

## Mr. Stark's Houseboat

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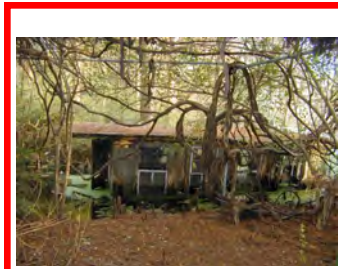
As I squinted in the near-dark through the dark vine-covered arbor that led to the Houseboat, I could only imagine how this area would have looked 50 years ago when Mr.

Stark entertained guests in Shangri La. The sun had set and the night sounds of the heronry reminded me that I needed to head back through Shangri La to my truck

which I had parked near Bat Meadow. And then, something happened that I still cannot explain: the Houseboat moved. Now at first I thought maybe in the dim light I had only imagined that it moved; but no, the movement had caused small swells in Ruby Lake. There was no doubt it had moved. About

that time, the cicadas began their incessant buzz and considering what I had just witnessed, I headed out as fast as I could.

The mysterious nature of the Stark Houseboat has always been an attraction at Shangri La even though we would rather people not go to that area since the pathway is uneven and has many tripping hazards. Unfortunately it appears on at least one map and people can see it when they are at the hanging Gardens. It has been an unwanted attraction since we opened.



Mr. Stark's Houseboat

Stories about the Stark Houseboat's origin vary but Jerry Stark, Lutcher Stark's cousin, reported that Mr. Stark had the houseboat constructed at a local shipyard to allow Jerry and his father to have more comfortable quarters as they worked at one of the Stark

properties in Louisiana. At a later date, he had the Stark Houseboat floated up the Sabine to Adams Bayou and then pulled over the levy into the lake. During the heyday of Shangri La, Mr. Stark would sit on his boat and watch visitors in Shangri La. There is also a story about Mr. Stark having a honeymoon on the boat, but I find that difficult to believe since the boat was very small and most likely did not have restroom facilities. Mr. Stark did own several other larger boats.

Some have suggested we renovate the boat but from the first time I visited Shangri La in 2002, I realized that would not be possible because 50 years of neglect had left it in very poor condition. However, our exhibit designers attempted to memorialize the boat when they made a replica of it for the Exhibit Hall.

**Michael Hoke,**  
Managing Director

Deep summer is when laziness finds respectability.

—Sam Keen



## Volunteer Spotlight—Alexine Adams

In each issue of The Volunteer Voice, a randomly chosen volunteer will be asked the same 10 silly (and some not-so-silly) questions.

For this issue the lucky volunteer was Alexine Adams, who has been a volunteer at Shangri La

since 1995. Alexine has contributed over 500 hours to Shangri La in many areas, such as: Greenhouse, Children's Garden, Eco-Fest, Conductor, Garden Guide, Epiphyte House, Theater, Trash Off and Volunteer Services. Alexine's

interview can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.





# 10 Questions with Alexine Adams

1. **How do you spend your free time?** *Gardening and volunteering*
2. **What was a favorite event of your childhood?** *Being a Bengal Guard for Mr. Stark*
3. **Where have you worked?** *WOCISD, LCMISD, SMS*
4. **Where did you grow up?** *Orange, Texas!*
5. **If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?** *All of Europe.*
6. **What is one word that describes you?** *Confused.*
7. **If you were a crayon, what color would you be?** *Red*
8. **What are you currently reading?** *Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese*
9. **Have you ever met anyone famous?** *Kate Smith.*
10. **Why do you volunteer?** *It is rewarding, educating and with people.*

## You Are Appreciated!

Every year at the end of January thousands of 4th, 5th and 6th graders come to Lamar University in Beaumont for the JASON project. This annual event provides teachers and students with opportunities to meet explorers, participate in hands-on activities, and hopefully motivate students to learn science. Shangri La has participated in the JASON project for 8 years, and this year's theme was Tectonic Fury. Students learned about



tectonic plates, their movement, and about the plates' role in volcanoes, earthquakes and mountain formation around the planet.

