



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2013

MARCH

- 1 Prairie Friday
- 2 Stewardship Saturday
- 8 Prairie Friday
- 14 Volunteer Board meeting, 5:30 pm
- 14 Volunteer Meeting, 6:30 pm, auditorium
- 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!

VOLUNTEER MEETING
March 14, 2013

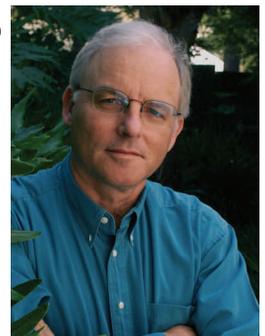
6:30 refreshments

7:00 program

8:00 business meeting

Richard Louv Visits ABNC

ABNC had the privilege of hosting the Get Outdoors Houston! leadership team and their special guest Mr. Richard Louv on a blustery February morning. Mr. Louv, founding chairman of the Children and Nature Network and author of the national best seller *Last Child in the Woods* and now *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature Deficit Disorder*, met with Get Outdoors Houston! network partners to review their progress at showcasing the Houston-Gulf Coast region as an outdoor destination with "healthier, happier and smarter communities." He commented on similar programs across the country and internationally, and shared his insights and future outlooks. Following the meeting, Louv hiked the Discovery Loop Trail with ABNC Executive Director Tom Kartrude, Texas State Parks Outreach & Education Director Nancy Herron, and Houston Wilderness Director of Education Margaret Lamar. Later in his Houston visit, Mr. Louv and Dr. Stephen Pont, American Academy of Pediatric Medicine, met with child obesity health professionals, and then provided the keynote address for the annual Houston Wilderness Luncheon.



Mr. Louv spoke directly to the extraordinary benefits our communities can reap by connecting - or reconnecting - to nature, and how that can reignite our childhood sense of awe and wonder, and bring with it "better health, enhanced creativity, new careers and business opportunities." He highlighted how early childhood experiences in nature help develop our 'executive function' and how important executive function will be to family, business and community leadership in the future. He also stressed the importance of a positive future vision, noting that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that any movement will fail if it cannot paint a picture of a future that people will want to go to. Louv worried about how feature films like *Mad Max* or the *Hunger Games* capture our thoughts; he reminded us that Dr. King did not say, "I have a nightmare". His closing remarks challenged the Get Outdoors Houston! leaders to help Houston start viewing its future through "the prism of nature."

Welcome, New Volunteers

The following people have completed Volunteer Orientation and/or Burn Training and are cleared for take-off. We welcome you as a member of the ABNC Volunteer Corps. Fly high!

Rebecca Freeman

Chester Harmon

Antonio Padron





Liz VanOrstrand
Volunteer Chair
2013

Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer
Board
2013

Staff
Roster

From the Chair

As our friends and family members in other parts of the country continue to live through another winter, we are enjoying the sights and smells of spring. As someone who works too many hours this time a year, I do hope you all get chance to get outside and enjoy the season. Last weekend I did make time to go on a hike and had about 15 people join me. Making time for the things we love not only enhances our lives but the lives of all those who have opportunity to learn more about Armand Bayou Nature Center.

We are in a new age of instant media and news, and Armand Bayou Nature Center is a part of this new world. All our events are now posted, and if I am not mistaken, we will be connected to city websites that will help families find places to go. Last weekend was our Third Sunday in Nature and we had over 400 people come out and enjoy ABNC. As you may know this was a free day and I am sure that helps bring the numbers up. Between the free

days and the networking, the amount of people coming to visit ABNC is on the rise.

In April, in addition to our Third Sunday in Nature on April 21, the City of Pasadena will be hosting Pasadena Day at ABNC. This will also be a free day, as part of Pasadena's Get Outside Day. On June 1 we will be part of the National Trails Day, with hikes planned for all times of the day. Then on June 8 is the City of Houston's Get Outside Day.

All of these activities will bring families to ABNC who never knew we were here. This is a great opportunity for us to fill our mission to "Reconnect to Nature". The number of volunteers that these days will require will be a test of our resources. Please look at the dates and put them on your calendars; we will need as many volunteers as possible.

