



# Bayou Foliage

December 2006

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Vol. 25 No. 12

## LOOK AHEAD

### December 2006

2 Burn Training Class, 10am-2pm in the Auditorium



14 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30pm

14 Volunteer Christmas Party, 6:30pm, BRING FOOD!

16 Deadline for Bayou Foliage

25 Happy Holidays!

### January 2006

1 Happy New Year!

11 Volunteer Appreciation, 7pm

13 Deadline for Bayou Foliage

20 Annual Membership Meeting, 9am in the Auditorium

### February 2006

8 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30pm CR3

8 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

She helps me with trail hikes and owl prowls -- and we are also working on the dragonfly/damselfly/butterfly brochure (she's the photographer) -- She also took photos for me at the last owl prowl for the Bayou Foliage.--Martha

I met Gaye when she came out to do trail interpretation and she stopped in my office to see what I needed help with after I posted a "Help needed" list. Gaye quietly took on the job of cleaning and sorting and labeling the bone tables at the interpretive building. She has cross trained for the front desk, has taken lots of the volunteer training classes and has most recently finished the 12 hours of training for CP Chem Connections. She now helps to teach those classes weekly. Gaye pitched in to help prepare crafts for Creepy Crawlers and has been seen wearing an 1890's style apron at the Farm House while showing children on fieldtrips how to do the laundry and make lemonade and butter. Gaye is quiet, funny, and most of all flexible. Thank-you Gaye for your continued support and cheerful spirit.--Heather

She has taken to exit interviews for FF quite well. Made the question sheet look professional, used input from everyone, and will be tabulating for our benefit later. I like it when new volunteers don't wait to be asked.--Polly

Gaye was born in Redcar, NE England, and lived there all her life until 5 years ago, when she moved to West Virginia with her hus-

band. Two years ago, he got transferred with Shell to Texas, and she considers herself a Texan at heart-- she says you can tell by her accent!

Her husband brought her to the nature center when they visited here, and then she returned to walk through. She "turned up", she says, at last November's volunteer meeting (one year ago this month!), interested in getting involved and I gave her the volunteer enrollment form. I wish all recruitment of wonderful volunteers was so easy!

The forest and trails are her favorite part of ABNC, and although primarily a birder, she loves all of nature, and wants to become an expert on ABNC. She's off to a good start.

Her degree is in Human Resource Management, and she figures that will help as she gets more involved with the volunteers.

Outside of ABNC, she travels with her husband on both business and pleasure trips and returns home to England for a few weeks each year. She loves photography, and has taken pictures on the latest Owl Prowl for the Bayou Foliage, and is working with Martha on a brochure on damselflies/dragonflies/butterflies. Watch for her article on our Owl Prowls in an upcoming Bayou Foliage.

Welcome to Texas and ABNC, Gaye!

-Candy

When you are finished with this publication please recycle it, much thanks!





As I write this memo, our 25<sup>th</sup> Martyn Farm Fall Festival has just ended as one of our most successful events ever. The weather was so nice to cooperate with sunshine and a nippy breeze to feel like fall. The volunteers and staff who helped went above and beyond the call of duty. The exhibitors enjoyed the weekend almost as much as our visitors. The unofficial numbers were very satisfactory, with cookies, hoe cakes, and pie contest needing replenishment for Sunday in order to make a good showing! **BIG THANKS** to everyone who had even a small part in being on our team.

Could not have done it without you!

And now the Holidays are upon us. Here's to safe and joyous festivities, whatever you have planned.

We will have a tree for the Hanson Farm House to decorate **December 3** during the regular 1-4pm hours. There will be decorations our visitors can create and place on the tree or in the parlor. I also plan to warm up some spiced cider to share along with some sweets. Come on out to enjoy this special time with us.

**December 9** is the day Ed Adams is planning to decorate the auditorium from noon until 5. He needs help with the high-up placement especially, plus all around the room. The more folks who help out, the more fun it will be. Deck the halls with boughs of Spanish moss!

The **December 14** meeting, as has been traditional, will be a pot luck dinner with the Board supplying the meat, plates, cups, etc. There will be coffee, iced tea and eggnog and wine available. We ask y'all to bring a dish to share plus non-perishable foods for a local pantry, and unwrapped toys for the Salvation

Army. Our short version of the regular meeting will be to vote on the 2007 Board and Budget.

