



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 11

November 2008

Look Ahead

NOVEMBER

- 1 Stewardship Saturday
- 8-9 Fall Festival, 10 am—4 pm
- 13 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Classroom 3
- 13 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
- 15 Stewardship Saturday

DECEMBER

- 4 Bluestem Rendezvous Appreciation, 4—9 pm Auditorium
- 6 Burn Class 8—5 pm Auditorium
- 7 Yuletide 1-4 pm, Farmhouse
- 11 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Classroom 3
- 11 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
- 27 Christmas Bird Count, 6:30 am

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Thanks!

Volunteer Spotlight

Our Volunteer Spotlight this month highlights long-time volunteer Chris LaChance. Chris has volunteered at ABNC since 1989. She first began visiting the center as a way for her and her two daughters to learn about the natural world that existed in Houston. She had just moved from Austin and had been warned there was nothing but concrete and roaches as big as tabletops here. Arriving here in the fall of 1978 they were pleasantly surprised by the glorious colors of all the prairie grasses—and of course, the Chinese Tallows. As a native of Massachusetts, she was sure the only real fall colors were to be found in New England—and she still feels that way!

The love of nature came from her dad with whom she took long walks in the wild areas around her hometown of Gardner. Gardner is located on Rte 2, also known as the Johnny Appleseed Highway which runs east-west across the state. She spent every minute she could outside exploring the lake and wooded area behind her home. Those were the days when kids could say good-bye to your mom in the morning and show up at 5:00 for dinner. She recalls she probably picked her weights 10 times over in blueberries. She also picked Pussywillows in the early spring and discovered pink Lady Slipper Orchids under the pines.

Some of her fondest memories are waking up early to hear the Loon calling his mate across the lake, and in the fall, as the sun went down,



Chris at the Heimann House garden.

listening to the flocks of ducks and geese as they gathered each evening before the start of their migration.

Chris volunteered as a way to learn more about ABNC and get a stronger connection to the place. She says the connected feeling has never left, and it was great to find so many kindred spirits in one place. "I especially loved getting involved in the events at ABNC—Fall Festival and Yuletide being favorites. I loved learning about the human history of the area and how people found ways to coexist with nature in a practical and sustainable way—something we have certainly forgotten."

Chris worked as a Montessori teacher for 18 years., including owning a school for three of those years. She also presented educational programs for Microsoft before beginning her current career.

It was while working on a project at the farmhouse—the installation of the Hanson House Conservationscape—that she met Dr. John Jacob. Having always been an avid gardener (and now a Master Gardener), she joined the group to learn more about native plants and how landscapes affect our water resources. (Clean Water for Armand Bayou was the grant that funded the garden). As the project was nearing completion, she asked John and Colin Shackelford to let her know when they had other projects with which she could become involved. And the rest, as they say, is history. Now she's the WaterSmart Program Coordinator for TX AgriLife Extension and TX Sea Grant, part of the TX A&M University System. WaterSmart, funded by a grant from Houston Endowment, provides outreach and education on eco-friendly landscaping.

She has installed 10 demo landscapes in the Houston area, five of which are at ABNC. "One of the most satisfying things for me is teaching visitors and volunteers about the gardens and the positive impact we can make on the environment by landscaping without chemical fertilizers and pesticides," says Chris. "They're always surprised by the wide variety of beautiful native plants in our area. And that having a landscape that is a haven for wildlife doesn't

(Continued on page 8)



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Chair
2008

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer Board
2008**

**Staff
Roster**

BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

This past month has been one I will never forget and others may feel the same way. Actually walking our one and only trail open (the Martyn Road) revealed so much more sky than before. We have lost a lot of the canopy trees but as Tom Kartrude pointed out during our monthly volunteer meeting, this will provide us with a great opportunity to observe the effects of losing the trees and how succession takes place over the next few years. I just hope the tallow doesn't get too big a hold before some of the oaks get growing! A lot of work is required to get the rest of the trails open and if you are fit and able, contact the nature center, I am sure they can put you to work right away. We are now into our busy time at the Bayou although a lot of the education programs have been cancelled. Fall Festival is just 2 weeks away and there are still lots of gaps on the sign up sheets. The nature center really needs your help. I'm also making an appeal for baked goods or homemade crafts for sale at the festival.

The board is looking for replacement coordinators for those people who are at term or who do not wish to serve any longer. We are actively seeking members for the nomination committee. Polly has already volunteered for the committee and will no doubt be looking for people to join her. Can you help? It will be a case of approaching likely candidates for the board and then coming up with a list of names for nomination. I'm still waiting for answers from some board members so a full list of available positions will be put out in the near future.

