

# Bayou Foliage

Volume 26, Number 11

November 2007

## Look Ahead

### NOVEMBER

- 3 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.
- 6 Continuing Education,  
9–11:30 am
- 8 Volunteer Board meet-  
ing, 5:30
- 8 Volunteer meeting,  
6:30
- 10 HAS Bird Survey,  
7 a.m.
- 10 Fall Festival
- 11 Fall Festival
- 17 Stewardship Saturday  
8:30 a.m.

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

## From the Rocking Chair

### Polly Swerdlin Volunteer Chair

The year is quickly winding down, the climate cooling; the spiders are fewer but guess what? There are still tons of mosquitoes! Please tell folks you think might come out for a walk in the woods they will need long sleeves, long pants, and deet for sure. Otherwise it's the Prairie Platform, the Farm, or stay indoors. Or put up with the pesky buggers.

One thing I failed to mention at the October meeting is your hours for Continuing Education. You know about logging the one hour for the speaker portion, right? Also if there are any classes you attend on site. You can even count the CP Chem



and McGovern that Heather offers. Use any thing that will enhance your knowledge, which in turn helps your interaction with our public.

At one time when I was the Vice Chair, I had opened up the chance for folks to count one hour for each video from our library they watched and wrote a review of it. That still goes. We have several tapes that no one knows what they are about other than the label. Reviews would add value to our library.

Keep in mind that only four CE hours count towards maintaining your active status (plus 24 hours of regular time), but both types are added at the end of the year for your total hours that will be recognized at the



January Appreciation Dinner. Even though someone takes a list of students at a class, it is your responsibility to enter your hours on your sheet in the Volunteer Log Book that is kept in the Volunteer Office.

We hope to see a lot of volunteers helping out at Fall Festival. This one is promising to be a mighty fine one. There are new exhibitors, and entertainers, lots of our old friends returning. Lets all wish for the weather to be kinder in the fall than it was this summer!

*Ralph Waldo Emerson:  
"Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience."*

*Polly*

## Sign Up Now For a Busy Fall Season

November 10-11—Fall Festival, 10 am—4 pm

December 1—Burn Class

December 2—Yuletide, 1-4 pm



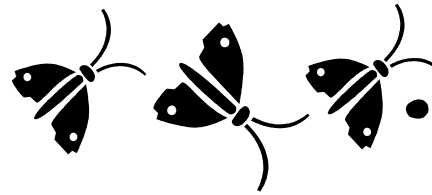


**Armand Bayou  
Nature Center  
Volunteer Board  
2007**

**Staff  
Roster**

**Trail Equipment Needed**

Trail Coordinator Martha Hood reports that the night program is in need of a duffle bag that can accommodate the "moth light" equipment. Currently it is in two bags. It would be nice to have a single bag that can hold the lights, extension . cord, sheet, etc. The light is approximately 18 inches wide X 10 inches deep X 12 inches high. Martha feels a "large" duffle bag would do the trick. If you have something you think would work or need more information, please contact Martha at 281-286-6746 or by email at mhood85@yahoo.com. Thanks for your help.



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Mark Kramer	Ext 15	Sue Sutterby	Ext 11
Christine Mattox	Ext 20	Shauna Trevino	Ext 13

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

## ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes October 11, 2007

**Program** – Jane Jock spoke on “Birds Do It Too”. Jane is an ABNC Volunteer who has 558 birds on her lifetime bird list.

### Old Business

**Secretary report** – No minutes for meeting in June, July, or August since there was not a meeting.

**Treasurer report** - The September treasury report was approved. We now have \$2817 in the treasury.

### New Business

**Recognition Committee** – It is recommended that we recognize volunteer for years of service for 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years to begin next year.

**December’s Meeting** – There is a conflict with the December meeting. A paying customer has our normal room for the second Thursday in December. We can either move the date or the location. A vote was taken and passed to move the meeting to the Farm House/Pole Barn on the normal meeting date.

**Nominating Committee** – The following have accepted positions on the 2008 Volunteer Board nominating committee (5 not currently serving on the board): Jaye Teinert, Rebekah Gano, Susan Kalafatch, Dewanna Norris, and Cris Santiago. Let’s give a big round of applause to these 5 people.

**Outreach at Clear Lake United Methodist Church** – On November 18, CLUMC has asked ABNC to participate in a special day at their church. It will be during the normal church time. We would be doing Hands on History Demos.

### Events

**Creepy Crawlers** is October 26-27 6pm to 9 pm.

**Fall Festival** is November 10-11. Signup list is now available.

**Yuletide** is December 2.

**Earth Day** is in April. We will be hosting a film contest with the winning films to be used for a continuing loop film to be shown for visitors.

**Lakewood Yacht Club Keels and Wheels** – first Saturday in May. ABNC has been asked to supply volunteers to help protect boats and cars on display at LYC’s Keels and Wheels in May.

**Bayou Boil** – second Saturday in May.

**Strawberry Festival** – third Saturday in May

### Vice Chair Report

#### Speakers for Meetings

“Alternatives to Pesticides” by Charlotte Webb will be in November.

