



WETLAND *matters*

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

Have you visited our website?...www.oxbowinc.org

Unclaimed Vacation

.....by Jon Seymour

The title sounds like a prize waiting for the lottery winner to identify themselves— but it isn't. It does have something to do with getting something for nothing — but that isn't quite true either. It does have everything to do with acquiring 7 more acres of land for Oxbow, Inc.

The process started almost a year and a half ago. Our neighbor, the Dearborn Ready Mix Company, notified us of their intention to apply to vacate the platted streets and alleyways within their property in preparation for selling their business. This action alerted us to the fact that we also had platted streets and alleyways within our property near the Hardintown entrance to the Oxbow that still officially belonged to the County. Following their lead we also petitioned Dearborn County to vacate our streets. This process is an official declaration that the County no longer has an interest in the streets and alleyways and the property reverts back to the adjacent property owners — in this case, Oxbow and Dearborn Ready Mix. Dearborn Ready Mix signed off on a legal declaration that they were not interested in the vacated streets and the entire vacated property came to Oxbow. As you might guess this all required a great deal of legal help which was managed by our attorney, Tim Mara. We acquired 4 additional acres for Oxbow, Inc.

So that explains "vacation", what about unclaimed"? During the survey work for the street vacation, the surveyor noted that 3 acres located underwater in the Cement Plant Pond had never officially been claimed by anyone. This amazing discovery, that we had land in the Oxbow that had never had official owners since the establishment of the Northwest Territory, came as a surprise, but this was the second such parcel discovered in the Oxbow. Fortunately Mr. Mara's experience, in helping Oxbow claim the previous parcel, gave us a quick start on what was required to claim this property. We actually had to sue a nearby landowner (in this case a former land owner). This was a cooperative suit and the

former landowners worked with us in advance so that there were no ill feelings or surprises. When the former landowners declared no interest we were able to follow a series of legal notifications and court actions, that were recently completed, giving us possession of the unclaimed 3 acres. The cost of the land is essentially the cost of the survey and legal fees encountered in completing all the official documents and actions to claim these properties. Therefore "Unclaimed Vacation" really is a little like the lottery because we won 7 new acres for Oxbow.

Support Birdathon 2006 – May 12-13

It is Birdathon time. It is time for the 2006 celebration of bird watching in the Cincinnati area. We need you to participate and there are two ways you can do it. You can form a team or enter as an individual in a large number of fun categories. If you simply can not or do not want to bird watch this year, we need YOU to back the Oxbow Teams with a pledge!

Money raised by Birdathon contributions will be used for much need projects for improving habitat and access to the Oxbow to allow for more people to experience the beauty and special nature of the Oxbow floodplain. We need your support. Forms for making donations and for participating in the Birdathon are located on Pages 3 and 10.

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

(Horseshoe Bottoms Diary is a feature that anyone wishing to chronicle a particular experience in the Oxbow can take advantage of and submit a diary entry.)

March 17, 2006 (Jon Seymour)

Saint Patrick's Day means Green-winged Teal. Every St. Patty's Day for several years Karl Maslowski, George Laycock and Morris Mercer (the last few years with the help of Jim Simpson) have sought a first sighting of a Green-winged Teal on this day and celebrated the sighting with ceremonial consumption of Lorna Doone cookies. Since Morris's death Jim Simpson and I have taken Morris's honored place. Notice it took two of us. This year I wasn't so sure it would happen.

Karl was in the hospital with pneumonia most of January and it wasn't certain he was going to recover enough to make the trip. But, by the end of February, Karl was saying that it was going to be a go. During the first week of March I got a call from Karl saying he was bringing the Lorna Doones and I needed to bring the Green-winged Teal. Talk about pressure. Jim and I both took the challenge, realizing that we not only needed to find Green-winged Teal but we had to find Teal that could be seen only a short flat walk from the car. As a result both Jim and I were out scouting in the early morning of the 17th to find cooperative Teal. We both did, but Jim's Teal near Lost Bridge were the only Green-winged Teal still in a convenient location by the time we connected with Karl and George.

