



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

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

November 2002

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 21, No. 11

## look AHEAD

### November 2002

- 3 Fall Festival Planning Committee Meeting, 4:00pm
- 7 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 9-10 Fall Festival
- 12 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 14 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

### December 2002

- 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Prescribed Prairie Burn Class
- 10 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 12 Volunteer Meeting and Holiday Party, 6:30pm

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

## volunteer of the MONTH

Who's that man on the mower? It's Bob Paxton, our Volunteer of the Month for November! Bob transferred to the Houston area from Queens, New York, in 1979. Enjoying the outdoors, he and his wife began visiting county parks and nature centers all over the area.

Armand Bayou just stood out," Bob says, "I could see how much the Nature Center depended on its volunteers, and I liked the way things seemed to work."

Wanting to put his energies into beneficial volunteer work, Bob signed up for ABNC's volunteer training sessions last February and has since put in over 300 hours! Bob has found his niche with the facilities and maintenance crew

and you can find him out here every week giving a hand with trail maintenance; fence, decking, and shed repairs; set-up and clean-up for special events; equipment maintenance; and of course—the man is a mowing machine. Bob particularly enjoys working with the carpentry crew on projects, such as the bison platform.

They're a great group of guys," Bob says, "We have a good time and I learn a lot from them."

We are certainly lucky to have such a dedicated volunteer as Bob Paxton. Next time you see him out there on the mower, give him a wave and a "Thanks!"

- James Blueberry

## volunteer meeting and holiday PARTY

Our volunteer program for December is the annual holiday potluck dinner. Please bring your spouse or significant other to enjoy the evening with you. This is a wonderful time to visit with everyone. The social begins at 6:30 and dinner will start at 7:00. Turkey and ham will be provided as well as plates, cups, utensils, and napkins. Coffee and tea will also be available. We ask that you bring an appetizer, vegetable, salad, bread, or

dessert dish of your choice that will serve 6.

After dinner there will be a brief meeting to recognize those volunteers leaving the Volunteer Board and to vote for the new members for 2003. We will also be voting on the 2003 budget.

Come out for good food and great company, and to support the new leaders of the volunteers.

- Anne Tincher



## abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on October 10, 2002

The guest speaker was **Cliff Meinhardt**, President of the ABNC Board of Trustees, who gave a presentation of his nature photographs using multiple projectors and musical accompaniment. The presentation was given following the business portion of the meeting.

Chairman Stan Krauhs opened the business meeting at 7:00 PM. The **minutes** of the September 12 meeting were approved. The **Treasurer's Report (Ken Russell)** will be published in the Bayou Foliage.

### Area Reports:

#### **Vice Chair (Anne Tincher)**

The November program will be Wildscapes, given by Diana Foss, an urban wildlife biologist. The December 12 program will be the Christmas party with a pot luck dinner.

#### **Weekday Farm**

A coordinator is still needed. Stephania Rogers has continued to fill in but help is needed in November.

#### **Weekend Trails (Odie Asscherick)**

The November roster is set.

#### **Weekend Demos (Eleanor Stanley)**

Volunteers are needed on November 3 at the farmhouse and November 30 for Natural History.

#### **Greeters (Ruby Dilgren)**

Volunteers are needed for the December roster.

#### **Stewardship (Jim Callan)**

Stewardship Saturdays will be held each week for the next couple of months to accumulate transplants for the bulrush

grant project.

#### **Admissions (Jo Evans for Sally Hall)**

Front desk relief is very important and all volunteers are capable of answering the phones and providing information. Interested volunteers are urged to contact Sally or Jo.

#### **Staff Report (James Blueberry and Mark Kramer):**

James introduced new volunteers who recently completed initial training. They were presented with diplomas, patches, and nametags. There were a total of 14 in the class.

James announced that **Bob Paxton** was named **Volunteer of the Month**.

**Mark Kramer** reported that the Nature Center lost one of its bison last week. A Texas A&M vet examined the bison, which had experienced weight loss in recent weeks, but it died the following day. Examination of tissue samples is in progress to determine the cause of death.

