



# Bayou Foliage

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## NEWS RELEASE: EARTH DAY



From: Deason-Sharp, Tanya E

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 10:43 AM

Subject: News Release: Armand Bayou Nature Center celebrates Earth Day with all-day event

Note: Below is information regarding the center's Earth Day festivities.

Activities will include guided tours of the hiking trails on the 2,500-acre wildlife preserve, pontoon boat tours of Armand Bayou, canoeing on May's Pond, mini classes on birding, gardening, and photography, environmental and educational exhibits and activities for children and adults. For more information, see attached news release.

Armand Bayou Nature Center is the custodian of this region's original ecosystem and the caretaker of one of the last bayous in the greater Houston area that is not channelized. The preserve with its wetlands, bottomland forests and tall grass prairies encapsulates this environmentally significant area that was home to several American Indian tribes until the late 19th century.

Tanya E. Deason-Sharp

The Boeing Company-NASA Systems

Media Relations Specialist

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March 7, 2005

For Immediate Release  
NEWS RELEASE

Armand Bayou Nature Center Celebrates Earth Day April 16

PASADENA (Bay Area Houston) TX – Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) will celebrate Earth Day with an all-day event on Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the Nature Center grounds, 8500 Bay Area Blvd.

Festivities will include guided tours of the hiking trails on the 2,500-acre wildlife preserve, pontoon boat tours of Armand Bayou, canoeing on May's Pond, mini classes on birding, gardening, and photography, environmental and educational exhibits and activities for children and adults.

Several Harris County agencies will be participating. Fire and Emergency Services will present their Haz Mat Truck and their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be on hand. The county's Storm Water Quality Section will recycle batteries, cell phones and ink cartridges as well as hand out latex paint hardener for safe disposal of latex paint. They will also enroll citizens in the SWIM program that identifies storm drains accessing local waterways.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston will showcase their Earth Day programs with handouts of interest to children. The Houston-Galveston Area Council is costuming characters to engage children in recycling.

Other organizations participating include Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Houston Quality Feed Store with bunnies and chicks, the Pasadena Parks Department exhibiting environmental murals painted by recreation center children, Galveston Bay Estuary Program, The Nature Conservancy, Port of Houston Authority and San Jacinto College.

Artists exhibiting their work with recyclable materials are Tony Meyer, Peter Guglielmo and Mike Case. John Foster will host his Environment Care Radio program that airs on KKHT 100.7 FM live from the center.

Veteran birder Chris Bantan will lead the birding class. Pasadena Artist of the Year photographer Cliff Meinhardt will teach the photography class. Gardening classes

will be taught by Chris LaChance, master gardener, and will include WaterSmart gardening, and butterfly and heirloom gardens as well as native plants.

The Flute Circle and Sugar Bayou will provide music. Food vendors will include Chick-fil-A and Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. ABNC volunteers will sell popcorn, apples and water.

A special ABNC Gift Shop will sell merchandise at reduced prices. Registration for memberships, volunteer programs and EcoCamp will be available.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors. Members are admitted free. For more information contact Catherine Miller at 281-474-2551, ext. 19, or visit the ABNC website, [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org).

# From the Chair

## FROM THE CHAIR

I think I'm in a funk. I'm not real sure what that means, but it sounds like it fits the way I've been feeling about our Volunteer organization lately. In the last fifteen months or so that I've written these columns, I've always tried to be upbeat and focus on what I see as the bright spots of the Volunteer experience at ABNC. I'm having a real problem doing that this month.

Most of the problem is my own. Volunteers come and go. Interests and needs change. Volunteers are independent—they support what appeals to them as individuals and shun things that are inconvenient or that are not in absolute alignment with their own ideas. I guess I'm not that far removed from the business and industry world that it's taken

some time for me to get used to it.

