



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2011

Volunteer Spotlight

APRIL

- 1 Prairie Friday
- 2 Stewardship Saturday
- 2 Photography Hike,
10:00 am
- 8 Prairie Friday
- 9 Houston Audubon Bird
Survey; 7 am, parking
lot
- 14 Volunteer Board Meet-
ing., 5:30 pm, Volun-
teer Meeting 6:30
pm, auditorium
- 15 Prairie Friday
- 16 Stewardship Saturday
- 17 **Sundays In Nature**,
1-3 pm
- 21 *Bayou Foliage* dead-
line
- 22 Prairie Friday
- 23 Stewardship Saturday
- 29 Prairie Friday
- 30 Stewardship Saturday

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

Nelda Tuthill spends most of her time in the McGovern Children's Discovery Area at the nature center.

Nelda says she has lived her life backwards. She graduated from high school in Fort Worth, married, had kids, did the scouts and PTA thing, divorced, then went to college in night school for 15 years, and got her CPA at age 56. With nothing being too late for her, she also married for the second time at age 64. And, after retiring at age 67, she started another phase of her life.

In 2006 Nelda was certified as a Master Naturalist and in 2007 when the McGovern Children's Discovery Area was installed, Sue Sutterby insisted Nelda become involved in the Area. That's where she's been ever since.

Since she was doing volunteer work at Armand Bayou, she decided in 2010 to take the training. Yep. She does things backwards.

Nelda says "What I love about the nature center is learning something every time I step on the property—from the person working with me, from observation I rush home to study and from just absorbing what's around me."

Nelda's 15 years of night school college began at three colleges in the Dallas area. After moving to Baton Rouge she finished an Economics degree at LSU. She later moved back to Texas to be near elderly parents and passed the CPA exam in Texas.

Nelda and "new" husband, Wally, bought a house in League City. He is busy doing honey-dos, such as building a deck, a greenhouse, compost bins and hauling dirt for flower-beds. The house had no landscaping so Nelda is busy planning and planting the beds.



In addition to being very involved with Master Naturalist, where she is currently treasurer of the Galveston Bay Area Chapter, Nelda is busy with Master Gardeners as well. She is also very active at the Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church. She has served as landscape chair (under the tutelage of Mark Fox), treasurer and currently chairs the church's garage sale, which

takes place in April. They have included a plant sale. (*I'll bet Nelda had something to do with that decision.*)

Nelda says that through all her work with Mark Fox at the church and at Armand Bayou, she has developed an appreciation of native plants and want to learn more.

Thanks, Nelda for all you do for ABNC, as well as all the other great organizations of which you are a part. We are certainly glad Sue insisted you become a part of the nature center family.

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.

...Editor



Tom Scarsella
Volunteer Chair 2011

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer
Board
2011**

**Staff
Roster**

From the Chair by Tom Scarsella

Hope is a thing with feathers....

A year ago I wrote in this space about how our yard had been radically changed by Hurricane Ike in 2008 which took much of the local canopy with it. The loss of the upper story of trees made our yard, like the forest at the nature center, less desirable for some species that formerly thrived there. Many of us, myself and Hilary included, have speculated often about how long it would take before the remaining trees put on enough growth to where we might see the same mixes of birds we had pre-Ike. Post-Ike, in our yard, we see more goldfinches, red-winged blackbirds, and house finches than we had pre-Ike and fewer forest-dwelling birds such as large woodpeckers, jays, and wax-wings.

One of the bird species keenly missed in our yard was screech owl. The owl box smashed by Ike was easily replaced but the yard we had it in was no longer there. We had been fortunate to have had owls nest in our yard several times prior to Ike. Though suitable cavities are always in short supply we knew that our yard, being so much more open post-Ike, was no longer the

perfect screech owl yard it had been previously.

While gardening on the second weekend in March, we looked up and, Lo and Behold, there was an owl was peeking out of the box! We literally froze in our tracks. The loss of "our" nesting owls was the most psychologically damaging part of hurricane Ike we have had to endure. Two springs came and went with no owls residing in our yard and they had been very much a part of our day-to-day rituals. Playing "Find the Owls" was our favorite garden pastime. We were quite used to seeing them splashing about in our birdbath, and hearing them trill nightly. Beyond all that, having them in the yard again is an indication of how fast re-growth takes place in a semi-tropical climate.

Both our 2011 garden and the forest at the nature center have long ways to go before they return to what we had before the hurricane but they will eventually get there. I'm hoping that in our yard we may yet have owls around to keep us company while we wait.

Tom



Chair	Tom Scarsella	281-532-2107	thomas.m.scarsella@nasa.gov
Vice-chair	Mary Alice Trumble	281-435-5788	matrumble@verizon.net
Secretary	Jill Macomber	281-957-9934	jillmacomber@comcast.net
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	no email
Admissions	Liz VanOrstrand	281-480-8296	lizvanorstrand@hotmail.com
Weekend demos	Tina Bass	281-744-3384	tinabellmyer@sbcglobal.net
Weekend trails	Gaye Batiz	713-518-5759	gayebatiz@aol.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
Weekday Education	Paula Scott Garcia	832 741-8871	sutoyou49@yahoo.com
Outreach	Adriana Sicotte	281-413-8146	anssicotte77586@yahoo.com
Facilities	Marijn (Ryan) Liffijt	409 382-6301	marijn.liffijt@uth.tmc.edu
Stewardship	Ian Kress	281-333-9066	ian.kress@conocophillips.com
Webmaster	Shawn Gano	832-314-1608	shawn@gano.name
Bayou Foliage editor	Mary Alice Trumble	281-435-5788	matrumble@verizon.net

Barbara Baxter	Ext 10	Jessica Collier	Ext 17
Kathy Gardner	Ext 13	Jennifer Logsdon	Ext 10
Eloise Harper		Heather Millar	Ext 14
Lew Hornung	Ext 16	George Regmund	Ext 31
Tom Kartrude	Ext 11	Janice Schragger	Ext 12
Mark Kramer	Ext 15		

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

ABNC Volunteer Meeting March 10, 2011

7 PM

Speaker: Tom Wilks, Herpetologist, introduced by Mary Alice Trumble. Volunteers were shown a very informative slide show of both local and exotic snakes, some harmless and others venomous.