Mark also reported that two new grants are underway. The first will continue marsh restoration. Aboveground nursery ponds will be built soon to contain plants until transplanting next spring. The second grant will restore about 30 acres of prairie at Taylor Bayou. Contractors will do most of the work.

The next prairie burn training class is scheduled for December 7. Completion of burn training is mandatory to participate in the winter burn season.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Creepy Crawlers (Jo Evans)**

The event is scheduled for October 25 and 26. Volunteers are needed for face painting, mask decorating, trail guide, and cookie decorating.

#### **Volunteer Social (Polly Swerdlin)**

The party will be held on October 11 at the Alpine BrauHaus on Highway 3.

#### **Fall Festival (Polly Swerdlin)**

The festival will be held on November 9 and 10. Four chairpersons are still needed. October 31 is the deadline to sign up for the BBQ dinner to be held on Saturday night, November 9. There is also a sign-up list for bringing munchies for Saturday morning breakfast.

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Nominating Committee**

Candidates have been nominated for all board positions except Stewardship and Weekday Farm. Please contact a member of the nominating committee if you are interested in filling one of these positions.

#### **New Business:**

#### **2003 Budget Item—Volunteer Gift to ABNC (Stan Krauhs)**

A list of 11 suggested items with cost estimates was presented. A vote of those present decided that a specific item should be purchased rather than to simply provide a cash gift to the Nature Center. Stan reported that a review of the current balance and expected revenues in 2003 after allowing an adequate safety margin would permit a maximum gift of \$2500.

There was a suggestion from the floor to

(cont. on page 3)

## a b n c v o l u n t e e r M E E T I N G M I N U T E S (c o n t .)

from meeting on October 10, 2002

**New Business continued:**

set the gift at some maximum percentage and another suggestion to limit it to \$1000. No set percentage or maximum amount was voted on. A vote was taken of those present to establish a priority of the listed items. The item with the highest vote count was a flat bed trailer (estimated at \$1200-\$1500) for prairie burns to replace the obsolete fire truck. Close

behind was signage for a proposed prairie trail (\$400-\$800). These were followed by a replacement white board by the admissions counter (\$100), volunteer brochures (\$200), scholarships to winter camp (\$80), and putting a concrete floor in one of the bays of the maintenance building (\$800-\$1100). These points will be given consideration in preparation of the 2003 Budget, to be printed in the

December issue of the *Bayou Foliage* and voted on at the December volunteer meeting.

Stan adjourned the business meeting at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke



## got muck in your BOOTS?

## n o v e m b e r P R O G R A M



Do you long for those muddy moments of finding swamp critters in your boots? Would you like to breathe in fresh bayou air while wrestling marsh plants out of ankle-deep muck? Well, you're in luck! It is time to jump in the bayou for the stewardship department!

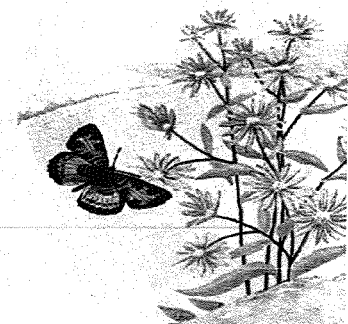
We are implementing a grant, partly funded by Texas Parks and Wildlife, that involves collecting marsh plants such as California

bulrush, swamp lily, and black needle rush. Two temporary nursery ponds (50' by 10') will be constructed next to the Admissions Building to hold these plants after they are potted, allowing us to control their growth by excluding wave energy, herbivorous pests, and invasive species. Our hope is for these plants to create well-established root masses, which will enhance their survival rate once they are transplanted back into Armand Bayou next spring during Marsh Mania. Please contact Mark if you are interested in getting down and dirty for marsh habitat restoration!