As always, this fast-paced, hands-on activity relied heavily on the help of our amazing volunteers. A big THANK YOU goes out to **Doris Miller** and **Wayne King** who help out all week, and **Glenn Dutton**, **Alyce Cox**, **Robert Morgan**, **Harry Morgan**, **Sue Harris** and **Joyce Kennedy**. Without your dedication and superior graham cracker manipulation skills, Shangri La's participation in the JASON project would not have been possible.

On a different note, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all of the **volunteers in the**

**Exhibit Hall who have been helping out with testing water in the aquariums.** It is wonderful having regular, reliable testing. Thanks for helping keep the fish happy and healthy!

**Sarah Hill  
Environmental Education Intern**

The Community Trash Off was a huge success this year with over 300 participants from the community and over 100 prizes collected and given away thanking participants for volunteering their time. However without our Shangri La Volunteers helping out behind the scenes, the event would not have been nearly as successful.

I would like to send a huge THANK YOU to the following gentlemen who helped me collect prizes from local businesses: **Robert Sims**, **David Frenzel** and **Dan Mohon**. While working on the Prize Donation Committee they were liaisons to local businesses, collecting over 100 prizes total. Without their help I would have gotten lost driving around Orange looking for businesses, some of which had moved or closed. We also wouldn't have been able to contact nearly as many businesses as we did. Some of the prizes we were able to give away included gift cards to Tuffy's, Robert's Meat Market, Old Orange Café, Lucy's, Mathews Jewelers, gift bags from Fleur de Chic, A Little Bit Gaudy

and Orange Savings Bank!

I would also like to thank those **volunteers who helped out the day of the Trash Off**. Flexibility is something that we all know and appreciate at Shangri La. Of course, Trash Off requires a large amount of flexibility; even more so this year with the postponement due to inclement weather. Even with the last minute date change, Trash Off went off



without a hitch with much thanks to our volunteers at set-up, registration, equipment hand-out, and at the boat launches in the morning, trash disposal and collection on the streets and on the bayou, photography throughout the event, and during the pizza party and prize giveaway later that day!

Thank you so much for everyone's help and cooperation at our Community Trash Off! Together, we made a difference for our community!

**Stephanie Davidson, Environmental  
Education Intern**

# Get to Know Your Staff...

Greg LeBlanc is a gardener at Shangri La. He has worked for the Stark Foundation for four years. He was born in Lafayette and currently lives in Lake Charles. Greg has two children, a daughter who is 25 and a son who is 11. Prior to coming to work for the Foundation he wore many different work hats, all the while maintaining an interest in landscaping.

Many people may not realize that Greg is a talented, self-taught painter. For a short while, he made a living as a book illustrator. He was hired to create all of the illustrations for one book and two book covers. Even though he no longer does this for a living, Greg continues to enjoy painting. In the late '90s Greg was an active member of a Lake Charles area art association and won many awards for his oil

paintings. Among many other jobs, Greg has also worked in apartment maintenance, as a restorer of high-end antique furniture and was a charter boat captain working out of Johnson's Bayou, Louisiana. His life as a pilot for fishing trips ended when the business was sold.



**Greg LeBlanc**  
**Shangri La Gardener**

For relaxation Greg plays the guitar and drums and has played with many small bands throughout the area. He also enjoys cooking and the entire gardening staff looks forward to occasions when Greg cooks for lunch. As with all of Greg's other endeavors, he is completely self taught. According to Greg, he enjoys the challenge of learning new things and becoming profi-

cient at them. His interests are eclectic, but they all involve the creative arts.

