



May – June 2008

No. 131

WETLAND *matters*

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

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

Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

A Gift from Heaven

We have received another gift from the estate of Jinny (Wiseman) Witte. This gift apparently comes from Heaven since Jinny has been our own personal angel since her death last August. First she left us a share of her charitable trust amounting to over \$100,000 which the Board has reserved to fund nature education in the Tristate area in honor of Jinny and her first husband, Art Wiseman. Recently Jinny's estate was divided and Oxbow, Inc. received an endowment package worth over \$1,500,000.

Jinny set up the endowment package so that it was to remain under the control of investment bankers for 10 years following her death. Among the restrictions are that Oxbow, Inc. will receive the interest and dividends generated by the fund on a quarterly basis during the year. In addition, Oxbow, Inc. may annually withdraw 5% of the value of the fund if we desire. At the end of the 10 years the entire fund is controlled by Oxbow, Inc.

This gift has come to us with some very wise rules of use and gives us 10 years to learn how to be wise stewards of an invested endowment. Since we have never before managed funds other than through a money market account we may need all of those 10 years, that Jinny has provided, to learn.

An endowment of this size goes a long way to assuring the perpetuity of the Organization. One of the greatest threats to organizations such as Oxbow, Inc. is loss of mission, loss of member support, and finally loss of sufficient funding to remain alive. Properly managed the income from this fund could go a long way toward assuring permanent stability for the organization long into the future.

Our mission remains unchanged and clear – protect and improve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and the Ohio Rivers. We have been extraordinarily successful but there are still hundreds of acres of the floodplain needing protection. Our member support is strong but needs to grow. Many of our members joined in the first years of the organization and many have moved away or have passed away like Jinny and Art. We have had many new members in the last few years but they have just kept the numbers even with only slight gains versus a few years ago when we were at our membership low. Our funding is in excellent shape but our financial position prior to Jinny's endowment was not sufficient to purchase the remaining land and still have sufficient funds left over to maintain and improve the property. Now the funds derived from our farming operations along with the funds from the endowment should be sufficient to assure operating capital and allow us to focus on accumulating funding to complete the purchase of the remaining acres of the floodplain.

All in all, not a bad present, better than Pennies from Heaven. Of course we had an angel in our corner. Thanks Jinny and don't forget to thank Art for us too.

Birdathon May 9-10, 2008

Support for the Birdathon goes directly for habitat and access improvement in the Oxbow. This is a wonderful way to have a direct impact on improving habitat for the birds, mammals, turtles, salamanders, frogs, butterflies, and numerous other beasties. Not only that, the improvement of access allows more people to experience the value of being close to nature more often. See the pledge form on page 3 to make a donation to the Birdathon, or if you want to participate see the team participation form on page 3. Either way participate, and have some fun.

Contest!

See the Contest Picture on Page 7. Write down what you think this is a picture of and what caused it. Send your entry to Jon Seymour, 854 Ligorio Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45218. We had this photo in the last newsletter but we did not get any entries. This is a neat photo so I really hope we get some guesses. **Don't be shy!**

A New Place to Call HOME

The Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. has recently rented its first place to call home. With the aid of a grant from the Earl and Florence Simmonds Foundation specifically given to offset the cost of renting a facility, we have rented 301 Walnut Street in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. This downtown location, owned by the Knights of Columbus, is kitty corner from the city administration building and across the street from the Dearborn County Visitor's Bureau. The Knights of Columbus are currently busy remodeling the store front to meet our needs.

With the acquisition of a home we will have a place for the Board to meet, a place for member meetings, a place for educational groups to visit, a visible presence in downtown Lawrenceburg, a place to display and utilize the several collections we have been gifted with over the years, a place to showcase the progress we have made and the plans we have for the future, and finally have a place to consolidate all the various pieces of Oxbow, Inc. and our history that have accumulated in multiple basements all over the Tristate area.

