

**The Filson Historical Society**  
**The Kentucky Society of Natural History**  
**Records, 1939 -1994**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg.

**Size of Collection:**  
**2 cubic feet**

**Locator Number:**  
**Mss./BH/K37a**

## **The Kentucky Society of Natural History Records, 1939-1994**

### **Biographical Note**

In 1939, Dr. Harvey B. Lowell, Dr. William M. Clay, and Dr. Bishop, three biology professors from the University of Louisville, formed the Natural History Club. Drs. Lowell, Clay, and Bishop established their club to promote nature and conservation in Louisville and in Kentucky. Over the next five years, the Natural History Club grew to include about 200 members, an annual photography contest (begun in 1941), and annual conferences and nature field trips. In 1943, the Natural History Club members incorporated the club and changed the club's name to Kentucky Society of Natural History.

The newly christened Kentucky Society of Natural History continued to promote and foster an interest in nature and conservation. In 1946, the society printed the first Kentucky Naturalist, the society newsletter, containing news, scientific articles, and information concerning the society's annual photograph contest. The Kentucky Society of Natural History also printed the Annals of Kentucky Natural History, which contained more in depth scientific articles.

From the 1950s to the 1980s, the Kentucky Society of Natural History continued to grow. The KSNH opened chapters throughout Kentucky. During the 1970s, the KSNH promoted environmental awareness in schools through annual surveys of trees, wildflowers, and Monarch butterflies. The KSNH also supported the preservation of the Falls of the Ohio, Cumberland Falls, and supported a state botanical gardens in Louisville.

## **The Kentucky Society of Natural History Records, 1939-1994**

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Kentucky Society of Natural History Records contain a variety of documents detailing the KSNH's finances, member rosters, the annual photograph contest, and board and committee minutes. The KSNH records span from 1939 to 1994. The society was founded for the purpose of conversation and nature awareness. During the 1970s, the KSNH sponsored educational surveys of trees, wildflowers, and butterflies for elementary and high school students. Newsletters such as the Kentucky Naturalist, chapter newsletters, and monthly bulletins informed members of internal affairs such as the election of officers and meetings, membership dues, and news concerning nature and conservation such as the preservation of the Falls of the Ohio. Clippings from the Courier-Journal Magazine from the 1940s to the 1980s depict the award-winning photographs from the annual photograph contest and articles concerning nature and conservation.

**The Kentucky Society of Natural History  
Records, 1939-1994**

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The Kentucky Society of Natural History Records,  
1939-1994. 2cu. ft.

Inventory

Box 1, Folders 1-25

Folder 1: KSNH Annual Dinner

- newsletters announcing annual dinner from 1971, 1974-1978
- dinner programs from 1939-1942, 1944-1946, and 1958-1960
- photographs from the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner for the KSNH held on April 16, 1964

Folder 2: "Isn't Nature Wonderful"

- copies of "Isn't Nature Wonderful" from March 1976 to June 1978

Folder 3: KSNH Constitution and By-laws

- corporation papers and articles of incorporation
- by-laws from 1941, 1947, 1948, 1954, 1957, 1958, 1974, and 1978 amended by-laws from 1981
- constitution from 1941, 1943, and 1946
- by-laws to the Louisville Chapter of the KSNH

Folder 4: Checklists

- checklists for spring wildflowers, Kentucky mammals, common plants of Otter Creek Park, trees and shrubs, and amphibians and reptiles

Folder 5: Taxes and other Financial Papers

- 1978 grant request to HEW
- finances from 1957, 1968-1974, 1977-1982, 1987-1993  
1024 Exemption Application 1974 Federal Income Tax Form booklet
- 1979 budget

Folder 6; Member Rosters

- membership lists from 1940, 1954-1958, 1962-1966, 1968-1972, 1974, 1976, 1979-1982, and 1986
- district mailing lists 2  
membership cards
- correspondence concerning the payment of membership dues

Folder 7: Photographic Contests

- correspondence from 1961-1964; most written in 1961 concerning the 1961 photo contest and a controversy over the mailing of the Louisville *Courier-Journal's* special article on the photo contest
- financial reports from the 1965, 1966, and 1969 photo contests
- rules for photos

- entry forms from the 7<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 45<sup>th</sup> contests
- miscellaneous papers
- acceptance stickers

Folder 8: Board and Committee Meeting Minutes

- board of directors minutes from 1942, 1947, 1959-1961, 1964-1967, 1969, 1970, 1975, 1977, 1980, 1987-1990, 1992, and 1993 Falls of the Ohio Chapter meeting from 1988 1970 annual dinner meeting with a financial report
- handwritten minutes and lists of officers  
report from the nominating committee dated September 8, 1978
- publication committee meeting  
planning committee from 1947
- undated report of sub-committee of long term planning  
minutes of unknown committee

