



# Bayou Foliage

Volume 26, Number 6

June 2007

## Look Ahead

### JUNE

- 2 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 2 Marsh Mania
- 9 HAS Bird Survey,  
7 a.m.
- 14 Volunteer Board  
meeting
- 16 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 17 Continuing Education  
9:00–11:00 am
- 21 Deadline for Bayou  
Foliage (Note new  
date.)

### JULY

- 7 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 12 Volunteer Board  
meeting
- 14 HAS Bird Survey,  
7 a.m.
- 21 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 28 Continuing Education  
9:00–11:30 a.m.

When you are  
finished with  
this publication  
please recycle it.  
Thanks!

## Volunteer Spotlight

Rick Browning started volunteering at our February 2007 orientation. He took early retirement and tried several things, came out here and got hooked. He's never worked with kids before or even outdoors, but loves it.

He's a native Houstonian, but also lived in California, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Cuba (he was in the marines). He's been back in this area since 1980.

He was in the marines, worked in the oil patch, and on computers.

His primary focus at ABNC is helping with weekday school

field trips and helping out at the front desk. He said it seemed all other places he



**Rick teaching Hands on History on the Martyn Farm**

looked into volunteering asked him to work with kids and he shied away from it, but now that's what drew him in at ABNC. He says he just naturally fell into that area.

Rick is an avid golf fanatic and has played at Dakota Ridge in Minnesota, one of the top ten courses in the US. He also plays bluegrass guitar.

He raised his daughter alone and she is now a 26 year old student at UH studying to be a teacher.

When I asked him what people would be surprised to know about him, he said the fact that he was volunteering working with kids.

Rick has already volunteered 50 hours this year! Thanks for joining us, Rick!

—Candy Donahue

## Staff Spotlight

This month, in lieu of the regular staff spotlight, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Candy Donahue for all she contributed to Armand Bayou Nature Center. In addition

to being Executive Director and Associate Director, she served as Volunteer Coordinator, keeping things running smoothly for the entire volunteer organization. Of course, under the

umbrella of these jobs lie myriad duties too numerous to mention. The bottom line is Candy did whatever was necessary to get a job done, exhibiting an

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**Polly Swerdlin  
Chair 2007**

## From the Rocking Chair

I have been told by the staff that several volunteers have not shown up when they have been expected. Once in a while it might be understood as forgetfulness, or so ill one could not pick up the phone. But it has become more and more a regular thing that a demo doesn't take place, or the farmhouse stays locked on the weekend, or the teachers have to double up on how many kids they take on the trails.

Okay folks, let's "toe the line" here. Most volunteers I don't need to preach to, but apparently

some need a gentle reminder. If you promise to demonstrate, interpret, lead a hike, teach a class, relieve the front desk, whatever, **please** remember to **put it on your calendar** and then **check** it now and then. If you find you can't take care of what you have committed to, either find a substitute, call the Coordinator, or call the staff person who is expecting you.

Oh and another thing. When you arrive on site, either go by the front desk to let them know or make a call on your cell phone. It would be nice to be able to tell our visitors what to expect.

With that in mind – Front Desk personnel: don't put a demo on the board until you know for sure that it will be ready for visitors.

On a lighter note:



Our summer meetings are called off one more year, we hope everyone plays and drives safely and we see you back here in September. The board will continue to meet for continuity sake. We will keep you up-to-date via emails and newsletter.

*Polly*

## Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board 2007

<b>Chair</b>	Polly Swerdlin	281-814-4606	pfollyred@yahoo.com
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Bob Paxton	281-990-7968	thepaxtons@sbcglocal.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	
<b>Secretary</b>	Laura Bradley	281-992-2604	Brad9@flash.net
<b>Stewardship</b>	Ian Kress	281-333-9066	ian.kress@conocophillips.com
<b>Greeters/Interpreters</b>	Jarita Sepulvado	281-479-8795	vanillarita@gmail.com
<b>Admissions</b>	Dottie Evans	281-532-1273	docentmom@aol.com
<b>Weekend Demos</b>	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	
<b>Weekend Trail</b>	Martha Hood	281-286-6746	mhood85@yahoo.com
<b>Weekday Farm</b>			
<b>Weekday Outdoor Ed</b>	Gaye Batiz	281-538-0592	googiebatiz@aol.com
<b>Outreach</b>	Nancy Benko	281-538-2569	nbenko@houston.rr.com
<b>Facilities</b>	J.T. Chapman	281-486-7466	jtchapmaniii@msn.com
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## Staff Roster

