

Bayou Foliage

October 2004

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Vol. 23 No. 10

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2004

The meeting commenced at 7:00 P. M. with a birthday cake, presentation of card and gifts, and a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for Donna Davis, our Staff Volunteer Coordinator. Thirty people were present. Polly Swerdlin introduced the program speaker, **Trish Hessel** the Education Coordinator for the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, *Whales on Wheels* program. Trish provided an excellent slide presentation and description of marine mammal rescues and rehabilitation of dolphin and whales along the Texas coast. There website is <http://www.tnmsn.org> for more information.

At 8:05, Bill Cooke opened the meeting by thanking Stephania Rogers and Ed Adams for bringing refreshments and urged others to do so in the future. New volunteers, Shirley Traugott and Terry Hunter were introduced and welcomed. Chris Battan, our former animal caretaker, was present and acknowledged. Chris, a new mother, and her daughter are doing great. The minutes of the August meeting were approved. The Treasurer reported that we received a nice check for paper recycling and thanked everyone for participating in that program.

Under old business, Ruby Dalgren and Jane Bingel asked that they be notified of any names on the new volunteer roster that are no longer valid. Our by-laws require an annual review of the volunteer roster and this is in progress. Discussion about the Christmas party, now separate from the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, was held. Ed Adams has set November 28th as the date for decorating the Auditorium, between noon and 5 PM. Ed suggested we bring non-perishable food and unwrapped toys as we have in years past to give to needy families. The timeliness of the Bayou Foliage was discussed by Danny Gonzalez and a deadline of the Sunday following the Volunteer meeting was set for submission of materials to go into next months edition.

No new business was brought to the floor. Area reports followed. Donna Davis said the issue of custody for two new bison will be resolved in Commissioner's court on September 28th and the animals should arrive two weeks later if custody is given to our precinct. ABNC is trying to arrange for flu shots at \$15 but needs 30 people to sign up. Donna requested much help from volunteers for Fall Festival. Boeing has offered a \$1,200 underwriting to provide bus transportation from UHCL parking lot to the Center on Fall Festival day. Donna also reported that there are 214 names on the volunteer roster but only 88 have recorded actual volunteer hours. The Volunteer of the Month was announced. It is Joan Henderson who has saved many a day working the front desk - Admissions during staff lunch periods.

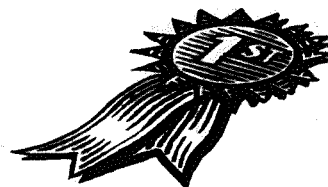
Area reports follow: Polly announced the next Events Committee meeting will be October 3rd at 3 PM, the main topics - final preparation for Fall Festival and Creepy Crawlers. Help will be needed for set up the Thursday and Friday prior to Fall Festival. Diane Foss, an urban wildlife biologist from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Bureau will be our speaker in October. Her topic will be Invasive Plants. Ed Adams noted that Yuletide will be on December 5th from 1 - 4 P. M. The farmhouse will be decorated with old fashioned decorations. Eleanor Stanley presented a proposal that volunteers contribute cases of water and soft drinks for the fall festival. This was well received with nearly 20 people saying they would do so. Jane Bingel needs Chair people to head up key areas of the Fall Festival. She made a plea for more volunteer help at these key events - even recruiting non-ABNC volunteers willing to help on Fall Festival day. Stan Krauhs reported that 2-3 candidates for Director of ABNC were interviewed and another interview is scheduled. Admissions needs help on Tuesdays for lunch hour relief. Four active facilities projects are underway. Auxiliary lighting is recently completed, construction of a Children's discovery park is beginning, planning for a new ramp from the prairie platform to the sugar cane field is underway, and bids are being sought to get the maintenance bays concreted. About half the needed money is available at this time. Bull Rush will be planted along the Bayou the weekend of September 11th and 12th. Weekday farm classes are coming September 20th, three more in October and 3 in November. Hands-on-History is especially being requested. Jane Bingel will be calling for volunteer help for these events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Beyer, Secretary of the ABNC Volunteer Board