Following a short snack break, Tom Scarsella, volunteer chair, called the business meeting to order. Minutes for the January meeting were approved. The current balance is \$2494.03.

Tom Kartrude, director, said May 14 will be Bayou Boil in Clear Lake Park. Honored guest this year will be Jerry Patterson. Steve Phelps will again be the auctioneer. More information will be forthcoming. 2010 was a year of effective stewardship. \$160,000 was picked up in fine money from Texas Commission for Environmental Quality to help restore the prairie. ABNC has also been awarded two grants to help protect coastal areas. In 2011, Tom wants to expand environmental education. Volunteers could sign up for several outreach positions. Under a new program, free passes to Armand Bayou will be handed out to families at local pediatricians and clinic. April 20 will be the groundbreaking for the new environmental education (and new restrooms!) building. It is still a tough year for operating expenses, but things are turning around.

Tom Scarsella said that 3rd Sunday in March will be Spring into Nature about baby, orphaned, and injured animals. Trash Bash is March 26. Third Sunday in April will be Earth Day celebration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Jill Macomber
Secretary

Watch for new logo on future events!



In an effort to encourage the use of non-disposables at any of the nature center's programs or events, the following logo will soon be seen often. Look for it and remember to bring your own plate and utensils! This includes all volunteer meetings.

Welcome New Volunteers!

David Cuthbert
Robert Gardner
Jennifer Lopez-Negron

Nancy Mazac
Joan O'Niell
Gabriel Ortiz-Sanchez

Steven Vaca



Treasurer's Report February 2011

Beginning Balance		\$2464.03.
Expenditures:	-0-	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:		
Recycling	\$30.60	
Total Income	\$30.60	
Current Balance		\$2464.03

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2011

6:30 pm—social

7:00—program

Guest Speaker: Charlotte Wells

Galveston Baykeeper

8:00—business meeting

Future Volunteer Meeting Programs

May 12

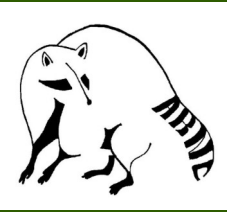
Volunteer Picnic



Education Programs





The following chart shows the education classes where help is needed. If you can help on any of these days, please notify either Kathy or Heather in the Education Department.

CLASS	DATE	DATE	DATE
Hands on History 10:00-12:00	4/6/2011	4/7/2011	4/14/2011
Rope			
Butter			
Wool			
Cheese			
Hike			
Simple Machines			
Buddy			
Pond Life 10:00-12:00	4/14/2011		
Pond Dip Netting			
Hike			
Buddy			
Connections 9:30-1:00	4/5/2011		
Pond Dip Netting			
Insect Sweeping			
Hike			
Buddy			
Understanding Wetlands 9:30-1:00	4/1/4/2011		
Seining			
Hike			
Pond Dip Netting			
Buddy			
Creature Corner 10:00-11:30	4/21/2011	4/28/2011	
Hike			
Crafts			
Buddy			
Reptiles 10:00-12:00			
Hike			
Reptile Handler (Certified only)			
Buddy			
Adaptations	4/8/2011		
Bird Specimens			
Mammal Specimens			
Hike			
Buddy			
Mega Field Trips	4/14/2011		
Buddies			



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	Natural History Demos	Farm Demos
DATE	Gaye Batiz 713-518-5759	Gaye Batiz 713-518-5759	Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	Tina Bass 409 382-6301	Tina Bass 409 382-6301
4/2	Marie Asscherick	David Bolon	Stan Krauhs	Jane Bingel	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats	Julia Knutson Fabric Hand-crafts
4/3		OPEN	Ken Russell	Jill Macomber	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	Kathy Stocker Crochet
4/9	Polly Swerdlin	David Bolon	Stan Krauhs	Tina Bass	OPEN	Susan Hesley Cornhusk Dolls
4/10		OPEN	Judith Culligan	Stan Krauhs	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	Helen Harger Cheese
4/16	Stan Krauhs	Randy Olsen	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	OPEN	Ray Parker—Rope Hilary Gibbs Gardening Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing
Sun- days In Nature 4/17		Randy Olsen	Joe Bryan	Helen Harger	OPEN	Polly Swerdlin Cheese
4/23	Liz VanOrstrand	Anne Tincher	Polly Swerdlin	Paula Thorson	OPEN	Stan Krauhs Rope
4/24		Karen Sutera	Madeleine Barnes	Eleanor Stanley	OPEN	Stan Krauhs Rope
4/30	Gaye Batiz	Karen Sutera	Paula Scott Garcia	Tina Bass	OPEN	Tina Bass Quilting

*Bayou Foliage deadline: 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

News from the Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden is well under way in its seasonal transformation! Visitors have been tasting fresh broccoli and kids have been persuaded to eat the lovely yellow broccoli flowers. Many visitors have left with a bag of lettuce, Swiss chard, parley, and cilantro. The tomato and pepper plants are in, and the eggplant plants are waiting in the wings for warmer soil. We are out there on third Saturdays in the afternoon, and on first Thursday mornings, as well as many other unscheduled times each week. Feel free to join us as we weed, plant, work with compost, or chat to visitors.



Hilary Gibbs