



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2009

LOOK AHEAD

June

- 6 Stewardship Saturday
- 11 Volunteer Board Meeting., 5:30 pm, Ed Adams' house
- 13 Houston Audubon Bird Survey, 7 am
- 18 Bayou Foliage deadline
- 20 Stewardship Saturday

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

Volunteer Spotlight

Dewanna Norris went through volunteer training in 1997 and for 12 years she says she has enjoyed everything she does at ABNC. Currently, the Volunteer Admissions Coordinator, she has lots of experience at the front desk. She loves meeting the guests and finding out where they are from and especially enjoys introducing them to the nature center with all it has to see and do. No doubt the visitors enjoy her friendly welcome and smiling face.

She also loves teaching school children at the Martyn Farm about life over 100 years ago. Making cheese and butter are two favorite activities to share with them.

When it comes to special events, Dewanna loves working at the volunteer cookie booth for Earth Day and Fall Festival. As she say, "Everyone likes cookies."



The one thing she hasn't done and would like to do is take a canoe ride. (Are you canoe instructors listening?)

Dewanna moved to the Clear Lake Area in 1965. She grew up in Port Arthur, Texas and lived there until she went to the University of Texas in Austin and married. She and husband, John moved to Newport News, Va., then Charlottesville, then back to Hampton in less than three years since John worked for Langley except a semester when he went to the University of Virginia. Dewanna has a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics with a teaching certificate. She taught in Virginia until they returned to Texas when she stopped to raise a family. Later she returned to teaching eighth grade math and taught for 14 more years. She and John have two children, Monica Bochat and Trent Norris. Trent has twin 10 year old boys and Monica has a 10 year old boy and a 7 year old princess. Both of them live in the area and they enjoy a lot of family togetherness.

Dewanna's hobbies are many. Since exercising is important to her she either plays tennis, walks or rides her bike every day. She always has a trip planned. This year they went to New Orleans in February. In July she is going to New York, Pennsylvania and the Amish country and then in Septem-

ber to Paris for a week.

In addition to her work at ABNC she serves on the board and volunteers at Interfaith Caring Ministry at their resale shop. She is involved in a sorority group and is also an active member of Clear Lake United Methodist Church, visiting members in the hospital and attending the women's group.

With such a busy life she says reading is a way to relax and she belongs to a book club. She must be a whiz at bridge since she's been in the same bridge club for 43 years.

Dewanna says she enjoys people and is thankful she can be so active.

Thanks, Dewanna for sharing your time and talents with ABNC. With all you do, the nature center is especially grateful for the time and effort you give. All this comes with the added bonus of your warm and caring personality.

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 Dewanna did this month.

...Editor



Gaye Batiz
Volunteer Vice-Chair 2009

BAYOU BITS

by Gaye Batiz

Have you checked out our revamped volunteer website yet? Shawn Gano has done an outstanding job of updating and making the site interactive. You can now log your hours, post pictures, vote for your favorite pic and make comments. Check it out at

www.abncvols.org.

To be able to add your hours and make posts you will need to register – see link in the top right hand corner. We hope that you will make full use of the facility to log hours as this will cut down on the work that is done by Polly, Dewanna and other front desk volunteers to count and log the hours for grant writing and appeals for donations.

Our volunteer meeting was fun this month, Shawn showcased the website and we had our potluck picnic. This was the final meeting before our summer break. Our next regular volunteer meeting will be August 13. I'm working on a speaker so make sure you check your emails, foliage and the website to see who we get lined up!

Don't forget..... Canoe training is provisionally rescheduled for July 18 (101) and August 1 (102) with Bill Cooke. Signup sheets are in the office. We also need someone to sign up to bring drinks or food to the August 13 meeting. Regular volunteer

(Continued on page 3)

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer
Board
2009**

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

**Staff
Roster**

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 May 14, 2009

Gaye Batiz, acting Chairperson, reported that there was \$74.75 brought in by the baked goods sale at Earth Day.

Sign-up sheets were at the back of the room for upcoming events. Someone to bring food and drinks for August meeting is needed. Volunteers are also needed for Bayou Boil on May 16.

Dewanna Norris, Front Desk Administration coordinator, has been selected for the next Volunteer Spotlight.

Tom Kartrude, ABNC Executive Director, stated that the "new" stove in the farmhouse is really an old stove refurbished. Tom thanked volunteers for all their work for Earth Day, which turned out to be a very good event in spite of the torrential rain the previous night. He also said that there are some available slots for those inter-

ested in volunteering for Bayou Boil this coming Saturday.

About 180 ft. of new sewer is being installed because of previous sewerage problems. There are plans in the offing to resurface all of the trails.