Finally, our speaker for next month is none other than Chris LaChance. Please turn up to support this very popular and informative speaker. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Gaye

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Kelli Haskett	Ext 17		

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

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes October 9, 2008

Gaye Batiz, Volunteer Chair, opened the meeting at 7:04 PM by introducing the ABNC Executive Director, Tom Kartrude.

Tom reported that ABNC had hardly any structural damage, although a lot of canopy trees were lost. Researchers here from University of Houston in their ongoing study of Armand Bayou were here to record a new baseline for light due to the loss of these trees. The interpretive trails have not been cleared yet, but the boathouse survived with little damage, and the trail to the boathouse is open. Commercial crews should be coming in soon to evaluate damage and clear debris in a joint venture between Harris County and FEMA, who is to pay for the work.

Because of damage to Bay Area Park, the pontoon boat is not able to operate.

The out-dated phone system is also problematic since whenever power goes out, the entire system must be reprogrammed, and, as the system is outdated, parts are difficult to find.

Staff members were moderately impacted and have been working very hard, along with volunteers, to get things cleaned up and repaired. Volunteers are desperately needed for Prairie Pandemonium on Oct. 18th.

The Executive Board finalized plans to submit an application for a \$300,000 matching grant for capital improvements.

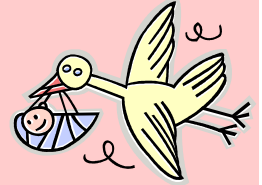
As a non-profit organization, what ABNC would like to accomplish will never match up with what can be done with professional staffing, so the volunteers are essential to accomplish the outreach and projects that Tom would like to see. Volunteers were asked to share the message about how much they enjoy ABNC in order to encourage others to volunteer, too. Sometimes, being invited to be a volunteer might be just what someone needs.

Volunteers then viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the tide pools at Cape Perpetua, Oregon.

After a short break, the business meeting began. Gaye reminded people about volunteer opportunities for which sign-up sheets were out on tables. Eleanor Stanley reported that the balance in the treasury has not changed in three months and remains at \$3183.47.

Polly Swerdlin asked volunteers to sign up for the Fall Festival. Yarn is available to make yarn dolls; costumes can be borrowed from several outfits at the back of the auditorium. Training for festival volunteers has been cancelled.

There was a motion to dismiss at 8:20 PM.



In case you haven't gotten the news: Elise Lynne Gano was born October 5th at 4:03pm. She weighed 7lbs 13oz and was 19 inches long. At her new baby checkup, the doctor reported she's growing like a champ: over 8 pounds and 20.5 inches long! I'm doing great too and hope to make an appearance at the nature center soon.

Rebekah

Treasurer's Report July 2008

Beginning Balance		3183.47
Expenditures:		
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:		
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$3183.47

VOLUNTEER MEETING:

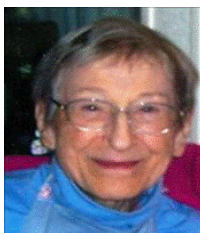
Our speaker for the November meeting will be Chris LaChance.. She will be speaking on WaterSmart Landscaping and the Gardens of Armand Bayou Nature Center.

In Memory



Former ABNC volunteer Ruth Marjorie Mergler Elder, 92, died peacefully surrounded by her children on Sept

21, 2008. She was born Nov 5, 1915 in Cincinnati OH. Ruth graduated from the University of Cincinnati, married George Elder in 1939 and resided in Mt. Washington OH until their move to Pasadena TX in 1962. She began her career as a Contract Specialist with NASA in 1965 and retired in 1997. Ruth is survived by: son and wife Pat & Terry Elder, daughter Kathy Elder, son-in-law and wife John & Diane Havens; grandchildren Rick and Cody Havens, Colleen and Cristin Elder, Cara Tibbits, and Heather Jensen; great grandchildren Hayden Jensen, Tristan and Tyler Tibbits. She was preceded in death by her husband and daughter Jeanne Elder Havens. A memorial service to celebrate Ruth's life was held on Sat, Oct 4, 2008. Burial followed in Cincinnati OH. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions to a charity of your choice. The family thanks Ruth's devoted caregivers Deborah Jackson, Lottie Conwell, Darlene Lane and Dorothy Gantz; the staff at Medallion Assisted Living and Vitas Hospice for their loving care of this wonderful woman.



George Regmund's mom, Ann Elizabeth Regmund, 94, passed away Sunday October 12 at St.

