

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

August 2003

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Vol. 22, No. 8

look AHEAD

August 2003

- 7 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Deadline Bayou Foliage*
- 14 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

September 2003

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

October 2003

- 2 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 Staff/Volunteer Luncheon, noon
- 24-25 Creepy Crawlers

* - early deadline due to month beginning on Friday

teen VOLUNTEERS

Beka Balciunas	Lindsey Meinhardt
Lauren Burdsall	Juliana Mulholland
Sarah Carter	Lisa Neigut
Derek Dekerlegand	Alicia Nutter
Andrew Divers	Claudia Patino
Casey Dew	Amy Penrose
Phillip Evans	Ryan Pepper
Elizabeth Gawlik	Dean Pye
Sydney Harwell	Kris Redmon
Bobby Hebert	Jaelyn Robb
Jenny Ho	Katie Scully
Nate Johnson	Sean Scully
Jeff LeBlanc	Merrienne Stratford
Steven Lee	James Taggart
Mason Markee	

volunteers of the MONTH

Some jobs are much too large for a single volunteer. That is why we are fortunate to have twenty-nine teens that are volunteering for Armand Bayou's Summer Eco-Camp as our August Volunteers of the Month. This green-t-shirt-clad group of 14-18 year olds (see list at left) works closely with the students and teachers in their daily activities.

When asked for the reason he wanted to volunteer, Clear Brook senior Sean Scully remarked, "When I first started it was because I wanted to gain experience. . . coupled with the fact that my mom signed me up and told me about my decision to delve into the world of volunteering the night before orientation, thus giving me time for nothing more than a shell-shocked acceptance of my fate. However, I found that the experience was fun, and I have been coming back for my fourth summer here."

Many of the teen volunteers add their work at Armand Bayou to a summer full of other activities. Clear Brook freshman Kris Redmon has worked on a daily basis over summer, as well as attending both his church camp and football camp.

As the summer has

progressed, the teens have become good friends with each other and have gained many more stories about their daily adventures at Armand Bayou. Accidental swims in Mae's Pond seem to have become a norm for this group of volunteers!

The teens make close connections with the children in Eco-Camp, and become excellent mentors for the campers. "I work mostly for the fun and experience of helping kids learn about the outdoors and nature," said Clear Lake freshman Amy Penrose, "It's a good way to stay busy!"

These teens really know how to make a difference. So, if you happen to see a line of campers followed by a teen-aged volunteer, say hello and thank them for their excellent work!

--Rebecca Marfurt

Teen Volunteer Coordinator Intern



a b n c volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on July 10, 2003

The guest speaker was Candy Donahue, who gave a slide presentation of her Rice University study involving a Tallow Tree Mulching Project in the Taylor Lake section of ABNC.

Following the educational program, Chairman Stan Krauhs opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:05 PM. The minutes of the June 12 meeting were approved.

There was no old business or new business.

Area Reports:

Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin):

Dr. Paul Freed of the Houston Zoo has agreed to give a presentation at the February 2004 Volunteer Meeting.

Pat Slaughter will lead a class on the contents and use of the Trail Boxes on July 26.

The fall Volunteer field trip to the Katy Prairie is now scheduled for October 11.

Volunteer Board E-mail can be read at <http://webmail.birch.net>. Addresses will be established for positions, rather than individuals easier access over time.

To correct a previous statement, a minimum number of continuing education hours are no longer required as specified in earlier versions of the bylaws.

A shelf unit for the videotape library is being planned for the library classroom.

Please remember that auditorium telephone is only for access to ABNC numbers; it is not an outside line.

Polly said that two additional committee members are need for Fall Festival publicity and entertainment. A poll of the volunteers indicated a mild interest in having Bar-B-Q for the Saturday of Fall Festival.

Trails (Odie Asscherick):

There will be no regularly scheduled guided trail hikes on weekends in August because of the limited number of patrons during the hot weather.