You will hear more about these exciting developments later as they unfold. Needless to say, this is a major new step for Oxbow, Inc. and we will be learning the many ways we can take advantage of our new home to further the mission of Oxbow, Inc. – to preserve and improve the floodplain of the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers.



Oak Heritage Conservancy Update

Former Oxbow President, John Miller, brought us up to date on the status of the recently formed Oak Heritage Conservancy. OHC is a land trust serving several counties in southeastern Indiana. In its short existence the OHC has already acquired several plots of land that will now be preserved – safe from development. Many of these acres contain excellent examples of old growth trees as well as wildflowers. John brought aerial photos of these areas so we could get an excellent feel for the properties as well as some on the ground photos so we would get to know some of the restoration activities they are doing. The OHC is our nearest sister land trust in Indiana and we share with them the goal of preserving the natural heritage of the area.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials & Honorariums

Donor

Roy & Jane Bernzott
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Do & Bill Kuhlman
Bob & Tina Schlegel
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Jon & Jackie Seymour

In Memory of

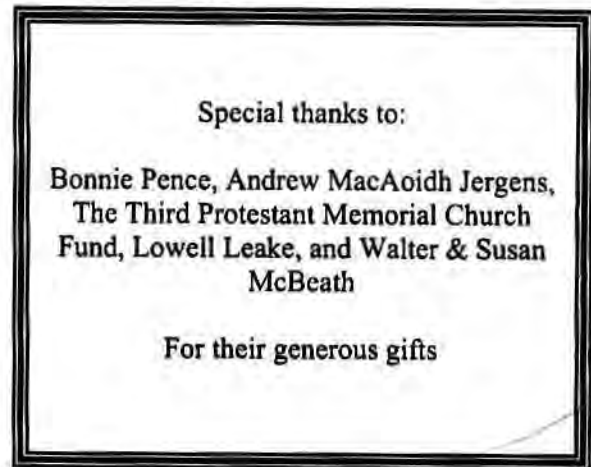
Michael Braun
Michael Braun
Jinny Witte (Wiseman)
Morris "Bud" Stoneking
M. Duane Garner
Norma Flannery
Ruth E. Bien
Morris Mercer
Norma Flannery

Donor

Paul & Nancy Heisel

In Honor of

Howard Gieringer's
90th Birthday



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.

Birdathon Participation Form

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
- Or Make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in a 24 hour time window we will probably accept it.

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 Jay Stenger:

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

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

Birdathon Pledge Form for

Birdathon 2008

(May 9-10, 2008)

Name _____

Address _____

My Pledge for Birdathon 2008 is:

Fixed Amount: \$ _____

() Check enclosed

() Bill me after the Birdathon

If you elect a fixed pledge please specify below which team the pledge is for.

Per Species Pledge: (Circle One, you will be billed after the Birdathon):

\$ 5.00 \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00 \$0.75 \$0.50

\$0.25 Other \$ _____

My Pledge is to Support the following Oxbow, Inc. Team

_____ Highest Scoring Team

_____ Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger & Joe Bens

_____ Team #2 – Erich Baumgardner & Wayne Wauligman

_____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody & Katherine Miller

_____ Team #4 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

_____ Team #5 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

_____ Team #6 - Mike Busam, Steve Pelikan & Jeff Brown

_____ Team #7 -John Leon, Sarah Leon & Evan Leon

_____ Team #8 -Jay Lehman & Randy Lakes

Make checks payable to Oxbow, Inc. All donations to the Birdathon are tax deductible.

Mail To: Jon Seymour
854 Ligorio Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45218

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Saturday, March 29, 2008

A Rare (Gull) Tax Break

by Jay Stenger

All of us can be defined in numerous ways and by many terms. For instance gender, age, relationship, or by what we do for a living are all just a few examples of how any of us might be defined. Now me, I'm a book-keeper and tax preparer by trade, but in my own eyes and heart I am always first and foremost a "birder". At times those two pursuits get in the way of each other. Quite often the responsible choice doesn't always win; sometimes I actually choose work! As you might imagine in the tax business, this conflict of mine is most evident in March and early April. Not only is it tax season but it's also spring migration. Waterfowl, water birds and a host of other early spring migrants are on the move and at peak during this period. And during this season I can't imagine a better local spot to witness this migration than in the Oxbow and the Lower Great Miami River Valley.

