



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

October 2005

Printing Compliments of *Celanese*

Vol. 24 No. 10

look AHEAD

October 2005



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

November 2005

- 3 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 10 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 12-13 FALL FESTIVAL!!!

December 2005

- 1 Volunteer Board Meeting, 6pm
- 3 Prairie Burn Class, 9-5pm
- 7 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 10 Yuletide Festivities, 1-5pm
- 17 Christmas Bird Count, 6am-9pm
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

October's Speaker

If you haven't made it out to a volunteer meeting recently, now is the time! Hana Ginsburg was one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the nature center. She was an original everything: board member, volunteer, and enthusiastic supporter! This is a once in a life-time opportunity to listen to a once in a life time kind of lady!

Volunteer of the MONTH

What is it with the nature center and New Yorkers? How lucky are we they left the cold North East for the sweaty summers of Texas? Our September volunteer of the month is yet another native "New Yawker," by the name of **Patricia Bates**-or **Pat**, as she is widely known.

Pat began volunteering at the nature center in 98', though she had been actively involved with volunteering for many years prior. She volunteered at a hospital in her hometown of Binghamton NY, and when she first came to Texas in 89' she volunteered at the Galveston Visitors Center and the Freeman Library.

When Pat first began volunteering at Armand Bayou, she participated in many different activities, from birthdays to trail hikes-however, after getting lost while leading a weekend trail hike she resigned herself to front desk duty. "I had to ask a passerby for directions," she said, "he looked at me, and then slowly at my nature center shirt and badge... I felt really terrible! That experience convinced me that I was not meant to be a trail guide!"

Ever since her mortifying trail hike experience, Pat has found her niche at the front desk. Pat deftly answers those sometimes bizarre visitors questions

like "I have this brown bird in my backyard-can you tell me what it is?, and the ever popular "Do you have any puppies?" Pat is also a greeter, usually on Sunday's where she gets to hang out with Dick, yet another New York transplant.

In her spare time (which isn't much, this lady is INVOLVED) she likes to garden, read, and practice Tai-Chi. She is a member of a local quilting group as well as Great Old Broads for the Wilderness, a national organization that promotes outdoor activities and education. She also has been teaching a beginning level computer class for the past 6 years! Is there anything she doesn't do? Not to mention the fact that she has visited 6 of the 7 continents! Her love of traveling has taken her more recently to Thailand, Russia, China, Australia, Great Britain, France, the Galapagos, Italy, Ecuador, Zimbabwe and Botswana! Wow, just typing all of those wears me out!

Pat, we are so fortunate to have you, thanks for volunteering, and thanks for deciding Texas was home!



FROM THE CHAIR

I originally intended to write more this month about recycling, but the enormity of the disaster following Katrina has made it difficult for all of us to get it off our minds for very long. The storm has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people in a way that can only be described as your worst nightmare. I know that our thoughts and prayers will be with the victims for quite a while.

An eerie, and maddening, thing has been the apocalyptic scenarios that were written years before the storm. Many of you saw the recent reprint of an article written about 2 or 3 years ago in the Houston Chronicle that described the disaster with uncanny accuracy. There have been other similar articles in a number of publica-

tions.

Over the years many ecologists, geologists, and others have written about the disappearance of the Louisiana marshland. They warned that the loss of protective barrier islands and coastal wetlands make everything along the coast far more vulnerable to major storms. Since 1930, Louisiana lost 1900 square miles of coastal wetlands. It is eroding today at the rate of a football field size area every 38 minutes.

Wetlands loss began after the Mississippi River flood in 1927. The Corps of Engineers began to "channelize" the river all the way down to the delta. Critical marsh building sediments could no longer be deposited in the marsh areas, but continued on to fall in the deeper

waters of the Gulf.

Offshore oil production provides about 30 percent of the oil and a quarter of the natural gas produced in the United States. Louisiana accounts for most of it. Although some dispute the studies, many scholars have shown that the removal of millions of barrels of oil, trillions of cubic feet of natural gas, and tens of millions of saline formation water cause underwater faults to slip and the land above them to slump. Marshes are sinking about four feet a century. Over 8000 miles of canals have been cut through marshes for oil exploration and ship traffic. These slices through the wetlands increase erosion and allow salt water infiltration into freshwater marshes.

About three years ago, Louisiana officials had proposed a remedial program estimated to cost \$14 billion over 20 years (\$700 million per year). This was later scaled back, but the Energy Bill just passed by Congress cut it further to \$540 million over the next 4 years (\$135 million per year). It might be too little, but it's too late for sure.

The message for us as ABNC Volunteers is that we need to treasure and protect our resources and environment. The price for neglect could be disastrous.

