



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

January 2003

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Vol. 22, No. 1

look AHEAD

January 2003

- 2 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 **Deadline Bayou Foliage**
- 9 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Meeting, 5:30 - 6:30pm
- 25 Winter Staff/Volunteer Luncheon, noon
- 29 New Volunteer Training Orientation, 6:30-8:30pm

February 2003

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

March 2003

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

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

volunteer of the MONTH

Congratulations, Chuck! You are our New Year's Volunteer of the Month! Chuck Snyder has definitely earned the appreciation we show him this month. He can be found almost any day of the week out at the Nature Center, whether it's birding behind a pair of binoculars, pounding on nails with the carpentry crew, or taking nature shots behind the lens of his digital camera.

Chuck has spent over 200 hours volunteering with the carpentry crew this year, lending a hand in roof, shed, sign, bridge, and equipment repairs and maintenance, and in completing the Bison Overlook Platform. He has also spent over 30 hours volunteering his time to special events at the Nature Center, such as Creepy Crawlers. If you've seen pictures of the event, Chuck was probably the one who took them.

"I really enjoy taking pictures with the digital camera," says Chuck, who developed an interest in photography years ago; "It's nice to see the results so quick." And Chuck's results are great! He has donated a number of his prints to ABNC publications, including *Along the Bayou*, for which he supplied a

cover photo (Fall 2002).

Chuck is also looking forward to serving on the Volunteer Board as the representative of facilities volunteers, which is a new seat at the table.

"Facilities has never been represented before and it's a very important aspect of the Nature Center," he says, "I think [having] a facilities coordinator is a great way to communicate current projects and ideas with the volunteer body."

When Chuck isn't busy volunteering at the Nature Center, he's busy working with Habitat for Humanity, where he is a Supervisor. Whew! - How does he do it all?

It's a privilege to have you on board, Chuck! Thanks for all you do to keep ABNC nailed together and picture-perfect!

- James Blueberry



abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on December 12, 2002

Following the Volunteer Christmas Dinner, **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened a short business meeting.

The minutes of the November 14 Volunteer Meeting were approved. The **Treasurer's Report** will be published in the Bayou Foliage.

New Business:

Copies of the proposed 2003 **Volunteer Budget** were distributed. Income is budgeted at \$1100, with expenses of \$1059. *A motion to approve the Budget was made, seconded, and passed.*

The nominees for the 2003 Volunteer Board of Directors were introduced. They are:

Chair - Stan Krauhs
 Vice Chair - Polly Swerdlin
 Secretary - Bill Cooke
 Treasurer - Eleanor Stanley
 Admissions Coordinator - Ann Prosser
 Facilities Coordinator - Chuck Snyder
 Greeters and Interpreters Coordinator - Judy Schaefer
 Outreach Coordinator - Ed Adams
 Stewardship Coordinator - Kristen Knoedler
 Weekday Farm Coordinator - Vacant
 Weekday Outdoor Education Coordinator - Jane Bingel
 Weekend Demos Coordinator

-Stephania Rogers
 Weekend Trails Coordinator

- Odie Asscherick

A motion was to accept all these candidates was made, seconded, and passed.

Stan thanked the members of the 2002 Board for their work.

Polly Swerdlin announced that ABNC was considering the development of a **Boy Scout merit badge program**. Those interested should contact Melissa Aguilar or Pat Slaughter.

Polly also mentioned that plans are being made to create an **Events Committee** to coordinate all events next year. The Committee would consist of 2 ABNC Staff members and 2 volunteers.

ABNC Staff Report (James Blueberry and Chris Battan):

James announced that the **Volunteer of the Month for January is Chuck Snyder.**

James thanked the Volunteers for the donation of funds to purchase the **new fire equipment trailer.**

A series of **Staff/Volunteer Luncheons** will be held about every three months next year. These will be brown bag lunches with the goal of

improving communications between ABNC Staff and Volunteers. The first one is scheduled for Saturday, January 25.

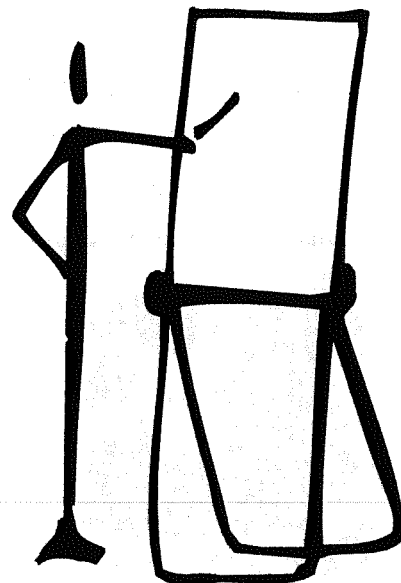
Chris announced that the annual **Christmas Bird Count** will be held on December 21.

