



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 1

January 2008

Volunteer Tributes

Look Ahead

JANUARY

- 1 ABNC closed
- 5 Stewardship Saturday
8:30 am
- 10 Volunteer Board
meeting, 5:30 pm
- 10 Volunteer Apprecia-
tion Dinner, 7:00 pm
- 12 HAS Bird Survey,
7:00 am
- 17 Deadline for February
Bayou Foliage
- 19 Stewardship Satur-
day 8:30 am

We recently lost two long-time volunteers who will be greatly missed. Stephania Rogers, our "Cookie Lady" passed away November 30 and Roland Borey, an original member of the "Jim Crew" (later renamed the "Gem Crew") passed away December 6. Both were well-loved and highly respected members of our volunteer organization. Each one had been honored as an ABNC Volunteer of the Year. Their contributions were many and the mark they left on our lives and our hearts will be long remembered.



Stephania Frances Rogers was born February 17, 1927, in West, TX. She passed away on November 30, 2007 in Pasadena, TX. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul, also an ABNC volunteer. She is survived by five children, one sister, two brothers, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews. Stephania grew up in Corsicana, TX, and graduated salutatorian from Corsicana High School in 1944. She worked as a phone operator at Bell Telephone Company and married Paul D. Rogers on March 15, 1947. After the birth of their children, she held a number of volunteer positions for 30 years with the San Jacinto Council of the Girl Scouts of

America. She was awarded the Girl Scout Thanks Badge for outstanding service. Stephania was an ABNC volunteer for 13 years and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2000. She volunteered for the Pasadena ISD HOST Literacy Program, tutoring students to learn to read. She also served as a volunteer and chaplain for Bayshore Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary and on the Pasadena Police Citizens Academy. She was a resident of Pasadena, TX, for 56 years. She touched many lives and was known for her kindness and concern for every one she knew.

Stephania served on ABNC's volunteer board, taught many farm classes and outreach programs and demonstrated rope-making, cheese-making and butter-making. But she may be remembered most fondly as the "Cookie Lady" since she was, for many years, the coordinator for most of the volunteer cookie booths at several events. Services were held on December 5, 2007. The family requests that memorial donations be made in memory of Stephania Rogers to Armand Bayou Nature Center or to the Bayshore Medical Volunteer Auxiliary Corps Scholarship Fund, 4000 Spencer Highway, Pasadena, TX, 77504.

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Roland Henry Borey, Jr., passed away December 6, 2007. He was born January 27, 1920 in New Orleans, LA. He is survived by his loving wife, Marjorie Born

Borey, also an ABNC volunteer, a daughter and son, one brother, three grandchildren, and one great grandson. In addition to volunteering at ABNC, Roland was a member of the Angleton Masonic Lodge, Brown & Root Retirees Association, the Galveston County Master Gardeners and a volunteer at the Shepherd's Nook of Friendswood.



Roland has had a hand in practically everything that has been built or repaired for many years at ABNC. He was always ready to lift a hammer, drive a nail or offer his expertise on a myriad building projects. His handiwork can be seen at the farm site in many places. One of the prettiest is the arbor behind the Mermaid Rose on the south side of the farmhouse. Roland was named Volunteer of the Year in 1991. The Memorial Service was held December 15, 2007. The family requests memorial donations be made "In Memory of Roland Henry Borey, Jr." to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

More on page 8

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Thanks!



**Polly Swerdlin
Volunteer Chair**

From the Rocking Chair

What a marvelous time we had at the Hanson House for the Christmas Dinner! The lights on the porch and inside, candles on the steps, greenery throughout the house and on the porch railings and cooking smells wafting about. Ed Adams and crew did a marvelous job setting things up. Pot luck seems to bring out the best cooks!

As I finish December and my last month as your Chairman, I wish all the best to the new Board members. As I have told everyone, I will still be around for advice and direction if needed.

I hate to ask again, but *someone* needs to fill the Chair position. It should be a simple job if only to be the leader of our monthly meetings. The rest of the obligations can be delegated if necessary.

