



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

December 2003

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Volume 22, No. 12

## look AHEAD

### December 2003

- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 6 Prairie Burn (Tentative)
- 9 Deadline *Bayou Foliage*
- 11 Christmas Party, 6:30pm

### January 2004

- 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm  
Note: Above is a Monday due to holiday!
- 6 Deadline *Bayou Foliage*
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 7pm
- 24 Staff/Volunteer Luncheon, noon

## volunteer of the MONTH

You may wonder why Jane Bingel is being recognized as Volunteer of the Month *again*? In fact, that was her response to being told she was chosen. The reason is simple: she's earned it. Since early June, large class groups have been coming out to the Nature Center for our education programs. Jane, who just happened to be the Weekday Outdoor Education Coordinator at the time, was suddenly faced with double the workload.

"I'm lucky if I get a group of twenty coming out anymore," Jane says.

These large classes are not occasional. In November alone there were about fifteen and she even has groups scheduled into March of 2004.

Not only is Jane responsible for coordinating volunteers to teach these programs, but she also spent a great deal of time organizing a rotational system of teaching by combining programs to make sure the kids get a demo, lecture and an outdoor component.

"I didn't do it alone. I had a lot of help from past weekday education coordina-

tors and staff members," Jane said.

Is this retired upstate New York schoolteacher tired of leading trail hikes, dipping nets into Mae's pond, and showing resurrection fern to students? Nope!

"It's really the planning that takes up so much time," she says, "The teaching is what I love. I'd like the chance to buddy with other volunteers and share what we know and show the kids."

Jane is also very involved with organizing farm activities for the annual Fall Festival. In fact, she is looking forward to taking over the responsibility as Farm Coordinator on the Volunteer Board in January.

"It's going to be a lot easier on me!" she said.

How can you give Jane a hand? Add your name to her list of weekday teachers! And don't forget to let her know how lucky we are to benefit from her hard work and dedication here at ABNC!

- James Blueberry



## December MEETING

December's Meeting will be our POTLUCK dinner with a very short business portion. Eleanor Stanley will provide the turkey, and Ed Adams promises the ham.

Instead of bringing gifts for each other and playing silly games to decide who gets what, the Board felt that we ought to bring a toy or food donation to distribute to a Pasadena agency. Bring a new, unwrapped toy or a non-perishable food item. Many food banks are wiped clean during the holidays. We'll wait until January to donate the food so that we can help them restock.

Come join in for a few laughs, songs, and good food.

- Polly Swerdlin



## abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

The guest speaker was Dr. John Jacob, who spoke on Texas Wetlands. Following the educational program, Chairman Stan Krauhs opened the business portion of the meeting. Minutes of the October 9 meeting were approved. Eleanor Stanley said that the Treasurer's Report will be printed in the Bayou Foliage.

### AREA REPORTS:

#### Vice-Chair (Polly Swerdlin):

Polly said that the Fall Festival was highly successful by all accounts. There were about 1300 paid attendees. Exit interviews were very complimentary; with most saying they wanted more of the same.

Polly asked for input from all participating volunteers to improve the event next year. Polly expressed her appreciation for all the volunteers who helped, and especially Jane Bingel and Lou Hornung for their efforts.

Polly announced that the December volunteer meeting would be the annual Christmas Party with a pot luck dinner. Volunteers are asked to bring snacks, appetizers, veggies, and desserts. Arrangements have been made for turkey and ham. This year, volunteers are also asked to bring either a new unwrapped toy or a non-perishable food item in a decorative bag to be placed under the Christmas tree. These items will be donated to appropriate agencies in Pasadena. The food items will be donated after the first of the year, when

food supplies for the needy are particularly scarce.

Ed Adams is again coordinating decorations for the Christmas party. This had originally been scheduled for Saturday, December 6 but may have to move to Sunday, December 7 because of a conflict with ABNC activities.

#### ABNC Staff Reports (James Blueberry):

James distributed draft copies of maps for ABNC visitors, and asked for comments. The maps were prepared by ABNC Board of Trustees Planning Committee under Helen Hodges. James expressed thanks on behalf of the ABNC Staff for the outstanding effort by Polly Swerdlin, Jane Bingel, and Lou Hornung to make the Fall Festival a success. Work is in progress to update the ABNC web page and to provide access by Bob Beyer, who is trying to update the Volunteer Page.

