

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

February 2003

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 22, No. 2

look AHEAD

February 2003

- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Deadline Bayou Foliage*
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 15-16 Volunteer Campout

March 2003

- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Deadline Bayou Foliage*
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 22 Marsh Mania

April 2003

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

* - early deadline due to month beginning on Friday or Saturday

February's Speaker

... will be Mary Ellen Whitworth, Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association. She will be presenting a slide show on Buffalo Bayou that touches on our bayou issues.

- Polly Swerdlin

volunteer of the YEAR

Armand Bayou Nature Center proudly names Ruby Dilgren as Volunteer of the Year for 2002. The only person known to handle our tarantula or keep a black widow spider in her bathroom, Ruby is an essential part of our preservation through education vision here at the Center.

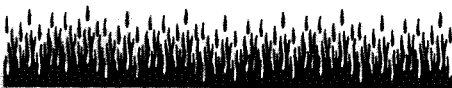
An active volunteer since 1989, Ruby has participated in nearly every aspect of ABNC: leading trail hikes and farm tours, participating in outreach events, teaching adaptation, aquatic and insect classes, doing countless demos which have her handling 2-, 4-, and 8-legged creatures, doing birthday programs, being a mentor and trainer to new volunteers, serving on the Volunteer Board for 5 years, and contributing her time and talents to many ABNC Events, including helping to make the first Bayou Boil a huge success -Whew! And this busy woman still finds the time to volunteer at Challenger 7 Park as well!

Sometimes called the "spider lady" or "snake lady," Ruby has not always been an animal handler. "I got involved with animals when I began volunteering at the Nature Center," she says. "I love observing animals in the natural world and teaching myself through research." Is she worried about getting bit during a program? She is quick to answer, "No, I am very cautious and respectful of the animal."

Ruby is truly one of our most dedicated volunteers and this dedication comes from her strong belief in educating the public on the importance of the natural world. When asked what her favorite aspect of volunteering is, Ruby answered, "Connecting with other volunteers, and the pleasure of knowing I am making a difference."

You have definitely made a difference at Armand Bayou Nature Center, Ruby, and we thank you!

- James Blueberry



a b n c volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on January 9, 2003

Vice-Chair Polly Swerdlin called the meeting to order following the **Volunteer Appreciation Banquet.**

A special presentation was made to **Mary Ann Tucker** for her 30 years of service to the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Polly thanked the ABNC Staff for the Volunteer Appreciation Banquet on behalf of all the Volunteers.

The minutes of the December 12 Volunteer Meeting were approved.

Treasurer Eleanor Stanley said that the complete Treasurer's Report would be published in the upcoming Bayou Foliage.

Unfinished Business:

We have not had a **Weekday Farm Coordinator** for almost a year, and no volunteer has been willing to accept the position. Polly said that Volunteer Board

members would handle the job on a rotating basis, and urged volunteers to step forward to be included.

New Business:

The Bayou Preservation Association will present the Continuing Education program for the February meeting.

There will be no Down on the Farm event this year, but a number of other special events are planned. Although ABNC will not sponsor a formal Earth Day program this year, a number of activities for the day will be announced soon.

Staff Report (James Blueberry):

Volunteer Orientation classes will be held each Saturday in February. Current Volunteers are welcome to attend any of these sessions for a refresher, and

Volunteers are also needed to lead a number of the classes.

The **Volunteer Campout** will be held on February 15 and 16 on the ABNC grounds. Ed Adams will prepare Saturday evening dinner and a Sunday Brunch.

Chris Bataan will lead a training program leading to a certificate in **Animal Handling**. The schedule will be announced soon.

James announced that the **Volunteer of the Month is Nan Muir.**

Ruby Dilgren was named Volunteer of the Year for 2002.

Polly adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cooke



v o l u n t e e r o f t h e M O N T H

Congratulations, Nan Muir! You are February's Volunteer of the Month! Trained last spring, Nan has been with us for a full year and she has become a true asset by helping the Nature Center run more smoothly.

Nan's first volunteering experience here was with Admissions work, "and I just stuck with it," she says. "It turned out to be something I love to do."

