



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2012

AUGUST

- 3 Prairie Friday
- 4 Stewardship Saturday
- 4 Photography Hike, 10 am
- 9 Volunteer Board meeting,
5:30 pm
- 9 Volunteer general meet-
ing, 6:30 pm, audito-
rium
- 10 Prairie Friday
- 11 Houston Audubon Bird
Survey; 7 am, parking
lot
- 16 Bayou Foliage deadline
- 17 Prairie Friday
- 18 Stewardship Saturday
- 19 **Sundays In Nature**,
1-3 pm
- 24 Prairie Friday
- 31 Prairie Friday

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finished with
this publication
please recycle it.
Thanks!

VOLUNTEER MEETING
August 9, 2012

6:30 refreshments
7:00 program
8:00 business meeting

Martyn Farm Harvest Festival

Each fall since 1981 the Martyn Farm at Armand Bayou Nature Center has given visitors the opportunity to turn back the clock to circa 1900. Life on a Gulf Coast farm could be harsh, but simple. It could be tiring, but satisfying. And harvest time was hard work, but a time for family and community fun. Join us as we immerse ourselves in a lifestyle when man and nature peacefully coexisted and benefited one another. We can learn from the past to improve our present and future.

On November 10 and 11 from 10 am – 4 pm the Martyn Farm Harvest Festival re-creates this time in our history with the event the local community looks forward to every year. Our volunteer organization plays a critical role in making this festival a success.

This is the 32nd year for our fall event. This event celebrates farm life at the turn of the previous century, around the time period 1895 – 1910. In so doing, we are highlighting crafts, products and activities that played an important role in the life of a Gulf Coast farm family. After the hard work of harvest, farm families enjoyed many forms of entertainment. The Harvest Festival includes music and dancing, along with pie-eating contests, cupcake walks and wagon rides. Crafts from a bygone era will be demonstrated by quilters, spinners, potters, wood carvers, blacksmiths and more. The children will want to stay all day to try their hand at old-fashioned games and scarecrow stuffing, rope making and candle making. For the adults, the General Store will be a potpourri of delicious homemade jams and jellies in addition to other types of food and handmade soaps and candles, hand-dyed yarn, woolen gifts, Victorian clothing and dolls. What a wonderful opportunity to do a little early holiday shopping!

For new volunteers the following information should be helpful; for experienced volunteers, a refresher.

- The most important thing is to **sign up to work a shift or two**, one or both days. Many volunteers work 3 shifts, both days. Signup sheets will be in the volunteer office soon. We ask that all volunteers **dress in period appropriate clothing**. For more specific information, please see page 5.
- Things get started early on Saturday morning when exhibitors, demonstrators and entertainers begin arriving with their equipment, wares or animals. We will have a **potluck breakfast** in classroom 2 of the Interpretive Building beginning at 8:00 am. Please bring a dish to share if you wish to participate. Coffee will be furnished.



(Continued on page 6)



Liz VanOrstrand
Volunteer Chair 2012

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer
Board
2012**

**Staff
Roster**

From the Chair

Hello to all, I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. What a difference between this summer and last summer!!! I had the opportunity to hike the Karankawa Trail last weekend by myself and get caught in one of those single cloud rain storms. It was a hike that will last forever in my thoughts...to have the woods to myself, the rain falling softly, the sun shining, the air smelling clean, and everything green and fresh. Even the small creek was running; I always love that. Of course once the rain stopped, the heat came back with a vengeance.

Things have been very busy at ABNC this summer, even despite the rain. With all the camps and schools coming and going there have been plenty of opportunities for our volunteers and we have come through every time. Thanks to all the volunteers who have

braved the rain and heat; your efforts have not gone unnoticed. My thanks is not only for the education volunteers, but the facility people as well. Things are really shaping up and moving in all the right directions.

