



Bayou Foliage

Volume 27, Number 9

September 2008

Look Ahead

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Stewardship Saturday
- 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
- 20 Stewardship Saturday

OCTOBER

- 4 Stewardship Saturday
- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Classroom 3
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
- 11 Fall Festival Activity Training, 10–3
- 18 Prairie Pandemonium
- 25 Creepy Crawlers

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Thanks!

Volunteer Spotlight

In the Volunteer Spotlight this month is Jill Macomber, our volunteer secretary.

Jill grew up in Pennsylvania and came to Texas by way of Akron, OH; San Diego, CA; and New York City, NY where she lived for 14 years before moving to Texas. She has lived in League City for almost two years and has been an ABNC volunteer for about one year. When she volunteered to be the secretary of the ABNC Volunteer Board she really thought someone with more experience would want the job. “I was wrong, but I love doing something I like to do (writing) and helping ABNC at the same time,” she admits.

Besides the great people at ABNC Jill loves the quiet the most. As opposed to New York City, where there was nowhere she could go where there weren't other people, she can hike a trail at ABNC and never see another person. She says, “I love the fact that it's just me, my thoughts, and nature.” When her son took her to ABNC for the first time in May, 2007, she knew it was somewhere she wanted to go back to again and again. She fell in love with the farmhouse on that first trip and decided that farmhouse interpretation was what she wanted to do. Now she tries to do that at least once a month. She also had lots of fun making hoe-cakes at Fall Festival,

and hopes to be able to do that again this year.

Jill has a daughter and four grandchildren in North East (that's the name of a town, not a direction), PA, where her 92-yr.-old mother also



Jill Macomber

lives. Closer to home, she has a son and daughter-in-law, a sister, two nieces, and a great-niece here in Texas. She finds it rather strange they all ended up here since none of her family originated in Texas. Her sister and her ex moved here more than 30 yrs. ago when he took a job for Marathon Oil. Her son stayed here so he could make the best use of the GI Bill to go to college after finishing his tour of duty with the Coast Guard in Galveston. As it turned out, her son and sister ended up about 20 minutes from each other, so moving here was a good move since she had no family in New York City.

Going to college later in life didn't deter Jill as she went the extra mile, earning an MA in English from Gannon University in Erie, PA. After moving to New York City in 1992, she was an adjunct writing teacher at the City University of New York, then taught high school English in the Bronx for 10 years before moving to Texas. She is starting her second year with Pasadena ISD where she teaches 9th grade English.

Animals play a big part in Jill's life and she has four cats to prove it. When she moved to Texas, three cats flew with her, and she has acquired one since. She also loves to travel and has visited Italy, Vietnam twice, Thailand, and, most recently, Russia. When not traveling, she enjoys walking, riding her bike, and going to theatre and/or concerts, especially the free outdoor ones in Texas in the summer. Her most recent hobby is learning to shoot a pistol, as a member at the Texas City range. She loves that Texas allows people to own guns because New York City makes it practically illegal to even touch a gun (She says that's an exaggeration but not far from the truth).

Thanks Jill for choosing to be a part of this volunteer organization, bringing with you many talents and interests. We appreciate all the contributions you make!



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Chair
2008

BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

Wow, I cannot believe that it is almost September. I am really looking forward to getting out of doors a lot more. Already signs of fall are on the way. The August bird count (2nd Saturday every month at 7am) had a great morning of birding, seeing warblers, vireos and other early migrants. The owl prowls in August was outstanding; imagine seeing a barred owl sitting on the antenna of the interpretive building interacting with the calls. Incredible! I cannot understand why we do not have a waiting list of volunteers wanting to help in that area.

I'm looking forward to our first meeting in September, which is also our first day for volunteer orientation. Polly is proving her value by organizing this event with help from the volunteer committee, but needs some help so please make an effort to get in touch with her to see what you can do.

Rick has lined up some great speakers for us in the coming months, September will be a speaker

from the National Audubon Society and in October Tom Kartrude our new director, has agreed to speak.

It will be nice to see you all again, meet our new intake of volunteers and to get back into the swing of things.

Don't forget we have our busiest and most important events coming up. There are volunteer signup sheets for Creepy Crawlers and Fall Festival, so please get your name down as soon as possible and start planning your baking schedule. We need lots of cookies, baked goods, candied apples and home made candy (if you have any good recipes) to sell. We're currently using funds to buy more tables for the nature center for use at events and with educational programs

Don't forget that volunteers are one of the most important assets of the nature center. ABNC needs your help! See y'all soon. Gaye

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	281-957-9934	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
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Staff Roster

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		
Kelli Haskett	Ext 17		

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

ABNC Volunteer Board Meeting Minutes August 14, 2008

Panera's 6:30 PM

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

A motion was made and seconded to accept the July minutes.