But the facts are that we are not supporting ABNC as we should be. Let me give you some examples: Dewanna Norris, this month's Volunteer of the Month, has worked hours and hours for front desk relief because we have not been able to get enough Volunteers to help out; we have not had a Volunteer Secretary for two months, yet no one will help out (that is why you will not be seeing the minutes in this Bayou Foliage); Volunteers have been very slow to help out on the Membership Renewal project; Bayou Boil is the most important fund raiser for the Nature Center but yet we were shorthanded last year and only one person has signed up for waitstaff service this year (thank goodness for the Shell volunteer group); Alan Wenger is desperate for Volunteers to help with Outreach programs; Stan Kraus badly needs help for Trails and Owl Prows.

That is not to say that there aren't hard working Volunteers. There certainly are. But what we see is that the same folks (the hard core) are the ones that always provide the support. And the hard core can only do so much. The last thing in the world I want to do is to offend any of our valuable Volunteers. But if you're truly interested in helping ABNC in achieving its goals you might need to be quicker to "step up to the plate".

I'm glad I got that off my chest.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill



# REMEMBER EARTH DAY

## ABNC EARTH DAY

ABNC is planning to go all-out this year with an Earth Day celebration. It's scheduled for April 16, so mark your calendar. Catherine Miller is the Staff Coordinator for the event. She'll be needing Volunteer help, and I hope you'll pitch in. This could turn out to be one of the highlights of the year.

# CONGRATULATIONS DEWANNA

## DEWANNA NORRIS NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Candy Donahue, ABNC Executive Director, announced at the March Volunteer meeting that Dewanna Norris had been named Volunteer of the Month. Candy expressed her appreciation for the support Dewanna has given to help staff the front desk, especially during the period when there was not a regular Staff person available.

Dewanna, a long time ABNC Volunteer, has always been quick to help out in any way needed. She has been the Volunteer Coordinator for Admissions for the past two years.



## BAYOU BOIL IS MAY 7

### BAYOU BOIL SIGNUP

Bayou Boil is scheduled for May 7. The Bayou Boil committee is working hard to make this one the best ever. Catherine Miller is the Staff Coordinator. Pledges for more than fifteen tables have already been received. We need Volunteers to help set up, waiters, greeters, to help with the auction, and to help clean up and tear down. Please sign up in the Volunteer Office.



# MEETING MINUTES

## ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2005

The scheduled speaker, Dennis Jones, did not appear, so the business portion of the meeting began shortly after 7 PM.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved. Treasurer Ken Russell reported that the full report would be published. There have been no unusual expenditures or receipts.

Under Old Business, Chairman Bill Cooke read a note from Marjorie and Roland Borey, long time members and Volunteers, who have recently moved to the Woodlands.

Bill requested more Volunteers for the Membership Renewal Project. A signup list is available. A signup list for Bayou Boil has also been posted. Bill said that the Roster Committee had completed its work in updating the Volunteer list. It will be made available for inspection in the Volunteer office for a short time to give everyone an opportunity to note any errors and it will be distributed as soon as practicable.

Under New Business, there was a brief discussion about wearing the khaki shirt and nametag. There was general agreement that these should be worn when working directly with the public. A signup list for ABNC shirts and replacement nametags has been posted.

The decision about the focus of the Volunteer gift to ABNC will be delayed another month. The gift amount of \$1500 was previously approved by the membership.

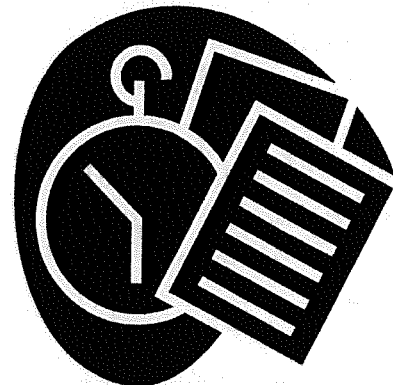
Bill mentioned the new Volunteer E-letter. It will be used for quicker communication between Bayou Foliage publications and for urgent messages. Response thus far has been very favorable. Bill said that a permanent editor was needed.

