



September-October 2006

No. 121

WETLAND *matters*

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

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

Birdathon Donations to Fund Seasonal Flooding Project

While the Birdathon results from the teams with the highest counts were reported in the last issue of Wetland Matters, the results that really matter to all of us the most are just in: the winning team for the most money raised was the team of Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman, and Erich Baumgardner. They raised an astounding \$1,709.31. Jerry, Wayne and Erich are to be congratulated and we are very proud of all the effort they put in to obtain and collect their pledges. They are truly dedicated supporters of Oxbow, Inc. However Jerry, Wayne and Erich were not alone in raising big dollars. This was the year we took back the running of the Birdathon and this year we doubled the amount of our Birdathon Donations over the 2005 level. Thanks to Jay Stenger, Steve Pelikan, Anita Buck, Jim and Meg Poehlmann, the Birdathon Committee, for pulling it all together for Oxbow.

The Cash results for 2006 were a total of \$6,129.49 collected. WOW!!! The team results are listed below (beginning with the team that took in the most pledges), followed by the list of the individual donors. Thanks to all the donors. We literally could not have done anything without you.

- \$1,709.31 Jerry Lippert, Wayne Wauligman & Erich Baumgardner
- \$1,382.50 Paul Wharton, Jay & Jack Stenger & Joe Bens
- \$ 959.75 Jon Seymour, Bob Foppe, Don Morse & Jeff Burgess (Cincinnati Nature Center split)
- \$ 834.75 Charlie & Lauren Saunders, Mike Busam, Bob Lacker & Steve Pelikan
- \$ 550.25 The Founders (Karl Maslowski & George Laycock)
- \$ 507.50 Sister Marty Dermody & Katherine Miller
- \$ 40.43 Bill Stanley, Jerry Carter & Sandy Pence
- \$ 145.00 Entry Fees

Each and every team raising money is to be heartily congratulated. Each and every dollar will help finance the habi-

tat improvement project we have selected as Birdathon Project – Seasonal Flooding. A 15-20 acre area of current farmland has been selected and the Birdathon money will begin the project which will involve road improvements so that the road bed can act as a dam, additional culvert installation to prevent road damage, a flood control gate that would trap rain and flood waters to flood the field between harvest and planting. Previous observation of natural flood levels has shown this area to attract large numbers of herons and ducks during the winter when it is flooded. While the proceeds from the 2006 Birdathon may not be sufficient to complete the project they will certainly give us a lead coming out of the gate. We will start on the project as soon as possible in order to maximize the benefit of the controlled flooding.

Birdathon Donations 2006

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bill Anastasia | Matthew & Julie Harp |
| Wanda Apgar | Marie Holscher |
| Dorothy Bauer | John & Helen Hunter |
| Max & Sally Baumgardner | Jerry & Maureen Johnson |
| Herbert & Wilma Beigel | Everett & Susan Kitchen |
| John & Elaine Berninger | Bob & Patricia Lacker |
| Helen Black | Randy Lakes |
| Sister Ruth Bockenstette | George & Ellen Laycock |
| Jeanne & Therese Bocklage | Jay Lehman |
| Judy Bohn | Jerry & Pamela Lippert |
| Robert & Eveline Branan | Lawrence Lippert |
| Philip Brode, III | Wendell F. Long |
| Cincinnati Nature Center | Tim Mara |
| Kathleen Corneil | Dave Maslowski |
| Carolyn & Everett DeJager | Karl Maslowski |
| Barbara Denamur | Steve Maslowski |
| Sister Marty Dermody | Peter & Linda Maslowski |
| Robert & Nancy Detrick | Robert & Mary Maxwell |
| Christopher & Janet | Marie Kathleen McDonald |
| Dumford | Kani & Dave Meyer |
| Doc & Frances Eckstein | Caroline B. Miller |
| Ruth Epstein | Ken Miller & Bethia |
| Joan Franchi | Margoshes |
| Jeffrey Grothaus | |

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NAAMP by Wayne Wauligman

If any Oxbow members are interested in assisting with Indiana's Dearborn County North American Amphibian Project next Spring, please contact me at [wrvpgw\(at\)aol.com](mailto:wrvpgw(at)aol.com). Random driving and listening routes have been determined by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Evening trips will take place from early March through mid-Summer. Frog calls can be easily learned by such sites as this: http://www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA/frogs_state.cfm?showstate=in#frogs

