



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

April 2003

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Vol. 22, No. 4

look AHEAD

April 2003

- 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 6-7 Cannon's Environmental-thon
- 8 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 10 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 26 Staff/Volunteer Luncheon

May 2003

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 6 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 10 Bayou Boil
- 31 Marsh Mania

June 2003

- 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Possible Prairie Burn
- 10 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

April Program:

Creatures of the Night

If you're a fan of Gary Clark's "Wonders of Nature" article in the Friday editions of the Chronicle, you definitely don't want to miss this month's program! The fantastic pictures are taken by his wife, Kathy. While they are experts in many areas, they will present a program for us entitled "Creatures of the Night." Please don't miss this very special presentation.

- Sylvia Krzmarzick

volunteer of the MONTH

If you've visited the farmhouse gardens, you've probably run into a woman with dirt stained knees and fistfuls of roots and soil - that would be Kathleen Crabb, our Volunteer of the Month for April 2003!

Kathleen started volunteering at the Nature Center just months after the farmhouse was brought over across Clear Lake by barge in 1982, and she remembers when the gardens were first put in.

"There was a great horticulture group," she says, "both staff and volunteers worked on maintaining it."

Since then, the gardens have evolved to a more water efficient variety of native species, attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. This is where Kathleen comes in - those sweet smelling herbs, creeping vines and vibrant flowers don't plant, water, and weed themselves! "It's been such a learning experience," she says.

Growing up in the middle of London, Kathleen's only contact with flowers and plants was in gardens and manicured lawns, but "I've always loved flowers," she says, "I don't know

where it comes from. It's a passion of mine."

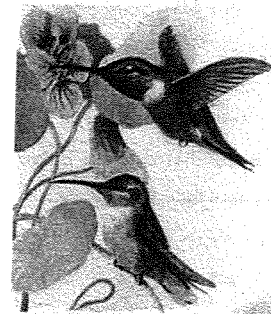
When asked about her garden at home, Kathleen laughs, "I take in (plant) orphans that people no longer want to care for and I've ended up with a jungle in my backyard."

Kathleen was particularly busy in the farm gardens the week before Patrick and Kim's wedding, planting Violas, Johnny jump-ups, Victoria sage and Petunias to make sure there would be blooming color for the event.

About ABNC, Kathleen says, "It's my heart. I feel it's a duty for people to give back to the community and I've learned so much from the Nature Center."

Be sure to visit the farmhouse and let Kathleen know how much we appreciate her dedication to the colors, scents, and buzzing wildlife we find in the gardens! Thanks, Kathleen!

- James Blueberry



abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on March 13, 2003

The guest speaker was Dr. Dan Brooks, who gave a presentation on "Spring Neotropical Migrants", also known as "Warblers and Their Friends."

Ed Adams introduced Ms. LaDonna Page, Executive Director of the San Jacinto Day Foundation, which sponsors the annual Pasadena Strawberry Festival. Ms. Page presented a video about the history of the Festival and its activities. ABNC plans to be represented at the Festival this year with displays of Outreach information and crafts. Ed encouraged volunteers to sign up. This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the Festival, to be held on May 16-18 at the Pasadena Fair Grounds.

Following the guest speakers, Chairman Stan Krauhs opened the business portion of the meeting.

Minutes of the February 13 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's Report will be published in the Bayou Foliage.

Area Reports:**Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin):**

Polly announced that the speakers for the April meeting will be Gary and Cathy Clark, who will speak on "Creatures of the Night". This promises to be an excellent program. Polly also mentioned that sign-up sheets are posted for the Exxon-Mobil Picnic in May, for Weekday Farm, and for those willing to be chairpersons for the Fall Festival.

Outreach (Ed Adams):

Upcoming Outreach Programs include Bayou Bend (March 16), Houston Zoo (April 13), and Space Center (April 22). Please contact Ed if you are interested in participating.

Weekend Trails, Weekday Outdoor Education, Weekend Demos, Greeters and Farm Interpreters (Odie Asscherick, Jane Bingel, Stephania Rogers and Judy Schaefer):

Activities are routine. In the next week or so Stephania will put out a sign up list for the April 26 Volunteer Earth Day cookie sale.