Jaemy Parnell	Ext 10	Megan McInnis	Ext 17
Susan Brown	Ext 21	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Candy Donahue	Ext 18	Sandy Peck	Ext 11
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	George Regmund	Ext 31
Christine Mattox	Ext 32	Shauna Trevino	Ext 13

Email addresses are 'firstname'@abnc.org. Example: candy@abnc.org

## ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes May 10, 2007

**Program** – Andy Sipocz presented a talk on Hydroecology of the Armand Bayou Water Shed. Our “Isolated” Wetlands aren’t isolated.

**Old Business**

Secretary report – The April report was approved.

Treasurer report - The April treasury report was approved. We now have \$1567 in the treasury.

**New Business**

Summer Meetings – A motion was made and passed to not have a volunteer meeting in June, July, or August. The board will still meet.

Recognition Committee – This committee will be restarted.

Village Creek – Do we want to schedule a trip to Village Creek this October?

Book Sales – There are only

three of the Clarke Book left in the gift shop for sale.

Events - Bayou Boil is May 19. Creepy Crawlers is October 26-27. Fall Festival is November 10-11 December 2 is Yuletide.

Vice Chair Report

Speakers for Meetings September, October, and November’s speakers are being negotiated.

Continuing Education. On June 16 Julie Massey of the local extension office will present “Something Fishy on the Bayou”. On July 28 Bob Honig will present a dragonfly course.

Area Reports -

Admissions – Dottie – Nothing to report

Greeters/Interpreters - Jarita – No report

Weekend Demos -Jane Bingel – She will be out of town in July.

Polly will fill in for her.

Weekend Trails – Martha - slots open for 2 pm trails.

Weekday Outdoor Ed/Farm – Gaye – No report.

Outreach – Nancy – no report

Facilities – J. T. – Edging is being completed on the Discovery Trail. A partition fence is being placed in the bison pen to allow for separating the animals. Rebuilding of the birthing shed is underway.

Stewardship- Ian – The next big event is Marsh Mania on June 2

Staff

A gift certificate and card was given to Candy for all the work she has done for the volunteer organization. We are sorry to see her go.

Our volunteer of the month is Rick Browning. He works in education and the front desk.

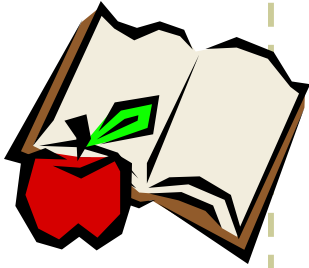
The Board decided not to make an offer to the last candidate we had for the director spot. Sue Sutterby will be the Interim Director.

Kelly, who has been at the front desk for the last 2 ½ months will be leaving. Her replacement starts on May 15.

### Treasurer’s Report

<b>Beginning Balance</b>		<b>\$1533.78</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Box of checks	12.38	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12.38</b>	
<b>Income:</b>		
E. Stanley—crafts	\$ 30.75	
Donation	\$ 15.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 45.75</b>	
<b>Current Balance</b>		<b>\$1,567.15</b>

## Continuing Education



**Continuing Education is free for ABNC volunteers**

**Something Fishy on the Bayou**  
June 16  
9:00–11:00 am

Please join us for a close and internal look at the world of FISH. Julie Massey, County Extension Agent—Marine, and the local Master Naturalist Chapter Adviser will present Fish from the inside out. We will examine various fish species and specimens and actually dissect a few to see what makes them FISH. Julie will also introduce you to Gyotaku, the Japa-

nese art of Fish Printing, so bring a T-shirt or apron and learn how to do it. Meet in the Auditorium.

**Dragonflies**  
July 28  
9:00–11:30 am



Bob Honig will present a lecture on Dragonflies in the auditorium followed by a field trip to observe these wonderful acrobatic insects in their native habitat

Have a great summer.

Remember...no meetings in June, July and August. See you in September!



