

**Bright Leaf T-Shirts, Caps, & Patches  
in Vibrant Colors**



**Caps \$20**



Friends of Bright Leaf  
**Patches \$5**



**T-Shirts \$15**

To order, contact Sally Scott at 453-2289

**Calendar of Events**

**October Event—Annual Open House**  
Sunday, October 22nd, 9:00am—1:00pm

**November Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, November 14th, 6:30 pm

**Monthly Interpretive Hikes**

Interpretive Hikes are scheduled for the second Saturday and second Sunday of every month. Meet at the parking lot at the north entrance to the park.

**October Interpretive Hikes**  
Sunday, October 8, 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Saturday, October 14, 8:30 - 10:30 am

**November Interpretive Hikes**  
Saturday, November 11, 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Sunday, November 12, 9:00 - 11:00 am

**December Interpretive Hikes**  
Saturday, December 9, 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Sunday, December 10, 9:00 - 11:00 am

**January Interpretive Hikes**  
Sunday, January 13, 9:00 - 11:00 am  
Saturday, January 14, 9:00 - 11:00 am

**Thanks to our 2006 Sponsors**



Friends of Bright Leaf  
P.O. Box 27921  
Austin, Texas 78755-7921

**Friends of Bright Leaf**



Friends of Bright Leaf

**Fall 2006**

**Who's Watching the River?**

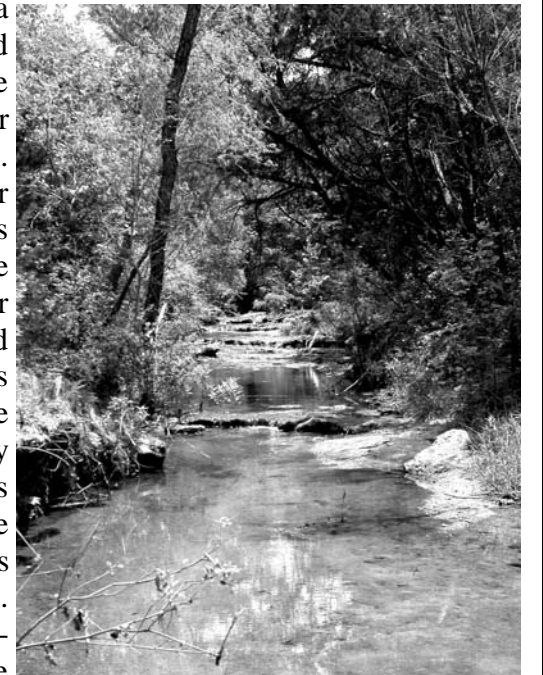
*Doing Two Goods with One Project*

The Austin Youth River Watch program was established in 1991 by the Austin City Council as a part of the Colorado River Watch Foundation. Funding for this non-profit group comes from the Austin Water Utility and the City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. This program takes 'at risk' Austin youths and engages them in a hands-on environmental project that can make a difference to the quality of Austin's water and a difference in the quality of the student's lives. Teachers and principals identify high school and middle school students who they feel are at risk for dropping out and who they believe would benefit from participating in this water monitoring program.

The students meet after school and go to various monitoring sites such as Blunn Creek, Boul-

don Creek, Waller Creek, and other sites. After testing the water quality and learning science, chemistry, and note-taking in the process, the students return to the River Watch house where they enter their data, have a snack, and have time for other homework.

The older students mentor the younger kids and students from the University of Texas also serve as mentors at times. These students have



summer activities, go camping, and even go on trips to Big Bend, Washington DC, and even serve as ambassadors for a clean environment as far away as Russia. The Austin Youth River Watch has been very successful in keeping its students in school and helping them succeed in their classes and in their lives.

In addition to helping the students, this program also accomplishes real work that helps the local environment. Participants have identified, re-

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Open House**

Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from  
9:00 am until 1:00 pm

**Officer Nominations:**

Nancy Woolley, President  
Steve Gerson, Vice President  
Philip Russell, Secretary  
Michele Morrison, Treasurer

**Board Nominations:**

Bruce Bigelow  
Steve Gerson  
Michele Morrison

# Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends of Bright Leaf,

We had a very dry winter and a long dry and very hot summer. I hope that by the time you read this that much needed rain and cooler temperatures have come to relieve us. Even with the hot weather, we still had enthusiastic hikers coming out to Bright Leaf. The plants and even the trees were showing stress, but visitors young and old were still treated to sightings of rabbits, deer, a little snake, and even fish in the trickle of Dry Creek.