This year has been very satisfying in that we have accomplished a number of items. 1) We have a new volunteer web site. 2) Summer meetings were "tabled" in a grand experiment. 3) Our newsletter is mostly published via email. 4) Phone tree established for non-email volunteers for important news. 5) Continuing Ed has increased. 6) An ice machine was bought as last year's gift to ABNC. 7) A letter writing campaign got the concrete crushing plant off the list of future neighbors. 8) Facilities crew accomplished several projects. 9) Volunteer Manual is updated and now on CD. 10) Our events have all been very successful this year.

Just think what we might do next year!

Polly Swerdlin

Chair 2006

## 2006 Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board

Chair	Polly Swerdlin	281-814-4606	pfollyred@yahoo.com
Vice Chair	Bob Paxton	281-990-7968	thepaxtons@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
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Admissions	Dottie Evans	281-532-1273	docentmom@aol.com
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Weekend Trail	Martha Hood	281-286-6746	mhood85@yahoo.com
Weekday Farm	Vacant		
Weekday Outdoor Ed	Vacant		
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ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2006

Outreach-Nancy Benko  
 Facilities-Bill Sweeny  
 Stewardship-Ian Kress

Program - George spoke on reptiles and brought a rat snake for show and tell. Live snakes do add an element of interest to a meeting.

New Business

A motion was made that the volunteers give \$1000 to the center in 2007 for the windmill project. The motion passed.

Old Business

Secretary report - The October minutes were approved.

Treasurer report - The October treasury report was approved. We have \$1653 in the treasury plus \$200 in the windmill fund.

Events - Fall Festival is this weekend. Cane cutters are needed on Friday morning.

Nominating Committee - The following slate has been nominated for the 2007 board.

Chair-Polly Swerdlin

Vice-Chair-Bob Paxton

Secretary-Laura Bradley

Treasurer-Eleanor Stanley

Admissions-Dottie Evans

Weekend Demos-Jane Bingel

Weekend Trails-Martha Hood

Greeter/Interpreters-Jarita

Sepulvado

Weekday Outdoor Ed-Gaye Batiz

Vice Chair Report

Bob needs ideas for speakers and continuing education topics.

Area reports

Admissions/greeters - no report.

Greeters/Interpreters - no report

Weekend Demos - no report

Weekend Trails - no report

Weekday outdoor - no report

Facilities - the farm house windows are being replaced, including screens. The new siding on the hay barn has been completed. Lyondell has donated \$25,000 for a learning platform by the parking gate pond.

Stewardship - no report

Outreach - We have completed three outreaches

Web Site - Project is coming along slowly. Foliage is now available on-line.

Foliage - no report

Staff meeting - The center has instituted a Purchase Order System. Before any money is spent a purchase order must be signed by Ned, or in his absence, Candy. Money at the center is tight now. Volunteer Spotlight for November is on Gaye Batiz. If you hear her talk you know she is not a Texan. But she is now a Texan at heart.

Christmas - Ed needs volunteers on December 9 to decorate the meeting room and on December 14 to decorate for our party. Southeast Area Ministries will receive non-perishable food brought to the Christmas party. The Salvation Army will take the unwrapped children presents.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		\$1661.63
Expenditures		
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00	
Gifts for Speaker	\$20.90	
Total Expenditures	\$22.90	
Income		
Recycling (September)	\$10.52	
Windmill Fund	\$100	
Total Income	\$110.52	
Current Balance		\$1753.15

## Who Cooks For You? by Gay Batiz

There's something about experiencing the sunset over the forest and seeing a big cheese moon rise over the prairie - sort of magical in a way. Of course, it's not every day you get a chance to live this experience but joining Martha and her volunteers on the monthly Owl Prowl is a perfect opportunity.

I managed to get out to the November Owl Prowl and was delighted to help out although my Owl knowledge is limited but growing fast. Owls are fascinating birds with many special adaptations, so learning about their individuality combined with the anticipation of maybe seeing one or two is a unique experience.

On the Prowl, we

were fortunate enough to experience not one but two Barred Owls interacting with one another whilst calling that wonderful "who cooks for you" mingled with squawks and screeches. Fortunately these birds had the moon behind them so that we could see everything in silhouette - what a thrill!

Our walk along the ladybird trail was un-

eventful but pleasant but then to come out onto a moonlit prairie - WOW. There is something so peaceful about that scene - and it is something I will picture when seeking a mental escape from busy days! A wonderful evening hopefully to be repeated!

Martha Hood with the Owl Prowl participants

