

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

November 2003

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Volume 22, No. 11

look AHEAD

November 2003

- 2 Fall Fest Activity/Planning Chairs, 4pm
- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8-9 Fall Festival
- 7 Deadline *Bayou Foliage**
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

December 2003

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

* - deadline in months beginning on Saturday early

volunteer of the MONTH

Armand Bayou Nature Center volunteers usually pick only one person to be the Volunteer of the Month. However, for the month of November we would like to honor the husband and wife team of Kathleen and Jim Crabb. It is unusual to find a couple willing to serve Armand Bayou Nature Center for 22 years and still be as actively involved as the Crabbs.

Kathleen joined the volunteers in the spring of 1981, while Jim was part of the fall 1981 class. At that time they were also busy raising twins, but both felt it was important that they volunteer. Jim watched the children while Kathleen volunteered and then she took care of them while he served at ABNC.

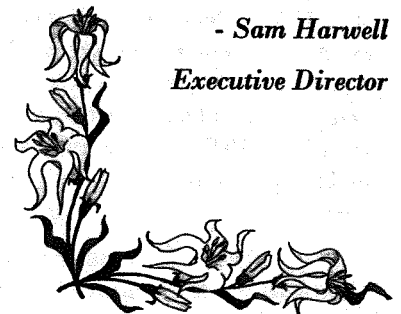
Early on, Kathleen did some hiking tours, but soon found her passion in working with the herb garden that was located on the site of the present day facilities barn. With the addition of the farm area and the farm house, she moved her attention to the garden area and to the serving of candle light teas in the Hanson House.

Jim has always been a prairie man. Of course he has led hikes, but he can always be counted on to be a big part of Prairie Friday, Stewardship Saturday or as a part of any burn activity. He is also the resident "Mushroom Man."

In response to the question of "why have you stayed with it so long?" Kathleen, answered: "Both Jim and I feel that it is important that as many native sites be saved as possible. There should be a place where people can see what it was like before the land was developed." She also said that she has watched people come and go, but that Armand Bayou, the Nature Center, and the prairie stay the same."

We hope that Kathleen and Jim will be here another 22 years. Please let them know how much we appreciate them.

- Sam Harwell
Executive Director



upcoming PRAIRIE BURN

If you have taken the required Prescribed Burn class, come and put it to good use! Weather permitting, Mark Kramer and crew will be out December 6. Please wear appropriate clothing, that is, cotton shirt and long pants, boots, hat, bandana, and work gloves. Contact Mark Kramer, ABNC Stewardship Coordinator, for more details.



a b n c v o l u n t e e r M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

The guest speaker was **Dr. Ray Parsons**, who spoke on "Mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus".

Following the educational program, **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:05 PM. The minutes of the September 11 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report is printed in the Bayou Foliage.

AREA REPORTS:

Vice-Chair (Polly Swerdlin):

Plans for Volunteer Yuletide have been suspended. Instead, ABNC will have a Christmas crafts and activities program for children in November. The **Holiday Canoe** event, featuring breakfast prepared by Ed Adams, is scheduled for December 13. Ed Rosenberg has agreed to present an educational program next May on "Confusing Bird I.D.'s". **James Blueberry** is expected to return on November 1. Polly also mentioned that the educational videotape collection has been set up in the resource room. Volunteers who review a tape and write a brief summary can receive credits for education hours.

Fall Festival plans are proceeding well. The flyers have been printed and are available for distribution. Catered food will be available at both the Fall Festival and Creepy Crawlers.

ABNC Staff (Sam Harwell):

ABNC continues to cope with personnel changes. **Ed White** is the new Facilities Coordinator. **Jo Evans**, who's resignation was previously announced, would like to leave on November 12. A replacement candidate is being evaluated. **Lynn Shigekawa**, Director of Development, will leave at the end of the month. ABNC is considering employment opportunities for **James Blueberry**.

ABNC is increasing its involvement with Scout Programs in an effort

to increase revenues. More campouts are expected. The Nature Center may become a Scout Venture Camp, which can provide some training opportunities for volunteers. A scout group has volunteered to help with removing fallen debris from the trail areas as an Eagle Scout project. This is scheduled for the Sunday after Creepy Crawlers, and adult supervision is needed.

Chris Battan has released the large alligator and has acquired two smaller ones.

Clear Brook High School unexpectedly sent 20 students and their parents to the last Volunteer Training Program. They committed to perform 45 hours of volunteer work. There were 21 regular volunteer trainees in the session.

Dick Benoit was named Volunteer of the Month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION:

Stan said revenues of over \$60,000 from EcoCamp were reported to the Board of Trustees. This was the largest EcoCamp ever held. In addition to increased Scout involvement, ABNC is trying to raise revenues from birthday parties--age limits have been eliminated and fees have been increased.

