



B a y o u Foliage

A publication of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

September 2002

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Vol. 21, No. 09

look AHEAD

September 2002

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

October 2002

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

volunteer OF THE MONTH

It is an honor to announce that Joan Henderson is the volunteer of the month for September. Joan was one of the first volunteers I met after joining the staff, and she has always impressed me with her dedication and the amount of time she puts in at ABNC.

I took a few moments to review her volunteer hour log for 2002. . . it seems as if Joan is everywhere and doing everything. She helped with the fall prairie burn, took the master naturalist class,

worked trash bash and earth day, is often found relieving Jo at the front desk, takes an active part in the volunteer organization, volunteers for special events like *Down on the Farm*, and last but not least, serves as a deck hand on the *Bayou Ranger*.

While all of our volunteers are special, Joan's services as a deck hand no less than ten times this past month demands recognition. Thanks for a job well done.

- Sam Harwell

september PROGRAM

Joan Few, a professor of archaeology at UHCL, conducted a dig at ABNC several years ago. She will be presenting her findings as well as information regarding the indigenous peoples of this region. She served as president of the Houston Archaeological Society, and she has a great deal of field experience. Come with your questions about the "early" history of ABNC.

- Anne Tincher

get WELL SOON

Nigel Wright, an active member from the most recent volunteer class, is back at home and doing better after spending some time in the hospital recently with a serious illness. He is resting and focusing on his recovery, but welcomes our best wishes should we want to keep in touch. Let's all keep Nigel, as well as Nora and Ian, in our thoughts.



abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on August 8, 2002

The guest speakers were nature photographers **Joyce and Frank Burek**, who gave a presentation of their fish, mammal, bird, and landscape photographs. They also showed their photographs of insect, plant, mammal, and bird life prevalent in the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Following the presentation, **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting. The minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved. The **Treasurer's Report (Ken Russell)** will be published in the Bayou Foliage.

Area Reports: Vice Chair (Anne Tincher)

- Upcoming continuing education sessions include Mushroom Identification and Tasting (September 21), and Spiders (September 28). Volunteers are urged to provide their email address to facilitate communication in the event rescheduling is necessary. The speaker for the August volunteer meeting is Professor Joan Few, who will discuss her studies of the Indian middens along Armand Bayou.

Weekday Outdoor Education (Jane Bingle) - Activity is slow during this period of summer. **Weekday Farm** - A coordinator is still needed. **Weekend Trails (Odie Asscherick)** - Coverage is complete for September. **Weekend Demos (Eleanor Stanley)** - Help is needed for the Farm on September 21 and 29. Help is needed for Natural History on September 21. **Greeters (Ruby Dilgren)** - Activity is routine.

Stewardship (Jim Callan) - The summer burn season will begin in September. A burn training class was held in June, and there will be another in November. The Prairie Friday group has finished the transplanting work from the Spencer site and will now be working on transects. Upcoming Stewardship

Saturday activity will be removing barrier fences from the bayou. Two grants are being pursued by ABNC. The first involves marsh restoration on Taylor Bayou. This will primarily be tallow tree removal. The second is bulrush transfer from the Reliant site, including construction of planting boxes.

These are matching grants and it is important that volunteers provide and log as many hours as possible to maximize the benefits. **Admissions (Sally Hall)** - Activity is routine. **Bayou Foliage (Jim and Sylvia Krzmarzick)** - Activity is routine. Stan mentioned that roster changes will be given in future issues to assist everyone in maintaining a current roster between annual updates.

ABNC Staff Report (Sam Harwell) - A tractor operation training session is scheduled on August 10. Plans are to hire an Education Director in September. Applications are being received. The job description of the Volunteer Coordinator will be revised, and this position will no longer report to the Education Director. Plans for the volunteer training session are indefinite, since only 4 are signed up now. The pontoon boat is out of service for motor repairs. It is expected to return to service around the first of September. **Joan Henderson was named Volunteer of the Month. Fall Festival (Polly Swerdlin)** - Sign up lists have been made and will be posted in the Volunteer Office. Volunteers will receive a one-dollar food or drink coupon for each shift they work. There will be a potluck breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. Options for the Saturday night volunteer dinner include Randy's barbecue or a box meal from Jason's Deli. We will vote on this next month.