Executive Director Candy Donahue presented the Staff Report. She announced that Dewanna Norris had been named Volunteer of the Month. Candy discussed the activities planned for Earth Day on April 16 and urged Volunteer participation. She also announced that Meredith Magnuson has been hired as part time animal lab person. Mark Kramer announced that approximately 300 acres had been burned so far and we are headed for a record burn season.

Area Reports were routine, and the meeting was closed at approximately 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke



# WELCOME HEATHER



02/07/2005

Dear Volunteer,

I just wanted to introduce myself and encourage you to come by the Education office often, so that we may get to know one another. Without the volunteer base here at the Nature Center, we could not continue to be the premiere educational and preservation site in Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast area.

The upcoming **Volunteer Orientation Day, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005 from 9am-3pm**, will give us an opportunity to see friends and introduce new members to our corps. Encourage people you know who are interested in the outdoors to join us and see if this is something they would like to try. Ongoing training will be provided for interest areas.

**March 12, 2005 is the annual Trash Bash** to clean up the waterways. This sounds like lots of fun!

**Ed Adams** will be having a birthday **February 18<sup>th</sup>**, so wish him many happy returns.

There is **Weekday Volunteer meeting Tuesday, February 22, 2005 10am-12 noon** to continue the work begun at the last meeting on the lesson plans and any new ideas.

**Earth Day Celebration** will be **April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 9:00 am-5:00pm** and the Center should be active that day with participants from all over. We would love to see you there.

**Bayou Boil** occurs **May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005** as a major "good eatin'"

fundraiser for the Nature Center.

As always, we are encouraging schools, businesses and organizations to visit the Center for classes on the eco-systems and farm life.

**CP Chem Connections** classes for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Pasadena Independent School District have been ongoing from December 2004, and will end with the school year in May, 2005. We encourage the partnership with Chevron Phillips to introduce these students in our neighborhood to the facilities here at Armand Bayou. Thanks to the folks who have been teaching these children.

**Summer Eco-Camp** is just right around the corner again,

so the Center will be busy with children either returning for another year or taking their first steps to explore the environment. Check for the schedule of classes next week.

We love our **Scouts** and appreciate the badge work they are doing at our facility. These are the young leaders of tomorrow and any guidance we can provide can only benefit us both.

Many more things going on, (just look at the remodeling), but with Spring comes activity! Contact your Volunteer Coordinator, Donna Davis, for more opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Heather Millar,

## ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

### TREASURER'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2005

Beginning Balance		\$4804.59
Expenditures:		
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00	
Bayou Foliage(January)	\$37.29	
Bayou Foliage(February)	\$37.29	
Bill Cooke(Christmas Party Hams)	\$35.06	
Total Expenditures	\$111.64	
Income:		
Paper Recycling(December)	\$70.67	
Paper Recycling(January)	\$15.26	
Total Income	\$85.93	
Current Balance		\$4778.88



# "What's Happening in Education!"

## What's Happening in Education!

### Uncut Gems and Polished Jewels

by

Heather Millar, Director of Education

Sometimes in education, it seems as though there are no new ideas, just those that need reworking and revision. Those ideas do have to start somewhere and it is with the children and adults who have chosen to step through the front gates of Armand Bayou Nature Center that I put forth a challenge- a challenge to educate ourselves, enlighten others and share the passion of the outdoors experience.

Educators, as in business, need to figure out what it is that people need to be able to do and provide the training to meet those goals. Going beyond that, education does not stand still in a void. Here in the Education

Department we work both with students, young and more experienced, as well as teachers from all walks of life.

