



# WETLAND *matters*

Published bi-monthly for the Friends and Members of Oxbow, Inc.

Have you visited our website?...[www.oxbowinc.org](http://www.oxbowinc.org)

## Oxbow Inc. Activities Schedule

### Programs

**Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 7:30 p.m.**  
**EarthConnection, College of Mt. St. Joseph**

**Debbie Miller**, Vice President of the Board of Highlands Nature Sanctuary, and Bob Miller, photographer, will present a dual projector slide show with music, featuring the natural wonders of Highlands Nature Sanctuary, a special place worth preserving.

To get to EarthConnection in Delhi, go south on Neeb Road past the Delhi Road traffic light, turn up first drive on the left.

**Tuesday, December 14, 2004, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Lawrenceburg Public Library**

**John Cimarosti**, local naturalist, will speak about how Meriwether Lewis, on his way to meet William Clark, passed by the Oxbow in 1803 on the first leg of the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the monumental journey that followed. John recently returned from a re-enactment in which he played a role.

The Lawrenceburg library is downtown at 123 High Street. Turn left going west off US 50 onto Walnut St. then right on High.

### Field Trip

**Sunday, November 28, 2004, 3:30 p.m.**

**Meet Jerry Lippert** at the Oxbow Inc. entrance parking lot. Search for migrating ducks as they fly in for the evening. Discuss with Jerry the reasons why, for ducks, the Oxbow provides ritzy accommodations at Motel 6 prices at this time of year. (513-522-6567)

To get to the Oxbow entrance, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to end of road, then left and there it is.

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## *Bulletin* **New Land Purchase**

As *Wetland Matters* goes to press, Oxbow Inc. President Jon Seymour announces the purchase October 12 of the Whitacre property. Details will follow in the next issue.

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## **Election of Officers Set for January 11 Members' Meeting**

At the Tuesday, January 11, 2005, members' meeting, the following board members are standing for election for three year terms:

Jeanne Bocklage  
John Getzendanner  
Mike Kluesener  
Steve Pelikan  
Dwight Poffenberger.

The officers standing for election are:

Jon Seymour, President  
Kani Meyer, Vice-President  
Dwight Poffenberger, Recording Secretary  
Jim Poehlmann, Treasurer  
Dennis Mason, Corresponding Secretary  
John Getzendanner, Indiana Agent  
Dwight Poffenberger, Ohio Agent.

The meeting will be held at EarthConnection, Mt. St. Joseph College, at 7:30 p.m. All members in good standing attending are eligible to vote.

## 25 Attend Great Outdoors Weekend at the Oxbow

by Jon Seymour

The first annual Great Outdoors Weekend (GOW) is now history. The GOW was patterned after the fabulously successful Fine Arts Weekend held every spring in the Greater Cincinnati area. The organizers of the GOW believed that there was sufficient interest in outdoor and nature related activities to create a similarly successful weekend focused on the multitude of nature and outdoor education and enjoyment opportunities in this area. However, there were problems and the promised area wide distribution of weekend schedules by the suburban press did not take place. Even so, many of the participating organizations had excellent turnouts for their activities.

Oxbow Inc. participated by offering abbreviated bird walks on both Saturday and Sunday, September 25, 26. We had 9 participants on Saturday and 15 participants on Sunday, most new to the Oxbow and that was a super bonus. Unfortunately even though we were in a virtual drought in the Cincinnati area, rains from Hurricane Ivan in the mountains of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania had sent the Ohio River level up to 50 feet and the Oxbow was one large lake.

By the weekend of the GOW the river had dropped to where the roads were above water but they were a sea of mud. The bike path along the levee came to our rescue and all participants could see the Oxbow area from the levee and a few of the birds were active and allowing good views. On Sunday the roads had dried a little more and at the end of the tour we offered the brave among the group a chance to get dirty and walk the Juno Pond causeway to a point where we could view the trees around Mercer Pond. Those who slogged through the mud were treated to the sight of an immature Bald Eagle lounging in the dead cottonwood snags bordering the pond. What could be a better ending to the GOW?



Have you seen our new sign at the entrance to the Oxbow?

## Suzanne Skidmore Retires

After serving 14 years on the Oxbow Inc. Board of Directors, Suzanne Skidmore has announced her retirement in order to give more time to personal commitments.