A nice little flock of about 15 Green-winged Teal remained in a field pond near Lost Bridge and our mission was accomplished. The Lorna Doones were opened and we toasted Morris and the Oxbow with sweet crunchy shortbread cookies. We climbed out of the floodplain to take a quick look at Hidden Valley Lake and found a bold Kingfisher perched on the pier and totally uninterested in anything we were doing so we were able to drive up close. A view from the beach included our first Common Loon of the season. All-in-all, a good day. At lunch Karl added up his age and George's age and figured they could have stretched back to Audubon's day. It is always a pleasure to listen to the conversation of two gentlemen that have forgotten more than I will know. Oops, I forgot, they have not forgotten any of it.

April 1, 2006 (April Fool's Day Walk) by Ned Keller

The announcement for the April 1 field trip promised penguins and albatrosses, but that was just silly. Everyone knows that there are no albatrosses at the Oxbow. The penguins were there, but unfortunately we were not able to see them. They were all on Jackpot Pond, and heavy rains the night before made it impossible to get that far into the Oxbow.

On a more serious note, those of us who arrived early were treated to a demonstration of why you shouldn't try to drive on the Oxbow roads when they are muddy. Two fishermen spent about fifteen minutes trying to unstick their van before the Oxbow mud finally turned them loose.

April is definitely past the peak of waterfowl migration, and the ducks that we found on the Oxbow reflected that. From the upper end of the Oxbow, we could see a handful of ducks, including Shovelers, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, and a solitary Mallard. There were several Pied-billed Grebes, and we had a glimpse of a Common Loon before it swam out of sight. We had a better look at another Loon flying overhead. A flock of about fifty swallows milling about were mostly Trees, except for a couple of Rough-wings and one Barn.

Since there wasn't that much to see at the Oxbow, and the roads really were quite muddy, we decided to head over to Shawnee Lookout. We decided to walk the Blue Jacket trail, where we found that some of the earlier summer residents to return were on territory. Towhees were everywhere, and Field Sparrows were numerous along the power line cuts. We had nice overhead views of a Black Vulture and a Cooper's Hawk, along with several Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants.

Does it seem that you often find the best bird of the day at the end of the trip? That was certainly the case on this trip. As we crossed the last power line on the way back to the parking lot, we found a Fox Sparrow, which perched in the open long enough for everyone to get a great look. All in all, it was another great day in the Oxbow area, even if we didn't get to see the penguins.

Board Members and Officers Elected

At our January members meeting the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for three year terms: Denis Conover, Gay Hon, Dennis Mason, Kani Meyer, Rick Pope, and David Styer. The following Board Members were elected to officer positions for a one year term: Jon Seymour (President), Kani Meyer (Vice-President), Dwight Poffenburger (Secretary), Dennis Mason (Corresponding Secretary), Jim Poehlmann (Treasurer), Dwight Poffenburger (Ohio Agent), John Getzendanner (Indiana Agent). Board Members were elected unanimously by voice vote on a motion by Steve Pelikan and a second by Jack Molleran and officers were elected unanimously on a motion by Steve Pelikan and a second by Ron Sonderman.

Birdathon 2006 Pledge Form (Friday and Saturday May 12-13, 2006)

Name: _____

Address: _____

My Pledge is for:

- Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger and Joe Bens
 Team #2 – Jerry Lippert, Erich Baumgardner, Wayne Wauligman, Matt Stenger
 Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Katherine Miller, Sarah Krailler
 Team #4 – The Founders, Karl Maslowski and George Laycock
 Team #5 – Dave and Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)
 The Highest Scoring Team

I pledge per species (circle one):

\$2.00 \$1.00 \$0.75 \$0.50 \$0.25 \$0.10 Other _____ Fixed Amount _____

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.
 854 Ligorio Ave.
 Cincinnati, OH 45218



by Jon Seymour

It was in the audience question and answer session with Richard Louv, author of *The Last Child in the Woods*. It was a quip that flashed through the auditorium like a lightning bolt and stirred the imagination. Interestingly I do not remember who said it first, a member of the audience or Richard Louv. Someone compared our concern for children not interacting with the outdoors with a national education program concerned with quality education and said we should have new program, "No child left inside!"

