



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

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## **Attention: Public Service Announcement!**

It was on a Saturday when Ann Busbee and I were looking through some pictures in the volunteer office that I decided to take action. We both decided someone should put the pictures in albums for everyone to enjoy, so that is precisely what I did.

The pictures are all fairly recent and I divided them up into three separate albums with three separate themes: Volunteers and Kids, Volunteer Events, and Miscellaneous. They are all sitting in the volunteer office at this very moment, waiting to be discovered by all of you. And because everyone knows I have *nothing* to do up here at the front desk (ha!) I also lugged about 7 boxes of "really" old pictures out of the farmhouse attic.

So this message is an announcement and a plea all in one. I am hoping some of you lovely people would like to help me organize and file these pictures, as there are *WAY* too many to put in albums. I was also thinking if there are any folks with scanners who wouldn't mind letting us forever save these precious images. Not to downplay the fact that looking at old pictures is just pure entertainment, TRUST ME ON THIS ONE, I HAVE SEEN SOME BEAUTIES..... If you would like to help me in this venture it would be much appreciated, just give the nature center a call.....you know where to find me!

**-Jessalyn**

### **CORRECTION**

**Please pass it on.**

Phillip Essenpreis is no longer with ABNC and Jane Bingel is  
now Weekday Outdoor Coordinator.

**From the Chair:**

This past weekend I was driving by myself back from Village Creek, which is about 30 miles north of Beaumont. This, of course, was the weekend of the Staff-Volunteer overnight canoe trip. There were just eight of us. We have 126 Volunteers and 6 Staffers (as of my last count). That means that 124 of you missed out on one of the most enjoyable weekends of the year.

We had a wonderful day of paddling down the creek on Saturday with stops for swimming and lunch. We enjoyed watching some Swallow-tailed Kites that followed us for quite a way. In the late afternoon we found a beautiful beach that was a perfect campsite. For those of you who aren't familiar with Village Creek, it is blessed with white sandy beaches that actually squeak when you walk across them.

That night Ed Adams pulled out all the stops with a gourmet supper for the group. Mark had some success fishing and added some bass and bream for the meal. He also demonstrated his expert filleting technique. As twilight approached we put up our tents and Mark built a glorious campfire. Away from the fire it became dark, and then there was a nice display of bats flying over us. There was no moon and the sky was clear, so the view was spectacular. We were all tired and although the campfire conversation was great, after a while we began to wander off toward our tents. Since there was no danger of bad weather it wasn't necessary to put up the rain-flys, so we all drifted off to sleep looking at the stars. It just doesn't get any better than a day like this.

What I didn't mention is that I had to get back to Houston by noon Sunday. That morning Ed and I were up before everyone else and he brewed the first pot of coffee. I asked Ed to load up my canoe with everything that wasn't needed for the remainder of the trip. So after coffee I said goodbyes to those who were awake and shoved off down the creek by myself. It was lonely, and I really hated to miss the pancake breakfast Ed had planned for the group.

So I'm driving back alone--wonderfully tired, but remembering the great day we had Saturday and disappointed that I had to leave early. Now fast forward to Monday. I got a call from Ed. "Bill, you didn't know, but all the pancake fixin's were in that cooler that you took with you". Boy, talk about mixed emotions. I didn't miss out on the pancakes after all, but did everybody have to eat dry cereal or worse—eat that leftover popcorn from Saturday night that had just a touch of sand? Ed assured me that they had plenty to eat and did just fine. Just a minor glitch that couldn't possibly spoil a terrific weekend.

I don't know when another trip like this might be planned, but let me tell you now—don't miss out on it. You couldn't have more fun anywhere.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill

**FALL FESTIVAL IS COMING!!**

Believe it or not, Fall Festival will be here before we know it. It's scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13. I know it might seem ridiculous to remind you now, but it really is necessary to start planning and to begin signing up people to help. There are so many positions to be filled and not all that many of us. We are hoping that by August we'll have the sign-up board listing the crafts and other areas that will need your help. It will be in the Volunteer office for you to look at and to select your favorite area of expertise.

I know that 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 of activity and times! It makes it so much easier when you sign up, but I'll be calling the rest to let them know what areas need help and asking for their support. Please understand that I'm truly not trying to pressure anyone, but Fall Festival is our largest event of the year and an important fund raiser for the Nature Center.

You'll be hearing more and more about Fall Festival in the weeks ahead. When the time comes, please sign up. Let's work together to make this the best Fall Festival ever!

Thanks,

Jane Bingel

**Marsh Mania 2005**

This year's event was a huge success!

Sponsored by the Galveston Bay Foundation, Marsh Mania is an annual event at ABNC through which volunteers help preserve the marshes by planting California Bullrush and other native marsh plants. This year we had over 150 volunteers, thanks in part to a large group from Lyon-dell Chemical, and we planted about 5000 California Bullrush plants over approximately 3 acres of Armand Bayou. Thanks to all the ABNC volunteers who helped out with Marsh Mania.

Philip Wylie

**FORGIVENESS**

Forgiveness is the wind-blown bud  
which blooms in placid beauty at Verdun.