See you on the Bayou,

Bill



2005 ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER VOLUNTEER BOARD

Chair	Bill Cooke	281.480.2441	billcooke@sbcglobal.net
Vice Chair	Tom Scarsella	281-532-9412	thomas.m.scarsella1@jsc.nasa.gov
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Stewardship	Phillip Wylie	281-286-9423	plwyjie@hotmail.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
Admissions	Dewanna Norris	281.488.2276	dwn8@juno.com
Weekend Demos	Stephania Rogers	713.473.4324	stephania312@wmconnect.com
Weekend Trail	Stan Krauhs	281.470.2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
Weekday Farm	Jane Bingel	281.554.5069	
Weekday Outdoor Education	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
Outreach	Alan Wenger	281-488-0112	alanshobha@aol.com
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abnc VOLUNTEER Meeting Minutes

Chairman Bill Cooke called the meeting to order at 7 PM. Two corrections were made to the minutes of the August 11 meeting.

Treasurer Ken Russell reported that our current balance is approximately \$2240, with several small adjustments to be made. The full report will be available in the Bayou Foliage.

Old Business:

Bill said that the contributions taken last month toward a memorial for Marie Adams had been donated to the South Main Baptist Church library. Yesterday's birthday party for **Lew Hornung** was discussed, and all who attended agreed that it was a delightful event. The summer mowing program is complete. About 365 acres were mowed, and special thanks went to **Merle Bunde, Bob Paxton, and Glen Gable** for their hard work.

New Business:

Ray Parker discussed the Wildscapes Workshop and Plant Sale to be held at UH Central Campus on September 24. **Ray** distributed flyers and registration forms for those interested. **Bill** discussed the Volunteer Orientation program to be conducted on September 17. A Nominating Committee is being organized to develop a slate of

Volunteer Officers for 2006. **Bill** noted that a number of vacancies will need to be filled, and urged Volunteers to agree to accept a nomination, or at least serve on the Nominating Committee. **Polly Swerdlin** discussed the current status of Fall Festival plans.

Vice Chairman Tom Scarsella noted a number of interesting events to be held in the Houston area in the next couple of months. Those interested may contact Tom directly for more information. Tom said that **Hana Ginsbarg** will be our speaker in October.

ABNC Staff Report (Heather Mil- lar):

Heather announced that **Pat Bates** has been named **Volunteer of the Month**. **Heather** gave a summary of **Pat's** impressive background and extensive travels.

Heather said that the Nature Center calendar was very full. Plans are being made for an Elderhostel training session. The CP Chem Connections program will bring many children to the Nature Center. ABNC has been recertified by the State Board of Education and can now give CE credits. This will allow new training programs to be offered.

Area Coordinator Reports:

All Area Coordinators reported routine activity. **Stan Kraus** mentioned that the Board of Trustees is searching for a new Executive Director. **Candy Donohue** will continue to be on the Staff. The Staff is being reorganized to put more emphasis on fund raising.

Bill adjourned the business portion of the meeting at 7:45 PM. After a short break, **Tom Scarsella** presented a video on Environmental History.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Cooke

Treasurers Report-Ken Russell

Beginning Balance		\$2245.37
Expenditures		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Total Expenditures	2.00	
Income		
	0	
Total Income	0	
Current Balance		\$2243.37

the Foliage

I am so glad I have been given the opportunity to edit this newsletter, it allows me to be creative and use the design skills I learned in college. However, I would LOVE to get articles from all of you! This is YOUR publication, and I want the *Foliage* to adequately reflect the volunteers and what you care about.

Also, if there is something you would like to see included each month please let me know, I would be happy to oblige. -*Jessalyn*

desperate woman needs help!

Do I have your attention? After a break for the summer on birthday party registrations, they are back with a vengeance, and I am calling on all of you who have, or do, or will provide birthday demos to contact me. The different themes are Reptiles, Pond, Farm, Insect and Trails and we need help in all of them, but particularly Reptiles and Pond, as these are *by far* the most requested. I would like to compile a thorough list of all people who can do birthdays, so I won't have to call on the same 2 or 3 people every time! I would like to have at **LEAST 5** people on each topic, so **PLEASE**, have mercy on my soul and call me, email me, tell me through telepathy, and say you can do b-day parties! Have I been pathetic enough?

-*Jessalyn*

Knitter, Crocheter Help!

Next month is Fall Festival and we will need lots of yarn for the kids to make yarn dolls! SO-if you have any yarn left over from previous projects, we would love to take it off your hands.

Also, don't forget if you haven't signed up to help with Fall Festival please do. The Festival is November 12 & 13 and there are still plenty of open slots.

The sign up sheets are in the volunteer office and will be available at the regular Thursday Volunteer meeting both is October and November. Thanks for all your help,

Candy, Polly and Jane



Open Slots

Admissions-all open
Canoe Safety-all open
Farm Garden-all open
Farm Veg.-from 2:30-5:00
Hay Baling-from 9:30-2:30
Hosting-from noon-2:30
Information Booth-12-5pm
Parking Lot-all open
Quilts-9:30-12, 2:30-5:00
Roustabout-all open
Soap Making-all open
Sugar Cane Press-12-2:30
Syrup Making-12-2:30
Telephone-all open
Volunteer Booth-2:30-5:00
Wagon Ride-9:30-noon
Washday-2:30-5:00
Woodworking-noon-5:00

Staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Candy Donahue	ext:11	candy@abnc.org
Director of Education	Heather Millar	ext:14	heather@abnc.org
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer	ext:15	mark@abnc.org
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 Homung	ext:16	
Facilities/Custodian	Jim Witherspoon	ext:16	jim@abnc.org
Animal Caretaker/Lab	Jess Shively	ext:17	jess@abnc.org

Lew's Big ?? 80th ?? Birthday Bash!!!

