



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

September 2003

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Volume 22, No. 9

## l o o k A H E A D

### September 2003

- Saturdays Volunteer training
- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6PM
- 9 Deadline *Bayou Foliage*
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30PM

### October 2003

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

### November 2003

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

\* - early deadline in months beginning on Saturday

## t h a n k Y O U

Dear Fellow Volunteers,

Words cannot tell you how deeply appreciated your kind words, visits, calls, cards, support and prayers have been during the saddest time of my life. If I had not had the love and support of friends and family to carry me through this terrible time, I could not have made it. I feel so blessed to be a part of such a wonderful group of people. I love each and every one of you.

- Irene Ward

## v o l u n t e e r o f t h e M O N T H

If you received your *Bayou Foliage* this month, or if you are reading it online, you will have to personally thank Odie Asscherick. Odie can be found in the Volunteer Office around the same time every month. Why? He's busy counting, folding and addressing over two hundred copies of our Volunteer Newsletter before he sorts them by city and zip code. No wonder he's been an advocate of making the *Bayou Foliage* available online!

"I'm a retired letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, so this job comes easy to me," Odie says.

Volunteering also seems to come easy to Odie. He is currently active with the Civil Air Patrol, the Volunteer Fire Department of Southeast Houston, the Outdoor Nature Club, Audubon and Armand Bayou Nature Center. Odie is a Master Gardener with Liberty and Harris Counties and he manages nine websites for different organizations, including his own personal website spotlighting the wildlife aspect of his yard. What a busy guy!

"I became a volunteer at the Nature Center the same year I was taking the Texas Master Naturalist Training out here," Odie says. He saw how great the area was and decided to become a volunteer. Initially interested in the Burn Program, Odie stayed active for about a year until he suffered from a knee injury. Then he decided to take it easy and got involved with the Volunteer Board. As Trails Coordinator, Odie is responsible for finding trail hike and night hike guides.

When asked what he enjoys most about volunteering at the Nature Center, Odie answered, "Sitting in the air conditioning and doing the mailings." He was only half joking! He also thinks this is a wonderful place to volunteer because "I enjoy the camaraderie of the volunteers and I like to attend the volunteer meetings. I always learn something new and find them enlightening."

Next time you see Odie, let him know we appreciate his hard work!

- James Blueberry

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 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
 

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The guest speaker was **Tom Schneider** of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who gave a presentation on the Brazoria Natural Wildlife Refuge, featuring a video by John Baz.

Following the educational program, Chairman **Stan Krauhs** opened the business portion of the meeting at 8:10 PM. The minutes of the July 10 meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report is printed in the Bayou Foliage.

#### **Area Reports:**

##### **Vice Chair (Polly Swerdlin):**

A list of upcoming events and continuing education opportunities is available in the Volunteer Area. **Chris Battan** will hold a class on Animal Handling in September; the date will be announced soon. Plans are to hold two classes on Trail Boxes each year; the next will be scheduled early next year. Email addresses for members of the Volunteer Board are being developed. These will be titled by job position and will be accessible from the ABNC web site. Videotapes are still available for review and continuing education credit.

**Fall Festival (Jane Bingel and Polly Swerdlin):** Jane reported that good progress has been made on the activity sign-up list; however, there are still a number of empty slots, particularly on Sunday. The list will be available in the Volunteer Area. Polly has developed a promotional flyer. It will be ready for circulation in September. The canoe dock has been expanded to facilitate Fall Festival activity. There will be a catered BBQ Saturday night with conchostables present. Polly said that a coordinating meeting for activity

chairpersons would be held at 4 PM on October 5.

##### **Weekend Trails, Greeters and Interpreters, Stewardship, Weekend Demos, and Facilities**

**(Odie Asscherick, Judy Schaefer, Mark Kramer, Stephania Rogers, and Chuck Snyder):** Activities have been generally routine. Openings exist in all areas. Jo Evans will be on vacation for three weeks in September, so extra help will be needed in Admissions. Mark mentioned that a shade structure had been provided for protection of the marsh grass in the holding ponds. Chuck noted that the Facilities Volunteers had tripled the size of the canoe dock, installed the marsh grass shade structure, and installed fencing around the new butterfly garden at the entrance.