So that was my situation this past Saturday, March 29th. After a workweek of overtime-filled days and nights, I still needed to work the weekend to keep up. So there I was at my desk at 3:00 PM Saturday afternoon, after a day of crunching numbers, when my loving (and extremely tolerant) wife Paula comes in and tells me I should take a break and get out and go birding for a little bit. Paula and I have been together for even longer than the almost 30 years I have considered myself a "serious" birder. Over the years she has shown great tolerance towards my obsession with birds and although she has picked up a lot from our 20-year-old son Jack (who is also a devoted birder) and me over the years, she is nowhere near our level of fascination on the subject. So when she offered to go birding with me that Saturday evening, the deal was sealed, and we were out the door in 5 minutes. Because Winton Woods is close to my home, I went there to look at the always-productive Settling Pond. As good as it was, that's a pretty quick stop and I had pretty much seen all that I was going to after a 20-minute look and I was already thinking of having to return to my paper filled desk when Paula said, "Why don't we drive down to the Oxbow." I love that woman. Thirty minutes later we were in the Oxbow.

The recent flood of the week before had receded considerably but the Oxbow proper was still entirely under water and pretty much inaccessible. There was still a lot of water in the farm fields in the valley north to Lost Bridge and Elizabethtown Rd. however (this area is considered part of the Oxbow by birders and many others), and to the determined explorer much of it can be seen from various vantage points. The recent flood had left a

lot of shallow sky pools and temporary ponds in the fields throughout the valley, which is fairly typical during March. And most of these pools were loaded with birds that evening, especially ducks and gulls.

Anyone who knows birds and the Oxbow expects a diversity of ducks, water birds and even an eagle or two in the Oxbow during a March flood event. That's a no-brainer. But I certainly had no great expectations of rare birds during my short visit that evening, heck I hadn't even expected to be in the Oxbow at all just two hours earlier. So it was quite a surprise to me when I found a very rare bird for our region, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and even more surprised when I saw another and yet another. Three Lesser Black-backed Gulls!

Paula and I had already hit several spots when I turned east off of US 50 onto the dirt road that leads past the old Miller Cemetery and through the I-275 underpass. Just on the other side of the underpass the road is blocked by a gate, but from here you can view the large fields and a fairly large and close sky pool that always forms at the base of the raised expressway. Our attention was immediately drawn to two immature Bald Eagles that were standing in the shallow water taking advantage of the numerous small fish that were trapped in the pool after the floodwaters receded. That scene made the outing worth the effort right there. The eagles were very close and easy to see. They eventually got up and flew around a little before they headed over to the river. Needless to say their presence had left few other occupants in the pool although there were hundreds of Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls and several Herring Gulls milling about throughout the area. As I began scanning the sky pool after the eagles had left, I came upon a large gull feeding on a fish that I immediately believed was a Lesser Black-backed Gull. It was in its 1st winter plumage (not yet an adult). I had to be careful with this identification because immature gull plumages can be tricky and Lesser Black-backed Gulls are considered accidental in this part of the country. On the other hand, they do occasionally show up regionally on our rivers and large lakes during migration and somewhat less so in the winter. After studying the bird carefully for 10 minutes and then consulting my Sibley Field Guide I became certain of the identification. Paula was pleased with my excitement over the rare gull but her interest in the finer points of gull identification is sorely lacking. In the mean time more and more gulls were coming into the large pool, probably because the eagles were no longer there, and I thought I glimpsed another Lesser Black-backed Gull in flight. But after a quick binocular scan of the area I didn't see anything noticeably different and blew it off to wishful thinking. I returned to my scope and saw that the original bird was still in the same spot were I last saw it. While I was watching this bird through my scope, another gull came into my field of view, alit, and began squabbling with the original gull. Much to my amaze-

Horseshoe Bottoms (cont. from pg 4)

ment it was a second 1st winter Lesser Black-backed Gull. When these two finally settled down, a third joined them! There, in my scopes field of view, were three 1st winter Lesser Black-backed Gulls, all carbon copies of each other, lined up in a close row sided by side. To a birder, it's times like these that keep your juices flowing.