Prepared: September 10, 2004



23rd Annual Martyn Farm Fall Festival

October 9 & 10

10am - 5pm both days

This year we are moving back to the original October date. There will be Model T cars and canoe rides on May's Pond. Draft horse demonstrations and wagon rides. Ed Adam's Chuck Wagon Breakfast returns. Most of the activities we have done in the past will still be available, and in need of volunteer help. Please look over the Sign-Up book in the Volunteer Office for your special place(s). In fact, you don't even have to be an official volunteer. Sign your partner up, your teenage kids, and some neighbors if they are willing! If they don't have a nametag (for free entry), let us know and we will have one ready for them when they arrive.

The costume of choice will be 1900 to 1910. A simple description of a lady's attire from 1904 could be; long sleeve blouse with puffy shoulders and a large lace collar, a long straight skirt that does not show the ankles, and black shoes. Add to that a fine looking hat with a broad brim. The fellows are easier, a plain collar shirt, farmer john coveralls, and a straw hat. There is a book in the Volunteer Office of newspaper clippings and other pictures to show more details and ideas. If you don't have a costume, please wear your khaki shirt.

As usual, breakfast on that weekend is pretty much potluck. We have a sign-up list in the volunteer office. It will help us get started early if there are munchies to grab as we prepare for the day. Please put down an item you think you can bring. We want to also offer it to the vendors, demonstrators, and musicians who are helping us put on this show.

Weather permitting; the field near the bison will be where volunteers and demonstrators can park. If it is too wet, the paved parking lot will be used up quickly. If you work only part of the day, please consider using the UHCL parking.

If you don't want to cook after working all day at the event, join us for Saturday evening's supper and social. There is a deadline of October 2 to sign up. \$8.00 each person. Randy's Smokehouse on Highway 3 will be the caterer. If fewer than 30 folks sign up, we won't have it.

I will be on the Nature Center property the whole week before Fall Festival to finish any preparations, and will appreciate any help from my friends. I'm looking forward to a great time, it's a lot of work building up to it, but worth it all. Each year is more fun watching the kids' reactions to the animals and listening to fine music, the stories, and reliving the past to appreciate the present.

Thank you for your support— Polly Swerdlin—281-814-4606—pfollyred@yahoo.com

From the Chair



A lot of odds and ends on my mind right now, so I guess I'll just write them down as they spill out.

By the time you read this the 2004 Fall Festival will be almost upon us. A lot of Volunteers will put in many hours to make it the success it always is. But sometimes we just roll merrily along assuming that it will happen spontaneously. Believe me, nothing like the Fall Festival just "happens". It takes folks like Polly Swerdlin, Jane Bingel, and Lew Homung who work hard behind the scenes to make the Festival a reality. Next time you see them, give them a special thanks.

The Volunteers are the heart of the ABNC organization. But we aren't bringing in enough new Volunteers to grow. Even more importantly, although our databank isn't reliable, the number of "highly active" Volunteers is diminishing. Each of you is an ABNC Volunteer Ambassador. Please use every opportunity you can to recruit. A great way to do this is to talk about the enjoyment and satisfaction you get from being a Volunteer.

LOG YOUR HOURS! I remember last year Stan Krauhs used to preach this each month (I haven't done so well). But Stan was right. This is a vital statistic when ABNC applies for grants, and many of us are not reporting our hours on a timely basis.

If you missed the Volunteer meeting, you may not have heard that we are returning to the traditional schedule of having a Volunteer Christmas party in December and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, with the announcement of Volunteer of the Year, in January.

In case you haven't noticed, Donna Davis, our Volunteer Coordinator, is doing a great job. When she started last December she didn't know anyone, wasn't sure what she was supposed to do, and admitted to being panicky in front of a group. She's been asked to take on more and more, but she's come on strong. And even though being in front of a group still may not be her favorite thing to do, she handles it like a pro. Thanks Donna!

