



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

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ABNC VOLUNTEER MEETING MINUTES

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October 14, 2004

The meeting began at 7:00 P. M. with the introduction of guest speaker Diane Foss of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Division on the topic of Invasive Plants of Texas. There were 26 in attendance, very low, but mostly due to the Astros Playoff Game at the same time. Diane introduced us to some of the most invasive non-native plants in Texas, many of which we grow as ornamentals. There is a list of prohibited plants in Texas as well due to the threat of invasiveness and consequential destruction of native plants. More information on this topic can be found at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

The business meeting began at 8:00 P. M. Bill Cooke thanked those who brought refreshments. He also urged volunteers to record their hours and the importance of doing so. Bill urged volunteers to please try to recruit new volunteers as well. Merle Bunde asked if we could start a can recycling program and indicated he has placed barrels near the maintenance shed

for this purpose. A request was made to locate recycling containers in a more convenient location.

Candy Donahue was introduced as the new ABNC Executive Director. Candy is a long time volunteer at the nature center prior to her new position at ABNC. Candy briefly addressed the volunteers. A correction to the August Minutes was presented by Ruby Dilgren regarding the deadline for Foliage inputs. This correction was noted and will be made by the Secretary. Bill Cooke mentioned that he was still pursuing ways to reduce postage costs for the Foliage and encouraged more volunteers to receive it online, via the web site.

New Business: Bill Cooke announced that a nominating committee of 4 was assembled by the Board consisting of Dottie Evans, Philip Eisenpreis, Al Winger, and Joan Henderson. This slate of 4 was approved by the membership. Bill mentioned that the \$1,100 approved for paving the maintenance bays as last year's gift to the Center is being retained in the Volunteer treasury due to the Center's inability to guarantee protection of restricted funds. This action

was approved by voice vote of the membership. The 2005 Volunteer budget was discussed. A year end balance of \$4,043 was projected which includes the \$1,100 being held plus a recommended 2004 gift of \$1,500 to the Center. The proposal to set aside the 2004 gift at \$1,500 was presented to the membership and passed. Proposals for specific gift items are being solicited. All suggestions to the Board for presentation to the membership are welcomed.

Donna Davis said the Fall Festival was a big success with over \$8,000 netted which will benefit the Center. Over 1,500 attendees participated. September 16th Events Committee meeting will focus on evaluating this event. Donna also announced a "Connections" program for kids being sponsored by the ABNC, Chevron, and UHCL Education Department. This program will involve 60 kids per day from 34 schools taught by teachers in training. The Volunteer of the Month for September is Bob Paxton, Facilities coordinator.

Outreach programs are scheduled for 4 consecutive Saturdays beginning Octo-

ber 16th. Volunteers are badly needed to support two of them. Stan Krauhs said it takes \$600,000 per year to keep the gates open and the Center is \$44,000 behind budgeted revenue for this year to date. Bill Cooke complimented the Volunteer Web Site and urged volunteers to tap into it regularly for the latest news.

Polly Swerdlin announced the next program. "Our Back Yard Wildscapes" by Frank and Joyce Burek, and door prizes were awarded. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P. M.

Respectfully
submitted,

Bob Beyer,
Secretary,
ABNC Volunteer
Board

FROM THE CHAIR

FROM THE CHAIR

Whew! Fall Festival is behind us. But what a great Festival it was! I've heard a range of numbers about attendance, but we had somewhere around 1500 visitors. Not bad considering that in mid-week it looked like the weather might close it down entirely. Polly Swerdlin and Donna Davis, our Volunteer Coordinator, were the co-chair persons of the event. Lew Hornung was on the Planning Committee and responsible for getting all the facilities ready and was a key contact with many of the vendors.

There was a lot of Volunteer help, and I'll come back to that, but there's no way to overestimate the importance of Polly, Donna, and them.

