



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 5

May 2008

Look Ahead

MAY

- 3 Stewardship Saturday
8:30 am
- 3/4 Wheels & Keels
- 8 Volunteer Board
meeting, 5:30 pm
- 8 Volunteer picnic &
meeting, 6:30 pm
- 15 Deadline for June
Bayou Foliage
- 17 Stewardship Saturday
8:30 am
- 17 Bayou Boil, 6–10 pm
- 24 Reptile Certification,
1-3 pm
- 31 Marsh Mania, 8–12

When you are
finished with
this publication
please recycle it.

Thanks!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This month's Volunteer of the Month is Don Hale, a member of the *Gem Crew*. Don is like a "gentle giant" quietly going about his business and getting things done. Don retired from Amoco Refinery in Texas City as a shift supervisor about 10 years ago. He was volunteering at the Texas City Prairie Preserve when a friend talked him into coming to Armand Bayou Nature Center. He has been with us for two and a half years.



Don Hale working on a Gem Crew project.

Don said that he likes to be here because he enjoys the people he is working with and it gives him something to do. Besides volunteering at Armand Bayou, Don enjoys his grandchildren and wood-working. He is an excellent cabinet maker according to Lew.

We are very happy that Don decided to join us. He is a most valued volunteer.

BAYOU BITS

If I had know just how much Armand Bayou would become a part of me, I would have looked at it through different eyes the first time I set foot on the trails. That was some-time ago now and long before I had any notion that I would end up living 20 minutes away. As I remember, I wasn't too impressed with the place, it was in early March 2000, not much was visible, I hadn't learned then where to look. After the rolling hills of England, the flatness and similarity of all the trails seemed pretty average.

I married my husband in 2001 and moved out to Charleston, West Virginia to start a new life. Again, I didn't full appreciate West Virginia at first, it was only in the last year

there that I got so much pleasure out of the diversity of the trees and the tremendous number of birds that I got visiting my bird feeders and the woodland at the back of our home.

In December 2004 we relocated to Kemah in Texas. I paid several visits to the nature center just to walk, I checked out the web-site many times before I plucked up the courage to attend one of the volunteer meetings. From that day on, I never looked back. From spending time in the nature center for many activities and training and for personal pleasure, I began one of the biggest learning curves of my life – if you

(Continued on page 2)



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Chair
2008

(Continued from page 1)

think about it, I took 40 odd years to learn about the wild life in England and to date, almost 4 years on Texas and I am confident in saying I know far more about Texas than I ever did England!

Suffice to say, I know where my heart lies now – and if I have to leave here due to my personal situation it will truly break my heart to part from such a wonderful and diverse part of mother nature and from the wonderful people I consider my family and friends here in Texas. (For those who don't know, my marriage has ended due to a third party connection and sometime in the near future I hope to be released back into freedom and life).

I took on the role as volunteer chair because I really CARE about Armand Bayou

Nature Center. It breaks my heart daily to see the rape and pillage of Mother Nature by the urban spread in this area – we have a jewel and need to polish and care for it as best we can, we also need to spread the word so that our future generations can see, understand and appreciate how beautiful this area once was, how it still could be with just a little attention to detail and how precious this planet is especially for our survival.

All I ask if for your help, ideas and support to do whatever we can, whenever we can, to make Armand Bayou a truly special place to visit for many, many years to come. The volunteer base is a very important resource to the nature center, your help is needed. I'm looking forward to working with you all! Maybe I should say ya'll

Gaye Batiz

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer Board
2008**

Chair	Gaye Batiz	281-538-0592	gayebatz@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	acorronpower@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
Jimmy Hill	Ext 16	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	George Regmund	Ext 31
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	Sue Sutterby	Ext 11

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

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes April 10, 2008

Polly Swerdlin officially “passed the gavel” to Gaye Batiz for taking over as volunteer board chair.

Rick Browning introduced the speaker, George Regmund, co-owner of Skimmer Nature Tours. George spoke about a birding trip to the Amazon during the summer of 2007 and showed slides and exhibited handmade crafts from the Amazon. Another trip is tentatively being scheduled for the last two weeks of July, 2009.

Gaye asked anyone interested in donating cookies or other baked goods for Earth Day to please bring them to sell.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Beginning balance was \$3069.31 with \$84.75 in expenses, leaving a balance of \$2984.86. The treasurers report was accepted. Minutes from the last volunteers’ meeting were accepted.

More greeters are needed to help Barbara and Dick – contact Ken Russell.

Susan Kalafadich is not able to get into the nature center regularly and has asked if we could all keep a note of sign up for outreach, if something is getting close with no names she would like to be called so that she

can recruit volunteers.

Rick Browning asked for suggestions of topics for speakers and continuing ed.

Dewanna Norris made an appeal for volunteers to help with lunchtime cover for Barbara, particularly Friday and Saturday.

Liz VanOrstrand is looking for volunteers for night hikes & weekend trails.

Sue Sutterby reminded everyone that - Bayou Boil will be held on Saturday, May 17, at Clear Lake Park. The Trash Bash was a success with four hundred and thirteen volunteers. Lastly, the volunteer of the month is Don Hale.

Sign-up sheets are in the lobby, and volunteers are needed for many things.

Events – check out sign up forms: Saturday April 12th – Paint day for farmhouse

April 19th is Earth Day - Activities not covered will be cancelled. Cookies, brownies, Rice Krispy treats and baked goods are needed for selling to visitors.

April 19th – Blackstem Rendezvous that evening.

April 26th Reptile handling class--(all who wish to do so will need certification by June 10).

May 3/4th Wheels and Keels

May 17th Bayou Boil – event planner will be attending staff meeting on Wednesday – sign up sheets will be issued once needs are determined.