Joseph Regional Health Care in Bryan. She was born June 28, 1914 in Brazos County, TX. Services were Thursday, October 16, at Memorial Funeral Chapel. Annie was a member of the local Brazos Valley Czech Heritage Society, the C.E.F.T. and T.C.H.C.C. She was a fabulous mother. Annie was preceded in death by her husband, W.C. Bill Regmund Sr.; son, W.C. Bill Regmund Jr.; three brothers and five sisters. Survivors include her sons, Thomas Regmund of Weatherford, George Regmund of Dickinson; grandchildren, Rick Powell, Mike Powell, Matt Powell, Aimee Scott, John Regmund and James Regmund; great-grandchildren, Katie, Alyssa, McKenna, Tanner, Nole, Maylynn, Sophie and Rita Powell, Tristan, Lauren, Caroline and Evan Scott. Memorials may be made to the C.E.F.T., Kostohrys Endowment, 4454 Alta Vista Lane., Dallas, Texas 75229 or T.C.H.C.C., 250 West Fairgrounds Road, LaGrange, Texas 78945.

Our condolences are extended to George on the passing of his wonderful mom.



NED VAN MAANEN passed away Thursday, October 23, 2008 in Houston, Texas. He was 66 years old. Ned Allen Van Maanen was born June 28, 1942 in Arlington, South Dakota. His father was an

educator, and the family lived in many small communities and university towns including Independence, OR and Pamaona, CA. In 1962, the Van Maanen's moved to Dhaka, then East Pakistan, where his father was a professor at the Institute for Education and Research. During Ned's first year in Dhaka, he took graduate courses in education at the Institute. In 1963-64 he taught 6th grade at the Dhaka American School. It was there that he met Judith Kay LeVee whose father was in East Pakistan with a World Bank agricultural project. In 1964, Ned and Judy both returned to Greeley, CO to finish their undergraduate degrees. On August 25, 1964, Ned and Judy were married in Greeley. The couple lived and taught outside Boulder, CO where Ned earned his MEd in 1968. In August 1969, Ned took a position as director of the newly formed Houston School for Deaf Children. Their first child, Marie, was born November 4, 1971. In 1976 the couple attended summer school at Walden University in Warwick, RI, where Ned completed his dissertation on educational change and was awarded a PhD in Education in 1978. On December 6, 1980 their second child, Allen, was born. In 1987, Ned became the Executive Director of Crime Stoppers of Houston. Later in his career Ned served as Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association of Houston and Southeast Texas, Houston READ Commission, Armand Bayou Nature Center, and as Interim Director of the Houston Maritime Museum. After retirement, Ned was a volunteer courier for the National Marrow Donor Program. Ned had a love of sailing since building his own first boat in high school. Ned and Judy raced their Flying Dutchman all over the country before moving to Houston. They joined the Houston Yacht Club in 1969 where they spent many weekends sailing on Galveston Bay. Ned was a certified US Sailing Judge and Club Race Officer.

(Continued on page 8)

27th Annual Martyn Farm Fall Festival

November 8 & 9

10am – 4pm both days



Martin Bergin
Cowboy Poet

There will be antique tractors along with canoe rides on May's Pond, draft horse demonstrations and wagon rides. Wells Fargo is bringing a stagecoach. So far, the quilters, blacksmiths, and wood carvers have promised to be there. Entertainment is shaping up nicely with most of our regulars returning; dulcimers, German band, cloggers, flutes, cowboy poet, Scottish and square Dancing.

Most of the activities we have done in the past will be offered our visitors, and in need of volunteer help. Please look over the sign-up in the Volunteer Office for your special place(s). In fact, you don't even have to be an official volunteer. Sign your partner up, your teenage kids (14+), and some neighbors if they are willing! If they don't have a nametag (for free entry), let us know and we will have one ready for them when they arrive.

One special volunteer effort is always Stephania's Cookie Booth where we sell goodies brought in by y'all. Dust off your favorite recipe for cookies, brownies, cakes, or breads, whatever. (Store bought won't be turned away if you are short of time or kitchen-challenged.) Proceeds go directly into the volunteer treasury to allow us to fund various projects and help the nature center.

Exit Interviews have indicated that our visitors are looking for things to buy. With that in mind, there will be another volunteer booth where we will sell any handmade items you would like to donate. These are also for the volunteer treasury.

The costume of choice will be 1890 to 1920. A simple description of a lady's attire from 1908 could be; long sleeve blouse with a lace collar, a long straight skirt to the ankles, and black shoes. Add to that a fine looking hat with a broad brim. The fellows are easier; a plain-collar shirt, farmer john overalls, and a straw hat. There is a small selection of items in the birthing shed available we will bring to the September and October Volunteer Meetings. If you don't have a costume, please wear your khaki shirt.