President Jon Seymour stated, "We will miss Suzanne greatly. She became our Corresponding Secretary in early 1991, making Suzanne one of the longest serving corporation officials in our 19 year history. She has written hundreds of letters to our donors who needed tax letters to document their contributions and to foundations and organization thanking them for monetary gifts, as well as letters to members who made special contributions for the success of Oxbow Inc."

Suzanne, in keeping with her generous spirit, while stepping down as corresponding secretary, has volunteered to continue to monitor the Oxbow Inc. post office box and to be "ready at the phone" for any questions concerning the history of Oxbow Inc. donors which she alone knows.

## Oxbow Inc. Memorials

### Donor

Bill & Ruth Smith  
Nancy Whitaker

### In Memory of

Aaron Joseph Bailey  
Kenneth Neyer, Sr.

Oxbow Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or relative will be enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Each contribution to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor.

Tributes are also enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Some tributes are birthday or anniversary remembrances, holiday greetings or gratitude acknowledgments. If so desired, "Happy Birthday" or the like can be inscribed in the Tribute notice.

Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgment.

Oxbow Inc.  
Gratefully Acknowledges  
The Gift of the Estate of

Edward M. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts Joined Oxbow Inc.  
in 1987

And Was a Stalwart Supporter  
Throughout the Years.



## Field Notes

by



Mercer

As summer gave way to autumn, we made a few trips to the Oxbow. My daughter, Marilyn, and my son-in-law, Jim Simpson, took me down to check it out from the car. It was so good to see it again. The trip down was enjoyable. The roadsides are pretty now, the fields golden with golden rod. Among the golden rod is the New England Aster to add to the beauty of the fall bouquet.

The autumn leaves are coming down. I noticed the leaves are mostly down from the walnut tree. The nuts are very visible. The squirrels are very busy on the ground as they prepare for winter. I look at my fingers and see there are no stains. I couldn't help but think of how I used to gather walnuts, hull them, dry them, crack and pick them out. Then Frances would come in with a pan of fudge laced with black walnuts. We all could enjoy that in front of the fire.

On one trip we crossed Lost Bridge. We saw a Dowitcher and a few other small shorebirds on a little island in the river. I couldn't help but think of the old days when Lost Bridge was closed to traffic. We could walk out on the bridge and look up and down the river for wildlife. I remember an old dead tree on the right bank. In September, many times I would see an Osprey. The Osprey would fish the river, then fly up in the tree and enjoy a fish dinner. I enjoyed watching from the bridge but enjoyed it all much more from the canoe.

We moved on over to the Oxbow. We had to stop there at the entrance to see the new Oxbow sign. It is really nice and you will have to stop and check it out. I thought what a great group of volunteers we have had for Oxbow, Inc. From here we started out towards Mercer Pond, but we gave up when we saw the shape of the road. We moved on to the new pull-out.

Looking back towards the entrance, we could see the wildlife. There were many all white Great Egrets and they stood out against the dark foliage. There were several Great Blue Herons which weren't as easy to see as they blended in more than the egrets. Jim walked down toward Wood Duck Slough. When he came back he said he had seen a White Pelican. The last few years the White Pelicans have been seen several times. I saw three at one time and others have seen four. We saw a few Blue-winged Teal. They aren't as pretty in the fall as they are in the spring. The Blue-winged Teal is one of the first ducks to go south in the fall and is one of the last to come north in the spring. Guess they like warmer weather. We saw some large flocks of Red-Winged Blackbirds flying over the corn fields. They would drop in then and have dinner. Rick Pope and the other farmers have been feeding the blackbirds for years. Well, the blackbirds just help themselves to the corn on their way south. I saw some nice green hedge apples. I wondered why I had never tasted them. I would guess it was because my dad had told me they were not good to eat when I was just a little guy. The ground under the hedge apple trees was covered with pretty red and green poison ivy. I was never troubled with poison ivy. My wife, our daughter and son sure were.

The other day, Marilyn took me on a very strange trip to the Oxbow. I'm sure you remember the trouble Florida and the East Coast had with the hurricanes. Yet here we have had it so dry. It was so dry around here until the extra heavy rain in Pennsylvania and the east found its way down the river and the river reached flood stage here and most of the Oxbow land was under water. A few days after the river crested, Marilyn and I went down to check out the Oxbow. The flood water was off the road, but the roads were very muddy. We sat there at the entrance to the Oxbow and watched a kingfisher as it fished for lunch. It hovered above the water and then would dive in after a fish. I don't know how many crops were lost, but I'm sure there were some. A couple of Oxbow members had walked out to where they could see open water and told us they had seen an Osprey. Jon Seymour told me he had seen a Bald Eagle on Mercer Pond a few days before the flood. I often wonder what stops in that we never see.

