



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

August 2005

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Vol. 24 No. 8

look AHEAD

August 2005

- 4 Volunteer Board Meeting
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 11 Watershed Workshop, 11:30-4:30

September 2005

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 17 Baytown Outreach, 12-2pm

October 2005

- 6 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 8 Landscaping Workshop, 8am-4
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 21-22 Creepy Crawlers!

August's Speaker

The "unconfirmed" speaker is Eric Duran, a former nature center boy who worked in the lab from 1994-1998 with Jonathan Perez. Eric is currently working at Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire as a naturalist. The program will probably consist of Eric's extensive knowledge of amphibians in some form or fashion, hope you can make it!

Volunteer of the MONTH

July's Volunteer of the Month is **Eleanor Stanley!** Eleanor has volunteered at the nature center for 20 years, and her favorite thing to do is—talking. Imagine that! Interpretation at the farm house and educating the public about reptiles allow her to talk a lot. But, like so many of our volunteers, she does SO much more. Not only does she sell crafts at our events, but she also sells them out of her office and brings the money to the nature center. She also said she hoped there was a good crowd at the volunteer meeting, because she was bringing food! The latest gift from Eleanor was a donation of \$2,500 to raise our Cement Fund to a level at which we could put a slab in the maintenance barn. Thank you, Eleanor!

When I called today to talk to Eleanor, Henry said she was at the zoo. She has volunteered there for 30 years. Her favorite area is the primate area, and her favorite primate is the Siamang, a black, long-armed monkey with a large throat sac that inflates with air, allowing them to announce their presence for a mile through dense forest. See a connection there? After her first day at the zoo, Henry asked her if she got to talk, and when she said yes, he said, "Thank God!"

Dick Phelps, while recuperating in his hospital bed, even commented on Eleanor's commitment, "If Eleanor is scheduled to do something, by God, she'll be there."

This is one multi-talented lady. She has held the following jobs: Department of Motor Vehicles in New York, owned and worked on garbage trucks, owned a sewing machine/vacuum store, rinsed and packed eggs for a week, worked behind a soda counter for a week, has done income taxes on her own since 1982, and was a telephone operator in Riverhead, NY. There she once talked to Gary Cooper twice in one day and placed a call for Sonya Henie.

Thanks again Eleanor, for your dedication to wildlife in its many different forms, and to Armand Bayou Nature Center!

-Candy Donahue



FROM THE CHAIR

As we get into the middle of summer heat, things seem to slow down at the Nature Center. We look forward to Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival partly because of the fun, but also because of the pleasant weather.

But actually, things at the Nature Center are buzzing right along in spite of the heat. ECO camp is in

full swing, with several weeks left in the session. The GEM crew has been busy completing the walkway in the McGovern children's area, and is working on the third section of the Canopy Walk. Birthday parties never stop (special thanks to Ruby). And Outreach programs continue regardless of the temperature. Volunteers, along

with Mark and George, are well into what looks like the most energetic mowing season in years. Even canoeing on Armand Bayou has picked up in recent months, and a lot of folks are coming out for Owl Prowls. Kathleen and the rest of the Farmhouse Garden crew never stop.

So grab your water bottles and come on out! There's always

something going on. Keep your fingers crossed for rain.

See you on the Bayou,
Bill



2005 ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEER BOARD

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abnc VOLUNTEER Meeting Minutes

OVER THE TOP!

The educational program was presented by **Meredith Magnusson** of the ABNC Staff. **Meredith** spoke about animal handling techniques and demonstrated with a number of live animals, including the tarantula.

Following the program, Chairman **Bill Cooke** opened the business portion of the meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Treasurer **Ken Russell** announced that checks had been written to the Nature Center for \$2100 for the concrete fund (2004 and 2005 donations) and also for \$500 for Education.

A special presentation was made to **Eleanor Stanley** for her generous and substantial donation for the concrete fund. Her donation, along with funds already accumulated, made it possible to proceed with concreting the Maintenance Barn. **Bob Paxton** recognized **Eleanor's** contribution and presented here with two paper filled concrete sacks as a memento.

Bill mentioned that **Jessalyn Ballard** has volunteered to edit the Bayou Foliage following **Danny Gonzales'** resignation.

Jane Bingel discussed the Fall Festival and solicited signups for jobs on Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13.

Stan Kraubs mentioned the need for additional volunteers to help with Owl Prowl.

