



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

October 2003

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Volume 22, No. 10

look AHEAD

October 2003

- 2 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6PM
- 5 Fall Fest Activity Chairs Meeting, 4pm
- 7 Deadline *Bayou Foliage*
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 18 Staff/Volunteer Luncheon, noon
- 24-25 Creepy Crawlers

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

* - deadline in months beginning on Saturday early

volunteer of the MONTH

Have any questions about the birds and the bees? Dick Benoit is your man! Whether he's out on the prairie flapping at an escape fire or leading a group of ALPHA students down the boardwalk, he's usually got one eye on the sky in search of circling birds of prey. In fact, if you've ever spent time with him out in the field, you've probably learned something you didn't already know about the flying patterns of Turkey Vultures or the migration of White-tailed kites.

Educating others on the science lessons found in everyday life comes easy to Dick. After 36 years of teaching middle school science, he retired and became involved with a more relaxed teaching schedule at ABNC. Dick has taught Eco-Camp classes and has been teaching ALPHA with Ed Adams for the past 6 years.

"I love the sciences," he says, "especially the natural aspect of it."

Originally from Michigan, Dick and his wife spent 2 years migrating home in the summer and back down here in the winter. Eventually, they ended up staying in the Houston area.

"Our three daughters are here," Dick says, "And the prairie..."

Dick is quick to express his concern and love for the Texas Tallgrass prairie, "It is the most endangered ecosystem in the

world. And a huge chunk of the last remaining remnant tracts are found right here in our own back yard. We don't know how lucky we are."

Dick is an essential member of the Prairie Friday group, or as they are often referred to when on assignment, the 'Prairie Liberation Army.' He is very active with the vegetation monitoring, tallow control, prescribed burn and mowing programs. In fact, Dick has recently organized a Tallgrass Prairie Workshop Series, in which volunteers are trained to recognize prairie plants in the field and understand the need for management and preservation.

Dick's hobby is dependant on the prairie - bird watching! He is a long time participator in the monitoring of hawks with the Hawk Watch program, and also volunteers with Migration Monitoring.

This September, Dick facilitated the Volunteer Training Sessions. When asked to take on this task, he didn't hesitate. He believes in the Nature Center's mission and understands the critical role volunteers play in preserving wildlife and educating the public.

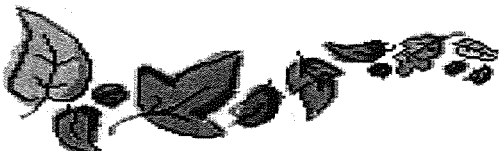
Be sure to let Dick know how much we appreciate his time and talents! We are proud to have him in our ABNC lineup of all stars!

- James Blueberry

keep up the GOOD WORK

Thanks to all of your efforts our latest round of paper and magazine recycling totaled four tons! Not only will we get a recycling check, it will be for approximately \$60.00. Keep up the good work and tell a friend!

- Sylvia Krzmarzick



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 **Sharon Smaltz** from Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education (WR&E), who brought along a Cara-Cara, a Great Horned Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk to serve as props in explaining what a rehabber does. Following the educational program, **Chairman Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:00 PM. Stan thanked **Anita Bunde** for the refreshments. The minutes of the August 14 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report is printed in the Bayou Foliage.

Area Reports:

Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin):

Continuing Education: October's speaker will be **Ray Parsons: Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus.** Intro to Trail Boxes January 24, 2004 Semi-annual class. It was agreed by those attending to make it a one-time required class for access to the keys. **Local Festivals: Please visit and report:** Sept 20 Friendswood Historical Society's Heritage Festival, Sept 27 League City's Heritage Home Tour. Video Library available and counts for continuing education credit if you write a review.

Fall Festival (Jane Bingel and Polly Swerdlin):

Still need Parking help and a few others, mostly easy activities. **Merle Bunde** will be helping out but mostly to break in someone else. Flyers will be available soon in the Kaneka lobby, please find places you can post them. Planning Committee meeting 3p.m. September 17 Wednesday, Activity Chairs meeting 4p.m. October 5 Sunday, Planning / Activity Chairs 4pm. November 2 Sunday

Weekday Outdoor Farm - Polly Swerdlin

There are 3 classes in October in need of teachers.

Outdoor Education (Jane Bingel): Jane needs help with a group of 170 kids coming; however, a possible solution is under consideration.