We have had a successful year and I anticipate an even better one in 2008. I know the new volunteers from September are already busy

because I have ordered several name tags when they reach that goal. This is a good thing, having lost several really great folks. First Pat Bates moves away, then Joan Henderson, Mary Ann Tucker, Judy and Jerry Schaeffer and Pat Doerr. And now Stephania Rogers and Roland Borey have passed away. I treasure the memories we have of them.

I close this month with one of my mother's favorite poems.

Polly

Joyce Kilmer, "Trees," 1914

*I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;
A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are written by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.*

Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Board 2008

Chair	OPEN		
Vice-chair	Rick Browning	281-990-0350	ricknlena5346@aol.com
Secretary	Jill Macomber	713-893-3039	jmacomber@earthlink.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	James Frantz	281-470-0946	jefrantz@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship	Ian Kress	281-333-9066	ian.kress@conocophillips.com
Webmaster	Amy Corron-Power	832-651-3985	acorronpower@comcast.net
Bayou Foliage editor	Mary Alice Trumble	281-435-5788	matrubble@verizon.net

Staff Roster

Barbara Baxter	Ext 10	Megan McInnis	Ext 17
Susan Brown	Ext 21	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Jimmy Hill	Ext 16	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	George Regmund	Ext 31
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 December 13, 2007

Program - There was much excellent food at the Christmas party. The farm house was beautiful at night with its decorations.

Old Business

Secretary report - Minutes for November were approved.

Treasurer report - The November treasury report was approved. We now have \$3589 in the treasury.

New Business

Recognition Committee - We need a few people to spearhead the recognition award purchasing. Volunteer now to avoid the last minute rush.

Election of officers - The election was held and the following people will serve next year.

- Stewardship - Ian Kress
- Facilities - James Frantz
- Outreach - Susan Kalafatic
- Weekday Outdoor Ed/Farm - Rebekah Gano
- Weekend Trail - Liz VanOrstrand
- Weekend Demo - Jane Bingel
- Greeter/Interpreter - Ken Russell
- Admissions - Dewanna Norris
- Treasurer - Eleanor Stanley
- Secretary - Jill Macomber
- Vice Chair - Rick Browning
- Chair - open

To encourage someone to volunteer for the chairman's spot the board made the following resolution, "The outgoing president will become an official advisor to the incoming board without voting privileges and without required meeting attendance."

Events

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.

Contact Bob Paxton if you are interested in helping with this event.

Bayou Boil is scheduled for May 17 at Clear Lake Pavilion.

Vice Chair Report

Woody Woodrow of U.S. Fish and Wildlife is scheduled for February's meeting. George Regmund is scheduled to speak at March's meeting.

Area Reports -

Admissions - Dottie - Need Thursday help

Greeters/Interpreters - Jarita - No report

Weekend Demos - Jane Bingel - We are losing three regular volunteers in this

area. Please help out if you can.

Weekend Trails - Martha - Need people for January.

Weekday Outdoor Ed/Farm - Gaye - Phillip is doing well filling in for Gaye.

Outreach - no report

Facilities - J. T. - no report.

Stewardship - Ian - no report

Staff

The Volunteer of the month is Pat Hill. She has been helping Megan out in the lab.

We should be getting three bison calves in February. We will be constructing pens to allow them to receive medical attention.

The Lyondell platform at the parking lot pond has been completed.

January 10 is the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Get your hours in.

Speakers for Volunteer Meetings:

January 10—Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

February 14—Woody Woodrow

March 13—George Regmund

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance		\$2792.36
Expenditures:	None	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:		
Recycle Aug & Sept	20.39	
Cookies & Plants	549.26	
Crafts	227.00	
Total Income	\$796.65	
Current Balance		\$3589.01

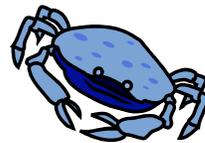
Happy
New
Year!



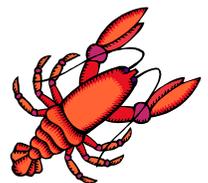
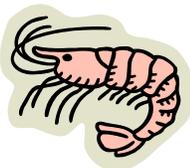
**Armand Bayou Nature Center Staff
Cordially Invites You to the
2008 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

Please Join Us As We Serve Up A Cajun Feast!