As one who makes an effort to stay up on the bird records from the Oxbow, it occurred to me that this might be a first Oxbow record for this species. Later on I was able to confirm that this was in fact the case. Because Lesser Black-backed Gulls have been reported in our region from a few locations along the Ohio River and at some of our large regional reservoirs you might say that this species was expected in the Oxbow. In fact, it is quite likely this species has passed through the Oxbow before, maybe even regularly, and just not been seen or identified by anyone. It was just a matter of time until someone was lucky enough to see one.

When I returned home that night I got the word out through the local birding network. At least one Lesser Black-backed Gull was still present the following morning. My good friend and Oxbow Inc. patron, Paul Wharton, found one Lesser Black-backed Gull in that same spot on Sunday morning, March 30, before heavy rain cut his visit short. There were three immature Bald Eagles on that same sky pool when he arrived.

One of the many great aspects of birding is the excitement that comes with the possibility of seeing something rare or unusual. The Oxbow has always had a great reputation for attracting rare species of birds and you just never know what surprise might await you on your next visit. Even if that visit is just a quick spur of the moment break to get away from the monotony of work for a while.

Monday, March 10, 2008

Jay's Lovely Family Life: Part II

"Hip" Youth Birds the Oxbow with Loving Father

by Jack Stenger

On March 10 I had the pleasure to spend the day birding the Oxbow with my father, Jay Stenger. It is somewhat odd describing the outing because we spent very little time in the Oxbow itself. Our trip coincided with the annual spring flood of the Ohio and Great Miami River Valleys - a time when the Oxbow is practically inaccessible - so we spent most of the day checking all the low-lying fields along the rivers. These fields were flooded and were a boon for gulls and ducks. Although we hardly set foot on Oxbow property I still feel it's correct to refer to the area as the Oxbow. The Oxbow is the heart of the flooded bottoms and without it the surrounding habitat would be fragmented and less appealing to its outstanding wildlife diversity.