Laura Bradley reported that the first **Prairie Schooner** tour was a success, although only seven people attended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee:

Stan reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that candidates have been selected for all positions except **Weekday Outdoor Education**. Both Stan and Sam Harwell commented on the importance of the Weekday Outdoor Education position. It is an excellent educational program for children, and it also provides much needed revenue for ABNC. The job has become more challenging because schools are

now scheduling large groups, requiring as many as eight to ten volunteers for each session.

Volunteer Gift to ABNC:

Stan discussed options for a contribution from the Volunteers to ABNC. The Volunteer finances are able to handle a contribution up to \$2500. Stan put this into perspective, saying that a maximum contribution could be made even if there was zero income in 2004.

A list of 9 possible contributions was compiled from items suggested last year along with current suggestions from ABNC staff. The Volunteers present at the meeting decided on a ranking. The top suggestions and their budget estimates are:

- 1) Concrete a bay of the maintenance barn. (\$1100) Sam mentioned that matching funds may be available.
- 2) Provide funds to level the farmhouse. (\$2200)
- 3) Improve lighting on the boardwalk and on the rear of the Education Building. (\$1200)
- 4) Provide signs for the prairie trail. (\$800)
- 5) Provide EcoCamp scholarships. (\$100)

The Volunteer Board will include one or more of these in the proposed Budget for 2004 for presentation to the Volunteers.

There were no further announcements or business items, and Stan adjourned the meeting at 8:55 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Cooke*



o t h e r N E W S

Thanks to Anne Prosser for being our first volunteer to review a tape for continuing education credit. We will all benefit from your review!

Big Thicket National Preserve (#3021)

The heart of Southeast Texas lays between the Trinity River to the East and the Neches River to the West a span of nearly 50 miles. The sediment of these two rivers makes up the coastal delta plain. Four continuous processes shape the delta plain: erosion, deposition, compaction and subsidence.

The northern portion of the Big Thicket is predominantly evergreen hardwood forest, while the south is tropical jungle and the west is desert. The land between the two rivers creates and supports a wide variety of vegetative species: carnivorous plants, orchids, hardwood forests, desert cactus, ferns, magnolia and cypress, to name a few. Animal life is equally diverse. Over 350 species of birds visit or nest in this area.

The Big Thicket National Preserve was established in 1974 and is comprised of 12 small units in over 84,000 acres of land.

This tape, as well as several articles written recently about the preserve, emphasizes the fragility of this land and the importance of preserving the surrounding forests to support wild-life and plant species.

- Anne Prosser

Fall Festival

I know Jane made the "last plea" for Fall Festival help in October's newsletter, but if you get this newsletter in time, there' are still a few days to go. Most activities are filling up nicely, but there's always something that comes up at the last minute. If you haven't signed up, but find you are free that day, please come and help. Check in at the Informa-

tion Booth.

By the way, if you have signed up, but become ill or need to leave town, please call Jane or the Nature Center so that we can find a substitute. Volunteers receive one \$1 ticket for each shift worked to be used for drinks.

Nov 8 9am - 5pm or Nov 9 noon - 5pm

- Polly Swerdlin

Help Wanted

Now that cooler weather has arrived, more visitors are coming out to the Nature Center. Greeters and Farm Interpreters are needed for weekend shifts from 1-4 PM.

As a greeter you will get to meet our visitors and explain where things are, what is going on that day, and answer any questions they may have.

Farm Interpreters welcome visitors to the Martyn Farm House. Share the history of the house and tell about farm life as you show visitors through the farm house.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these fun activities, call me at 713.472.5688.

Judy Schaefer

Volunteer Coordinator Position

The quarterly volunteer/staff luncheon was held on Saturday, Oct. 18. One of the main issues discussed was the position of our Volunteer Coordinator, James Blueberry. Director Sam Harwell stated that due to unforeseen expenses, such as repeated fence repairs, lightning damage, sump pump replacement, etc., there is no money to pay James's salary for the rest of 2003. He assured everyone that the funding will be in place to pay the position for the entire year of 2004. A proposal was made to take donations to pay James's salary for November and December of 2003 at a cost of \$1000.

A show of hands by the attending volunteers demonstrated overwhelming support for this idea, apparently the only resolution to the problem. There were, however, strongly voiced concerns about this action. Many also felt that it is definitely NOT the duty of the volunteer organization to fund a staff salary, and that this action might set a precedent.

However, given the fact that James would need to find other employment and might not be available when her salary was restored, and the appreciation that everyone who attended has for James's dedication, enthusiasm, excellent work ethic, and unique contributions to the Center, the group felt that this one-time investment by those who wish to contribute is worthwhile.

The Volunteer Board has discussed this alternative with James. While she is very uncomfortable with the idea of accepting a donation, she is also overwhelmed by the generosity of the volunteer corps and can't wait to work with all of us again. She is open to the idea as long as the volunteers are comfortable with it. She has accepted our offer in large part because she understands the importance of the Volunteer Coordinator position and knows that the coordinator plays a key role in the success of many volunteer programs and projects.

We want donations to be anonymous and we want James to be part of the ABNC staff, not our employee. So please make your donation out to ABNC, attn. Terri Wimberly and marked with a notation that the donation is "restricted to Volunteer Coordinator salary of James Blueberry." Terri is the staff accountant and will process all of the funds. Thanks for your support.