Facilities (Chuck Snyder):

The facilities volunteers have begun construction on a covered porch for the Hyman House.

Staff Report (James Blueberry):

Volunteer training was completed with 12 graduates. Certificates were presented to those present. James reminded the group of upcoming events:

March 22-23: Village Creek Canoe Trip

March 29: Trash Bash

March 29-30: Volunteer Campout

April 6-7: Envirothon (A high school competition on nature and environmental subjects. Volunteers are needed to assist with the contest.)

April 26: ABNC Volunteer Earth Day (the ABNC Staff/Volunteer lunch is also scheduled that day.

Volunteers are needed to help with demos, canoes, plant and cookie sales.)

May 31: Marsh Mania

A sign-up list has also been posted in the Volunteer Office for Education Material Organization Day.

James reported that 96 acres of prairie have been burned this season. There are two more plots scheduled for burning, but the winter burn season will end in the next two weeks or so.

James announced that Kathleen Crabb has been named Volunteer of the Month.

Old Business:

Stan reminded the group that Tom Scarsella is interested in providing training in Woodshop skills. However, input is needed on volunteer participation as well as any interest in a specific woodshop skill. An article will be placed in the Bayou Foliage.

Stan told the group that a committee has been formed to contact volunteers who logged less than 48 hours last year in the hope of increasing their volunteer activity. An updated roster will be distributed in the next four to six weeks.

New Business:

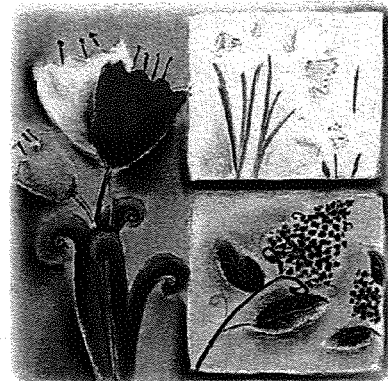
Jane Bingel discussed plans for a continuing education opportunity. A Hill Country Bluebonnet Tour is being planned for April 14-16. Accommodations will be at the Inn of the Hills, near Kerrville. Full information is available in the Volunteer Office.

Polly Swerdlin said that volunteers may now log up to two hours of continuing education credit for appropriate learning activities away from the nature center. To be eligible, a written summary must be made and placed in a new Continuing Education Notebook, which will be kept in the Volunteer Office. Polly showed an example of a summary made following a recent trip by several volunteers to the Baytown Nature Center.

A number of volunteers and ABNC staff contributed toward the purchase of a load of limestone to improve the road to the farmhouse. Another load, costing about \$300, has been ordered for the continuing effort to improve the trails. Merle Bunde has been the key volunteer in this work. Stan invited other volunteers to contribute. A check with a notation of "limestone" should be written to ABNC and given to Ken Lester or Jo Evans.

Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cooke



Congratulations!

Many couples find Armand Bayou Nature Center's farm grounds to be the perfect setting for exchanging vows. . . The farmhouse itself has a unique history, and the native garden surrounding it is beautiful year round thanks to our dedicated gardening group. But for Kim Wasserman and Patrick Hayes, both former employees of the Nature Center, the farm ground's significance goes beyond its physical beauty. . .

When Kim was hired on as Volunteer Coordinator in 1999, Patrick was already employed as the Facilities Coordinator, and was living in the farmhouse as caretaker of the east bank property. A friendship began to develop—and it grew like a weed! By July of 2000, the couple began dating. In fact, one of their first dates was a homemade dinner in the farmhouse!

"The Nature Center will always be a special place us," Kim says, "It's where we met and fell in love." And were they exchanged rings on Saturday, March 8th, 2003, before family, friends, and colorful butterflies in the farmhouse garden.

Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Armand Bayou Nature Center wishes you the very best in love and life!

Continuing Education Credit

Following the announcement of the March Field Trip a question was

asked of the Volunteer Board. Could Continuing Education points be earned by visiting other nature facilities on your own or with other volunteers?

