



# Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 7

JULY 2009

## LOOK AHEAD

### July

- 4 Stewardship Saturday
- 8 Fall event planning meeting with staff, 3 pm, classroom 3
- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting., 5:30 pm,
- 11 Houston Audubon Bird Survey, 7 am
- 12 Fall event planning meeting with volunteers, 3 pm, classroom 3
- 16 Bayou Foliage deadline
- 18 Stewardship Saturday
- 18 Canoe 101

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

Clif Grim has been volunteering at the center since he was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2002. Being an IBM employee, he brought computer skills to the center and has, over the years, worked to get various center databases integrated into one database, get backups going to a central server, and provide a system for scheduling the various rooms and resources for the events the center hosts.

Most Friday afternoons will find Cliff at the nature center helping with the computers and doing photography. As an amateur photographer, he's spent a lot of time at the center taking photos. He recently worked with Mark Kramer and Mark Glass to take photos from the pontoon boat of the points of interest along the canoe trail that goes through Armand Bayou. Those photos then



get geotagged with their location and can be shown on maps of the canoe trail. Clif also volunteered to be a photography guide at the nature photography event at this year's Earth Day celebration.

Having been born and raised on a farm near Hot Springs, Arkansas, he decided being an engineer sounded like much more fun and less work than farming, and was fortunate to receive a scholarship to Tulane University. After graduation he began working for IBM on the Space Shuttle Launch Processing System at the Cape, spending 10 years there. After that ended, he moved to Houston to continue working on the space program. He and his family have now been here 25 years. Clif and Terry's son grew up here and they visited the nature center often with him. Clif says he still remembers the first time they visited, not knowing for sure what it was all about. It was a Sunday morning and the center was open, but no one was around. The farm house and farm were going concerns back then and Clif recalls, "It looked like we had been dropped into a world from a century earlier; it was neat."

Recently retired from IBM Clif has started a small soft-

ware company with a friend to write iPhone applications. He also continues to pursue his photography interest and has started doing large panoramas of Houston scenes.

Another interest of both Clif and Terry is long-distance motorcycle trips. They have a Honda Goldwing and some of their most memorable trips are to Alaska, Nova Scotia and the Sierra Nevadas.



Clif and Terry in Anchorage, AK

Naturally he has found a way to incorporate his love of photography with his love of the road on the bike. He enjoys taking pictures from

*(Continued on page 6)*

### 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 Clif did this month.

...Editor



Gaye Batiz  
Volunteer Vice-Chair 2009

## BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

We had a lively meeting this month. As you know, the volunteer board still meets throughout the summer months. Thanks to Ed Adams for hosting us. As budgeted for, we have arranged to pay for four children to spend half days at the current EcoCamp. Hopefully we will have photographs available in upcoming editions of Bayou Foliage to show you how your efforts and support enable us to sponsor activities such as these.

Polly has started the ball rolling for Fall Festival this year and this is a perfect opportunity for you to get involved. Chair's for activities are always needed and you can also help by supplying things such as odd balls of yarn or old shirts and pants. We will have a list of things needed closer to the event so don't throw anything away that you think may be of use. If anyone is interested in

helping organize or taking part, get in touch with Polly as soon as possible. We will have more information available in the coming months.

I am working on getting some training organized that can be used for the Fall Festival so look out for upcoming events. Remember that Bill has Canoe 101 and 102 organized for July 18th and Aug 1st. Make full use of the volunteer website both for finding out what is going on and for sharing. Don't forget to log your hours!

Thanks to you all for the cards and good wishes on my recent surgery, I am pleased to say that everything went well and I feel a lot better already. I won't be running any marathons for a while but

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Armand Bayou  
Nature Center  
Volunteer  
Board  
2009**

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

**Staff  
Roster**

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

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

## ABNC Volunteer Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2009

Present: Gaye Batiz, Liz VanOrstrand, Jane Bingel, Eleanor Stanley, Ed Adams, Dewanna Norris, Jill Macomber

There was a correction to the May minutes. Money made at Earth Day totaled \$174.50. The amended minutes were accepted.

Gaye Batiz, acting chair, reported for Ken Russell, treasurer. For May, there were no expenditures, and income was \$194.50, with a balance of \$3599.05. Ways to spend some of this money was discussed, including possible scholarships to Eco Camp. Another idea was to buy a new hard drive for the computer in the volunteer office. Also, Jane Bingel, outgoing Outreach Coordinator, is going to contact Lou Hornung to see what might be needed in the farmhouse.