Well, we weren't sure if he was turning 80, or when his actual birthday was... but we celebrated on the 7th of September, and we did it up BIG! A copious thank you to everyone you came out and brought all of the delicious goodies. A few were worried in the beginning that there wouldn't be enough food, ha! As always, there were PLENTY of leftovers, and many took home loaded doggie bags. The guest of honor was "surprised" we think, though he didn't eat a bite, trying to maintain his girlish figure no doubt. My personal favorite was the spinach "casserole type thing," two thumbs up for whoever made that! It was heartening to see so many of you turn out to celebrate Lew's Big Day, thanks for your food, your friendship, and your food - I mean, and your support. for this great man on a great day!



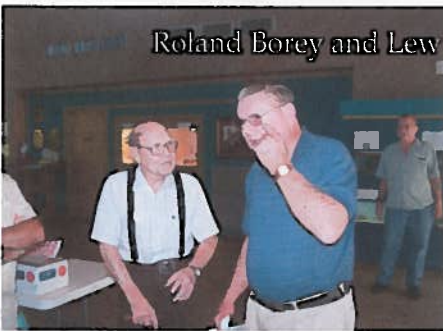
Marjorie Borey and Mary Ann Tucker



The MAN himself



The Boyz



Roland Borey and Lew



The SPREAD



Ann and Joe chowin' down



ABNC staff enjoying the food



The Girlz



That George is a funny guy!

Happy

Birthday!

What's HAPPENING at abnc

Creepy Crawlers!

Take a break from your regular weekend routine and join us for Creepy Crawlers- a fun, family alternative to Halloween Trick or Treating while enjoying the outdoors in a safe, nature-friendly environment. The event will take place at Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Boulevard, Pasadena, Texas, on October 21 and 22, 2005 from 6:00-8:30 pm. Included in the admission price of \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members will be animal demonstrations, face painting and crafts, night hikes and tours, goodie bags, kettle corn snacks, information booths and the barn show. Food vendors will provide sandwiches at an additional charge. Ample free parking is available. Stroll through the 2,500 acres of bayou, forest, and prairie and reconnect to Nature. Call 281-474-2551 for reservations to Creepy Crawlers. Volunteers are still needed to mount displays, paint faces, clean up and pick up, for barn show acts, animal handlers, tours and general information and entertainment. Please Call Heather or Shauna 281-474-2551x14 to sign up for these activities.








!!!Ka*Boom!!!

The ABNC Stewardship crew have been experimenting with a new method of bulrush planting. Mark Kramer came up with the concept of the "Bulrush Bomb" as a possible solution to the problem of establishing marshes in the deeper waters closer to the main channel in the Armand Bayou. The bulrush bombs are constructed in two stages by first wrapping the root balls of California Bulrush in (recycled) cotton fabric. The cloth-covered root masses are set on three-foot sections of chicken wire amidst several pieces of broken concrete ballast. The chicken wire is then folded up around the bulrush roots and secured with wire. The idea behind the bulrush bomb is that concrete and wire will anchor the plants in the mud until they are able to take firm hold. This should allow us to place the bulrush in areas where it has previously been unable to establish a foothold due to the greater action further from shore. Once established, we hope the bulrush planted in this fashion will form the cores of new plant colonies far from existing ones. In time, the wire and cloth will decompose and the inert concrete will be well buried in the expanding brackish marshes we hope to create. *-Tom Scarsella*



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
10/1	Pat Doerr	Bonita Pernell				Mary Barton Bird Demo
10/2		Marie Asscherick	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Stephania Rogers Rope Making	
10/8	Lysa Maki	Kelli Glenn	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Jane Bingel Cheese Making	Ruby Dilgren Skull Demo
10/9		Merle Bunde	Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hillary Gibbs Pond Life
10/15	Melanie Weisman	Ray Parker	Jane Bingel	Joyce Sens	Stephania Rogers Butter Making	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
10/16		Marie Asscherick	Judy Shaefer	Paula Thorson	Ed Adams Stove Demo	
10/22	Stan Krauhs	Stan Krauhs	Mary Garrett	Creepy Crawlers!	Creepy Crawlers!	Creepy Crawlers!
10/23		Joe Bryan	Pat Bates	Paula Thorson	Chris Bingham Stereoscope	Polly Swerdlin Tracks
10/29	Pat Doerr	Anne Tincher		Jane Bingel	Ray Parker Rope Making	
10/30			Merle Bunde	Eleanor Stanley		

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

Bayou Foliage

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