



Bayou Foliage

November 2006

Printing Compliments of Celanese

Vol. 25 No. 11

LOOK AHEAD

November 2006

- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30pm
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
- 11 Deadline for Bayou Foliage
- 11-12 **Fall Festival!**

23 Happy Thanksgiving!

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

- 11 Volunteer Appreciation, 7pm
- 13 Deadline for Bayou Foliage



Volunteer SPOTLIGHT

This month the ENTIRE volunteer organization of Armand Bayou Nature Center is being recognized for their extraordinary efforts in preserving and educating the public about the nature center.

From my first few weeks at the center I had a keen understanding of just how dedicated all of you are. It is the VOLUNTEERS who have remained, while staff and board members have come and gone. The VOLUNTEERS who know everything about the workings and goings on of the center. The VOLUNTEERS who show up come rain, heat or hordes of gigantic mosquitoes. The VOLUNTEERS who give up Saturdays to come educate only 15 visitors on the farm or the snakes of the area. The VOLUNTEERS who orchestrate and take part in our big events like Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival. The VOLUNTEERS who-after 4

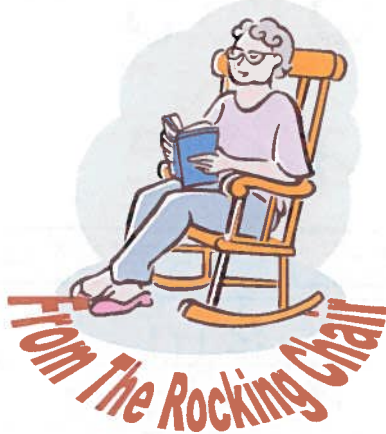
hours of teaching 6 year olds how to make butter-still have smiles on their faces. The VOLUNTEERS who tirelessly mend fences and walls and whole buildings, all for their love of the nature center. The VOLUNTEERS who dig and plant and slush around in the muck to make the center the beautiful, thriving place that it is.

Every staff member at the nature center is deeply indebted to the volunteers. Every staff member is eternally grateful - though some-like me, will proudly shout it from the rooftops that I could NOT do what I do without you. You brighten my day like fresh cut flowers from the farmhouse, and amuse me with stories about "the old days." I bow to your knowledge and dedication-you never cease to amaze me.

-Jessalyn



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



Wow, November already!

My, how the time has flown! Or at least that's how it seems now that we are so close to the holidays and not faced with the long hot summer.

As I write this memo, we are gearing up for our 25th Fall Festival. It has been lots of work to prepare, for two days of our best efforts for our

visitors. I am confident that this one will be the best ever. So many folks have volunteered to help out in chores that I had resigned to do myself, so my burden is getting lighter the closer we get. Even if you don't sign up to be a part of the "cast", please come out to enjoy the party.

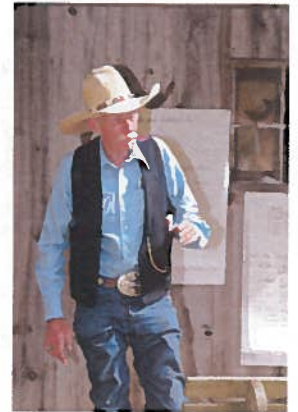
Our last two meetings of this year will be very important. Bob Paxton has lined up George Regmund for our November speaker, and then during our regular session, the Nominating Committee will present the slate of potential officers for 2007. We also plan to discuss our budget for 2007, but I promise not to bore you.

The December meeting, as has been traditional, will be a pot luck dinner with the Board supplying the meats. We will ask y'all to bring non-perishable foods for a local pantry, and unwrapped toys for the Sal-

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

So as you can see, some important decisions will be made and we need as many folks as possible to make it fair to all.

Polly Swerdlin



Martin Bergin, cowboy poet from Overland, MO who is planning to be at Festival this year.

