



Bayou Foliage

May 2003

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 22, No. 5

look AHEAD

May 2003

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 3 ExxonMobil Family Picnic
- 6 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 10 Bayou Boil
- 31 Marsh Mania

June 2003

- 5 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 7 Possible Prairie Burn
- 10 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 12 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

July 2003

- 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Deadline Bayou Foliage
- 10 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

even FARTHER AHEAD

We will try to schedule at least one more Volunteer Field Trip this year.

October appears to be a good month, and James Blueberry further suggested that a prairie visit would be desirable for that time of year. A visit to the Katie Prairie was mentioned as a possibility. Stan Krauhs has agreed to investigate details and to coordinate an October trip.

- Polly Swerdlin

volunteer of the MONTH

This month, we proudly recognize Stephania Rogers as our Volunteer of the Month! Becoming an ABNC volunteer 10 years ago has kept Stephania a very busy woman. If she's not churning butter or making cheese for a weekend demo, she's hiking through the forest with a school group or baking sheets of cookies for fundraisers.

After hearing about the Nature Center from a neighbor, Stephania and her husband came out to explore. Lucky for us, they took a strong liking to our center and the activities offered, particularly the rope making history and demonstrations. In fact, Stephania's husband built a number of wooden rope machines for ABNC to use in outreaches and demos. Stephania has since spent much of her time volunteering at the farm.

"It brings back memories of working in my mother's garden and churning butter when I was a young girl," she says, "And I love the peaceful atmosphere out there."

Stephania played a key role in organizing Senior Saturday this March by coordinating a number of farm demos including quilting and making cheese, butter, rope, and yarn dolls.

Have you ever wondered how Stephania became the "cookie lady"?

"Well, I was sort of appointed to be the organizer," she laughs, "But I really enjoy making cookies and I'm very pleased with the way the sales have gone and the money we've been able to raise."

Stephania also serves on the Volunteer Board as the Weekend Demos Coordinator, and teaches many of the outdoor education classes. When asked what her favorite part of volunteering is, she replied, "Working with the young ones, and opening their eyes to the natural world."

Next time you see Stephania, let her know how much her dedication and hard work are appreciated. . . and of course all of the tasty cookies!

- James Blueberry



abnc volunteer MEETING MINUTES

from meeting on April 10, 2003

The guest speakers were **Gary and Kathy Clark**, who gave a presentation about "Creatures of the Night."

Following the presentation, **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Minutes of the March 13 meeting were approved. **Eleanor Stanley** said that the **Treasurer's Report** is published in the Bayou Foliage.

Area Reports:

Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin):

Polly mentioned these upcoming events and continuing education opportunities:

The May volunteer meeting will be "**Picnic at the Farmhouse**" beginning at 6:30 PM. Volunteers should bring potluck food items, plates, and utensils. Water and tea will be provided.

Tom Scarsella will provide one-on-one training on woodshop tools. Please contact him or use the sign-up list.

Ray Parker will give a class on Tree Identification on May 24.

The next volunteer field trip is being planned for October.

Gary and Kathy Clark have agreed to lead two continuing education classes. The volunteer group selected the topics "Connecting with Nature" (by Gary), and "Improving Your Vacation Photography" (by Kathy). More information and schedules will be available later.

Weekday Farm:

Polly has continued to coordinate coverage since no volunteer has agreed to take this job. Polly requested that those who volunteer for weekday farm coverage take the

initiative for organizing the education material in their own sessions. This will be very important when a large group of 120 children visits on May 6.

Stephania Rogers shared some of her fond memories of the Weekday Farm, and was applauded by the group.

Outreach (Ed Adams):

Ed gave a brief report of the **Volunteer Campout** held on March 29. Seventeen volunteers attended for the Saturday evening dinner and seven camped overnight.

Two volunteers are needed for an Outreach Program at NASA on May 9.

Volunteers are badly needed for the Pasadena Strawberry Festival on May 16, 17, and 18. There are a total of seven time slots and two volunteers are required for each. Please check the sign-up sheet in the office.

