



Bayou Foliage

September 2006

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Vol. 25 No. 9

LOOK AHEAD

September 2006

- 9 Volunteer Orientation, 9am-12
- 14 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30pm-Classroom 3
- 15 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
Speaker-Julie Massey
- 16 Deadline for Bayou Foliage



October 2006

- 12 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30pm-Classroom 3
- 12 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30pm
Speaker-Margaret Pickell
- 14 Deadline for Bayou Foliage

27-28 Creepy Crawlers!

November 2006

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

Fall is HERE!

Say goodbye to those scorching, heat-stroke inducing days of summer, and say hello to cooler nights and (slightly) less mosquitoes! The nature center shall once again be a buzz with activity and excitement. Fall is the season for 2 of the biggest public events the nature center puts on annually. Of course I am referring to Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival!

Creepy Crawlers in scheduled for October 27-28 from 6:30-8:30pm. And Fall Festival is set for November 11-12 from 10am-4pm.

Susan Kalafatich has been kind enough to make colorful flyers to put out at your favorite local coffee shop, library, gym, except era. When you happen to be in the neighborhood, drop by the volunteer office and pick up a few!

Sign-up sheets have been artfully hung on the new peg board wall (installed by the oh-so fabulous GEM crew!) and await your name beside an activity. There are still plenty of spaces available, but to ensure your spot you should come sign up right this minute-get in your car or hop on your bike THIS INSTANT...have I motivated anyone yet?

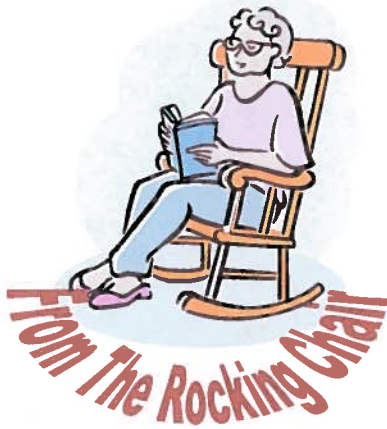
Seriously folks, Creepy and Fall Festival are 2 of the reasons we love volunteering, you get to dress up in costumes and interact with smiling, enthusiastic public-what could be more fun and rewarding than that?

Volunteer meetings will once again be in full swing as well, and Vice Chair Bob Paxton has done an outstanding job of finding interesting, educational speakers for the lecture series. Read about Julie Massey (September meeting) and Margaret Pickell (October meeting) on page 3.

To start the season off we can't forget about Volunteer Orientation! September 9, from 9-12noon we will (fingers crossed) have at least a dozen new volunteers to welcome into the fold. Maybe we can even "wrangle" a few into signing up for Creepy and Fall Festival, eh, eh?

Most of you have been on a "vacation" from the nature center for the past 3 months, now is the time (am I being dramatic enough for you?) to grab those volunteer badges and those khaki shirts and head out to ABNC! See you soon!

-Jessalyn



How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Isn't that the first essay we used to write at school? So how was your time off from attending our monthly meetings? Do you think it was a good experiment? I hope we can all return this fall with increased fervor for the challenges ahead.

My summer was full of a variety of accomplishments, pleasures and sadness.

Candy Donahue, Jane Bingel, and I went to Brazos Bend State Park for an Interpreter Workshop. We met some fine Park Rangers and a couple volunteers. Candy came away with some training ideas, and Jane was pleased with their enthusiasm. I managed to sneak in a few words about Fall Festival, and we might have some extra hands to help.

For the Nature Center, we have met as volunteer board members to continue the mission for you, our members. We have met as the Fall Festival Committee to make those plans. We have emailed back and forth for various concerns, amongst them the idea for placing our important documents in a safe place at UHCL.

For the scuba club Fred and I are members of, we coordinated 2 outings at ABNC with club members, one the Moonlight Cruise, and the other the Prairie Hayride. They loved both, and want to return.

For the dog park group Fred and I are spearheading, we finally got our 501(c)3 standing and are learning what it takes to make a non-profit organization tick. Or I should say, attempting to learn.

For our family ties, we have lost a dear aunt, but she had a full, wonderful, 103 year life and we feel privileged to have known and loved her.

Polly Swerdlin
Chair 2006



2006 Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board

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September Speaker: Julie Massey



September 14, 2006

7:00 p.m.