After discussions at our last board meeting, I am happy to report the consensus is very positively so. All you need to do to make your visit qualify is to write a brief but informative description of what you saw and learned, and how you think others could profit from going there. There is now a book in the Volunteer Office on the same desk as the Log Book for a collection of these stories. Things like pictures and brochures would be an enhancement, of course. If you make this visit with other volunteers, it can be one article, co-authored.

Our thoughts on how much time to allow for credit is the 2 hours that most Continuing Education classes usually run.

- Polly Swerdlin

Survey Says...

It was recently suggested that I offer an afternoon or two of woodshop instruction.

To that end I need to know what the level of interest there might be among my fellow volunteers. I explain most of what's in the woodshop and demonstrate the use that portion that is currently serviceable. I can teach the following sorts of classes for

anyone interested in demonstrating or interpreting in the woodshop:

- ◆ Woodshop interpretation: Tool identification and their role in everyday life.
- ◆ Drawshaving: Using drawknives and the shaving horse to make shingles and toolhandles that are efficient and comfortable to work with.
- ◆ How tools work and how to sharpen them.
- ◆ Wooden spoon and kitchen implement making with simple hand tools.

Please submit your name and phone number, and your Level of skill or tool familiarity (beginner to Roy Underhill)

If more than one class is presented I will try to teach the more basic one first. I will contact anyone who responds and we will work out classes and dates amongst us.

Please respond to the survey at the Volunteer Office or call me at 281-483-4885.

- Tom Scarsella



upcoming CALENDAR

Continuing Ed

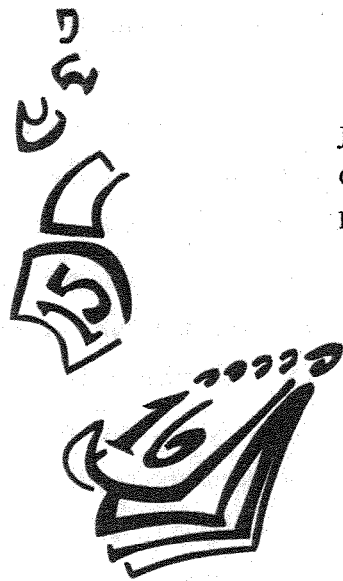
April 10	Creatures of the Night	Kathy & Gary Clark
May 8	Picnic at the Farmhouse	Pot Luck
June 12	Native Plants of Texas	Glenn Olsen
July 10	Tallow Mulching Project	Candy Donahue
August 14	TBA	

Events

April 6-7	Cannon Environmental-thon
April 26	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon
April 26	Reliant Center Boy Scout Fair
April 26	Earth Day
May 3	Exxon/Mobil Picnic
May 10	Bayou Boil
May 31	Marsh Mania

Classes & Trips

June 7	Prarie Burn
October 4	Field Trip TBD
December TBD	Prarie Burn



2003 VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@wr.net
Vice Chair	Polly Swerdlin	281-814-4606	pfollyred@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bill Cooke	281-480-2441	billcooke@msn.com
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
Stewardship	Kristen Knoedler	281-532-3610	
Greeters/Interp.	Judy Schaefer	713-472-5688	
Admissions	Anne Prosser	281-461-7338	rexprosser@msn.com
Weekend Demos	Stephania Rogers	713-473-4324	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	doctorodie@webtv.net
Weekday Farm			
Wkday Out. Ed.	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Outreach	Ed Adams	713-946-2754	
Facilities Coord.	Chuck Snyder	281-480-1550	
<u>Bayou Foliage</u>			
Editors	Jim & Sylvia Krzmarzick	281-557-2505	sylkyj@ev1.net
Circulation	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	doctorodie@webtv.net

wk 281 483-3067

Armand Bayou Nature Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 2003

Beginning Balance	\$3054.83
Expenditures:	
Postage for Foliage:	35.65
ABNC Recognition:	50.00
Bank Service Charge:	2.00
Total Expenditures	\$87.65
Income:	
Paper Recycling-Dec.:	15.95
Paper Recycling-Dec.:	18.83
Total Income	\$32.78
Current Balance	\$2999.96

If you have articles for the Bayou Foliage you may phone or email them to Jim and Sylvia.

they're BAAAACK!!!