Outreach (Ed Adams): On September 20 there are 3 events Scheduled. Staff will help out on one of them but all

could use more volunteers. Polly agreed to get the word out via email since it is so close in time.

Greeters and Interpreters (Judy Schaefer): Nothing to report

Facilities (Chuck Snyder): Nothing to report

ABNC Staff (Mark Kramer): Announced the possibility of flu shots being offered at a cost of \$15 for those interested, including family members. A question was raised regarding Medicare. Mark took a count of those present. The new Facilities coordinator for the nature center is **Ed White**, a retiree with experience in maintenance at a chemical plant. Stewardship has been rained out for mowing the prairie recently. The next Prescribed Burn Class is scheduled for December 6. Volunteer of the Month is a mystery person. Mark announced the **Volunteer of the Month** was a mystery that would be exposed in the next issue of the *Bayou Foliage* check with the front desk.

New Business: Stan announced that plans for a **Volunteer field trip to the Katy Prairie** have been finalized for Saturday, October 11. We will depart ABNC at 7:00 AM in car pools. There will be a dutch treat lunch following the tour, and we should return by about 1 PM. A sign-up list is available in the Volunteer Area. As a favor to our hosts, we will reciprocate with an ABNC tour early next year. September is the month to elect a nominating committee for next year's volunteer board. Stan presented a list of 5 volunteers (**Bob Beyer, Jack Chandler, Dewanna Norris, Irene Ward, and Sandra Watters**) who had agreed to serve and they were quickly approved. At the volunteer meeting in October there will be a vote on what annual gift the Volunteer Organization wants to contribute to the Nature Center. Stan asked folks to be thinking how up to \$2,500.00 could best be used, the amount in the volunteer treasury over operating expenses and a cushion for next year. Stan said each

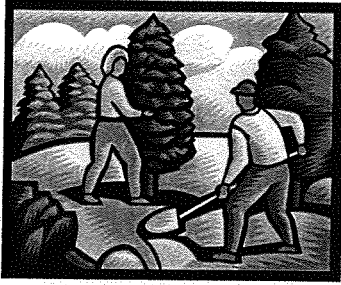
suggestion must be accompanied with a cost so we know what the expense will be for the budget. **LeW Hornung** asked if anyone knew of the **McFadden cemetery**, where the **Martyns** are buried. He plans to visit soon, to check out the condition and would like to schedule a workday, possibly the first Saturday in October to fix it up.

Announcements: **Eldine Owens** passed away on September 4. She frequently did natural history demonstrations and always worked at Fall Festival, dragging her husband and sons along. ABNC has hired an event consultant, **Lisa Holbrook**, on a commission only basis to help market events. She will be paid a percentage of what the nature center takes in above the average for that event in over the past few years. Stan passed the word that all marketing ideas and written material needs to go through **Terri Wimberly**, our accountant/marketing staff person. This is so that she can ensure consistency of all ABNC written materials as well as edit them for spelling, grammar, accuracy of data, and style. Stan reminded everyone of the plans for the trip to the **Katy Prairie** and encouraged those going to sign up. Volunteer training is being held each Saturday in September. Current volunteers are encouraged to attend any of the classes to update or expand their knowledge. The schedule is available in the Volunteer Area. A total of 52 people attended the first training session! It turns out that 14 are highschool students attending as a school project and each had to be a parent. So we actually have 24 people interested in volunteering and perhaps we can entice some of those attending for the school project to become volunteers as well.

There was no further business, and Stan adjourned the meeting at about 8:45 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Stan Krauhs and Polly Swerdlin*

other NEWS



New Habitat Garden

First impressions are lasting impressions. What better way to welcome visitors to the Nature Center than by giving them a glimpse into a garden made to attract some of our most whimsical and often overlooked creatures? Actually, hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and dragonflies are very rarely overlooked. However, the new habitat garden, located at the admissions building, was created to attract those, as well as a myriad of species that frequent our natural world.

And so it was, in mid-July. When most gardeners have hung up their rakes and shovels for a tall glass of ice tea and a hammock, several wonderful volunteers came to help install this delightful garden that was designed by Mark Fox of Mark Fox Landscaping in Bacliff. They hauled and shoveled a mountain of soil, added the plants, then hauled an-

other mountain of mulch. Special thanks to Kathleen Crabb, Joe Bryan, Cris Santiago, Sally Chapman, Laurel Stine and Mary Alice Trumble. A low fence to keep unwanted critters out was built by Jim Edwards, Chuck Snyder, and JT Chapman, with Joe Clem acting as design consultant. In addition, Ann Brinly helped to get the mulch delivered. One last thank you goes to Jo Evans for her generous donation to the garden.