Lew in making this a success. A lot of us come out for the weekend to do our thing but we often take for granted everything else that goes on around us. Can you imagine how many telephone calls, meetings, emails, and conversations it takes to get the vendors, the music, the farm equipment, the animals, the food, the publicity, and even the Volunteers organized? Not to mention the stuff we really don't want to think about, such as harvesting the sugar cane, getting the grass cut and the fields prepared, making sure we have Porta-Potties, cleaning up the trash and garbage, and putting everything back in its place afterward. Volunteers do the work, but these leaders are the ones that make it happen. I hope you will personally express your appreciation next time you see

I think there is no other single event that so dramatically shows the contribution of the Volunteers. From rope making to canoeing to hoe cake making to woodworking to biscuit cooking to syrup making to chuck wagon breakfasts to cookie making to candle making to seed mosaics—just imagine what kind of Festival would it have been without the help of the Volunteers. The Volunteers are critical to the success of Fall Festival. But how many "first timers" did you see over the weekend? I hope you saw more than I did.

We have an outstanding group of active Volunteers, but if we don't become more successful in bringing in new Volunteers we're going to see ourselves stretched even more thinly and not being able to

support the needs of the Nature Center. Without a doubt, we need to have better publicity about Volunteer opportunities at ABNC. But you are the Ambassadors of the ABNC Volunteers and no one can better convey to your friends and acquaintances the richness we enjoy. You don't need to climb on a soap box. We add Volunteers one at a time. I hope you will talk to a friend about it.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill

November Program

Our Back Yard Wildscapes

Joyce and Frank Burek

The Bureks are nature photographers who have been avidly pursuing their craft for over 35 years. One of their primary interests is the marine environment, a major focus since they received their diving certifications in 1980. All total, counting land and marine photography, their slide collection is well over 100,000 images.

Their photos have appeared in aquarium exhibits, calendars, brochures, books, magazines, newspapers and posters with numerous publishers - including Audubon Society, National Geographic Society, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Joyce and Frank are authors and publishers of three computer-based marine identification products - the Marine Life of the Flower Garden Banks NMS CD-ROM, Marine Life of the Bay Islands of Honduras CD-ROM, and the Marine Life of Indonesia featuring Wakatobi Marine Reserve.

Remember August 2002? They did an awesome slide presentation of Native Plants and Animals, Land and Sea: "Two Different Worlds". This time they plan on a two-part presentation. A short one on the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary located 110 miles off the Texas coast. The main presentation is entitled "Our Backyard" - A Texas Parks and Wildlife certified Wildscape. They will give the requirements for making a wildscape and then show you the wildlife they have attracted.

The *Bayou Foliage* is a publication of the members of the ABNC Volunteers and is published monthly compliments of Celanese. Please submit all articles by electronic mail to dsgonzalez312@hotmail.com or by postal mail to Editor, Bayou Foliage, 312 W. Ellaine, Pasadena, Texas

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

TRESURER'S REPORT

July 2004

Beginning Balance		\$4905.05
ABNC—Lighting	600.00	
Bank Charge	2.00	
Bayou Foliage—August	38.45	
Total Expenditures	640.45	
Income	0.00	
Recycle	75.18	
Total Income	75.18	
Current Balance		\$4339.78

Eleanor Stanley, Treasurer

~Eleanor

CANDY DONAHUE IS APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Trustees of Armand Bayou Nature Center appointed Candy Donahue as Executive Director, effective October 11. Candy has been a volunteer at ABNC for a number of years. She has done extensive work in the Stewardship area, and particularly with prairie programs.

Candy began her career as a CPA, and was recently awarded a Master's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Houston. Her thesis was based on work she did at ABNC. She has also been an active member and officer of the Houston Canoe Club.

Candy was warmly welcomed at the ABNC Volunteer meeting on October 13. She talked about her stewardship work at ABNC and openly acknowledged the current difficulties faced by the Nature Center. She asked that the Volunteers "hang in there" as she guides us through this time.

Special Thanks

My thanks to all you fine folks who helped out for Fall Festival. I really appreciate the team effort that was very evident as our visitors wandered about enjoying the animals, food, crafts, demonstrations, vendors, farm activities, canoe and wagon rides, and the weather that finally cooperated.

As always, there are things we will change or improve for next year, it's a learning curve every time. Any ideas you have will be appreciated and added to "The Book".

It's been a great pleasure to work the past 4 years as a Co Chair for this event, and the last 2 years as Vice Chair for the Volunteer Board, but I have been advised to cut back on the time spent for ABNC so that I would have time to spend on other interests. So I won't be on the board next year, but I will help out on our events, and weekend demos etc., just not as much.