Greeters and Interpreters (Judy Schaefer):

Judy reported that there are openings for Greeters in May.

Bayou Foliage (Jim and Sylvia Krzmarzick):

Sylvia announced that the Bayou Foliage is now available on-line in the Volunteer Section of the ABNC website. Volunteers who prefer to receive the Bayou Foliage this way can make their preference known and their name will be removed from the newsletter mailing list.

Facilities (Chuck Snyder):

Chuck reported that the Facilities Group was about 90% complete with the porch addition to the **Heiman House**. Replacement of the **Pole Barn** roof will begin in May.

Equistar will replace the wood fence around the farmhouse as a Day of Caring project.

Staff (James Blueberry):

James announced that **Stephania Rogers** was named **Volunteer of the Month**.

The volunteer-sponsored **Earth Day** program will be held on April 26. More volunteers are needed, and sign-up lists are posted in the office. The Volunteer/Staff luncheon will be held that day at the Farmhouse. Stan mentioned that his employer had donated the printing of 1000 flyers, which will be distributed by Scouts at the Hazardous Waste Collection Day on April 12 at UHCL.

James said that volunteers are needed for the **Exxon Mobil** picnic on May 3. The **Bayou Boil** is scheduled on May 10. **Marsh Mania** is scheduled on May 31. Volunteers are needed for team captains; training will be given on May 24.

James reported that a plastic display holder was missing after the close of Senior's Day and asked anyone with information about it to give her a call.

Wild pigs are on Nature Center property and damage is evident. Traps have been placed.

Old Business/New Business:

There were no old business or new business items. Stan urged all volunteers to log their hours, because this proof of volunteer support is very advantageous to the Nature Center.

Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cooke

Summer Migrant

As some of you already know, my last day at Armand Bayou Nature Center will be May 31. Contrary to popular belief, this Yankee is not just leaving to escape the oppressive heat! I am taking a summer position with the National Park Service at the greenhouse in Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington State. I have had the good fortune to work this job twice before, and this mountain in my home state is a very special place for me.

I would like to thank each and every one of you for making this job as Volunteer Coordinator most enjoyable and educational. I have learned more from the exceptional group of folks involved with this nature center than I have in all my college years! This place takes up a big chunk of my heart and I'll be thinking of y'all as I huff and puff up to 7,000 feet! Thanks again for your kindness and friendship—I will see you all in the fall!

-James Blueberry

Update

The Facilities group has almost completed installation of a covered porch on the Heiman House; only some cosmetic items are required to finish the job. The next large undertaking will be the re-roofing of the Pole Barn, a job which may become a Day of Caring project for Equistar supervised

by the Facilities Coordinator and volunteers. The re-roofing will probably commence in mid-May.

- Chuck Snyder

Marsh Mania Help Wanted

The annual Galveston Bay Foundation event is scheduled for May 31st this year and we are in need of some grass pluggers! We need people to join planting teams in Armand Bayou during this event. If you help out as a 'planter' call GBF to register at 281-332-3381 and request Armand Bayou's site. Please wear appropriate clothing! Closed-toed shoes are required (no sandals, tevas, etc). Bring a change of clothes for the after-planting festivities: free T-shirt, lunch and possibly a little *Bayouphiliac* bluegrass. . . We look forward to getting down and dirty with you!

Also, we are in need of "plant movers" to help preposition the plants at the sites on May 27th, 28th, and 29th. Meet at Mark Kramer's office at 9 AM and we'll work til we're whooped. Dress for Bayou wading and mud-slinging!

-James Blueberry

Volunteer Meeting

The May Volunteer Meeting will be a Picnic at the Farmhouse. It will be a PotLuck affair starting at 6:30 pm. Bring your favorite best recipe to show off (yum, yum).

Weather permitting, the tables will be placed between the farmhouse and May's Pond. Weather not permitting, we can move it back into the auditorium. Water and iced tea will be provided, & I'll also bring lemonade. We would like folks to bring their own plates and utensils, but Sylvia Krzmarzick has volunteered to provide a limited amount of disposables for those who forget. Remember, we're supposed to be a green organization, so let's not generate a ton of trash that will end up in a landfill.