Have you ever taken the pontoon boat ride with Mark? Oops, that's "Captain" Mark. It's a wonderful experience. Mark is outstanding at pointing out things of interest about the Bayou and its wildlife. You will come away with a renewed understanding of Armand Bayou's importance. On a recent trip we watched two male osprey competing for the attention of a female. You can't see that at Cinemark.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill

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 77506.

Fall Festival by Polly

I know Jane made the "last plea" for Fall Festival help in September's newsletter, but if you get this newsletter in time, there's still a few days to go. Several activities are lacking, and there's always something that needs doing at the last minute, or someone gets sick that had planned on being there. If you haven't signed up, but find you are free that day, please come and help. Check in at the Information Booth.

I promise, you will have fun!

By the way, if you have signed up, but become ill or need to leave town, please call Jane or the Nature Center and let us know so we can find a substitute. Thank You.

Oct 9 & 10 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. both days

We need breakfast items for classroom 2 (the kitchen in the education building) so volunteers, staff, and exhibitors can munch early and throughout the day for their energy. See the signup in Donna's office.

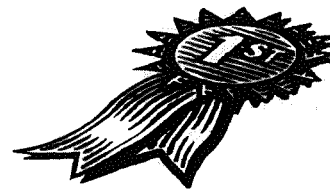
Volunteers receive one ticket for each shift, to be used for drinks at Eleanor's booth.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE!

Come at 6:30 for Refreshments and Stay for Door Prizes!

The NEXT MEETING of the Volunteers is

Thursday, October 14th.



Scheduled Events

October 3 Events Committee
Polly Swerdlin

October 9 & 10 Fall Festival
Staff / Volunteers

October 29 & 30 Creepy Crawlers
Staff / Volunteers

November 7 Events Committee
Polly Swerdlin

November 22 & 23 Holiday Craft Event
Shauna Trevino

November 28 Decorate Auditorium
Ed Adams

Monthly Meetings

October 14 Invasive Plants
Diana Foss

November 11 Nature's Wonders
Frank & Joyce Burek

Classes

Schedule with Tom Woodshop Tools
Tom Scarcella

October 16 Volunteer Orientation
Donna Davis

November 13 Intro to Trail Boxes
Polly Swerdlin

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS
TREASURER'S REPORT

July 2004

Beginning Balance	4888.26
Expenditures:	
Bank Charges	2.00
Total Expenditures	2.00
Income:	
Recycle	18.79
Total Income	18.79
Current Balance	4905.05
	~Eleanor

Visit the **BAYOU FOLIAGE** online :



<http://www.ghg.net/beyer/ABNCvolunteers/home.htm>

Official website of the Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

NIP IN THE BUD

Thank you so much, everyone, for your understanding.
Especially Joan Henderson for the encouraging words.
Congratulations Joan, **VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH.**

Thank you so much, everyone, for your hard work. All
of the necessary material for this issue was turned in on
time.

It is late Saturday night. Saturday (after the Volunteers
Meeting) is the **FINAL** deadline for the *Foliage*. The
master copy will be printed and delivered to ABNC on
Sunday, Sept. 12 by Polly. And it's off to the printers!
Special thanks to Odie, Ken and CELANESE.

Please submit anything of interest to you and to your
fellow volunteers for printing in the *Foliage*. Articles,
ideas, recipes, pictures, - anything is welcome.

Mail to Editor, 312 W. Elaine Ave., Pasadena, TX
77506. Or call me, 713-473-4324.

You can also e-mail to me at
dsgonzalez312@hotmail.com.

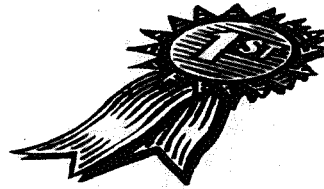
Much Grass!

Danny



The Next Volunteers Meeting

Thursday, October 14th.