Most of us at Shangri La probably know Greg from his affiliation with the area Bonsai Society and the Bonsai Festival at Shangri La. His interest in bonsai goes back some 30 years, when he was a young man working in the landscaping field. One day he saw pictures of bonsai trees in a book and was intrigued enough to try to grow them. Not only was he successful at growing bonsai, but several years ago he decided to turn his hobby into a small business called Black Bayou Bonsai. Greg is well-known throughout southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana for his expertise in all things bonsai.

**Mary Ann Smith**  
**Administrative Assistant**

# Cooking in Season—Versatile Summer Squash!

## Zucchini Cake

Contributed by Annette McWhirter

- 3 cups sugar      4 eggs
- 1 1/2 cup salad oil



Combine the above ingredients and add:

- 3 cups flour                      2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon          1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. soda                        1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla                      3 cups grated raw zucchini  
(squeeze out any excess water)

Bake in greased and floured oblong Pyrex dish or bundt pan at 350°F for 45—60 minutes. It can also be baked in an 11x13 pan and is very good iced with Cream Cheese icing. Large Zucchini can be used—those you missed when picking. Don't tell anyone what is in it, have them taste first!

### Cream Cheese Icing

- 1 pkg. cream cheese            1 lb. powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup nuts, chopped very fine    1/2 stick butter

- 1 tsp. vanilla

Cream the cream cheese and butter together and add powdered sugar and vanilla. Beat until smooth and top with pecans.

## Squash Casserole

Contributed by Ann Quarles

- 2 lbs. yellow squash                      1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 tsp salt                                  1 TBLS sugar
- 3 TBLS Butter                                1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk or heavy cream            1/2 cup cheddar cheese,  
bread crumbs                                grated

Cook and drain squash, onion, salt and sugar. Add butter, egg and milk. Pour into casserole dish. Top with grated cheese and seasoned bread crumbs. Bake at 350°F for 25 minutes.

Notes: Crumbled Ritz crackers can be used instead of bread crumbs. You can add TexJoy steak seasoning, garlic powder and pepper if desired.

# Wild Wednesdays!

*Wild Wednesdays are educational programs offered during the summer. Join us every Wednesday, 9:30—10:30 a.m., through August 10th. Programs are free. RSVP required—call 409-670-9799.*

## Butterfly Gardening, June 22

Turn your garden into a butterfly buffet by growing the right nectar and food plants for butterflies and caterpillars. This **adult-oriented program** will begin with a 15 minute presentation in our Discovery Theater, and end with quality time in our Children's Garden.

## Animal Adventures on the Bayou, June 29

Wildlife surrounds us at Shangri La! Join us for a special Outpost Tour that will travel down the bayou in search of the unique wildlife that lives there. Space is limited so sign up soon for this fun-filled adventure with your whole **family**.

## Foraging for Frogs, July 6

All **family** members will enjoy this “friendly frog fun-anza”! We will catch and release tadpoles, learn about the frog life cycle, and make our own scientific journals.

## Hide-N-Seek, July 13

Birds are always hiding in the trees around Shangri La and even in your yard at home. It is time to seek them out! Learn about why so many birds nest at Shangri La, and how to make your yard an attractive place for birds to visit. Fun for **all ages**.

## Sensing Nature, July 20

Come experience Shangri La in a whole new way! We will use all five senses as we explore some of the back paths of Shangri La. The whole **family** will enjoy this multi-sensory walk. Come tune-in to the quiet sounds, interesting smells and exhilarating sights of nature.

## Who Polluted the River?, July 27

In this hands on adventure, kids of **all ages** will want to come and see who has been polluting the Sabine River. Participants will take part in an interactive story, test water samples, and collect critters. Then we'll explore some ways you can “be kind to our world.”

## Snakes Demystified, August 3

Snakes are commonly misunderstood. Join us as we discuss snake habits and lifestyles, and identify differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. Live, captive snakes will be present! This program is designed for **children 13 and older**.

## Garden Spa, August 10

Take some time for yourself and relax at our natural spa. Experience a fruit facial, softening foot bath and much more as we use ingredients found in your home and garden. The whole **family** will want to relax, sit back and enjoy!