ABNC Staff (Sam Harwell):

ABNC is continuing to experience problems with electrical devices following the lightning strike last month.

The lone bison situation has not changed. Many hurdles have been encountered with plans to transfer the bison to another owner, and ABNC is continuing to study the alternatives.

Chairman Remarks (Stan Krauhs):

Mark Kramer will not reschedule the summer burn class that was cancelled. The next class will be announced for this winter. Stan urged the volunteers to log all hours. The next Volunteer/Staff brown bag luncheon is scheduled for July 26 at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cooke

august PROGRAM / WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

Don't miss this month's program: Tom Schneider will be on hand to talk about the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. In honor of this event, the August website of the month is actually a handful of websites containing a wealth of information about BNWR. Check them out prior to the program so that Tom may

answer any specific questions you have, or surf them after the program once your interest in the Refuge has been piqued. Either way, there is some great info available in this trio of sites.

<http://southwest.fws.gov/refuges/texas/texasmidcoast/brazoria.htm>

http://areas.wildernet.com/pages/area.cfm?areaID=TXNWRBR&CU_ID

=1

<http://refugefriends.org/>

Sorry for the long addresses!

- Jim Krzmarzick

Saturday morning guided trail hikes -- what time?

Historically the volunteers have been doing guided trail hikes on Saturdays at 11 am. Recently some members of staff have informed me that customers are often here at opening time (9 am) Saturdays to watch the birds (even 9 am seems a little late for a "real birder"). With this information and the summer's heat in mind, I propose that the volunteers change the time of the Saturday morning guided trail hike from 11 am to 9:30 am. This will catch those customers who come early. As a bonus, the morning trail volunteer will have their day less interrupted and will beat the heat too. Please give me your thoughts. I will bring this up for discussion and vote at the August volunteer meeting.

(Note: The volunteers discontinued all regularly scheduled guided trail hikes on the weekends in August. This was also a suggestion by staff; those of us who do the hikes can attest to the fact that there are very few customers on the hot days of August).

- Stan Krauhs

other VOLUNTEER BUSINESS

Volunteer Training

Fall Volunteer Training is scheduled for this September - each Saturday! As you all know, we'll need folks (this means YOU!) to help show the new volunteers the ropes. **The Training Schedule and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Volunteer Office during the month of August.**

Stop by and sign up to teach a class and give Dick Benoit, who will facilitate the fall training session, a hand. Please pass the word on to your friends and neighbors - we're always looking for new talent and friendly faces to join the ABNC team!

- James Blueberry



Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for something to do on the occasional Saturday? Chris LaChance is coordinating Farmhouse Garden Work Days. What an excellent opportunity to learn all about the native plants around the Martyn house from someone with an amazing wealth

of knowledge. If you've never had the opportunity to talk to her about plants, it is a treat! These workdays will run on the first and third Saturday of the month from 8:30 to 11:30 AM. Email Chris at chrislachance@houston.rr.com or call her at 281.480.1925.

If garden work is not your cup of tea, don't forget that the first and third Saturdays are also Stewardship Saturdays. Mark Kramer always manages to have an activity that is guaranteed to be a learning experience and lots of fun. Contact Kristen Knoedler for details at kknoedler@dpisd.org or 281-532-3610.

- Jim Krzmarzick

Armand Bayou Nature Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 2003

Beginning Balance	\$3190.62
Expenditures:	
Bank Service Charge:	2.00
Total Expenditures	\$2.00
Income:	
Eleanor Stanley-Koozies	44.00
Total Income	\$44.00
Current Balance	\$3232.62



Fall Festival, Already???

Yes, I know it is only August but it takes a lot of planning and lots and lots of volunteers to make Fall Festival the success it has been in the past. For example, 30 volunteers are needed to act as chairpersons and between 100 and 150 volunteer slots are available to help with the various crafts and other activities.