- James Blueberry

Come to the November meeting to hear about Wildscapes: creating backyard habitat using native plants to attract birds and butterflies. Also learn what plants to avoid. Our presenter, Diana Foss, has worked at Texas Parks and Wildlife for ten years. She is an urban wildlife biologist who helps landowners enhance their property for wildlife. Her favorite animal is the bat.

- Anne Tincher



**22nd ANNUAL MARTYN FARM FALL FESTIVAL****November 9: Saturday 9am - 5pm****November 10: Sunday Noon**

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have just a few days to go! Veterans of Fall Festival know the drill, but here's the final list to consider for this year's main event.

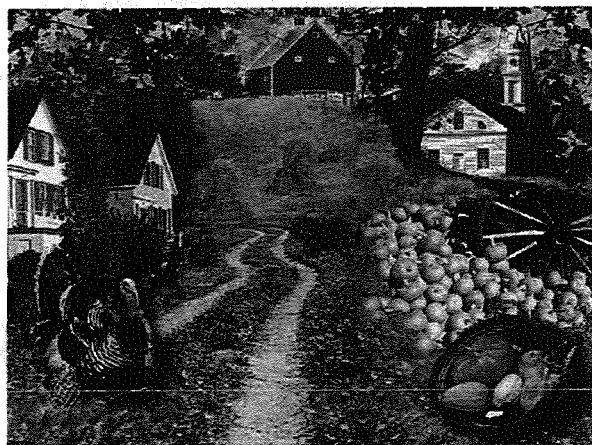
**SIGN-IN PROCEDURES:** When you arrive ready for "duty," no matter what time of day it is, please check in at the information booth. That way we (1) will know who has participated, (2) will know what activities are covered or need spare helpers, (3) can give you one \$1 ticket per shift you work, to be used for one drink, one ice cream cone, or \$1 off food, and (4) can let you know if there are any last-minute changes. The information booth will be alongside the birthing barn, in sight of the farmhouse and windmill.

**DRESS:** Anything from 1900 to 1915 will be very nice to see around the grounds. If you don't have a costume, please wear your khaki shirt. Everyone should also wear a name tag.

**BREAKFAST:** As usual, breakfast on that weekend is potluck. We have a sign-up list in the volunteer office for bringing breakfast items. It will help us get started early if there are munchies to grab as we prepare for the day.

**PARKING:** Weather permitting, the field near the bison pen will be where volunteers and demonstrators can park. If it is too wet, the paved parking lot will fill up quickly. If you work only part of the day, please consider using the UHCL parking and shuttle.

**SOCIAL:** If you don't want to cook after working all day Saturday at the event, there will be dinner around 6 pm in the Education Building, \$8.20 per person. Randy's Bar-B-Q on Highway 3 will be the caterer. This price includes the \$1 we have added to the cost of the meal so that we can hire a constable and allow beer or wine (no kegs) to be brought on site.



Thank you for your support.

Polly Swerdlin

Work number 7 am to 4 pm: 281-280-5481

Cell phone with voicemail: 281-814-4606

E-mail: [pfollyred@yahoo.com](mailto:pfollyred@yahoo.com)

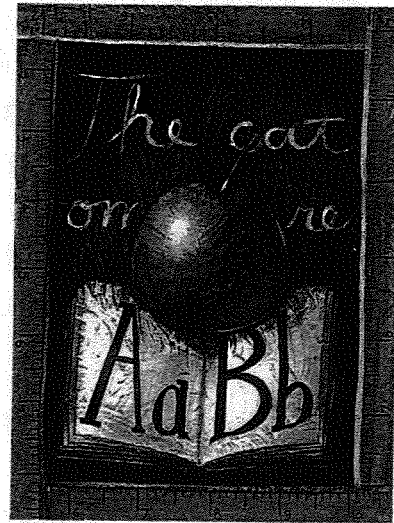
## view from the CHAIR

## One Hundred Years from Now

Last evening I ran across this motivational piece that brought to mind the continual problem we have finding a Weekday Farm Coordinator. Perhaps this short piece (author unknown) will spur a volunteer to take on this coordinator job that teaches school children about farm life a hundred years ago. Helping to make butter or cheese at the nature center may be the experience that sparks a child's interest in food, agriculture, or history.

