



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 6

JUNE 2011

Meet The Board, Part II

JUNE

- 3 Prairie Friday
- 4 Stewardship Saturday
- 4 Photography Hike,
10:00 am
- 9 Volunteer Board Meet-
ing., 5:30 pm
- 10 Prairie Friday
- 11 Houston Audubon Bird
Survey; 7 am, parking
lot
- 16 Bayou Foliage dead-
line
- 17 Prairie Friday
- 18 Stewardship Saturday
- 19 Sundays In Nature,
1-3 pm
- 24 Prairie Friday

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

This month instead of highlighting one volunteer in the Volunteer Spotlight, we continue introducing members of the current volunteer board. We did not hear from every board member but here are two more whose information was not in last month's issue.



Eleanor Stanley has been a volunteer since 1984. She moved to Houston in 1969 from Riverhead,

NY. She has one son, Robert Hamilton, a commercial fisherman in Greenport, NY, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, plus many step-grandchildren of all ages. She has served on the volunteer board in many capacities, including Weekend Demo Coordinator twice, Weekend Greeter Coordinator twice, and treasurer three times. She has worked Fall Festival, Creepy Crawlers and Bayou, along with husband, Henry, who also enjoys special events.

Jill Macomber has been a volunteer for four years since moving to Texas from New York City in 2006. After never being able to find a place with-

out people in NYC, she was immediately attracted to the quiet and chance for solitude at Armand Bayou.

Jill is currently the Board Secretary for the second time after taking a year off between terms. She also does farm interpretation once a month. Jill teaches 9th graders at South Houston High School and is looking forward to retiring in a year and having more time to give to volunteer activities. She lives in Kemah with her cats Sparky, Pumpkin, Callie, and Violet.

There are still two more members of the volunteer board. Hopefully, we can have their information next issue. If not, we will continue with the regular Volunteer Spotlight.



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

A few months ago, one of our gardening volunteers was working busily in the vegetable garden. It was a pleasant day and there was a steady stream of visitors. Some of public passing through were familiar with vegetable gardening and some were not. A few had gardens of their own or recalled gardens that had been worked by their parents or grandparents. Those volunteers were 'easy to reach'; their own thoughts about gardens meant they connected with ours in moments.

There were a few visitors who had no prior experience with gardening who had simply wandered in to see what had caught the interest of other visitors. Using the historic context of our garden to engage those visitors is always difficult but their interests are always piqued when they're told that our garden is pesticide-free and that the heirloom vegetables grown in our farm garden have much more flavor than the more shippable varieties found in the average market.

Visitors are often quite surprised to learn that a head of broccoli is a cluster of flowers, that

broccoli has leaves, and that the leaves are actually the most nutritious part of the plant. Many visitors do not recognize the plants that produce peas, onions, or peanuts. They often don't know that radishes make flowers, that there is no such thing as a 'green pepper' and many ask about the tall plants with the lovely big yellow flowers that are always to be found in the garden late in the Summer (okra! if you haven't guessed already.)

Invariably, everyone is willing to taste one thing or another and they are generally quite pleased with what they are offered. Quite a few of the visitors to our vegetable garden have their own gardens or have at least tried their hands at growing tomatoes and peppers. While gardening history is important, when discussing gardening, which is by its very nature a forward-looking hobby, we often find that the connections we're able to make with the public concern the future, not the past. All of our nature center activities should and do have future relevance. Stewardship is about making the site better over time. Education is an invest-

(Continued on page 4)

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

ABNC Volunteer Board Meeting May 12, 2011

Present: Eleanor Stanley, Liz VanOrstrand, Mary Alice Trumble, Jill Macomber, Tom Kartrude, Tom Scarsella, Tina Bass

back we get, we could start sharing recipes as early as August or September.

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Eleanor Stanley reported that the current balance is \$2524.63.

Mary Alice asked that any Board member who didn't submit a brief biography do so by the next /Bayou Foliage/deadline so she can publish "Meet the Board: Part 2."

Liz VanOrstrand reported that out of 33 volunteers who signed up September-February, six wanted to be deleted from the database. The remaining 27 had received no training or direction. Liz has added nine additional volunteers recently. We need to have some kind of outreach to these new volunteers in order to retain them. Liz suggested that perhaps a social connection is part of what these new, younger volunteers are looking for. Jill mentioned that when she joined as a volunteer in the spring, no training was offered until fall. If many of the volunteers are college students, training may need to be scheduled to accommodate when they get out of school.