- The Volunteer Board

Armand Bayou Nature Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

September 2003

Beginning Balance **\$3146.59**

Expenditures:

Bayou Foliage Postage - August	35.64
Bayou Foliage Postage - September	37.62
Bank Service Charge	2.00
Total Expenditures	\$75.26

Income:

July Paper Recycling	61.53
Total Income	\$61.53

Current Balance **\$3132.86**



s t a f f D I R E C T O R Y

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Animal Collections Supervisor	Chris Battan
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
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

November 13	Wetlands	Dr. John Jacob
December 11	Christmas Party	Pot Luck
January 8	Volunteer Appreciation	ABNC Staff
February 12	Local Snakes	Paul Freed
March 11	Confusing Bird Identification	Ed Rosenburg

Events

Nov. 8-9	Fall Festival
December ?	Christmas Bird Count
Dec. 22-23, 29-30	
& Jan. 2-3	Winter Camp
January 24	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon
Feb. Saturdays	New Volunteer Training



Classes & Trips

January 24	Intro to Trail Boxes
February	Animal Handling
Feb. Saturdays	New Volunteer Training
March 6	Field Trip TBD
March TBD	Operation of Wood Stove

2003 Volunteer Board

Chair	Stan Krauhs	281.470.2744	krauhs@wt.net
Vice Chair	Polly Swerdlin	281.414.4606	pfollyred@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bill Cooke	281.480.2441	billcooke@mssn.com
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713.455.1502	
Stewardship	Kristen Knoedler	281.532.0407	kknoedler@dpisd.org
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Weekend Demos	Stephania Rogers	713.473.4324	
Weekend Trail	Odie Asscherick	832.721.8094	ABNCweekendtrail@aol.com
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Weekday Outdoor Ed.	Jane Bingel	281.554.5069	
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Volunteer Page

Bayou Foliage

If you have articles for the *Bayou Foliage* you may phone or email them to Jim & Sylvia.

 november SPEAKER

John S. Jacob

Environmental Quality Specialist

Presentation: Wetlands

Dr. Jacob has coastwide responsibility for inland environmental problems that have a direct impact on the quality of our bays, estuaries, and coastal waters. He is trained as a soil scientist with B.S. and M.S. degrees from Texas Tech University, and a PH.D. from Texas A&M University. He is a recognized expert on Texas wetlands, having been active in consulting and research aspects of wetlands for more than 20 years. One of his recent grant studies was titled "Clean Water for Armand Bayou: Runoff Pollution Education and Abatement."



Associated Web Sites: <http://texas-sea-grant.tamu.edu>

<http://www.texaswetlands.org>

<http://www.urban-nature.org>

 calling ALL BAKERS!

**Cookies Needed for
Fall Festival**

Fall Festival is fast approaching and November 8th and 9th will be here before we know it!

At the festival we have the opportunity to add to the volunteer organization's treasury. All the money in the treasury is used to benefit the Nature Center. For example, one year we used some of the funds to buy badly needed covering for one of the classrooms.

This is your opportunity to show off your family's favorite cookie recipe by baking a batch to be sold at the festival.

All types of cookies sell well. And, yes, brownies are considered cookies!

Cookies can be brought in advance and left at the volunteer table in the entry office or they can be brought the day of the festival to the cookie booth. Please put your name on the container so that we can thank you for your support.

The weather is getting cooler, so there is no reason not to turn on your oven and show off your talent!

Thanks, in advance, for your support!

Stephania Rogers



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 Odie Asscherick	2:00 TRAIL Odie Asscherick	GREETERS Judy Schaefer	FARM INTERP Judy Schaefer	FARM DEMO Stephania Rogers	NAT HISTORY DEMO Stephania Rogers
SAT 11/1	Jim Crabb	Stan Krauhs			Irene Wardens Ropemaking	Carl Cognata Reptiles
SUN 11/2	No Early Trail on Sundays	Joe Bryan	Ken Russell	Chris Bingham	Dottie Evans Ropemaking	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 11/8	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>
SUN 11/9	No Early Trail on Sundays	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	<i>Fall Festival</i>
SAT 11/15	Stan Krauhs	Ray Parker			Mary Barton Bird Adaptations	Ruby Dilgren Bats
SUN 11/16	No Early Trail on Sundays	Marie Asscherick	Rich Watts	Linda Watts	Stephania Rogers Cheese Making	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 11/22	Pat Doerr	Charles Buren		Eleanor Stanley	Ed Adams Ropemaking	Patsy Cashion Lizards
SUN 11/23	No Early Trail on Sundays	Marie Asscherick			Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hilary Gibbs Pond Life
SAT 11/29	Polly Swerdlin	Melanie Weisman		Susan Williams	Joyce Sens Quilting	Polly Swerdlin White-Tailed Deer
SUN 11/30	No Early Trail on Sundays	Merle Bunde				

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

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