Forgiveness is the tiny slate-gray sparrow  
which has built its nest of twigs and string  
among the shards of glass upon  
the walls of shame.

Forgiveness is the child who  
laughs in merry ecstasy  
beneath the toothed fence that  
closes in Da Nang.

Forgiveness is the fragrance of the violet  
which still clings fast to the heel  
that crushed it.

Forgiveness is the broken dream  
which hides itself within the corner of the mind  
oft called forgetfulness so that  
it will not bring pain to the dreamer.

Forgiveness is the reed  
which stands up straight and green  
when nature's mighty rampage halts, full spent.

Forgiveness is a God who will not leave us  
after all we've done.

--George Roemisch

**REMINDER!**



***Your Contributions to Armand Bayou Nature Center***

***Are Valued HIGHLY!***

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO LOG YOUR HOURS.**






## 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	pacloon@aol.com
SECRETARY			
ADMISSIONS	Dewanna Norris	281-488-2276	dwn8@juno.com
FACILITIES	Bob Paxton	281-990-7968	thepaxtons@sbcglobal.net
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
TRAILS	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
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WEEKDAY FARM	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
WEEKDAY OUTDOOR EDUCATION	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	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. 14 JULY**

## 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 Demonstration Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324	Natural History Stephania Rogers 713-473-4324
7/2	Jim Crabb		Mary Garrett		Stan Krauhs Rope	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
7/3		Merle Bundy	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	
7/9	Pat Doerr	Ray Parker		Stephania Rogers		Mary Barton Birds
7/10		Marie Asscherick	Pat Bates	Chris Bingham	Stephania Rogers Butter	
7/16	Stan Krauhs		Judy Schaeffer	Jane Bingel	Ray Parker Rope	Ruby Dilgren Spiders
7/17		Marie Asscherick	Joe Bryan	Eleanor Stanley	Dottie Evans Rope	
7/23	Stan Krauhs		Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Jane Bingel Dolls	
7/24			Pat Bates		Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hillary Gibbs Garden
7/30	Polly Swerdlin			Dottie Evans		Jane Bingel Adaptations
7/31		Charles Buren	Merle Bundy	Eleanor Stanley	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope	

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

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
November 24	Thu	Thanksgiving Holiday	
December 4	Sun	Yuletide at the Farmhouse	Volunteers

## Volunteer of the Month – June

*Judy Sharp*

This month, Judy Sharp was voted Volunteer of the Month. Judy does a wonderful job of keeping our bird feeders full! She also applies for matching Exxon grants for the volunteer hours she gives us, so we win twice with her.

Judy became a member and volunteer about 1998, and became treasurer of the volunteer board shortly thereafter, when a vacancy needed to be filled! What a way to dive right in there. Her favorite things to do at the nature center are watch the birds, and watch visitors enjoy the birds. Her best bird/animal experience, however, was a trip to Alaska. She said you see puffins, other water birds, porpoises and whales that you would never see anywhere else in your life.

She's a native Texan from East Texas, but went to high school in LaPorte. She and her husband have traveled around with his job (with Exxon) to New Jersey and Baton Rouge, but she's glad to be back in Texas. They just celebrated their 23<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary together. Congratulations Judy and Dave!

Judy and Dave actually met at Exxon. She got a degree in speech pathology from UH and did that for a while, but later became a secretary at Exxon where she met him. The rest is history I guess!

Thanks for all your hard work and your cheerful face when you come into the Kaneka building to get the bird seed!

**Night Nesters!**

We live in the center of Clear Lake City. Who would have ever thought we would ever have night nesters? At first I thought there were Robins nesting there in that old oak in our front yard – blue green eggs broken on the ground below that old oak tree. One broken, then two, then three. But they were larger than a Robin's egg – almost the size of a hen's egg. Then I saw the nest – not VERY impressive. Small. Who was nesting in our tree? Yellow Crested (Crowned) Night Herons!

Then I saw the mess. I thank God that cows don't fly. A herd of dairy cows could not make a bigger mess. At first I saw two chicks, then three, and now there are FOUR – fledgling. The adult birds come back to the nest, but I have never seen them both there at the same time. I have never seen the chicks being fed in the day. One day I saw one of the adult birds on a limb with its beak on the limb and a wing extended touching the limb to stabilize itself while it slept. It was not in torper. It opened it's eye to see what I was up to!

The other night, I heard a den and got my night scope out. After dark. The chicks were hungry and mom or pop was feeding them. They were chirping and flurrying and being very happy. When they sensed me they stopped all activity. Hungry birds may stop wanting food but they somehow can't stop pooping in my yard!!! I thank God cows don't fly.

We are all blessed by wildlife and should do everything in our power to protect it.