With fall arriving, not only the weather is changing, but Bright Leaf is also changing. We are no longer a part of Texas Parks and Wildlife. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we made the transition over to the Austin Community Foundation. The Friends of Bright Leaf is working with the site manager to help

make this transition go as smoothly as possible. There are many details large and small to attend to. From changing the name on the utility bill to buying a park vehicle, a weed eater, and a computer to writing and signing a new Memorandum of Agreement between the Friends group and the ACF.

I hope this change in management serves to refresh our enthusiasm for Bright Leaf and Georgia Lucas's vision for this fascinating parcel of land. Come out in October to our open house or join us on one of our other guided hikes. Tell your friends, neighbors, and Scout troops. Come out to Bright Leaf and enjoy nature in this great city of Austin!

Nancy Woolley  
Friends of Bright Leaf

## Life Members (>\$1000)

Laurel Foundation  
Ralph & Patricia Ladd

Jo Wilson & Carol Bennett  
Ann Syptak  
Anne & John C. Donovan  
Blake Tollett & Karen Kelly  
Elaine Kant

## Patrons (\$250 to \$500)

Beck Runte  
Michele Morrison  
Roger W. & Cindy Borgelt  
Dan Barker

Carol & Jonathan Sessler  
BSA Troop 399, c/o Dean Murray  
Chris Wright  
Lisa Dunlevy

## Sponsors (\$100 to \$250)

Mary & David Pharis, in honor and  
memory of Ro Barker  
Sally Scott

## Supporter (\$50 to \$100)

Linda Ford  
James Thatcher & Diana Seidel  
Michael Chitty & Marilyn Doyle

Janet Delaney & Jack Morrison  
Susan Kleinman  
Tom Delaney & Kim Patterson  
Margaret Menicucci & Michael Whellan  
Clay Fuller  
Bob & Jean Warneke  
Joe Beach  
Marty Kopra & Tom Gretzinger  
Paul & Joan Rubin  
Phillip Russell  
Bruce Bigelow  
Nancy Woolley  
Pam Higgins & Tom Jones  
Mary Frances Zeitler

# Letter From the Park Manager

We have come through an interesting summer. Record August heat and little rain have been tough on Bright Leaf. I am happy to report that the preserve received 0.60 inches of rain in the last week of August plus an additional 0.25 inch this first week in September. May everyone have more!

As we transfer to the Austin Community Foundation on September 1, 2006, I look forward to seeing and working with new faces and old friends in our effort to preserve this urban jewel we call

Bright Leaf. I want to thank all of you for your effort and give special recognition to Beck Runte for her work as treasurer of the Friends of Bright Leaf. Her terms on the Board are up and she is retiring.

I look forward to October and our open house. Please plan to come visit with us and follow the changing colors of the hardwoods for which Bright Leaf was named.

Thank you,  
John Mahan

# Membership Application

New Member  Renewal

Annual memberships to **Friends of Bright Leaf** provide funds to help preserve, protect and make accessible this treasure. Become a member and help assure that Georgia Lucas' dream will last many lifetimes.

Individual \$25  Family \$35  Supporter \$50+  Sponsor \$100+   
Patron \$250+  Corporate \$500+  Life Member \$1,000+

I would like to help with the following activities: [Please circle all that apply].

Trail/Brush Work      Clean ups      Lead Hikes      Train Docents  
Membership Recruitment      Bookkeeping      Publicity      Event Planning  
Fund-Raising      Desktop Publishing      Educate Children      Educate Adults  
Educate on Plants      Educate on Birds      Educate on Geology      Scientific Studies  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ ( for reminders of hikes and other events)

CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the Friends of Bright Leaf, I will support the decisions of the management of the park. My signature releases Friends of Bright Leaf and its members from any responsibility for accidents or death as a result of use of the Bright Leaf property. I understand that the Friends of Bright Leaf will not sell or loan my membership information to any other entity.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Friends of Bright Leaf**  
P.O. Box 27921  
Austin, Texas 78755-7921  
(512) 459-7269

(Continued from page 1)

ported, and fixed several pollution problems. They also initiated ordinances that regulated the use of certain detergents in the Austin area. Since our drinking water comes from the Colorado River, it is important work indeed. There are 47 watersheds in Austin, so there is a lot of opportunity for water testing. Water is tested for dissolved



oxygen (DO), E.coli bacteria, total dissolved solids (TDS), pH or alkalinity, and temperature. These tests can indicate if there is contamination from such sources as fertilizer runoff, human and animal wastes, urban runoff from streets and parking lots, and chemical spills among other things. Pollution can be from either a "point source" such as a wastewater line break, or "non-point source" such as runoff from our streets and yards. The non-point source pollution is more difficult to track down and control.