Restricted Access to the Northeast Side of Oxbow Lake

The Board of Oxbow Inc. has voted to restrict access to the northeast side of Oxbow Lake. This move was made necessary by the excessive 4-wheel drive truck damage this spring to the agricultural fields on the northeast side of the lake. This is the portion of the Oxbow least visited by members but contains Mercer Pond, which is excellent for viewing waterfowl and wading birds. While it will no longer be open to vehicle traffic it will be accessible on foot. We have installed a gate across the causeway between Juno Pond and the cement plant pond. The gate will have a sign that says "No unauthorized vehicles beyond this point." Tour guides and select groups having business with Oxbow, Inc. will have keys to the gate so that tours will still be able to drive to Mercer Pond (road conditions permitting). This change is in line with the land use plan for the Oxbow area that will concentrate visitor vehicle traffic on the Oxbow Lake road on the southwest side of Oxbow Lake, connecting to the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District road and the Argosy exit. The Board regrets any inconvenience this may cause any members. If you have any questions regarding this change in policy, call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.



Website of Interest

<http://community-2.webtv.net/Velpics/HUM/>

BIRTH OF A HUMMINGBIRD—Hummingbird nest pictures all the way from the egg to leaving the nest. It took 24 days from birth to flight. Beautiful photos—be sure to click on NEXT PAGE at the bottom of each page; there are 5 pages in all.

Membership Fee Structure Changes

For the first time in our 21 years of existence we have changed our membership fee structure. We have eliminated the \$10 membership level. We have been looking at the costs to maintain an individual membership and we concluded that the \$10 membership level no longer provides a meaningful donation to the goals and vision of Oxbow, Inc. after the cost of maintaining the membership were subtracted. We felt every member of Oxbow, Inc. should feel that a significant portion of their membership donation was being used to further our mission and not just cover the cost of materials to administer their membership (envelops, letterhead, renewal envelops, stamps, bulk mailing costs, membership lists, labels, copy inks, membership brochures, printing costs and the newsletter). Our new minimum membership level is \$15. We have also changed the names of each level so to eliminate confusion over how much of your donation is deductible. Every membership dollar is deductible.

Announcement of Upcoming Elections

Board members and officers of Oxbow, Inc. will be elected at our January members meeting at EarthConnection at the College of Mt. St. Joseph on Tuesday, January 9, 2006. The following Board members are standing for reelection:

- Jerry Hon
- Jerry Lippert
- Aaron Perlman
- Jim Poehlmann
- Jon Seymour
- Mike Miller

The following officers are standing for reelection:

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

Birdathon Donations 2006 (cont.)

Michael Minium	Jon & Jackie Seymour
Bill Mitton	Anna Siemantel
Mockingbird Hill Farm	G. Southwind &
Chris Moran	R. Vagnieres
Betty Lu Myers	Bill & Tammie Stanley
David & Margaret O'Conner	Judie Stanley
Randy & Catherine	Lily Stanley
Oppenheimer	Peter & Cam Starrett
Aaron Perlman, M.D.	Paula Steenken
Timothy & Diana	Richard Todd
Peters, D.D.S.	Joan Carlson Walson
Marty Plumbo Jr. &	Brian Waltz
Eriko Onishi	Wayne Wauligman
Richard & Kelly Riccetti	Mr. & Mrs. H. Whitney
Patrick & Margaret Riley	Wharton
Mrs. Prickett C. Saunders	Jeff & Dorinda Whitsett
Charles & Mary Saunders	Marjorie Wieseman &
Lauren Saunders	Allen Wright
Nancy Saunders	Sarah Wigser
Seapine Software	

OXBOW, INC. PROGRAMS

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2006 7:30 PM
Live Raptors!

Earth Connection, College of Mount St. Joseph

Susan Williams of Raptor, Inc. will show several live birds of prey tonight, explaining what makes a raptor a raptor and why they are important.

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.

Tuesday, October 10th, 2006, 7:30 PM
Cape May Reflections

Lawrenceburg Public Library, Lawrenceburg, Indiana

Jon Seymour, Oxbow Inc.'s President, will give a talk on his recent May 2006 visit to Cape May and observations on birding and conservation in South Jersey. On the shore opposite from Atlantic City, in Delaware Bay, the Horseshoe Crabs dominate and shorebirds heading north time their migration to the eternal rhythm of the tides, the moon, and the crabs. For more information, call Jon at 513) 851-9835.

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.

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.

Great Outdoor Weekend

GET OUT!