**ABNC Staff (Mark Kramer):** Mark announced that a new prairie education initiative has been initiated. The initial run of the "prairie schooner" was scheduled for Friday evening, August 15 but was unfortunately cancelled because of weather. Other runs will be scheduled in the future. Mark also said that a **Night Hike Education** outing is scheduled for 7:30 PM on September 6. It will be conducted by **George Regmund**. The group size will be limited to 15.

Mark said that ABNC Facilities Coordinator **Ken Lester** has resigned. Search for a replacement will begin.

Mark announced that **Odie Asscherick** has been named **Volunteer of the Month**.

**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.

Stan discussed a proposal to change the time of Saturday morning trail hikes from 11 AM to 9:30 AM. This is a better time for our patrons and is more convenient for trail guides.

**A motion to permanently change the Saturday trail hike time to 9:30 AM was made, seconded, and passed.**

Volunteer training will be held each Saturday in September. Current volunteers are encouraged to attend any of the classes to update or expand their knowledge. The schedule will be available in the Volunteer Area.

The **Nominating Committee** for 2004 Volunteer Board Officers must be elected at the September meeting. Our bylaws require that we must choose five active members not currently serving on the Board. Please send your recommendations for the Nominating Committee to Stan as soon as possible.

Ray Parker announced that the **Native Plant Society of Texas** was hosting their Sixth Wildscapes Workshop and Plant Sale on September 13. If interested, please contact Ray or call 281-456-7029.

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

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bill Cooke*

## estuary LIVE

As part of our staff's "Three Point Plan" for success, we are working to increase educational partnerships with outside organizations. Our outreach numbers are very important and we are evaluated on these numbers by funding sources when they are considering us for potential support.

As part of our plan, we agreed to work with Galveston Bay Estuary Program (GBEP) by offering Armand Bayou Nature Center as the site for a global Internet outreach event focused on estuaries. This broadcast will occur on "National Estuaries

Day" on September 25, 2003 from 10:00-11:15 and will be broadcast live from Armand Bayou Nature Center. Just log on to:  
[www.estuarylive.org](http://www.estuarylive.org)

We will have spokespersons and web cams set up in several areas, as well as students out in the field enjoying the hands-on experience. This is our first global internet event and the GBEP people are hoping that we will reach over 1 million students across the world. In addition to being sponsored by the GBEP, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oce-

anic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) also cooperated with the event.

We are very excited and want all of our volunteers to know about this event and ask that you help us to promote it. We have large postcard size glossy posters on the counter in our admissions building, if anyone wants to pick up a copy.

Thanks for helping to spread the word.

- Lynn Shigekawa  
Development Director

## fall FESTIVAL

Hurrah! The slots for helping with Fall Festival are beginning to fill up - thank you all!

However, there are still many opportunities for each of you to help out. As I said in last month's article, Fall Festival is usually the major fund raiser after Bayou Boil, and we'd all like to see that happen again.

There are so many ways that you can help out with this event. Come to the volunteer meeting on the second Thursday of the month, look over the sign up sheets, and put your name in the blank spaces for the activity you are interested in. Or just stop by the Volunteer area on your next visit to the Center, locate the Fall Festival sign up sheets, make your choices and

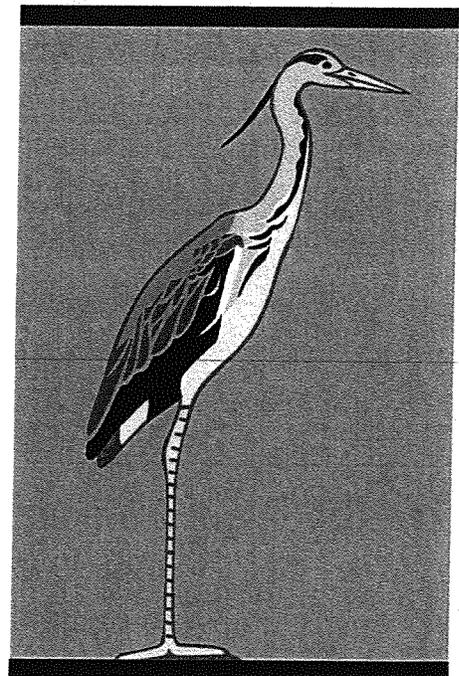
sign in.

