

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

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## Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2005

The meeting was preceded by our speaker, Dennis Jones, Assistant Superintendent at Brazos Bend State Park, who spoke on how to be an interpreter. Dennis worked at ABNC several years ago and has a strong connection to the place. His lecture was informative and amusing and was done with Dennis in full Texas era of Independence garb.

Tom Scarsella called the business meeting to order at 7:20 P.M. and gave the floor to Heather Millar, ABNC Education Director for the Staff Report:

Judy Schaefer was recognized as the Volunteer of the Month. According to Heather, Judy started out at the front desk and worked her way through a whole list of volunteer activities up to and including prairie bums and has been a great help with all of them. Heather said there is an envelope up front for volunteer of the month nominations.

The June 4-5 Village Creek overnight canoe trip for Volunteers and Staff has several openings left. The cost is \$25 and Ed Adams has offered to cook. Sign-up is at the front desk.

## ABNC Volunteer

The Center has a CPR and first Aid class at 9AM on April 30 for staff and volunteers. The cost is \$1 and everyone is encouraged to sign up for it.

There is a large need for additional volunteers for Earth Day for face painting, popcorn booth, and other slots. Jane Bingel said 17,000 flyers had gone out so it could be very busy, especially with the weather being so nice.

Catherine Miller is in need of wait persons for Bayou Boil. It will be table service this year and should proceed more smoothly without the lines that caused some complaints last year.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Alan Wenger reported that we have had three outreach programs in the last month at the zoo, Bayou bend and St. John's Hospital and five coming up in the next month. Upcoming outreach programs include the Pasadena strawberry Festival and the Baytown Longneck Festival both require volunteers. The Strawberry Festival requires thirty volunteers between the twentieth and twenty-second of May and any volunteers who can make the time are encouraged to do so. Prior experience is not required and meals are provided. Pasadena is the municipality in which we are physically located and it is important that we be well represented. The ABNC Volunteer booth does children's crafts such as yam dolls, seed mosaics, and rope making and is very popular.

Heather said that the Center was trying several new means of collecting information from individuals that might Tom Scarsella

be interested in volunteering such as having them fill out cards for a drawing. Improving volunteer recruitment is a high priority for the Center right now since it directly impacts revenue when classes cannot be offered.

Odie Asscherick said the number of Bayou Foliages we are currently mailing out are only about three-quarters of the 200 minimum required for bulk mailing rates. To get the bulk rate, fifty-two surveys of the same size and weight were included in the bundle to be mailed and fifty-two will probably go out with the Foliage in each of the two months to follow.

Merle Bunde said that there are three barrels in the parking lot for aluminum can recycling and that we should bring our aluminum here for the benefit of the Center. The price of aluminum has been going up and we should be able to make \$40 or so a month from cans if we fill them the barrels a few times.

All volunteers present were encouraged to bring cookies and plants to Earth Day on Saturday for sale and themselves to fill available slots.

There was no additional business and we adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

## REMEMBER BAYOU BOIL IS HERE!

BAYOU BOIL 2005

The Bayou Boil planning committee has gone all out to make this year's event the best ever. Sudies' will cater the event, so the crawfish and the rest of the food will be terrific! This is the Nature's Center primary fund raising event, so as Volunteers we need to do our part to support it. Besides, it's a lot of fun, and you'll enjoy some great food! If you haven't done it already, please sign up right away on the list in the Volunteer Office, or call or email Bill Cooke (281-480-2441, [billcooke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:billcooke@sbcglobal.net)). We need your help!

# From the Chair

## FROM THE CHAIR

What's your favorite time of year? A lot of folks say Fall. No doubt about it, that's a great time of year here in Houston. Although we don't have colorful foliage to enjoy (except from the fallows that Merle hasn't gotten to), we finally get a break from the Summer sun that baked our brains without relief for the past four months or more. With luck we may have a string of days with low humidity and cool evenings. Some harvest moons. And there's so much to do in the Fall—festivals of all sorts, including our Fall Festival and Creepy Crawlers. The Prairie folks go crazy over the grasses. We look forward to Thanksgiving. Yep, Fall is a great time of year.

