



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 8

August 2008

ABNC's Dragonflies

Look Ahead

AUGUST

- 2 Stewardship Saturday
8:30 am
- 10 Events Committee, 3
pm, Classroom 3
- 14 Volunteer Board
meeting, 6:30 pm,
Panera Bread
- 21 Deadline for Septem-
ber *Bayou Foliage*
- 16 Stewardship Saturday
8:30 am

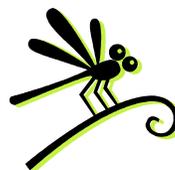
SEPTEMBER

- 7 Events Committee, 3
pm, Classroom 3
- 11 Volunteer Orientation,
10-3, Auditorium
- 11 Volunteer Board
Meeting, 5:30 pm,
Classroom 3
- 11 Volunteer Meeting,
6:30 pm, Auditorium
- 13 Volunteer Orientation,
10-3, Auditorium
- 18 Volunteer Training,
10-3, Classroom 2
- 20 Volunteer Training,
10-3, Classroom 2

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finished with
this publication
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Thanks!



Test your dragonfly knowledge by identifying these beautiful native creatures. All photos were taken by Gaye Batiz right here at the nature center. The answers will appear in next month's *Bayou Foliage*.





Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Chair
2008



BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

One of the good things about the summer is the volunteer Board gets to experience meetings outside of the nature center. For the July meeting we found ourselves at Panera Bread...nice food and a pleasing environment for the meeting. You can see by the minutes of the meeting that, although things seem quiet at the nature center, there is activity going on, mainly planning for the upcoming fall events. It's still not too late to get involved. Polly Swerdlin is heading up a committee for event planning and we are seeking volunteers to contribute opinions and ideas and chair different activities for Fall Festival. Being a chair involves coordinating a particular event by gathering together supplies, finding out where folks are going to be located and then scheduling and directing folks who sign up. There are lots of areas where help is required, so please do what you can. Sign-up sheets will be available at the September

meeting or alternatively you can call Polly or me. The next meeting of the Events Committee is arranged for August 10, at 3 pm. You also need to dust off the family recipe book. We're going to need lots of cookies to sell in November. Also, anyone know how to make candy apples? We thought these might go down rather well too.

Don't forget we do have our regular activities still going on throughout the summer— guided trails, night hikes and owl prowls, canoes, pontoon trips, farm demos, natural history demos and others, so there are heaps of volunteer opportunities available. Call co-coordinators if you are interested in helping.

Until next month - Happy trails.

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board 2008

Chair	Gaye Batiz	281-538-0592	gayebatiz@aol.com
Vice-chair	Rick Browning	281-990-0350	ricknlena5346@aol.com
Secretary	Jill Macomber	713-957-9934	jillmacomber@comcast.net
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	no email
Admissions	Dewanna Norris	281-488-2276	dwn8@juno.com
Weekend demos	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	no email
Weekend trail	Liz VanOrstrand	281-480-8296	lizvanorstrand@hotmail.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Weekday farm/OD ed.	Rebekah Gano	610-937-9751	bekah@gano.name
Outreach	Susan Kalafatich	281-461-9420	kalafatich@sbcglobal.net
Facilities	OPEN		
Stewardship	Ian Kress	281-333-9066	ian.kress@conocophillips.com
Webmaster	Amy Corron-Power	832-651-3985	acorrnpower@comcast.net
Bayou Foliage editor	Mary Alice Trumble	281-435-5788	matrubble@verizon.net

Staff Roster

Shauna Trevino Allen	Ext 13	Genifer Lara	Ext 17
Barbara Baxter	Ext 10	Christine Mattox	Ext 20
Eloise Harper		Heather Millar	Ext 14
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Tom Kartrude	Ext 11	George Regmund	Ext 31
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	Sue Sutterby	Ext 11