Chris also announced that a training program leading to a **certificate for animal handling** will be developed early next year.

Next month's Volunteer Meeting will be the annual Volunteer Appreciation meeting.

Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
 Bill Cooke



Spring Volunteer Training

It's almost that time of the year again. . . That's right! Spring Volunteer Training sessions are scheduled for next month! Training activities will take place every Saturday in February, after being kicked off by **Training Orientation on Wednesday, February 5**. As you know, current volunteers (this means you!) play a very important role in training these folks and showing them the ropes. Please let me know if you are interested in participating in, or if you have suggestions for, this spring's training sessions. *The schedule and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the Volunteer Office* by the middle of January. Be sure to pass on the word to your friends and co-workers. We are always looking for new talent and friendly faces to join

the ABNC team!

- James Blueberry

Website of the Month

Home Cleaning

<http://www.essortment.com/in/Home.Cleaning/>

We stumbled across this website after an early morning dog walk turned somewhat smelly. Hopefully our furry charges learned something from the encounter, namely to avoid chasing skunks. Both of our dogs took a direct hit to the face, and apparently the discharge doesn't taste any better than it smells. Naturally this occurred on a day neither of us could be late for work, and of course there were thunderstorms all day so we couldn't leave them outside. Our garage still smells. And, to top it off,

this also happened on the day of the volunteer holiday party, which is why we weren't there. Anyway, we found this website while searching for skunk odor removal techniques. There are tons of cleaning tips here, from bathroom and kitchen problems to removing candle wax from carpet. Be sure to check out the two links at the very bottom for organic cleaning information.

- Jim Krzmarzick



Armand Bayou Nature Center
Treasurer's Report - November 2002

Beginning Balance		\$3587.61
Expenditures:		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Postage - Bayou Foliage(December)	41.48	
	Total Expenditures	\$43.48
Income:		
None		
	Total Income	\$0.00
Current Balance		\$3544.13

Staff / Volunteer Luncheon

Do you understand how the Nature Center is run? Do you have ideas for new educational programs or stewardship activities? Do you know the ABNC staff members by name? If you've answered "no, yes, no" to these questions, then here is a possible solution. . . Introducing the **Staff/Volunteer Luncheon!**

This is a new idea to integrate staff and volunteer energies and encourage the exchange of ideas and thoughts about ABNC. This is a *brown bag affair* that will take place seasonally beginning in January of 2003. The 2003 Staff/Volunteer Luncheon schedule is as follows:

- Winter Luncheon: January 25
- Sprint Luncheon: April
- Summer Luncheon: July 26
- Fall Luncheon: October 18

Saturday was chosen for this occasion because many of you are already on the grounds doing demos, interpretation, facilities, and stewardship work. We hope you will take the time to pack a lunch (*drinks will be provided*) and join us in the auditorium at 12:00 noon for lunch!

- James Blueberry

News from the Lab: Coming Spring 2003...Animal Handling Certification Class

Interested in working with animals or already do? Then this class is for you. Learn new or revise old techniques when handling the Nature Center's 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 ones 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!).

- Chris Battan



2002 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	Ann 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	

Bayou Foliage

Editors	Jim & Sylvia Krzmarzick	281-557-2505	sykyj@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 campout - FEBRUARY 15 - 16

Where: ABNC East Bank

When: Feb. 15 noon through Feb. 16 -2pm

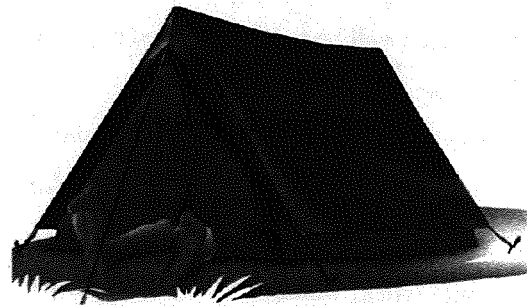
Cost: \$10

Bring: tent, sleeping bag, snack food, flashlight, appropriate dress, binoculars, boots, and lawn chairs

Join Mark and Ed for a night of good food and good company - weather permitting. There will be canoeing, hiking, and just an overall good time. Mark will offer a relaxed hike on Sunday morning covering plant identification, bird identification, forest ecology and prairie ecology. *Meet in the ABNC parking lot at noon on Saturday.* We'll load our gear onto the flatbed trailer and drive to the boathouse area to set up camp. Premier

Wilderness Chef Ed Adams will provide Saturday dinner and Sunday brunch. We'll break camp and head home around 2pm on Sunday. ABNC only has tent space for 20 and bedding for 10, so bring your own tent and bedding, if possible. Stop by the Volunteer Office to register and leave money for Ed to grocery shop.

- Mark Kramer
Stewardship Coordinator



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



Volunteers Donate Burn Trailer to ABNC

ABNC volunteers have really come through again. Through a very generous donation, the volunteer organization donated the needed funding to purchase a much needed flatbed trailer for the prescribed burn program. The trailer will be used to house and transport much of the equipment needed for prairie burn operations. The trailer will alleviate the need for ABNC to continue expensive upkeep on the fire truck, which formerly housed the pumper unit used to transport water to the burn site. This pumper unit has been relocated onto the new "volunteer" burn trailer. The fire truck is over 20 years old, has reached the end of its life span, and will hopefully be sold. A big thanks to all of you for the generous donation!

- Mark Kramer

**Stewardship Coordinator
Hi, Greeters and Farm Interpreters!**

A huge "thank you" to all of you who so generously contributed your time and efforts to make 2002 a wonderful year. There were no empty spots on the duty roster all year long and I certainly appreciate your

dedication and generosity!

I'll miss calling you in 2003 and I am sure that Judy Schaefer will do a great job recruiting you. Happy 2003!

- Ruby Dilgren

An Introduction to Farming on the Martyn Farm

The farmer of the late 1800s worked with nature. He adapted to and accepted the environment more so than we do today. He tended to mimic nature in diversity. Instead of the huge single crop farms of today, he raised a variety of plants and animals.

He had chickens roaming the farmyard, scratching for waste grain and plucking crop damaging insects. His cows and sheep filled their bellies with native prairie grasses. Goats, likewise, trimmed bushes and fence rows. There was no need for a lawn mower, animals did the job!

There were hogs to consume table scraps, garden surplus and extra milk products. There was no waste with a hog around. What was left? Manure to grow next year's crops.

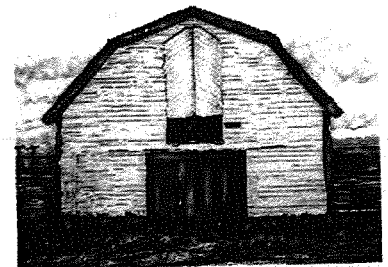
Mules or horses pulled plows, planters, and reapers. These animals were the backbone of the farm. They played an integral part in food production for themselves and the farmer. There was no tractor, and therefore no need for gas and oil to power it. The animal engines ran on fuel grown on the farm.

The 19th century farmer practiced crop rotation. Last year's hay field was plowed under and planted with oats or some other small grain. The following year, the oat field was switched to corn. After the nutrient depleting corn crop, the field was allowed to go fallow. By giving it this rest, the grasses and legumes could return nutrients to the soil. This helped keep the land fertile for generations to come! Herds were small and moved from pasture to pasture. Each piece of land could recover and remain strong.

Mostly, a farmer lived off the land. What he took from it, he returned through his stewardship and care. He had taken responsibility for the land from its natural state.

Although that time, one hundred years ago, is out of our memories, we can recapture pieces of it by recreating the scene, so to speak. Such is the case with the Jimmy Martyn Farm.

-Excerpt taken from ABNC Volunteer Manual (page 87-88)



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, Ruby Dilgren	FARM INTERP Coordinator, Ruby Dilgren	FARM DEMO Coordinator, Eleanor Stanley	NAT HISTORY DEMO Eleanor Stanley
SAT 1/4	Anne Tinch	Melanie Weisman	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Eleanor Stanley Knitting	Polly Swerdlin Animal Tracks
SUN 1/5	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Polly Swerdlin	Ken Russell	Eleanor Stanley	MaryAnn Tucker Basket Weaving	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 1/11	Rhonda Richardson	Jo Ann Carr	Pat Bates	Jane Bingel	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	Ruby Dilgren Bats
SUN 1/12	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Joe Bryan	Mary Yurkovich	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarsella Wood Shop	Hillary Gibbs Study Skins
SAT 1/18	Patty Pennington	Ray Parker	Joyce Evans	Stephania Rogers	Jane Bingel Cheese	Anne Tinch
SUN 1/19	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Judy Shaef er	Anne Prosser	Stephania Rogers Rope	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 1/25	Stan Krauhs	Kelli Glenn	Betty Snider	Paula Thorson	Joyce Roberts Quilting	
SUN 1/26	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Merle Bunde	Pat Bates	Susan Williams		Patsy Cashion Lizards

HAVE A
WONDERFUL
NEW
YEAR!!!



A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

PO Box 58828

Houston, TX 77258

281-474-2551 or 281-474-2552 fax



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