I promise that both chairpersons and helping volunteers will get all the information and training they need. This training will be offered on several Saturdays as Fall Festival comes closer. With a large number of people helping no one person will "get stuck" to do more than they signed up for. You can volunteer to work any of these shifts:

Sat.	9:30 - 12:00	12:00 - 2:30	2:30 - 5:00
Sun.		12:00 - 2:30	2:30 - 5:00

Many of us work 2 shifts of our choice and save 1 so we can roam about and enjoy ourselves. You can work either day, or both. Please do sign up to help out at least one activity! Again, those of you who need training or want to refresh your memories will be given plenty of opportunities.

This is really a great chance to meet your fellow volunteers and in many instances to build new friendships. Therefore, please sign up early so you can get to do the things you really want to do. There will be sign up sheets in the volunteer office and at the monthly volunteer meetings.

It really is a fun time - work, yes, but still fun. In the past Fall Festival was the largest fundraiser after Bayou Boil. Let's make it happen again!

- Jane Bingel

s t a f f D I R E C T O R Y

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Director of Educational Development	Pat Slaughter
Education Program Manager	
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
Facilities Coordinator	Ken Lester
Accountant/Marketing	Terri Wimberly

Phone 281-474-2551

Email: abnc@ghgcorp.com Web: www.abnc.org

upcoming CALENDAR

Continuing Ed

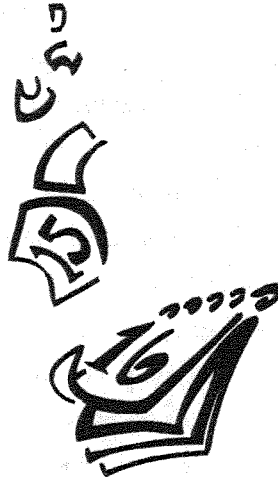
August 14	Brazoria Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	Tom Schneider
September 11	Wildlife Rehabilitation	Sharon Smaltz
October 9	Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus	Ray Parsons
November 13	Wetlands	Dr. John Jacob
December 11	Christmas Party	Pot Luck

Events

August	EcoCamp
October 18	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon
October 24-25	Creepy Crawlers
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Science Teachers' Conference
November 8-9	Fall Festival
December 14	Yuletide

Classes & Trips

September TBD	Animal Handling
Sept. Saturdays	New Volunteer Training
October 4	Field Trip to Katy Prairie
December TBD	Prairie Burn
February 2004	Animal Handling



2003 VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Stan Krauhs	281.470.2744	krauhs@wt.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	kknoedler@dpisd.org
Greeters/Interpretors	Judy Schaefer	713.472.5688	schaeferjws@aol.com
Admissions	Anne Prosser	281.461.7338	anne_prosser@msn.com
Weekend Demos	Stephania Rogers	713.473.4324	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832.721.8094	ABNCweekendtrail@aol.com
Weekday Farm			
Wkday Outdoor Educ.	Jane Bingel	281.554.5069	
Outreach	Ed Adams	713.946.2754	
Facilities	Chuck Snyder	281.480.1550	chuck-snyder@houston.rr.com

Volunteer Page

Webmaster	Bob Beyer	281.990.6183	bbeyer@houston.rr.com
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Bayou Foliage

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Circulation	Odie Asscherick	832.721.8094	ABNCweekendtrail@aol.com

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

This is the third installment of our series of articles from a biography about Armand Yrametegui, taken from The Houston Review: History and Culture of the Gulf Coast, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1995. A very special thank you to Judy Sharp for passing this along to the Foliage!

In these activities, Armand displayed a growing capacity to promote causes in which he believed. Essentially a gentle and pleasant man, he could be a tough fighter in the cause of conservation. To his considerable knowledge on any given subject, he added a strong sense of integrity, never taking a position unless he honestly believed it would be the best course for all concerned. Armand was not driven by the ego needs often characteristic of people involved in politics. He remained personally unassuming, but strongly determined in promoting his conservation goals.