There are still four chair positions open: Pie

Eating Contest, Rope Making, Soap Making, and Syrup Making. **Volunteer Social (Polly Swerdlin)** - Several suggestions were submitted. It was decided that the social will be held at the Alpine Roadhouse on Highway 3 on Friday, October 11.

Committee Reports: Bayou Foliage

Review - The committee will meet after the next issue of the Bayou Foliage. **Recognition** - The committee (Ken Russell, Joan Henderson, Dottie Evans, and Martha Hood) has met twice and has a number of ideas under consideration. **Recruitment and Assimilation** - Joan Henderson has volunteered to chair this committee. A bulletin board with information for visitors about volunteer opportunities has been placed near the aquarium. Other ideas are being discussed. **Bylaw Review** - Proposed Bylaw revisions have been published and will be voted on during the September meeting. **New Business** - Stan proposed that volunteer meetings, particularly those with interesting continuing education programs, be opened to guests as a recruitment opportunity. We could perhaps have designated guest nights in the future. Stan also asked for, and received from the attendees, a list of educational locations that might be used for future volunteer continuing education outings. Five volunteers for the Nominating Committee for 2003 Officers will be selected at the September meeting.

Announcements: - Three volunteers or their family members are ill. They are Nigel Wright, Becky Brignac, and the daughter of Fred Vicker. Please give them your support.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke

22nd annual MARTYN FARM FALL FESTIVAL

Folks, it's way past time to get ready, so we're asking all the Activity Chairs to join the Planning Committee at the next meeting: September 8 at 4pm in the auditorium. As of August 6, we still need Chairs for:

Pie Eating Contest - Rope Making - Soap Making - Syrup Making

Otherwise, all the activities need folks to help out. Volunteer yourself, your significant other, your neighbor, your friends, and your teenage kids. There will be the usual **signup boards** in the volunteer office on the wall, so please stop by to find spots for you and yours. The sooner we know who will be doing each of the activities, the better we can make plans for the entertainment of our visitors.



By the by: we are definitely planning to have a **Volunteer Booth** again this year, in addition to the fabulous **Cookie Booth**. What we need are Volunteer Made Items to sell. Get your thinking cap on, and show off your skills in whatever direction you wish. Remember **Roland Borey's** walking canes from last year? We sold every single one, and they were only sticks in the woods before he got a hold of them! Remember to keep in mind our **1900-1915 period**, so the items need to be something the folks back then might have made for family or friends. Once you know what you will donate, please contact **Helen Harger** so she will know how much space she will need for the booth.

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, & Fred Vickers

thank YOU!!!

I want to say a big thank you to Dina Supple for taking over the position of Weekday Farm Coordinator for the two months that I was away. You did a great job and I truly appreciate it. I know it isn't easy to get volunteers to teach summer classes - it's just too hot! I also want to thank all of you wonderful volunteers who were kind enough to help Dina by teaching all those classes.

Again, thank you Dina and thank you all of you wonderful and dedicated volunteers!

- Jane Bingel

website OF THE MONTH

PLANTS National Database

<http://plants.usda.gov>

This month's website is the most comprehensive and informative website about plants I've ever surfed. Sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the database offers information on probably any plant that interests you. Admittedly, aspects of this website are not as user-friendly as you may prefer (it is a government site, after all), but with all the information available the clutter is understandable. If you need a push start, click on the Plant of the Week and surf away!

- Sylvia Krzmarzick

continuing EDUCATION

Mushroom ID & Tasting

Have you ever been curious about all the mushrooms that grow in this area? Which ones are edible and which ones are poisonous? We have an amateur expert within the volunteer ranks. Jim Crabb has offered this continuing education opportunity in the past. I can tell you from having attended the last one, we had a lot of fun looking for mushrooms, learning about them and then collecting some, cooking and eating them. Jim has agreed to offer this field program again. We can never be sure of the weather, so the date is tentative. We are setting the date for September 21, Saturday from 10:00a.m. until 12:30p.m. If the rains do not come and there are

no mushrooms you will be notified. **If you are unable to attend on September 21, but definitely want to attend, there will be a separate signup sheet for you. Then if the program must be rescheduled, you will be on the notification list for a future date when conditions are favorable.**



Spiders

Everyone who visits ABNC right now is very impressed with our Golden Silk spiders and their magnificent webs. Come to this continuing education opportunity to learn more about these spiders and to find out about the other spiders found here at ABNC. Maggie Honig conducted this program several years ago and is back by request from a volunteer who attended her earlier one. We will be meeting in the auditorium at 6:00p.m. Saturday, September 28. There will be a signup sheet in the volunteer office and at the volunteer meeting.