As usual, breakfast on that weekend is pretty much potluck. We have a sign-up list in the volunteer office. It will help us get started early if there are munchies to grab as we prepare for the day. Please put down an item you can bring. We will also offer it to the vendors, demonstrators, and musicians who are helping us put on this show. A cold cut lunch will be available thanks to grocery store donations.

I will be on the nature center property the week before Fall Festival to finish any preparations, and will appreciate help from my friends. We are all looking forward to a great time, it's a lot of work building up to it, but well worth it all. Each year is more fun watching the kids' reactions to the animals and listening to fine music, the stories, and reliving the past to appreciate the present.

Thank you for your support.

Polly Swerdlin

281-814-4606

polly@abnc.org

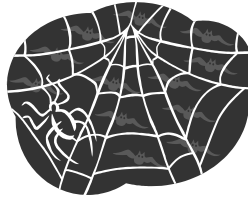


Potluck breakfast
will be served each
day. Please sign up
to bring something.

Creepy Crawlers 2008



Lou Wheatcraft loading passengers for the prairie hayride



Zel Arbuckle after painting a young visitor's face.



Dewanna Norris helping with children's crafts in the Pole Barn.



Martha Hood and Jane Bingel serve witches brew in the farmhouse



Susan Hesley moooving among the crowd distributing "milk" and "butter" to the kids.



Kristen Knoedler and helper put icing on cookies for kids to decorate.

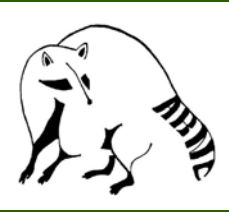


Gypsy Polly Swerdlin greets visitors to the Hansen Farmhouse






"Good and Evil" battle it out as Kelli Haskett and Jessalyn Ballard present the barn show.

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—November



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
11/1	Jim Crabb	Ann Tincher	OPEN	OPEN	Ray Parker Rope	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
11/2		OPEN	Ken Russell	OPEN	Tom Scarsella Woodworking	Hilary Gibbs Pone
11/8	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival
11/9		Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival	Fall Festival
11/15	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	Jane Bingel Yarn Dolls	Jack Chandler Reptiles
11/16		Gaye Batiz	Helen Harger	Polly Swerdlin	Eleanor Stanley Yarn Dolls	Zel Arbuckle
11/22	Ray Parker	OPEN	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Paula Thorson Cornhusk Dolls	Jack Chandler Reptiles
11/23		OPEN	OPEN	Jill Macomber	Helen Harger Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats
11/29	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	OPEN	Susan Hesley Yarn Dolls	Jane Bingel Birds
11/30		OPEN	Jessalyn Ballard	OPEN	Lana Sims Herbs	OPEN

*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
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Houston, TX 77258
Phone: 281-474-2551
Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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

(Volunteer Spotlight continued from page 1)

have to look like a weedy lot." Connecting with nature in a garden can also work to heal the body and spirit as she discovered when she sought respite there while undergoing treatment for ovarian cancer. Her experience was the catalyst for installing butterfly gardens at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Known as the Chrysalis Project, it has touched many people who have also sought refuge in nature. People from different parts of the country have written to her telling of their fond experience in the butterfly gardens when they have been at MDA for treatment. In the words of Dr. David Orr from the University of Washington, "When we heal the earth, we heal ourselves."

"I have my connection to nature through ABNC to thank for the course my life took through the portal of a garden," Chris says.

We are glad she made the connection through ABNC since she has been such an important part of the center's operations for many years. Thanks, Chris for everything you do!

Jessica Collier was last month's Volunteer Spotlight person. Regrettably we didn't have a picture of her at that time.

Thanks again Jessica for all you do for ABNC.



(In Memory continued from page 4)

Always active in the community, Ned was a Past Commodore of the Houston Yacht Club, past president of the Exchange Club of Houston, and a past board member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Houston. In 1997 he was recognized by AFP as the Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year. Ned was preceded in death by his wife Judith LeVee Van Maanen in 2004 and his brother Wendell Van Maanen. Ned will be missed by his mother, Carol Van Maanen, aged 94, of Greeley, CO, his son Allen Van Maanen, daughter and son-in-law, Marie and Larry Wise, and grandson Alex Wise, age 7, of Houston, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the ESCAPE Family Resource Center, 3210 Eastside, Houston, Texas 77098, a non-profit organization associated with the Houston Exchange Club.