Believe it or not, I have a neighbor that says Winter is the best time in Houston. She lived a long time in Belgium. Apparently they never get a lot of sun over there and the Winter is cold and gray and wet and disagreeable. It's a piece of cake here, she says. Mild, no snow (with the delightful exception of last year's white Christmas), and lots of sun.

Most folks, at least us older and wiser ones, don't usually vote for Summer. The heat, humidity, and mosquitoes don't make great PR. Utility bills double. It's hard to find much good to say about Summer, except there are a lot more opportunities to enjoy the

grandkids who are out of school. Oh, swimming is at its best because the water cools you off, even if it's approached the temperature of a hot tub. My strange neighbor loves Summer too, because she just can't get enough of the sun.

But my favorite time is now—Spring. It's a time of awakening, a new beginning. Everything is sprouting, blooming, reaching for life. Take a walk down one of our trails and look at all the fresh shades of green. Or you can just look around your own neighborhood. We love to see the wildflowers, but if you want to see truly "wild" flowers go to Big Bend. The desert floor is alive with color. The bluebonnets are astonishing. My back yard is coming to life with birds, and soon the hummers will be back. When I lived in Louisiana, we were just getting into crawfish season (today we have farms). The Golden Orbs will be back soon, and snakes and alligators are beginning to stir on the Bayou. Well, maybe that's a downside. But it's still my favorite time. They say, "take time to smell the roses". Slow down once in a while to enjoy this wonderful time of year.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill

## SURVEY SAYS:

### VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Some of you may recall that during one of our meetings last summer you were asked to fill out a Volunteer Survey form. Our intent was to mail copies to all active Volunteers to get the information from those who weren't at the meeting. The purpose was to generate an up-to-date database of Volunteer information, and in particular note the areas in which Volunteers had experience or a work preference.

Unfortunately, the follow-through on the program was weak, but now the need is even greater since we are again without a Volunteer Coordinator. The information will be a great help to ABNC Staff and even fellow Volunteers as they attempt to find people to fill open assignments.

## CONGRATULATIONS JUDY

### VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

#### Judy Schaefer

Judy was nominated because she helps out in so many ways, was on the Board for 2 years, helps with bringing refreshments, and more. Not to put any pressure on her, but she has agreed to write a short article for the next Along the Bayou newsletter, too!

Judy is originally from Uvalde, but has been in the Pasadena area since 1965. She started volunteering here at the nature center in 2002, and was first trained and volunteered as a greeter. She says she liked talking to people and telling them about the nature center. She likes being out on the grounds and intermingling with all the different sorts of visitors and volunteers that come through.

When she visits on her own, just to enjoy the nature center, she goes birding both in the prairie and in the forest.

When I asked what her favorite thing to do out here was—she said she liked burning! She was just burn-trained this past year and has really enjoyed it. That's an incentive for all you volunteers to diversify in your training—you never know what you might be missing!

Thanks for all your hard work, Judy!

## ALUMINUM CAN RECYCLING

Look closely and you'll see something new out by the paper recycling bins. Three bright orange barrels have been placed there to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Merle Bunde began this program several months back, but the only collection point was out by the Maintenance Barn. The cans are flattened to reduce the volume for transportation, and then taken to the recycler. The proceeds will be used for trail maintenance.

Please collect your cans and bring them to the Nature Center. You'll be doing a lot for the environment, and we should be able to generate enough revenue to almost cover all of our trail maintenance expenses.

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SECRETARY NEEDED

The Volunteer Board Secretary position is open. If you haven't served on the Volunteer Board, please consider it. The Secretary's position is a good way to get introduced to the work of the Volunteer Board and a great way to meet other Volunteers. If interested, please contact Bill Cooke at 281-480-2441.