There's always something happening at the Oxbow. Hope to see you there.

### WILLOW PRESS

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## Conservation Corner

by Jon Seymour

Have you ever wondered why Morris Mercer closes many of his articles with the short phrase, "See you at the Oxbow". I have sometimes closed my articles with the same epitaph and I know why Morris uses it. You do see people at the Oxbow! I have met friends and strangers, anglers, birdwatchers, joggers, kayakers, botanists, biologists, lepidopterists and herpetologists. All these "-ers" and "-ists" are made of large numbers of people from a wide variety of backgrounds. All share an interest in preserving and protecting the bottomlands we refer to as the "Oxbow".

Here are four photos of folks I have met recently at the Oxbow. Maybe someday I will meet you at the Oxbow and your photo will be here.



Robert Sexton kayaks through the trees during one of this summer's floods in the Oxbow. By sticking to known road paths, kayakers reduce the risk of hitting an underwater obstruction. Kayaking allows for some great views of wildlife at the Oxbow but should only be attempted in the company of other experienced kayakers.  
*(Photo by Tom Uhlman)*



Professor Mark Boardman, Director of the Institute for Environmental Studies at Miami University, stands in the center in front of his class of 2004 masters candidates, who begin their quest for a Masters Degree in Environmental Sciences with a visit to the Oxbow. This yearly tradition has been going on for many years and was first headed by Morris Mercer. I have inherited this pleasing task now.

*(Photo by Jon Seymour)*



Steve Pelikan and Darlena Graham take a group of mostly newcomers to the Oxbow on a levee walk tour of the Oxbow. Kani Meyer, also helping out, somehow sneaked out of camera range. During the Great Outdoor Weekend on September 25-26 we had 25 visitors to the Oxbow. Unfortunately the rains in the eastern portion of the watershed, from Hurricane Ivan, had put the Oxbow completely underwater during the week and the area was too muddy to walk the roads. Those that came on Sunday, and braved a little mud, were treated to the sight of an immature Bald Eagle on the edge of Mercer Pond.

*(Photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Back in August, Bruce Koehler of OKI was removing silver maple saplings from the Oxbow to replant at a stream bank restoration project in Colerain Township. While Bruce was getting muddy, Board Member Mark Westrich came jogging along Oxbow's nearly 6 miles of farm roads. Bruce (on the right) posed with Mark who has recently retired from the Board and relocated to Boise, Idaho.

*(Photo by Jon Seymour)*

## Memorials, Year End, and Legacy Giving

*by Jon Seymour*

Oxbow, Inc. has special reason to be thankful for the generosity of its members. Legacy gifts and special donations of our members have been the major source of funding for Oxbow, Inc. during our 19 year history. These gifts have allowed us to make our recent land purchases and still have sufficient funds available to plan for future purchases.

Next year we will reach our 20th anniversary with great success behind us and great challenges ahead of us. We hope that you, our members, will continue to provide that great support needed through additional year end giving, memorials, and remembering Oxbow, Inc. in your wills. We will be preparing a guide to legacy giving for the use of our members and we hope you will find this useful. If anyone has any questions regarding special donations and legacy giving we will be happy to try to answer them.



## Musings

by Dave Styer

### Puerto Rican Adventures

Back last winter Jane found that she had a Department of Defense meeting in Puerto Rico on the week of the tenth of May. I knew that I would have to go along to provide moral support. We looked on the Internet and found that Greg Lasley provided a fine birding travelogue. Following Greg's lead, we decided to go a bit early and center a birding trip near Guanica in southwestern Puerto Rico, across the island from San Juan where Jane's meeting was to be held. Thus it was that on Friday night, May 7, we took off from San Francisco heading to San Juan.

You will recall that May 7-8 was Birdathon weekend. Not to be bothered by little details, like rules, we started our Birdathon in California and ended it in Puerto Rico. We felt that the unique collection of birds made up for our lowest ever total—107 species. How many Birdathons have recorded such western species as Heermann's Gull, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Wrentit, California Thrasher and Lawrence's Goldfinch, as well as such Puerto Rican endemics as Puerto Rican Lizard Cuckoo, Puerto Rican Tody, Adelaide's Warbler, and Yellow-shouldered Blackbird?