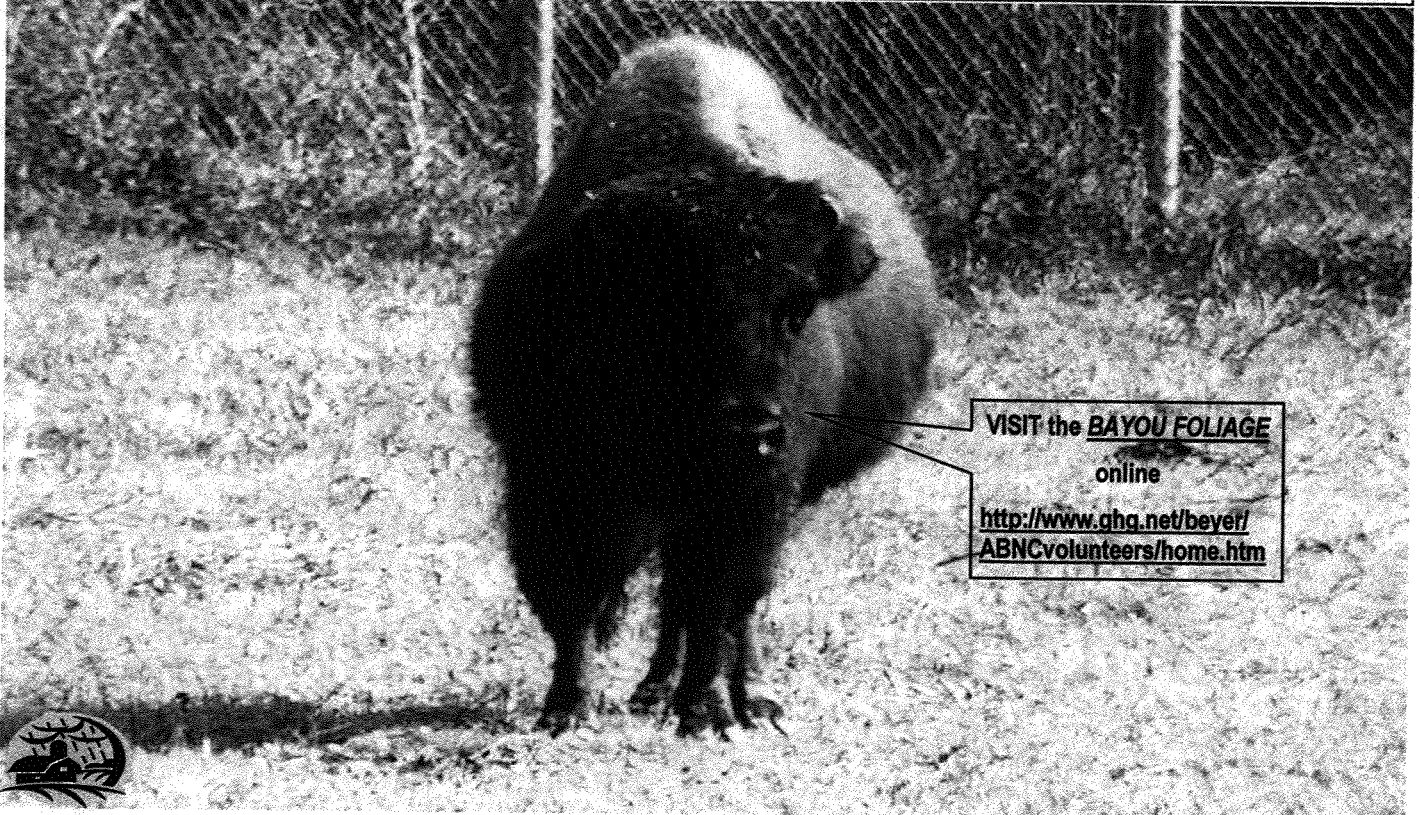
When students from the local schools visit the center for the first time, they are challenged to think beyond their preconceived ideas about what a nature reserve actually is. Some of the students who live "just up the road," in Pasadena, come looking for giraffes, monkeys, condors, and yes, crocodiles. We ask them to think about habitats and ecosystems that are more closely related to their daily existence. Dispelling myths is only one of the things educators do. We are guides, storytellers, detectives, communicators, listeners and learners. What we know- we share and we share it freely and with enthusiasm. The more we know, the more we want to know and the more we have the need to share. In order to keep on track with current ideas, we share with each other and discuss philosophies, successes and failures.