A special thanks to all the new volunteers that had their orientation last spring. It has been so nice to see all the hard work this group has done this summer. We all understand how hard it is to be the new person in a group, and this class has been very eager to become a part of our organization, so thanks again.

There will be another new volunteer training in September. If you know anyone interested in becoming a volunteer, please have them contact the office and complete the

(Continued on page 3)

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Tom Kartrude	Ext 11	Janice Schragger	Ext 12
Mark Kramer	Ext 15		

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

From the Chair continued

(Continued from page 2)

application so we can get them started. Our staff feels we have a real need for docents and guides right now, so we are hoping to find people who are open to working in an interpretive capacity. At the present time we are working out the details for the classes and will get the information out as soon as possible.

Our volunteer meetings will begin again in August with a presentation on whooping cranes. We will again invite the ABNC members to the educational presentation.

We are hoping they might be interested enough to become volunteers. I am looking forward to seeing you all again.

Please remember our Houston summer is not going to last forever. We have so many opportunities for volunteers and do hope that each of you find something to do that will give you the chance to find a moment that will last forever.

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Guest speaker at the August volunteer meeting

Dr. Elizabeth Smith of the International Crane Foundation

For years the wild population of North America biggest bird had been dwindling, partly due to destruction of Texas coastal marshes where the Whooping Crane winters. As a Whooping Crane Conservation Biologist with the International Crane Foundation located in Corpus Christie, Dr. Smith has been involved in propagating the last remaining wild birds into two wild flocks, one of which flies in from Canada to winter at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Propagation was challenging especially because there were only a few birds left, they bond for life, and they normally raise one chick annually. Her presentation will cover Whooping Crane ecology, population growth, environmental challenges, and current programs promoting the recovery of this precious species including ways that the local communities can engage in this effort. Following the program is the monthly volunteer meeting.

Treasurer's Report June 2012

Beginning Balance		3287.52
Expenditures:		
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:		
Recycling April & May	\$17.01	
Total Income	\$17.01	
Current Balance		\$3304.53

VOLUNTEER MEETING PROGRAM

Thursday, August 9, 2012

7:00 pm

After the two month break the volunteer general meeting is back. Please join us for a presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Smith on the rare and endangered Whooping Crane, a species of bird unique to North America. Don't forget to count this program as continuing education.

...Marijn Liffijt
Vice-Chair

Dressing for Harvest Festival



If you're new to ABNC, you may be wondering what you are asked to wear to help with the Harvest Festival. For guys, the requirements are simple...shirt (collarless, if available) with jeans or overalls, suspenders (if you choose), straw or western hat and appropriate shoes. For ladies, a long skirt with long-sleeved blouse or prairie dress, bonnet (if you choose) & appropriate shoes. For those of you not inclined to make your own outfits, there are several websites where they may be purchased. Here are a couple. A few volunteers have purchased from White Elegance and can vouch for their good service.



www.oldfashionedclothing.com/dressuphome.htm.

www.whiteelegance.com/Pioneer/p15?page=all&search=.

Hear Proposals at CLC Green Plan Town Hall Meeting for the reuse of the old golf course

Mark your calendar for a Town Hall meeting hosted by the CLC Green Plan Advisory Group :

Thursday, August 30, 7 pm to 9 pm

St. Bernadette's Parish Hall on El Dorado at El Camino.

The volunteers in all the subcommittees are working hard on the recommendations from community-wide input for Athletic Fields, Community Gardens, Dog Park, Hike Bike Trails, Landscaping and Wetlands. Each group will make a brief presentation on their recommendation. Other suggestions that have not been organized into committees will also be considered in the final plans.

It is not too late to contribute your opinion or join a subcommittee! For more information and to see the guidelines and constraints for the proposals go to www.clcgreenplan.org and check out the blog on the site. The subcommittee updates and all the current action is on the blog. You can comment on the posts, or email clcgreenplan@gmail.com. This is truly a grassroots effort, so thanks to you all for your hard work and interest.