It was exciting to experience for the first time some of the things I had read about islands, and the West Indies in particular. The prevailing winds (the Northeast Trade Winds) come from the northeast, over the Atlantic Ocean. The incoming air is laden with moisture. When it hits the mountains and rises and cools, the moisture condenses and the result is a rain forest on the north and east part of the island. However, when the air goes over the mountain and down the southwest side, it heats up again and the moisture has been wrung out. The result is a dry forest, or even desert, on the southwest corner of the islands.

This phenomenon is clearly borne out in the Guanica State Forest in southwestern Puerto Rico. In most of the forest about half of the trees lose their leaves in the dry season, December to April. The south edge of the forest is even more extreme, with many cacti, reminding me of the Sonoran Desert in Arizona. Many of the ravines in Guanica Forest are more moist and support a broad-leaved evergreen forest. You can walk a few hundred yards in Guanica Forest and encounter more dramatic changes than when you cross all of Ohio. In fact, Guanica State Forest has been designated as an international Biosphere Reserve. The diversity of plants and animals there is great, but the number of Puerto Rican endemics there is likely more important.

We found the plants too different from our experience to deal with, but there are good field guides for birds, and their diversity is not overwhelming. Of the 16 bird species endemic to Puerto Rico, the majority live in Guanica State Forest. We saw 10 of these bird species there and only 2 or 3 others elsewhere in Puerto Rico. We were witnessing one of the major features of

isolated islands all over the warmer parts of the world: a few individuals arrive and succeed in living and reproducing in isolation from the rest of their kind. Over, perhaps, thousands of generations they are no longer the same species. Thus old islands end up with a large number of endemic species. Thus, Puerto Rico, with an area of around 3,400 square miles has 16 endemic bird species; Jamaica, with an area of 4,100 square miles has 30 endemic bird species; and Ohio, with about an area of approximately 45,000 square miles, has no endemic bird species. But why would Ohio have endemic bird species when the birds can so easily cross the state lines?

Following Lasley's directions, we went to Maricao State Forest and found the Elfin Woods Warbler where he had seen it. Curson, Quinn, and Beadle's *Warblers of the Americas* writes: "This enigmatic species, endemic to Puerto Rico, was discovered only in 1972, making it the last of the known" wood warblers to be described. The Elfin Woods Warbler is similar to a Black-and-white Warbler and was overlooked for years.

Speaking of following directions, I found it possible to get lost in just about any town. Most notably, we drove into the tiny downtown of Guanica and couldn't find a way out! We finally asked a local delivery man who gave us directions out.

One of our favorite birds was the Puerto Rican Tody, a snappy looking kingfisher relative not much larger than a hummingbird. Like our Belted Kingfisher, the Tody nests in holes in a bank. Up in the Maricao State Forest, Jane especially enjoyed watching a Tody going in and out its hole and eating a walking stick insect. All five tody species in the world live in the West Indies, and constitute a family of their own. According to the *Handbook of the Birds of the World*, "Genetic research points to a relatively recent origin for the family," suggesting that they diversified six million to seven million years ago.

When we drove back to San Juan for Jane's meeting, we enjoyed a picnic lunch sheltered from the rain in a rain forest. A Red-legged Thrush fed in the lawn and we saw our first Scaly-naped Pigeon up in a tree. Although Old San Juan is a highly developed urban area with very narrow streets, there were still native birds around. Bananaquits and Greater Antillean Grackles regularly visited the outdoor dining areas of El Convento Hotel where the meeting took place. The most remarkable event took place at the Nispero tree in the hotel courtyard. At dusk, we realized that the tree attracted large fruit bats. For the rest of the evening several could be seen flying around or going into or out of the Nispero. My Internet resources say that the Nispero is a rose family tree from Japan or China that is known in the U.S. as a Loquat. I don't know for sure if that's really what we saw.

On Friday afternoon, after the meeting, we drove to Humacao Nature Reserve on the east coast. Braving the steady rain, we saw White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, a new bird for us. We were not even prepared for the most memorable thing we saw. At first we thought we were seeing alligators or crocodiles, but under closer inspection, from about 25 to 30 feet, they looked more like some kind of dinosaur. Fortunately, they didn't chase us. Only after we got back home did I find that they were Green Iguanas, a species introduced into Puerto Rico.