ABNC Auditorium

Julie serves as the marine advisor for the Galveston Bay Area Chapter

of the Texas Master Naturalists, as well as their program coordinator. She has a degree in Marine Biology. Julie is passionate about water ecology, and her presentation will mainly focus on Armand Bayou and its surrounding waters. Julie is a fish expert and lover, her presentation will be on fish biology, ecology, seafood selection and preparation and fish printing.

Julie's work with the Master Naturalist program is closely tied to Armand Bayou Nature Center. The Master Naturalists host many of their training sessions at the Nature Center, and many of the trainees go on to become deeply committed volunteers at ABNC. Some of our current volunteers who have completed Master Naturalist training are: Joan Henderson, Judy Sharp, Judy Schaefer, Bob Paxton,

Dottie Evans, Chris Battan, Odie and Marie Asscherick, Dick Benoit, Laura Bradley, Art Chapman, Bill Cooke, Jim Crabb, Ellen Gerloff, Martha Hood, Diane Humes, Chris LaChance, Gib Larson, Carolyn Lovell, Barbara Nowakowski, Sylvia Prather, Ken Russell, Terry Sheehy, and Chuck Snyder.

Come back to the nature center and make sure to welcome Julie, she is one of the nicest people you will meet, she oozes warmth and friendliness. See you on September 14!



October Speaker: Margaret Pickell



October 12, 2006

7:00 p.m.

ABNC Auditorium

Margaret Pickell, a Master Naturalist and Partner in Wildlife Rehab & Education, will provide a presentation on a program in Louisiana where she and others cleaned up a Pelican colony after an oil spill in 2005. The effort was awesome as the pictures in her presen-

tation will show.

Margaret is one of the main rehabbers who work along-side Sharon Schmalz in the organization she founded, Wildlife Rehab & Education. Margaret is always willing to take in any injured wildlife and nurse it back to health.

In the photo to the left, Margaret is helping trim the beaks and talons of our female red-tailed hawk (who looks none to happy about the process).

Answering calls at the front desk-I refer up to 3-4 people a day to Margaret, so I greatly admire her for doing what must be a constant, never ending job. The rehabbers in this area are fantastic people who open their entire homes to injured herons, hawks, raccoons, and opossums. I myself took a yellow-crowned night heron to Marga-

ret about 2 months ago, and watched in horror as it clamped down on her index finger and wouldn't let go. "Just part of the job," was her calm reply, as I helped pry the beak off her bleeding digit. If you get a chance after the presentation, let Margaret know how much she is appreciated, by wildlife certainly, and by the staff of Armand Bayou Nature Center.



Continuing Education

Farm Woodshop Interpretation & Skills

September 23, 2006

9:30-11am

Join Lew for an inside look at the tools and techniques the early farmers used to make

and repair all kinds of items from the farm from toys to buildings.

Sign-up in the volunteer office or by calling Candy at 281-474-2551 ext 18.

Lew Hornung



Volunteer Orientation Schedule

9-9:30 Welcome and introduction by Candy (with Power Point presentation)

11-11:15

Break

11:15 -11:45

Short trail hike (Lady Bird), Prairie Platform, and Canopy Walkway (ending at farmhouse)

9:30-10:15 Discussion of 6 Volunteer areas

Front desk/admissions – Jessalyn – 5 minutes

Stewardship – Mark – 10 minutes (mention Prairie Friday and Stewardship Saturday and introduce Philip)

Education – Heather – 10 minutes (focus on weekday ed and Connections)

Weekend Ed, incl Trails, Demos, Canoe guides, Farm interp, Birthday parties – Who??? – 10 minutes

Facilities – Lew or JT – 5 minutes

Outreach – Alan or Ruby or Dottie – 5 minutes

As a reminder, here are the 6 “areas” we’ve grouped activities into (partially based on WHEN volunteers are available or when activities occur):

- Front desk (Dottie Evans)
- Weekday education/School groups (Heather)
- Stewardship (Phillip Wylie)
- Facilities (JT Chapman)
- Outreach (Alan Wenger) This includes birthday parties

Weekend activities (Martha Hood, Jane Bingel, Bill Cooke, Paula Thorson, others) This will include trails, owl prowl, canoes, and farm demos

10:15-10:30 Volunteer Info – Polly. You could introduce yourself, talk about the volunteer organization, and give a pep talk

-Enrollment form & background check

-Manual

-Hours log book

-Name tag after 8 hours

These people or their designates need to be available for new volunteers to ask questions about the areas and sign up for training or work days (from about 10:30 till 11)

10:30-11:00 Visitors circulate around Story Boards and sign up for training session

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Bayou Foliage

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