekend Demos-Eleanor Stanley
 Weekend Trail-Odie Asscherick
 Weekday Farm-Tabatha Holt
 Weekday Outdoor Educ-Jane Bingel
 Outreach-Laura Bradley

Cookie Sales

Thanks so much for all the help so many of you provided for the Fall Festival Cookie Sale. Such a variety of delicious cookies and cakes and pies (for the first time) made it hard for people to choose. Oh, but what a wonderful problem to have! Tabatha Holt's great apple pie went quickly as did Eleanor Stanley's good fruitcake. Once again, Marie Adams baked box after box of a variety of

cookies. Ed says she loves baking cookies and we love selling and eating them.

Several of our male members such as Bill Cooke and Stan Krauhs proved that guys can bake too! Thanks for all the help at the cookie booth. Keeping things moving smoothly were Joan Shock, Joan and Paul Brunklow, Marjorie Borey, Diane and Jim McMahon, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Krauhs, Ruth Elder, Tabatha Holt and her husband and Baby Timothy, and how nice it was to have Kim Wasserman at the booth.

A big thanks to the ones who set up the booth and provided a shade. We appreciated it very much. Thanks to everyone, Stephania Rogers.

Continuing Education Programs for January

Program: **Handling Animals**

When: Saturday, January 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the auditorium

Come and learn the correct way to handle the animals that we keep at the nature center and often take to outreach activities. This is a good way to be of help in doing demos and assisting with birthday parties. Even if you do not plan to do these activities, it is good to be knowledgeable. You'll

be able to answer questions from our visitors or a neighbor who thinks you know everything about nature because you volunteer at the nature center. A sign-up sheet is in the volunteer office. Please sign up now.

Program: **Doing Birthday Parties**

When: Saturday, January 26 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the auditorium

Doing birthday parties can be fun—after all, they are parties. They are profitable for ABNC too. More of them could be done if more volunteers were trained to do them. You do not have to do them by yourself—you can be part of a twosome—but one volunteer must take responsibility for the activity. Birthday party programs come in four flavors: farm, insects, reptiles, and trail hike. If you are already knowledgeable in one or more of these areas, then please come to learn what else it takes to be responsible for and create a fun event for a small number of children. If you want to do birthday parties, then you should attend. A sign-up sheet is in the volunteer office. Please sign up now.

--Stan Krauhs

abnc volunteer CALENDAR 2002

Jan 3	Thurs	Volunteer Board Meeting	6pm	Stan Krauhs
Jan. 5	Sat	Reptile B-day	11:00	Chris Battan
Jan. 5	Sat	Girl Scout Badge	9:45-3:00	Melissa Aguilar
Jan 5	Sat	Stewardship Sat	8:30 am	Mark Kramer
Jan 6	Sun	Reptile Birthday	2pm	Melissa Aguilar
Jan 6	Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Jan 8	Tue	Deadline for <i>Bayou Foliage</i>	4pm	Molly Ganter
Jan 10	Thurs	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	6:30pm	Linda Sumner
Jan 12	Sat	Annual Member Meeting		Linda Sumner
Jan 13	Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Jan. 16	Wed	Vol. Orientation	6:30 p.m.	Linda Sumner
Jan. 19	Sat	Girl Scout Badge	9:45-3:00	Melissa Aguilar
Jan 19	Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30 am	Mark Kramer
Jan 20	Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Jan. 26	Sat	Girl Scout Badge	9:45-3:00	Melissa Aguilar
Jan. 26	Sat	Vol. Training	9:00 a.m.	Linda Sumner
Jan 27	Sun	Project Prairie Birds	9-noon	Chris Battan
Feb 2	Sat	Clear Creek High School Outreach		Outreach Coord.
Feb 2	Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30am	Mark Kramer
Feb 2	Sat	Volunteer Training		Linda Sumner
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 2	Sat	Stewardship Saturday	8:30am	Mark Kramer
Mar 2	Sat	Volunteer Training		Linda Sumner
Mar 5	Tues	Nature Discovery	10am	Weekday Outdoor Coord
Mar 6	Wed	Nature Discovery	10am	Weekday Outdoor Coord
Mar 7	Thur	Nature Discovery	10am	Weekday Outdoor Coord
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

abnc BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Thank you for a great two years! It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the Board of Trustees President during this period of growth and systems development. Because of the hard work our staff, volunteers, Trustees Advisory and Foundation Board Members and many community supporters, the Center has made fabulous strides forward. Our visionary (and exciting) strategic plan will guide us into the future and help us position our upcoming Capitol Campaign. The Center has finished its new front entrance, gained more community visibility, and constructed new exhibits, all resulting in increases in

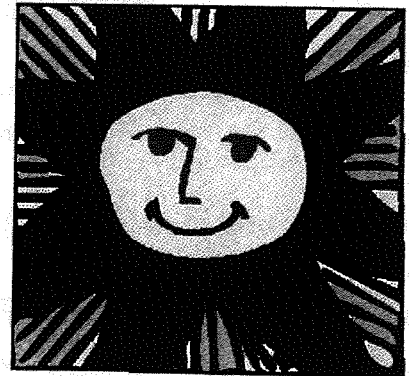
membership, attendance and outreach. The financial base has also broadened making us less susceptible to economic downturns.

Enough of the business review! I, personally, have had a fabulous time. The energy and "can do" attitude of all those involved in ABNC is inspiring. The Center is very important in many ways and, as all of you know, a bit magical. Please stay involved, as I will; the Center will be a key player in preserving the area's open spaces and habitat diversity.