Ken Russell attended the staff meeting but said that there was really nothing to report.

Liz VanOrstrand, Trail Guides Coordinator, reported that the Owl Prowl is not on the regular ABNC website calendar and had to be cancelled once again as only one person signed up. Liz suggested

that we consider doing an event on National Trail Day next year on the first Saturday in June.

Bayou Foliage deadline is June 18.

### OLD BUSINESS

The revamped volunteer calling tree was distributed. Gaye is working on updating the volunteer list.

### NEW BUSINESS

Jane Bingel has tendered her resignation as Outreach Coordinator. However, Jane has been working on getting volunteers for weekday farmhouse interpretation classes for school children during the summer. Jane also said that new volunteers should be told that they must put in two hours at Fall Festival which will be November 14 and 15. October 24 will be Creepy Crawlers. Several ideas were discussed for future training and events.

The next (board) meeting will on July 9th at Panera at 5:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Jill Macomber,  
Secretary

(Bayou Bits continued from page 2)

I'm up and moving and hope to be present at all our upcoming events.

Hope you are all managing to keep cool in this hot weather and look forward to seeing ya'll soon.

Gaye



Welcome new staff member, Jennifer Logston. Jennifer will be working at the admissions desk on the weekends.

### Treasurer's Report May 2009

Beginning Balance		\$3404.55
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Total Expenditures	-0-	
<b>Income:</b>		
Earth Day	\$174.75	
Red Hat Luncheon donation	\$20.00	
Total Income	\$194.75	
Current Balance		\$3599.30

### VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

There will be no volunteer meeting during the months of June and July. Please join us on August 13 as we reconvene to prepare for the busy fall season.

We need someone to volunteer snacks for the August 13 meeting.

# VOLUNTEER LOG BOOK



“Logging on”

If you wish to log your hours on the volunteer website, go ahead and take your page(s) home with you. We will then expect to see the hours listed and counted up automatically.

As more volunteers do so, the manual counting will get easier as

there will be fewer pages to go through.

Remember to count 1 hour each month you attend our meetings for continuing education. The rest of the meeting is administration.

If you don't have internet connection at

home, the volunteer office computer does. Let us know if you need instruction. I promise, it is real easy!

Polly Swerdlin  
Former Advisor

281-814-4606  
pmswerdlin@gmail.com

Please  
help.

## Eco Camp Needs

### Donate Supplies for ABNC's 2009 Eco Camp

Items may be pre-used, but please make sure the items you donate are clean and (re)usable. Thanks!

- Brads
- Corrugated cardboard cut into approximately 8"x8" pieces
- Cereal boxes (empty)
- Clotheslines
- Coffee canisters with lids (plastic canisters preferred)
- Craft feathers
- Dish soap and single-serving water bottles (empty)
- Dowel rods, especially 1/2" diameter
- Fish-shaped cookie cutters

- “Googley” eyes
- Index cards
- Leather/suede cord or cloth
- Metal hoops (about 12" diameter)
- Mini cereal boxes (empty)
- Napkins
- Oatmeal containers with lids (empty – any size)
- Nature-themed small toys (such as plastic animals)
- Paper (small Dixie type) cups
- Paper lunch bags
- Paper plates (large)
- Pegboard
- Pieces of white cotton (can be t-shirts or pillowcases) for tie-dye
- Pill bottles or film canisters with lids

- Ping-pong balls
- Pipe cleaners, especially black and brown
- Plastic cutlery/silverware
- Pompoms, especially black and brown
- Re-sealable sandwich bags
- Ropes, especially long and thick ones (for tug-o' war and other games)
- Soccer ball
- Socks (for making puppets)
- Spray bottles
- Strong magnets
- Tablecloths or sheets
- Tea-type strainer
- Wax paper
- Wire hangers