Since coming to the Nature Center over eight years ago, the people I have met in classes such as Hands on History, Eco-Camp, Scouts, and CP Chem *Connections* have enriched my life by sharing their expertise or curiosity with me. Children bring you closer to the ground, (literally), and make you look at the fundamentals of the natural environment-something we often take for granted as we get older- these are the *uncut gems*, full of potential beauty, mystery and sparkle with only the right encouragement. I have also spent time talking and listening to experts on botany, fungi, fish, farming and built shelters. I made butter and turned out rope, handled snakes and alligators and had long prairie walks with grass gurus. These folks are repositories of riches- *the polished jewels!*

In the coming months, we will all be given a chance to be students and educators, to have our senses stimu-

lated and to determine what tasks we are capable of doing. With events such as Trash Bash, Earth Day and Marsh Mania, we become a voice for conservation, education and preservation. Without the volunteer educators here at Armand Bayou Nature Center, we cannot bear the burden of this responsibility alone. Thank you all for your dedication. I would also like to thank the CP Chem volunteers who have given their time and talent to students from Pasadena Independent School District this school year, many whom you will recognize: Tracy Revak and Phillip Eissenpreis, Master Naturalists; Kathy Gardner, teacher and U.S. Army officer; Stacey Williams and Sarah Maxcey, Master's interns, U of H; Laura Lucario, Honors Botany student, San Jacinto College- the kids love you!

Please take advantage of the many class opportunities by our guest speakers and sign up to teach a session yourself.



VISIT the **BAYOU FOLIAGE**

online

<http://www.ghg.net/beyer/>

[ABNCvolunteers/home.htm](http://www.ghg.net/beyer/ABNCvolunteers/home.htm)



## 2005 VOLUNTEER BOARD

CHAIRMAN	Bill Cooke	281-480-2441	billcooke@sbcglobal.net
VICE CHAIRMAN	Tom Scarsella	281-483-4885	
TREASURER	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	paclon@aol.com
SECRETARY			
ADMISSIONS	Dewanna Norris	281-488-2276	dwn8@juno.com
FACILITIES	Bob Paxton	281-990-7968	paxtonrl@cs.com
GREETERS/INTERPRETERS	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
OUTREACH	Alan Wenger	281-488-0112	alanshobha@aol.com
STEWARDSHIP	Philip Wylie	281-286-9423	plwylie@hotmail.com
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WEEKEND DEMOS	Stephania Rogers	713-473-4324	stephania312@wmconnect.com
WEEKDAY FARM	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
WEEKDAY OUTDOOR EDUCATION	Phillip Essenpreis	281-471-2429	phillipessenpreis@sbcglobal.net
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CIRCULATION	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	bayoufoliagepman@aol.com





**THE NEXT VOLUNTEERS  
MEETING  
WILL BE THURSDAY NIGHT**

**6:30 p.m. April 14**



**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 Eleanor Stanley 713-455-1502	Farm Interpretation Eleanor Stanley 713-455-1502	Farm Demonstrations Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324	Natural History Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324
4/2	Melanie Weisman	Anne Tincher		Dottie Evans	Stan Krauhs rope	
4/3		Kelli Glenn	Ken Russell	Stephania Rogers	Mary Ann Tucker baskets	Stephania Rogers farm house
4/9		Ray Parker		Jane Bingel		
4/10			Judy Schaefer	Polly Swerdlin	Chris Bingham stereoscope	Joyce Sens quilting
4/16	Stan Krauhs	Charles Buren				Mary Barton wild flowers
4/17		Marie Asscherick	Martha Hood	Paula Thorson	Tom Scarsella wood carving	Hillary Gibbs pond life
4/23	Jim Crabb	Jane Bingel	Paula Brunkow	Joan Brunkow		
4/24		Joe Bryan	Merle Bunde			
4/30	Stan Krauhs			Susan Williams		Eleanor Stanley reptiles