- Anne Tincher

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
<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).



Volunteer Social

Where:

Alpine Brau Haus

17926 Hwy 3 (Strip center on SE corner of NASA Rd 1 & Hwy 3)

281.332.5696

When:

6:00 PM, Friday, Oct. 1, 2002

(music starts at 6:30PM)

Polly Swerdlin has been kind enough to locate the perfect spot for our Volunteer Social. Not only does the Alpine Brau Haus feature authentic German cuisine in a quaint setting, there will also be LIVE MUSIC!!! Come and join your fellow volunteers for some good food, good music, good atmosphere, and above all, good company. A signup sheet will be located in the Volunteer Office, and the deadline for signing up will at the volunteer meeting on September 8.

Help Still Wanted: Weekday

Farm Coordinator

The position of Weekday Farm Coordinator is open. The primary responsibility of this

individual is to call volunteers to fill teaching positions for schools making field trips to the nature center. Stephania Rogers has held this position and recently has been covering it for Tabatha Holt, who is unable to continue. Stephania has developed a call list of volunteers interested in and willing to teach farm classes. She will continue to teach classes, too and feel free to call her for additional information. If you have a few hours a month to make the calls and possibly teach a class or two, please contact Stan Krauhs, Volunteer Chairman (day 713-307-3452, evening 281-470-2744).

-Stan Krauhs

(reprinted from July 2002 *Bayou Foliage*)

Stewardship Update

The marsh restoration efforts at ABNC recently reached a milestone. In July, the Stewardship group spent a Saturday morning removing fencing. The work could have been a lot hotter if it weren't for the fact that this fencing was in the Bayou. The fencing and fencepoles had been planted in 1995 to protect marsh grass restoration plantings off of southern Mud Lake. Located along the drainage ditch across from NASA, Site 7 ran along approximately 500 feet of shoreline. What is most

significant is that this completes the first complete marsh restoration cycle (fencing, planting, marsh grass re-establishment and growth, and finally fence removal). On a nostalgic note, Mark Kramer and volunteers Joe Bryan and Tom Scarcella participated in the removal work this July, and were also there for the planting in 1995. There are more fences and fenceposts to remove, so the Stewardship group can use your help. Contact Mark Kramer at ABNC or Jim Callan (281-824-9411) for more information.

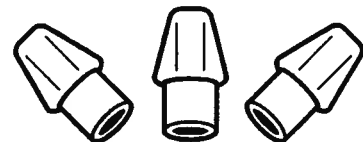
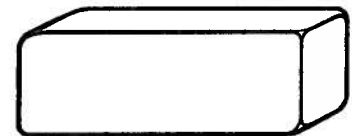
- Jim Callan

Roster Correction

Please correct your copy of the roster:

Patsy Baukman's correct email address is patsy.baukman@weatherford.com

If you discover any errors in or need to make changes to the Volunteer Roster, please contact Sylvia or Jim Krzmarzick.



volunteer BUDGET

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers Treasurer's Report August 2002

<i>Beginning Balance</i>		<i>\$3631.74</i>
Expenditures:		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Postage - Bayou Foliage (June)	33.18	
Postage - Bayou Foliage (July)	37.79	
Postage - Volunteer Roster	31.67	
	Total Expenditures:	\$104.64
Income:		
Paper Recycling	10.66	
	Total Income:	\$10.66
<i>Current Balance:</i>		<i>\$3537.76</i>

joan HENDERSON TO CHAIR THE RECRUITMENT & ASSIMILATION COMMITTEE

Joan Henderson has volunteered to chair the Recruitment & Assimilation Committee. She has already recruited Judy Sharp and Nan Muir Bodensteiner as committee members and things are happening.

Nan purchased a bulletin board that is attached to the side of the aquarium display in the education building lobby. She placed a recruitment poster on the board along with some photos of volunteers doing their thing.

Joan brought up the idea of inviting guests to the monthly volunteer meetings. This would be a more personal way of introducing volunteers' friends, relatives, and neighbors to ABNC and the volunteer corps than an orientation meeting. Perhaps we could designate the month before a new volunteer training class as "bring a guest month" and encourage volunteers to fill the auditorium.