When asked why she decided to donate her time and talents to our Nature Center, Nan replied, "It's a special place, and when special places like this exist it's important to devote your time to them to make sure they remain in existence for others to enjoy."

Not originally from here, Nan moved most recently from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area to take a job next door at UHCL, where she has been a Professor of Management for the past thirty years. When not in the classroom or behind the Admissions desk, Nan spends much of her free time enjoying the outdoors. She likes to hike and bike, and just recently got back in town from a snowshoeing excursion! "I love to travel," she says.

Final words? "I was really taken with the special people who work here," she says, "going out of their way and exceeding their work week hours to make sure the place keeps going. It seems like a very devoted team."

Anyone who has spoken to Nan knows she is full of smiles and kind words. Armand Bayou Nature Center has once again lucked out! Thanks, Nan!

- James Blueberry



Appreciation Dinner

Holy Guacamole! What a Fiesta! January 9th's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner could not have been more fun to plan and attend! *Muchas Gracias* to The Border Grill & Cantina for catering the event with fabulous food. Beef and cheese enchiladas, tamales, rice, beans, and honeyed sopaipillas were enjoyed by all. Staff contributed chips and appetizers, including guacamole, pico de gallo, queso and a variety of salsas. The award winning salsa? Lynn Shigekawa, hands down! But enough about the food. . .

A very special recognition was given to our longtime friend and volunteer - in fact, Mary Ann Tucker became a volunteer when the incorporation of ABNC was still just a cause to fight for. A long time nature lover, Mary Ann was a primary organizer and volunteer committee member of the Nature Center, and led trail hikes on the grounds before the doors officially opened. Mary Ann was one of 173 in attendance at the first

Volunteer Training in 1973 and has been a familiar face to the Nature Center ever since, lending her artistic talents, ideas, knowledge and time. Thank you, Mary Ann, for your dedication!

Another very special recognition was given to a "surprised" Ruby Dilgren, who was named Volunteer of the Year for 2002 (See page 1 for more information)!

Other highlights of the evening? Ed Adam's fancy attire? Joe Bryan's *muy largo sombrero*? Contest winners, Cris Santiago and Rich Wolford's, *Grito* squall? And let's not forget the tasty Sangria wine. . .

"Thank you's" go to the staff for their help in the preparations and also to Cliff Meinhardt, our Board of Trustees President, who came out to lend a hand. Thanks also go to Espresso Exchange, Sweet Mesquite and Classic Café for donating gift certificates. And, of course, the volunteers who made the whole night possible!

- James Blueberry

It Has Been My Pleasure

I am so very grateful for the recognition of my 30 years of volunteering at ABNC. The celebration took me by surprise. Thank you to the staff for including food for extra guests invited to the fiesta. There were several people from the dim past that made the

effort to come and be with me.

Thanks for including my family!

Thank you for the very generous gift certificate of \$100.00. I think a lot of calls went out to friends near and far because I got notes and gifts from so many people, all now in the scrap book that you started. Thank you for not including pictures of the mountains of recycling. Thanks so much for the beautiful roses. There is a lesson here for all: longevity reaps great rewards.

Volunteering at the Nature Center has always been a learning experience for me. That is what has kept me here for so long. Every time I come to help the circumstances, have changed: new people, wildflowers blooming, trifoliate oranges to open and smell and taste, a snake loose somewhere in the building, a frantic woman on the phone with a butterfly with a broken wing. There have been many classes and workshops to take, including birding trips to different parts of the state. I have met so many talented staff people that have come and gone. I have made so many friends. My 30 years have been a pleasure!

