



Bayou Foliage

Volume 28, Number 4

April 2009

Look Ahead

April

- 4 Animal Handling Training
- 4 Stewardship Saturday
- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting, 5:30 pm, Classroom 3
- 9 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm, Auditorium
- 10 Owl Prowl Training, 5:30 pm, Auditorium
- 11 Wildflower Field Trip, 9 a.m.
- 11 Houston Audubon Bird Survey, 7 am
- 18 Stewardship Saturday
- 18 Canoeing 101
- 22 Earth Day
- 25 Earth Day celebration, ABNC & Pasadena Fairgrounds

When you are finished with this publication please recycle it.
Thanks!

Volunteer Spotlight

Jane Bock and her family have been members of Armand Bayou Nature Center since it opened. It was almost home away from home for her daughter, Jennifer while she was growing up. The classes and fun activities had a lasting impact on her. She is now working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Department.

While on a nature center field trip to Grand Manan Island in 1987 Jane got hooked on birding, which became her favorite hobby. Some of her family's highlights were going on birding and nature related field trips. And as with many of us, some of her best friends are people she met at ABNC.

Jane moved to the area in 1962 and In 1992 retired after teaching Social Studies for 30 years at La Porte High School.

Born and raised in Foreman, Arkansas Jane, three brothers and two sisters, one of whom is her twin, grew up on a farm surrounded by birds and other animals. Roaming the woods, fishing the creeks and ponds and eating wild mulberries and muscadine grapes instilled a love of the outdoors. In turn, she has tried to be a responsible citizen and not harm the environment.

She was valedictorian of her senior class of 28 students. After high school she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas. Given an assistant-



ship to Arizona State University, she earned a Masters Degree in History.

Jane met her future husband, David at La Porte High School where he was also a teacher. They married in 1970 at Rice University Chapel, honeymooned camping in the Smoky Mountains and last summer celebrated their 38th anniversary. He taught for five years and has worked for a NASA contractor for many years. They have a cat named Blackie and a parakeet named Lime. Blackie is a second chance pet who is an indoor cat (no killing birds and lizards for him).

Being an avid birder it's no surprise her favorite volunteer activity by far is the Christmas Bird Count. Even though she feels totally exhausted by the end of the day she always has fun and believes it benefits the birds. Another activity she enjoys is writing birding articles for *Along the Bayou*. It usually requires 15-20 hours to research and write the article but Jane says she learns some-

thing new with each one. She was once named Birder of the Month by Wild Bird Magazine based on an article she wrote.

Jane teaches a Bible Study class at University Baptist Church and gives talks/slide shows on birds to several organizations. She is currently Second Vice President of the La Porte Retired School Employees Association. She and David volunteer at the Texas City Prairie Preserve where once a month they track Prairie Chickens. She was once chosen Volunteer of the Month here at ABNC.

Hobbies other than birding are reading and gardening. She likes the Houston Rockets and the Arkansas Razorbacks; enjoys eating out, going to movies, attending birding festivals and going on bird walks and field trips. Brazos Bend State Park is her favorite birding place. She dislikes house cleaning.

Thanks, Jane for sharing all your talents, energy and years of loyal and dedicated service to ABNC.

About Volunteer Spotlight...

Each month a volunteer is randomly selected to be in the volunteer spotlight. It is meant to be a chance to get to know all our volunteers no matter how long they have been here. If selected, I hope you will readily share your experiences as Jane Bock did this month.

...Editor



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Vice-Chair 2009

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer Board
2009**

**Staff
Roster**

BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

Spring is well and truly here, the weather perfect (except for Senior's Day), trees are budding and the wild flowers are beginning to bloom. Love this time of year, although I do miss the spring lambs that appear in England, enough said. Thank you to the hardy volunteers who turned out to support Senior's Day. Unfortunately, the weather got the upper hand and we all headed off home around midday. The high point for me was a cup of hot coffee brewed on the farmhouse wood stove by the remarkable Ed Adams. if ever you get the opportunity to sample, take my word, nothing tastes quite like it!

Sign up sheets abound in the volunteer office. Have you put your name down for something yet? We need all hands on deck for Earth Day. Tom Kartrude has asked for a focus to be placed on the trails especially as they reopen that day. Volunteers

are also needed to greet visitors as they arrive and give out leaflets of activities. There are other volunteer opportunities available; check out the sign up sheet in the volunteer office or contact Catherine Miller to see where you could help.

Our meeting this month saw a good turnout in spite of the grotty weather that night. It's so nice to see the number of attendees growing each month. Mark Kramer gave a great talk on the achievements of the stewardship department over the past 35 years, (psst - they don't do crossword puzzles all day). It's amazing what can be done to compensate for man's interference and damage to the ecosystems. I look forward to assisting on many future projects. Our speaker for April is Lana Simms. Lana turns up at

(Continued on page 3)

Chair	Gaye Batiz, as acting Chair		
Vice-chair	Gaye Batiz	713-518-5759	gayebatiz@aol.com
Secretary	Jill Macomber	281-957-9934	jillmacomber@comcast.net
Treasurer	Ken Russell	281-488-0390	pacloon@aol.com
Admissions	Dewanna Norris	281-488-2276	dwn8@juno.com
Weekend demos	Ed Adams	713-946-2754	no email
Weekend trails	Liz VanOrstrand	281-480-8296	lizvanorstrand@hotmail.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	no email
Weekday farm/OD ed.	Rebekah Gano	610-937-9751	bekah@gano.name
Outreach	Jane Bingel	281-554-5069	no email
Facilities	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
Stewardship	Cathy Koenig	281-222-5245	caskoenig@comcast.net
Webmaster	Shawn Gano	610-937-9384	shawn@gano.name
Bayou Foliage editor	Mary Alice Trumble	281-435-5788	matrubble@verizon.net

Barbara Baxter	Ext 10	Kelli Haskett	Ext 17
Eloise Harper		Christine Mattox	Ext 20
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Tom Kartrude	Ext 11	Dick Phelps	Ext 10
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	George Regmund	Ext 31

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

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes March 12, 2009

Gaye Batiz called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

Animal handling for tomorrow is being cancelled and rescheduled for April 15. Owl Prowl training is also being cancelled and rescheduled for April 10.