#### Area Reports -

**Admissions** – Dottie – Admissions is in good shape.

**Greeters/Interpreters** - Jarita – No report

**Weekend Demos** -Jane Bingel – Filling up nicely.

**Weekend Trails** – Martha – November

is wide open. Volunteer now for a choice spot. October 20 is Owl Prowl. **Weekday Outdoor Ed/Farm** – Gaye – An email went out with the many opportunities including CP Chem.

**Outreach** – no report

**Facilities** – J. T. – Will finish birthing shed and bull corral before Fall Festival. There is termite damage at the farm house.

**Stewardship**- Ian – The next big event is Prairie Pandemonium on October 20.

### Staff

The Volunteer of the month is Liz Gimmler. Liz is a new volunteer who comes to us from the Master Naturalist Program. Liz is an enthusiastic member of the Prairie Friday team.

The McGovern area has received a lot of work. Twelve volunteers are ready to see that it stays in good condition.

The one remaining bison will soon be returned to her original herd. We will receive 3 young bison that will be trained to use the new chute so that they can be properly examined and cared for.

ABNC has received a grant from the state of Texas. The money will be received in 1:1 matching, up to \$300,000 for donations made to be the Center. The money would be used to make improvements to the experience of visitors to the Center. It can not be used on staff.

## Treasurer’s Report

Beginning Balance		1686.71
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Total Expenditures	0	
<b>Income:</b>		
Birdhouses	\$72.00	
Dragonflies	\$30.00	
Miscellaneous	\$6.00	
Windmill extra	\$1000	
Recycle June & July	\$22.65	
Total Income	1130.65	
Current Balance		2817.36

### Speakers for Volunteer Meetings:

November 8, 7 pm—Alternatives to Pesticides with Charlotte Wells

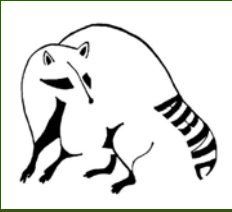
December 13, 7 pm—Christmas Party at the Farmhouse

January 10—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

February 14—Woody Woodrow

March 13—George Regmund

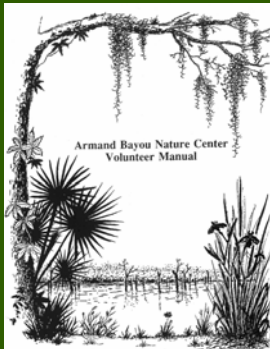
# Volunteer Job Descriptions



**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



## ADMISSIONS

**PURPOSE:** Assist the staff by working the admissions desk during lunch breaks, staff meetings, at late closings and when the staff receptionist is ill or on vacation.

**CONTACT:** Staff – Admissions Receptionist  
Volunteer – Admissions Coordinator

## RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Arrive on time. If opening, arrive 15 minutes early.
2. Remain at reception desk unless someone is there to relieve you.
3. Promote ABNC's purposes and benefits of membership.
4. Answer the telephone quickly and politely; greet visitors with a friendly smile.
5. Collect admission fees from non-members, keep tally of numbers of visitors.
6. On weekends, if there is no greeter on duty, tell visitors about demos and trail conditions.
7. Take messages for staff members while they are away from their desk.
8. Register participants for classes and assist with gift shop items.
9. Refrain from using ethnic comments or sexist remarks.

10. Maintain professional attitude and conduct. Refrain from eating, drinking, chewing gum or smoking while on duty.
11. Know location of First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher.
12. Promptly report accident or injury to a staff member and fill out accident form.
13. Log hours in volunteer logbook in a prompt, up-to-date fashion.
14. 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

## QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Enjoy working with the public, able to interact in a cheerful, courteous manner.
2. Be proficient in the use of the cash register and the telephone system.
3. Be able to work in a fast paced environment.
4. Be knowledgeable of ABNC regulations and membership information.

## TRAINING:

1. Attend orientation.
2. Complete appropriate volunteer training.
3. Attend training in use of cash register, telephone system, and forms to use.
4. Watch and listen to the staff receptionist at least once.

## VISITOR CONTACT

### **Introduction**

Armand Bayou Nature Center exists for the public. Most people come here for recreational opportunities, to relax and enjoy the wilderness, or to learn about nature and environmental issues.

### **Definition**

Visitor contact is anytime you and a visitor are in same vicinity and the visitor sees you. Even if

there is no verbal exchange, contact has been made, and an opinion formed.

### **Suggestions for effective visitor contact**

#### Attitude

Be convinced the job you do is important. Be aware that visitor often form an impression of ABNC from you.

#### Personality

Be available, courteous,

enthusiastic and patient.

#### Appearance

Be appropriately dressed for your job. Be neat whenever possible.

**Example one:** Positive contact, no spoken exchange

You are weeding near the front boardwalk and do not notice a family walking through. They notice you and the effort you put forth. They are impressed.

# ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER

Presents;

**The 26th Annual**

**“Martyn Farm” Fall Festival**

Family fun for all ages,  
this festival has some-  
thing for everyone;

- Demonstrations
- Farm Animals
- Antique tractors
- Antique machines
- Crafts
- Games
- Music & Dance
- Story Telling
- Wagon Rides
- Food & Drinks for Sale
- FRESH Organic Vegetables for sale!