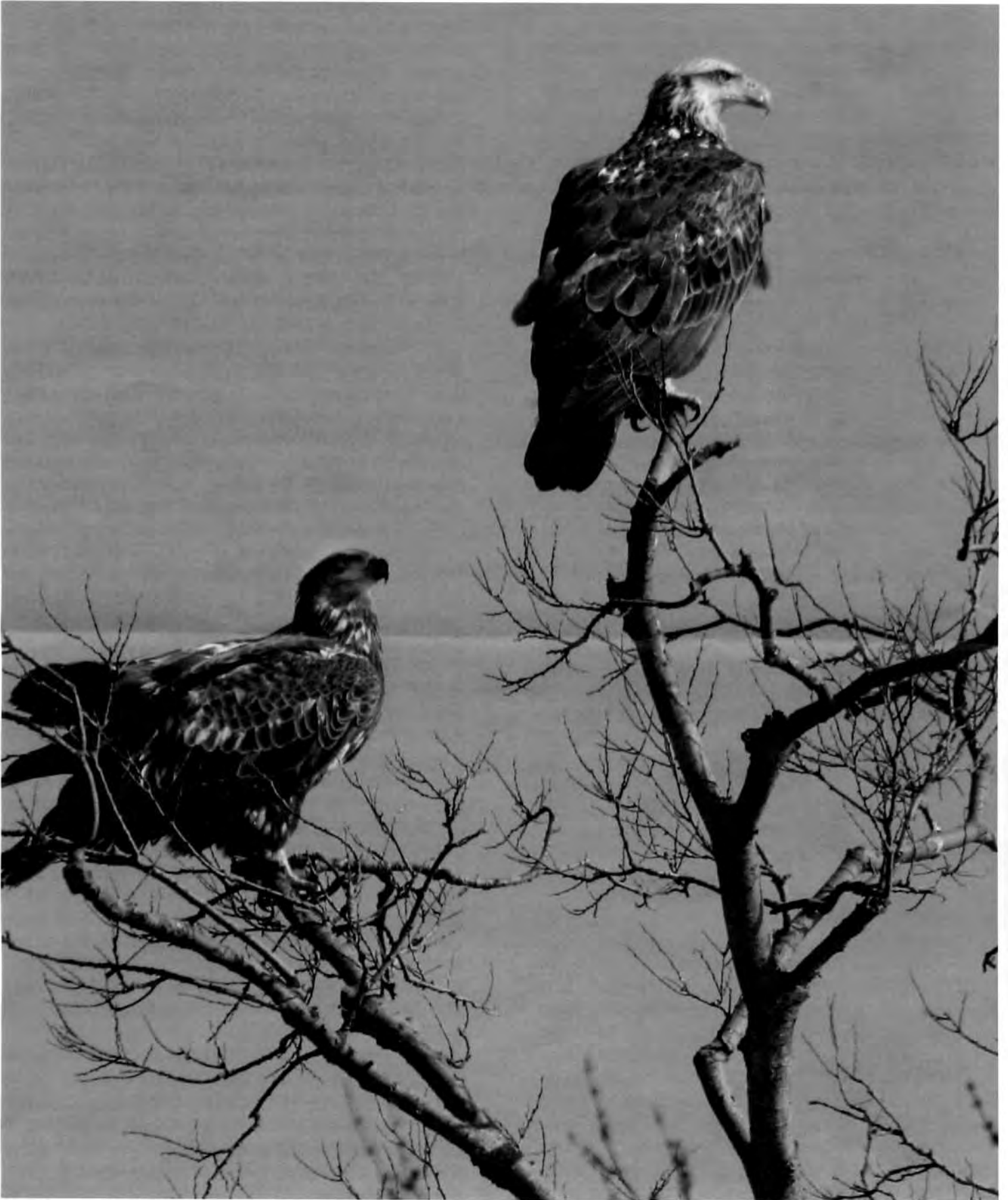
Waterfowl migration is timed perfectly with the swelling of the rivers, and this was evident in the number of ducks using the valley. We conservatively estimated seeing 5,000 ducks, but the true number using the valley that day is inestimable. Every pool, backwater, swamp, and gravel pit seemed to have its own respectable flotilla. The engorged Oxbow Lake held at least one thousand ducks, but they were too far away to identify. This spring spectacle reaffirms the importance of conserving areas like the Oxbow. Migrating ducks simply need these areas to fuel up for their journey to their breeding grounds. It was apparent how much the ducks preferred the bottoms to other habitats when we visited Hidden Valley Lake, a usually productive lake. Despite the large migration, there were no ducks on the entire lake.

Although the bird numbers were amazing, it was just as eye opening to watch the flood. During this time there is a temporary 4-mile long reservoir stretching from Lawrenceburg to Cleves. With 3,000+ gulls milling around it seems more like a tidal estuary than a midwestern river. The flood is even better if you know what the area looks like in the dry season. Then you know that the spot where you see the breeding plumaged Common Loon was corn stubble only two days ago.

There is never a wrong time to visit the Oxbow. Every season has its delights, but the delights during the spring floods are as ephemeral as the floods themselves. Experiencing them, especially with people you love, falls nothing short of awe-inspiring.