Eleanor Stanley's treasurer's report showed no expenditures or income, with the balance remaining at \$3183.47.

Polly Swerdlin reported on the staff meeting of August 13. Outreach volunteers are needed for Exxon Mobil for Oct. 4 and 11 from 10-5. Dick Phelps requested that weekend volunteers call him and let him know if they are not going to show up, and all weekend volunteers should check in with Dick in the visitors' center upon arrival. Some of the new volunteers who wanted to work in gardening were not called, so Chris LaChance volunteered to call (or to be called by) those who are interested in gardening.

Tom Kartrude, Executive Director, reported Shauna Allen has resigned. Genifer Lara is leaving the Animal Specialist position the end of this month. Both positions are on the website. Shauna was very involved in the scouting program,

so Tom thought that perhaps some volunteer would be interested in facilitating overnight campouts. Tom has also approached the Scout Council to see if someone involved in scouting could be drawn in as an ABNC volunteer to be in charge of scouting at the Bayou.

Jill Macomber has been randomly selected as Volunteer of the Month for *Bayou Foliage*, and the next deadline for submissions is August 21.

OLD BUSINESS

Polly Swerdlin passed around a sign-up list for volunteer orientation ; Creepy Crawlers which will be only one night this year; and the Fall Festival. Liz VanOrstrand, Weekend Trail Coordinator, was given an email requesting a private hike. Oct. 4th will be a farmhouse workday inside the farmhouse in preparation for Fall Festival. September 18 and 20 will be a weekday and a weekend volunteer orientation. Oct. 11 from 10 AM-3 PM will be volunteer training for the Fall Festival. Visitors will decorate the tree for Yuletide in December. Barbara Baxter would like to buy some walking sticks for people to rent, or possibly we could make our own from sticks found in the woods. Income would be turned over to our treasury.

Gaye passed around a thank-you letter from Keels & Wheels.

NEW BUSINESS

More work needs to be done updating the volunteer list.

Rick Browning, Vice Chair, said that in September the speaker will be from the National Audubon Society; October will be Tom Kartrude. We need to work on getting more volunteers out to meetings. Rick asked people to think about opening up continuing education and volunteer meetings to the public and advertising them in local papers. Eleanor Stanley made a motion that Rick publicize the speaker and meetings. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Liz said that she had downloaded the 68 pages of paperwork necessary to become our own tax-exempt entity. A lawyer should be consulted about such a move which has been looked into in the past, and one reason Tom thinks that this might be a good thing to do is because of auditing.

Rebekah Gano, Weekday Education Coordinator, said that she has been handling outreach as well as education but will be unable to do both in a month or so. Tom said that a bill has been introduced to raise the mileage paid to volunteers from \$.17 to \$.47 a mile. Both the Texas House and Senate need to know that people are in favor of the passage of this bill.

Eleanor Stanley moved that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40. The motion was seconded and passed

Jill Macomber, Secretary

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

by Heather Millar, Director of Education

Summer Eco Camp 2008 has drawn to a close after eight weeks of lessons in the field revolving around insects, reptiles, pond and aquatic studies, mammals and adaptations, team building skills, life of the early settlers, birds and camping. We had over 465 campers in Pre-Kindergarten to eighth grade classes and an income of over \$71,000.

Thanks for the program support go to our sponsors, ExxonMobil, HEB Foods, and the ABNC Volunteers. Many thanks also go out to those people who gave of their time and expertise, the ABNC staff; our terrific teachers; Bianca and Luz Locke of the City of Pasadena; Hunter Safety and Game Wardens from Texas Parks and Wildlife; The University of Houston Clear Lake Early Childhood Education Department; The ABNC Volunteers; the ABNC Teen Volunteers; The Strake Foundation for CPR and First Aid training and teen program development; Kinder Morgan Foundation; Moody Garden SAVY's program for teen continuing education; Shell and Volunteer Houston.



Janice Schragger with her class

Shell and Kinder Morgan Foundation provided grants to bring in three interns this summer, Catherine Counts, Adriana Sicotte and Cameron Williams, respectively. The University of Houston Clear Lake provided interns Jennetta Brunk and Brooke Miller who were enrolled in class with Dr. Rebecca Huss-Keeler, a long time associate with the Education Department at ABNC. Other interns this summer were Alyson Shepherd and Jake Schragger. All of these great individuals worked hard in hot and somewhat unpredictable conditions, teaching classes, working with teachers, preparing materials and doing whatever was asked of them to make camp a success. We really appreciate the "coup spirit" they brought to the Nature Center and wish them the best in their fall class work.