- Mary Ann Tucker



Armand Bayou Nature Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

JANUARY 2003

(END-OF-YEAR STATEMENT, REFLECTS ALL EXPENDITURES AND INCOME AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002)

Beginning Balance **\$3544.13**

Expenditures:

Bank Service Charge	2.00
Flat Bed Trailer for ABNC	1095.38
Mugs for 2002 Speakers	11.00
Ham for Christmas Party	11.02
Turkey for Christmas Party	16.93
Secretarial Expenses for 2002	84.65

Total Expenditures **\$1220.98**

Income:

Volunteer Booth(Fall Festival Weekend)	513.85
Paper Recycling(November)	82.09
Paper Recycling(December)	14.84

Total Income **\$610.78**

Current Balance **\$2933.93**

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	
Greeters & Interpreters	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			
Weekday Outdoor Educ	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Outreach	Ed Adams	713-946-2754	
Facilities Coordinator	Chuck Snyder	281-480-1550	

Bayou Foliage

Editors	Jim & Sylvia Krzmarzick	281-557-2505	sylykj@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).

News from the Lab - Spring 2003

Mandatory Animal Handling Certification Class

Interested in working with animals or already do? Then this class is for you. Learn new techniques, or revise your old ones, for handling the Nature Centers' animals. As some of our animals grow older and new ones arrive, everyone could use a little training. Whether it's how to hold cranky crones or wiggly wee ones, let's get acquainted!

- * Learn animal handling techniques used at other facilities in addition to our own
- * Learn about some of our older resident critters
- * Begin training new critters for use in programs
- * Help new volunteers and animals alike become acquainted with programs
- * Earn your Certificate (good for one year!)
- * Munchies provided afterwards (wouldn't want to tease the animals!)

There are three dates available to receive your certificate:

- Saturday Feb. 8 2-3pm (with new volunteers)
- Tuesday Feb. 11 6-7pm
- Thursday Feb. 13 5-6pm (before volunteer meeting)

Sign up in the Volunteer Office or RSVP by February 7th. See you there!

- Chris Battan

Greetings from the Sonorian Desert & Biosphere 2

Hats off to Mary Ann Tucker for her many years of service to ABNC. She has weathered the storms and enjoyed the good times. It would be hard to put a value on what she has done for the Nature Center.

Greetings to all. I am doing well in southern Arizona. I manage the Public Education programs at Biosphere and also coordinate the docent program. This gives me even more admiration for what Mary Ann has done.

Anyone, please contact me if you want. I hope all of you are doing well.

Steve Russell

K-12 Program Coordinator

Columbia University Biosphere 2 Center

P. O. Box 689, 32540 Biosphere Road

Oracle, Arizona 85623

p:520-896-5005/f:520-896-6383

Email: srussell@bio2.columbia.edu

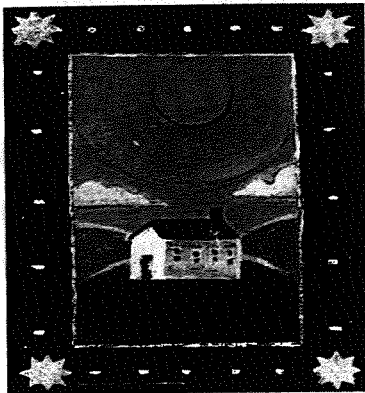


staff DIRECTORY

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



Fall Festival Cookie Sale

The cookie sale for the Fall Festival was different than in previous years. Even so, we wound up selling every cookie from volunteer bakers. In addition, we sold all of the great jelly that Helen Harger made.

When it was decided that the Fall Festival would be cancelled, I called all the people who had signed up to bake cookies to let them know. Then it was decided that we would have an "abbreviated" sale. Cookies, plants and items from the volunteer booth would be sold. A lot of folks came out in spite of the cancellation.

Thanks to Dewanna Norris for baking cookies and giving me a lunch break. Eleanor Stanley helped with the cookie sale, the plant sale, and brought many cookies. Thanks to Jo Evans for allowing the cookie table to be moved indoors overnight. On Sunday, Eleanor Stanley and Helen Horger sold the rest of the cookies.

Thanks so much to all who respond every year when it is cookie time! Without your help, there would be no sale.

- *Stephania Rogers*

Weekday Farm Coordinator

After the end of December, I will no longer be calling you for butter

churning, cheese, rope, and puzzle making. I can never express my appreciation for your response when I called you to teach a class in farm life or hands-on-history. I always knew that if you could you would. Sometimes you would change your own plans to help at the farm.