Finally, I want to thank volunteers and staff for the success

of your recent high profile events * Creepy Crawlers, The International Quilt Festival and Fall Festival. All were excellent in presentation and provided substantial education and outreach.

--Helen Hodges, President, ABNC Board of Trustees



abnc CONTINUING EDUCATION

Commit to Update Your Skills and Acquire a New One in the New Year Through Continuing Education

It has been a few years now since I took the volunteer training course. At the time I had an interest in everything but my favorite was being in the woods, so I "majored" in being a trail guide, buddying on many weekends and on the night hikes. I also "minored" in rope making. After being on the volunteer board and listening to the many pleas for additional help for outreach and other areas, I have decided to learn some new ABNC skills in 2002. For

example, I am not comfortable handling the animals. This is a skill that is often important in volunteering for outreach. People, especially children, are drawn to the animals.

The more skills a volunteer possesses, the more opportunities open up for volunteering. There are times when we simply do not have enough volunteers to fill all the needs of the nature center. A number of opportunities to brush up on old skills or gain new ones will be available throughout the new year. In January Melissa and/or Chris will be giving instruction on handling animals and doing presentations for birthday parties (see accompanying article). If

you have an interest in another particular area, you can always buddy with someone for one-on-one instruction. Look at the schedule in the Bayou Foliage for that activity to see who will be leading it. It is always best to notify that person in advance in case the activity is canceled. Also, let the vice chair know of your desires—a more formal class may be created if several volunteers express an interest in the same activity.

I have made my list (bird identification, animal handling, and information services) of skills to improve for 2002. And I plan to use them. How about you?

--Stan Krauhs

abnc volunteer MANUAL**Fresh Water Ponds**

The fresh water ponds on Armand Bayou Nature Center property are man-made representations of a fresh water habitat. They provide a convenient way to study true aquatic organisms that are found only in the upper reaches of Armand Bayou. The ponds were also constructed in hopes that wildlife, especially migratory birds would be attracted to the core area. The only species introduced to these ponds after construction was the largemouth bass. All other fish and invertebrates migrated into the

ponds from adjacent fresh water habitats. The aquatic insects, turtles, and snakes found in the ponds now are very visible and useful for interpreting ecological principles.

The appearance of the pond, like the bayou, changes from one season to the next. The clear winter and spring waters quickly warm in the early summer allowing the dissolved nutrients to feed phytoplankton and submerged aquatic plants like Eurasian watermilfoil. In warm weather the milfoil chokes the open water with its vegetative growth to form a thick carpet of green, which is home to millions of **zooplankton** (microscopic animals), small fish, and aquatic insect larvae.

At night, the deafening sounds of calling frogs fill the air and give way to gelatinous egg masses, which lie on the bottom or are attached to the milfoil. They soon hatch and the pond is filled with tadpoles of various species. These amphibians will eventually undergo metamorphosis to become the adult frogs. They then feed on the numerous dragonflies and other insects, which depend on the pond for their larval or nymph stages.

Like the frogs, many pond animals undergo their entire life cycle in and around the pond. In the early spring, bass and sunfish will clear areas of the bottom to lay their nest of eggs. These they will guard to their death and consequently makes these species very visible. Within several weeks, schools of juvenile bass will be swimming from one end of the pond to another. The high population of red-eared slider turtles is the result of overstocking (most are unwanted pets) and feeding by the visiting public. However, the original intent of the ponds has been met. The ample supply of fresh water, aquatic insects, and pond bank cover plants makes them highly visited by wildlife.

Each month The Bayou Foliage will highlight sections of the ABNC Volunteer Manual

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 1/5	Anne Tincher	Stan Krauhs	Joyce Roberts	Jane Bingel & Dina Supple	Mary Ann Tucker Basketweaving	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SUN 1/6	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Melanie Weisman	Martha Hood	Marjorie Borey	Polly Swerdlin Ironing Day	Mary Barton Birds
SAT 1/12	Jim Crabb	Charles Buren	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Chris Bingham Stereopticon	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
SUN 1/13	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin	Stephanie Rogers Ropemaking	Eldine Owens Snakes
SAT 1/19	John Siptak	Ray Parker	Doug Barfoot	Joyce Roberts		Pat Doerr Owls
SUN 1/20	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Kelli Glenn	Dina Supple	Eleanor Stanley		
SAT 1/26	Danny Yancey	Stan Krauhs	Pat Bates	Paula Thorsen		Anne Tincher Pond Life
SUN 1/27	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Dina Supple	Joe Bryan	Susan Williams		Zel Arbuckle Snakes

Volunteer Board Members if you have an email address please send it to me at gantclan@aol.com. Thank you, Molly Ganter.

2002 Volunteer Board

Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@wt.net
Vice Chair	Anne Tincher	281-486-5167	
Secretary	Bill Cooke	281-480-2441	billcooke@msn.com
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Stewardship	Jim Callan	281-824-9411	jpcallan@shellus.com
Info Serv & Interp	Ruby Dilgren	281-488-1727	
Admissions	Sally Hall	281-282-0331	
Weekend Demos	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	
Weekday Farm	Tabatha Holt	281-461-4780	
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).

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
B a y o u F o l i a g e

8500 Bay Area Blvd.

Houston, TX 77258

281-474-2551 or 281-474-2552 fax

www.abnc.org



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Seabrook, Texas
Permit No. 632