Some changes came about in the department this summer, Shauna Trevino Allen, after eight years as Program Manager and Scout Director, accepted a job with KBR and Kathy Gardner is now the Interim Education Programs Coordinator.

Kathy is a familiar face around here having been a teacher with our education programs before being called back to active duty with the Army. Upon her retirement from military service, she has returned to teach classes and become a Texas Master Naturalist. Kathy and Rebekah Gano, also a TMN and very active with the Volunteers of ABNC, have been of vital importance in seeing that camp, field trips and educational outreaches and programs are kept running and are relevant to the needs of the community.



Table that Ed Adams' scouts built

If any of you have been around May's Pond this summer you will have noticed a few changes there, too. Ed Adams and his family and their Scout troops have constructed a fishing station of recycled materials to the specifications of the stewardship and education departments. The table accommodates, PFD's, (personal floatation devices), fishing poles, tackle boxes and classroom materials. We have been using the area all summer for pond classes and fish studies. Ms. Jess Shoemaker, (fisheries biologist from Purdue), does a terrific class out here!

We also had a little visitor at May's Pond in the past few weeks, a small American Alligator. He may have migrated from the boardwalk pond during the recent storm. We are discouraging any friendly contact with him in the hopes that he will move on soon.

As we wind up an exciting summer at camp, we look forward to Creepy Crawlers October 25th, Fall Festival November 8 & 9 and Winter Camp 2008 December 29, 30 and 31. See you then.

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.

ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER PRESENTS

Creepy Crawlers



Saturday, October 25



5:30 to 9PM



A family-oriented Halloween alternative

- Guided **CREEPLY** night hikes through the **CREEPLY** woods
- **CREEPLY** Story-telling
- **CREEPLY** Face Painting
- **CREEPLY** Hay Rides
- And MORE

Advanced Reservations Required
Call 281-474-2551

Admission: Members \$8.00
Non-members \$10.00
Two (2) and under FREE

All activities included in cost.

**Make reservations
NOW!**

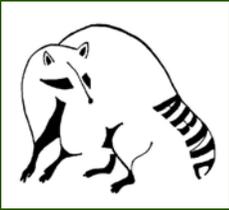
**Creepy Crawlers
Sells out FAST!**



Web-site: www.abnc.org
e-Mail: abnc@abnc.org



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
9/6	Ray Parker	Ann Tincher	OPEN	OPEN	Ed Adams Rope	Polly Swerdlin Adaptations
9/7		OPEN	Ken Russell	Eleanor Stanley	Edda Scott Yarn Dolls	Chris Battan Birds
9/13	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	Paul Brunkow	Jane Bingel	Paula Thorson Cornhusk Dolls	OPEN
9/14		OPEN	Becky Barton	Polly Swerdlin	Lana Sims Herbs	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles
9/20	Jim Crabb	OPEN	OPEN	Dottie Evans	Ray Parker Rope	Jane Bingel Adaptations
9/21		OPEN	Martha Hood	Jill Macomber	Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing	Hilary Gibbs Hummingbirds
9/27	Stan Krauhs	OPEN	Helen Harger	Jane Bingel	Edda Scott Rope	Polly Swerdlin
9/28		OPEN	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	Helen Harger Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats

Fall Festival Activity Training October 11 - 10 am to 3pm

Depending on the number folks signing up and lessons required, it might be a shorter time. We plan to offer hands-on training for the various activities that might be difficult to learn "on-the-job".

Candle Making 10 am
Seed Mosaics 11 am

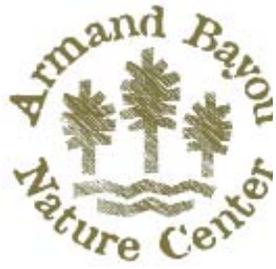
Yarn Dolls 12 pm
Rope Making 1 pm
Wash Day 2 pm

If you could teach any of these, please let me know. If you want to learn, sign up in the Volunteer Office.

Polly Swerdlin
polly@abnc.org
281-814-4606



*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
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Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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

Here are the answers to last month's dragonfly quiz

Thanks to George Regmund for providing the answers!



Golden-winged Skimmer (male) *Libellula auripennis*



Common Whitetail (male) *Plathemis lydia*



Eastern Pondhawk (female) *Erythemis simplicicollis*



Blue Dasher (male) *Pachydiplax longipennis*



Blue Dasher (male) *Pachydiplax longipennis*



Double-ringed Pennant (male) *Celithemis verna*



Eastern Pondhawk (female) *Erythemis simplicicollis*



Red-tailed Pennant (female) *Brachymesia furcata*