Whoever assumes the Weekday Farm Coordinator position on the Board will be working with a great bunch of volunteers and I will be there beside you teaching classes, also.

Many thanks to Jane Bingel, Dottie Evans, Helen Horger, Dewanna Norris, Sandra Watters, Mary Ann Tucker, Penny Woodward, Anne Tincher, Vickie Schuckhart, Cherre House, and Ed Adams. You've given a lot of kids a pleasant visit to the farm!

- *Stephania Rogers*

Continuing Education

The month of February will be occupied with the new volunteer classes. Everyone is invited to sit in on any class for a refresher. See James' schedule.

Chris' Animal Handling classes will count for Cont. Ed.; see her article on page 5. Once I get a handle on all the excellent material Anne passed on to me, I will be calling folks to lead a class or two and looking for ideas if anyone has them.

I am looking forward to this year at ABNC and hope I can be a part of making it the best yet. If you have any ideas or critiques, please feel free to get in touch with me. I am the only person who will answer my work phone number: 281-280-5481

Monday thru Friday 7am - 4 pm. You can leave a message on my cell phone: 281-814-4606 or send an e-mail at

pfollyred@yahoo.com. And, of course, the good old standby is to leave me a message in the mail slot in my Volunteer Office.

- *Polly Swerdlin*

Events of Spring 2003

I must apologize if anyone is disappointed. We have decided not to have "Down on the Farm" this year. We are going to be hosting several other events this spring that we need our volunteers' valuable time for, and I just can't justify stretching us out too thin and not having a quality event. Perhaps if we get an Events Committee in place, these problems can be ironed out. We couldn't get the high school kids and their animals early in March because of the Rodeo. Marsh Mania is March 22 & 23, the same weekend that 200-300 seniors will be visiting here. April 6 & 7 is Cannon's Environmental-thon. Yes, that's Sunday and Monday. April 26 we need to have some folks do a super outreach for the Boy Scout Fair at Reliant Center. Also that weekend, we would like to offer more than the usual three trail hikes and four demos for Earth Day. May 3 marks the return of the highly successful Exxon-Mobil picnic, and the following Saturday, May 10, is the Bayou Boil.

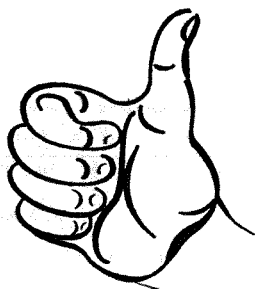
- *Polly Swerdlin*



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	GREETERS Coordinator, Judy Schaefer	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Judy Schaefer	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Stephania Rogers	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SAT 2/1	<i>Anne Tincher</i>		<i>Joyce Roberts</i>	<i>Jane Bingle</i>	<i>Chris Bingham Stereoscope</i>	
SUN 2/2	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Bob Beyer</i>	<i>Ken Russell</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers</i>	<i>Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving</i>	
SAT 2/8		<i>Joe Bryan</i>	<i>Paul Brunkow</i>	<i>Joan Brunkow</i>	<i>Dottie Evans Farm Interp.</i>	<i>Ruby Dilgren Arthropods Anne Tincher Pond Life</i>
SUN 2/9	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>		<i>Zel Arbuckle Wood Stove</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley Reptiles</i>
SAT 2/15	<i>Jo Ann Carr</i>	<i>Kelli Glenn</i>		<i>Chris Bingham</i>	<i>Jane Bingel Cheese Making</i>	
SUN 2/16	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>		<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>Stephania Rogers Rope Making</i>	<i>Patsy Cashion Lizards</i>
SAT 2/22	<i>Melanie Weisman</i>	<i>Ray Parker</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Paula Thorson</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin Ironing</i>	<i>Ed Adams Reptiles</i>
SUN 2/23	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Bob Beyer</i>	<i>Betty Snider</i>	<i>Susan Williams</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing</i>	<i>Hillary Gibbs Study Skins</i>



Total volunteer hours

logged in 2002:

10,512.5

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers
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