"ONE HUNDRED years from now  
It will not matter  
What kind of car I drove,  
What kind of house I lived in,  
How much money I had in my bank account,  
Nor what my clothes looked like.

But one hundred years from now  
The world may be a little better  
Because I was important  
In the life of a child."



Please call Stan Krauhs or James Blueberry for more information.

- Stan Krauhs

## staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Director of Education	
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
Volunteer Coordinator	James Blueberry
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
Webmaster	Richard Coleman
Accountant	Pat Slaughter/Linda Tanner

Phone 281-474-2551

Email: [abnc@ghgcorp.com](mailto:abnc@ghgcorp.com) Web: [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org)



### Many Thanks!

Thanks to Polly Swerdlin for coordinating our Volunteer Social at the Alpine Brau Haus. Not only was the company excellent, the food and music were wonderful, too. Thanks, Polly, for arranging this special event.

- ABNC Volunteers

A special thanks to the following volunteers and staff for their help September 18, 2002.

Volunteers included Kathleen and Jim Crabb, Merle Bunde, Charles Buren, Ruby Dilgren, Joan Henderson, Ken Russell, Joanna Wactor. Staff members included Chris, George, Mark, Jo, and Sam. Sorry if I missed anyone!

The Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents (AZAD) found the ABNC very interesting and most wished they could have stayed longer.

- Eleanor Stanley  
AZAD Member

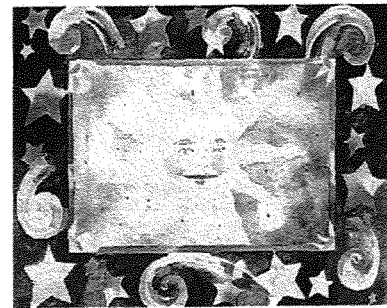
I wish to thank the new volunteers that signed up to be trail guides. Please welcome Bob Beyer, Joann Carr, Amber Montgomery, and Rhonda Richardson.

- Odie Asscherick  
Weekend Trail Coordinator

### Wanda Update

Wanda Charlene Hayden has moved out of the Clear Lake area. A month ago she relocated near Sharpstown Mall, at Highway 59 South and Bellaire Boulevard. Wanda is very happy in her new apartment and surroundings. All of your ABNC friends wish you well, Wanda. We will miss you! Keep in touch.

- Mary Ann Tucker



### 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	jpcallan@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
<b><u>Bayou Foliage</u></b>			
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).

## volunteer BUDGET

### Armand Bayou Nature Center

#### Treasurer's Report

October 2002

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$3509.57</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Total Expenditures:	\$2.00	
<b>Income:</b>		
Paper Recycling	70.04	
Bayou Foliage Postage (Carol MacGregor)	10.00	
Total Income:	\$80.04	
<b>Current Balance:</b>		<b>\$3587.61</b>

## prescribed prairie burn CLASS

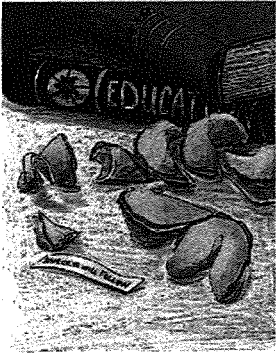
**When:** Saturday, December 7 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Meet in Education Building

The class will focus on the use of prescribed fire to maintain the prairie at the Nature Center. Topics to be discussed include fire ecology, fire behavior, burning techniques, safety, equipment use, and governing laws. If conditions are favorable, a small plot will be burned to demonstrate this activity. Please wear appropriate clothing, that is, cotton shirt and long pants, boots, hat, bandana, and work gloves. **This class is required before a volunteer can participate in a prairie burn.** If you have not attended a previous class and want to participate in a future prairie burn, then you must attend. Please sign up on the class activity sheet in the volunteer office or call the front desk to be registered.