## **Adventures with Audubon**

### **A Performance by Brian "Fox" Ellis**

Thursday, June 23, 2011, 6:30 p.m.

Lutcher Theater, 707 Main Avenue, Orange

Book-signing and reception at Stark Museum of Art after performance



Performer and author Brian "Fox" Ellis portrays the famous artist and naturalist John James Audubon in this internationally acclaimed show. Based on direct quotations from the artist's journals, essays, and letters, this family-friendly performance features storytelling with images of Audubon's art. Free.

### **Flights of Fancy: Evening Bird Stroll**

Wednesday, June 22, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center,

2111 West Park Avenue, Orange, Texas

Enjoy a stroll learning about the birds of Shangri La. Brian "Fox" Ellis will be in character as John James Audubon at the Heronry. Maxine, the resident Barred Owl, will welcome you. Stark Museum and Shangri La educators will provide other learning opportunities in this family friendly program. Free.

**STARK**  
MUSEUM OF ART

712 Green Avenue

Orange, Texas

[www.starkmuseum.org](http://www.starkmuseum.org)

409-886-2787

Lutcher Theater 2011-12 Season  
[www.lutcher.org](http://www.lutcher.org) Season Packages for 4 shows & up 886-5535



Monday Sep 26, 2011



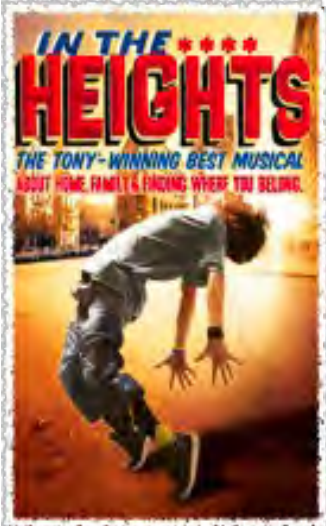
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Sunday Nov 6, 2011



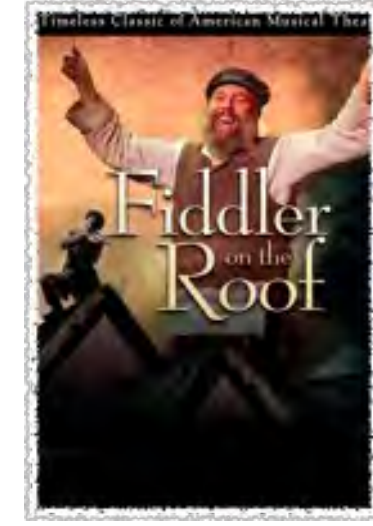
Sunday Nov 20, 2011



Friday Dec 2, 2011



Thursday Dec 29, 2011



Thu & Fri Jan 12-13



Tuesday Jan 31, 2012



Wednesday Feb 29, 2012



Mon, Tue Mar 5-6, 2012



Thursday Mar 8, 2012



Wednesday Mar 21, 2012

# Changing of the Colors



It's "Changing of the Colors" at Shangri La. This is the time to remove the spring seasonal color that we all enjoyed the past several months and replace with summer seasonal color. Over the next couple of weeks, the Grounds & Landscape Staff will be removing the spring seasonal color and install summer color aligned with the summer season beginning June 21st. Our intent is to change the gardens over from spring "pastel colors" to summer "hot colors" and "Americana colors".



Laying out summer color at Shangri La

The hot colors of bright orange, red and yellow will be planted mostly inside throughout the Gardens. The Americana colors like red, white and blue will be planted at the Be Kind to Your World sign, main visitor gateway, main vehicle gateway and the Bell at the Visitor Center.