Heather Millar announced

that **Eleanor Stanley** has been named Volunteer of the Month. **Heather** talked about **Eleanor's** interesting background in business as well as volunteer work.

Heather also announced that CPR training is available for Volunteers on July 23 and 30 at a cost of only \$2.50. In other items, Eco-Camp is busy, but going well and **Dick Phelps** is recovering nicely from his recent surgery.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke

We'll Miss You!

Meredith Magnusson is leaving us for the greener pastures of Norman, Oklahoma, where she will be attending graduate school in the fall. Her official last day has yet to be determined, but should be around the first of August.

Make sure to drop by and tell **Meredith** how much you have appreciated and enjoyed having her at the nature center!

The Volunteers have reached a goal that at times seemed out of reach! With a very generous donation from **Eleanor Stanley**, enough money has been saved to install a concrete floor in the Maintenance Barn. Two years ago the Volunteers voted to contribute \$1100 toward the fund, and this year voted to add another \$1000. Money was also added from Volunteer work on fence repairs, and last year some more was raised by a Volunteer Yard Sale at the Nature Center.

But in spite of all this, enough money wasn't available and the longer the project was delayed, the higher the estimates went. Then **Eleanor** decided to come to the rescue. Her donation was more than enough to complete the job. Work will begin in late July and the project should be complete in a couple of weeks. The entire job will cost a little under \$10,000 and will be 100% paid for by funds contributed or generated by Volunteers!

Eleanor, thank you so very much!!



Treasurers Report-Ken Russell

Beginning Balance		\$4837.64
Expenditures		
Bank Charge	2.00	
Total Expenditures	2.00	
Income		
Recycling (April)	10.53	
Total Income	10.53	
Current Balance		\$4846.17

MEET JESS! - (our NEW lab person)



My name is Jessica Shively, I am originally from Rocky Mount, VA. I have been in Houston for a year. I graduated from Ferrum College, located in Ferrum, VA in May of 2003 with a degree in Natural Resource Management.

Since graduating from Ferrum I have had the pleasure of working with many different agencies. I have done Internships with Fish and Wildlife on the Outer Banks, and Audubon in Florida just to name a few. I have had many opportunities to work with wildlife in different settings such as in a Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and also a Nature Center in Naples.

My future goal is to attend Graduate School and study how recreational activities affect wildlife populations.

Staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Candy Donahue	ext:11	candy@abnc.org
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Director of Development			
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Stewardship Biologist	George Regmund	ext:31	george@abnc.org
Visitors Services (Tues.-Sat.)	Jessalyn Ballard	ext:10	jessalyn@abnc.org
Visitors Services (Sunday)	Dick Phelps	ext:10	
Programs Coordinator	Shauna Trevino	ext:13	shauna@abnc.org
Accountant	Susan Brown	ext:21	susan@abnc.org
Facilities Volunteer	Lew Hornung	ext:16	
Facilities/Custodian	Jim Witherspoon	ext:16	jim@abnc.org
Animal Caretaker/Lab	Jess Shively	ext:17	jess@abnc.org

ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

The school year is right around the corner and Heather is asking for anyone interested in doing field trips to please contact her at ext14 or at heather@abnc.org.

FYI

This goes out to all you lovely volunteers out there who have NOT been logging your hours. I know you get tired of hearing it, but PLEASE remember to do so, and PLEASE try to log them in the month you did them. I know I have to have them done for the admissions report for the previous month by the 3rd Thursday, so if you enter them after that they may not be counted! Oh NO! And to all you stewardship volunteers...all I have to say is 18.5 hours total for June... hmmm, interesting...

-Jessalyn

Night Nesters-*Finis!* (the final installment...)

Time and Nature march on. I'm still left here with a mess. Three of my Yellow Crowned (Crested) Night Herons, Chicho, Harpo, and Groucho have left the homestead nest in the old oak tree in my front yard. I well know they've been here and do appreciate their coming and leaving. They've left their leavings behind. I'll have to use my pressure washer on the roof and bushes to leave their leavings behind. That's OK.

I'm a little concerned about Zeppo. He's the last to leave. Seems to be the runt. Probably last born. It's as if he thinks someone will come back and feed him. But he **MUST** go about and forage during the day, since I've missed him then, but he comes back lonely at dusk. One bird left in my tree. He hasn't starved yet. The Blue Jays strafe him. Maybe they know he's weak, or stupid.