(Continued on page 6)

Chair	Liz VanOrstrand	281-480-8296	lizvanorstrand@hotmail.com
Vice-chair	Marijn (Ryan) Lijffijt	281-538-2720	marijn.lijffijt@uth.tmc.edu
Secretary	Jill Macomber	281-957-9934	jillmacomber@comcast.net
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley	713-455-1502	no email
Administrative	Gaye Batiz	713-518-5759	gayebatiz@aol.com
Weekend demos	Polly Swerdlin	281-814-4606	pmswerdlin@gmail.com
Weekend trails	Karen Sutera	281-474-5087	ksutera@galenaparkisd.com
Greeters/Interpreters	Stan Krauhs	281-470-2744	krauhs@earthlink.net
Weekday Education	Madeleine Barnes	281-474-9406	dwbmkb@aol.com
Outreach	Susan Millsap	281-538-6695	susan.millsap@yahoo.com
Facilities	Marijn (Ryan) Lijffijt	409 382-6301	marijn.lijffijt@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	matrubble@verizon.net

Barbara Baxter	Ext 10	Jessica Collier	Ext 17
Kathy Gardner	Ext 13	Stacy Holcomb	Ext 10
Eloise Harper		Jennifer Logsdon	Ext 10
Dave Kovach	Ext 16	Heather Millar	Ext 14
Tom Kartrude	Ext 11	George Regmund	Ext 31
Mark Kramer	Ext 15	Janice Schrage	Ext 12

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

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes February 21, 2013

7 pm: Ryan Lijffijt, Vice Chair, introduced the speaker for February, Margaret Frick, who gave a presentation and slide show on bats.

After the speaker, a member of the Board of Trustees addressed the volunteers and said that if anyone has anything to donate, such as framed pictures, for the April Gala auction, such donations would be gladly accepted.

Training for the new photo hikes will be given on March 2 from 3-6 pm.

Tentatively, a reception honoring Lew Hornung will be held on Sunday, March 24, at 2 pm in the auditorium. Watch for updates.

April 20 (Pasadena Day) and April 27 (April Gala) are big upcoming events which will require many volunteers. Also, June 1 is National Trails Day. Look for sign-up sheets for these three events.

On May 18, the volunteers will be having their campout which replaced the end-of-the-year potluck last year and was so successful that it is being repeated. The campout will begin after closing that Saturday and will end on Sunday morning. All are welcome whether they plan to campout or not.

Wiring in the farmhouse will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Barbara Baxter could use help taking ink cartridges to Office Depot. They will only let her recycle 10 at a time, so if others registered, more cartridges could be redeemed. Contact Barbara if you can help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Jill Macomber, Secretary

Alligators of Armand Bayou

Alligator populations suffered dramatic declines for several decades and were placed on the endangered species list in 1973. Habitat loss, wetland destruction, and over hunting were largely responsible for this decline. Fortunately, with proper management of critical habitats as well as implementation of strict hunting guidelines, the population recovered and the alligator was removed from the endangered species list in 1987. The population of alligators within Armand Bayou was virtually absent during the period the animal was listed as an endangered species. Many decades of recovery have enabled the species to slowly return to the bayou, which now supports a breeding population. However, as the Armand Bayou watershed becomes increasingly urbanized, human/alligator conflicts are increasing. Threats facing these urban alligators include poaching, nuisance encounters with humans, and lack of proper management. Recognizing these challenges, the need for further research and enhanced management are critical to insure their preservation in the Armand Bayou Coastal Preserve. Mark and Cord will present results of their recent research which was aimed at better understanding Armand Bayou alligator populations. They will discuss population dynamics and distribution, capture/tagging techniques, radio telemetry monitoring of range, nest survey data, and nuisance animal destruction statistics.

Treasurer's Report January 2013

Beginning Balance		\$3056.16
Expenditures:	-0-	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income:	-0-	
Total Income	-0-	
Current Balance		\$3056.16

VOLUNTEER MEETING PROGRAM

Mark Kramer & Cole Eversol
Alligators of Armand Bayou

Thursday, March 14, 2013

7:00—8:00 pm

Don't forget to count this program as continuing education.

...Marijn Lijffijt
Vice-Chair



Education Wish List

The following are items needed for educational programs and camps. If you can help, please contact Heather Millar in the Education Department.