It seems Kathleen Crabb has had numerous requests for her Mango Salad which was a huge hit at the last meeting. Her recipe follows:



### Mango Salad

- 4-5 mangoes
- 1 onion
- 1-2 jalapeños
- 1/4 c olive oil
- 1/4 c olive oil
- salt and pepper
- dash sugar

Slice mangoes and onion; finely chop jalapeños. Mix jalapeños, oil and vinegar, salt, pepper, and sugar; pour over mangoes/onions. Let set in frig for two hours before serving.

*Originally from the Houston Chronicle.*

**Attention:** The new deadline for Bayou Foliage is the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Thanks for everything, Candy!

(Continued from page 1) Staff Spotlight

energy level sometimes perceived to be “superhuman.”

We know how much Candy loves the prairie at ABNC, so it is with great hope that she may occasionally find the time to volunteer in that area again. Since Candy began as

a volunteer here, that would bring her full circle and ensure that she remains a member of the volunteer family.



Candy, we wish you well in your new endeavors and hope to see you soon and often. We miss you!

Thanks for everything!

Shop online and help Armand Bayou Nature Center

At the iGive Mall, you can shop online in almost 700 stores including: Petco, Petsmart, Lands’ End, Barnes & Noble, Dell, HP, Expedia and JCPenney.



All of the iGive Mall vendors have agreed to donate a portion of the iGive member’s purchase to the member’s selected organization (in this case, ABNC).

Membership in iGive is free and every purchase you make generates a donation to Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Here is how it works:

1. Go to <http://www.iGive.com/ABNC>.
2. This link takes you to a page where you will see “Join Here to Support Armand Bayou Nature Center”.
3. Enter your email address in the field below and submit. Complete the member information fields and submit. Now you are ready to shop.
4. Shop online at any of the almost 700 stores in the iGive Mall.
5. Armand Bayou Nature Center will receive a donation of 1% – 26% of each purchase.

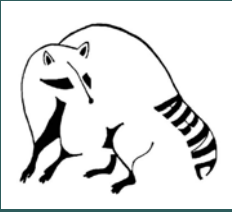
CONGRATULATIONS!

Lihn Tran, current fifth grader at Ed White Elementary School in El Lago, is the newest recipient of the Ann Shaw Award for Gifted and Talented Students. Lihn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ringo Tran of Seabrook. Lihn will be using her scholarship to attend Summer Eco-Camp at Armand Bayou Nature Center. Lihn will be attending Westbrook Intermediate WAVE program in the Fall.

The Texas Association of Gifted and Talented chooses one Shaw scholar each summer in addition to awarding several Summer Scholar Awards throughout the state. Clear Creek ISD has produced many of the winners since the inception of the program and several have chosen ABNC as their venue for further studies. Congratulations, Lihn!

Lihn will be using her scholarship to attend Summer Eco-Camp at Armand Bayou Nature Center.

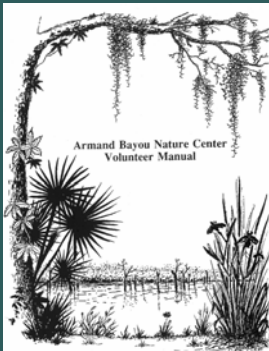




**This job's for you!**

*Each month a description of a volunteer position will be highlighted. The following information is from the Volunteer Manual.*

*From the ABNC Volunteer Manual*



# Volunteer Job Descriptions

## INFORMATION SERVICES

### GREETER

**PURPOSE:** Provide information and welcome visitors on weekends.

**CONTACT:** Staff – Director of Education  
Volunteer – Interpretation Coordinator

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Arrive at ABNC in time to assume post at the designated time.
2. Direct visitors to features of interest, including the gift shop.
3. Promote ABNC's purposes and benefits of membership.
4. Distribute maps and help orient visitors.
5. Share information about the trail conditions and demos.
6. Provide directions to the restrooms and drinking fountain.
7. Refrain from using ethnic comments or sexist remarks.
8. Maintain professional attitude and conduct. Refrain from eating, drinking, chewing gum or smoking while on duty.

9. Know location of First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher.

10. Promptly report accident or injury to a staff member and fill out accident form.

11. Log hours in volunteer log-book in a prompt, up-to-date fashion.

12. Notify volunteer coordinator ASAP if you are unable to do your assigned job.

### SUPPORT AND RESOURCES:

1. ABNC staff and volunteers
2. Volunteer training
3. Volunteer manual
4. Field guides

### QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Enjoy interacting with people.
2. Be familiar with field guides.
3. Be aware of the layout of the trails.
4. Be knowledgeable of ABNC regulations and membership information.