**When:** *November 10 & 11, 2007, 10 am – 4 pm*

**Where:** Armand Bayou Nature Center located at  
8500 Bay Area Blvd.

**Cost:** Adults - Non-Members \$8 Members \$6  
Children - Non-Members \$5 Members \$3

Free for Children 4 & Under

Free Parking and Shuttle from UHCL  
Lot D

On site Parking \$3



Featured Callers:  
Stu Ringer & Curtis Byars



## BAYOU BITS

### Volunteer of the Month

The first time I met Liz I was a “newbie” with the Prairie Friday group and we were in a team to do transecting together. She was so cheerful and encouraging and so eager to pass on her knowledge. I couldn’t believe my luck to be paired with her. These qualities are what the staff identified as a reason to select Liz for Volunteer of the Month.



*Liz planting a Bush Mint grown from seeds in the Master Gardener Greenhouse.*

Liz is someone who always loved being outside. She started volunteering with Scenic Galveston and then learned about the Master Naturalist program. During those classes she became inspired by the dedication of Mark, George and Dick Benoit to the restoration of the prairies at Armand Bayou Nature Center. She is a Prairie Friday regular and has trained to do the prairie schooner rides. She was not able to use this

*(Continued on page 7)*



### ABNC Christmas Bird Count

Please join us on Saturday, December 29th for fun, frivolity and feathered friends. Birders are needed in the field and in backyards, and all skill levels are appreciated! Contact co-compiler Chris Battan by email ([cbattan@hmns.org](mailto:cbattan@hmns.org)) or by phone (281-316-0808) to reply by December 27th or for more information.

**Time:** 6:30 am for team gathering; 5 am for owling; **Fee:** \$5 for 18 years and older (17 and under are free); Remember to bring lunch, water, field clothes and binoculars. Dinner (dutch treat) and door prizes at Tally Rally after the count.

### For the Birds...

On the second Saturday of each month birders from around the Houston Metropolitan area come to ABNC for one of Houston Audubon Society’s monthly bird surveys. Participants meet in the parking lot at 7 a.m. and form teams of four to five before branching out for the morning count. At 10 a.m. the birders reconvene for the “countdown” when the species seen are listed and tallied. The year-long survey will give HAS and ABNC a better picture of local bird populations.

The count is open to all skill levels and beginning birders will be placed with more experienced ones so that, in addition to having a great time, they will also learn more about bird identification and avian natural history. More volunteers are needed to get an accurate picture of the bird populations at the center. If you can help, please make plans to attend the next count on Saturday, November 10.



*Photo by Mary Alice Trumble*

*Northern Cardinal*

## ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—October

*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.*

DATE	10:00 Trails Martha Hood 281-286-6746	2:00 Trails Martha Hood 281-286-6746	Greeters Jarita Sepulvado 281-479-8795	Farm Interpretation Jarita Sepulvado 281-479-8795	Farm Demos Jane Bingel 281-554-5069	Natural History Jane Bingel 281-554-5069
11/3	Jim Crabb		OPEN	Joyce Sens	Frank Sens Rope	Jane Bingel Adaptations
11/4		Melanie Weisman	Ken Russell	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Zel Arbuckle Reptiles
11/10	<h1>Fall Festival</h1>					
11/11						
11/17	Liz VanOrstrand	Ray Parker	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Polly Swerdlin Rope	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
11/18		OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Ray Parker Rope	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies
11/24	Anne Tincher	Karen Sutera	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin	Paula Thorson Cheese	Jane Bingel Adaptations
11/25		OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Ed Adams Cook Stove	Hilary Gibbs Adaptations

Visitor Contact (Continued from page 4)

**Example two:** Negative contact, spoken exchange  
A visitor asks you for directions. You tell the visitor you don't know and walk away. The visitor is irritated.

**Comments**

Even if you are not on duty, it is important to be courteous and helpful when a visitor approaches you.

If you cannot answer a visitor's question give them the name of somebody who can.

Whenever possible smile, wave, and talk to visitors.

If you act interested in them they will remember you and how welcome they felt at ABNC.

Try to put yourself in the position of the visitor.

Ask yourself how you would like to be treated.

Volunteer of the Month (Continued from page 6)

training this year because of the wetness of the prairies.

Liz lives in three different places, Montgomery County, downtown Houston and on the Intercoastal Waterway in Galveston. Since she is always going from one place to another it is easy to schedule her work at Armand Bayou Nature Center. Liz is also leading the restoration effort at Reitan Point which is located by the tree just before you head over the causeway to Galveston.

Liz loves it here because “we run such a wonderful operation. I learn so much at Armand Bayou.” We are so fortunate to have Liz Gimmler as part of our volunteer team.



**Armand Bayou  
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

8500 Bay Area Boulevard  
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Web: [www.abnc.org](http://www.abnc.org)

Reconnecting People With Nature

We're on the Web!  
[www.abncvols.org](http://www.abncvols.org)