*Katie trots along for the swim...*

## A Pleasurable Botany Hike at the Oxbow

by Denis Conover, Ph.D.



*Left, Smooth  
Buttonweed.*

*Far left, root  
of Man of the  
Earth with  
Wild Sweet  
Potato Vine.*

We met at the new Oxbow Inc. entrance parking lot at 3:00 p.m. on a summer Sunday afternoon. There were 12 of us: 11 humans and 1 Labrador Retriever named Katie. The weather was perfect for a hike. Not too hot, not too cold, not too wet and not too dry. Not one mosquito bite either.

We drove to the overlook on the south side of Oxbow Lake. From this mid-way point one can see the entire lake. We stopped here to look at the American Egrets, Great Blue Herons and Double-crested Cormorants. From here we drove to Wood Duck Slough, parked and began our hike to the Ohio River. Along the edge of the road we saw paw-paw, hackberry, bur oak, silver maple, black locust, hawthorn, elms, and several other types of trees. We also saw wild grape vines, poke and poison ivy. The grapes, poke berries and poison ivy berries provide food for birds.

As we walked down the dirt road towards the CSX Railroad tracks, we observed corn and soybeans on one side of the road. These crops thrive in the rich bottomland soil of the Oxbow area. On the other side of the road we saw several types of wildflowers in bloom. These included Jerusalem artichoke, a native perennial sunflower. This species, with its nutritious tubers, was an important source of food for the Native Americans. We also saw wing-stem, tick trefoil, hedge nettle (a mint), cup-plant, green-headed cone flower, biennial gaura, and several members of the morning glory family, including man-of-the-earth or wild sweet potato vine. Man-of-the-earth produces a large, nutritious tap root that was another source of food for the original human inhabitants of the Oxbow area.

After we crossed over the railroad tracks and wound our way towards the I-275 bridge we saw tall blue lettuce, button bush, red-flowered morning glory, indigo bush, prairie mimosa, wild petunia, giant ragweed, common ragweed and goldenrods. The ragweeds belong to the sunflower family, but are unusual in that their flowers are wind pollinated. They do not require showy petals to attract insects for cross-pollination. Instead, the male

flowers crank out loads of pollen and rely on the wind to carry it to the female flowers of other ragweed plants. This strategy results in the suffering of those people who are allergic to the pollen. Goldenrod is insect pollinated and does not cause hayfever, but since it has showy flowers and blooms at the same time as ragweed it is often unjustly accused of doing so.

When we got to the Ohio River underneath the bridge the moment that Katie had been patiently awaiting had finally arrived. That dog sure does love water! She is totally obsessed with two things: swimming and retrieving. This obedient breed was developed in Newfoundland to help fishermen haul in their nets. Now they are used for retrieving waterfowl and as guide dogs for the blind. They also make great pets and hiking buddies. Katie's enthusiasm for swimming and retrieving are hard-wired into her Labrador Retriever brain, the behavioral traits being passed on from generation to generation in their DNA.

