



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

January 2006

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 25 No. 1

look AHEAD

January 2006

- 1 *Happy New Year!* 
- 12 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30-6:30pm
- 12 Volunteer Appreciation, 6:30-9:30pm
- 12 Wet in the City Training, 9-4pm
- 15 Vol. & Staff Brainstorming Session, 1-3pm
- 9 Master Naturalist Board Meeting, 9am-3pm

February 2006

- 10 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5-6pm
- 10 Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 17 Helen Hall Library Outreach, 10-10:45am
- 14 Kiss your Sweetie!
- 23 Master Naturalists, 8am-3pm

March 2006

- 2 Master Naturalists, 8am-4pm
- 9 Master Naturalists, 8am-4pm
- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5-6pm
- Volunteer Meeting, 6-9pm
- 25 Trash Bash, 8-1pm

Volunteer of the MONTH

Our volunteer of the month for December is an Armand Bayou Nature Center board member, **Clif Grim III**. What would we do without Clif when we need *serious* computer and internet help?

Clif was encouraged to get on our board three years ago by fellow board member, Cliff Meinhardt, whom he knew through church and the photography club. So, we have two Clifs who take *wonderful* pictures at the nature center!

Clif is one of those people who work tirelessly in the background, getting a lot accomplished behind the scenes. He was the mastermind behind the database management for Bayou Boil tickets, sales, donated items, etc. He has designed the database that we use to track our foundation grant requests and receipts. He is continuing to work with us to get all of our visitor, member and volunteer information into a central file that can be accurately accessed by all staff members.

Through Clif, IBM has donated computers to the na-

ture center to facilitate our entry into the electronic realm. We even have wireless capability in the auditorium thanks to Clif!

Want to know an interesting fact about him? In spite of the computer geek job, Clif and his wife both like long distance motorcycle trips. She hasn't been able to join him on some long ones, such as to Alaska and Nova Scotia, but hopes to do so again when she retires. On his most recent one, he had a web site on which you could follow his progress and see pictures of him and his friends as they made their way along their route. I still just can't quite picture Clif in black leather!

Thank you, Clif, for all your help. We certainly couldn't get along without you!

-Candy



FROM YOUR NEW CHAIR

Happy New Year! I hope you haven't made any difficult resolutions. I plan to promise only things I know I can take care of. The first is to work for you as we build on the success Bill Cooke and crew have willed to the 2006 Board.

Our mission (your new board) will be to do everything we can for encouragement of all volunteers in your efforts for our favorite place on the bayou.

As I wrote to the other Board members, I started thinking of some ideas to try, and then de-

cidated others might have some too. So with that in mind, I have reserved the auditorium for a brainstorm session for everyone (volunteers, staff, trustees, whoever) this January 15, Sunday afternoon, 1:00pm-3:00pm. The first hour will be anything goes, nothing denied. Then the second hour will be "what will work?" If you can't make it but wish to be a part of it, feel free to send email or postcard, or slid a memo into my ABNC slot.

pfollyred@yahoo.com

Polly Swerdlin, 815 Brad-

well Dr, Houston TX 77062-3301

Please try to attend the Trustees Membership Annual Meeting this January 21 at 10:00am in the auditorium. It is important to have as many members as possible for the election of the new board for one. For another, is to hear the plans for the future.

One of the first items I wish to encourage is attendance at the regular monthly meetings. Not only do we have continuing education for the first hour, but the business portion is im-

portant that the membership be there. There might be some serious items come up that get voted on. A democracy cannot work for you if you don't participate, as the Sunnis are learning in Iraq.

May the road to adventure be smooth and scenic, with the wind at your back. May you face the challenges of life and conquer with ease. May you collect many friends and find they are all true.

Polly

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
Secretary	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	Brad9@flash.net
Stewardship	Phillip Wylie	281-286-9423	plwylie@hotmail.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
Admissions	Dottie Evans	281-532-1273	docentmom@aol.com
Weekend Demos	Paula Thorson	281-474-3153	paulathor@aol.com
Weekend Trail	Martha Hood	281-286-6746	mhood85@hotmail.com
Weekday Farm			
Weekday Outdoor Education			
Outreach	Alan Wenger	281-488-0112	alanshobha@aol.com
Facilities	JT Chapman	281-488-3452	jtchapman111@msn.com
<u>Volunteer Page</u>			
Webmaster	Amy Corron Power		
<u>Bayou Foliage</u>			
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abnc VOLUNTEER Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2005

The meeting was the annual Pot Luck Christmas dinner. Approximately 58 Volunteers and Staff attended. Volunteers brought Christmas toys and food items for the Salvation Army and Pasadena Food Bank, respectively. The Auditorium decorations were done by a team led by **Ed Adams**.

Following the dinner, Chairman **Bill Cooke** opened the business portion of the meeting.