Thank you, Joan, for volunteering for this chair position and for getting the committee off the ground so quickly. Joan also serves on the Recognition and Fall Festival Committees, and she relieves Jo at the front desk. Joan welcomes ideas for recruitment and assimilation from all volunteers and staff.



- Stan Krauhs

view from THE CHAIR

Looking for more action? — Run for a seat on the Volunteer Board!

Would you like to work more closely with your fellow volunteers? Does being in the middle of where decisions are made appeal to you? Want to be one of the first to know “what’s happening?” at the nature center? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then run for a seat on the Volunteer Board. It is already time to be thinking of how you plan to contribute to the nature center in 2003. I hope you will consider being on the Volunteer Board.

The Nominating Committee will soon be formed to find volunteers

willing to serve on the Volunteer Board for the coming year. It is great how every volunteer does his or her part to make the nature center function, whether it be by doing stewardship work, doing demos for the public, or working behind the scenes cleaning the farmhouse. A volunteer is also needed to coordinate the volunteers in each of the major work areas to ensure that the job is covered. There are 8 of these coordinator positions and 4 officer positions (see the article on the Nominating Committee for a list) to be filled each

year. All 12 of the positions are open and I encourage new volunteers to run. If you are interested in any position, please talk with a member of the Nominating Committee or get in touch with the board member who holds that position now.

The volunteer corps grows stronger when new people with new ideas are on the Volunteer Board.

- Stan Krauhs: Chair of the Volunteer Board

nominating COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

It is time again to form a Nominating Committee to find volunteers willing to serve as officers and coordinators on the Volunteer Board for calendar year 2003. The election process begins with forming a Nominating Committee composed of 5 volunteers, none of whom can be currently on the Volunteer Board. These 5 volunteers are formally approved at the September volunteer meeting. They select one of their number to chair the committee. The committee is charged with filling the slate of officers and coordinators. They proceed to contact volunteers to fill the following 13 positions:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| · Chair | · Vice Chair | · Secretary |
| · Treasurer | · Admissions Coordinator | · Greeters Coordinator |
| · Outreach Coordinator | · Stewardship Coordinator | · Weekend Demos Coordinator |
| · Weekday Outdoor Education Coordinator | | · Weekend Trail Coordinator |
| · Facilities Coordinator (if bylaw change is approved) | | · Weekday Farm Coordinator |

(Note: the position of *Bayou Foliage* Editor is not included because it is filled by appointment by the new Volunteer Board in January)

The Nominating Committee is to complete their task and present their slate of nominees at the November volunteer meeting. The committee is then dissolved.

The slate of nominees will be published in the December issue of the *Bayou Foliage* to inform all volunteers and elections are held at the December volunteer meeting.

- Stan Krauhs

did YOU KNOW ?

Did you know that Ospreys, as well as the Bald Eagle, sometimes line their nests with seaweed? The Osprey is one of the most specialized hawks, and "finds its fish prey by hovering high over open water, then plunging head- and feet-first into the water. Special barbed pads on the soles of its feet help to grip the slippery fish, which the bird carries to a nearby tree to eat."



Quote and illustration from:

Sibley, David. The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2001: 218-219.

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

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	Greeter Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SUN 9/1	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Stan Krauhs	Ken Russell	Stephania Rogers		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 9/7	Anne Tincher	Stan Krauhs	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Stephania Rogers Rope	Pat Doerr Hummingbirds
SUN 9/8	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Joe Bryan	Martha Hood	Polly Swerdlin	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Ruby Dilgren Bats
SAT 9/14	Jim Crabb	Ray Parker	Joyce Roberts	Jim & Diane McMahon	Jane Bingle Cheese	Polly Swerdlin Turtles
SUN 9/15	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Charles Buren	Dina Supple	Dottie Evans	Tom Scarcella Wood Shop	Hillary Gibbs Study Skins
SAT 9/21	Pat Doerr	TBA	Ruby Dilgren	Dottie Evans	Joyce Roberts Quilting	
SUN 9/22	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Betty Snider	Anne Prosser	Eleanor Stanley Knitting	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 9/28	Polly Swerdlin	TBA	Dina Supple	Susan Hesley	Polly Swerdlin Rope	Anne Tincher Microworld
SUN 9/29	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Doug Barfoot	Cherry Barfoot		Patsy Cashion Lizards

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



A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
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Address Correction Requested

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