Each year, ExxonMobil has a company picnic, and because of the superior success last year, they are repeating it at our facility again. Not only does Armand Bayou Nature Center get a financial boost from the property rent, but also all the volunteers and staff that help out that day will be able to join in when they are not working, including the food of Luther's catered Bar-B-Q.

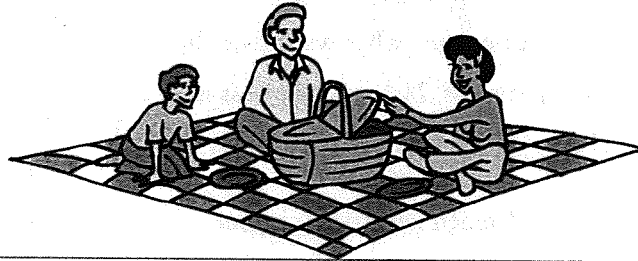
A lot of the work required to make this event a success is actually going to be done by ExxonMobil folks, most of what we will be doing is "icing on the cake". There will be midway games, moonwalk, cotton candy, volleyball, bingo, etc, etc, etc. Yes, they do promise to clean up afterwards.

The Nature Center will be closed to the public that day, sort of like a restaurant having a private party.

The signup sheet we have worked out this time has only 15 activities to schedule, compared to 33 (times 2 days) for Fall Festival. Once again, the signup will be in the Volunteer Office.

The hours of this event are advertised as 10 am to 4 pm, but I am listing the hours for us as 9 am (for set-ups) to 5 pm (for clean-ups). Some activities won't need to be going all day long, if you post a notice. Such as "Martyn Trail Hikes at 11:00 and 2:00." Looking forward to another FUN day!

- Polly Swerdlin



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 Web: www.abnc.org

Quiz Answers (underlined)

1. An ecotone is:
 - a) animal sounds from a particular ecosystem
 - b) an area where two ecosystems converge
 - c) a habitat for one type of plant
 - d) all of the above
2. An example of a cycle would be:
 - a) water
 - b) air
 - c) energy
 - d) all of the above
3. A bayou:
 - a) can be a coastal body of water
 - b) flows in both directions
 - c) is a brackish estuary
 - d) all of the above
4. The major "food factories" of a plant are in the:
 - a) roots
 - b) leaves
 - c) trunk
 - d) all of the above
5. Consumers can:
 - a) convert energy from the sun
 - b) eat only animals
 - c) get energy by eating plants
 - d) give off oxygen during respiration

Volunteer Web Page

On the newly designed ABNC web site under the topic of "Volunteering," you can log on to a special Volunteers Web Page. This page includes the *Bayou Foliage* on-line along with schedules, current

announcements of importance, and even some pictures of volunteer activities.

As a volunteer, I have agreed to assist Ken Larson by assuming duties as the webmaster for this special page. I'll keep it up to date and make it as useful as possible to our volunteers. Please contact me by email to submit items of interest or important announcements that need to be posted on our page. Pictures of interest can be sent by attachment as well. Your contributions are what will make this page a success. My email address is bbeyer@houston.rr.com.

Remember, to reach your Volunteers Page, you need to go to the ABNC address at <http://www.abnc.org>, click on "Volunteering," then log in using the password "AbncRaccoon" (case sensitive).

- Bob Beyer

Website of the Month

After an amazing drive through the country, I knew what topic I wanted for this month's website: wildflowers. If you have not had an opportunity to cruise around Matagorda or Fort Bend counties, you should treat yourself! The fiery field of Indian Paintbrushes is not something that I'll soon forget.

Our Website of the Month is the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center* at www.wildflower.org. The mission of her center says it all. It strives to "...educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants." The site is jam packed with information on native plants, including wildflowers. The sheer magnitude of information can be a bit daunting, but worth it. My favorite part? The "wildflower forecast and popular sightings" section. Through a partnership with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Center provides maps of routes to see the best spring wildflowers. You have to "click" around a bit. But, if you are looking for a perfect spot to take a leisurely drive with friends or that special someone, this may be the way to go. Regardless, this site will be an added resource for me to learn more about native plants in Texas.

