

Armand Bayou Nature
Center
Nature Center



Bayou Foliage

VOLUME 31, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2012

Thanks from the Director

A recent article by Jim Covell in the NAI magazine notes that his experience interpreting sardines at the Monterey Bay Aquarium suggests that the fish school is dependent upon both 'leadership' and 'followership'. I like that idea. I think it explains everything about the success of the ABNC Volunteers. Jim observed that with sardines the leader changes every few seconds, shifting to that fish in the best position to respond to currents, approaching danger, pursuing food, and other things important to sardines. He also observed that the leader is only the leader when the rest of the school follows. If the leader swims off on its own, then it's just lunch for some waiting predator.

So for this issue of Bayou Foliage I want to say thanks for the contribution of past volunteer leaders, thanks for the commitment of the new volunteer leaders, and especially thanks to all of volunteer followers! As the troubled economy has put pressure on personal giving, reduced corporate philanthropy and eliminated grant sources, ABNC has become increasingly dependent on volunteer resources. Staff reductions and turnover have led to inconsistent and often conflicting goals and directions for our volunteer programs. Rather than be discouraged and drift away, the ABNC Volunteers have pulled together under their own leadership and have made remarkable operational and budgetary impacts. Those that could lead have led; those who best follow, proved faithful followers. And ABNC, as an institution, needs to recognize that commitment to 'leadership' and 'followership'.

I want to especially thank Chair Tom Scarsella for his leadership role over the past two years, and to the enthusiastic officers and committee chairs that supported him. The ABNC Volunteers should take great pride in their contributions to education, stewardship and operations while Tom provided direction and avoided becoming 'lunch for predators.' I also want to acknowledge the commitment of Liz VanOrstrand, who accepted the nomination for chair while fully understanding the increasing burden ABNC will place on its volunteers this coming year. I am confident that Liz, and those others courageous enough to stand with her for volunteer leadership positions in 2012, will again prove to be some of the most valuable resources (natural, cultural or otherwise) we have at ABNC. I know that they only accepted those 'leadership' roles because they understood they could count on the incredible 'followership' skills found in the rest of the volunteer organization.

I hope you will be able to join my staff and me for dinner on Thursday evening, January 19, 2012, when we will try to honor the contribution of all of the ABNC volunteers. I promise we won't serve sardines.

Tom Kartrude
Executive Director

VOLUNTEER MEETING
Thursday, January 19, 2012

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
6:00 pm

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day, ABNC closed
- 6 Prairie Friday
- 7 Stewardship Saturday
- 7 Photography Hike, 10:00 am
- 13 Prairie Friday
- 14 Houston Audubon Bird Survey; 7 am, parking lot
- 14 ABNC Annual Meeting, 10 am
- 15 Sundays In Nature, 1-3 pm
- 19 Volunteer Board meeting, 5:30 pm
- 19 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, 6:00 pm in auditorium
- 19 Bayou Foliage deadline
- 20 Prairie Friday
- 21 Stewardship Saturday
- 27 Prairie Friday
- 28 Introduction to Birding, Volunteer Continuing Education, 7:30-4:00

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



Tom Scarsella
Volunteer Chair 2011

**Armand Bayou
Nature Center
Volunteer
Board
2012**

**Staff
Roster**

From the Chair

2011 is drawing to a close and with it so does my term as your volunteer chair. Liz VanOrstrand graciously offered to take on this position and was voted in with the rest of the 2012 volunteer board at our December meeting. Liz is a wonderfully organized person and I have no doubt that everything will run (more) smoothly on her watch.

I plan on being just as busy with the nature center as I was while chair and expect to be spending more time on stewardship parties, demos, prairie burns, and some other committee meetings in 2012. There are several things on personal agenda for ABNC that are winter-specific that I did not get to in 2011 so I am not “taking any time off” so to speak. Winter is when mulberry whips should be pushed into the soil to make new trees for attracting songbirds. There are several sites in the core area where mulberries might be placed for good bird viewing: the island in

May’s Pond, the backside of the entry pond, the grove between the observation platform and that pond, and in the degraded forest near the bird blind. We have a mulberry that fruits well in our yard and I was admiring some of its long thin branches only yesterday.

Winter is also is my favorite time of year for thinning young tallows from stands of regenerating hardwoods; I don’t miss the heat and bugs at all. Maybe I’ll even get to arborscape something or make a forest sculpture somewhere in the park. Either of those will result in me logging more hours in 2012 than I did this year and I get to play with tools and maybe get dirty! I can hardly wait!