The best thank you to all of us came when a butterfly paid a visit before we had even finished!

Chris LaChance

Website of the Month and

Request for Articles

Thanks to Polly Swerdlin for providing us with this month's websites on West Nile. While most of us are familiar with this disease, you'll probably learn a few tips.

<http://www.hd.co.harris.tx.us/msq/>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

We would also like to put out a request for feature articles. We can usually use a 'filler' article or two and would appreciate any submissions. If you would

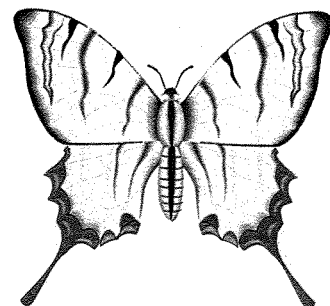
like to submit a short (or long) note on the "goings on" at ABNC, your Editors would be most appreciative. Thanks!

- Sylvia and Jim Krzmarzick

New Nominators

The following volunteers were elected to the Nominating Committee at the volunteer meeting in September: Bob Beyer, Jack Chandler, Dewanna Norris, Irene Ward, and Sandy Waters. Their charge is to find volunteers willing to serve as officers and coordinators on the Volunteer Board for calendar year 2004. If you are interested in a particular position or would like further information, please call one of the Nominating Committee members or the current volunteer coordinator for that job. Please consider serving if you are asked. And a big THANK YOU to the volunteers who were willing to serve on the nominating committee.

- Stan Krauhs



Armand Bayou Nature Center

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2003

Beginning Balance **\$3132.61**

Expenditures:

Bank Service Charge 2.00
Total Expenditures **\$2.00**

Income:

June Paper Recycling 15.98
Total Income **\$15.98**

Current Balance **\$3146.59**



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

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer
Volunteer Coordinator	James Blueberry
Visitor Services Coordinator	Jo Evans
Front Desk	Dick Phelps
Animal Collections Supervisor	Chris Battan
Facilities Coordinator	
Accounting/Marketing	Terri Wimberly
Director of Educational Development	Pat Slaughter
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
Education Programs Coordinator	Shanna

Phone 281.474.2551

u p c o m i n g C A L E N D A R

Continuing Education

October 9	Mosquitoes & West Nile Virus	Ray Parsons
November 13	Wetlands	Dr. John Jacob
December 11	Christmas Party	Pot Luck
January 8	Volunteer Appreciation	ABNC Staff
February 12	Local Snakes	Paul Freed

Events

October 18	Staff/Volunteer Luncheon
October 24-25	Creepy Crawlers
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Science Teachers' Conf.
Nov. 8-9	Fall Festival
December 14	Yuletide
December ??	Christmas Bird Count
Dec. 22-23, 29-30 &	
Jan. 2-3	Winter Camp



Classes & Trips

October 11	Field Trip-Katy Prairie
December TBD	Prairie Burn
January 24	Intro to Trail Boxes
February 2004	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
Greeters/Interpreters	Judy Schaefer	713.472.5688	schaeferjws@msn.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			
Weekday Outdoor Ed.	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	txbob@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 & Sylvia.



*This is the conclusion of our series of articles from a biography about Armand Yrametegui, taken from *The Houston Review: History and Culture of the Gulf Coast*, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1995. A very special thank you to Judy Sharp for passing this along to the Foliage!*

The continuation of his efforts on behalf of conservation became by far the greatest valediction for Armand. Much as the Kennedy assassination was a catalyst to passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, so the death of this eminent conservationist became an inspiration to others to fulfill his environmental goals. To further one project, the Nature Conservancy, a national environmental group, accepted a bequest from Armand of the land he had owned in the Big Thicket for preservation as a wilderness area. In a more poignant gesture, Hana Ginzburg, a member of the Texas Conservancy Council and associate with Armand in the effort to defeat the proposed

Texas Water Plan, appeared in place of Armand before the Houston City Council and a budget hearing of the Harris County Commissioners to speak on behalf of creating a county parks department, emphasizing the relationship between the lack of open spaces and crime.