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

April 22 Fri	USA Outreach	Alan Wenger	
April 16 Sat	Earth Day	Catherine Miller	
April 23	Sat Boy Scout Fair Outreach	Alan Wenger	
April 23	Sat San Jacinto Outreach	Alan Wenger	
April 30 Sat	Watersmart Outreach -Chris LaChance	Alan Wenger	
May 6 Fri	JSC Outreach	Alan Wenger	
May 7 Sat	Bayou Boil	Catherine miller	
May 8 Sun	Mother's Day	Holiday	
May 14 ?	Sat Marsh Mania	Mark Kramer	
May 14 Sat	Pasadena Strawberry Festival	Alan Wenger	
May 14 15	Sat-Sun Baytown Longhorn Festival	Alan Wenger	
TBY	South Houston Intermediate Outreach	Alan Wenger	
June Mon-Fri	Eco Camp	Staff	
June 19 Sun	Father's Day	Holiday	
June 30 Thur	Young Branch Library Outreach(griegs rd)	Alan Wenger	
July Mon-Fri	ECO Camp Month	Staff	
July 4 Mon	Independence Day	Holiday	
July 13 Wed	Cliff Tuttle Library Outreach (snakes) 702 Cress	Alan Wenger	
August Mon-Fri	ECO Camp Month	Staff	
September TBD Sat	Volunteer Orientation	Donna Davis	
October 21 & 22 Fri-Sat	Creepy Crawlers	Staff	
November 12 & 13	Sat-Sun Fall Festival	Staff/Volunteers	



### REMINDER

DEADLINE for articles in the Bayou Foliage are due no later than Saturday night after the Volunteer Meeting.

Mail them Editor 312 W. Ellaine Pasadena TX 77506-4433 Phone them 713-473-4324 Or e-mail them

[danielsaenzgonzalez@netzero.net](mailto:danielsaenzgonzalez@netzero.net)

STYLE when possible using 9-point Arial Narrow font.

Thanks,  
Danny

## SUPER SATURDAY! MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### SUPER SATURDAY - APRIL 23

Outreach has three events scheduled for April 23rd. The San Jacinto Day Festival [games], the Boy Scout Fair [animals], and the Lockheed Martin Employee

Picnic [canoes, animals, and pontoon boat] are all scheduled for this Saturday.

Needless to say this is a great opportunity. Please help.

There will also be a program for the United Space Alliance [animals] on Friday, April 22nd. Help is needed for this as well.





**“Reconnect with Nature” at  
Armand Bayou Nature Center’s**

**Earth Day 2005**

**Saturday, April 16 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

- Environment Care – John Foster – Live Broadcast!
- Galveston Bay Estuary Program
- Green Mountain Energy
- Gulf Coast Turtle & Tortoise Society
- Harris County
  - Fire & Emergency Services Personnel and HazMat Truck
  - Citizen Corps
  - Community Emergency Response Team
  - Parks Program
  - Storm Water Quality – Storm Water Inlet Marking (SWIM) Program
- Houston Audubon

- Houston-Galveston Area Council
- Lone Star Recreation
- Tony Meyer – Artist
- Peter Gugliano – Artist
- Mike Case – Bird houses
- Nature Conservancy of Texas
- Pasadena Parks Department
- Port of Houston
- Quality Feed Store - Houston
- San Jacinto College District
- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) Galveston
- Wildlife Rehab & Education

- Environmental Exhibits
- Wildlife Demonstrations
- Mini-Classes – Birding, WaterSmart Gardening, Photography
- Cell Phones, Ink Cartridges, Batteries Recycling  
Musician Will Saffron  
10 – 11 am (tentative)

- Baby Animals
- Pontoon Tours of Armand Bayou
- Hiking Tours of Armand Bayou Nature Center, Hayrides
  - Early Birding Class at 8:00 am
- Face Painting, Costumed Characters  
Flute Circle 11 am – 1 pm

- Nature Inspired Artists & Vendors
- Life Member & Volunteer Reception at 2 pm at the Farm House
- Canoeing on May’s Pond With Shell SERVE
- Drastic Price Cuts on Many Gift Shop Items!

**SUGAR BAYOU**  
3 – 5 pm

*All of this at the low regular admission price of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children and seniors. Admission for members is free.*



Armand Bayou Nature Center  
A Non-Profit Organization  
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A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

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