May 31st – Marsh Mania

After deleting non-active members, we have 154 volunteers, and if anyone believes himself to have been dropped when he should not have been, he should contact a board member.

New roster available near the clipboards, and later in the volunteer office beside the doorway.

The Frank C. Smith Library in Classroom 1 is being reorganized using the Dewey Decimal System by Nancy Henninger, Gwen Gawanis, Madelyn Barnes and Polly Swerdling. When complete, there will be a book to help readers find books by title, author, or Dewey Decimal number.

May’s meeting will be a picnic pot luck.

Finally the new signs made by Shawn Gano were held up for volunteers to admire. Sue is going to arrange with facilities to get them hung.

Jill Macomber, Secretary

Treasurer’s Report

Beginning Balance		\$3069.61
Expenditures:		
Lumber & shelf brackets	\$36.00	
Speaker Gift–March	\$48.75	
Total Expenditures	\$84.75	
Income:		
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$2984.86

The speaker for the May meeting is Michelle Johnson with Bay Area Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation.

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

Gavel to Gavel

Whew! I have handed the gavel (literally!) over to Gaye Batiz! Thank you, Tom Scarsella, for your expert carving of a persimmon branch. It was one that was on ABNC property. I know I can expect everyone to support Gaye and the rest of this year's Volunteer Board.

Please check the clipboards in the Volunteer Office each time you come in to log your hours or whatever. Outreaches and other needs happen all during the year.

Speaking of hours, I will be leaving for Alaska May 4 so I will count the log sheets May 2 (Friday) for Barbara's report. The numbers she collects (volunteer hours, attendance at classes and meetings, visitors each day, etc) go to the Board of Trustees, and our Grants writer at least if not more. What I am trying to say is, please make sure you get April's count listed as close to the 30th as you can.

At press deadline time, we are almost done re-organizing the library in Classroom 1. By the end of the

month, we hope to be totally done. Since the Dewey Decimal System puts books in a subject matter order, that seemed to be the best way to do it. If you have any "outstanding" books you have borrowed in the past, or new ones to donate, please drop them off at the shelf we have designated for returning books and we will find its "proper" place.

Thank you

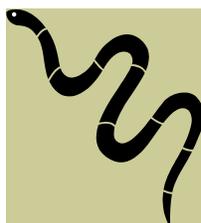
Polly Swerdlin



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

Send changes to matrumbler@verizon.net

REPTILE CERTIFICATION



Those of you who wish to handle our critters will need to begin or continue your steps for certification. There will be three classes offered soon:

- Saturday April 26 (9-11)
- Saturday May 24 (1-3) and
- June—TBA.

The last will be primarily for EcoCamp teachers. These classes do not include training for any specific class material – that will be covered in Heather's curriculum.

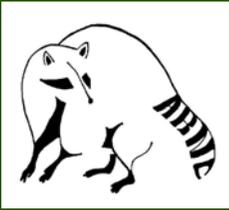
The follow-up of these classes, or any classes recently

taken, is to meet with Genifer Lara individually to demonstrate your ability to practice what was taught.

Reptile training is different from Stewardship's one-time burn training in that we wish everyone to re-certify every 12 months to keep up with changes. There might be different animals, better handling techniques, or changes to our policy for checkouts. Besides, with each burn, Mark usually conducts a procedure meeting before going out to the site. So as you can see, our primary goal in both areas is SAFETY.

Polly Swerdlin
Volunteer Advisor

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—May



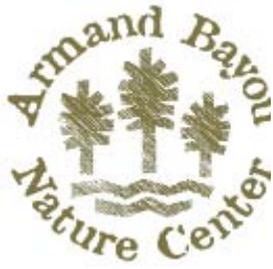
If you have to cancel, please do your best to find your own replacement. If you can cover for any open slots, please call the coordinator for that event. When you arrive at ABNC for your duty, please check in at the front desk.

	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
5/3	Jim Crabb	Anne Tincher	OPEN	OPEN	Paula Thorson Cheese	Marie Teeples Birds Kathie Stocker- buddy
5/4		Marie Asscherick	Ken Russell	OPEN	Jane Bingel Yarn Dolls	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
5/10	Charlotte Gogola	Ray Parker	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Ed Adams Ropes	Jack Chandler Reptiles
5/11		OPEN	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	Helen Harger Cheese	Jane Bingel Birds
5/17	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Dottie Evans	Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Butterflies
5/18		Karen Sutera	Jessalyn Ballard	OPEN	Jane Bingel Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats
5/24	OPEN	OPEN	Karen Sutera	OPEN	Ray Parker Rope	Jack Chandler Reptiles
5/25		OPEN	OPEN	Jill Macomber	OPEN	Chris Battan Birds Kathie Stocker- buddy
5/31	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	Helen Harger	Jane Bingel	Susan Hesley Yarn Dolls	Ruby Dilgren Arthropods

Hours, Hours, Hours!

We know that there are many volunteers out there who do not log their hours for whatever reasons they have. This is a request that you try to turn in your hours on a regular basis so that the staff at the nature center can use the information of headcount and hourly contribution to obtain funding. Please try to keep track of your hours by adding them to the book in the volunteer office on a regular basis or by emailing them to one of the committee members at least quarterly but most definitely prior to December 10th. Thanks folks!

*Bayou Foliage
deadline is the
3rd Thursday
of each month.*



**Armand Bayou
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

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Reconnecting People With Nature

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

We're going green!



Please bring your own plates and cutlery, along with a dish to share, to the volunteer picnic, May 8. We will have some paper plates and plasticware for those who forget, but we'd like to avoid using disposable items.



Mother Earth thanks you!