J.T. Chapman





## **RANDOM QUOTES HEARD ON VILLAGE CREEK**

**“Don’t touch the hat!”-Ed Adams to Joe Bryan. (We could throw it in the water-just couldn’t touch it.**

**“Crack Kills!” –kids we passed on the creek who pointed out to us that their uncles bathing suit was falling off**

**“Get back in the water!”-Nancy to Peter when he complained of being cold**

**“No more unnecessary testing.” –Mark to Jessalyn when she kept dunking her brand new waterproof camera into the river**

**“But this is the way we always go!”-Bill trying to convince everyone to take the fork of the river containing no water**

**[cont’d p. 10]**



[quotes cont'd from p. 9]

**"It's getting hotter. It's gotten warmer in the 5 minutes we've been here" Said by *Joe Bryan* as the day wore on, and we had just gotten out of the cool water**

**"I wanna see a beaver!" -*Jessalyn***

**"Even an old guy can dream."-*Bill***

**"That's always been my philosophy."-*Mark***

**Said after *Bill* helped a completely unattractive (wink, wink) young woman through the log jam.**

**"Does anyone want coffee? Tea? I'll bring it to your tent!" -*Ed* at 6:30am...**

**"What kind of a vegetarian are you?" -*Ed* to *Jessalyn***

**"Abort the squat!" - *Nancy* to *Joe Bryan***

**-compiled by *Jess and Candy***



Flagpoles and prairie view.

## **THE TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE VILLAGE CREEK CA- NOE TRIP**

10. MISSING OUT ON ED ADAMS "CHICKEN HAWAIIAN" AND "POACHED PEARS" CREEKSIDE.
9. THE STARS-NUFF SAID
8. CANDY'S "HORNY" HAT
7. WATCHING PETER AND NANCY FLOAT **BACKWARDS** DOWN VILLAGE CREEK.
6. MISSING THE "WHO'S WHITER" COMPETITION BETWEEN NANCY AND JESSALYN (NANCY WON)
5. JOE BRYAN'S "SNOOPY IN SPACE" SHEETS.
4. ED SKINNY DIPPING (OR SO HE CLAIMS)
3. BILL COOKE INSISTING THAT WE SHOULD TAKE THE FORK THAT CONTAINED **NO WATER**, REPEATEDLY
2. JOE BRYAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE AND PETER NEEDED TO RE-ORIENT THEIR SLEEPING ARRANGEMENT.
1. AND THE NUMBER ONE REASON YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE VILLAGE CREEK TRIP IS: MISSING OUT ON ALL THE WONDERFUL LAUGHS, FELLOWSHIP AND BEAUTY THE CREEK PROVIDED US WITH. **A FUTURE TRIP IS IN THE WORKS- HOPE NEXT TIME YOU CAN JOIN US!**

**-compiled by Jess and Candy**

**ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes****June 9, 2005**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bill Cooke at 7 PM. Tom Scarsella narrated a slide presentation from his trip with Hillary on the Amazon last year.

Following the presentation, Bill opened the business portion of the meeting. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report will be published in the next Bayou Foliage.

Bill presented the recommendation of the Volunteer Board regarding the 2005 gift to ABNC. The total gift, previously approved by vote, is to be a total of \$1500. The Board proposed that \$1000 of this be retained in the Volunteer Treasury as part of the Concrete Fund. The remaining \$500 is to be presented to the ABNC Education Department for the immediate purchase of critical office items. A motion stating this was made, seconded, and approved by the membership.

Bill mentioned the new program being adopted by the City of Pasadena to work toward preservation of Armand Bayou and surrounding wetlands. A public planning meeting will take place on June 15 at the Pasadena Convention Center. Bill urged everyone to attend to demonstrate support.

The Volunteer roster will be printed using Volunteer funds and will be available for distribution in the Volunteer office beginning next week.

Bill described the difficulties encountered in getting payments from the paper recycling company. Efforts are in progress to visit the company, and Judy Sharp is investigating other alternatives.

Jane Bock will no longer update the calendar near the entrance of the Education Building. Polly Swerdlin expressed an interest, but needs more information to understand the full requirements.

**Candy announced that Judy Sharp has been named Volunteer of the Month.**

Candy also said that Catherine Miller resigned but will continue to work part time on a number of projects. A search is underway to locate a contract grant writer. Longer term, the job will be restructured to combine development, PR, and grant writing into a permanent position.

[Minutes cont'd]

Candy announced that ABNC has recently been the recipient of three important stewardship grants. Houston Endowment will provide a grant of \$100,000 which may be the largest single grant ever received. A grant of \$12,000 was received from TCEQ resulting from a remediation agreement with a local industry. A grant of \$30,000 was received from the USFW. These provide exciting opportunities for the Nature Center.

Other projects involving the Facilities committee of the Board of Trustees involve entrance signage and farm interpretive signs. Mark Fox is working on revised plans for landscaping of the McGovern project.

Polly and Candy discussed the initial work of the Fall Festival Steering Committee.

Volunteer Area committees reported routine activity, with a number of openings in many areas. Stan said that trail coverage would not be suspended during the Summer months as it was last year. Bob Paxton reported that the Facilities group had completed the second section of the Canopy Walkway, and the McGovern platform is essentially finished. Completion of the barn roof repairs has been delayed because of funding.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke



Looking out the kitchen window.