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	Philip 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	paulalthor@aol.com
Weekend Trail	Martha Hood	281-286-6746	mhood85@yahoo.com
Weekday Farm	Vacant		
Weekday Outdoor Ed	Vacant		
Outreach	Alan Wenger	281-488-0112	alanshobha@aol.com
Facilities	J.T. Chapman	281-488-3452	jtchapmaniii@msn.com
Webmaster	Amy Corron Power	281-486-7466	acorron@houston.rr.com
Bayou Foliage Editor	Jessalyn Ballard	281-782-9410	jessalyn@abnc.org
Bayou Foliage Distribution	Odie Asscherick	832-721-8094	BayouFoliagePman@aol.com

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Protocol.

October 12, 2006

Program - Margaret Pickell gave an interesting talk on Pelican rescue efforts in Louisiana last year.

Candy's father is in hospice and not expected to live much longer. (He passed away shortly after this meeting)

Old Business

Secretary report - The September minutes were approved.

We had \$1662 at the end of September. The September report was approved.

Events - Creepy Crawlers sign up was available at the meeting. Fall Festival will have a planning meeting on Nov 2 and a chair meeting (via email) on Nov 5. 4-ply yarn is needed. Shirts and pants for making scarecrows are needed.

New BusinessIce Chair Report

10/14 - training on Outreach

November's speaker is George Regmund. He will be speaking on reptiles

Area reports

Admissions/greeters - nothing to report.

Greeters/Interpreters need bodies

Weekend Demos - Owl Prowl is Nov 7

Weekend Trails - no report

Weekday outdoor - no report

Facilities - no report

Stewardship - no report

Outreach - We just completed Exxon/Mobil. We have the Heritage Society in Friendswood coming up.

Foliage - no report

Web Site - The web site is up and running!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! The volunteer site and the Nature Center site will be linked to each other. Pictures are needed for the gallery. We will put the volunteer manual on the site.

Nominating Committee - The members of the nominating committee are: Judy Sharp, Judy Schaefer, Anne Tincher, Dewanna Norris, and Gaye Batiz. The new committee was approved.

The proposed budget for 2007 was presented. One project for expenditure of funds is the windmill. JT Chapman is working on getting the windmill back into working condition.

Staff meeting - firebreaks have all been completed.

The staff is leading a brainstorming session to see how we will decide what outreaches we will do in the future.

Labels for the plants in the farm garden have been ordered.

Warbler CDs are available in the library.

Volunteer of the month - the entire volunteer organization.

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		\$1653.11
Expenditures		
Bank Service Charge	\$2.00	
Total Expenditures	\$2.00	
Income		
Recycling (August)	\$10.52	
Total Income	\$10.52	
Current Balance		\$1661.63

What's Happening at ABNC!

This is a story about four people: Everyone, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

Pond Life



This session is for individuals

who would like to explore the various ponds at Armand Bayou Nature Center leading to Basic Pond Life Certification for teachers and volunteer interpreters. It is expected that this introduction will allow the participants to be comfortable leading groups at the pond sites in a specific, organized manner. Partici-

pants will compare macroscopic and microscopic specimens, do basic aquatic plant and animal identification, collection, recording of species and environmental conditions, and participate in classroom activities.

November 18th, 2006
10-12

2 SBEC hours or Continuing Education training

Burn Baby, Burn

Last years burn crew!



home! Not to mention the stimulating information that will be provided unto you via George and Mark, (there is even a video!) with the aid of their always informative yet entertaining "multimedia extravaganza!"

and compete for fashionista burn trainee 2006! Contact Mark at 281-474-2551 ext 15 or mark@abnc.org to register or for more info!

It's that time of year again, time to pull on those rubber boots and tie on your bandana-that's right, it's Burn Training time! The class will be held on December 2 in the Auditorium from 10am-2pm.

On completion of the class you will receive a snazzy certificate that you can frame and hang on your wall at

After taking the class, you will be able to participate in prescribed burns for the 2007 burn season, all of this for FREE! Can you believe it!