Mark Kramer from Armand Bayou Nature Center was introduced as speaker. His Power-Point presentation showed Armand Bayou as it was in the past, as it was after years of industrialization and building changed the landscape, and what has been accomplished since restoration efforts began.

Polly Swerdlin made an appeal for volunteers for Senior Day this Saturday from 10 - 4. Seniors will be allowed through the service road gate where an entry fee will be collected. There will be demonstrations, and ice water, lemonade, and cookies will be given out. Jane Bingel has made announcements about the event at senior cen-

ters, and there have been advertisements in the media.

Next month, Lana Sims will speak about plants and herbs. May will be our potluck picnic and a demonstration by Shawn Gano of the updated ABNC Volunteer website.

March 21 will be canoe guide training.

Educational events are planned throughout the week of March 16-20 for Spring Break, and volunteers will be welcomed to either help with planned activities or to present a demonstration of his/hers own.

Eleanor Stanley appealed that people bake cookies to be sold on Earth Day, April 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Jill Macomber,
Secretary

(Bayou Bits continued from page 2)

the farmhouse on a regular basis to talk to visitors about the many herbs that can be grown here in Texas. She ran a business for many years with her late husband and there is very little about herb-type plants that she doesn't know. This is sure to be a very interesting subject for cooks and gardeners alike or just to make for an entertaining evening.

I look forward to seeing you all either at the meeting or out and about at the nature center. If you have any questions, queries or suggestions, feel free to give me a call or drop an email.

Gaye

Next Month...

May 14—Volunteer Potluck Picnic

Shawn Gano, volunteer Webmaster will give a demonstration of the updated Volunteer website.



VOLUNTEER MEETING:

Thursday, April 9, 6:30 pm.

The speaker is Lana Sims. She will speak about herbs, both native and non-native, their uses and much more.

Treasurer's Report February 2009

Beginning Balance		\$3639.96
Expenditures:		
Gift for October speaker	\$37.27	
Christmas ham	\$33.43	
Total Expenditures	\$70.70	
Income:		
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$3569.26

Earth Day 2009

Saturday, April 25, 2009

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Volunteer shifts: 10—noon; noon—2; 2—4



An updated signup sheet for Earth Day volunteer opportunities has been put in the volunteer office. There are still several areas that need volunteer help. Can you spare a few hours on Saturday, April 25? Earth Day is going to be a special celebration for ABNC both with our 35 years of existence and the reopening of the trails.

Catherine Miller is coordinating the volunteer needs and would be happy to answer any queries either by email catherine@abnc.org or by telephone 281-990-9951. If you can help, either contact Catherine or put your name in the relevant place on the sign up sheet.

ABNC Volunteer Earth Day Opportunities

Greeters

All shifts. There is no admission charge, so greeters will greet and hand out programs.

Bird Blind

10 am - 2 pm shifts open.

Trail Hikes

With the trails being reopened, we would like to recruit as many trail guides as we can, for all times.

Cookies and Plants

Eleanor would appreciate some help please.

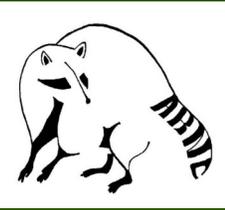
Bird Houses

Tom Scarsella could use some helpers on all shifts

Ponds & Waterbugs

We have volunteers for these areas.





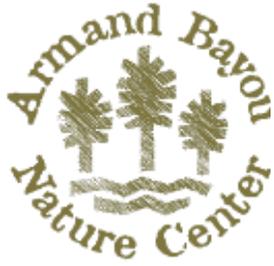
ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—April

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	Eleanor Stanley 713-455-1502	Eleanor Stanley 713-455-1502	Ed Adams 713-946-2754	Ed Adams 713-946-2754
4/4	Melanie Weisman	Ann Tinchler	Jane Bingel	Tina Bass	Susan Hesley Coffee, Tea & Cookies	Ed Adams Pond Life
4/5		OPEN	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Tom Scarsella Blacksmith	Hilary Gibbs Butterflies and Hummingbirds
4/11	OPEN	OPEN	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Mary Garrett Butter	Jane Bingel Birds
4/12		OPEN	Jessalyn Ballard	Eleanor Stanley	Helen Harger Cheese	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterfly Garden & Bats
4/18	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	Timothy Berk	Paula Thorson	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope	Jack Chandler Reptiles
4/19		Cris Santiago	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	Ray Parker Rope	Zel Arbuckle Snakes
4/25	Gaye Batiz	Liz VanOrstrand	Karen Sutera	Jill Macomber	Paula Thorson Cheese	Ed Adams Pond Life
4/26		OPEN	OPEN	Gaye Batiz	Lana Sims Herbs	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles



*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