- Stan Krauhs





### Weekday Farm Coordinator Needed

Do you have some time available on weekdays? Do you like working with children? Here is an opportunity to delight and teach children and coordinate others to do the same. The primary responsibility of the Weekday Farm Coordinator is to call volunteers to fill teaching positions for schools making field trips to the nature center. Stephania Rogers, who is temporarily covering this position, has a call list of volunteers interested in and willing to teach farm classes. She will continue to teach classes, too. Please call her at 713-473-4324 for additional information. If you are interested in being Weekday Farm Coordinator, call Stan Krauhs at 281-470-2744.

- Stan Krauhs

### Did You Know?

Deer are most active just before sunset and again just after sunrise. During the middle part of the day they are generally bedded down, which provides a means of concealment. In North America, the White-tailed Deer shed their antlers from January

through March. New ones begin to grow in April and May and the velvet is lost in August or September. Other interesting facts:

**Description:** A graceful and dainty deer, with a long, slender neck and narrow face. May reach a height of three and a half feet at the shoulder and an extra large male may weigh 350 pounds! In the summer the coat is reddish brown and in the winter it is gray-brown. The underside of the tail is completely white.

**Diet:** In the wild, typical foods include grasses, weeds, acorns, fruits, leaves and grain. Deer are primarily grazers.

**Habitat:** White-tailed deer prefer areas with enough vegetation for concealment. Brushy or wooded country is optimum.

**Reproduction:** Mating takes place between November and December and gestation is around 7 months. During this period, males are territorial and will attack anything that they view as a threat to their territory, including humans.

- Information for this article provided by Eleanor Stanley

### Help Wanted

Do you have an idea for a regular feature in the *Bayou Foliage*? Have you stumbled across a perfect "Website of the Month" or "Did You Know?" article? We would like to hear from you! Please send us an email at

sylkyj@ev1.net or give us a call at 281.557.2505.

- Sylvia Krzmarzick

### Website of the Month

Texas Junior Naturalists

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/expltx/jrnat/index.htm>

The "Texas Junior Naturalists" website, sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife, is by far the best educational resource we have run across thus far. Those volunteers that are involved in educational areas will benefit from this site. Each link on the homepage will direct users to some basic information about a given topic and then list direct links to a myriad of additional resources.

Furthermore, each month highlights a different topic. October focuses on different issues surrounding habitat. For example, while scrolling down the home page there is a section entitled "Plant a patch of prairie grass." Not only is information provided about why this is important, it also takes users to data about various grasses and even tells you where to find the proper seeds!

- Sylvia and Jim 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	INFO SERVICES Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SAT 11/2	<i>Jim Crabb</i>	<i>Stan Krauhs</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Sandy Parker</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella Wood Shop</i>	<i>Ann Tincher Pond Life</i>
SUN 11/3	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Dina Supple</i>	<i>Ken Russell</i>	<i>Dottie Evans</i>	<i>Ed Adams Rope</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin White Tail Deer</i>
SAT 11/9	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>
SUN 11/10	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>
SAT 11/16		<i>Ray Parker</i>	<i>Joyce Evans</i>	<i>Dottie Evans</i>	<i>Chris Bingham Stereoscope</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley Reptiles</i>
SUN 11/17	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>	<i>Judy Shaef er</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella Blacksmith</i>	<i>Hillary Gibbs Study Skins</i>
SAT 11/23	<i>Pat Doerr</i>	<i>Stan Krauhs</i>	<i>Dina Supple</i>	<i>Jane Bingel</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers Rope</i>	<i>Ruby Dilgren Arthropods</i>
SUN 11/24	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>	<i>Betty Snider</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>MaryAnn Tucker Basket Weaving</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley Reptiles</i>
SAT 11/30	<i>Bob Beyer</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Anne Prosser</i>	<i>Jane Bingle Cheese</i>	

*Don't forget to vote  
November 5th!!*



A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers  
Bayou Foliage  
PO Box 58828  
Houston, TX 77258  
281-474-2551 or 281-474-2552 fax



**Address Correction Requested**

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