James announced that Jane Bingel was the Volunteer of the Month.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### Nominating Committee:

Stan announced that the Nominating Committee had completed its assignment to develop a list of nominees for Officers in 2004. The nominees will be listed in the upcoming issue of the Bayou Foliage. Nominations will also be allowed from the floor prior to the December election. Stan also said that no volunteer has so far agreed to accept the position of Weekday Outdoor Education

Coordinator. This is a critical job because of the large groups now being scheduled by the nature center. Mark Kramer echoed the importance of this position.

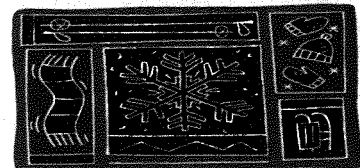
### NEW BUSINESS:

Stan told the group that pursuant to the priority list determined by the volunteers at the October meeting, the proposed ABNC Volunteer Budget would include the following items donated to ABNC: 1) Concrete one bay of the maintenance barn (\$1100, with expectation of matching funds), 2) Allowance for lighting in the rear of the Interpretive Building (\$600), and 3) Scholarships for Winter EcoCamp (\$100). These items will be included in the proposed budget for 2004 and will be published in the Bayou Foliage to be voted on during the December meeting.

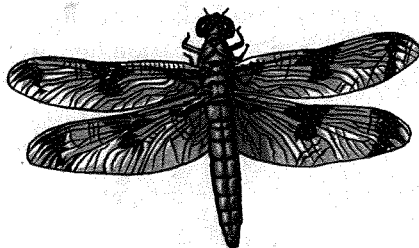
A motion was made to notify ABNC that the ABNC Volunteers preferred to hold a regular meeting rather than the traditional Volunteer Appreciation Meeting in January. The motion was seconded but did not carry.

There was no further business, and Stan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Cooke



## t a p e R E V I E W # 3 0 0 7



### **ABNC-An Urban Wilderness**

The film tells about the beginnings of this area when the first European people lived here, and how these people related to the environment. There is information about the land, insects, birds, animals, and how all of these have changed through the years. Also presented are the things that ABNC

staff and volunteers do to educate people about nature, ecosystems, farm life 100 years ago, and what we are doing about it. Nature is beautiful, powerful and delicate. We need a nurturing attitude. This film is interesting, educational and entertaining, with many beautiful scenes.

- Mary Garrett

## t h a n k s . . .

... for your involvement

Just a reminder that you all are great! It has been hard to keep track of all the changes that have been happening recently, but one thing has remained constant and continues to keep our little world out here spinning—and that's your involvement. You teach the classes, lead the trail hikes, greet the public, whack the tallows, hammer the nails, feed the critters, answer the phones, lead the canoe trips, and tend the gardens while simultaneously swatting mosquitoes! We don't have to remind you that you do it all...not because you get paid, but because you care and each have skills that you love to share with visitors, children or each other. The kindness in your hearts does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We can't thank you enough!

- ABNC Staff

... for the memories*To ABNC's Wonderful Volunteers*

Volunteers and members are the lifeblood of any not-for-profit organization. It goes without saying that our mission of environmental preservation and education could never be accomplished without the support of our volunteers.

I would like to add a few comments that might bring back some vivid memories for some of our crew of dedicated helpers. The eight years I have been here have flown by and it seems like yesterday that I settled in for the long-haul goal of putting us in the black and keeping us there. In order to do that, we had to spruce up the place quite a bit, add a lot of structures and assets to the property and create new revenue streams for the Center.