Instead of a speaker, there will be horseshoe and volleyball skills demonstrations. If we get rained out (or rather rained in) to the auditorium, the games will change to tiddlywinks and checkers. For either scenario, we can also swap stories about ABNC, so think about your favorite Nature Center memories, polish up your oratory skills and prepare to regale others with your stories. The new volunteers will enjoy knowing how far we've come.

- Polly Swerdlin

upcoming CALENDAR

Continuing Ed

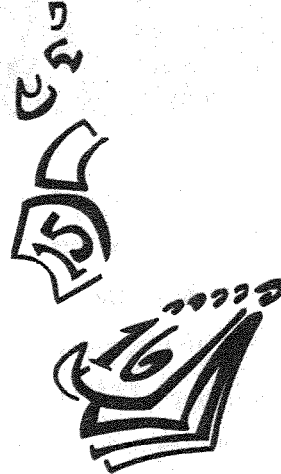
May 8	Picnic at the Farmhouse	Pot Luck
June 12	Native Plants of Texas	Glenn Olsen
July 10	Tallow Mulching Project	Candy Donahue
August 14	TBA	
September 11	Wildlife Rehabilitation	Sharon Smaltz

Events

May 3	Exxon/Mobil Picnic
May 10	Bayou Boil
May 31	Marsh Mania
June & July	EcoCamp
July 26	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon

Classes & Trips

May 24	Tree ID
June 7	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	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.

money MATTERS

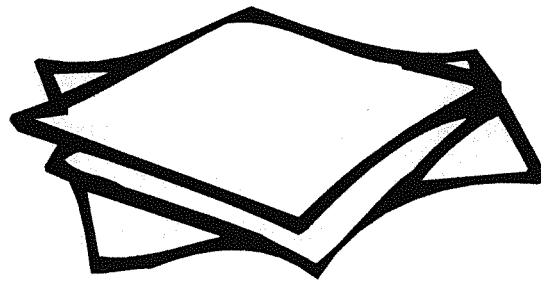
Armand Bayou Nature Center
 TREASURER'S REPORT
 April 2003

Beginning Balance	\$2999.96
Expenditures:	
Outreach board repair:	34.48
Bank Service Charge:	2.00
Total Expenditures	\$36.48
Income:	
None	
Total Income	\$0
 Current Balance	 \$2963.48

Zilch

Zero. Zip. The big goose egg. No folks, the income amount in the Treasurer's Report to the left is not a mistake. Our revenue from newspaper and magazine recycling is down dramatically. Surely we can do much better. Grab those old magazines from work. Get your neighbors' newspapers (AFTER they've read them!) If anyone has other ideas about how to increase this revenue stream, let us know and we'll pass them along in next month's Bayou Foliage.

- Sylvia & Jim Krzmarzick



staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Director of Educational Development	Pat Slaughter
Education Program Manager	Mary Coleman
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

Help Wanted - Still

Some things I would have missed if I had not been a Weekday Farm person:

- 1) I would probably have missed getting to know so many wonderful people who work so hard for the Nature Center.
- 2) I would not have met this frail little girl who put her hand in mine while we took the farm tour with her group and insisted on tying my shoelace when it loosened.
- 3) I would not have shared the experience with a group of children watching a beautiful butterfly hatch and gradually spread its wings.
- 4) I would have missed the laugh I had answering the two little boys who asked me how old I was and then collapsed on each other laughing that I was that old!
- 5) I would have missed how surprised the children are when the cream magically turns into butter and tastes so good! It still surprises me.
- 6) I would have missed volunteering with so many dedicated people to successfully bring Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival to the community.
- 7) My husband and I enjoyed being involved in an endeavor that both of us could do together.

I still plan to be involved in things including teaching farm classes. Just in a different way.

I hope someone will give it a try and find you like it.

- *Stephania Rogers*

Continuing Education

The next Continuing Education class may depend on you. Tom Scarsella is offering to teach you, one-on-one, all about several Woodshop Tools subjects. He has left some forms to fill out in the Volunteer Office.