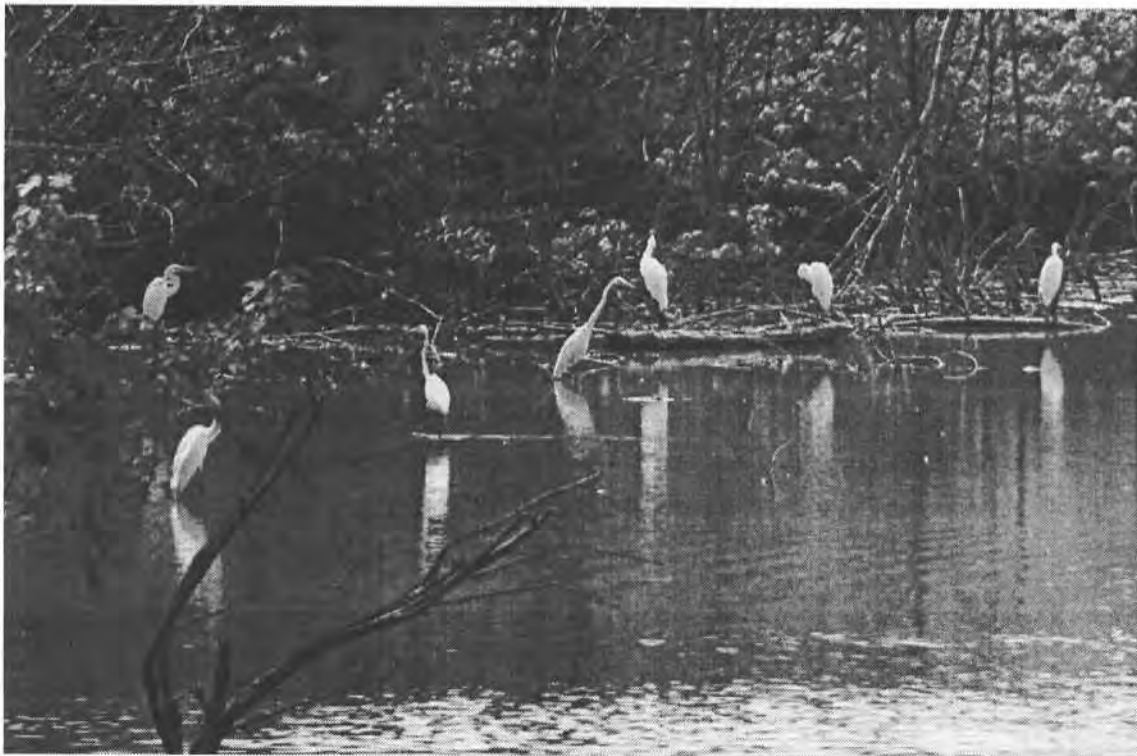
Growing in the sandy soil along the river we saw two species of rare plants: smooth buttonweed and Virginia buttonweed. We also found several types of smartweed, dodder, Virginia dayflower and groundnut. Groundnut is a legume which produces tubers. This plant was another important source of food for the Native Americans. Cockle-bur is another species of plant that we saw. This species will bloom later in the season when the days become shorter and the nights become longer. It is the length of the dark period that triggers flowering. Cockle-bur seeds were once an important source of food for the now extinct Carolina parakeet. Willows are also found along the river. These are a favorite of the beavers that live in the Oxbow area.

On the shore at the mouth of the Great Miami there are some very majestic silver maple trees. This species does extremely well in the floodplain habitat. From this point we looked out at Flannery Island in the Great Miami and across the Ohio River at the beautiful wooded hills of Kentucky. This is my favorite part of the Oxbow area.

*Look Who's Coming to the Oxbow....*



Tom Uhlman reported seeing a White Pelican on Mercer Pond Wednesday, September 1, 2004. This was the first fall sighting. *(Photo by Ken Phillips)*



Tuesday, August 31, 2004, Jon Seymour counted at least 60 Great White Egrets and wondered if this was the highest number of the year. *(Photo by Jon Seymour)*



## Of Bits and Peeps...



### **Tires, Tires and More Tires!**

Over 400 tires have been removed from the Oxbow! In a spring tire removal cleanup, plus two more on September 11 and 18, some very devoted Oxbow, Inc. workers hauled out all the tires they could find—can you believe over 400!

Board Member Rick Pope was there in September with “a drill that lives in my truck” that became a most handy tool since the large lead-heavy truck tires had to be drilled apart to allow the flood waters and mud to escape so the tires could be lifted onto the truck.

Dedicated workers were, besides Rick, Mike Kluesener, Jon Seymour, Ron Kolde and son, Ryan, and Jerry and Gatha Hon. Applause! Applause! for this great group!

### **It's Not Reading, Riting, Rithmatic**

Naturalist Trina Stitak told her August 10 Oxbow Inc. audience at the Lawrenceburg Library to keep in mind the Three R's of Rubbish: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Reduce to zero purchases of throwaway items such as paper dishes and dish cloths. Reuse such items as plastic cereal bags as freezer bags. (“Great for leftover pizza.”) Recycle, of course, aluminum cans, glass and newspapers, but also plastic bottles #1 and #2 with narrow necks. These are made into “plastic lumber” such as used in making park benches. Why do all this? To keep America beautiful by eliminating garbage landfills.

Dearborn County, Indiana, has a “Creation Station” in the works where all sorts of reusable items, even those not accepted elsewhere, will be available. P&G has donated paper tablets they no longer use. Teachers are known to value black plastic TV dinner dishes for paint trays. For further information, phone toll free 800- 537-8801 or 812-926-9963.