Gaye introduced Shawn Gano who showed us the newly-designed, interactive volunteer website. Membership was very impressed and appreciative of Shawn's efforts.

Gaye thanked Ed Adams for the plates and utensils that he brought in for the picnic.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Jill Macomber,
Secretary

(Bayou Bits continued from page 2)

opportunities will continue through the summer so get signed up either to lead or to buddy.

Finally, from now on, Mary Alice will be posting the Bayou Foliage onto the website and then emailing out a hyperlink that will take you straight to the website. This will make it a lot easier for those of you still on dial-up. Nothing to download anymore!

Thank you to all the volunteers who showed up to help for the Bayou Boil. Unfortunately, I am having a few health problems and had to leave after a very short time. I have heard that it went well, the weather was perfect and that everyone had a great time. I'd love to hear some feedback from you if you can find the time to send me an email or bend my ear if you see me at the nature center.

Hope to see ya'll around the nature center.

Gaye

Treasurer's Report April 2009

Beginning Balance		\$3449.84
Expenditures:		
Birthing Shed Shelf Mate-	45.29	
Total Expenditures	\$45.29	
Income:		
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$3404.55

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

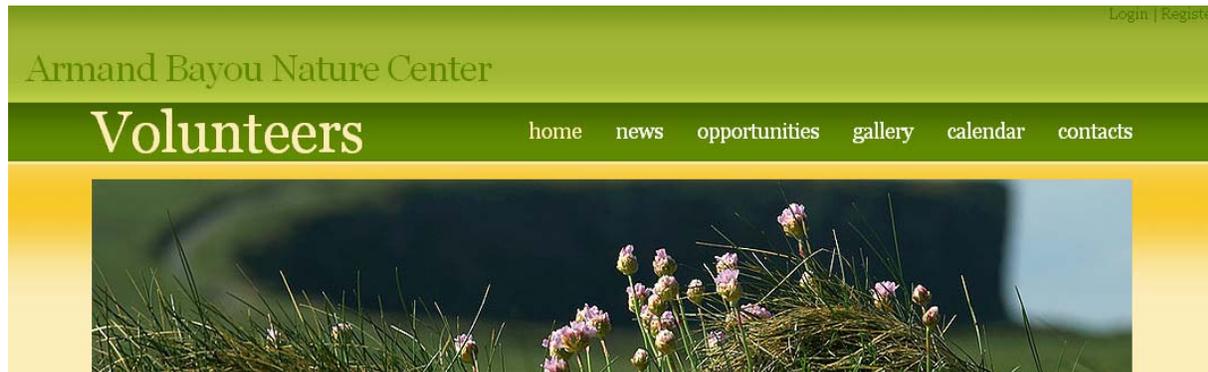
Thanks for your help!



Can you find these things at home?

The New ABNC Volunteer Web Site!

www.abncvols.org



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
- 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!

A screenshot of the registration form on the ABNC Volunteers website. The browser window title is "Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteers - Register - Mozilla Firefox". The address bar shows "http://abncvols.org/register.php". The form is titled "abncvols.org Registration" and includes the following fields:

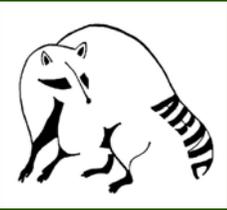
- Required:
- First Name:
- Last Name:
- Choose a Username:
- e-mail address:

Reserved



This page is reserved for your contributions. If you take photos at the nature center during an event or program, please send them to: matrumbler@verizon.net to be used in Bayou Foliage. We'd like to share all the fun our volunteers have.

Deadline: 3rd Thursday

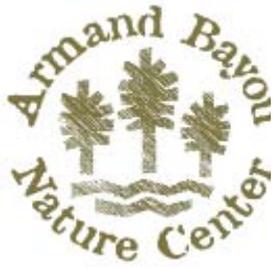


ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—June

	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
6/6	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	Helen Harger	Jane Bingel	OPEN	Ed Adams Rope
6/7		OPEN	Ken Russell	Polly Swerdlin	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	Tom Scarsella Blacksmith
6/13	Ray Parker	OPEN	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Polly Swerdlin Adaptations	Jane Bingel Cornhusk Dolls
6/14		OPEN	Judith Culligan	Eleanor Stanley	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	OPEN
6/20	OPEN	Karen Sutera	Karen Sutera	Tina Bass	Jane Bingel Birds	Paula Thorson Butter
6/21		OPEN	Jessalyn Ballard	Gaye Batiz	Odie Asscherick Bats	Marie Asscherick Butterfly Gardens
6/27	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	OPEN	Daisy Fish	OPEN	Helen Harger Cheese
6/28		OPEN	Tina Bass	Eleanor Stanley	Ed Adams Pond Life	Gaye Batiz Farm Interpretation

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**

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Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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