

Nature Notes

1st Quarter 2025 Volume 65 No. 1

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, from which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

- Byron



Welcome to Nature Notes

A continuation of tradition

The stanza above by Byron opened the first issue of the Outdoor Nature Club's first newsletter, *The Zephyr*, which was published in October of 1924 by ONC founder Joseph M. Heiser Jr.

Back in those days, Mr. Heiser painstakingly produced the monthly newsletter on a manual typewriter and members received their copy in the mail.

Note: The following summary of the history of ONC newsletters was gleaned from digitized paper copies (archived by University of Houston) and the memories of longtime members.

The last issue of *The Zephyr* was published in December 1926.

After a respite of a few years, Outdoor Nature Club published a newsletter called *The Bulletin*, financed by J. M. Heiser and J. S. Cullinan. The first issue of *The Bulletin* was the issue for Spring 1931. *The Bulletin's* final issue appeared in 1937.

The next record of an ONC newsletter appears in 1948 with the publication of *The Trail-Blazer*. Surviving digitized issues of *The Trail-Blazer* show publication through 1950.

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Sometime during the early 1950s, the newsletter's name was changed to *Nature Notes*, most likely the result of a new editor, Nance Cunningham, taking the reins.

Nature Notes continued to be published as the club's official newsletter until May 2013. Publication was discontinued after the editor resigned and no one stepped up to continue the tradition. *Nature Notes* included a wealth of articles and information contributed by members who are still active to this day, including Calvin Blakley, Connie Blakley (editor from 1997 to 2013), Sergio Henao, Wanda Henao, Charles Smith, Wanda Smith, Gwen Kunz, and others.

The longest-serving editor by far was Nance Cunningham McDavid who was dedicated to the job until she resigned in 1989 due to failing health.

We are delighted to continue this tradition of providing news and information to all Outdoor Club Members.

Election Notice

The annual election of officers of the board of directors is coming soon. To be eligible to vote, you must be a member in good standing (i.e., having paid dues for 2025) or be a Life member. If you haven't already, get your application and dues check in now to have a voice in this year's election.

You can find a membership application on Page 4.

NATURE NOTES AND YOU

For many years, Outdoor Nature Club members produced this newsletter to keep fellow members informed and entertained with nature-related news, educational columns, events and information.

After a hiatus of several years, we are attempting to resurrect Nature Notes for the enjoyment and education of all ONC members.

If you are interested in contributing to future issues, please contact Sue Zuchowski at via email at info@outdoornatureclub.org

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OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB MEMORIES PHOTOS FROM THE PAST



The large sign at the location of the original entrance to Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (now inside the main drive) was donated by Army and Sarah Emmott in 1954. Take a look at the sign as you drive in and notice how the surrounding landscape has changed since 1954.

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Have you renewed your dues for 2025?

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
New/Renewal Membership Form
(www.outdoornatureclub.org)

NOTE: Dues are paid January 1 of each calendar year.

CATEGORY 1 – ONC Parent Organization (please circle one)

\$8 Individual
\$15 Family
\$40 Supporting
\$250 Life Member

SUB TOTAL Category 1 \$ _____

CATEGORY 2 – OG Ornithology Study Group (optional - please circle one)

\$12 Individual OG
\$15 Family OG

SUB TOTAL Category 2 \$ _____

CATEGORY 3 — DONATIONS (please specify)

ONC General Fund \$ _____
ORNITHOLOGY (OG) \$ _____
LTNS (Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary) \$ _____

SUB TOTAL Category 3 \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Add Categories 1+2+3) \$

Payable to: OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB

NEW MEMBERS: How did you hear about us? ☐ At an OG meeting ☐ From a friend
☐ Found on Internet ☐ Saw poster at Bayland Community Center ☐ Wish to attend OG field trip
☐ Other (please specify): _____

ACCESS TO LITTLE THICKET NATURE SACTUARY
Sanctuary rules state that before new members can gain access to LTNS, they must come to the sanctuary during a regularly scheduled visitors event; dates are posted on our website. At that time, they will be given a copy of the sanctuary rules and a trail map and can become oriented to the trail system.

Thank you!

We appreciate your support and hope to see you soon at one of our meetings.

Name(s) _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City/ST/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Checks payable to and mail to:
OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, PO Box 1014, Bellaire TX 77402-1014