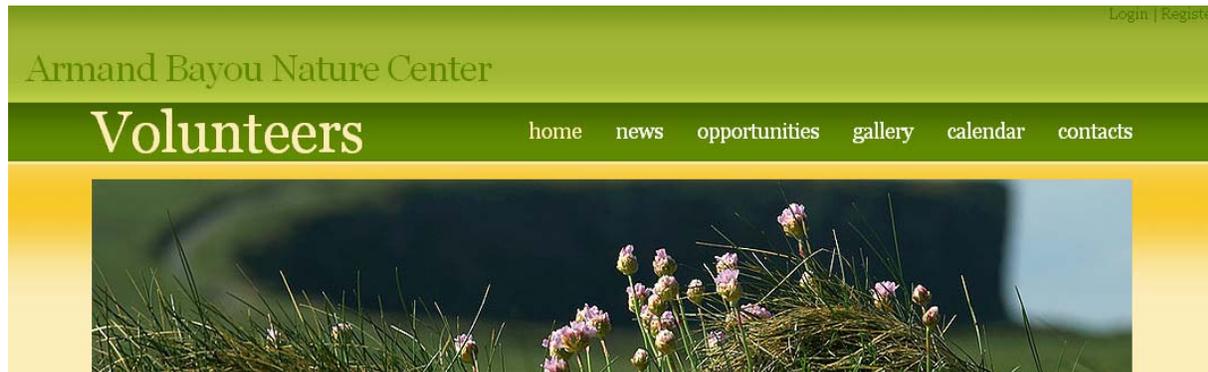
Thanks for your help!



Can you find these things at home?

# The New ABNC Volunteer Web Site!

[www.abncvols.org](http://www.abncvols.org)



## Key Features:

- Latest news and volunteer opportunities
- Gallery of images and messages posted by other volunteers
- Calendar of events
- Account registration
- Log and view your volunteer hours online
- Easily share your own pictures and thoughts of the Armand Bayou Nature Center

## How to register

- Click on the "Register" link in the upper right hand corner of [www.abncvols.org](http://www.abncvols.org)
- Fill out and submit the registration form
- Click on the activation link that is e-mailed to you after you have submitted the registration form
- Log in to your account by clicking on the "Login" link in the upper right hand corner of [www.abncvols.org](http://www.abncvols.org)!

A screenshot of a web browser window showing the registration page. The browser title is "Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers - Register - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows "http://abncvols.org/register.php". The page features a banner image of pink flowers. Below the banner, the text "abncvols.org Registration" is displayed. Underneath, there are four input fields labeled "Required:", "First Name:", "Last Name:", "Choose a Username:", and "e-mail address:". Each field has a corresponding text input box.

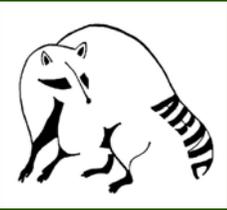
the motorcycle as he travels. Below is one of late afternoon shadows of him and the bike during their trip to Big Bend this winter.



Clif says his craziest ride was in the middle of the winter, traveling two days to a friends house in Minnesota, having lunch with him and his wife and then two days back to Houston. Check out the website below for photos of this excursion.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/cegrim/PolarExpressMotorcycleRide#>

*Thanks, Clif for sharing your time and talents with ABNC. You have made many improvements and contributions to a wide variety of activities here. The work you have done will be appreciated for many years to come. All the best to you and Terry in your future rides.*

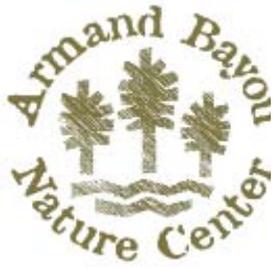


## ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—July

	10:00 Trails	2:00 Trails	Greeters	Farm Interpretation	Natural History	Farm Demos
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
7/4	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Jane Bingel	OPEN	Paula Thorson Cheese
7/5		Liz VanOrstrand	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	OPEN
7/11	Polly Swerdlin	Ann Tincher	Paul Brunkow	Eleanor Stanley	Jane Bingel Birds	Susan Hesley Corn Husk Dolls
7/12		Stan Krauhs	Judith Culligan	Eleanor Stanley	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	OPEN
7/18	OPEN	OPEN	Brigid McVaugh	Gaye Batiz	Jack Chandler Snakes	Jane Bingel Corn Husk Dolls
7/19		Stan Krauhs	OPEN	Tina Bass	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope
7/25	S/B Cardona	Karen Sutera	OPEN	Jill Macomber	Odie & Marie Asscherick Bats & Butterfly Garden	Ray Parker Rope
7/26		OPEN	Judith Culligan	Tina Bass		Gaye Batiz Farm Life

*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.*

*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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## New pot-bellied stove in the Hansen Farmhouse