Third Sundays in Nature 2012

Topics for 2012 include:

- August 19 "ABNC Watershed Our Quality of Life" (Enviroscape model, near shore bayou activities)
- September 16 "Venture Outdoors" (Scavenger hunt, photography, outdoor activities)
- October 21 "Paddles Up" (Introduction to Paddling 101)
- November 18 "Ancestral Echoes" (Prairies, settlers & natives, bison presentation)
- December 16 "Blowing in the Wind" (Wind energy, windmills to turbines)

Any volunteers who would like to work with the Education Department on the Sunday in Nature Program, please contact Heather x14 or Kathy G. x13. We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming programs. Some of these hours may be used for ABNC advanced training.

Heather Millar

Clear Lake City
Green Plan
Town Hall
Meeting



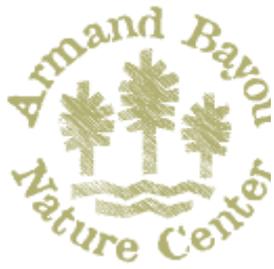
ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—August



*If you have to cancel, please do your best to find your own replacement. If you cannot, please notify your coordinator **AND** the front desk. 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.*

DATE	10:00 Trails Karen Sutera 281-474-5087	2:00 Trails Karen Sutera 281-474-52-087	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
8/4	Randy Olsen	OPEN	Dick Phelps	Jane Bingel	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	Susan Hesley Yarn Dolls
8/5		Madeline Barnes	Ken Russell	Jill Macomber	OPEN	OPEN
8/11	Liz VanOrstrand	Gaye Batiz	Stan Krauhs	Paula Thorson	Polly Swerdlin Adaptations	Jane Bingel Stereoscope
8/12		Karen Sutera	Judith Culligan	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	OPEN
8/18	David Bolon	Anne Tincher	Stan Krauhs	Jane Bingel	OPEN	OPEN
Sundays in Nature		Marie Asscherick	Joe Bryan	Helen Harger	OPEN	Tina Bass Quilting
8/25	Madeline Barnes	Randy Olsen	Stan Krauhs	Paula Thorson	Jane Bingel Birds	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope
8/26		Karen Sutera	Polly Swerdlin	Eleanor Stanley	OPEN	Kathie Stocker Crochet

Bayou Foliage deadline: 3rd Thursday of each month.



Armand Bayou Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter

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Phone: 281-474-2551
Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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

(Martyn Farm Harvest Festival continued from page 1)

- The farm site must be setup by 9:30 am each day with all vehicles removed from the ground by that time. If you are scheduled to work the 10-12 shift, please try to arrive by 9:30 to be sure your activity is ready to go by 10:00.
- When you arrive, please **check in at the Information Booth**, located next to the birthing shed at the farm site. This is how we know you are there; if not, we try to find a replacement for you and that can often be impossible. After you check off your name, you will receive a free drink ticket for each shift you have signed up to work.
- **Bring your own chair** if you feel you will need one. We no longer rent chairs for the event.
- The volunteers' main source of income is the cookie booth at Harvest Festival. **PLEASE bake cookies, brownies, breads, candy, etc.** and bring to the booth, located next to the farmhouse. If you need to turn in contributions early, please contact Dewanna Norris.
- Volunteers also donate **potted plants** to sell. These will be sold near the admission building so that visitors may pick them up as they leave.

- **Friday, November 9 is setup day.** If you can help, please arrive at the nature center by 9 am. We will be distributing rented tables (as soon as they are delivered), moving benches and picnic tables, doing last minute decorating and cleaning and a myriad other things. You may want to bring work gloves.
- **HAVE FUN!**

Thanks for helping to make the Martyn Farm Harvest Festival a huge success!!!

The MFHF Planning Committee

Sam Dinsmore
Susan Hesley
Diane Humes
Tom Kartrude, staff liaison
Stan Krauhs
Mary Alice Trumble, chair
Liz VanOrstrand
John Wilson