**Chicken & Sausage Gumbo
Crawfish Ettoufee
Red Beans & Rice
Coleslaw
Cornbread
Bread Pudding
Beer & Wine**



**January 10, 2008 at 7PM
ABNC Auditorium
R.S.V.P. to Barbara Baxter:
abnc@abnc.org
281-474-2551**



 *Merçi*

Come Hungry!!

Top Ten Alligator Surprises

by Hans Hofmeister

OK, I'll admit it. I'm a fan of alligators. Maybe a little too much...someone even gave me an alligator hot mitt to use in the kitchen.

And yes, it looks like the gator is biting the cookie sheet when I take it out of the oven covered with alligator cookies or whatever. But when Dennis Jones from Brazos Bend State Park came to the Armand Bayou Nature Center for the September volunteer meeting, he described things about alligators that were so amazing, even I hadn't heard these facts before. I'll try and interpret my notes from his excellent talk. Maybe you'll be surprised too, or at least have a few extra anecdotes for your next interpretive talk or around a campfire on a dark night in a swamp.

10. Being cold blooded is very efficient. For the energy it takes to run a 100-pound German Shepherd dog, you could run seven 100-pound alligators for the same length of time. When it's cold the digestive bacteria in the gator are hibernating and it can't eat at all. The Houston Zoo doesn't feed theirs from November to April... 6 months.

9. Courtship for gators can be a little tense. When they invite each other over for dinner there sometimes is only one left afterwards. A very full one. The main thing the female looks for in a romance partner is, can he hold her down underwater with one arm.

8. Places where alligator hunting is allowed tend to have an excess of 4 to 6 foot gators. At Brazos Bend the population is more evenly distributed as to size. The reason is, the really big alligators that human hunters like to take home and hang on the wall, really like to eat smaller gators.

7. A difference between the crocodiles of Africa and Asia, versus the American alligator, is that the alligator still does not usually see two legged life forms as food. These types of life forms haven't been in America long enough for the alligator's ancient brain to evolve enough to realize we are food. On the other side of the oceans, things are different. And more dangerous. After all, the alligator has been here 65 million years, the crocodiles 300 million years. And how long have two legged life forms been walking around in America? Mr. Jones said, "Crocodiles [in Asia, Africa] saw us climb down from the trees."

6. Alligators are sensitive to sound and very curious. Mr. Jones mentioned a simple sound that can get an alligator to quickly appear before him at Brazos Bend State Park to see if he is food. What was that sound? Ahem, I uh, forgot.

Bayou Foliage

5. Mama alligator hears her baby "yurping" while it's still inside the egg. She then digs it out of her compost nest so it can hatch. **Never** move an alligator egg unless you are qualified. They are extremely fragile with a network of blood vessels, and having mama explode out of the water at you can be intimidating. But she carries all the baby alligators in her mouth ever so gently.

4. Gators grow faster if there is more food available and the right temperatures. An experiment in Louisiana in the 70s took it to the extreme- in a dim warehouse the gators were kept at 90 degrees F and fed "Purina gator chow" in unlimited quantities. Total comfort. Like a cruise ship? While they normally grow a foot per year, these lucky ones grew 4 feet in one year. Their only problem was being a bit pale from lack of sun-tan. If a human child grew this fast, it would be 6 feet tall, 6 months before... kindergarten?

3. If you do decide to wrestle with an alligator, never, ever, ever touch the sides of its mouth where the 5 o'clock shadow might be. There is a 65 million year old direct wiring that will make the mouth snatch you in a blurred flash. The alligator doesn't even think about it, but will subsequently, deliberately decide not to let go, according to Mr. Jones' most painful story. Especially if everyone nearby is panicking and the alligator feels nervous.

2. Most people underestimate the size of the alligator swimming toward them. That's because like the Loch Ness Monster, a lot of it is underwater. A good rule of thumb is, the inches between its eyes and nostril, is how many feet long the gator is. But watch your thumbs when you use the ruler. And while we're sizing each other up, alligators judge their prey by height. So stand tall next to the bayou, don't crouch and of course don't swim.

1. And the number one surprise: what alligators eat. They eat sick, or dead, or injured, or young, or old animals. They leave the healthy ones alone. Well now that I think about it, for most of the past 65 million years here in the Americas, alligators were at the top of the food chain, and they were the only park rangers available.

See you at Brazos Bend when it warms up.