Call me at 281-554-5069, and I'll be glad to give you all the information and sign you on.

Please, chairs are needed and so are volunteers. I promise that you will get all the training necessary in a fun atmosphere. It is still a wonderful way to learn new skills, meet new people and renew old friendships, or spark new ones!

Please sign up or call me! But whatever you do: **GET INVOLVED AND VOLUNTEER!** We need every single person we can get.

- Jane Bingel



## Armand Bayou Nature Center

## TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2003

<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$3232.62</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Postage, <i>Bayou Foliage</i> -June	34.32
Postage, <i>Bayou Foliage</i> -July	37.29
Stan Krauhs	43.50
Bank Service Charge	2.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$117.11</b>
<b>Income:</b>	
May Paper Recycling	17.10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17.10</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$3132.61</b>

Katy Prairie – You've heard  
about it, now come see it!

**When:** Saturday, October 11  
from 7 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (meet in  
ABNC parking lot at 7AM)

The Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC) and the ABNC Volunteers have agreed to a cultural exchange. KPC volunteers will give us a tour of their Katy Prairie and we, in turn, will host their volunteers at some future date, probably in early spring. The best time of day to see the prairie is early in the morning, about 8 a.m., which means that we must leave ABNC by 7 a.m. The most economical and practical means of transportation is via car pool. Those with vans are encouraged to drive them. The tour will be about 3 hours, followed by lunch at a recommended Mexican restaurant in Katy.

You should bring a hat, sunscreen, water, walking shoes, layered clothing, and binoculars. Everyone attending a tour must sign a release form. Forms will be available behind the sign-up sheet. Please sign up on the continuing education activity sheet in the "volunteer office." KPC wants an accurate count and we do not want to leave anyone behind in the parking lot. I will put maps and directions in the "volunteer office." If you would prefer to drive there from your home in time for the 8:00 tour, please let me know.

This will be a great learning experience and great fun, too. We have much in common with the KPC and they are looking forward to seeing ABNC.

- Stan Krauhs

## staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Sam Harwell
Director of Development	Lynn Shigekawa
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
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

September 11	Wildlife Rehabilitation	Sharon Smaltz
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

### 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	Winter Camp



### Classes & Trips

Sept. 13, 18, & 23	Animal Handling (see Page 7 for details)
Sept. Saturdays	New Volunteer Training
October 11	Field Trip-Katy Prairie
December TBD	Prairie Burn
February 2004	Animal Handling
Feb. Saturdays	New Volunteer Training
March 6	Field Trip TBD

### 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	schaeferrjws@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	bbeyer@houston.rr.com
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### Bayou Foliage

Editors	S. & J. Krzmarzick	281.557.2505	sykyj@ev1.net
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 fourth installment of our series of articles from a biography about Armand Yramategui, 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!*

At this point, as an influential public figure, a man in his forties with a flourishing career and engaged to be married, Armand Yramategui met his tragic and untimely end. As authorities later reconstructed the incident, he was driving out the Southwest Freeway (U. S Highway 59) on the night of Tuesday, January 27, 1970, in order to view a comet when he had a flat tire near Sharpstown. Discovering his spare was also flat, he began walking to the closest service station. Three young men in a station wagon evidently offered him a lift. When they returned him to his car, they stole what money and equipment he had. Although he offered no resistance to the robbery, one of them shot and killed him. Police later apprehended three suspects upon an informant's advice. While the murder defendant was only 16 years old, a long juvenile offense record qualified him for trial as an adult. He received a 5-year prison sentence. He admitted he really didn't know why he shot Armand.