This phrase has now been officially adopted as the slogan for the Great Outdoor Weekend coming up this September 23-24. Oxbow will again provide nature hikes both mornings of the event from 9:00 – 10:00 am. The event this year will include more than 50 venues where the family can sample a fun filled and enlightening outdoor activity. So

start planning now to get out and about on the Great Outdoor Weekend and lets make that slogan real. "No child (of any age) left inside!"

We continue cooperation with Friends of the Great Miami. Recently a volunteer crew from FGM harvested willow bundles from the edge of Mercer Pond. They obtained 32 bundles averaging about 8 inches in diameter. These cuttings do not harm the willow plant which will send up new shoots. The cuttings can actually be inserted into a muddy (wet) stream bank and they will send down roots and grow a new willow tree. Again the floodplain of the Great Miami River is contributing successfully to the health of stream banks further up river.

No
child
left
inside





usings

by Dave Styer

The Wood Thrush

I became a birder back in 1950, when I discovered that the mystery bird singing in the big Japanese honeysuckle patch on my Aunt Margaret's farm (where I grew up) was a Yellow-breasted Chat. Thus, I truly started "birding by ear." Wood Thrushes had the most beautiful song of all the birds on the farm. They were extra special because of their subtlety. They couldn't be heard from the house or the farm buildings. You had to go into the woods to locate them. "The woods" was for the most part on old pasture densely overgrown in 20-foot tall white ash trees. Only farther away were there some mature ash trees and mature Shagbark Hickories where a few Wood Thrushes lived.

Right now (May/June) Wood Thrushes should be singing in the evenings at Shawnee Lookout, and even in the more wooded parts of the Indiana portion of the Oxbow area. Back over fifty years ago, they sang in the lawn edges of my home town, Newtown, PA, and they sang around the faculty housing nestled in the woods of George School, the Quaker high school I attended. One couple at George School had left Germany before World War II. I remember asking the wife if Nightingale's songs were even more beautiful than the Wood Thrush songs we were listening to. She said not, but while the Wood Thrush stopped singing when it got dark, the Nightingale would just keep on singing. It was the persistence of the Nightingale singing into the night that made it so famous.

In Cincinnati, I once mentioned to Worth Randle, coauthor of *Birds of Southwestern Ohio*, that my first bird song recordings were those of Arthur A. Allen of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. Worth said that he didn't like the Wood Thrush recording because Wood Thrushes didn't sing that way. That brought vividly to my mind when I had first bought the records back in the early 1950s. When I played the records my Aunt Margaret said, "Wood Thrushes don't sound like that!" But here is the interesting thing: the Wood Thrushes of Newtown, PA, and the George School woods, and the forests of Cincinnati: don't sound like those on the Cornell record, but the Wood Thrushes on the farm sounded exactly like the recording. My Aunt Margaret likely never heard her own Wood Thrushes. Actually, the songs were not so different that one wouldn't recognize both as Wood Thrushes.

Many thrushes are noted for their flute-like voices when they sing. They are also noted for the ability to sing two notes at once. A high school classmate achieved minor

fame for being able to whistle two notes at once, but he certainly couldn't whistle tunes that way. Our vocal cords are at the top of our windpipe (trachea) in our larynx. The larynx controls the flow of air and food as well. In birds, the larynx controls flow, but does not contain vocal cords. A bird's vocal cords are in its syrinx at the base of the windpipe, where the trachea splits into two bronchial tubes. Mammals don't have a syrinx, just birds. Thrushes, and many other birds, have separate control of their vocal cords on the left and the right sides of their syrinx. *Some* people can play a piano with both hands. Perhaps that's a good way to look at it. Between pleasing sound and a two-tone vocal ability, Wood Thrushes add great beauty to the woods on a spring or summer evening.