Folder 9: KSNH bulletins

- KSNH monthly bulletins from January 1964 through December 1973

Folder 10: KSNH bulletins

- KSNH monthly bulletins from January 1974 through March 1983

Folder 11; KSNH bulletins - Echo of the Falls

- Echo of the Falls bulletin from the 1980s
- KSNH bulletins from the 1980s and early 1990s
- Miscellaneous items such as an article of dinosaur fossils and an update on the preservation of the Falls of the Ohio
- not all months may be present

Folder 12: KSNH bulletins - Nature Notes and Kentucky Nature

- Nature Notes newsletter for the Wilderness Trail Chapter of KSNH from May 1989 to August 1993
- Kentucky Nature newsletter for the Pennyroyal and Tidewater Valley Chapter of the KSNH from October 1991 to October 1993 not all months are present

Folder 13: Wildflowers Survey - 1976

- results from the survey

Folder 14: Wildflowers Survey - 1977

- map of Paintsville, KY
- results from the survey
- requests for more information concerning the survey

Folder 15: Wildflowers Survey- 1978 and 1979

- results from the survey

- letters written from participants turning in their results
- list of prizewinners
- 1978 and 1979 guidelines for conducting the survey

Folder 16: Tree Survey - 1977

- correspondence of thanks
- results from the survey
- guidelines for conducting the survey

Folder 17: Tree Survey - 1978

- results from the survey
- guidelines for the survey
- correspondence

Folder 18: Monarch Butterfly Migration Survey - 1978

- results of the survey
- guidelines for the survey
- correspondence

Folder 19: Cumberland State Park Survey

- Jefferson town High School trip to Cumberland Lake
- Correspondence to obtain permission for school trips at Cumberland from 1979 to 1984
- Topographical maps for the park

Folder 20: Spring and Fall Conference Programs

- Spring programs and announcements form 1950-1953, 1968-1972, 1974-1983, 1986-1988, and 1991
- Fall programs and announcements form 1966, 1968-1970, 1972-1983, 1986-1988, 1990, 1991, 1993, and an undated program
- prayer from an undated Spring meeting
- program for the 18<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Wildlife and Natural History Conference in 1957
- programs for the Natural History Institute from 1943, 1945, and 1947
- program for a Mushroom Weekend in September 1984

Folder 21: Conference Registration Sheets

- sign-in sheets from 1979-1982

Folder 22: Miscellaneous

- membership brochure and application a draft for a new brochure in 1986
- "Caving for Grey Bats in Kentucky" article submission letter to the Kentucky Naturalist by Reed Frederick Noss
- correspondence from 1943 to 1994 maps to outing destinations

- a typed address given by Mike Mason in October 1960 concerning nature and God
- an article by Edward M. Ray of the Division of Game and Fish on Murphy's Pond in Hickman County, Kentucky
- an expert from a diary dated September 27, 1935 concerning the mating of two black slugs
- bulletins from W. G. Duncan concerning the killing of wildlife for science amateurs and the proposed dam near the Cumberland Falls keys to Kentucky snakes, trees, and to butterfly colors special summer calendar for an unspecified year 1982 Louisville Chapter of KSNH Officers and Coordinators
- 1978 KAPS Officers
  - where the lilies bloom sheet
  - an inventory of nature sanctuaries
  - a handwritten note
- a resolution from November 1946 concerning the resignation of Dr. Harlow Bishop from the faculty at the University of Louisville a petition for more photographic events 1950 Hobby Show sponsored by the Beta Sigma Phi

Folder 23: Miscellaneous - Correspondence

- correspondence written from 1975 to 1981, 1983, and an undated letter concerning board meetings and conferences
- the undated letter deals with a diet of wild fungi
- a letter written in 1975 to Julian M. Carroll, Governor of Kentucky, requesting him to present the Naturalist of the Year Award

Folder 24: Miscellaneous - Educational Materials

- an Annotated Catalog and Distribution Account of the Kentucky Orchidaceae by James K. Ettman and David R. Mcadoo (1979)
- correspondence concerning KAPS representatives 1980 KSNH Louisville Regional Science Fair winners
- Bernheim Forest Park Nature survey
  - rules for student nature photographic contest
- blank certificates of recognition and appreciation
- book lists on birds, wildflowers, rocks, geology, insects, trees, astronomy, and botany
  - A Naturalist's Guide to Kentucky, a special book project to educate the public of Kentucky's natural heritage
- first supplement to a preliminary bibliography of Kentucky Botany

Folder 25: Miscellaneous - Book

2 copies of *The Flora of Jefferson and seven Adjacent Counties, Kentucky* by Charles R. Gunn (1966)

Box 2, Folders 26-42

Folder 26: Newspaper Clippings - 1943 - 1949

- May 16, 1943 clipping from the *Courier-Journal Roto-Magazine* of a World War II article on the "flying boxcar" and several pictures of the Dogs for Defense
- November 24, 1946 and October 24, 1947 clippings from the *Courier-Journal*
- May 4, 1947, November 23, 1947, January 25, 1948, July 18, 1948, January 9, 1949, June 12, 1949, July 17, 1949, August 28, 1949 clippings from the *Courier-Journal Magazine* concerning nature and the KSNH annual photographic contest.