The senseless act of violence aroused the city more than many other crimes. Reports of

the murder and investigation were headline news for weeks. The prominence of the victim and the callousness of the attack horrified Houstonians. At a time when violence and crime seemed rampant in the United States and when Houston had achieved dubious distinction as the murder capital of the nation, the national law and order movement strengthened locally and crystallized in this incident. The city initiated regular emergency patrols of the Houston freeways to aid stranded motorists, newspapers ran editorials condemning juvenile crime, and there was public pressure for more police.

Hundreds of tributes poured in to Armand's mother and brother. Governor Preston Smith, Mayor Louie Welch, Congressmen Bob Eckhardt and George Bush, as well as many others, expressed their sympathies and admiration for Armand. Houston National Bank set up the Armand Yramategui Memorial Fund for the purchase of wilderness land, and there were commemorative nature walks in Memorial Park. The United States Department of the Interior posthumously bestowed a Conservation Service Award, its highest honor for a non-employee.

For the people who had known him and worked with him closely, the bereavement was even more profound. They were suddenly impressed with the brevity of life and the need to

make available time count for what was most important. Armand himself, who had been deeply troubled by his father's death from cancer and feared a similar fate, in his energetic commitments may have been racing against the same clock. Many decided to redouble their labor on the projects that yielded the greatest satisfaction and rewards. Most dramatically, John Tveten, who had almost accompanied Armand on the fatal night of the shooting, gave up a career as a research chemist to become a free-lance nature photographer and writer. For nature tour director Victor Emanuel and Carl Aiken, later director of the Museum of Natural Science, both of whom had accompanied Armand on his trips to Latin America and who had shaped their career choices largely from Armand's influence, the commitment became deeper. "He was," as Aiken said, "the most genuine person I ever met."

*Concluded in next month's*

*Foliage.*



## s e p t e m b e r S P E A K E R

### Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education

Sharon Smaltz will need no introduction for many volunteers, as she has helped out in so many ways for ABNC. Prominent examples are the two excellent specimens of red-tailed hawks by the Kaneka building. She has been a federally and state licensed rehabber for 21 years, taking in about 600 animals a year. She is associated with Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education, an organization which has 40 rehabbers in the Houston area that take in about 6000 critters each year. Sharon's background is computer science and math major, of all things!

#### Description of presentation:

Sharon promises to bring a Great Horned Owl and a Northern Caracara, and explain some of the trials and pleasures of her passion.

#### Associated Websites:

The first is not associated with Sharon, but has some valuable information. The second one is related to John Carter, a falconer who used to show at the Texas Renaissance Festival, and came to our Fall Festival one year, 1992.

[www.wildliferehabber.com](http://www.wildliferehabber.com)    [www.lastchanceforever.org](http://www.lastchanceforever.org)

- Polly Swerdlin

#### Calling all night owls – those with feathers and those without!

One of the activities offered to the public is hiking after dark. This is an activity that the volunteers provide as one of their many services to ABNC. The small number of volunteers who provide this service would like more of their fellow volunteers to volunteer. The Nature Center is a different place after dark. Bats flying! Owls hooting! Vultures roosting! Sparkling blue eyes of wolf spiders covering the forest floor! Deer browsing! Large orange eyes of an alligator on the surface of the bayou! Opossum, raccoon, and armadillo compete for your attention with the stars on a clear night. Most of the fauna at ABNC are nocturnal, so the best time to see them is at

night. For safety and convenience, two volunteers are required for night hikes. We use an owl-calling tape to attract barred owls and flashlights to see the sparkling blue "diamond" eyes of wolf spiders everywhere. It is usually a new experience for our paying guests, which enhances the volunteer's experience too. You are invited to come out and buddy on the next hike to enjoy the experience. Contact the front desk for the next scheduled hike or contact me with any questions. We want yoooo!