Here is your basic bird quiz for today: How can you tell that an animal is a bird? Answer: If it has feathers it's a bird. Now let's not confuse the issue with dinosaurs; we're talking about today. But what if the bird has been plucked, so that it has no feathers? Answer: Listen for it to sing; if it's using a syrinx it's a bird. What if hearing such a bad joke gave it a sore throat so that it lost its voice? Then I guess the poor bird would be suffering from syringitis.

Editor's note: Would you like to hear the song of a Wood Thrush? Just go to <http://www.songbird.org/birds/woodthrush.htm> and enjoy!

North, South, East or West - Where is that Cache???

Lyn Liming of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Cachers described the new outdoor sport of geocaching and announced the establishment of a registered cache in the Oxbow. Geocaching combines the use of hand held global positioning system (GPS) units with a good old fashion treasure hunt. Cache "owners" place water tight container containing a "treasure" in a hidden location, take a GPS reading of the area, post the location of the cache on the internet, and challenge other seekers to find the cache. There are many types of caches from ones only containing a log of who found the cache. Find it, sign the log, replace the cache for the next person to find. Others may be specially designed for kids. They contain small toys and trinkets that children are supposed to exchange for something they have brought with them. This makes this outdoor activity fun for the whole family. Lyn showed many slides taken in some of the beautiful parks and places they have been led to by a hidden cache. There are tens of thousands of these caches all over North America. Go to a website like www.geocaching.com and find the description of a cache near you and go out and find it. You will need a hand held GPS unit which will cost between \$100 - \$500. If you are hunting for the one in the Oxbow remember to plan a few extra hours and wander the roads of the Oxbow and enjoy being part of Nature. Remember - No child (of any age) left inside!

OXBOW, INC. PROGRAMS

Tuesday, May 9th, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

All About Mushrooms

Earth Connection, College of Mount St. Joseph

Gia Giammarinaro, local Naturalist and amateur mycologist (fungi aficionado), will give us a rudimentary toolbox on what mushrooms are about, their unique biology, their structures and features, and provide us with a resource guide about mushrooms. Gia will get you excited about mushrooms! For more information, call Gia at 543-8157 and leave a message and she will get back to you, or email to Gia at mycelium22@cmci.fr.com.

To get to Earth Connection in Delhi, go south on Neeb Rd past the Delhi Road traffic light, turn up the second drive on the left.

Tuesday, June 13th, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

June Surprise

Public Library, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Join us for a surprise speaker who will enlighten us on a topic of natural or cultural history. Check the Oxbow, Inc. website periodically at www.oxbowinc.org, for details that will be made available prior to the meeting, or just come and be surprised on Tuesday night, June 13th.

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

Tuesday, July 11th, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Hamilton County Wildlife Officer

Earth Connection, College of Mt. St. Joseph

Meet Josh Zientek, the State of Ohio's new Wildlife Officer for Hamilton County, who will introduce himself to Oxbow members and speak about the current challenges facing wildlife officers in our region as well as recent positive developments regarding wildlife in our area. For more information, call Josh at 937-372-5639, ext. 5217.

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

OXBOW INC. FIELD TRIPS

To reach the upper Oxbow Inc. parking lot near the cement plant, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to the end of the road, then left and the lot is on your right.

Friday, May 19th, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

Cerulean Warblers and Running Buffalo Clover **Shawnee Lookout Park**

Meet Dan Boone at the Miami Fort Trail parking lot at Shawnee Lookout Park for this evening search for plants and birds. Dan will search for Cerulean Warblers, as well as the endangered Running Buffalo Clover which should be in bloom at this time. For information call Dan at 481-5997 or email Dan at jerboo@fuse.net.

Saturday, June 17th, 2006, 9:00 a.m.

Bird Walk

Meet Jim Simpson, at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. Jim will be searching for birds and whatever else of interest is in the neighborhood. For more information, call Jim at 937-433-3649.

Saturday, July 15th, 2006, 8:00 a.m.

July Birds

Meet Darlena Graham, at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. Darlena will search for birds including shorebirds and whatever else crosses the path. For more information, call Darlena at 859-341-4893 or email to darlena@fuse.net.