The nest is now in a shamble – light through the nest twigs – like an old deserted barn on a Texas farm, falling down in gray weathered boards. Zeppo's parents, who left more than a month ago, no longer maintain it or pay the property taxes on that nest. Zeppo seems to think that nest is his home. It WAS. The kid needs to wake up and move on. No free meals – even dried toads. The world is a big place. I hope Zeppo goes forth and makes a life for himself. I don't want to find some Zeppo heron feathers on my lawn left behind. If he makes it, he makes it. Time to leave the nest, dude, so I can clean up. I hear there are hooters at the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Nature and its observation is a blessing and should teach us all something. I've enjoyed my birds. If my postman is right, though, I'll be able to enjoy them for years to come, since they apparently tend to come back to nest over, and over, and over. I just want to know why I was so **BLESSED** in the first place.

-JT Chapman

(P.S. Zeppo has left the premises. He's gone, but hopefully not departed. Maybe he went to look for fresh frogs or hooters.)

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

I have to confess that working at the Nature Center during the Summer can sometimes be a drag. Very few people are willing to brave the sweltering temps and oppressive humidity, and it seems for some strange reason those that do, return freaked out by the spiders, or snakes or other "creatures" one would expect to find at a "**NATURE CENTER.**"

Then there are the people who expect to be able to drive through the Center. I am always amazed by the puzzled looks people give me "Oh, you mean these are *walking* trails?" Since when did walking become the equivalent of running a marathon? I must concede that it is **HOT** out there, and I especially wonder about the individuals who come out to walk around at about two in the afternoon.

Then there are the spiders. Yes, they are **EVERYWHERE**, and yes, they are big and scary-looking but they are also here for such a short time, we should appreciate them while we have them.

I had a "moment" this Saturday. It was raining and the birthday party people cancelled and had called to tell me that they had been unable to get a hold of one person, so if they showed up to tell them the party was going to be at their home instead. So at 10:07 a.m. father and daughter showed up, present in hand. While he used the phone to make a call, I went out behind the desk to talk to the child. She looked about 5, with dark hair and big Bambi-like brown eyes. She was looking at the spiders we now have in the big display cases and asked "What is this one called?" "That, is an Argiope." "And what is that one called?" "A Golden Orb Spider." She looked at them for a good minute, her eyes filled with wonder, a slight smile on her lips. In a quiet somehow no longer child-like voice she said "They're beautiful." I didn't know why I had tears in my eyes when I went back to my desk, only that summer's at the Nature Center now took on different meaning, they now seemed worthwhile.

Fall Festival November 12 and 13 2005!

Good grief it's only August and she's at it already! Yes I am!

I know it sounds ridiculous but it really is necessary to start planning for and signing up people to help with Fall Festival. There are so many positions to be filled and not that many of us. I hope that by the beginning of this month there will be a sign up sheet listing the crafts and other areas that will need your help. The sheets will be in the volunteer office for you to look at and to select your favorite area of expertise.

I know there are many of you who have a particular craft or activity that you like to be involved in, so please sign up early and get your preferred choice!

For those of you who wish to wait and have me call on you to let you know what areas are in need of help I will call you and ask you for your support.

Truly, I am not trying to pressure you, but Fall Festival is a major fund raiser and we need everyone! Please sign up and make this the best Festival ever! Thanks!

-Jane Bingel

Baby Turtles!



Come check out our two NEW baby snapping turtles on display in the Education Building. Yes, that is a quarter in the picture! These two little guys were generously donated by Rob Brown from the Downtown Aquarium. Thanks Rob!

Village Creek Pictures







Picture Captions

1. Candy and Jess paddlin'
2. Bill and his "lure."
3. Mark as hood ornament

*photos courtesy of Candy Donahue and Bill Cooke

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 713-472-5688	Farm Interpretation Eleanor Stanley 713-472-5688	Farm Demonstrations Stephanie Rogers 713-473-4324	Natural History Stephanie Rogers 713-473-4324
8/6	Pat Doerr		Mary Garrett	Jane Bingel		
8/7		Charles Buren	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin		
8/13	Stan Krauhs	Ray Parker	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow		
8/14		Marie Asscherick	Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley		
8/20	Stan Krauhs	Anne Tincher	Jane Bingel	Joyce Sens		
8/21		Marie Asscherick	Judy Schaefer	Susan Williams		
8/27	Stan Krauhs			Sandy Parker		
8/28		Merle Bunde	Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley		

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

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