- Sylvia Krzmarzick



ABNC Volunteer Field Trip**Baytown Nature Center and Wetlands Center**

March 1, 2003

Judy Schaefer, Bill Cooke, my husband Fred and I carpooled from ABNC. We met Terry Fromm at the Wetlands Center on Market Street. Also attending was a group from College of the Mainland. We were told that fifth graders from the Baytown schools show up for a day like we would be experiencing.

In one of the classrooms there was a hunter's safety class, just one example of the wide diversity of organizations who have access to the Center. This facility is fortunate to have excellent funding from several corporations in their area.

First John Mason and Sallie Sherman showed us a video about wetlands, and then we went to another classroom to explore the wonders of microscopes and mosquito larvae. Next, there was a tour of the large display area that included stuffed critters, several aquariums, a wetlands example that included some youngster alligators, and a small greenhouse with Monarch butterflies.

They also showed us a first-class computer lab where the volunteers "hang out." There were 4 or 5 PCs, a couple MACs, books, tapes, videos, etc.

We took a break for lunch and drove over to the previous Brownwood subdivision. We ate our sack lunch on top of a man-made hill topped with a pavilion. Then we took a walk-about for birding

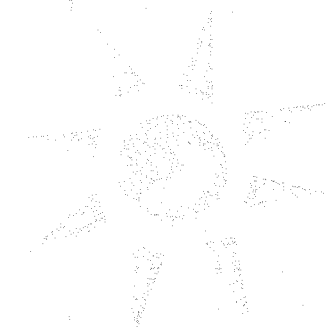
with binoculars they loaned us.

John got out the hip waders, so he and I could seine the water nearby for small critters. We scooped them out into a pan for the kids to take a good look at. They use this activity to show the kids how the water is a nursery.

Baytown is offering this tour again on April 5, and May 3. The 5 of us would highly recommend that you take advantage of this continuing education event. Once again, wear your name badge for free admission. The Wetlands Center is at 1724 Market Street in Baytown. The Nature Center is located at 201 W. Shreck off Bayway Drive. For more information, call 281-420-7128 or visit their web site at

www.baytown.org/BNC/index.html

- Polly Swerdlin

**The Better to See You With**

A special "thank you" goes out to the volunteers who helped make the Eagle Optics Equipment Demonstration and Tveten book-signing event a big success. The event was held on Sunday, February 23, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Bill Howe and Tom Lightfoot were at the center bright and early to help Ron Windingstad unload all his wares and set up the auditorium. Ken Russell came early for his afternoon duty and stayed late to help

pack up. We made a big pot of coffee for guests and workers and enjoyed a beautiful day of breezy winds, lots of birds and sunshine. Brenda and Tom Lightfoot brought the event to us a couple of years ago and this year we asked Gloria and John Tveten to come out and sign their books, which we sold in the lobby. Jo Evans assisted the Tvetens, while Judy Sharp filled the bird feeders and kept the birds coming. We even had a Painted Bunting visit the feeder at the front door of the auditorium. The Tvetens both saw it through our binoculars and said it was their first spotting this season. Hanna Drago and Francy Phelps photographed and documented all the activities, Dick Phelps ran the front desk and kept the people coming, while Tom Scarsella gave a great blacksmithing demonstration at the farm site.

Great weather and wonderful cooperation from everyone resulted in a Sunday visitation of around 200 people and gift shop book sales of close to \$500! In addition, almost everyone who qualified to have his or her admission refunded because of a purchase, chose instead to let ABNC keep the revenue. We will also earn revenue from Eagle Optics and Wild Birds Unlimited for hosting the event and we gave our supporters the opportunity to select their ideal optical equipment. One final bonus . . . a very happy purchaser of new equipment took her old binoculars off her neck and donated them to us on the spot for our use on the pontoon boat or with other classes.

- Lynn Shigekawa

Earth Day Cookie Sale

Earth Day will fall on April 26 this year and a Volunteer cookie sale is being planned to coincide with it. Of course, this means we will volunteers to bake their favorite cookies to sell.

As usual, any kind of home baked cookie sells well - brownies, sugar cookies, all kinds are welcome. The proceeds will go to the volunteer treasury and will be used for something needed at the Nature Center.