Parrots Need People

Our March program, presented by Bev and Rocky Corsmeier of the Parrot Group Network, was attended by Oxbow members and a great troop of Girl Scouts interested in birds. Bev and Rocky brought several parrots for everyone to get to know and talked about each parrots' behavior and natural history in the wild. Snuggles the Umbrella Cockatoo lived up to her name and spent half the lecture snuggled against the shoulder of an audience member. Tequila the Blue and Gold Macaw displayed her beautiful array of colored feathers. Bev and Rocky brought a box of molted feathers that the Girl Scouts were eager to sample and take home.

Parrot survival is a concern due to the destruction of their habitat and the feathered pet trade. Even in the legitimate bird trade the fact that these birds typically live for 80 years makes owning a parrot a family concern often for more than one generation. For more information contact Beverly Corsmeier (623-7756 or Beverly.Corsmeier@CBWS.com.)



The slough connecting the north end of Mercer Pond with the Cement Plant Pond. Beavers have been cutting wood in this area taking out several trees. The south shore of Mercer Pond provided willow cuttings for stream bank restoration projects being carried out by Friends of the Great Miami. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



Sheila Byrd (back row, tan coat) brought her Manchester Cub Scout troop to the Oxbow for "feather friend" month. The scouts were able to see a variety of waterfowl through the 60 power spotting scope, examine beaver cut trees and see what an Eagle Scout project looks like. At the end each scout and the adult chaperones were given a bag and asked to pick up trash on the route back to the parking area. The scouts fanned out and were able to collect two large trash cans worth of unwanted litter. Thanks Scouts, great job! *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



Nina Lapitan (far right) volunteer coordinator for Aullwood Audubon Center north of Dayton leads a group of Aullwood volunteers on a field trip to the Oxbow. Jon Seymour provided guide services for the group that arrived at 9:00 am and left at 4:00 pm with a great group lunch at the Lawrenceburg/Aurora Golden Corral. The walking tour visited the Oxbow Lake overlook in the morning and the Ohio River and Great Miami Confluence in the afternoon. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



A female Wood Duck sits in a tree overlooking Oxbow Lake. While ducks in trees may be considered unusual by some, this is routine for Wood Ducks. The female will often nest in a tree cavity 15-20 feet above the ground. When it is time for her ducklings to move to water they are essentially ejected from the nest. That first step is a "doozy"! They cannot fly so they need to bounce really good. They almost always survive the fall and Mom leads them to water if they did not already land in it. The Wood Duck is the most common nesting duck in the Oxbow. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



Redbud blooms, a sign of spring. *(photo by Meg Poehlmann)*



Canadian Goose on the water. (photo by Evan Poehlmann)



Dogwood blooms—spring is here! (photo by Meg Poehlmann)



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Tiny, compact ducks, females may weigh a mere 6.6 ounces, making them the smallest of North American dabblers. Female Green-winged Teal normally select sites near water, though nests can be a half-mile or more away. While primarily lowland breeders, some southern Palearctic pairs nest higher than 6,500 feet.



© 1996 Frank S. Todd

Unlike their Eurasian counterpart, the green facial bands of American Green-winged Teal are neither totally nor distinctly bordered by narrow, creamy lines.



*And where the shadows deepest fell,
the wood thrush rang his silver bell.*

H. W. Longfellow



2005 Oxbow Inc. Treasurer's Report

Oxbow, Inc. experienced a positive cash flow this year of \$54,962.27, down 24% from 2004. The largest single decrease was in the category of donations, down 80% from 2004. The 2004 donations included a single large estate donation that accounted for 2/3 of all the donations in 2004. The bright spot was the increase in interest income, up \$15,552.45 from the previous year.

Oxbow, Inc. made no land purchases for the year 2005. Numerous projects to improve and maintain the land were undertaken, including completion of two new culverts on the causeway and at Osprey Lake. Installation of the culverts reduces damage to the roads from flooding and keeps the areas drier so that less vehicle damage is done.

Expenses were down \$5,741.18 from 2004. Administrative expenses were \$2,583.48, or 2.7% of revenues. No fundraising expenses were incurred for the year.

