



# Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 7

JULY 2011

## Let Us Hear From You!

*During our recent volunteer board retreat we discussed ways to make the organization run more efficiently, as well as ways to entice new volunteers and keep them. We are inviting you to participate in this discussion by giving your opinions and suggestions on ways to make the ABNC Volunteer Organization more dynamic and meaningful to each of you.*

*Please help by printing this page, giving us your thoughts and placing it in the Bayou Foliage box in the Volunteer Office. You may also email it to [matrumbler@verizon.net](mailto:matrumbler@verizon.net)*

1. How long have you been a volunteer?
2. Do you feel you have been sufficiently trained to do the job(s) you do at ABNC?
3. What is your opinion of the monthly volunteer meetings?

4. What types of programs would be like to see at the monthly volunteer meeting?

5. How often do you think we should have volunteer meetings?

6. What type of continuing education do you feel is needed to help you with your volunteer work?

7. How can we recruit and retain more volunteers?

8. In addition to the monthly volunteer meetings, what other activities would you like to see offered?

9. What do you like best about being a volunteer?

10. What do you like the least about being a volunteer?

### JULY

- 1 Prairie Friday
- 2 Stewardship Saturday
- 2 Photography Hike,  
10:00 am
- 8 Prairie Friday
- 9 Volunteer Board Meeting, 9:00 am
- 9 Houston Audubon Bird Survey; 7 am, parking lot
- 15 Prairie Friday
- 16 Stewardship Saturday
- 17 Sundays In Nature,  
1-3 pm
- 21 Bayou Foliage deadline
- 22 Prairie Friday
- 29 Prairie Friday

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



Tom Scarsella  
Volunteer Chair 2011

**Armand Bayou  
Nature Center  
Volunteer  
Board  
2011**

**Staff  
Roster**

## From the Chair

The 2011 volunteer board had the first of a planned series of retreats to get some much needed business done in June. Our first day went well and we should have a proposed by-laws revision to present to the volunteers later in the year. The revisions we will present are not particularly controversial and are mostly about making it easier to fill positions on the volunteer board. Almost everything that came up is of interest to us all. It would take too large a space to cover any of it thoroughly but I thought I might make use of what space I have to make a few suggestions based on what we talked about on June 4.

While discussing volunteer board service amongst ourselves what we realized was that having served on the board, we know what is required to carry out its functions. We all have opinions about what skills and abilities we believe a volunteer board member should have for a particular position. This is not to say that we know exactly how everything should be done; more like we have a fair idea of what tools an individual might need in their kit to make a go of things. That said, the nature center is not a level playing field for us volunteers.

Some programs, and the coordinator positions that go with them run well and are easily managed while the positions that require more scheduling of volunteers with specific skills are more challenging.

We were aware that each of us knows of other volunteers who could do our volunteer board jobs at least as well as do we. We also know individuals who are not ABNC volunteers who could be quite helpful as volunteers, in every capacity, if we could entice them to participate. Most of our volunteers come to us with a friend that was already a volunteer, a company work-day, or on the recommendation of someone whose opinion they respect. Recruiting new volunteers is the responsibility of each and every existing volunteer and one that is vital to the long term success of the nature center. We should all try to bring someone new out to the nature center with us whenever we can. I'd like each of you to think about bringing someone unconnected to the nature center with you whenever you can. You are the most effective recruitment tools any organization could ever possess.

Tom



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## SIERRA CLUB GALVESTON BAY AREA MEETINGS

For the past four months we have been busy getting established. Speakers have been passionate about their causes and members are responding. We've reached out to the community. We seem to be like sponges taking in everything and realizing that there is a lot to do. Busy Bay Area people have volunteered to be the focal points for air quality, for water quality, for habitat preservation, and for the new buzz "sustainability." Plans for the next couple of months include meeting with our local elected officials and making our opinions known.

In June we heard from Laura Spanjian of the Houston's Mayor Office; and in July, Richard Lee will demonstrate how to easily build a rain reservoir (it will rain again, we're sure). We'll have our first outing in July to Pine Brook Wetlands Preserve and help clear

intruding honeysuckle. The Book Club continues and we met on June 3 at Cafe Oasis on NASA Parkway and Kirby to continue the review of "Energy Metropolis." Please come and visit us in the Galveston Bay Area.

For more information contact Grace Martinez at [gracemartinez7@earthlink.net](mailto:gracemartinez7@earthlink.net) or Linda King at [lin-daawking@att.net](mailto:lin-daawking@att.net).