In the past the cookie sale has almost always resulted in a sellout - people love home baked sweets!

Thank you in advance if you can contribute your favorite cookie. They can be brought to the Center and left in the volunteer office, or bring them to the cookie booth on Earth Day.

- *Stephania Rogers*

Thanks, Thanks, Thanks!

I want to express my sincere appreciation to Charles Buren who, in between leading trail hikes, put all the labels on the membership renewal notices.

It is a monthly job: printing, tri-folding and labeling. I want to thank Charles for his time and cheerfulness.

Big thanks to Stan Krauhs who came in two Saturdays in a row to experience the "front desk." Stan mastered the cash register, the map, and all the chitchat that goes with getting people to pay, information on what to do and getting them out the door for their nature experienc. It sure helps when you have someone to share the talking with.

Of course, none of the mailing would get done according to Post Office regulations unless Odie Asscherick wasn't the greatest guy ever to do that job for me. I have a hard time getting away as it is, but Odie takes 100% care of it for ABNC dealing with all the forms, putting everything in Zip code order, etc. I so appreciate all the help the volunteers give me.

Anne Prosser has been diligent in recruiting people for me for lunch breaks. She has done an outstanding job! Huge thanks to all who say "yes" when she calls.

And where would we all be without Jane Bingel. Thanks to all of you - you are the greatest!

- *Jo Evans*

Visitors Services Coordinator

Hug a Tree?

Do you want to save some trees and postage fees from the volunteer treasury? Why not take yourself off of the hard copy mailing list? Instead of getting the Bayou Foliage in your mailbox each month, you'll receive an email letting you know that the newsletter and monthly schedule have been posted to our new volunteer website.

If you are interested, contact James Blueberry at 281-474-2551 or jamesblueberry@hotmail.com.

- *Sylvia Krzmarzick*

Correction

Anne Prosser would like everyone to use a new email address:

anne_prosser@msn.com

**Welcome Our New Volunteers!**

Andrew Delgado	281.998.1945	
Gary & Sandy Carlyle	281.773.8633	joinsna@aol.com
Jessica Burney	281.487.7705	ssjessieb@hotmail.com
Linda Watts	281.614.1369	lindawatts@houston.rr.com
Richard Watts	281.614.1369	rwatts@houston.rr.com
Lindsay Upton	281.486.5057	likechicken_@hotmail.com
Mary Armstrong	409.945.3534	mary_armstrong@hotmail.com
Shawn Carnley	281.481.0788	
Syndney Harwell	281.461.8123	halepono@yahoo.com
Terry Fromm	281.424.9150	terryjfromm@aol.com
Diana J. Austin	832.654.1791	djessiea@yahoo.com
Liz Pearsall	281.842.1080	windalestudios@yahoo.com

abnc volunteer DUTY ROSTER

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	GREETERS Coordinator, Judy Schaefer	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Judy Schaefer	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Stephania Rogers	NAT HISTORY DEMO Stephania Rogers
SAT 4/5	Pat Doerr	Anne Tincher	Joyce Roberts	Jane Bingel	Tom Scarsella Wood Working	Hillary Gibbs Pond Life
SUN 4/6	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Merle Bunde	Ken Russell	Marjorie Borey	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Zel Arbuckle Pond Life
SAT 4/12	Bob Beyer	Bob Beyer	Lindsay Upton	Paula Thorson	Jane Bingel Cheese Making	Ruby Dilgren Arthropods
SUN 4/13	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Mary Yurkovich	Polly Swerdlin	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	
SAT 4/19	Jim Crabb	Patty Pennington	Gary Carlyle	Sandy Carlyle	Irene Ward Rope Making	Ed Adams Biscuits on Woodstove
SUN 4/20	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Pat Bares			
SAT 4/26	Polly Swerdlin	Jo Ann Carr	Betty Snider	Paula Thorson		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles Polly Swerdlin Adaptations
SUN 4/27	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Stan Krauhs	Pat Bates	Chris Bingham	Stephania Rogers Butter Making	Joanna Wactor Nutria



FOODS

[Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

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