Please bring a sack lunch and wear your best high fashion burn gear which includes: a hat, gloves, bandana, loose fitting clothing and glasses or sunglasses. Come prepared to model your get-up



Burn Boss Mark Kramer modeling his burn attire

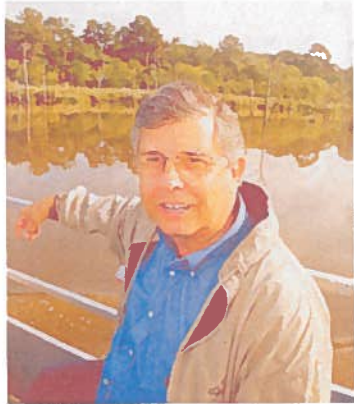
What's Happening at ABNC!

Farwell...

Former ABNC Executive Director Sam Harwell passed away on Sunday, October 22 from a heart attack.

Sam was the director of the nature from 2002-2004. He will be remembered as a good-hearted man

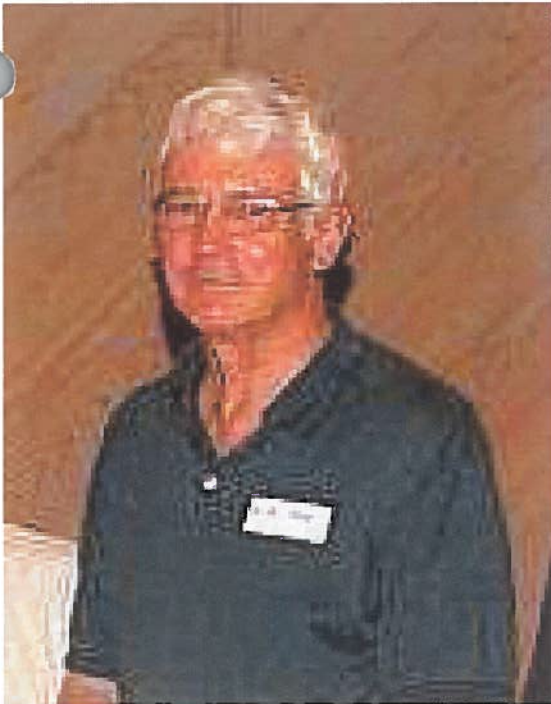
who truly cared about people. Farewell, friend.



Staff Roster

Executive Director	Ned Van Maanen	Ext 11
Associate Director	Candy Donahue	Ext 18
Education Director	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Programs Coordinator	Shauna Trevino	Ext 13
Stewardship Coordinator	Mark Kramer	Ext 15
Stewardship Biologist	George Regmund	Ext 31
Stewardship Technician	Christine Mattox	Ext 32
Visitors Services	Jessalyn Ballard	Ext 10
Visitors Services	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Accountant	Susan Brown	Ext 21
Facilities	Lew Hornung	Ext 16
Lab Manager (animals)	Megan McInnis	Ext 17

ABNC Founder/Protector Honored



AUSTIN - [Bob Kinney, Director of Communication, Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest]

The Rev. Ben Skyles, long-time Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Pasadena, was honored by the alumni/ae association during its September 26 reunion at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin. Skyles received the Hal Brook Perry Distinguished Award for outstanding and faithful ministry.

"Compassionate servant leader and pioneer of Hispanic ministry, you have enhanced the life of the Church and been a forthright advocate for all people, as well as for God's environment that we share," read the citation that accompanied the Perry Award.

Skyles was cited for teaching himself Spanish and holding regular Spanish-language services as the Hispanic population grew around St. Peter's twenty years ago. His work for the environment was also lauded - "You led a truly remarkable citizen effort to block an Exxon Oil company plan to build a road through the Harris County Armand Bayou wildlife preserve in the early 1970s."