None of these things could have happened without you. Remember when our volunteers created the first ABNC garden tour? It was a huge success and we even surprised ourselves with all the people who came. Remember when the volunteers helped to install the lava rock fountain that Danny Meeks carved for us? Everyone came out of the muddy pond looking like creatures from the dark lagoon. Remember when the power went out during a hard freeze just before the annual meeting (caused by a snake) and a volunteer's husband saved the day by sending out a powerful generator? Remember when our volunteers worked in the rain and mud to redo our electrical systems and we nicknamed them the "Power Rangers?" Remember when we dedicated the bird blind structure and a deer walked right up to the bird blind and stayed there during the ceremony? Remember when we used to bump our heads on the headliners of our cars and trucks before we paved the service road? Remember when volunteers sold out of hot chocolate, cider and cookies for the holiday event when the ballet danced the snake charmer scene from the Nutcracker right in front of our own live snakes in the lobby? Remember when our staff and volunteers got here at dawn-thirty so that Sylvan Rodriquez could broadcast the TV weather and news from our farmhouse porch during a lightning storm? It made for a spectacular show!

I also remember the regular, every day, routine dedication that I saw over the years.... Saying "good morning" to the garden volunteer every Monday morning...seeing our cookie lady and her many helpers serve up their wonderful cookies at our major events... seeing the long term dedication of the ALBA volunteers as they taught "Hands on History" with love and concern... seeing our outreach volunteers out in the heat at public events sharing the word about ABNC... feeling very proud as I saw volunteers give children their first experience up close with a live animal... watching trail leaders and AL-

PHA teachers lead children and adults along a nature path... and laughing so hard that I cried when a volunteer gave a very funny reptile program during a Nature Center birthday party for my niece when she was young.

Thanks for the memories. My husband also thanks you for the fun he had scooping ice cream, playing parking lot sheriff, being a flying gray squirrel, having fun as a talking pumpkin, and serving crawfish. My family and friends thank you for the many outstanding programs, events and boat rides that you provided. And finally, I'm sure that the greater community thanks you for your dedication in supporting Armand Bayou Nature Center.

- Lynn Shigekawa

... for the Fall Festival help

What a FABULOUS Fall Festival! My thanks go out to everyone who had a part, small or big. As people told me how much they liked it, I told them I had a great team. That is how we pulled it all off: Teamwork. There were Volunteers, Staff, Trustees, Teen Volunteers, Shell Volunteers, Deer Park Volunteers, husbands and wives, Community Service. etc. And of course, my hat goes off to the weatherman, big time. He gave us a great weekend to enjoy.

- Polly Sverdlin



## Armand Bayou Nature Center

## TREASURER'S REPORT

October 2003

**Beginning Balance** \$3132.86

**Expenditures:**

Bank Service Charge 2.00

**Total Expenditures** \$2.00

**Income:**

September Paper Recycling 63.85

Gift 50.00

**Total Income** \$113.85

**Current Balance** \$3244.71

**Holiday Decorations**

On Sunday, December 7, Ed Adams and several others will spend the afternoon putting up decorations. We have been promised a real tree! The task will be easier and more fun if lots of folks come out. Join us to get a head start on getting into the holiday spirit!

- Polly Swerdlin

Armand Bayou Nature Center  
VOLUNTEERS' BUDGET - 2004**Income:**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Paper Recycling               | \$250          |
| Cookie Sales                  | \$550          |
| Miscellaneous                 | \$40           |
| Fall Festival Volunteer Booth | \$300          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>\$1,140</b> |

**Expenses:**

|                                         |              |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Postage—Bayou Foliage                   | \$480        |
| Bank Service Charge                     | \$24         |
| Administration/Supplies                 | \$50         |
| Social Gatherings                       | \$75         |
| Contingency (gifts, cards, etc.)        | \$75         |
| Gifts for Speakers                      | \$50         |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$754</b> |
| Estimated revenues over expenses 2004   | \$386        |
| Plus estimated assets ending 12/31/2003 | \$2,900      |
| Estimated assets ending 12/31/2004      | \$3,286      |
| Less reserve (one year operating funds) | (\$800)      |
| Funds available for gift to ABNC        | \$2,486      |
| Less total gifts                        | (\$1,800)    |
| Estimated funds available 12/31/2004    | \$1,486      |

- submitted by Stan Krauhs for Eleanor Stanley

**staff DIRECTORY**

|                                     |                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Executive Director                  | Sam Harwell     |
| Stewardship Coordinator             | Mark Kramer     |
| Animal Collections Supervisor       | Chris Battan    |
| Volunteer Coordinator               | James Blueberry |
| Visitor Services Coordinator        | Jo Evans        |
| Front Desk                          | Dick Phelps     |
| Accounting/Marketing                | Terri Wimberly  |
| Director of Educational Development | Pat Slaughter   |
| Director of Development             |                 |
| Education Programs Coordinator      | Shauna Trevino  |
| Facilities Coordinator              | Ed White        |