White plastic dishpans (approx. 11x13x5")
 Huge plastic buckets with rope handles
 Plastic hula hoops
 Tempera Paints assorted colors
 Foam tri-fold boards (like science fair boards in foam core)
 Gently used bath towels
 Flat sheets for shelter building
 White T shirts (Adult SM-Med-Lg)
 Tie dye shirt kits (approx 12 shirts/kit)
 Flash drives
 TP and Paper towel rolls
 Brass fasteners (brads)
 Assorted pony beads
 Plastic lanyard on the spool
 Tacky glue
 Felt squares
 Cotton balls
 Low temperature hot glue guns and same temp glue sticks

Heather Millar
 Director of Education
 281-474-2551x14
heather@abnc.org



Back to the Bayou Needs Your Help

As you know, our 2013 Gala, "Back to the Bayou: Rockin' Our Roots" will be held on Saturday, April 27. As part of the Gala, we will hold both a silent auction and a live auction. The silent auction is generally smaller, lower dollar items (\$200 or less range), with the live auction being the more expensive items.

In previous years we have had a small committee from the board responsible for soliciting donations for the auction. However, this is not the most efficient method and does not take advantage of the breadth of contacts available to the board and volunteers.

(Continued on page 6)

Third Sundays in Nature 2013

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
 Director of Education

Don't forget
 the demo
 training
 each month
 at 3:30 pm
 following
 Sundays in
 Nature

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—March



*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 Polly Swerdlin 281-814-4606	Farm Demos Polly Swerdlin 281-814-4606
3/2	Karen Sutera	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	OPEN
3/3		Liz VanOrstrand	Ken Russell	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	Julia Knutson Handcrafts
3/9	OPEN	Dave Bolon	OPEN	Paula Thorson	Polly Swerdlin Bison	Jane Bingel Tools
3/10		Madeline Barnes	Polly Swerdlin	Helen Harger	OPEN	Julia Knutson Handcrafts
3/16	Madeline Barnes	Karen Sutera	OPEN	Jane Bingel	OPEN	Paula Thorson Cheese
3/17 Sundays in Nature		Randy Olsen	Judith Culligan	Jill Macomber & Stan Krauhs	OPEN	Kathy Stocker Crochet
3/23	OPEN	Madeline Barnes	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	Jane Bingel Birds	Ray Parker Rope Making
3/24		Karen Sutera	Joe Bryan	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	Lana Sims Herbs
3/30	Randy Olsen	OPEN	OPEN	Julia Knutson	Hilary Gibbs Pond Life	Polly Swerdlin Butter Making
3/31		OPEN	OPEN	Eleanor Stanley	OPEN	OPEN

If you can cover for any open slots, please call the coordinator for that event.



P.O. Box 58828
8500 Bay Area Boulevard
Houston, TX 77258
Phone: 281-474-2551
Web: www.abnc.org

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

(From the Chair continued from page 2)

With the weather getting nicer and the message of "Getting Outside" reaching the public, we need to step up our dedication to Armand Bayou Nature Center. If you are new to ABNC please remember the New Volunteer training on April 6 or April 13. Also, you are welcome to buddy with our veteran volunteers to help get you started. For all our veteran volunteers, please think about people you know who might be interested in becoming volunteers. New volunteers are more likely to stay with us if they have a personal relationship with other volunteers. So, if you know anyone who has time on their hands, please talk us up to your friends.

We all can make a difference. I thank you all for the hours you have posted. I do know that life can get crazy, believe me I know, but ABNC is worth it. I do look forward to all the activities coming up, but most of all getting a chance to "reconnect with nature" myself and helping others do the same.

Liz VanOrstrand

Volunteer Chair person



(Back to the Bayou continued from page 4)

While I am not asking the volunteers to hit the streets and start soliciting items, I would like to extend an invitation to those who may have items they would like to donate for the silent auction. Or if you know someone who may have something to donate, then that works as well.

Here are some items from previous years to give you an idea of what we need for a successful auction:

Painting or framed photograph by local artist

- Green fees for local golf course
- Wine basket
- Gift certificate from local restaurant
- Custom fishing rod

Feel free to come up with your own ideas. You are limited only by your imagination, and the more interesting the item, the more interest it may draw at the auction.

Thank you for your support for this important fund raising activity. Without everyone's participation this event will not be possible. Please send me donation information so we can track it in our database. Or if you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to contact me.

Steve Jordan
Chair, ABNC Gala Auction Committee
steven.m.jordan@mac.com
832-875-1534 (cell)
281-482-5031 (home)