

T H E Z E P H Y R

Monthly Bulletin of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston, Texas.

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He is happiest who hath power
To gather wisdom from a flower,
And wake his heart in every hour
To pleasant gratitude.

-- Wordsworth's.

Hearty Greetings, Neighbor!

On the map, Omaha, Nebraska, is rather a strenuous hiking distance from Houston, Texas, but in the American Association of Mountaineering Clubs's yearbook for 1925, our next-door neighbor, just ahead of us in alphabetical order, is the Omaha Walking Club; so we are more than pleased to acknowledge receipt of a cordial letter from this fine organization, enclosing a copy of their yearbook for 1925.

As a sample of the material in this highly creditable publication, official figures show that total receipts for the year 1924 were \$880.06, that the active membership is 251, and that 49 trips on foot were made, the average attendance on these hikes being eighteen. We would like to tell more here about our Omaha friends, but want to quote a paragraph from their message sending us their yearbook:

"We do this for the purpose of promoting acquaintance and friendly intercourse between the organizations comprising the Associated Mountaineering Clubs of North America, and between the individual members of those organizations as well, because we think such may facilitate the occasional interchange of valuable information, increase the enjoyment of travel by promoting pleasant friendships, and add generally to the well-being of those groups of men and women who know and appreciate America's outdoors, and upon whom depends the preservation of the beauty and scenic resources of our land for coming generations."

"And may tossing billows of pink snow add
youth and color and abiding inspiration to our city."

"Why not plant crepe myrtle, and more crepe myrtle?
Let the streets be lined with them; let this gossamer foam of
pink snow form rolling, restful and reassuring banks of inspiration.
Why not think in terms of crepe myrtle - free, open,
cheerful and sympathetic?"

These words of R. A. Sell, first president of the Outdoor Nature Club, were published in the Houston Chronicle several years ago, but are quoted here because they suitably express the attitude of the club's members and friends towards the movement to make Houston in reality a city of crepe myrtles. Such efforts as the recent garden campaign, and this one, can not but hasten the day when the seasons in and around Houston will form a procession of floral loveliness - when the spring gladness of the dogwood and the redbud in the woodlands complements the multi-colored patterns of our early pansy beds; when summer garlands of crepe myrtle line our boulevards as snowy-cupped magnolias gleam above the forest bypaths; and when flaming poinsettias on our lawns rival the winter glory of the symbolic holly, no longer torn from its sylvan setting for a moment's brief possession. If our good intentions, so widely broadcast, mean anything at all, let us plant more and more blossoming trees and shrubs, and while we are doing so, let us spare and protect those gratuitous gardens of the wild Nature plants for our enjoyment.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

-- Shakespeare.

Notes and News.

Among the splendid programs recently broadcast by radio from station KPRC, the Houston Post-Dispatch, have been four nature and travel talks by Lawrence H. Daingerfield. His latest message to nature lovers was a talk on the San Jacinto River, closing with a prophetic appeal in behalf of a wondrous holly forest not many miles from Houston. It is rumored that Mr. Daingerfield's next radio lecture will be entitled "How to Collect Chiggers", as gossip has it that he is quite proficient in that summer pastime.

Members of the club had an opportunity to see themselves as others see them when films of our annual trip to Bird Village were flashed upon the screen at the Queen Theatre during the week following the outing.

A sprig of mountain holly comes to The Zephyr from Switzerland, where Miss Julia Beazley, an earnest worker for the conservation of our own American holly, is enjoying the summer in the Alps.

With the September issue, The Zephyr will again appear as a four page bulletin, having curtailed its operations during July and August. Weather bureau statistics show, however, that Houston temperature during recent heat waves has been several degrees lower than that of numerous cities farther North, indicating that our celebrated Gulf breeze is very much on the job while its namesake is taking a rest.

Three members of the Club who are doing considerable practical work in ornithology are Messrs. C. F. Bates and Jack I. Pullen of Houston, and Mrs. Bruce Reid, who makes Port Arthur her headquarters, with frequent trips out into every picturesque corner of Texas.

Mr. Bates has a fine bird sanctuary about his home, and for several years has been cooperating with the government in banding numerous species of birds, thus securing much valuable data regarding migrations and ranges. The introduction and protection of a flock of wild turkeys in territory where this fine game bird had disappeared is a sample of the kind of work Mr. Bates delights in doing.

Many of the best pictures of birds, nests, and various other natural objects in the Club's album and collection of lantern slides are the handiwork of Jack I. Pullen, whose trusty camera has drawn a harmless bead on many an unsuspecting bird, beast and reptile. The record for number and variety of birds accepting apartments about human homes probably goes to Mr. Pullen, more than a dozen of his bird houses having received the approval of avian tenants. Jack also has an interesting store of reptile lore, acquired from many trips into the woods and swamps.

In Mrs. Bruce Reid, Texas has a "bird-woman" whose knowledge and skill in becoming acquainted with wild birds is similar to that possessed by the beloved Gene Stratton-Porter during her wonderful career as a naturalist and writer. Undoubtedly, Mrs. Reid has that knack of understanding the wild things that Mrs. Porter referred to as the "wild heart". Her success in handling birds is almost phenomenal, but she is an all round nature enthusiast and has a speaking acquaintance with everything she sees on her tours throughout the state.

Several inquiries have been received regarding membership in the Outdoor Nature Club. Everyone having a genuine interest in the things of the outdoors is eligible for membership upon payment of \$1.00 membership fee and presentation of application card endorsed by two active members of the Club. The objects of the Club are printed upon the back of the application card. "The Zephyr", bulletin of the Club, is distributed at the monthly meetings, and mailed to those members who for any reason are unable to attend. Dues for the current fiscal year, May 1st, 1925, to April 30th, 1926 are now payable, and may be sent in to the treasurer, J.M. Heiser, Jr., 1908 Washington Ave., Houston, Texas, or paid at the next meeting.

Seas roll to wa ft me, suns to light me rise,
My footstool Earth, my canopy the skies.

-- Pope.