The next scheduled class is May 24 from 10am-noon with Ray Parker for Tree ID. He's actually going to discuss several plants in our woods nearby, not just the trees. Ray has a fountain of knowledge in this area; anyone who hasn't walked a trail with him is in for a treat.

Then comes the semi-annual Prairie Burn class June 7 from 10am - 2pm by Mark Kramer and associates that is a requirement for participation in this popular activity.

If anyone else can think of a class they can teach, or a suggestion for one, please don't hesitate to contact me.

- *Polly Swerdlin*

Reminder

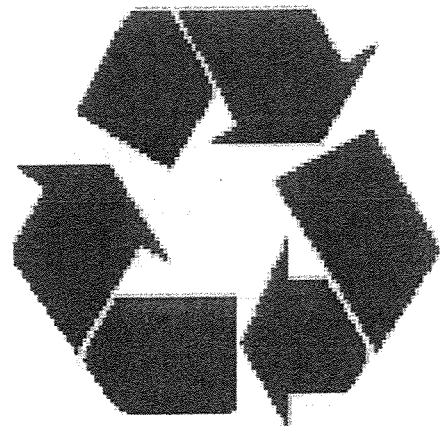
Don't forget to bring your own eating utensils to the May Volunteer Meeting/Picnic. Remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - see next column!

- *Sylvia Krzmarzick*

Website of the Month

In honor of the volunteer support of ABNC SatEarthDay activities, this month's website is Earth 911 at www.CleanUp.org, whose mission is "Making Every Day Earth Day!" This site is cram packed with all kinds of useful information to help us take better care of our Mother Ship. Learn about some great ways to reduce the air and water pollution we generate as individuals. There are some great ideas for water and energy conservation. There is an Organics and Composting page, and a page that will help you shop more environmentally friendly. There is an education area with activities for teachers and kids of all ages. Type in your ZIP code for local recycling facilities, including those that take difficult to get rid of things like computers and cell phones. There are also great links to other likeminded websites. You'll want to bookmark this page for frequent use.

- *Jim Krzmarzick*



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 5/3	<i>Jim Crabb (10AM) Melanie Weisman (11AM)</i>	<i>ExxonMobil Picnic - See list</i>	<i>ExxonMobil Picnic</i>	<i>ExxonMobil Picnic</i>	<i>ExxonMobil Picnic</i>	<i>ExxonMobil Picnic</i>
SUN 5/4	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Merle Bunde</i>	<i>Ken Russell</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving</i>	<i>Zel Arbuckle Snakes</i>
SAT 5/10	<i>Anne Tincher</i>	<i>Joe Bryan</i>		<i>Chris Bingham</i>	<i>Dottie Evans Yarn Dolls</i>	<i>Ruby Dilgren Spiders</i>
SUN 5/11	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>	<i>Pat Bates</i>	<i>Paula Thorson</i>	<i>Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing</i>	<i>Hilary Gibbs Pond Life</i>
SAT 5/17	<i>Pat Doerr</i>	<i>Stan Krauhs</i>	<i>Paul Brunkow</i>	<i>Joan Brunkow</i>	<i>Irene Ward Rope Making</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley Reptiles</i>
SUN 5/18	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Marie Asscherick</i>	<i>Judy Schaefer</i>	<i>Paula Thorson</i>	<i>Chris Bingham Stereoscope</i>	<i>Joanna Wactor Bats</i>
SAT 5/24	<i>Polly Swerdlin</i>	<i>Kelli Glenn</i>		<i>Jane Bingel</i>	<i>Joyce Roberts Quilting</i>	<i>Polly Swerdlin Tracks</i>
SUN 5/25	<i>NO TRAIL SUN AT 11:00 AM</i>	<i>Bob Beyer</i>	<i>Mary Yurkovich</i>	<i>Eleanor Stanley</i>	<i>Ed Adams Biscuits</i>	
SAT 5/31	<i>Patty Pennington</i>	<i>Ray Parker</i>			<i>Stephania Rogers Butter Churning</i>	

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Bayou Foliate

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