Legal expenses were increased primarily due to activity pertaining to increasing Oxbow, Inc. holdings by 4.1 acres thru legal actions vacating the old platted streets within the Hardintown section of the Oxbow properties and by claiming 3.0 acres of unclaimed land in the old Great Miami River bed. These actions were completed in 2006 and a complete report is in this issue of Wetland Matters.

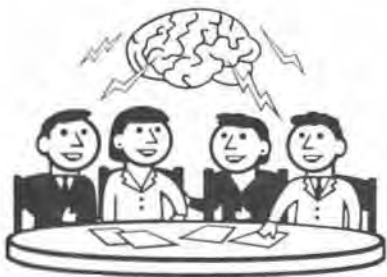
Taxes were increased in 2005 as Dearborn County caught up 1 1/2 years on its tax assessments and billing.

Oxbow is a 100% volunteer organization—there are no salaries, expense accounts, or offices—and is beholden to the generous support of the membership and the public. The IRS Forms 990 for Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. may be inspected on www.guidestar.org.

Detail for Miscellaneous expenses:

\$2500	Cost of Survey of unclaimed parcel
\$2331	Installation of two culverts
\$1363	Cost of 20 year Celebration (covered by ticket sales and special donations)
\$777	Organizational management and tax preparation training for Board Members
\$650	Two years of membership in the Land Trust Alliance
\$535	Safety Deposit Boxes for storing corporation Documents
\$450	Fees for meeting rooms
\$350	Fee for the weekly publication of the "Rules of Property Use" notice in the two Dearborn County Newspapers
\$200	Cost of survey for Forest Protection program
<u>\$122</u>	Administrative items
\$9278	Total

Revenue	2005	2004
Dues	\$26,722.00	\$30,412.00
Land Acquisition	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Donations	\$8,806.63	\$46,920.79
Interest	\$21,772.82	\$6,220.37
Memorials	\$5,465.00	\$2,757.00
Birdathon	\$3,203.25	\$2,639.49
Crop Income	\$26,623.00	\$26,887.00
Merchandise	\$196.00	\$86.00
LCD	\$500.00	\$500.00
Equity Gift	\$1,519.54	\$681.80
Dividend on Equity	\$7.35	\$0.00
Gain/Loss on Equity	-\$98.07	\$39.69
Miscellaneous	\$1,612.14	\$914.19
Advertising Revenue	\$150.00	\$0.00
Speaker's Revenue	<u>\$240.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$96,719.66</u>	<u>\$119,858.33</u>
Expenses		
Postage & Phone	\$2,261.45	\$1,442.42
Office Supplies	\$322.03	\$858.30
Newsletter	\$4,388.30	\$3,731.15
Taxes & Insurance	\$8,177.91	\$5,053.12
Fund Raising	\$0.00	\$50.00
Security	\$8,600.00	\$8,340.00
Legal	\$8,729.18	\$6,202.47
Merchandise	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$9,278.52	\$21,821.11
LCD	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$41,757.39</u>	<u>\$47,498.57</u>
Net Increase in Cash	\$54,962.27	\$72,359.76
Assets & Net Worth		
Cash & Investments	\$909,614.46	\$854,782.45
Land	\$1,526,907.66	\$1,526,907.66
Land Easements	<u>\$231,963.28</u>	<u>\$231,963.28</u>
Assets	\$2,668,485.40	\$2,613,653.39
Debt	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Worth	<u>\$2,668,485.40</u>	<u>\$2,613,653.39</u>



Judy Bramstedt and the Development of Oxbow, Inc.

.....by Dave Styer

Twenty years after the founding of Oxbow, Inc. in 1986, it is good to look back to the organization's beginning in 1985, and to remember Judy Bramstedt. Judy chaired the formation of Oxbow, Inc. and became the first president. I recently reminisced with her about that start.