Monthly meetings begin at 6:30pm and are held on the 4th Wednesday at Clear Lake Park, Bay Area Community Center (Blue Roof), 5002 NASA Parkway.

Grace Martinez



Remember there are no general volunteer meetings during June and July. See you in August!



### Treasurer's Report April 2011

Beginning Balance		\$2524.63
Expenditures: Speaker	\$30.00	
Total Expenditures	\$30.00	
Income: Recycling Feb-Apr	\$26.20	
Total Income	\$26.20	
Current Balance		\$2520.83

Next Volunteer Meeting

August 11, 2011

## News from the Vegetable Garden



The vegetable garden is looking patchy with the lack of rain. Any living thing is more susceptible to pests and diseases when it is stressed, so we have seen black aphids on the okra and insect damage on the eggplant leaves and eggplants. We have washed the plants with soapy water, which should take care of the aphids at least. Most of the beds are mulched with hay, and we are putting some of them to rest for a couple of months. Vegetables which should do well during the next two months include squash, okra, peppers, eggplants, southern peas, sweet potatoes, and peanuts. Although the cilantro is finished and has produced its seed (coriander), the lemon balm, oregano, rosemary, parsley, mint, and Mexican mint marigold continue to thrive. I have been surprised and pleased that the Swiss chard has continued to produce this long, and to learn that we can plant arugula throughout the summer: fresh leafy greens can be hard to find in the hot months. The loofa and birdhouse gourd plants are off to a good start. If you have heard of the dreaded squash borer but are unfamiliar with it, the damage it causes is clearly visible in the volunteer squash in the middle compost bin. The clue is always the sawdust-like frass on the outside of the stem and on the soil beneath. I find it discouraging to tend a plant which may die before it produces. This year we are growing tatume squash in the garden, because it is reputed to put down roots further along the stem, circumventing the squash borer. The plants are currently healthy and have several small squash which may be ready to pick by the time you read this! Visitors are scarce in this heat; however we have summer campers enjoying the garden produce and recently entertained a slew of parents and young children after a birthday party. If you have a few minutes on your way to or from another ABNC activity, we'd love to have you help out in the garden! You are welcome to reward yourself with a couple or three ripe somethings or a handful of fresh herbs or greens. The key is with the farmhouse key or at the front desk. Suggestions include: *Water any one or two plants with a watering can. Get the permanent marker out of the cupboard and brighten up some of the signs. Pull a few weeds. Trim dead or dying leaves and put them on the compost. If you don't compost at home, bring some of your fruit and vegetable scraps and eggshells to the garden compost. Bring a neighbor's bag of leaves or grass clippings to the compost. Look around and see if something has grown big enough to be mulched or mulched more. Notice a problem and e-mail a gardener about it. Tie up a plant. Train a vine onto the fence. Turn on a sprinkler if you are at the nature center to do something for a couple of hours. Harvest something! - vegetable plants do better if they are kept picked.* Regular garden volunteers 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.

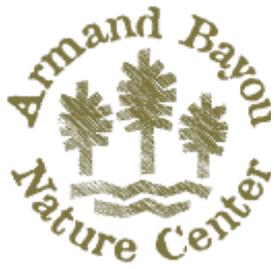
Hilary Gibbs



## ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—June

*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 Gaye Batiz 713-518-5759	2:00 Trails Gaye Batiz 713-518-5759	Greeters Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	Farm Interpretation Stan Krauhs 281-470-2744	Natural History Demos Tina Bass 281-744-3384	Farm Demos Tina Bass 281-744-3384
DATE						
7/2			No Greeters scheduled for July	Jane Bingel		
7/3				Polly Swerdlin		
7/9				Paula Thorson		
7/10				Helen Harger		
7/16				Tina Bass		
Sun-days In Nature 7/17				Jill Macomber		
7/23				Stan Krauhs		
7/24				Stan Krauhs		
7/30				Jane Bingel		
7/31				Eleanor Stanley		



**Armand Bayou  
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

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## Save the Date!!!

November 12 and 13  
10 am—4 pm each day

## Martyn Farm Harvest Festival

This is an important event for the nature center that can't be done without a huge effort by the volunteer organization. Please try to keep these two days free so that you may help with a great event that is loads of fun! We need you!!!

Signups for specific time slots will begin at the end of the summer.

Many thanks!

The Harvest Festival Planning Committee