**Phone 281.474.2551**

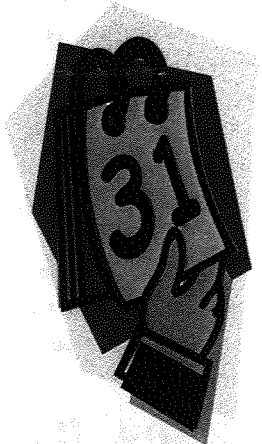
**u p c o m i n g C A L E N D A R**

**Continuing Education**

|             |                               |                  |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| February 12 | Local Snakes                  | Paul Freed       |
| March 11    | Confusing Bird Identification | Ed Rosenburg     |
| April 8     | Monarch Migrations            | Carlos Hernandez |

**Events**

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| December 20    | Christmas Bird Count     |
| Dec. 22-23     | Winter Camp              |
| Dec. 29-30     | Winter Camp              |
| Jan. 2-3       | Winter Camp              |
| January 24     | Staff/Volunteer Luncheon |
| Feb. Saturdays | New Volunteer Training   |
| March 27       | Trash Bash               |



**Classes & Trips**

|                |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| January 24     | Intro to Trail Boxes    |
| February       | Animal Handling         |
| Feb. Saturdays | New Volunteer Training  |
| Feb. 14-15     | Volunteer Campout       |
| March 6        | Field Trip TBD          |
| March TBD      | Operation of Wood Stove |
| March 20-21    | Village Creek Trip      |

**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@mssn.com          |
| Treasurer             | Eleanor Stanley  | 713.455.1502 |                             |
| Stewardship           | Kristen Knoedler | 281.532.0407 | kknuedler@dpisd.org         |
| Greeters/Interpreters | 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          |                  |              |                             |
| Weekday Outdoor Ed.   | 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 | txbob@houston.rr.com |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------------------|

**Bayou Foliage**

|             |                    |              |                          |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Editors     | S. & J. Krzmarzick | 281.557.2505 | sykyj@evl.net            |
| 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 & Sylvia.

view from THE CHAIR

That's a Wrap for the Year 2003

A few more weeks and the year 2003 will be history. Most of our activities this year were a great success. We organized an Earth Day celebration and, although we had hoped for better attendance, we learned a few things to do differently in 2004. Then we operated without a Volunteer Coordinator for a period of time. And we made our way through Fall Volunteer Training, with an unexpectedly large class, thanks to Dick Benoit. Dick's teaching experience and flexibility served him and ABNC well. Thanks Dick.

Creepy Crawlers was a huge success, with a record attendance of about 850 children and parents. A few new things were tried that had been

planned, such as having food for sale and having the children make trail mix in place of decorating cookies. An unintentional change was having the costumed animals mingle with the crowd rather than be in the woods. The mosquitoes ran them out. However, the trail guides continued with night hike tours of the forest and they proved very popular. Fall Festival followed shortly thereafter, actually by only 2 weeks. It was a big success with cool, dry weather. A big thank you to Polly Swerdlin and Jane Bingel, who co-chaired the event and spent many hours planning and calling volunteers to help.

I am particularly looking forward to the annual December potluck dinner meeting this year, because it

will be my last official event as your chair of the volunteers. At this meeting, we will approve the volunteer budget for 2004 and elect new board members. (See these items elsewhere in the newsletter.) I promise to keep the business meeting short, with your help. I want to thank every volunteer, and especially the members of the volunteer board, for your time and support this past year. It has been most interesting. Happy holidays and a safe New Year to all.