Saturday September 23
and

Sunday September 24

Tours 9:00 am - 10:00 AM both days

Oxbow volunteers will guide tours to introduce participants to the wonders of the Oxbow. The Great Outdoor weekend features over 50 outdoor events in the Greater Cincinnati Area. Don't miss this opportunity to see what is going on in the Oxbow.

Friday, October 6th, 2006, 6 PM – 9 PM
Birds and Beavers

Meet Wayne Wauligman, local naturalist, for this search for migrating birds, and to watch at dusk for the beavers to come out. Who knows what else you will find? Wayne may stay as late as 9 PM to watch the beavers, but feel free to leave earlier if you like. Don't miss your chance to visit the Oxbow with a knowledgeable guide before the wonderful month of October slips away. Meet at the Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant. For more information, call Wayne at 922-4430, or email to wrvpgw@aol.com.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



by Dave Styer

To the Oxbow and Back

Having been away for two years, Jon Seymour talked me into attending the Oxbow picnic and Board meeting in July. Jane and I decided to fly from San Jose, California to Indianapolis and rent a car from there. On the way to San Jose, a Great-tailed Grackle flew across the road in front of us. It was the first one we had seen in Santa Cruz County. I think they have been moving north for a good bit of a century, and they are still spreading northward.

We landed in Indianapolis at 10:30 p.m. in a light rain. By the time we rented a car and got onto I-74, it was raining cats and dogs. Like everyone else, we pulled over for awhile. What a contrast between here and Monterey where the dry season lasts from May until October without much, if any, rain. In my imagination I could see this rain filling all the lakes in Indiana. We arrived at our motel past 12:30 a.m., and it was 1:30 before we could settle down to go to bed.

When we got out the following morning, we marveled at the lush, green vegetation – so different from where we live. Of course, the plant growth is a result of all that rain.

That afternoon, we rode down to Boone County Cliffs with Dave Dister. The diversity of butterflies, especially large, colorful swallowtails, flying all along the entrance road was a joy to see. I remembered comments by the twentieth century's most famous birdman, Roger Tory Peterson, at his last public talk in Cincinnati. He said how nice it was to see butterflies in town. Even though they were mostly cabbage whites (an alien species), it certainly beat seeing no butterflies, the way it was now in many U.S. cities.

We stopped briefly at the Oxbow where Dave wanted to identify dragonflies. Oxbow Inc's transition from acquisition to stewardship was immediately apparent. There was a fine, brand new entrance sign, a neat little parking area, and the trash clean-up was immense.

The next morning, Jane and I went to Shawnee Lookout, the upper part of the Oxbow area. Many birds were singing. What a joy to see all these woodpeckers, flycatchers, vireos, wrens, warblers, flocks of waxwings, etc. We got good looks at a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and a Pileated Woodpecker. I watched a beautiful Yellow-throated Warbler that went to the ground to feed. In California I miss the Wood Thrushes more than any other bird, so it was great to hear a fine thrush chorus. I tried in vain to show Jane some warblers that would be new to her life list. Prothonotary Warblers were not to be heard. Although two or three Cerulean Warblers were singing, we never saw one. Jane did get a good look at a male American Redstart near the base of Miami Fort Trail, and I heard two or three others. It's nice to know that Hamilton County's first restart population is doing well.

At 2 o'clock that afternoon, we joined the butterfly inventory at the Wetlands of Miami Whitewater Forest. Charlie Saunders and Steve Pelikan generally run this inventory, but today Anita Buck and Denis Conover joined in. Denis combined this with his on-going plant inventory. The area was massively in bloom, mostly with the prairie flower species planted by the Hamilton County Park District. That was great for the butterflies and us. We recorded 23 butterfly species, the largest number so far this year.

The next morning, Jon gave Jane and me the Cook's Tour of the Oxbow. The new under-the-road pipes to make the farm roads more useable are impressive. The new sign turned out to be nearly two years old. That's impressive! I remember when a sign in the area would be lucky to last for two months. We walked to the new Oxbow overlook located in a better position than the old one. There we sat on the fine bench and talked as we watched cormorants and herons and egrets. There is always so much to do and so much happening. Jon mentioned the mixed success with controlled burns - some wouldn't burn. A little central California climate would neatly take care of that problem. Jon expressed the idea of National Wildlife Refuges as a model for Oxbow stewardship. That seems really appropriate. Surely, I, and many of the founders of Oxbow, Inc. saw the National Wildlife Refuges as a model. Without doubt the late Karl Maslowski was asking about this as a possibility before he passed his hat to collect the funds to form Oxbow, Inc. As we walked back toward the entrance a Blue Grosbeak was singing. This bird is infrequent enough in the Cincinnati area that we really take notice. One or two had been seen in the same area a few days earlier. Did they nest here this year?

We finished the Oxbow tour with a brief stop by the Argosy Casino. Things look very good there, excluding a disturbing take-back by Argosy of some conservation land. Denis Conover has to be really pleased at the acquisition of the Whitacre property; some of his most exciting plant discoveries were down along the Ohio River.

I can never think of a tour of the Oxbow without thinking of the late Morris Mercer, Mr. Oxbow. He first showed me the ins and outs of getting around in the area. I went on numerous walks he led where he would cross the Ohio River on I-275, turn around at the first Kentucky exit, bypass the one Indiana exit, and get off I-275 at the Kilby Road exit in Ohio, and work his way back to the Oxbow. Morris always called this "the three state tour."

Later in the week we met at the Shawnee Lookout for the Oxbow, Inc. picnic/board meeting. It was great to see lots of old friends. The next morning we drove back to Indianapolis by way of Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. It's a wonderful place, even in the pouring rain. Jane must think it rains all the time in central Indiana. Our flights were delayed, and we got to California much later than anticipated although safe and sound. The worst part about the trip was all the people I wanted to see and didn't. We'll need to another trip to Cincinnati to correct this!



by Jon Seymour

"To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet: one need only own a shovel." Aldo Leopold, 1943

You will have to suffer with me since I am reviewing my knowledge of Aldo Leopold by reading a few books. Aldo Leopold basically invented the science of ecology at the University of Wisconsin during the 1930s and 1940s. My own learning is a product of that culture as I was taught my ecology at the University of Wisconsin by the students of Aldo Leopold in the 1970s. This quote struck me as very relevant to Oxbow, Inc. This organization was not formed and perpetuated by gods and poets, it has been populated by people who own shovels.

We are preparing for a few shovel projects that I hope will bring a major improvement to the ecology of the Oxbow area. First we have granted an easement to the State of Indiana to plant a one-half mile long, 50 foot wide strip

of trees and shrubs along the southern shore of Oxbow Lake. This is a mitigation project for destruction of habitat during the construction of Hwy. 48 in Indiana. Oxbow benefits by fulfilling a design that we began many years ago to increase the buffer area between the road and the agricultural fields and the edge of the lake. The additional cover will protect the privacy of the birds feeding, resting and nesting on the south half of Oxbow Lake. The increased depth of edge between the lake and the agricultural fields will provide very high quality edge habitat with two prime edge qualities: water/trees and shrubs, trees and shrubs/agricultural fields, and both within 70 feet of each other. I can hardly wait to see the effect, but as trees go and grow I will have to wait a bit to rejoice.

Our second project is the direct result of your shovels, when you all shoveled out your pockets to donate nearly \$6,000 to the 2006 Birdathon. Here our plan is to begin building a dike and water control structure to create a seasonally flooded habitat in the middle of a large agricultural field. This type of flooding is very exciting and should lead to increased shorebird habitat and migrating and wintering duck habitat. We will be able to flood the fields to a shallow depth and then before each planting season drop the water level to allow agricultural use. After the crops are harvested we will again flood the area and maintain a shallow water level until spring. All it takes now is for someone to bring the shovel.





The volunteer group for the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami get ready to brave 90F heat and matching humidity. *(Photo by Jon Seymour)*



After 2 hours steaming and melting in the Oxbow the tired Clean Sweep of the Great Miami volunteers haul out their treasure load of rubber, steel and plastic. Hopefully this treasure trove will never see the river again. *(Photo by Jon Seymour)*



The crew working on the Whitacre frontage on the Ohio River finishes the day with four pick-up truck loads of tires and trash and a powerful thirst for liquid to replenish their bodies. *(Photo by Cammie Seymour)*



Dave Styer, founding member of Oxbow, Inc., and current Board President, Jon Seymour examine the recent changes and improvements in the Oxbow. Dave, a current Oxbow, Inc. Board Member, was visiting with his wife Jane from their home in California. *(photo by Jane Styer)*



A barrel cemetery has formed along the Whitacre property on the north shore of the Ohio River. As it turns to flow south, the current of the river, tends to deposit trash and flotsam on the north bank while the south bank, Kentucky, shore remains relatively clean. The "retired" Peace Corp Volunteer group gathered them all up. *(Photo by Cammie Seymour)*



This immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron was photographed by Jeff Rowe. This rare sight in the Oxbow was seen and photographed by others but Jeff's photo is the first and the best.



Ron Kolde and Ron Ison haul what appears to be a fuel tank from a gas stove up from the Ohio River bank to be hauled away. (Photo by Cammie Seymour)



Patience and luck brought this Prothonotary Warbler in front of the lens of Lana Hays during a photo trip to the Oxbow. The Prothonotary Warbler is the common breeding warbler in the Oxbow and its beauty often goes unappreciated by those that are not watching for it.



Ron Kolde decides there is not much to watch on TV while cleaning the Ohio River bank under the I-275 bridge. The work crew split into two groups, one concentrating on the Ohio shore near the Interstate bridge and the other working the shore on the former Whitacre property. (photo by Cammie Seymour)



Volunteers from the "Retired" Peace Corp Volunteer Group haul tires out of the Ohio River along the north bank. The north bank has a low sandy beach backed by a 15 foot high cut away embankment making access to the beach possible in only a few locations. (Photo by Cammie Seymour)



Oxbow President, Jon Seymour, sorts trash from driftwood along the Ohio River shoreline on the former Whitacre property. (Photo by Cammie Seymour)

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

.....by Jon Seymour

It is Monday, July 24, just before 9:00 AM and I am just pulling into the Oxbow parking area in Hardintown. This day has been in the planning for several weeks and I am anxious to get started. I am just getting out of my car when Dave and Jane Styer drive up in their rental car. Dave and Jane are on "vacation" from Moss Landing, California (near Monterey) and have come to Cincinnati. (Seems like it should be the other way around!) Dave is a founding member of Oxbow, Inc., sits on the Board of Oxbow, Inc., and is of course a feature writer for Wetland Matters. I have not seen Dave since he moved to California about 4 years ago and I have never met Jane. I am excited because I want to show Dave what we have accomplished in the last few years and discuss our future plans.

Dave and I have been in communication by e-mail for years since he keeps track of the activities of the board and receives the agendas via e-mail and votes when we have e-mail ballots. Dave is very up to date on Oxbow, Inc. activities but I want to get his reaction to the subtle changes we have made as well as the major ones. Our first visit is out to Mercer Pond and a discussion of mudflat restoration and the new higher levels of Oxbow Lake due to active beavers. Jane is with us and is more excited by the Green Herons than I am, but they are far less common in California. I remember how much I enjoyed showing Kingfishers and Blue Jays to a couple visiting from the Netherlands. Exotic is all in what you are used to. We make it back to the parking area and Jane has to leave us to "work" on the phone from the rental car. Seems like she is able to "vacation" less than she would have liked, but that is how things are done these days.

Dave and I walk down to the Oxbow Lake Overlooks and we discuss the effect of the culverts on the condition of the roads, the development of the prairie at Osprey Lake, growth of vegetation on the islands in the lake, development of a drive through the Oxbow, the seasonal flooding project funded by the Birdathon, and the mitigation project. I am pleased that Dave approves of our activity and is especially excited by the seasonal flooding project, the prairie and Osprey Lake restoration, and the Oxbow Lake edge mitigation project. Dave comments on the variety of habitats, wildlife and the changes we are making to increase the potential quality of the oxbow habitat.

At the Alex Rowe Eagle Scout project we sit on the benches and reminisce on how far Oxbow, Inc. has come in 20 years. I remind Dave that Jack and Jay Stenger reported a pair of Blue Grosbeaks near these

benches two weeks earlier. A rare sighting for the Oxbow! We are alert for another sighting but nothing comes from it. We start walking back and on the edge of Osprey Lake, Dave turns suddenly and says, "Isn't that the Blue Grosbeak, now!" High in the trees between Osprey Lake and Oxbow Lake a single Blue Grosbeak is serenading us.

Returning to the parking area we pick up Jane and head for the Argosy entrance where we discuss the new substation, the railroad track project, the development of the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District's (LCDs) prairie, and working with Argosy to enhance the Oxbow during their future expansion construction. We have been in the Oxbow for nearly two and one half hours and while we saw the Great Blue and Green Herons and the Great Egret all at Juno Pond when we first started in the morning, we have not seen a single Black-crowned Night Heron. I tell Dave that one has been hanging around the LCDs slough that leads to the Ohio River. We approach the end of the slough and sure enough there is an adult Black-crowned Night Heron about 35 yards up the slough. I silently thank the bird gods since, while always possible this time of year to see all four heron species, it is not ever guaranteed. While just walking and talking we have racked up over 40 species of birds including the Blue Grosbeak and all four heron species.

The three of us adjourn to Lawrenceburg's Aca-pulco Restaurant for a great Mexican lunch and great conversation. This is the nature of the Oxbow experience: another day in the Oxbow ends with good times, good friends and memories for a lifetime.

Sunday, August 6, 2006

.....by Denis Conover

Theresa Glaser and I put her canoe into Oxbow Lake at the overlook parking lot around 10:30 Sunday morning. We decide to paddle along the west shore towards the southern side of Oxbow Lake. In this part of the lake and at this time of year the water is only a couple of feet deep. It is a great location to see wading birds and we see Great Egrets, Green Herons, Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons, as well as Cormorants, Mallards and lots of Wood Ducks. It would be easy to fill the canoe with large carp if I had a net and were so inclined. After about 15 minutes I see two River Otters approaching the canoe at a distance of about 100 ft. They disappear under the water and reappear swimming away from the canoe. They dove again and after that I did not see them anymore. I had been hoping to see otters in the Oxbow area for the past few years. I always thought that a great place to see them would be by Flannery Island at the mouth of the Great Miami River. Ever since Jon Seymour reported seeing a couple in the lake several months ago I have been on the lookout for otters. It was a thrill to finally see them.

Travels with Maggie

(With No Apologies to Charlie or John)

*A Moving Story by an Octogenarian
....by Jeanne K. Bocklage*

Day 1: Monday, August 15, 2005 (22 Miles)

She was born in Texas and now after ten years, she's going home. She could relieve Beau or me in the driver's seat (we're headed for Austin from Cincinnati) but her legs are too short. She does have the brain though in that little doggie head of hers.

Maggie's not exactly going home. Her birthplace was Houston. The three of us are headed for my daughter Paula's place, a temporary haven en route to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I am moving to live with my daughter, Therese (Tee). Originally Maggie was Tee's pet but when Tee felt she was neglecting the puppy because of long work days, my husband, Bill, and I were happy to give Miss Maggie a home.

As we begin our journey, the odometer reads 48340 on my 11-year-old Ford Explorer, packed not quite to the roof. I've sold my Cincinnati home and unneeded furniture. The mover loaded the van this morning, mine the last addition after a Las Vegas and two California cargoes and will be the first unloaded at an Albuquerque storage company. All my things will be stored until Tee's new house in the High Desert area is completed.

It has been a traumatic time since May when I put my Churchwood home on the market. Traumatic for Maggie and for me. Mags currently is wearing an "Elizabethan collar" (that makes her eligible for supporting Shakespearean roles) to keep her from licking her left foot and taking an antibiotic for an eye infection, both, according to the vet, caused by stress. Me? When I'm stressed, my appetite dwindles except for sweets. Pass me another Milky Way, please.

Maggie is an experienced traveler -- by car and plane. If only she could accumulate Frequent Flyer points! Delta will not fly warm-blooded pets in cargo if the temperature is above 85 degrees at any point of the flight. Since Mags is too big to take in the cabin and since Cincinnati in August isn't exactly Siberia and Austin could well reach 100, we had no choice but to drive. So my grandson, Beau, came to my rescue.

Incidentally, a U.S. Department of Transportation law now requires airlines to report how many pets are killed, injured or lost on flights each month. The first reports issued in July and the second this month, list a total of nine pets killed, nine injured and two lost. All except one were dogs or cats.

Back to the trip diary at hand. Beau, Paula's son, is 27, flew in two days ago equipped with "custom-made" tapes for the long car ride and made this worrisome day sunnier. We are spending the night at my sister's-in-law condo in Florence. Kay fed us one of her specialties, chicken breasts in sour cream, to start this trip in the perfect mood. Mags has

her traveling kennel and feels quite at home. In fact, she's snug inside as I write.

Day 2: Tuesday, August 16, 2005 (398 Miles)

"On the road, again." Beau and I reminisce about the trailer trip to the Grand Canyon which Bill, Beau and I undertook when Beau was almost ten and lived outside Memphis. I liked playing Willie Nelson's peppy tune then so Beau this time around taped a string of Texas country swing (his description) including "The Road" to surprise me but a further surprise occurred. My tape player isn't working.

Nothing saddens Beau these days. He's blissfully happy. A graduate of U.T. Law School, he has returned to class for a Ph.D. in history and will be married come March to a lovely young lady named Megan.

Maggie is ensconced on two thirds of the back seat, her small allotted space for this journey, but she's happy just to be going wherever I'm going. The rolling green hills of I-71 to Louisville are veiled in a magician's mist and an occasional cloud drops a splash of water on the countryside. When Mags was young, she barked at working windshield wipers. Lucky for us, she outgrew that habit. At Derby Town the skies really open up and I can hardly see to drive. Beau says, "Good that you're driving, Gramere, I don't have much experience in rain-driving living in Texas." Great.

We fill up at Franklin near the Tennessee border. Gas is \$2.46 per gallon. Gasoline prices soared over \$2 a gallon for the first time this summer, scaring most of us as to where the price would top out. Beau takes the wheel and works through some heavy traffic and the three of us fill up at a Wendy's. We shouldn't be hungry after Kay's bacon-&-eggs and the mid-morning fix of Graeter's doughnuts but we are. We eat in the car since we can't leave Maggie in an oven while we dine in cool comfort.

The sprinkles continue off and on but aren't a bother. Mags enjoys checking out the history of previous visitors at the rest area dog walks. We admire the wooded look of western Tennessee and spend the night at Jackson but not before discussing Bernard Cornwell, Louis L'Amour, Ann Patchett, the space movie *Serenity*, the Civil War, Paris, Robert Earl Kiene and many other topics as well as the plight of learning a few dance steps for the bride's and groom's solo performance at the wedding reception.

A day or two before this trip began, a box arrived by Federal Express from my daughter Cam in California. Inside was a box of Nestle treats for Beau and me, a bag of Beggin Strips for Miss Maggie and a New Mexico Passport with a loving note saying, "Mom, you always prepared surprise packages for us on our vacation trips so here's one for you." The passport reads: "Poor New Mexico, so far from Heaven and so close to Texas." It has this hint for pedestrians: "Look both ways when crossing a one-way street."

The Jamison Inn is pleasant. There's a \$10.00 charge for Maggie. Back in 1957 on the Bocklage family's first western trip, we got a room for the family, four of us, for that or less. For dinner, Beau says Corky's Bar-B-Q is a must and he makes the run. My taste buds reacted negatively but there's always tomorrow. Mags enjoyed her taste and then heads for her kennel.

(to be continued.....)

Clean Sweep of the Great Miami

.....by Jon Seymour

On July 15, 2006 the mercury soared to 90+ degrees and the humidity kept pace. Ten brave volunteers showed up for the Clean Sweep of the Great Miami. A week earlier, Kani Meyer, Steve Pelikan and I had walked the banks of the Great Miami, on the Oxbow property, and found only a small amount of trash. Most of the trash coming down the river seems to collect on the west side of the I-275 Bridge. While I was happy to see the area so clean I was disappointed in that we would not be able to have the volunteers work along this stretch of the Great Miami so they could experience the beauty of the area.

We formulated plan B, which is what brought Steve, my wife Jackie and me to the Oxbow entrance to await any volunteers that might come. The others that came were Rick Pope (Rick brought the truck and trailer to haul out the trash), Lon Green, Melissa Green, Ted Scheall, Christine Hadley, Ted Zheng, and James Mason. We all gathered and after a photo of everyone looking fresh and clean, we headed out to the west slope of I-275 along the Corning Easement. The area was shaded which was essential since it felt like a 15 degree difference between our clean up efforts in the woods and stepping out onto the farm road to load the trailer. We have never had a clean up crew in this area of the Oxbow before so the main findings were tires. In an hour and a half of clean-up the crew was able to bring in about 100 tires, and a large amount of assorted trash. We consumed an average of two bottles of water each provided by the organizers of the Clean Sweep. Thank you very much! We hauled everything back to the dumpster donated by Rumpke and sorted the tires to the side and the trash into the dumpster. By this time we were no longer fresh and clean but more like wilted and dirty. However, we were all very proud of the job we had done to help clean the flood plain of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers.



The Hunting Side of Conservation

.....by Jon Seymour



Our two educational meetings in July and August have focused on hunting. While many of our members are not hunters and some are strongly opposed to the concept, there is no denying that we would have lost much of what we value in the environment if it was not for conservation funded by hunters. Oxbow, Inc. allows hunting and fishing on portions of our property which makes us very different from most private nature conservation organizations. Similarly, we are not an exclusive hunting or fishing club since we have restrictions and limits on those activities. We balance hunting, fishing, and agricultural practices with hiking, butterfly watching, biking, bird watching, kayaking, and plant appreciation. Most members have no idea of how unique this makes us and the special challenges that it brings.

In July, Josh Zientek, Ohio Conservation Officer for Hamilton County, presented a great program showing the various projects of the Ohio Division of Natural Resources that effect Hamilton County. Josh reviewed the duties of a conservation officer and told some tales from the field, renewing the saying that "truth is stranger than fiction". In August, John Klein, Land Manager for Hamilton County Parks, reviewed their deer population control project. In the last 4 years over 2000 deer have been removed from the parks. The health of the forest in areas where the population has been reduced to the recommended 20 per square mile is already recovering. However, only a few of the parks like Sharon Woods and Winton Woods have reached this level. Since deer are an animal that can eat themselves into starvation and in the process destroy a forest for many other species, this controlled hunting is necessary to preserve the Hamilton County Parks as a place for all species. Important to many is that these deer do not go to waste. The program has provided a quarter of million meals to an approved list of homeless shelters in the Cincinnati area.

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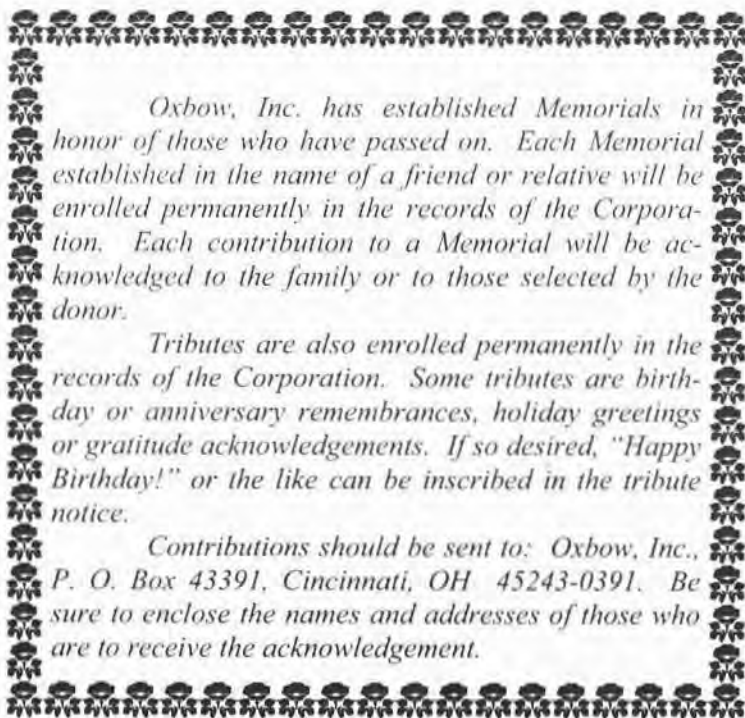


From Earl Thirey (Alpharetta, GA)

We can all be thankful for the life of Karl Maslowski and for his role in the formation of Oxbow, Inc. This organization will continue to reflect the ideals of sound conservation practices and the environmental concerns that he practiced.

From Ahmad, Jeff and Jean Moustafa

Karl Maslowski did so much to make us all aware of our planet. He contributed significantly to our environment around Cincinnati.



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.

Karl Maslowski: a trail blazer

.....by Marjorie Burress

Back around 1935, as a seventh grader at Taylor High School (North Bend), I was first made aware of the unique surroundings at the mouth of the Great Miami. Charles T. Young, our school superintendent, introduced us to Karl Maslowski, a young wildlife photographer. Karl had "discovered" the bottom land along these rivers were great flocks of ducks gathered. He came to our student assemblies, lectured and showed slides of beautiful birds he had photographed right there in our own backyard. For those programs we paid 5 cents. As time passed, we came to know more about Karl by reading his columns in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

In 1970, after reading my simple account of local history, Karl wrote: "To think of all the time I spent down there taking pictures of birds when I could have been studying to be President."

Karl Maslowski was a trail blazer. With Morris Mercer and others, he helped found Oxbow, an organization dedicated to the protection of plants and wildlife along the wetlands of the Ohio and Great Miami. He will be remembered.



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 know 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.**

Prothonotary Warbler	\$ 15	Wood Duck	\$ 25
Great Blue Heron	\$ 50	Green-winged Teal	\$100
Great Egret	\$250	Osprey	\$500
Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

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