He could also demonstrate a real shrewdness in negotiating. Perhaps this quality stemmed from his land dealings and business experiences. He was able, for example, to persuade the same lumber companies opposing him in the battle to save the Big Thicket to contribute to the campaign to defeat the proposed Texas Water Plan. Friends who accompanied Armand to Mexico on nature trips remembered his facility for securing special favors from the Mexican bureaucracy and his earnest, if often unavailing, efforts to further conservation there.

On the basis of these consuming avocational interests, Armand joined the staff of the Houston Museum of Natural

Science in 1963 as a natural science teacher. In 1965, with the resignation of the curator of the Burke Baker Planetarium, Armand succeeded to that position. These posts gave Armand the platform he needed to promote his beliefs and interests. He became a regular guest on the KTRH radio educational talk show, "Anything Goes." He was also a regular respondent to a question and answer column, WATCHEM, published by the *Houston Chronicle*. He contributed several stories to the newspapers on such events as comet sightings, birdwatching, or reported spacecraft flybys.

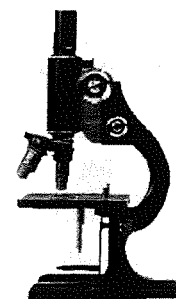
Although he proved to be an excellent teacher in his public appearances and presentations at the planetarium, the facility had not come easy to him. Armand's first appearances before the Outdoor Nature Club seemed nervous and uncertain, as he tried to control his eagerness. A year spent teaching at Bellaire High School allowed him to improve his skills. By the time he joined the museum staff, he had learned to blend his knowledge and enthusiasm through effective communication.

Perhaps the hallmark of Armand's teaching method was his showmanship. He had demonstrated this trait earlier in his political activities, for example, when he unfurled a petition of 11,000 signatures supporting the Open Beaches bill on the floor of the Texas legislature, stretching it from the speaker's podium to the front door. He found this approach particularly useful with younger people. Appearing regularly on the "Cadet Don" children's television show, he would take with him a

spider, a snake, or a model of the solar system to stimulate the young people's enthusiasm. Similarly, his memorable Christmas planetarium shows, his strong interest in photography, and his efforts to persuade the City of Houston to hold ticker tape parades for returning astronauts demonstrated his appreciation for visual and experiential communication.

The Burke Baker post complemented his already vast aptitudes with the even more limitless subject of space. When Armand and his brother were boys, their father had given them a microscope and a telescope. Starting at a very young age, Armand's view and appreciation of the cosmos naturally ranged from the smallest earthbound creature to the most distant star. From his youthful enjoyment of Buck Rogers as his favorite comic strip, he ultimately became an eager proponent of the space effort, describing it as "the greatest thing our nation has ever done" and "a reflection of what the Creator has endowed man with - an infinite intellect for increasing man's understanding of the Creation."

Concluded in next month's Bayou Foliage.



abnc volunteer DUTY ROSTER

If you have to cancel, please do your best to find your own replacement. If you can cover for any blank slots below, please call the coordinator for that event. When you arrive at ABNC for your duty please check in at the front desk with Jo Evans. Thanks!

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 8/2	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES		Stephania Rogers	Helen Harger Cheese Making	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
SUN 8/3	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	Ken Russell		Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 8/9	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	Betty Snider	Paula Thorson	Stephania Rogers Butter Making	Ed Adams Reptiles
SUN 8/10	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES		Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hilary Gibbs Adaptations
SAT 8/16	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	Pat Bates	Dottie Evans	Polly Swerdlin Rope Making	Marilyn Clark Lizards
SUN 8/17	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	Joe Bryan	Eleanor Stanley		Patsy Cashion Lizards
SAT 8/23	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES		Paula Thorson		Marilyn Clark Armadillos
SUN 8/24	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	Pat Bates	Susan Williams		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 8/30	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES			Stephania Rogers Cheese Making	Anne Tincher Microworld
SUN 8/31	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES	NO AUGUST TRAIL HIKES				

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