In the fall of 1985, Judy chaired the Conservation Committee of the Sierra Club's local chapter. Judy's husband, Rick, had occasionally hunted ducks in the Oxbow area, and both of them appreciated what a special place it was. Judy says that she and Rick had read something by Karl Maslowski in the *Cincinnati Enquirer* about proposed barge ports in the Oxbow area, and they thought that protecting the area would make a good Conservation Committee project.

I didn't normally attend Sierra Club activities, but the day before the (September?) committee meeting Frank Renfrow called and suggested that I would probably want to go to that meeting. The next evening, I met Judy and Rick, as well as the other members of the Sierra Club Conservation Committee. Soon after that Judy met Morris Mercer, and before long the Oxbow Subcommittee was formed with a strong infusion of the people who were familiar with the Oxbow area. The meetings centered on work to save the Oxbow area and the question of how best to do this in the long run.

By the March 1986 meeting, Karl Maslowski could determine that state and federal agencies would not step in to preserve the area. That was when he literally passed his hat around to raise the funds to get us officially incorporated as a tax-exempt organization. Of course, it was Judy who took charge of the task of hammering out workable bylaws. This was no easy task. It was so admirably done that Karl is very proud of Judy and he wants to be sure that she is not forgotten.

An underlying principle of Oxbow, Inc. is that if we own a good bit of land, we have a good bit of clout. People with activist, can-do attitudes started the organization. It's still that way. Perhaps "can-do" is something subtly built into Oxbow, Inc.

On other issues there was no consensus and there was a need to work out something satisfactory to the people with different viewpoints. There are always fine details of this nature. The greatest problem of disagreement that comes to mind is the hunting versus no hunting view. I remember seeing Judy about a week after one of the difficult organizing meetings. She told me that Stu Welsh, Deputy Director of

the Hamilton County Park District, had been at the meeting, and had accidentally forgotten to take his notes when he left. When Judy saw the notes, she also saw that they were open to a page that said "I don't know if this organization will ever get off the ground." Judy told me that maybe Stu didn't *really* forget his notes. Judy feels that the message gently nudged her to move forward, to not get completely bogged down.

I like this story because it points to difficulties that were faced and to Judy's conscientious effort to make sure Oxbow, Inc. would allow for conflicting points of view. Recently, the book *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin has driven home the value of this approach. As President of the United States, Lincoln chose for his cabinet people who felt they should be president and who had strongly different views. They fought like cats and dogs. Lincoln listened to them all and did what seemed best. The Lincoln administration is considered remarkably strong, at least in part because of allowing for all to be heard. In fact, Lincoln's Secretary of State William Seward said after Lincoln's assassination that, sure they fought, but if they agreed on all important questions there would have been no need for more than one person to give advice.

Since members of the Oxbow, Inc. board were in agreement that saving the Oxbow area was more important than their personal views on some issues, bickering was relatively minor. The fact that Judy had patiently built consensus about how to structure Oxbow, Inc. paid great dividends later. More than once, I witnessed the surprise and pleasure of people in the Ohio and Indiana Departments of Natural Resources when they discovered that Oxbow, Inc. was not too narrowly focused to come within the scope of their public missions. Early on, the Departments of Natural Resources of the two states cooperated to buy a property in the Oxbow area that straddled the state line. That was great support for the fledgling organization. Much later, when "gaming" came to Indiana, Oxbow, Inc. was treated very well by the Gaming Commission.

On the county level, Stu Welsh never gave up. Surely he, more than anyone else, saw to it that the Hamilton County Park District bought serious conservation easements on nearly a thousand acres of land in the Oxbow floodplain. It is doubtful that this would have happened if Oxbow, Inc. hadn't been appropriately structured. It wasn't easy, but Judy made sure that different viewpoints compatible with a conservation organization were recognized. Thus, Oxbow, Inc. became an organization with a strong future.

For Judy, organizing Oxbow, Inc. is one of the highlights of her life. She says that she had never met so many people with selfless dedication. She marvels at how much Oxbow, Inc. has done in the past twenty years, and she is really pleased at what Oxbow, Inc. is doing now.