Polly Swerdlin

NEW RECYCLING PROJECT

Merle Bunde is starting a new project to recycle aluminum cans. Recycled cans are worth about one cent each. Although that may not sound like much, it's amazing how many cans each of us consume. Merle has set up some barrels in the Maintenance Barn area to collect the cans. If the project catches on we'll try to set up a container out near the paper recycle bins.

This is a great way to recycle, and we can bring in some extra cash for the Volunteers. Please contribute your recycle cans, and let's make this a successful project.

Bill Cooke

Nature Resource Management Plan

By Joan Henderson

That means we will "burn" this season. In case you see George Regmund around.

A SPECIAL WORD FROM OUR NEW DIRECTOR

I'm certainly excited to be here. Several years ago I attended a Master Naturalist field trip to Jones State Forest, and manager John Ross showed us around and talked about the changes that had taken place over the past ten years or so. I realized then that I wanted to work in a natural space where I could look back and see that positive changes had taken place. I believe I'm there now.

I have volunteered at ABNC for several years, primarily on Prairie Fridays and the occasional marsh restoration project, so I know some people very well, but have many more wonderful "people discoveries" yet to make. I'm looking forward to meeting each of the

employees and volunteers over the next days or weeks and finding out their personal nature center passions.

I was born in Houston, lived in Chile (oilfield dad) for a few years as a child, then finished middle and high school in Montgomery County. We raised and showed horses, then my brother got into FFA and we moved on to heifers and pigs. My parents now commercially raise meat goats. Summers were often spent at my grandfather's sheep farm in north central Texas, where I occasionally got into trouble for pretending to "buffalo hunt" Grandpappy's sheep with my Shetland pony. You see, a couple would overhear

and die and leave tell-tale evidence of my misdeed.

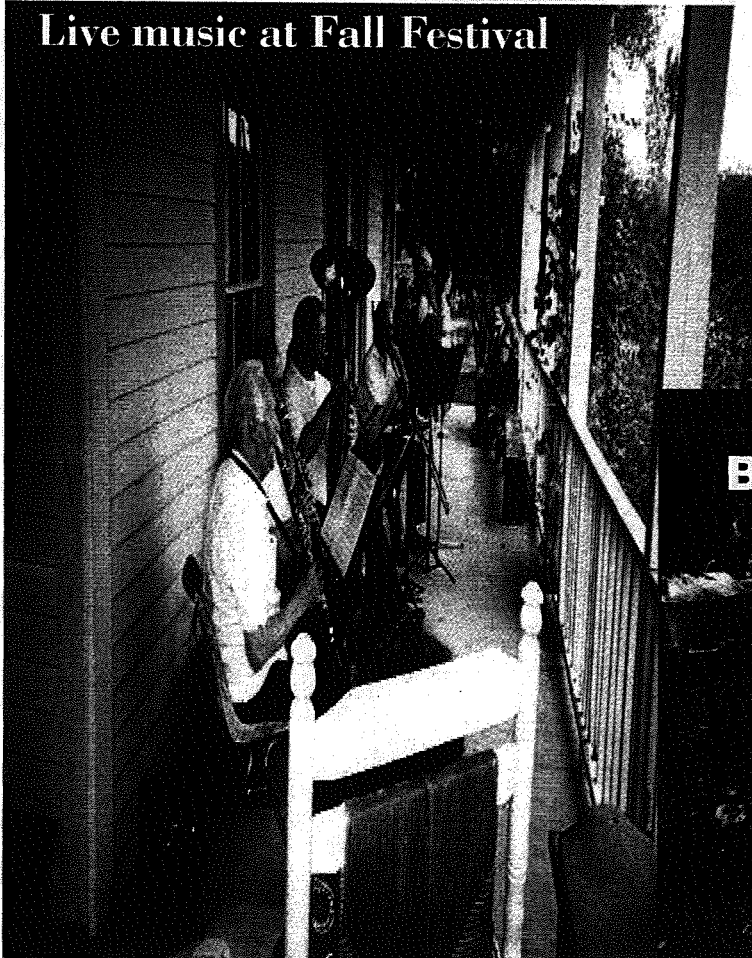
College was at Texas Tech in Lubbock, where I majored in accounting. Went on to work in that field as a CPA for over 20 years before deciding to go back to school and switch to a different field. Attending nature classes with my kids at the Houston Arboretum, subsequently volunteering there, and camping and canoeing with girls scouts had convinced me I could not work the rest of my life as an accountant. So, I now have a master's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, in addition to my financial background and hours of personal volunteer experience, and I am looking forward to

leading a great team of people at ABNC.