Bonus: When people complain about the mosquitoes, Mr. Jones advises you say, "It's not every day you can be in the middle of the food chain- and live to tell about it."



Photo by Mary Alice Trumble

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Letter to Pat Hill

Dear Pat,

Since coming aboard as a volunteer in June, you have been so great to help shred veggies, clean our cages, and love us, we wanted to thank-you because we know, with your BA in Biology and your husband and boys, you could be somewhere else. We hope the time you spend with Megan and us in the lab gives you something interesting and meaningful to do, (How many people can say they had lunch with an alligator?) Hopefully your hamsters, cats, dogs, and snakes at home don't get too jealous.



Pat Hill

When not tending to animals and children, we know we can find you with your husband at your custom computer design company. If only we could get the idea that a "mouse" is not something we eat.

From all the reptiles, amphibians, and mammals (staff and volunteers included), we want to thank you for your dedication to our diet and care.

The Lab Animals



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

Send changes to matrubble@verizon.net

We're Counting on You...

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.

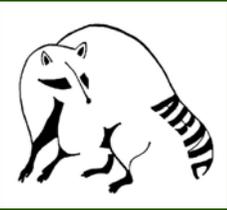
The count is open to all skill levels and beginning birders will be placed with more experienced ones so that, in addition to having a great time, they will also learn more about bird identification and avian natural history. More volunteers are needed to get an accurate picture of the bird populations at the center. If you can help, please make plans to attend the next count on Saturday, January 12.



Barred Owl

Photo by Mary Alice Trumble

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—January



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
1/5	OPEN	Anne Tincher	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Jack Chandler Rope	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
1/6		OPEN	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Jane Bingel Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats
1/12	Cris Santiago	Ray Parker	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Ed Adams Woodstove	Jane Bingel Adaptations
1/13		Karen Sutera	OPEN	OPEN	Susan Hesley Yarn Dolls	Joanna Moody Squirrels
1/19	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Ray Parker Rope	Maria Teeples
1/20		Marie Asscherick	OPEN	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
1/26	OPEN	Karen Sutera	OPEN	OPEN	Paula Thorson Cheese	Chris Battan Birds
1/27		OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Helen Harger Cheese Tom Scarsella Blacksmith	Hilary Gibbs Adaptations

Some Things I would Have Missed If I Had Not Been A Weekday Farm Person: From a note Stephania Rogers wrote in spring 2003

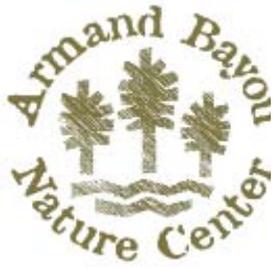
- I would probably have missed getting to know so many wonderful people who work so hard for the nature center.
- I would not have met this frail little girl who put her hand in mine while we took the farm tour with her group and insisted on tying my shoelace when it loosened.
- I would not have shared the experience with a group of children watching a beautiful butterfly hatch and gradually spread its wings.
- I would have missed the laugh I had answering the two little boys who asked me how old I was and then collapsed on each other laughing that I was that old!
- I would have missed how surprised the children are when the cream magically turns into butter and tastes so good! It still surprises me.
- I would have missed volunteering with so many dedicated people to successfully bring Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival to the community.
- My husband and I enjoyed being involved in an endeavor that both of us could do together.

I still plan to be involved in things including teaching farm classes. Just in a different way.

I hope someone will give it a try and find you like it.



Stephania Rogers



**Armand Bayou
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

P.O. Box 58828
8500 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, TX 77258
Phone: 281-474-2551
Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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

Remembering Roland Borey



Roland at Fall Festival



*Jim Hawkins, Jim Edwards and
Roland Borey*



*Some of the original "Jim Crew"
Left to right: Chuck Snyder, Roland Borey, Joe
Clem, Jim Edwards and Jim Hawkins*

When Lew Hornung was asked which projects Roland had worked on at ABNC this is what he said:

- Roland built practically every wooden gate on the place.
- He built all the half-round garden hose holders here.
- He could figure out how to do or fix most anything.
- He helped build the farm house kitchen porch.
- He helped with the remodeling of the Stewardship/Maintenance building.

Lew said "Roland was one of he biggest small men I have ever known."