Specifically you will see:

Americana Colors at the Be Kind to Your World Sign, Pedestrian Gateway, Main Gate, and Bell at Main Entrance:

- Vinca Titian Red
- Lantana White
- Blue Plumbago
- Bronze Leaf Canna

'Wyoming'

- Coleus 'Big Red Judy'
- Penta Red
- Penta White

In the courtyard:

- Zinnia 'Swizzle Scarlet' ('Zowie')
- Lantana 'Bandana Red'

In the Bamboo Strip and Café Strip:

- Zinnia 'Magellan Cherry'
- Lantana 'Patriot Desert Sunset'

At the Frog Ponds/Tree Ring Plaza and Garden Gateway:

- Celosia 'Fresh Look Yellow'
- Caladium 'Raspberry Moon'
- Ipomea 'Illusion Emerald Lace'

In the Color Opposites Room:

- Zinnia 'Double Zahara Fire'
- Blue Plumbago

In the Shades of a Color Room:

- Vinca 'Cora Burgandy'
- Vinca 'Cora Apricot'
- Vinca 'Cora Violet'

- Vinca 'Cora White'

At the Water Wall:

- Caladium 'White Wonder'
- Scaevola 'PW Fan Flower Blue'
- Ipomea 'Illusion Emerald Lace'

And last, but certainly not least—In all the decorative containers throughout the property, you'll find:

- Ipomea 'Illusion Emerald Lace'
- Ipomea 'Illusion Garnet Lace'
- Angelonia 'White'
- Scaevola 'PW Fan Flower Blue'
- Impatiens 'Red'
- Caladium 'Red Flash'

**Joseph Johnson**  
**Director of Horticulture**



Summer color containers at the Production Greenhouse ready to go out into the gardens.

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Be Kind to Your World...

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email: [hhanson@shangrilagardens.org](mailto:hhanson@shangrilagardens.org)

Fax: 409-670-9341

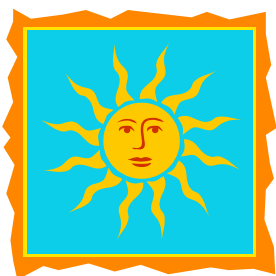
Phone: 409-670-0234

Orange TX 77631

P.O. Box 1044



A perfect  
summer day is  
when the sun is  
shining, the  
breeze is  
blowing, the  
birds are singing,  
and the lawn  
mower is broken.  
- James Dent



## Summer Birthdays

### June Birthdays:

2nd—John Carson  
4th—Sandra Hoke  
6th—Melinda Barnes  
10th—Roy Granger  
11th—Peggy O'Leary  
13th—Jenny Shuffield  
Kirk Meche  
15th—Lana Ostermaier  
20th—John Adkins, Jr.  
21st—Patty Mouton  
22nd—Roger Futch  
Barbara Hearn  
23rd—Sarah Thompson  
25th—David Frenzel

### July Birthdays:

7th—Jerry Ann Trouard  
12th—Gail Batchelor  
14th—George Millsap

15th—Frank Lomonte  
16th—Linda Lindgren  
17th—John Stickney  
18th—Ann Boyett  
21st—Sherry Lester  
Robert Morgan  
23rd—Gwen Poutra  
24th—Marilyn McShan  
28th—Ed Freiberg  
Peggy McCullough  
Mary Jean Prather  
29th—Manon Mohon  
30th—Joyce Kennedy

### August Birthdays:

1st—Marie Auchenbach  
Fred Thompson  
2nd—Glenn Dutton  
3rd—Ami Kamara  
4th—Mary Guillot

6th—Frank McCoy  
7th—Vicki Gallagher  
10th—Hildy Frenzel  
11th—D'Anne Hoffpauir  
12th—Jamie Wilson  
15th—Charlie Rothrock  
18th—Aaron Doucet  
21st—Matthew Gilbert  
22nd—Jackie Dugas  
Bonnie Moses  
Darleen Thompson  
25th—Judy Lilback  
26th—Pat Kirkland  
Van Vandervoort  
28th—Donna Nichols  
30th—Terry Haas