Happy Holidays,

Tom Scarsella



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Mark Kramer	Ext 15		

Email addresses are ‘firstname’@abnc.org. Example: george@abnc.org

ABNC Volunteer Meeting Minutes December 8, 2011

6:30 PM

Since this meeting was the annual Christmas potluck dinner, the only business conducted was to elect the Board for 2012. After ballots were validated, the following persons will serve on the 2012 Board:

Greeters	Stan Krauhs
Outreach	Susan Millsap
Stewardship	Ian Kress
Weekday Education	Madeleine Barnes
Weekend Demos	Tina Bass
Weekend Trails	Karen Sutera

Chair	Liz Van Orstrand
Vice Chair	Marijn Liffijt
Secretary	Jill Macomber
Treasurer	Eleanor Stanley
Administration	Gaye Batiz
Facilities	Marijn Liffijt

The next meeting will be on January 19, a week later than usual, when we are recognized at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Jill Macomber,
Secretary



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Join us for the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner hosted by the staff of Armand Bayou Nature Center. Be present as the many volunteer contributions of 2011 are recognized and honored. Please bring your non-disposable plate and utensils.

Treasurer's Report November 2011

Beginning Balance		\$2520.83
Expenditures:	-0-	
Total Expenditures	-0-	
Income: Harvest Festival:		
Cookies (551.64) & Crafts (366)	917.64	
Recycling: May-November	18.99	
Total Income	\$936.63	
Current Balance		\$3457.56

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Thursday, January 19, 2012
6:00 pm

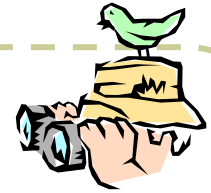
Note: This is the 3rd Thursday, not the usual 2nd Thursday.



★ Be sure you've logged all your 2011 hours by December 31.

Future Volunteer Meeting Programs
February 9—Eco-tourism in Costa Rica

Introduction to Birding



The class will be entirely in the field.

Attend this field class to learn more about the identification and natural history of some of our spectacular local birdlife. The upper Texas coast is one of the premier birding locations in the United States with great species diversity and large avian populations. **The class will be entirely in the field.**

We will meet at the nature center and travel to Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, stopping at birding spots along the way. We will cover binocular adjustment and use, bird field guides, field marks, identification techniques and observe and discuss birds first hand. Transportation by bus is provided for this field trip.

Binoculars are needed for this class and a field guide to birds is recommended. ABNC will supply a spotting scope for the group's use. Bring a lunch, something to drink and dress for the weather. Class is limited to 20 participants.

Date: January 28, 2012

Time: 7:30 am – 4 pm

Instructor: George Regmund

Third Sundays in Nature 2012

(1:00–3:00 pm scheduled program)

Dow Chemical Company Deer Park and **ABNC** will be kicking off our new season with a reception and underwriting admission for Third Sundays in Nature beginning January 15, 2012. The January 15th program, "Feathered Friends of ABNC," will feature a bird presentation by our own staff biologist and expert birder, George Regmund as well as a short follow-up birding hike. Members of the Owl Prowl team and education volunteers will have owl pellets, bird specimens and crafts available to engage the entire family.

Topics for the entire year of 2012 include:

January 15	"Feathered Friends of ABNC" (Birds, migration and dwellings. Guided hike)
February 19	"Planting Natives" (Plants, Insects, Trees and Gardens)
March 18	"Hopper Haven" (Insects and Spiders)
April 15	"Earth Day Celebrating ABNC"
May 20	"Art in Nature" (Art inspired by the outdoors)
June 17	"Just Fishin" (Fishing derby, fish prints, ponds and water sources)
July 15	"Radical Reptiles" (Reptile demonstrations, benefits of snakes)
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)





(Continued on page 6)

ABNC Volunteer Duty Roster—January



*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
1/1			<i>ABNC closed</i>			
1/7	Liz VanOrstrand	Randy Olsen	Dick Phelps	Ed Adams	OPEN	Tom Scarsella Wood Shop Hilary Gibbs Garden
1/8	 Feliz Ano Novo	OPEN	OPEN	Helen Harger	Eleanor Stanley Reptiles	OPEN
1/14	Polly Swerdlin	Gaye Batiz	Paul Brunkow	Joan Brunkow	OPEN	Paula Thorson
Sundays in Nature 1/15			Judith Culligan	Jill Macomber	Sundays In Nature	Tina Bass Hand Quilting
1/21	Randy Olsen	David Bolon	OPEN	Paula Thorson	OPEN	Ray Parker Rope Making
1/22	 Šťastný Nový rok	OPEN	Joe Bryan	Eleanor Stanley	Kathie Stocker Birds	OPEN
1/28	Anne Tincher	OPEN	OPEN	Jane Bingel	Zel Arbuckle Snakes	Polly Swerdlin Stereoscope
1/29	 Hauoli Makahiki Hou	Karen Sutera	Dick Phelps	Polly Swerdlin	OPEN	OPEN

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



**Armand Bayou Nature Center
Nature Center Volunteer Newsletter**

P.O. Box 58828
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Web: www.abnc.org

Reconnecting People With Nature

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

(Sundays in Nature continued from page 4)

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



Happy New Year!