Exhibits: Exhibits on the *Discovery Loop* include a raptor house and a bison exhibit. A 600 ft. "teaching boardwalk" which traverses a pond where visitors may see alligators lurking, turtles sunning, dragonflies flitting, and fish swimming. Or they may hear frogs croaking, birds singing, squirrels chattering, bullfrogs booming or cicadas rattling. Others may choose to walk parts of over five miles of trails, which wind through the woodlands and prairies. The center is also home to a turn-of-the-century farm site, which is used to demonstrate "human ecology". The interpretive building contains displays of living reptiles, fish and amphibians and "touch tables" of various natural objects. In addition, demonstrations, exhibits, and tours on diverse subjects are given on weekends.

Special Events: Earth Day, Bayou Boil annual fundraiser, summer EcoCamp, Creepy Crawlers (at Halloween), Fall Festival and Winter Camp. ABNC also participates in events sponsored by other agencies such as Trash Bash and Marsh Mania.

Space Rental: A large auditorium with audio-visual facilities, smaller classroom spaces, a farm site and various indoor/outdoor spaces are available for group rental on a space available basis. The parking lot will hold 250 cars.

Hours & Admission: Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday from noon to 5:00 p.m. Closed Monday. Children (ages 4 and under) free; children (ages 5-17) \$1.00; Adults, \$3.00; Seniors (ages 60 and older) \$1.00. Members, free.

Membership: ABNC receives no guaranteed funding from any government or private source. Annual memberships (ranging from \$40 to \$1,000 for Life Membership) provide operational funding for the center and help to guarantee the future preservation of the ecosystems and their inhabitants. Corporate memberships are also available.

Governance & Personnel: A 45-person Board of Trustees provides governing authority. Site and program management is provided by full-time staff, part-time contract staff, and over 100 trained volunteers who supply over 13,000 hours of service each year.

Budget & Funding: Approximately \$600,000 per year annual operating budget plus substantial special project expenditures (wildlife habitat restoration/enhancement, exhibit development, and construction projects). Operating income is split approximately 40:60 between contributions (from corporations, foundations, organizations, county, and individuals) and other fund raising activities and site-based income (membership and admission fees, special program fees and space rentals).





Ownership & History: Incorporated in 1974; land acquired through efforts of a diverse coalition of individuals, organizations, and government entities. Harris County is the property owner of record, with ABNC, Inc. holding a 99-year automatic "roll-over" lease agreement providing full management and development responsibility.

Namesake: In 1970 Middle Bayou was officially renamed Armand Bayou to memorialize Armand Yramategui, a visionary of Texas Gulf Coast wilderness conservation who initiated the drive to preserve Armand Bayou and surrounding land.

Endowment Foundation: Armand Bayou Nature Center Foundation was created as a separate and distinct 501(c)3 organization for the purpose of establishing an endowment fund to benefit Armand Bayou Nature Center. This board functions independently of the Nature Center board with the mission of enhancing the financial security of Armand Bayou Nature Center

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 713-455-1502	Farm Interpretation Eleanor Stanley 713-455-1502	Farm Demos Paula Thorson 281-474-3153	Natural History Paula Thorson 281-474-3153
11/4	Melanie Weisman	Gaye Batiz	Pat Bates	Jane Bingel	Stephania Rogers Butter	Mary Barton Birds
11/5		Marie Asscherick	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin		Zel Arbuckle Snakes
11/11	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>
11/12		<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>	<i>Fall Festival</i>
11/18	Pat Doerr	Ray Parker	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Susan Hesley Cornhusk Dolls	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
11/19		Stan Krauhs	Judy Schaefer		Paula Thorson Stereopticon	
11/25	Polly Swerdlin	Anne Tincher		Joyce Sens	Franks Sens Rope	
11/26		Bonita Pernell	Pat Bates	Paula Thorson		

A publication of Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

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PO Box 58828

Houston, TX 77258

281.474.2551

www.abnc.org



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