



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 7

July 2008

Look Ahead

JULY

- 1 Oiled Wildlife Response Training, 8:30 am–5:00 pm
- 6 Events Committee meeting, 3 pm in Classroom 3
- 5 Stewardship Saturday 8:30 am
- 10 Volunteer Board meeting, 5:30 pm,
- 17 Deadline for July *Bayou Foliage*
- 19 Stewardship Saturday 8:30 am

When you are
finished with
this publication
please recycle it.

Thanks!

Greetings from the new Executive Director

Hello, volunteers! I appreciate this space in the Bayou Foliage to introduce myself.

Let me begin by sharing a recollection from my first interview visit to ABNC. I was intrigued to see that in the small Kaneka administration building there was only room for two offices, one for the Executive Director and one for the Volunteers. As an active volunteer for over two decades, I am used to finding volunteer space set aside in remote corners of our building, so I took that as a good sign about the organization and the critical role played by its volunteers.

While I have enjoyed being active in community and service organizations since childhood, my first experience as a docent came through Crystal Cove State Park on the southern California coast. Although half a continent away, Crystal Cove SP shares a great deal with ABNC. Set aside years before intense development spread up and down the California, the park is now an island of preserved chaparral and coastline habitat boarded by homes, schools and shopping centers.

When my career took us to Washington State I was fortunate to become a volunteer naturalist at the Seattle Aquarium. Like ABNC, the aquarium was an aging facility that relied on hundreds of volunteers to keep the tanks cleaned, fish fed and visitors informed. At the urging of the Aquarium Director, I joined with several other volunteers to create a non-profit docent corporation to recruit, train and manage a revamped volunteer organization needed to meet the increasing needs of the facility. The aquarium was just completing a major capital campaign for expanding and upgrading the exhibits when my career moved us down the coast to Oregon.

There I found a volunteer opportunity with the US Forest Service at the Cape Perpetua Scenic Area that expanded my naturalist role to include everything from the rocky shore tide pool habitats to the magnificent temperate rainforest on top of the coastal headlands. When federal budget cuts threatened to close the visitor center, I joined fellow volunteers and local community members to form the Perpetua

Foundation to help the Forest Service successfully recruit volunteers and attract additional funding to keep the doors open. Ten years later, it was only the special attraction of Armand Bayou that could lure me away from the sanctuary of Cape Perpetua.

I wanted to share that background for two reasons: one, just because I am proud to have been a volunteer, and two, because I want you all to know that I appreciate the importance of volunteers and the contribution they make to any organization. The Board of Trustees has asked me lead the Armand Bayou Nature Center towards expanded stewardship, improved education, increased visitation and better facilities. Our resources of staff and operating funds will only take us so far; volunteers and donors will be vital to reaching those goals. It will take a dynamic and dedicated volunteer organization to make that happen. I look forward to working closely with you all to attract more volunteers and to make sure they enjoy an exceptional volunteer experience.

Tom Kartrude
tom@abnc.org
281-474-2551 x 11



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Chair
2008



BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

This year is moving so fast, the rainy season is upon us and not before time. I haven't been out at ABNC at all through June, mainly because of my personal situation finally coming close to resolution. I am really looking forward to going out Saturday 21 June to help Liz Van Orstrand with the night hike. Next month the Owl Prowls resume. Liz is always looking for help with night hikes so if you are interested, give her a call. It's a wonderful experience to be out there after dark and see the full moon through the trees and over the prairie. Some nights are quiet but on others we are fortunate enough to encounter some of the nocturnal creatures that live at the nature center. Seeing Owls, (mainly Barred or Barn) in their natural environment is really a great experience.

Our meeting on June 12 was good...of course the Mexican food helped, but it was wonder-

ful to see Polly back from her wild adventures with some interesting tales to tell. The bonus was that Tom Kartrude, our new Director joined us. It was a pleasure to meet you, Tom and we all look forward to working with you in the future.

Polly has begun coordinating for our future events, primarily Volunteer Orientation, Sept 11 & 13, Volunteer Training, Sept 18 & 20, Creepy Crawlers Oct 25 and Fall Festival Nov 8 & 9. Your support for these events is needed in whatever capacity you can provide. The first two meetings of the Events Committee are July 6 and August 10. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning and organization of events please turn up at classroom 3 at 3 pm on either of these dates.

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 June 12, 2008

Volunteer Board Meeting at MomAlone Restaurant, 6:00 PM

Present: Gaye Batiz, Dewanna Norris, Ken Russell, Mary Alice Trumble, Rebekah Gano, Polly Swerdlin, Liz VanOstrand, Jill Macomber, Tom Kartrude

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made and was passed to accept minutes of last meeting.

No treasurer's report.

All coordinators are being asked to put the names of new volunteers who are qualified into database. A volunteer can get a badge after putting in 12 hours according to Polly Swerdlin. Also those who are missing from the database after the previous purge should be added back in IF they have put in their hours. Ken Russell, Greeters/Interpreters Coordinator, suggested that a separate sign-in for maintenance volunteers be put in the maintenance office.

Gaye Batiz, Volunteer Board Chair, reported that Marsh Mania was successful and a lot of fun.

NEW BUSINESS

We discussed changing Volunteer Spotlight to a random selection instead of being chosen by the staff. Liz VanOstrand, Weekend Trails Coordinator, suggested that maybe if we started taking pictures of volunteers, we would

have these on file if a volunteer is chosen. Liz made a motion that we adopt the way volunteers used to be chosen: the editor of the Bayou Foliage will pick a volunteer randomly. Ken Russell seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Polly Swerdlin, Volunteer Advisor, passed out an event committee list of ideas. We need to start planning for the Fall Festival, and Polly presented a list of exhibitors who have already committed. Polly also passed out the program for orientation last February so that Board members could see what is covered. Upcoming orientation will be September 11 (a Thursday) and 13 (a Saturday) for those who cannot come on Thursday, and training will be the 18 or 20. Polly is going to get people to sign up for what they can do as far as presentations for orientation, then, at the next board meeting, we will coordinate who is doing what for the orientation and training.