Come for fellowship
Stay for the Prizes

2004 Volunteer Board

Chair 281.480.2441	Bill Cooke billcooke@msn.com
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Stewardship 281.532.0407	Kristen Knoedler kknoedler@dpisd.org
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Weekday Outdoor Education	(vacant)
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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
10/2	Pat Doerr	Anne Tincher			Jane Bingel Butter Making	
10/3		Marie Asscherick	Ken Russell	Stephania Rogers	Mary Ann Tucker Basket Weaving	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
10/9 &	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival
10/16	Glenda Hamperly	Ray Parker	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Chris Bingham Stereoscope Ed Adams Cook Stove	
10/17		Merle Bundy	Pat Bates		Polly Swerdlin Rope Making Helen Harger Cheese Making	
10/23	Glenda Hamperly	Joe Bryan	Phillip Essenpreis		Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Carl Cognata Reptiles
10/24		Charles Buren	Joe Bryan	Chris Bingham		Zel Arbuckle Snakes
10/30	Melanie Weiseman	Stan Krauhs				Polly Swerdlin Insects
10/31		Kelli Glenn	Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley	Stephania Rogers Butter Making	



Events Committee

Next Meeting Sunday October 3 (3-5pm)

Fall Festival & Creepy Crawlers

Fall Festival October 9&10 (10-5)

Step Back in Time to 1904

Have you signed up? Got your costume ready?

Creepy Crawlers October 29&30 (6-9:30)

Cookie decorations return.

Have you signed up? Got your costume ready?

Auditorium Deco November 28 (12-5)

Ed Adams supervising

Real tree from last year died - too much rain in spring

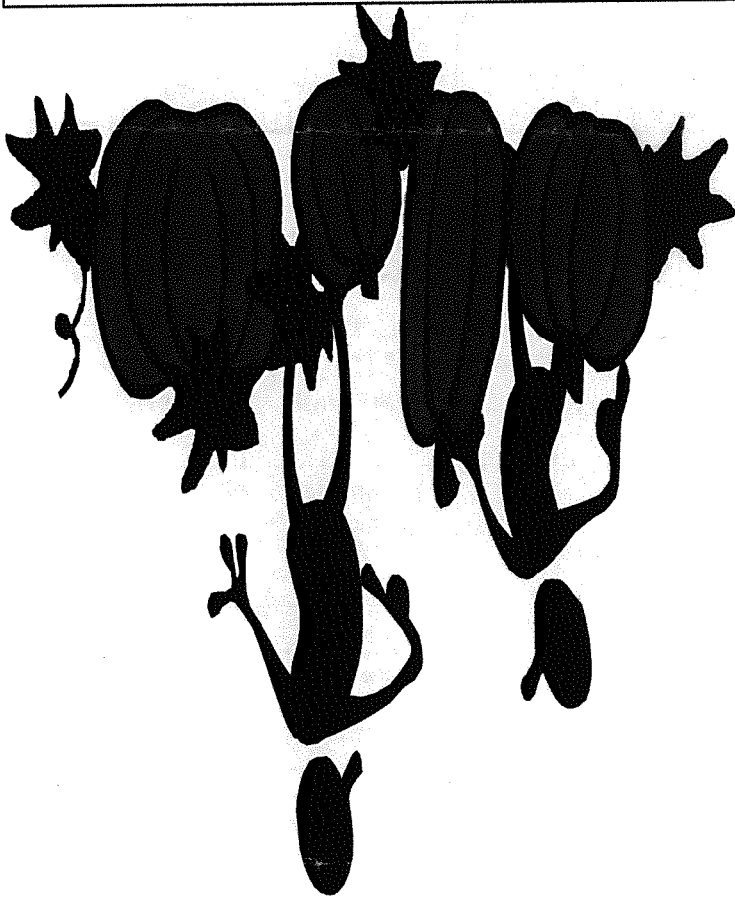
Yuletide December 5 (1-4)

Visitors help decorate the farmhouse. We supply music and hot cider, popcorn, construction paper, etc.

October Program

Invasive Plants - Diana Foss

Diana has worked twelve years for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. She is an urban wildlife biologist who helps landowners enhance their property for attracting wildlife. The following is a quote from the web page <http://www.invasivespecies.gov/>. An "invasive species" is defined as a species that is 1) non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g., microbes). Human actions are the primary means of invasive species introductions.



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