## CAMPING TRIP IN JUNE

### VILLAGE CREEK OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEER CANOE TRIP

WHEN: June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>

WHERE: Village Creek

COST: \$25

Max. Participants 23

Join us for a weekend of volunteer fun in one of east Texas' most beautiful settings. We'll float for 8 miles through the Texas Nature Conservancy Sandylands Sanctuary in the Big Thicket region and camp on one of the many sandbars along the creek. Village Creek flows at a slow steady pace making the paddling easy for beginners as well experienced paddlers. After camp is set up there'll be plenty of time for swimming, fishing, bird watching and relaxing. Mark, George and Candy will be available to guide naturalist walks on Sunday morning. Wilderness chef Ed Adams will cook all meals for the trip. ABNC can provide tent space and sleeping bags for those who need it. Plan to bring a sack lunch for Saturday, which we'll eat creek side before we shove off. We'll meet in the ABNC parking lot at 7am Saturday morning and return to ABNC Sunday evening.

ABNC will provide canoes, tents and meals. All you need to bring is a 'bon voyage sack lunch. Call the admissions desk to reserve your space.

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

MARCH 2005

Beginning Balance \$4778.88

Expenditures:

Bank Service Charge \$2.00

Bayou Foliage(March) \$36.46

Total Expenditures \$38.46

Income:

Total Income None

Current Balance \$4740.42

**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	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
TRAILS	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
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
EDITOR	Danny Gonzalez	713-473-4324	danielsaenzgonzalez@netzero.net
WEBMASTER	Bob Beyer	281-990-6183	txbeyer@houston.rr.com
CIRCULATION	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	bayoufoliagepman@aol.com

**THE NEXT VOLUNTEERS  
MEETING  
WILL BE THURSDAY NIGHT  
6:30 p.m. MAY 12TH**

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
5/1		JOE BRYAN	KEN RUSSELL	POLLY SWERDLIN	MARY ANN TUCKER BASKETS	
5/7	MELANIE WEISEMAN	ANNE TINCHER	BAYOU BOIL	BAYOU BOIL	BAYOU BOIL	MARY BARTON BIRDS
5/8		STAN KRAUHS	PAT BATES	ELEANOR STANLEY	TOM SCARSELLA BLACKSMITH	
5/14	KELLI GLENN	RAY PARKER	PAUL BRUNKOW	JOAN BRUNKOW	ED ADAMS ROPE MAKING	RUBY DILGREN SPIDERS
5/15		MARIE ASSCHERICK	JOE BRYAN	CHRIS BINGHAM	STEPHANIA ROGERS BUTTER MAKING	
5/21	PAT DOERR	CHARLES BUREN	JANE BINGEL	JOYCE & FRANK SENZ	CHRIS BINGHAM STEREOSCOPE	JOYCE & FRANK SENS QUILTING & ROPING
5/22		MERLE BUNDY	PAT BATES	STEPHANIA ROGERS	HELEN HARGER PAINTING	ELEANOR STANLEY REPTILES
5/28	POLLY SWERDLIN	STAN KRAUHS	ANN BUSBEE	DOTTIE EVANS		
5/29		MARIE ASSCHERICK	MERLE BUNDY	PAULA THORSON		

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

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

## ATTENTION ALL ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

If you have drawings, paintings or photographs that you are willing to share with us, the weekday volunteer teachers would like to use them in our volunteer teacher guide or in our classes.

We are looking for pictures of:

### NATIVE TEXAS

1. mammals, reptiles, birds and amphibians
2. Insects and spiders
3. Smaller animals that inhabit fresh water ponds such as dragonfly nymphs
4. Plants
5. Landscape pictures of Armand Bayou Nature Center's prairies, forest, bayou, and fresh water ponds
6. Pictures of the Jimmy Martin farm

Please contact Sandy Waters, volunteer 281-474-2551 or [heather@abnc.org](mailto:heather@abnc.org)

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

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