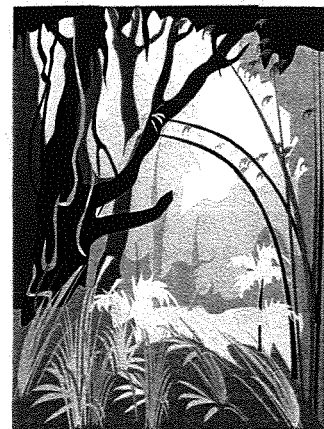
At the Commissioners Court hearing, in the first recorded mention of what would eventually become the primary preservationist goal in the Houston area in the early 1970s and the major living commemoration to Armand, Clear Lake resident Frak Kokesh, who had known Armand through the Outdoor Nature Club, spoke directly and prophetically about what was then Middle Bayou, a tributary of Clear Lake. "As for myself," he emphasized, "in the memory of Armand, I will not rest—I will not let you gentlemen rest until something substantial is done to save the Middle Bayou area, and perhaps someday it will be known as 'Armand's Bayou.'"

These brave words came true. Hana Ginzburg, more than anyone else, took up the formidable challenge of converting over 1,600 acres around Middle Bayou from private ownership to the present, publicly owned Armand Bayou Nature Center. The Pasadena City Council in 1970 changed the name of the bayou to commemorate Armand.

The impact of his career had been significant indeed. The

circumstances of his life and death had turned him into a patron saint of environmental causes. His many friends, including Terry Hershey, Hana Ginzburg, Army and Sarah Emmott, Carl Aiken, John Tveten, and Victor Emanuel, among others, pursued and continue to pursue professional and volunteer activities on behalf of environmental issues with notable results and inspired to a large degree by his example. More than anything, he had been a great teacher, raising the level of ecological public knowledge in whatever forum he could find, from legislative halls to Boy Scout troops. Others carried on the goal he had first emphasized, so that the ongoing effort to create a cleaner and more balanced urban and natural environment became his greatest legacy.

Thanks, again to Judy Sharp for this article. It's been a treat! If you have or know of an article that you would like to share with your fellow volunteers, send it Sylvia and Jim.



 o c t o b e r S P E A K E R

Presentation: An overview of West Nile virus in the United States and how it is impacting residents of Harris County and what can be expected in the future.

Biography: Ray Parsons received his BS and PhD. from the University of Florida and his MS degree from Oklahoma State University.

Ray has directed the Harris County Mosquito Control program since 1996. This is a multi-discipline mosquito control program with 60 full-time and 30-40 part-time employees. The primary mission of the program is the prevention and control of mosquito-borne diseases, particularly West Nile virus and St. Louis encephalitis.

Prior to Harris County, Dr. Parsons was Director of the Mosquito Control program in Sarasota County Florida. He is also a retired Lt. Colonel from the U.S. Army Medical Department. He served 21 years as a medical entomologist. During his military career he worked on diseases such as malaria and plague.

- Polly Swerdlin

 a n n u a l B U D G E T

It is time for the Volunteer Board to prepare and pass the annual budget for calendar year 2004. The process is beginning earlier than in previous years so that the budget can be approved at the December volunteer meeting. The volunteer officers and coordinators will prepare a budget at the October board meeting. This proposed budget will be printed in the November issue of the *Bayou Foliage* for all volunteers to review. At the volunteer meeting in December, the proposed budget will be presented to the volunteer corps for approval. It may also be modified at that time by majority vote of those present.

On January 1, 2004, the volunteer corps should have about \$2,900 in its treasury. The largest routine budget expense is postage at about \$500. All other routine expenses total another \$500 or less.

The item that is the largest expense, and the most difficult to determine, is the amount to be spent on the Nature Center. This year, again, I want to get agreement on this budget item before the budget is

presented in December for approval. The board wants the guidance of the volunteer corps because it is you who will ultimately approve it. Toward this end, I would like everyone to make some decisions for themselves regarding this budget item.

As I see it, the first decision to be made is, How much of the treasury do we want to commit to ABNC? Remember, we want to leave enough in the bank for the volunteer corps to operate and to keep perhaps a year's worth of cushion. With annual income being about \$800 to \$1,000 (normally exceeding expenses) and keeping \$1,000 as a cushion, the amount that could be committed would range from \$0 to \$1,900.