Beyond supporting the work of the Austin Youth River Watch program, what can citizens of Austin do to ensure clean creeks and waterways? At home we can use lawn chemicals only as needed and not before rain is expected. When taking dogs for a walk, remember to 'Scoop the Poop' - take along a plastic bag. When washing the car, don't let the water go down the storm drain or take the car to a commercial car wash. And when it's time for an oil change or other work needs to be done, look for the 'Austin Clean Water Partner' sticker at the repair shop. Oil, batteries, and other car parts need to be handled properly to avoid polluting our environment. And, of course, pick up litter when you see it.

At Bright Leaf, a water quality testing kit has recently been purchased by the Friends group and we will be keeping watch on Dry Creek that runs under 2222, through Bright Leaf, and into Lake Austin. We have a continual problem with trash that washes downstream into Bright Leaf even after voluntary improvements at several upstream businesses

such as taller fencing in an effort to keep out litter. Each rain brings an onslaught of discarded cups, papers, packaging, and all sorts of detritus. And spring rains can also bring excess fertilizer and weed killer. In the future, we hope to be able to post the results of our own water quality testing in the newsletter and possibly even have the Austin Youth River Watch students come and test the water of Dry Creek. We are not apart from nature, we are a part of it!

Nancy Woolley

For more information:

Austin Youth River Watch: <http://www.ayrw.org/>  
Contact and other information. Although this program is funded by the city, they can use your help also. Go to the website to find out how you can help.

Austin City Connection: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watershed/education.htm>

This is an excellent source of information. "One of the most effective ways to protect water quality is through pollution prevention."

### In Memoriam: Rosemary "Ro" Barker

This past July, we mourned the loss of our friend, Ro Barker. She led hikes at open house events, but mostly she liked to play a behind the scenes role at Bright Leaf. She wrote and took the pictures for the nature article that ran in this newsletter. Ro also updated our plant list and was working on a project to photograph each of the plants on that list. She was not only a friend of the Friends group, but a personal friend to many of us. Her passing fills us with sadness, but we will remember her smile and passion for plants and nature as we walk the trails she loved.



# October Event

## Official Notice: Elections and Fall Open House

Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Our annual Fall Open House gives you the opportunity to get reacquainted with the Bright Leaf after the heat of summer has passed. Join us as we:

- Elect new officers and board members to Friends of Bright Leaf (see list of candidates on page 1)
- Discuss the changes in the park with the exit of Texas Parks and Wildlife.
- Visit with others who enjoy Bright Leaf as much as you do.

**What to Bring:** Wear clothes suitable for the weather and wear tennis shoes or hiking boots. Bring a water bottle. **Sorry, no dogs or bikes allowed.**

**Directions:** Take RR2222 west from Mopac. Go one block west of the traffic light at Mesa. Go left (south) onto Creek Mountain. When it dead-ends in two short blocks, turn right onto Old Bull Creek. The parking lot is on the left.

### Friends of Bright Leaf 2005-2006 Board of Directors

Nancy Woolley	President	323-0544
Steve Gerson	Vice President	452-9887
Philip Russell	Secretary	458-4518
Beck Runte	Treasurer	894-0182
Joseph Beach		342-0588
Bruce Bigelow		327-4748
Marshall Johnston		335-9525
Kurt Hill		343-5550
Sally Scott		453-2289

### Park Managers

Jeff Hershey      John Mahan

### Newsletter Editors

Steve Gerson      Beck Runte

### Special Thanks to:

- The **docents** who lead hikes for the public every month.
- Contributors to **Friends of Bright Leaf**

The mission of the **Friends of Bright Leaf** is to conserve and enhance Bright Leaf and promote the public's enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation of this urban jewel.

Our budget is posted on the Friends of Bright Leaf web site --

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/>

On June 5, 2006 the Texas Secretary of State accepted the Restated Articles of Incorporation of Friends of Bright Leaf Natural Area, which accomplished changing the name to Friends of Bright Leaf. Another important change included in the restated articles is to require approval by the members to amend the bylaws which control governance of the organization, while leaving the authority to amend the articles with the board of directors. A copy of the restated articles and a copy of the bylaws are on the FoBL egroup site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fobl/>.

Check out our new web site: "www.brightleaf.org"