Next week, Tom Kartrude will be meeting with groups representing the economic community to get out the ABNC message and to make them aware that ABNC has been around for many years. At present, Armand Bayou has no fire protection, so a draft system is going to be installed. There will be construction going on through the next few months for the new environmental education center.

The next meeting will be the (volunteer board) retreat on June 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Mary Alice Trumble brought two previous ABNC cookbooks with recipes contributed by staff or volunteers. A cookbook could be sold in the ABNC store. If current volunteers have their names in the book, there would probably be more interest. There was a suggestion that next year, refreshments be of a particular type each month (such as appetizers, soups, desserts), and people could bring the recipes for these dishes to be compiled into a cookbook. Depending on feed-

Jill Macomber
Secretary



Don't FORGET!



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:	-0-	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:	-0-	
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$2524.63

Next Volunteer Meeting

August 11, 2011

(From the Chair continued from page 2)

ment in children's future. Facilities efforts make for a more pleasant visitor experience. My own farm demos are about recycling materials and pleasant hobbies that will be pursued by others long after I'm gone.

We speak often to visitors about the Nature Center's history. We tell them about the crops that would have been grown, how the bayou was a small, meandering, freshwater stream and about life on the Gulf Coast when the French settlement was settled. We should consider any discussion of the past as a means of introducing the public to the nature center but, if we want to include the public in our activities we need to emphasize the future more. Just as one might describe a garden.

Tom



Congratulations!!

The volunteers have won the Paper Retriever Recycling Earth Day Challenge!

Armand Bayou Nature Center recycled 1.74 tons of paper in March, exceeding the amount we recycled in March 2010. Therefore, our April check will reflect a **DOUBLE PAYMENT** for those March 2011 tons.

Thank you everyone for this accomplishment and Mother Earth thanks you too!

Stan Krauhs
Paper Retriever Recycling Coordinator



Thank you, Summit High School!



Students from The Summit High School in Pasadena, participated in a mini Bayou Clean Up on May 19th, 2011, as part of their Service Learning curriculum. The program, under the direction of Jason Murray, encourages students to give back to the community in ways that are both educational and meaningful. These students participated in Prairie Restoration activities this fall at Armand Bayou Nature Center and continued their program by filling bags of washed up trash they collected while piloting canoes launched at Bay Area Park to Armand Bayou Nature Center's boathouse. Despite gusting winds, the students worked together as a team, learned skills on the water and developed a first hand awareness of the importance of the watershed. Staff and volunteers from Armand Bayou Nature Center led the teams from canoes and had a good time "picking up trash" with the teens.

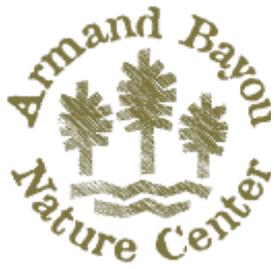


ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—June

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	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 281-744-3384	Tina Bass 281-744-3384
6/4	David Bolon	Gaye Batiz	Brigid McVaugh	Jane Bingel	OPEN	Kathie Stocker Crochet
6/5		OPEN	Ken Russell	Helen Harger	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	OPEN
6/11	Randy Olsen	OPEN	Paul Brunkow	OPEN	OPEN	Jane Bingel Cornhusk Dolls
6/12		David Bolon	OPEN	OPEN	Marie & Odie Asscherick Butterflies & Bats	Helen Harger Cheese
6/18	Karen Sutera	Anne Tincher	OPEN	Tina Bass	OPEN	Hilary Gibbs Garden Tom Scarsella Blacksmithing
Sun- days In Nature 6/19		OPEN	Judith Culligan	Eleanor Stanley	OPEN	OPEN
6/25	Liz VanOrstrand	OPEN	Stan Krauhs	Jane Bingel	OPEN	Paula Thorson
6/26		Randy Olsen	Stan Krauhs	Jill Macomber	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	Lana Sims

*Bayou Foliage deadline: 3rd Thursday of each month.
Thank you for adhering to this date.*



**Armand Bayou
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

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Reconnecting People With Nature

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

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