New Business:

Stan Krauhs was recognized as the incoming President of the Board of Trustees. All volunteers are invited to the Board of Trustees Christmas party on December 15. **Bill** asked everyone to be aware of the annual Membership meeting which will be held on January 21.

Bill announced the results of the poll made by the Meetings Committee, headed up by **Joan Henderson**. Of those voting, 50% expressed a preference for eliminating meetings in the summer (having 9 meetings per year); 33% preferred to meet every other month; and about 17% would prefer to keep the meeting schedule unchanged. The

incoming Board will address this issue in future meetings.

The proposed 2006 Volunteer Budget, as presented in past meetings and as posted in the Bayou Foliage was approved by the membership. **Bill** pointed out that a key item of the Budget is the allowance of \$1000 for a Volunteer gift to the Nature Center.

Bill expressed his appreciation for being allowed to chair the group for the last two years. He noted the improvement in the Staff-Volunteer relationship, and pointed out the need for further work on Volunteer recruiting.

Volunteer Board Elections:

A written ballot was used for the election of 2006 Volunteer Board Officers, since there was more than one candidate for one of the offices. The results were:

Chair: Polly Swerdlin

Vice-Chair: Bob Paxton

Recording Secretary: Laura Bradley

Treasurer: Ken Russell

Admissions: Dottie Evans

Weekend Demonstrations: Paula Thorson

Greeters/Interpreters: Eleanor Stanley

Weekend Trail: Martha Hood

Weekday Farm: Vacant

Weekday Outdoor Ed.: Vacant

Outreach: Alan Wenger

Facilities: J.T. Chapman

Stewardship: Phillip Wylie

The new Board was enthusiastically applauded by the group.

Staff Report: (Candy Donahue)

Executive Director **Candy Donohue** highlighted 2005 accomplishments. The Nature Center will end the year with almost \$60,000 in net income. She named **Cliff Grim** as Volunteer of the Month.

There was no further business, and the meeting was dismissed at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Cooke

Meet the New Director: Ned Van Maanen, Ph.D., CFRE

Dr. Van Maanen is a graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, The University of Colorado at Boulder, and Walden University. He has 34 years of experience in working with not for profit organizations.

Fund Raising, board and organizational development are areas of particular expertise.

Dr. Van Maanen is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and in 1997 was named the "Houston's Outstanding Fund Raising Executive" by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), Greater Houston Chapter.

He regularly teaches classes in fund raising for Rice University School of Continuing Studies and he serves as a

board member or consultant to a number of community organizations in Houston. Dr. Van Maanen writes, "Remember the Basics" for the monthly newsletter of the Greater Houston Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Dr. Van Maanen moved to Houston from Colorado in 1969. Since that time he has served as Executive Director for the Houston School for Deaf Children for 17 years and Executive Director of Crime Stoppers of Houston for 12 years. He has also served as Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, Houston and southeast Texas Chapter and the Houston READ Commission.

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Ned Van Maanen, Ph.D.,
CFRE

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nvan-

maanen@houston.rr.com

Treasurers Report-Ken Russell

Beginning Balance		\$2177.44
Expenditures		
Bank Service Charge	2.00	
Total Expenditures	2.00	
Income		
Fall Festival (cookies, crafts, plants)	527.75	
Total Income	527.75	
Current Balance		\$2703.19

Staff DIRECTORY

Executive Director	Ned Van Maanen	ext:11
Assistant Director	Candy Donahue	ext: 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	Jessalyn Ballard	ext:10 jessalyn@abnc.org
Visitors Services	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 jessica@abnc.org

Message From Martha

Greetings Volunteers!

As the new trail volunteer coordinator, I wanted to invite those who recently went through training, or have never led a trail to come out and try it. You can buddy or "shadow" a seasoned veteran, and see how a trail is led. Just give me a call or any individual you would like to shadow so they know when to expect you. Of course, each person has their unique style

and expert knowledge, so you might want to see several individual presentations.

Also, if you have not led trails in the recent past due to job obligations, health reasons, school or other reasons and would like to again, please let me know. We would love to have you and I will add you to the monthly call/e-mail list.

year, and "reconnecting people to nature".

Martha Hood
2006 Weekend Trails Coordinator



Here's to a wonderful

Special Thank You's

As we all begin a new year together, it is always good to look back and reflect on last years achievements and accolades.

Of course many of these successes would not have been possible without the hard work and steely die-hard dedication from our volunteers in Education.

Thanks and appreciation go out to:

Phillip Essenpreis, Bob Beyer, Stan Krauhs, Eleanor Stanley, Stephania Rogers, Jane Bingel, Alan Wenger, Tom Scarsella, Ray Parker, De-wanna Norris, Ed Adams, any many others for their commitment to environmental education.

-Heather

In Memorium



We are deeply saddened by the loss of Sandra "Sandy" Watters this past November, please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, Mary Skyles, wife of Rev. Ben Skyles, a founding member of the nature center passed away in November, please remember her family during this difficult time as well.



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 2006!