Folder 27: Newspaper Clippings - 1950 - 1951

- March 19, 1950, March 26, 1950, June 11, 1950, November 26, 1950, July 8, 1951, October 21, 1951, November 18, 1951, December 2, 1951 clippings from the *Courier-Journal Magazine*
- November 12, 1950 clipping from the *Courier-Journal*
- November 28, 1951 clipping from the Charleston, SC *The New and Courier* April 29, 1950 clipping from unknown source
- topics of clippings include nature, conservation, photography, and the Falls of the Ohio

Folder 28: Newspaper Clippings - 1952

- March 23 and 30, April 6, 13, and 20, June 22, July 13, August 10, October 19, November 9, 23, and 30, 1952 clippings from the *Courier-Journal Magazine* concerning nature, photography, wildflowers, wildlife films, photographs from Peru, Berea College, cave exploring, and an article about U. S. Grant's 1864 stay in Madison County, KY along his way from Knoxville, TN to Louisville, KY (see March 23, 1952)

Folder 29: Newspaper Clippings - 1953 - 1959

- May 24, 1953, June 28, 1953, November 22 and 29, 1953, October 10, 1954, November 28, 1954, November 6 and 27 1955, November 25, 1956, August 11, 1957, November 24, 1957 from the *Courier-Journal Magazine* concerning nature, photography, a Louisvillian family's trip to Alaska, and paleontology (see May 24, 1953)

Folder 30: Newspaper Clippings - 1960 - 1966

- November 20, 1960, November 19, 1961, November 17, 1963, February 13, 1966, October 16 and 23, 1966 clippings from the *Courier-Journal Magazine* about nature, photography, conservation, the Job Corps (October 16, 1966), John James Audubon's 1807 trip to Louisville (October 16, 1966), and the Falls of the Ohio (February 13, 1966)

Folder 31: Newspaper Clippings - 1967 - 1970

- November 19, 1967, October 13, 1968, September 7, 1969, October 19, 1969, September 27, 1970, and October 18, 1970 clippings from the *Courier-*

*Journal Magazine* about nature, conservation, photography, the Falls of the Ohio and paleontology (see September 27, 1970), Red River Gorge (see September 7, 1969)

Folder 32: Newspaper Clippings - 1971-1983

- October 17, 1971, June 30, 1972, October 22, 1972, October 20, 1974, February 16, 1975, October 19, 1975, October 10 and 17 1976, October 16, 1977, October 15, 1978, and October 18, 1981 clippings from the *Cornier-Journal Magazine*
- November 26, 1983 clipping from the *Louisville Times*
- topics include nature, photography and a article on wild lands in McCreary County, Kentucky (see June 30, 1972)

Folder 33: Newspaper Clippings - Undated

- article topics include nature and fossils with photographs an article written in German
- Life Educational Reprint #26 titled The Private Life of Primates

Folder 34: Natural History News

- list of KSNH publications from November 1939 to February 1952
- Natural History News from 1939 and 1940 concerning conservation and Natural History Club monthly meeting news

Folder 35: Annals of Kentucky Natural History

- Annals of Kentucky Natural History ranging from 1941 to 1976
- Annals contain scientific articles about botany, paleontology, Mammoth Cave's topography, fossils, and butterflies

Folder 36: The Kentucky Naturalist - 1946 - 1958

- The Kentucky Naturalist from 1946 to 1958
- article topics include nature, biology, botany, geology, and the KSNH's annual photographic contest

Folder 37: The Kentucky Naturalist - 1959 - 1967

- The Kentucky Naturalist from 1959 to 1967  
some articles, but mainly information concerning the KSNH's annual photographic contest

Folder 38: The Kentucky Naturalist - 1968 - 1975

- The Kentucky Naturalist from 1968 to 1975  
Some articles concerning nature and the 1975 Kentucky Naturalist of the Year, but mainly information concerning the KSNH's annual photographic contest

Folder 39: The Kentucky Naturalist - Photo Salon Issue - 1975 - 1986

- The Kentucky Naturalist Photo Salon Issues from 1975 to 1986 containing information on KSNH's annual photographic contest

Folder 40: The Kentucky Naturalist News - 1978 - 1981

- The Kentucky Naturalist News from 1978 to 1981
- The Kentucky Naturalist News replaced The Kentucky Naturalist as a monthly newsletter. This new newsletter informed members of internal affairs, election of officers, conference summaries, educational surveys, local chapter news, and news on conservation in Kentucky

Folder 41: The Kentucky Naturalist News - 1982 - 1985

- The Kentucky Naturalist News from 1982 to 1985

Folder 42: The Kentucky Naturalist News - 1987 - 1992

- The Kentucky Naturalist News from 1987 to 1992