- Stan Krauhs



proposed 2004 BUDGET

The proposed volunteer budget is given below. It includes the following gifts to ABNC from the volunteers:

|                                                     |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Pouring of concrete for one bay of maintenance shed | \$ 1,100        |
| Pole light w/ timer in back drive area              | \$ 600          |
| Scholarships to winter/summer camp                  | \$ 100          |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>\$ 1,800</b> |



The donation will enable ABNC to concrete 2 bays of the maintenance shed because matching funds will be available. This use of our funds was by far the most favored at the October meeting. Additional lighting at the corner and along the drive area of the education building is needed for safety and also will be matched with ABNC funds. The scholarships will be administered by the education department to deserving needy children. Thus we are gifting only \$1,800 of about \$2,500 available. The balance will remain in our treasury along with the 1-year reserve that we keep. If you have any questions on the Board's decisions on the gifts to ABNC or any budget item, please contact Eleanor or me.

[Note: The second-most-favored item, leveling the farm house, is being worked on by the Board of Trustees. They are working to obtain a larger grant for restoration and repair. This is also the case for lighting for the boardwalk. Some members of your volunteer board are providing or know a possible donor source for the additional stone for the path to the bison exhibit and signs for the prairie trail. Thus, all of these items are expected to be obtained or accomplished in 2004 without using funds from the volunteer treasury.]

- Stan Krauhs

## 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. Thanks!

| DATE         | 9:30 TRAIL<br>Odie Asscherick | 2:00 TRAIL<br>Odie Asscherick | GREETERS<br>Judy Schaefer | FARM INTERP<br>Judy Schaefer | FARM DEMO<br>Stephania Rogers  | NAT HISTORY DEMO<br>Stephania Rogers |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SAT<br>12/6  | Melanie Weisman               | Joe Bryan                     | Pat Bates                 | Chris Bingham                | Ed Adams Ropemaking            | Joyce Sensnata Quilting              |
| SUN<br>12/7  | No Early Trail on Sundays     | Merle Bunde                   | Ken Russell               | Eleanor Stanley              | Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing    | Hilary Gibbs Adaptations             |
| SAT<br>12/13 | Polly Swerdlin                | Anne Tincher                  | Susan Hesley              | Stephania Rogers             |                                | Polly Swerdlin Tracks                |
| SUN<br>12/14 | No Early Trail on Sundays     | Ray Parker                    | Joe Bryan                 | Polly Swerdlin               | Chris Bingham Stereoscope      | Ruby Dilgren Arthropods              |
| SAT<br>12/20 | Kelli Glenn                   | Stan Krauhs                   |                           | Jane Bingel                  | Helen Harger Cheesemaking      |                                      |
| SUN<br>12/21 | No Early Trail on Sundays     | Marie Asscherick              | Pat Bates                 |                              | Helen Harger Butter Making     | Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving       |
| SAT<br>12/27 | Jim Crabb                     | Charles Buren                 | Paul Brunkow              | Joan Brunkow                 | Stephania Rogers Butter Making | Eleanor Stanley Reptiles             |
| SUN<br>12/28 | No Early Trail on Sundays     | Marie Asscherick              |                           |                              |                                | Patsy Cashion Lizards                |

### 2004 BOARD NOMINEES

I want to thank the Nominating Committee for the great job they have done. The committee was chaired by Dewanna Norris and included Bob Beyer, Jack Chandler, Irene Ward, and Sandy Waters. The fruit of their work is the slate of nominees listed below. Many thanks to those volunteers who have agreed to take a leadership position within the volunteer group.

There is still an open spot for a Weekday Outdoor Education Coordinator. If you are interested in more information on this important position, please call Jane Bingel or me.

#### Nominees for 2004 Volunteer Board

|            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Chair      | Bill Cooke      |
| Vice Chair | Polly Swerdlin  |
| Secretary  | Bob Beyer       |
| Treasurer  | Eleanor Stanley |

#### Coordinators

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Admissions              | Dewanna Norris   |
| Facilities              | Chuck Snyder     |
| Greeters & Interpreters | Judy Schaefer    |
| Outreach                | Ed Adams         |
| Stewardship             | Kristen Knoedler |
| Weekday Farm            | Jane Bingel      |
| Wkday Outdoor Ed.       | Vacant           |
| Wkend Demos             | Stephania Rogers |
| Weekend Trails          | Stan Krauhs      |

- Stan Krauhs

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

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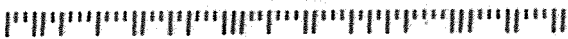
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