We've got many challenges ahead of us. Everyone is working very hard and times are still tough, but I believe we can work together to make this nature center the very best!

Candy

Live music at Fall Festival



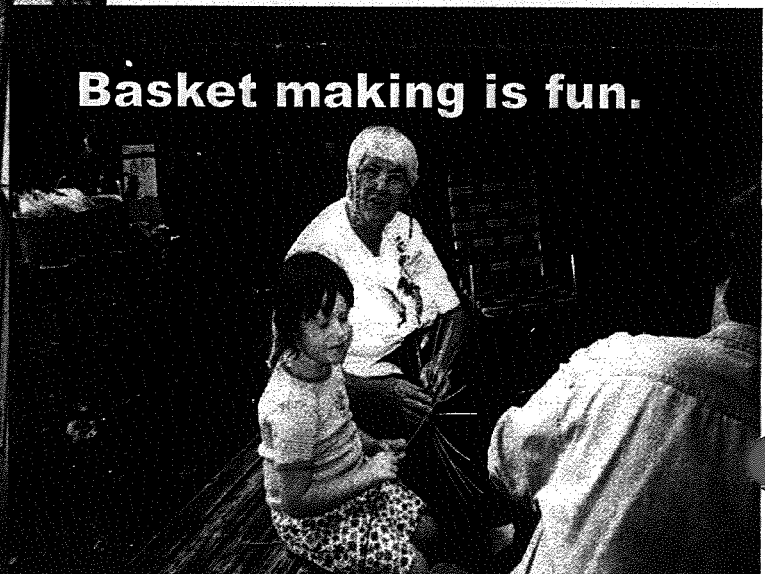
Some pictures from

FALL FESTIVAL

See more in next

month's issue.

Basket making is fun.



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 Trails Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	2:00 Trails Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	Greeters Judy Schaefer 713-472-5688	Farm Interpretation Judy Schaefer 713-472-5688	Farm Demonstrations Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324	Natural History Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324
11/6	Pat Doerr					
11/7		Marie Asscherick			Mary Ann Tucker Basket weaving	
11/13	Polly Swerdlin	Kelli Glenn				Polly Swerdlin Turtles
11/14					Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hillary Gibbs Pond life
11/20	Jim Crabb	Ray Parker			Stephania Rogers Butter making	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
11/21		Merle Bundy			Chris Bingham Stereoscope Helen Harger Cheese making	
11/27	Stan Krauhs	Charles Buron				Ed Adams Adaptations
11/28		Marie Asscherick			Stan Krauhs Rope making	

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

PO Box 58828

Houston, TX 77258

281.474.2551 or 281.474.2552 fax



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2004 ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Bill Cooke	281.480.2441	BILLCOOKE@SBCGLOBAL.NET
Ice Chair	Polly Swerdlin	281.814.4606	pollyred@yahoo.com
Secretary	Bob Beyer	281.990.6183	tbob@houston.r.com
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713.455.1502	
Stewardship	Kristen Knuedler	281.532.0407	kknuedler@cpisd.org
Greeters/Interpreters	Judy Schaefer	713.472.5688	schaeferjws@aol.com
Admissions	Dewanna Norris	281.488.2276	dwnb@juno.com
Weekend Demos	Stephania Rogers	713.473.4324	stephania312@wmconnect.com
Weekend Trail	Stan Kraus	281.470.2744	kraus@earthlink.net
Weekday Farm	Jane Bingel	281.554.5069	
Weekday Outdoor Education	(vacant)		
Outreach	Ed Adams	713.946.2754	
Facilities	Bob Paxton	281.990.7968	PAXTONR@CS.COM
Volunteer Page	Bob Beyer	281.990.6183	tbeyer@houston.r.com
Webmaster	Bob Beyer	281.990.6183	
Bayou Foliage	Danny Gonzalez	713.473.4324	dsgonzalez312@hotmail.com
Editor	Odie Asscherick	832.721.8094	BayouFoliageFman@aol.com
Circulation			