Trina suggested a good pamphlet to own: “Clean and Green” by Annie Berthold-Bond. It contains hints on making one's own nontoxic household cleaners. Trina surprised everyone with door prizes and pencils made from worn denim jeans.

### **Aquascapes Gift**

Aquascapes donated \$100.00 to Oxbow Inc. from the ticket sale of their 2004 Aquascapes Garden Tour. A fountain of thanks to the Meyer owners.

### **A Slow Day in October**

I'm not sure whether it was the forecast of rain or the competition with Darlena's trip to Muscatatuck, but we had only three birders for the October 9 Oxbow, Inc. field trip. The birding was unusually slow: the warblers had already passed through, the water was too high for shorebirds and the season was too early and there were too many fishermen for ducks. We did manage to find some waders: three Great Egrets, numerous Great Blue

Hérons and Black-crowned Night Herons, along with about 40 Double-crested Cormorants. The others got to watch two Cooper's Hawks chasing each other through the trees while I was fetching the car.

As so often happens on a slow day, a couple of highlights near the end of the trip saved the day. We had great looks at three adult White-crowned Sparrows, the first of the year for all of us, and a Red Fox appeared briefly in the road near Jackpot Pond. Which just proved the point, that a so-so morning at the Oxbow is far better than a good morning at the office.

....by Ned Keller

### **Jon's Oxbow Inc. Talks**

President Jon Seymour will be telling the Oxbow story to the Miami Valley Audubon Chapter, Oxford, Ohio, November 8, and to the Bettie Carter Morgan Women's Club, Erlanger, Kentucky, November 16. He also led a bird walk through the Oxbow for the Audubon group, October 30.

### **Not Good Enough for the Wood Thrush**

Biology Professor George Farnsworth, X.U., addressed Oxbow Inc. September 14, documenting his dissertation research on the Wood Thrush in the Great Smoky Mountains, 1995-'96.

Farnsworth and his team monitored 426 nests. They installed “cheap plastic cameras” connected to wood eggs placed in nests to ascertain the predators. Predators caught on film were crow, flying squirrel, gray squirrel, black rat snake, bear, least weasel, white-footed mouse and Eastern Screech Owl. Most nest failures were caused by predation.

Using radio telemetry, tiny radios attached to the female, Farnsworth found the Wood Thrush was limited to four nests in one breeding season. “About 72% of females fledge one brood, about 15%, two broods,” he said.

There is a very modest population growth of the Wood Thrush, 8.4%, in the Smokies, according to Farnsworth. His team expected better results. If one bird survives per nest, that is considered success.

### **A Great Christmas Gift Idea**

A membership in Oxbow, Inc. makes a rewarding Christmas gift -- rewarding for the receiver and rewarding for the wildlife at the Oxbow. Membership includes lectures, field trips to the Oxbow and a year's subscription ( six issues) of *Wetland Matters* plus anytime admittance to the Oxbow. See back page for details.



### **Oxbow, Inc.**

A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands ecosystem known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This agricultural area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. Make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource. Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is encouraged and solicited.

|                   |       |             |        |
|-------------------|-------|-------------|--------|
| Individual        | \$10  | Family      | \$15   |
| Contributing      | \$25  | Supporting  | \$50   |
| Patron            | \$100 | Cornerstone | \$250  |
| Sponsor           | \$500 | Benefactor  | \$1000 |
| Organization/Club | \$25  |             |        |

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 43391  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391  
513-851-9835

### **Corporation Officers**

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| President, Dr. Jon Seymour                  | (513) 851-9835 |
| Vice President, Kani Meyer                  | (513) 948-8630 |
| Recording Secretary,<br>Dwight Poffenberger | (513) 241-2324 |
| Corresponding Secretary,<br>Dennis Mason    | (513) 385-3607 |
| Treasurer, Jim Poehlmann                    | (513) 931-4072 |
| Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger             | (513) 241-2324 |
| Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner            | (812) 537-5728 |

### **Committee Chairpersons**

|                                      |                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour        | (513) 851-9835 |
| Easement Inspection,<br>Richard Pope | (812) 637-1365 |
| Land Management, Kani Meyer          | (513) 948-8630 |
| Programs, Jerry Lippert              | (513) 522-6567 |
| Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan          | (513) 681-2574 |
| Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour     | (513) 851-9835 |
| Newsletter Editor, Jeanne Bocklage   | (513) 922-2445 |

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