Who is invited? All of the *muy* fantastico people who volunteer at ABNC! (plus one additional special someone...)

What? A *mucho mucho* grande celebration honoring YOU!

When? January 12th, 2006 from 6:30-9:30pm

Where? The Auditorium (aka the Interpretive Building, or the Education Building or the....)

Why? Because YOU are *mas* especial to us!

Menu

Chips

Queso

Salsa

Refried Beans

Rice

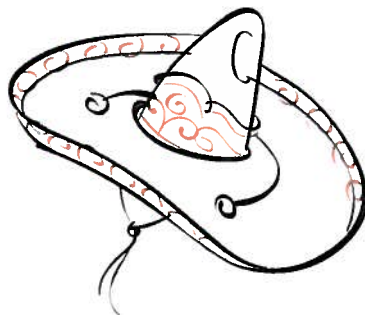
Tortillas

Beef and Chicken Fajitas

Cheese Enchiladas

*We will also be providing *muy delicioso* Margaritas for your enjoyment, however feel free to BYOB...

Please RSVP to Jessalyn at 281-



474-2551 by January 10th, 2006.

ABNC Calendar of Events 2006

January 2-6	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Winter Camp
January 15	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Brainstorm Session
January 21	10:00 am – 11:00 am	Trustees Annual Meeting
February 18	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Volunteer Orientation
March 25		Trash Bash
April 22	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Earth Day
May 13	6:00 pm – 10:00pm	Bayou Boil
May (TBD)		Marsh Mania
June	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Eco Camp Month
July	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Eco Camp Month
August	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Eco Camp Month
September 9	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Volunteer Orientation
October 27&28	6:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Creepy Crawlers
November 11&12	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Fall Festival
December 3	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Yuletide
December (TBD)	8:30 am – 3:30 pm	Winter Camp

New Firebugs at ABNC!

18 people successfully completed burn training on December the third. These individuals can now participate in the winter burn season-which was oh so fruitful last year. Hope to see these new firebugs out a flappin' soon! If you happen to see Sean Keefe, Verlin Jacosen, Karen Sutera, Robert Patterson, Barbara Nowakowski, John Nowakowski, Charlie Tarrant, John Thuyer, Leslye Mize, Mike Mize, Amy Corron-Power, Joe Johnson, Phillip Tussing, Alexandra Tussing, Sara Redmond Neal, Heather Millar, Allie Abney or Glenda Hemperly, tell them how thankful you are for their commitment to the preservation of these very special acres!



What's Happening at abnc

WET in the City

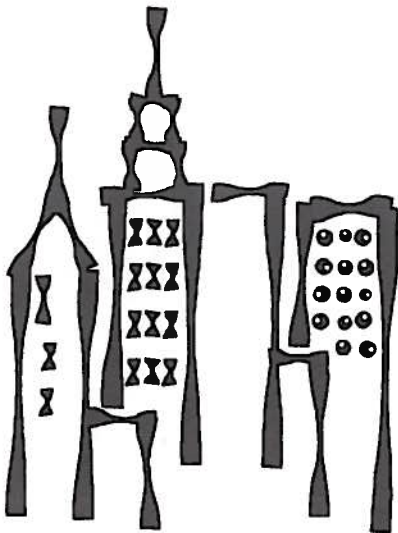
(Water Educator Training)

When? Jan. 12th, 2006

Where? Houston Arboretum

Cost? \$0! Free! Whoo-hoo!

Who? Contact Heather Millar at 281-474-2551 ext:14 if you would like more information.

**JOKE OF THE MONTH**

And saving the best for last, as explained by Cliff Clavin, of Cheers. One afternoon at Cheers, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm. Here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers." -courtesy of Mark Kramer (of course)





The Volunteer Webpage!

The fantastic Bob Beyer has set up a new domain for the volunteer webpage. Bob is leaving us very soon for the green rolling hills of Austin, but he left us a parting gift, our very own home on the web! If you haven't been to check it out the address is:
www.abncvolunteers.org.



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 Martha Hood 281-286-6746	2:00 Trails Martha Hood 281-286-6746	Greeters Eleanor Stanley 713-472-5688	Farm Interpretation Eleanor Stanley 713-472-5688	Farm Demonstrations Paula Thorson 281-474-3253	Natural History Paula Thorson 281-474-3253
1/7	Pat Doerr	Ray Parker	Mary Garrett	Jane Bingel		
1/8		Amy Corron Power	Pat Bates	Polly Swerdlin		
1/14	Melanie Weisman	Ann Tincher	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow		
1/15		Marie Asscherick	Judy Schaefer	Stephanie Rogers		
1/21	Martha Hood	Glenda Hemperly		Paula Thorson		
1/22		Merle Bunde	Pat Bates	Eleanor Stanley		
1/28	Jim Crabb	Susan Hesley	Jane Bingel	Joyce Sens		
1/29		Marie Asscherick	Joe Bryan	Eleanor Stanley		

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