2006 Oxbow Clean-Up Schedule
Come On Out and Help the Oxbow!!

Saturday, April 22, 1-4 p.m. (Earth Day)

Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m.—1 p.m. (River Sweep along the Ohio)

Saturday, July 7, 1-4 p.m. (Great Miami Clean Up)

Meet at the parking lot at the entrance of the Oxbow for assignments. Water and bags provided by Oxbow, Inc.

Birdathon Participation Form
(Friday and Saturday May 12-13, 2006)

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have more birdwatchers participate in the Birdathon. While there is a competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during the 24 hours of the contest, you do not have to compete at all and can participate as a non-competing individual or team. There are many ways to participate. You do not even have to leave your own house. Here are some of the categories of competition:

- Most Species by a Team. (most overall species by a group)
- Most Species by an Individual (most overall species by an individual)
- Most Species in a Back Yard (most species observed from one yard)
- Most Species One State (most species by state, either Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky)
- Most Species One County (most species in any one county, ex: Hamilton)
- Most Species In One Location (recorded in one defined area, ex: The Oxbow)
- Most Species Non-Fossil Fuel (recorded without using any gasoline)
- Most Species Big Sit (recorded from one fixed 30 x 30 foot spot)
- Most Species Family (most species by a family, parent/guardian and at least one child)
- Most Species Under Age 20 (most species seen by a group 19 & under, 1 adult allowed)
- Most Funds Raised by a Team
- Most Funds Raised by an Individual
- Most Funds raised by Persons Under 20 Years Old

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. **The way to do it is to have fun birding!**

I want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon. Please send an entry form to:

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc
 9761 Winton Rd
 Cincinnati, OH 45231

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

Donor	In Memory of
Lou Crawford	Timothy Fisher
Fronia Drake	Harry T. Drake
Bill and Do Kuhlman	Norma Flannery
Bob and Tina Schlegel	Marcella Donahue
Jon & Jackie Seymour	Norma Flannery & Morris Mercer

Oxbow, Inc. Honoraria

Donor	In Honor of
Karl Maslowski	Allen Rowe's Eagle Scout Project

Thank you for your generous donation!

William P. Anderson Foundation

Reverend Andrew MacAoidh Jergens

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 acknowledgements. 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, OH 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2006

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2006 to:
Oxbow, Inc.
C/o John Getzendanner
21007 Crestview Ct.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed below. Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelope to John. Once accepted you will receive a permission slip to hunt on Oxbow land designated for hunting, east of I-275. Members must have dues paid current to the time of application. Any violation of the memorandum of understanding will result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

(A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon acceptance of your application.)

Application and Memorandum of Understanding

I am a member in good standing of Oxbow, Inc. and request permission to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. property east of I-275 as will be shown on the map affixed to the permission slip that must be carried while hunting on Oxbow property.

I agree: to hunt subject to the following Oxbow, Inc. rules:

- I will practice good hunting ethics at all times.
- Others may rightfully visit the area and my activity has no priority over that of others.
- During my use of Oxbow, Inc. property I will not litter, remove or damage Oxbow, Inc. property, or cause any habitat destruction.
- I will not leave any structures on the property (ie. hunting stands, duck blinds, etc.).
- I will carry a valid permission slip at all times while hunting on Oxbow, Inc. land.
- I will obey all applicable laws

I understand that hunting privilege will be revoked if any of the above regulations are violated. I understand that I enter Oxbow, Inc. property entirely at my own risk and hold Oxbow, Inc. free of liability for any hazards, known or unknown to it. I HAVE INCLUDED A COPY OF MY VALID INDIANA HUNTING PERMIT and A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

Your Signature: _____ date _____

Return Mail Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Mail to:
Oxbow, Inc.
c/o John Getzendanner
21007 Crestview Ct.
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
Phone: 812-537-5728

(Hunting permission is granted for one year (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) only and must be reapplied for yearly.)
HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2006

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 OH 45243-0391
513-851-9835

Corporation Officers

President, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Vice President, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Corresponding Secretary, 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, Mike Kluesener	(812)-623-7800
Land Management, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
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**Need a Speaker?
Give Us a Call!**

www.oxbowinc.org
P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