ABNC Volunteer Board Meeting Minutes July 10, 2008

Panera's 6:30 PM

Present: Gaye Batiz, Rebekah Gano, Jane Bingel, Eleanor Stanley, Polly Swerdlin, Dewanna Norris, Liz VanOrstrand, Jill Macomber, Tom Kartrude

Minutes from last meeting were accepted as amended. Eleanor Stanley, treasurer, reported that we had total income of \$54.31 (the amount has been corrected in the treasurer's report—editor), with no expenditures, leaving a current balance of \$3183.47. Polly Swerdlin, Volunteer Advisor, reported that Keels and Wheels donated \$4000 to ABNC. Polly brought up the idea that perhaps it is time for the volunteer organization to become its own tax-exempt entity with a linked bank account and not have to go through the Nature Center in case someone should want to donate to the volunteer group. Liz VanOrstrand, Weekend Trails Coordinator, stated that filling out a 29 page document is required to open such an account, as well as having a lawyer to look it over. We need to get some more information, such as whether we can find a lawyer on the Board of Trustees or otherwise who would be able to donate time and what the cost and implications of setting up such an account might be. Tom Kartrude, ABNC Director, said that a separate

account could be created as a sub-account to the ABNC account.

A report was given by Polly Swerdlin from staff meeting held July 2nd. Parking for the wildlife rescue class was an issue. Debris and piles of things laying around the property are being removed. Port-a-johns need to be picked up. Mileage is now figured at 58.5 cents a mile. There are several stored containers which are creating a safety issue since no-one knows what is in them. Electricity is still needed for the new exhibits. The Rotary would like an accessibility project and will have 20-30 people available sometime in the fall. One of the alligators is getting too familiar with people, so Genifer Lara, Animal Specialist, has asked that he no longer be handled. There is some concern about a distemper outbreak since the game warden had to put down an opossum with distemper. The rolling chairs in the auditorium are an issue when young children attend programs as they want to roll around, so we need to get rid of them. Anyone noticing that the gate is open on the Lyondell deck in the parking lot is asked to please close it.

OLD BUSINESS

Mary Alice Trumble, editor of the *Bayou Foliage*, will randomly select a volunteer from the active volunteer list for the spotlight. Polly reported that they had the Fall Festival meeting. One idea

that was discussed is to revive a training session for the festival, tentatively on Oct. 11. Candlemaking needs more room.

NEW BUSINESS

Gaye said we received a thank-you letter from Keels and Wheels. Polly reported that 37 people attended the oiled wildlife class, but the class was really more about regulations than about animal rescue. Late in the day, some training was given, but those who were new to the recovery process will definitely need more training. Gaye shared an idea for a volunteer notice board in the Kaneka Building which could have several different types of information. The board is already in the building but is out of date. There were several suggestions for what could be on the board. The farmhouse has been painted and looks very nice. A new spray painter was purchased. Jill Macomber, Board secretary, asked for a list of current volunteers and staff which contains addresses so that if she is asked to send a card to someone, the information is available. Polly said that she will email these lists to Jill. The Board voted to return to Panera for the meeting next month. A motion was made to adjourn at 7:15.

Jill Macomber, Secretary

Treasurer's Report June 2008

Beginning Balance		\$3127.16
Expenditures:		
May Speaker Gift	-0-	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:		
Recycle April & May	\$22.31	
Crafts	\$34.00	
Total Income	\$56.31	
Current Balance		\$3183.47

REMINDER:

There are no volunteer meetings during the summer months. We'll see you in September!

Our speaker for the September meeting will be a representative from National Audubon Society speaking on birds of the area and the Gulf Coast.



Green Living

Cleaning Tips

Oven: Use lemon juice to get rid of grease on pans and the inside of the oven. Use lemon juice and baking soda in the oven. The baking soda will speed up the cleaning process.

General Cleaning: Use straight up organic white vinegar in a spray bottle for cleaning (the vinegar's acidity is good for reducing bacteria and mold.)

Windows: Spray window with vinegar and clean with newspaper. Recycle the newspaper.

Tubs & Sinks: Use a recycled t-shirt rag. Dampen it, sprinkle on baking soda, and clean.