### TRAINING:

1. Attend orientation.

## FRESH WATER POND

The fresh water ponds on Armand Bayou Nature Center property are man-made representations of a fresh water habitat. They provide a convenient way to study true aquatic organisms that are found only in the upper reaches of Armand Bayou. The ponds were also constructed in hopes that wildlife, especially migratory birds would be attracted to the core area. The only species introduced to these ponds after construction was the

largemouth bass. All other fish and invertebrates migrated into the ponds from adjacent fresh water habitats. The aquatic insects, turtles, and snakes found in the ponds now are very visible and useful for interpreting ecological principles. The appearance of the ponds, like the bayou, change from one season to the next. The clear winter and spring waters quickly warm in the early summer allowing the dissolved nutrients to feed phytoplank-





ton and submerged aquatic plants like Eurasian water milfoil. In warm weather the milfoil chokes the open water with its vegetative growth to form a thick carpet of green, which is home to millions of **zooplankton** (microscopic animals), small fish, and aquatic insect larvae.

At night, the deafening sounds of calling frogs fill the air and give way to gelatinous egg masses that lie on the bottom or are attached to the milfoil.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster

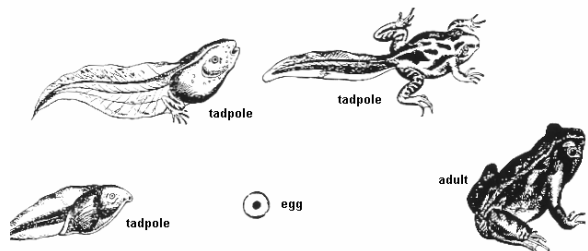
*If you have to cancel, please do your best to find your own replacement. If you can cover for any open slots, please call the coordinator for that event. When you arrive at ABNC for your duty, please check in at the front desk.*

	9:30 Trails	2:00 Trails	Greeters	Farm Interpretation	Farm Demos	Natural History
<b>DATE</b>	<b>Martha Hood 281-286-6746</b>	<b>Martha Hood 281-286-6746</b>	<b>Jarita Sepulvado 281-532-1273</b>	<b>Jarita Sepulvado 281-479-8795</b>	<b>Jane Bingel 281-554-5069</b>	<b>Jane Bingel 281-554-5069</b>
6/2	Amy Corron Power	Ray Parker	Joan Henderson	Patsy Cashion	Mary Garrett Butter	Jane Bingel Adaptations
6/3		<b>OPEN</b>	Ken Russell	<b>OPEN</b>	Ed Adams Butter	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
6/9	Jim Crabb	<b>OPEN</b>	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Susan Hesley Yarn Dolls	Charlotte Gogala Snakes
6/10		Karen Sutura	<b>OPEN</b>	Polly Swerdlin	Helen Harger Cheese	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
6/16	Liz VanOrstrand	<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Paula Thorson	Ray Parker Rope	Jane Bingel Adaptations
6/17		Marie Asscherick	Judy Schaefer	Eleanor Stanley	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Joanna Moody Pond Detective
6/23	Polly Swerdlin	<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Joyce Sens	Frank Sens Rope	Chris Battan Birds
6/24		<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Polly Swerdlin	Paula Thorson Stereoscope	Polly Swerdlin Tracks
6/30	Susan Hesley	<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Jane Bingel Corn Husk Dolls	<b>OPEN</b>

(Continued from page 6) Armand Bayou Forest

They soon hatch, and the pond is filled with tadpoles of various species. These amphibians will eventually undergo metamorphosis to become the adult frogs. They then feed on the numerous dragonflies and other insects that depend on the pond for their larval or nymph stages. Like the frogs, many pond animals undergo their entire life cycle in and around the pond. In the early spring, bass and sunfish will clear areas of the bottom to lay their nest of eggs. These they will guard to the death and consequently makes these species very visible. Within several weeks, schools of juvenile bass will be swimming from one end of the

pond to another. The high population of red-eared slider turtles is the result of overstocking (most are unwanted pets) and feeding by the visiting public. However, the original intent of the ponds has been met, the ample supply of fresh water, aquatic insects, and pond bank cover plants makes them highly visited by wildlife.





## Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers

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[www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org)

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## BAYOU BOIL 2007