Polly reported from the staff meeting which she attended on June 11. Convergent is the new alarm system being installed next Friday, June 20. The pontoon boat is out of commission, and the motor is being fixed in Florida. We don't know when it will be operable again. The downstairs bathroom in the farmhouse will not be fixed anytime soon. A facilities part-time position has been posted in *The Citizen* and on the website. The birthing shed cannot be locked because of shifting ground. There are three new displays being constructed in the lobby. Permission was granted to accept an aluminum canoe donation.

Genifer is thinking about developing a Species Spotlight for website. A huge donated Sony TV is now available for education. If anyone parks in the back, please drive carefully as children are present. There are volunteers who have been approved, but orientation isn't until September. It was suggested that we try to get them involved sooner. Maybe we need to add additional orientation besides September and February.

Creepy Crawlers will be October 25. Polly will email the board with all the dates of upcoming events.

The volunteer office has been temporarily given over to Sue Sutterby, retiring Interim Director. Volunteers should log hours at the front desk.

New director Tom Kartrude thanked the Board for the opportunity to get close to the group, and he offered to answer any questions about him and his plans for ABNC. He talked about the vision that he has for Armand Bayou and expressed his respect and appreciation for a strong volunteer organization who he said are "filling the gaps" in the organizational chart. He mentioned that with his meeting with the Board of Trustees, he stressed that the costs of operation must be understood and budgeted for. He also said that he will depend on getting information from us.

Next meeting: July 12. Let Gaye know if you have any suggestions about where to meet. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the meeting be adjourned at 8:15.

Jill Macomber, Secretary

Treasurer's Report April 2008

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------|
| Beginning Balance | | \$3003.27 |
| Expenditures: | | |
| May Speaker Gift | \$30.00 | |
| Total Expenditures | \$30.00 | |
| Income: | | |
| Recycle March | \$18.89 | |
| Earth Day | \$135.00 | |
| Bird House—\$16; Plants—\$30, Crafts—\$40; Cookies—\$49 | | |
| Total Income | \$153.89 | |
| Current Balance | | \$3127.16 |

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

Green Cleaning Tips

Cleaning Recipes

3/4 cup distilled vinegar

1 cup water

1 tablespoon lemon juice

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Put in a regular spray bottle and shake. Add a little lavender oil to give the spray a nice scent.

1 tsp baking soda (or Epsom salts)

2 tsp borax

1/2 tsp liquid soap

2 cups hot water

several drops antiseptic essential oil (lavender is a favorite, others include sweet orange, lemon-grass, rose, clove, eucalyptus, cinnamon, rosemary, birch, lavender or tea tree – all are natural antiseptic oils).

Combine the baking soda, borax, soap and essential oil in a spray bottle. Pour in the hot water, mixing well to dissolve the minerals. Secure the lid tightly and shake well. Label the bottle clearly, and as with all cleaning products (even the ones you make yourself), keep out of reach of children. For liquid soap, use something mild like castile soap, Ivory or Ecover. If you use a concentrated product like Sal Suds, use less than called for in the recipe.



Oiled Wildlife Response Training

A full day of training is scheduled for Tuesday, July 1 from 8:30 to 5:00 on caring for wildlife that have been harmed by an oil spill. The training is specifically geared for ABNC staff and volunteers. Rhonda Murgatroyd will be organizing this comprehensive training. We have several pipelines that go under Armand Bayou. This year an oil spill response plan was developed. This training will supplement this plan.

Please sign up early so we know how many to expect. A copy of the workshop agenda will be placed in the volunteer office along with a sign up sheet.

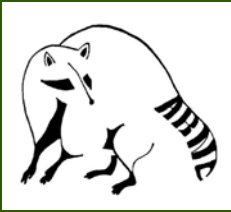
Volunteer Spotlight

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

“This training is specifically geared for ABNC staff and volunteers.”

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—July



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 |
| 7/5 | Stan Krauhs | OPEN | OPEN | Eleanor Stanley | Jane Bingel Corn Husk Dolls | Chris Battan Birds |
| 7/6 |  | OPEN | Ken Russell | Polly Swerdlin | Helen Harger Cheese | Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats |
| 7/12 | Polly Swerdlin | OPEN | Paul Brunkow | Dottie Evans | Ray Parker Rope | Eleanor Stanley Reptiles |
| 7/13 |  | OPEN | Martha Hood | Jill Macomber | Tom Scarsella Woodworking | Hilary Gibbs Taxidermy |
| 7/19 | Liz VanOrstrand | Ray Parker | OPEN | Jane Bingel | Paula Thorson Corn Husk Dolls | Jack Chandler Reptiles |
| 7/20 |  | OPEN | Jessalyn Ballard | OPEN | Jane Bingel Cheese | Charlotte Gogola Birds |
| 7/26 | Ray Parker | Ann Tincher | OPEN | Paula Thorson | Susan Hesley Corn Husk Dolls | Marie Teeples Birds |
| 7/27 |  | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN | Lana Sims Herbs | Jane Bingel Birds |

Did You Return It?

It seems that occasionally things turn up missing at the nature center...things that are necessary to do a demo or class. When volunteers come in to work it can be frustrating when their supplies are not where they are supposed to be. Recently a very generous volunteer has repeatedly purchased brooms for the wood shop so that before and after a demo it can be swept. However, they keep disappearing. Please remember to return all supplies to their proper place after use. THANKS!

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



**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



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

Send changes to matrubble@verizon.net