The following numbers for that day represent only what we were able to identify as we left many birds unidentified due to distance, inaccessibility and back lighting. Some of the species we found today included; Canada Goose 50, Wood Duck 3, Gadwall 70, American Wigeon 50, American Black Duck 100, Mallard 2000, Blue-winged Teal 4, Northern Shoveler 20, Northern Pintail 50, Green-winged Teal 50, Canvasback 225, Redhead 250, Ring-necked Duck 225, Greater Scaup 2, Lesser Scaup 200, Bufflehead 15, Common Goldeneye 1, Red-breasted Merganser 12, Ruddy Duck 3, Wild Turkey 24 (2 flocks), Common Loon 1 (fairly early, breeding plumage and yodeling in flooded fields behind the old cemetery), Pied-billed Grebe 5, Horned Grebe 3, Great Blue Heron 4, Black Vulture 4, Turkey Vulture 30, Bald Eagle 2 (1 ad, 1 im), Northern Harrier 2, Red-tailed Hawk 12 (26 for the day), American Kestrel 1 (13 for the day counting other parts of W. Hamilton County), Peregrine Falcon, American Coot 400+, Killdeer 30+, Ring-billed Gull 3000+, Herring Gull 4, Belted Kingfisher, American Crow 800, Horned Larks, White-crowned Sparrow 40+, Field Sparrows (several singing), Dark-eyed Junco 125+, Red-winged Blackbird, 500+, Common Grackle 500, Brown-headed Cowbird 200, and Eastern Meadowlark.

(Jack Stenger has been an avid birder and Oxbow patron since the age of 8. He is currently a sophomore at Ohio Wesleyan University where he is studying ornithology and zoology.)



Two immature Bald Eagles sit on branches above the flood and scan the Oxbow for fish near the surface. Spring floods bring large fish from the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers into farm fields that become shallow lakes, making avoiding becoming an Eagle's dinner more difficult than usual. The Eagles see this as their just retribution. During the winter and early spring at least 2 Adult and 4 immature Bald Eagles were seen at various times using the Oxbow area. (photo by Tom Uhlman, from a kayak, March 2008)



The Oxbow area essentially fills up with the river level at 50 feet measured at Cincinnati. This photo taken from the levee along US Highway 50 shows the water lapping at the foot of the levee. The Oxbow Lake Road lies just this side of the tree line while Oxbow Lake at normal level would lie just on the other side of the tree line. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



A telephoto shot of the high tension power lines running through Oxbow, taken from the levee, shows the concrete footers of the towers standing in water. Normally these are high and dry. Again this is only at 50 feet as measured in Cincinnati. *(photo by Jon Seymour)*



Last issue we asked readers to identify this photo and we received "0" responses. Now we know there are many naturalists and outdoor people in our readership. We really need you to answer the question of what this is a picture of. Please send your answer (or best guess) to Jon Seymour, 854 Ligorio Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45218. *(photo by Tom Uhlman)*



by Dave Styer

The Cerulean Warbler

May is warbler time around Cincinnati. Thirty plus species pass through Cincinnati every spring, and around half of the species stay to breed. The Cerulean Warbler is one of these. During spring migration, approximately April 20 to May 20, Cerulean Warblers may be seen in many woodlots in the Cincinnati area. During the breeding season they are only found in the larger woods.

One of my favorite places to 'see' Cerulean Warblers when they are nesting was on top of Miami Fort Trail at Shawnee Lookout Park. I put the word see in quotation marks because these warblers live so high in the board-leaved trees that it was far easier to find them by listening for the male to sing than it ever was to actually see them.

Warbler's song is something I want to write more about. During the peak of the spring migration around Cincinnati the diversity of warbler song is phenomenal. I used to prepare by listening to records, tapes, or CDs, but nothing ever prepared me for the full diversity of song I'd hear outside. One June day, I heard a Black-throated Blue Warbler singing at Shawnee Lookout. However, there were three problems. Black-throated Blue Warblers migrate through the area in small numbers in May, but don't stay. Also, the song was a little strange: to me, it just sounded more like a Black-throated Blue Warbler than anything else. Third, it sang way up in the tall trees. I was used to Black-throated Blue Warblers as an understory bird. As you have likely figured, my 'Black-throated Blue Warbler' turned out to be a Cerulean Warbler singing an alternate song, one I didn't know.