Pots and Pans: Dampen a rag, sprinkle on baking soda and clean

Odor Control: Put a dish of vinegar on your kitchen counter. It absorbs odors from cooking, pets, etc.

Potpourri

Use pure vanilla extract for a homemade potpourri. Put the vanilla on a few cotton balls and place them in a dish. They make the room smell like vanilla for a long time!

Books

ORGANIC HOUSEKEEPING: In Which the Non-Toxic Avenger Shows You How to Improve Your Health and That of Your Family, While You Save Time, Money, and, Perhaps, Your Sanity by Ellen Sandbeck. Recipes for organic cleaning supplies and everything from composting and house-keeping to pest control.

BETTER BASICS FOR THE HOME: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living by Anne Berthold-Bond (Three Rivers Press, 1999)

Volunteer Spotlight

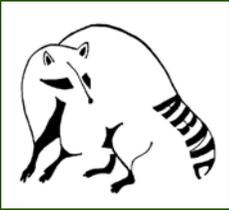
The following article ran in last month's Bayou Foliage. Due to further discussion about the selection process, the new format will not begin until September. Here again is the information.

Volunteer Spotlight will return next month with the new selection process. The Volunteer Board (see minutes of the June meeting) has approved changing the process from staff selection to a random selection open to any current volunteer in good standing. This is an opportunity to get to know other volunteers, both new and experienced, no matter how much time they have given during the month. We have many volunteers who, because of personal circumstances, are unable to work more than a few hours a month. However, their contributions are no less

important than those from others who are able to give more time. In order to expedite the process we would like to gather some basic information from each volunteer. A short questionnaire will be sent to all current volunteers in the hopes that it be returned as soon as possible. We will also be working on getting a photo database in place so that each spotlight article may be accompanied by a picture. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Mary Alice Trumble
Bayou Foliage Editor

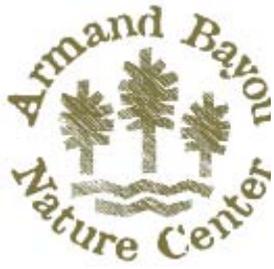
ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—August



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.

	10:00 Trails	2:00 Trails	Greeters	Farm Interpretation	Farm Demos	Natural History
DATE	Liz VanOrstrand 281-480-8296	Liz VanOrstrand 281-480-8296	Ken Russell 281-488-0390	Ken Russell 281-488-0390	Jane Bingel 281-554-5069	Jane Bingel 281-554-5069
8/2	Stan Krauhs	No Hike	Becky Barton	Paula Thorson	Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Butterflies
8/3		No Hike	Ken Russell	OPEN	OPEN	Charlotte Gogola Birds
8/9	Karen Sutera	No Hike	Paul Brunkow	Jane Bingel	Eleanor Stanley Yarn Dolls	Jack Chandler Reptiles
8/10		No Hike	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	Lana Sims Herbs	Zel Ar buckle Birds
8/16	Liz VanOrstrand	No Hike	OPEN	OPEN	Paula Thorson Yarn Dolls	Jack Chandler Reptiles
8/17		No Hike	OPEN	OPEN	Edda Scott Rope	OPEN
8/23	Polly Swerdlin	No Hike	Helen Harger	Jane Bingel	Ray Parker Rope	Polly Swerdlin Adaptations
8/24		No Hike	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin	Helen Harger Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats
8/30	Jim Crabb	No Hike	Karen Sutera	OPEN	Susan Hesley Corn Husk Dolls	OPEN
8/31		No Hike	OPEN	OPEN	Jane Bingel Corn Husk Dolls	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles

*Bayou Foliage deadline is the 3rd Thursday of each month.
Thank you for adhering to this date.*



**Armand Bayou
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

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Reconnecting People With Nature

We're on the Web!
www.abncvols.org



If you receive Bayou Foliage by email, please let us know if your email address changes.

Send changes to matrubble@verizon.net