- Stan Krauhs

#### Animal Handling

Interested in working with animals? Whether it's the legless, two-, four- or multi-legged kind, does the Nature Center have a train-

ing class for you! Come out for an introduction to the variety of critters the Nature Center uses in programs and learn how to handle them; or for those of you who already work with our critters, come out for a fun refresher and get your annual certification to boot! Dates for Animal Handling Training coincide with Fall Volunteer Training. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. Duration is one hour for the basics, additional training available for beginners.

-Saturday, September 13, 2003 at 2:30pm (after Fall Volunteer Training)

-Thursday, September 18, 2003 at 5:30pm

-Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at 6:00pm

- Chris Battan

**Nominating Committee****Now Being Formed**

It is time again to form a Nominating Committee to find volunteers willing to serve as officers and coordinators on the Volunteer Board for calendar year 2004. The election process begins with forming a Nominating Committee composed of 5 volunteers, none of whom can be currently on the Volunteer Board. These 5 volunteers are formally approved at the September volunteer meeting. They select one of their number to chair the committee. The committee is charged with filling the slate of officers and coordinators.

They proceed to contact volunteers to fill the following 13 positions:

Chair  
 Vice Chair  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Admissions Coordinator  
 Facilities Coordinator  
 Greeters Coordinator  
 Outreach Coordinator  
 Stewardship Coordinator  
 Weekend Demos Coordinator  
 Weekend Trail Coordinator  
 Weekday Farm Coordinator  
 Weekday Outdoor  
 Education Coordinator

(Note: the position of *Bayou Foliage* Editor is not included because it is filled by appointment by the new Volunteer Board in January)

The Nominating Committee is to complete their task and present their slate of nominees at the November volunteer meeting. The committee is then dissolved.

The slate of nominees will be published in the December issue of the *Bayou Foliage* to inform all volunteers and elections are held at the December volunteer meeting.

- Stan Krauhs

**Looking for more action? Run for a seat on the Volunteer Board!**

Would you like to work more closely with your fellow volunteers? Does being in the middle of where decisions are made appeal to you? Want to be one of the first to know "what's happening?" at the nature center? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then run for a seat on the Volunteer Board. It is already time to be thinking of how you plan to contribute to the nature center in 2004. I hope you will consider being on the Volunteer Board.

The Nominating Committee will soon be formed to find volunteers willing to serve on the

Volunteer Board for the coming year. It is great how every volunteer does his or her part to make the nature center function, whether it be by doing stewardship work, doing demos for the public, or working behind the scenes cleaning the farmhouse. A volunteer is also needed to coordinate the volunteers in each of the major work areas to ensure that the job is covered. There are 8 of these coordinator positions and 4 officer positions (see the article on the Nominating Committee for a list) to be filled each year. All 12 of the positions are open and I encourage new volunteers to run. If you are interested in any position, please talk with a member of the Nominating Committee or get

in touch with the board member who holds that position now.

The volunteer corps grows stronger when new people with new ideas are on the Volunteer Board.

- Stan Krauhs



## a b n c v o l u n t e e r D U T Y R O S T E R

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 9/6	Polly Swerdlin	Pat Doerr	Judy Schaefer	Jane Bingel	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	Carl Cognata Reptiles
SUN 9/7	No Early Trail on Sundays	Merle Bunde	Ken Russell	Anne Prosser	Mary Ann Tucker Basketweaving	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
SAT 9/13	Jim Crabb	Stan Krauhs	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Ed Adams Rope Making	
SUN 9/14	No Early Trail on Sundays	Joe Bryan	Mary Yurkovich	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Bird Adaptations
SAT 9/20	Stan Krauhs	Ray Parker	Joyce Roberts	Chris Bingham	Jane Bingel Cheese Making	Polly Swerdlin Rope Making
SUN 9/21	No Early Trail on Sundays	Marie Asscherick	Rich Watts	Linda Watts		Zel Arbuckle Snakes
SAT 9/27	Melanie Weis- man	Anne Tincher		Eleanor Stanley	Stephania Rogers Butter	
SUN 9/28	No Early Trail on Sundays	Marie Asscherick			Stephania Rogers Cheese Making	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles

