



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

March 2003

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Vol. 22, No. 3

## look AHEAD

### March 2003

- 1 Volunteer Field Trip
- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Deadline Bayou Foliage\*
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 29 Trash Bash

### 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

\* - early deadline due to month beginning on Saturday

### Spring Neotropical Migrants to the Upper Texas Coast: Warblers and Friends

Our March speaker, Dr. Dan Brooks, is Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dan received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M studying community ecology of birds in Texas and the Neotropics. His Master's degree from Texas Tech focused on Neotropical mammalian ecology and natural history. He is currently Chair of the IUCN/Birdlife Cracid Specialist Group, serves on the Conservation Board for the World Galliforme Association (based in the U.K.), and serves on the Board of ABNC. Dan is well-published, having co-authored / co-edited 5 books.

- Polly Swerdlin

## volunteer of the MONTH

Ann Brinly. . .Is there anything this woman *doesn't* do? You will find her at ABNC almost any day of the week, whether she's here all day in rubber boots and goggles for a prairie burn, or dashing in for an hour to spot Jo at the front desk. Ann began volunteering 7 years ago, after her husband introduced the idea to her. "He thought I'd enjoy it," she says, and evidently he was right! Ann put in enough hours to be named Volunteer of the Year the following year. Since then, she has devoted countless hours to the Center, handling all of the Community Service paperwork for Ken, helping Chris feed and clean the lab animals, helping Pat to develop a Scout Badge program, and relieving Jo for lunch breaks.

When asked what she enjoys most, Ann laughs: "Getting muddy! I excel at that." And she's got the dirt to prove it. Most of her time is spent getting muddy participating in stewardship activities: prairie burns, marsh plant pulling and relocation, and tallow tree whacking to name a few. She has managed to stay clean and help the stewardship department *at the same time*, however, by compiling and editing ABNC's

Management Plan for Mark.

Ann is also very involved with Boy Scouts. Her two sons were scouts and "I just never quit," she says. "I am 'the oldest child in the troop' - that's my official title!"

Ann takes the time to be a mentor at San Jacinto Elementary and also enjoys birding, which she got turned on to here at ABNC after a birding walk with George.

What does she get out of volunteering at the Nature Center?

"I like looking out over the prairie and realizing that I've helped to re-create that grassland," she says, "It's a great feeling, being a part of something like this."

We thank you a million times, Ann, for each and every thing you do for us!

- James Blueberry



## abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on February 13, 2003

The guest speaker was **Mary Ellen Whitworth**, Executive Director of the Bayou Preservation Association. She gave a presentation on the history of Buffalo Bayou and its water quality issues.

Following the presentation **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:00 PM.

The minutes of the January 9 volunteer meeting were approved. The **Treasurer's report** will be published in the Bayou Foliage.

### Area Reports:

#### Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin)

Stan read a report submitted by Polly. A schedule of events and continuing education classes has been compiled for the next year and will be published in the Bayou Foliage. Plans are being made for a volunteer field trip.

We still have no one to fill the Weekday Farm Coordinator. The current schedule is light because of a reduction in school outings and Polly will cover the position temporarily.

Although ABNC has no formal Earth Day program scheduled, the volunteers will have a day of expanded activities on April 26, including plant and cookie sales, extra trail coverage and natural history demos, and canoeing on Mays Pond. The Volunteer/Staff brown bag lunch is also scheduled that day.

Tom Scarsella will post a sign-up in the office for volunteers to indicate their interest and suggestions for a series of upcoming continuing education classes on Farm Tools.

The guest speaker for the March volunteer meeting will be Dr. Dan Brooks, who will discuss Neo Tropical Migrants.

#### Weekday Outdoor Education. Weekend Trails.

#### Greeters and Farm Interpreters (Jane Bingel,

#### Odie Asscherick, Judy Schaefer)

Jane mentioned the plans being developed to accommodate large groups of student visitors. Odie reminded the group of the night hike scheduled for Saturday, February 15. Judy said

there were still some openings in the March relief schedule. Stan urged volunteers to call, since it is very important to fill these openings.

#### Facilities (Chuck Snyder)

Chuck mentioned some recent and upcoming projects that may not be obvious to some volunteers, but are nevertheless critical, and expensive, for ABNC. They include replacement of the air conditioning system and the roof on the Education Building, new roof on the Hyman House, lift station improvements, and installation of high-speed telephone lines. Although some of this work must be done by outside contractors, the volunteers of the Facilities Craftsmen Group are always involved.

#### ABNC Staff Report (James Blueberry and Sam Harwell)

James reported that the New Volunteer Training Class is in progress. The Volunteer Camp Out scheduled for February 13 has been rescheduled for March 29 and 30. Trash Bash is scheduled for March 29 and Marsh Mania for May 31. James thanked the Facilities Craftsmen for building the marsh grass holding ponds. With regards to Stewardship, 62 acres have been burned during the current season, including 50 acres this week.

James announced that **Ann Brinly has been named Volunteer of the Month.**

Sam discussed the impact of reduced school budgets on ABNC. School visits produced significant income in previous years, but all public schools are cutting back on field trips. As a result of strategy meetings including volunteers, it appears that we can stay whole by accommodating larger groups and by encouraging more Scout groups. More planning is needed to determine how to best cope with these changes, and volunteer input is very important.

It has been observed that a number of volunteers are not paid members of ABNC and a policy for this situation is being considered.

ABNC's decision not to sponsor Earth Day activities was based on budget restraints and on problems in prior years. Last year only a relatively small number of people attended, and many of them were disappointed about the boat rides which were very limited because of our capacity. However, ABNC encourages the volunteers to provide as many activities as possible.

The new ABNC web site should be online next week. There will be a volunteer section, with the initial password: abncraaccoon.

Sam responded to a question about the status of the Inner Loop. There is not yet a consensus about how best to proceed. Proposals have been made for an abbreviated version of the original plan. Original cost as well as ongoing maintenance cost are critical issues.

About 300 attended a memorial service for the crew of the Columbia held last week.

#### New Business:

Stan said that the volunteers were interested in renewing the Yuletide event. It would be different from previous Yuletide's and would be a daytime event for families and children with crafts, activities, and perhaps music. Sam indicated that this could be done free to the public.

A committee will be formed, as required in the bylaws, to canvass volunteers with less than 48 hours logged. An updated list of active volunteers will be distributed.

An Eagle Optics equipment demonstration is scheduled at ABNC on February 23. A book signing session by John and Gloria Tverten is scheduled that same day.

Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Cooke



Vacancy

We still have a position on the Volunteer Board open: **Weekday Farm Coordinator**. This is not a difficult job right now, and possibly all spring. The public schools don't have the funding for as many field trips as they used to, and most of the groups coming now are from private schools. I have decided to take the responsibility for a couple months, handing it over to another board member for a couple months, and they to another, until we find a kind soul to take it on for the rest of the year. There is a fine group of folks who will do the classes, all you have to do is figure out how many teachers you need, and let them know what classes are scheduled. One way I have decided to do this is by having a clipboard at meetings for singing up, unless we don't have enough lead-time. Is anyone interested in an easy job? Please contact Stan or Polly.

- Polly Swerdlin

Additional Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like to work behind the scenes? In addition to the more "visible" opportunities for volunteering, there are other ways for you to contribute your time to ABNC that do not involve working outdoors or working with the public. You could help prepare special mailings, or compile information packets or even goodie

bags for Creepy Crawlers. You could help Sam and Lynn prepare for presentations to various groups, or prepare materials for the monthly Board of Trustees meetings, by making and collating copies. Training manuals need to be assembled twice a year for volunteer training classes. If you could put in some hours doing these or other such tasks, you would allow a staff member to be more productive for the Nature Center.

If doing these types of tasks appeals to you and you are available during the day, call Jo at the front desk and ask to be put on the "Staff Assistant" call list. Then when a staff member has an appropriate task, they can call the volunteers on the list for assistance. The Nature Center provides many opportunities to volunteer.

- Stan Krauhs

Additions

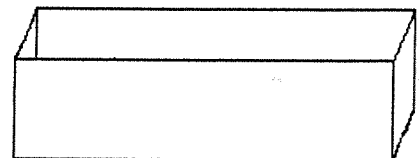
It's a sand box; it's a wading pool! No! It's an above ground nursery pond for marsh plants! Two 10' by 40' plant propagation ponds were completed this month by our volunteer carpentry crew and I would like to say a big **Thank You** to them for the hard work they've put into this marsh habitat enhancement project. **Joe Clem, Jim Edwards, Roland Borey, Chuck Snyder, Bill Cooke, and J. T. Chapman** have all been hammering

away at these ponds since early November.

The ponds contain native freshwater marsh plants collected by ABNC volunteers from neighboring rivers, ponds and bayous. Approximately 1,300 plants will be placed in the nursery ponds. The ponds eliminate the disturbances caused by wave energy and invasive animal and plant species in the bayou. This allows the plants to propagate in a stable environment, increasing their survivability rate. Marsh plants collected so far include: California bulrush, cutgrass, big cordgrass, swamp lily, and square-stem rush.

If you are interested in helping with this project, circle **May 31st** on your calendar and call the Galveston Bay Foundation to request a planting spot at ABNC's site for **Marsh Mania 2003**. We plan to improve marsh habitat in the upper reaches of Armand Bayou, benefiting the wading and shore birds, waterfowl, reptiles, marine finfish and shell fish species that depend on the marsh environment for their survival.

- James Blueberry



upcoming CALENDAR

Continuing Ed

March 13	Neotropical Migrants	Dr Dan Brooks
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

Events

March 1	Field Trip -- Baytown N.C.
March 22	Seniors Visit
March 22-23	Village Creek
March 29	Trash Bash
April 6-7	Cannon Environmental-thon
April 26	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon
April 26	Reliant Center Boy Scout Fair - Outreach
April 26	Earth Day
May 3	Exxon/Mobil Picnic
May 10	Bayou Boil
May 31	Marsh Mania

Classes & Trips

March 8	Operation of Wood Stove
March 29	Operation of Wood Stove
June TBD	Prarie Burn
October 4	Field Trip TBD
December TBD	Prarie Burn



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/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	

Bayou Foliage

Editors	Jim & Sylvia Krzmarzick	281-557-2505	sykkyj@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.

Armand Bayou Nature Center  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FEBRUARY 2003

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$2876.83</b>
Expenditures:	
Bank Service Charge	2.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2.00</b>
Income:	
Anonymous	180.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$3054.83</b>

## view FROM THE CHAIR

## Earth Day Celebration April 26 at ABNC, The Place To Be.

The nature center has no formal plans to celebrate Earth Day this year for a number of reasons. (They include competition with other venues for celebrating the day, limited resources, and lack of response from the public in recent years.) The members of the Volunteer Board and others believe this is an important day and want to celebrate it. We are planning to take on the event with your enthusiastic assistance. Our Volunteer Coordinator, James Blueberry, has agreed to help coordinate this event that we envision being a super SatEARTHday.

We will advertise the event on Bay Area Blvd. and everywhere James can place an ad or post a flyer. Please let James know if you have places to display a promotional piece in the area. Ideas being floated around are extra trail hikes in the morning at 10 and 11 and in the afternoon at 1, 2, and 3. (Remember this is one of the quarterly volunteer/staff brown-bag lunch days from 12-1.) In the afternoon from 1-4 p.m. we could have canoeing on Mays Pond, a prairie demo on the platform, and several natural history demos. We expect to need a few extra greeters/rovers and we could sell native plants, crafts, cookies, and cold drinks.

We hope for a great turnout by the public and believe that those truly interested in the Earth will come. But equally important, let's make this a volunteer event—remember the brown-bag lunch. We'll have a day of fun at ABNC. So mark your calendars now to attend on Saturday, April 26. Come as a volunteer or come with your family, friends, and neighbors as a guest, as the volunteers and ABNC celebrate Earth Day. There will be signup sheets in the volunteer office and at the volunteer meetings for the various activities planned. Let's celebrate!

- Stan Krauhs

## 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

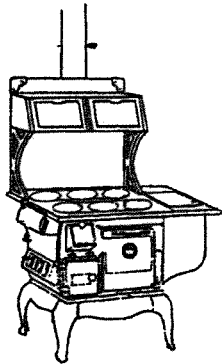
Phone 281-474-2551

Email: [abnc@ghgcorp.com](mailto:abnc@ghgcorp.com) Web: [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org)

Continuing Education Weekend Class

Operation of Wood Stove - Lew Hornung will introduce the science of a skill known to few folks these days. This class is a pre-requisite if you would like to use the wood stove in the farmhouse kitchen. Even if you never stoke the fire, the time spent with Lew is always informative. He has many stories to tell about a past way of life. Due to the size of the kitchen, each class will be limited to 6 students. March 8 & 29- 10:00am-12:00am

- Polly Swerdlin



Events Committee

There is a need for better planning of our calendar of events and preparations for them. This doesn't include the highly successful Bayou Boil, or Creepy Crawlers. However, Fall Festival needs to be better planned and planned further ahead. There has to be some serious thinking whether to have Down on the Farm next year or not, and we'd like to bring back Yuletide. And there might be other events to consider. This year-round committee won't be in charge of the

events. Instead it should propose the "game plan" for each event's committee to work with. We need folks with ideas and ambition to see them put together. An email address will help keep the group communicating, as we don't want to spend a lot of time putting another committee to work. One main thing about this committee is that it shall be made up of at least 2 Volunteers and 2 Staff. If you would like to be a part of this team, call or email Sam Harwell or Polly Swerdlin.

- Polly Swerdlin

Quiz Time

So you think your one smart volunteer, huh? Test your ecological knowledge!

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

Answers will appear in next month's Bayou Foliage!

- James Blueberry

Website of the Month

[www.rain-tree.com](http://www.rain-tree.com)

This month's website houses a huge database of information about the Amazon Rainforest. Learn about the vast variety of plant life, how to purchase sustainable rainforest products, and how you can help preservation efforts. There is an amazing photo gallery, a nice collection of articles written about rainforest plants, and an impressive list of links to other rainforest sites. An excellent site worth an hour or two of surf time!

- Jim Krzmarzick

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 Stephania Rogers
SAT 3/1	Anne Tincher	Tom Scarsella			Chris Bingham Stereoscope Jane Bingel Cheese Making	
SUN 3/2	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Joe Bryan	Ken Russell	Marjorie Borey	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving Tom Scarsella Wood Working	Hillary Gibbs Pond Life
SAT 3/8	Charles Buren	Ray Parker	Pat Bates	Jane Bingel	Joyce Roberts Quilting	Ed Adams Amazing Adaptions
SUN 3/9	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick		Polly Swerdlin	Irene Ward Rope Making	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 3/15	Bob Beyer	Bob Beyer	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Stephania Rogers Cheese Making	Ruby Dilgren Bird Adaptations
SUN 3/16	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Patty Pennington	Pat Bates	Paula Thorson		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 3/22	Polly Swerdlin	Stan Krauhs	Joyce Roberts	Susan Hesley	Ellen Harger Butter Churning	Polly Swerdlin White-tailed Deer
SUN 3/23	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Merle Bunde	Joe Bryan	Stephania Rogers	Stephania Rogers Rope Making	Anne Tincher Pond Life
SAT 3/29	Kelli Glenn	Charels Buren		Dottie Evans		Patsy Cashion Lizards
SUN 3/30	NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM	Marie Asscherick	Betty Snider			Joanna Wactor Opossums

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers  
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