The second decision to be made is, do we give the amount in cash or do we purchase something? If we give cash, do we want it to be unrestricted or do we want to restrict it to a larger project of ABNC? If we purchase something, how do we decide what to purchase? Here is where the Nature Center could give us a list of projects of varying costs

needing funding and we could select one that we can fund at 100% or whatever percent could be accounted for with our gift.

The first decision—how much money—allows the board to prepare the budget. In making second decision—cash or physical item—everyone really buys into the first decision and is giving from the heart. At the volunteer meeting in October, I would like to get agreement on this budget item from those present. I will come prepared with a list of projects and items desired for purchase by ABNC. Any volunteer may propose additional items, but must have a cost estimate for each item suggested. No item will be considered until we know how much it may cost. Final approval of this budget line item and the budget will still be at the volunteer meeting in December. We will have our Christmas party at this meeting, and I know everyone wants this item of business to be one of quick agreement.

- Stan Krauhs

creepy CRAWLERS

Creepy Crawlers will have a few improvements this year generated by the comments of previous volunteers, staff and guests.

FOOD – has always been on the wish list of folks attending Creepy Crawlers. We are going to try to do just that. Two new food vendors will probably be located in the area between the pole barn and the big barn. This way, people who are waiting for hayrides and the barn show can be having something to eat. We will probably use the pole barn as a dining room in order to provide cover and help keep the trash contained.

Good news is that we will move the face painting and crafts to the well lighted, air-conditioned classroom areas in the interpretive building. Air-conditioning, better lighting, seating and bathroom access will go a long way to keeping

our volunteers and our guests cool and comfortable during two of the most popular activities.

Another improvement will be made in the farm house. We are changing sugar cookie decorating (messy and not a good health message) to “Create your own bag of trail mix.” I could use a catchy name here. E-mail me with your suggestion at jo@abnc.org. Have your name used and I’ll buy lunch!! This is an effort to eliminate some of the mess in the farm house, not to mention the yucky sugar (it is also bad for our animals). It will be a fun activity, with the benefit of offering a better snack and less paper waste. Witches’ brew crew, Dottie and Jane, remain!

Other than that, all we need is the support of all our volunteers! I am out of town for a trip to the Northwest, but the sign up sheet

will be on the Volunteer desk. As usual we need trails guides, face painters, mask assistants, water person for talking animals, folks willing to wear a costume and be a talking animal, hayride drivers and interpreters, classroom 1,2,3 will need decorating, parking and security help, assistance in admissions with ticket taking, crowd control and manning the “will call” table. Polly reigns as the Farm House Traffic Director!

E-mail me at above with questions or to have your name added to the list. Folks had a good time last year, despite the rain, and we’ll have a successful one this year too!

- Jo Evans

Creepy Crawlers Staff Coordinator

f a l l F E S T I V A L

Fall Festival

This is the last plea for Fall Festival help. Please do sign up to help out. If you can't get to the Nature Center to sign up, then call me at 281-554-5069. I'll be delighted to put you on the schedule.

Surprisingly, there are many easy but interesting things to be involved in. Things like: Exit Interviews or watching kids wash clothes the old fashioned way and hang them on a clothes-

line. However for those of you looking for a challenge plus having fun, I still need helpers for Rope making and Yarn Doll making. Neither of these crafts are difficult to do - but honestly, they do require taking your time and having patience. Both of these crafts are very popular with the kids so I really would appreciate your help if only for one session.

Please be a contributing ABNC Volunteer - work at the Fall Festival and make it once

again a great success!

Jane Bingel



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 10/4			Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Joyce Sens Quilting	Carl Cognata Reptiles
SUN 10/5	No Early Trail on Sundays		Ken Russell	Eleanor Stanley		Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 10/11			Rich Watts	Linda Watts	Dottie Evans Rope Making	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
SUN 10/12	No Early Trail on Sundays		Judy Schaefer	Polly Swerdlin		Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 10/18			Pat Bates	Paula Thorson	Stephania Rogers Cheese Making	Carl Cognata Reptiles
SUN 10/19	No Early Trail on Sundays		Betty Snider	Chris Bingham	Irene Ward Calligraphy	Patsy Cashion Lizards
SAT 10/25				Paula Thorson	Stephania Rogers Butter	Polly Swerdlin Insects
SUN 10/26	No Early Trail on Sundays		Pat Bates		Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Bird Adaptations

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

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