For some years now, I have noted that the Cerulean Warbler is on watch lists for neotropical migrants in a state of decline. Cincinnati area seems blessed with a fairly stable breeding population. I hope that is as true today as it was ten years ago. I'm not sure that they were as common in the latter part of the twentieth century as they were mid-century. *Birds of Southwestern Ohio* (1953) referred to them as a "very common summer resident in mature woodlands throughout the area." I would not have called them that common while I lived in the area (1970-2001). A bird species can decline by having its world range decrease. I looked in several books written before any Cerulean Warbler decline was noted. I was not surprised to read that Colorado had only three or four records of Cerulean Warblers. I was surprised when I read Edward Howe Forbush's account in his classic *birds*

of Massachusetts and Other New England States (1929). Forbush wrote "I have never seen this bird in life." In *Georgia Birds* (1958) by Thomas D. Burleigh, he wrote that the Cerulean warbler is a "regular but uncommon transient in the northern part of the state and a rare fall transient south of the fall line." My conclusion is that the breeding range of the Cerulean Warbler never was very large, even before its decline. Cincinnati just happens to be well within its range.

Besides a general range that may be a bit small, there may be other problems. Loss of habitat within the range can be critical. Cutting forest flat-out removes habitat. Cutting has been especially prominent in the American tropics, and that creates part of the concern about Cerulean Warblers, because they winter in northern South America. In the Greater Cincinnati area I saw regeneration of forest habitat as well as loss.

A final threat to Cerulean Warblers may be fragmentation of habitat. Predators are often cited as making it impossible for birds to breed successfully, particularly in fragmented habitats. I believe that Island Biology is fundamentally important: the smaller and the more isolated an island, the fewer species it can maintain. This applies to islands of habitat, such as woodlots, as well as the Hawaiian Islands. Migrant warblers love the 90-acre city park, Burnet Woods, but none of them stay to breed. People say that the woods is too disturbed, but that may not be the whole story. Hardly any butterfly species live in Burnet Woods. Far more live in a similar area at Shawnee Lookout Park. I recognize butterfly species, but not other invertebrate species. Is the whole invertebrate world depauperate in Burnet Woods as compared with a less isolated woods? My first year in Cincinnati I saw a Yellow Passionflower in Burnet Woods. It didn't apparently live or set seed. I never saw Yellow Passionflower there again. That is in the nature of Island Biology. Perhaps more is missing from the smaller habitat islands than we can readily recognize, and Cerulean Warblers in particular may not be able to nest in these places.

At any rate, this is a great time to get out, enjoy, and be thankful for the wonderful diversity of warblers. If your hearing is good, get out enough to be fooled by a warbler song.



Conservation Corner

.....by Jon Seymour

"Robinson's injunction to Tristram may well be applied, at this juncture, to homo sapiens as a species in geological time:

*Whether you will or not
You are a King, Tristram, for you are one
Of the time-tested few that leave the world,
When they are gone, not the same place it was.
Mark what you leave."*

Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic*, 1947 (quoting from Edward Arlington Robinson's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *Tristram*, 1927).

Mark What You Leave! Words to live by, contemplate, plan around, and execute against. There is another old saying that, "You should leave the world a better place than you found it."

I feel that this is exactly what we, the members of Oxbow, Inc., are trying to do. We are trying to leave the floodplain at the mouth of the Great Miami a better place for future generations to protect, enjoy, and cherish. As a result the wildlife of the Oxbow area will flourish. That's the plan but as another old saying goes, "The devil is in the details".

The recent legacy gift from Jinny Wiseman Witte goes a long way toward assuring the long term future of Oxbow, Inc. I anticipate that the income from the endowment coupled with income from the farm leases should cover the expenses of operating Oxbow, Inc now and into the foreseeable future.

This leaves the membership able to concentrate on accumulating the funds to purchase the remaining 700 acres of the Oxbow area that remains in private hands. I estimate that this will take about \$3,000,000 when the owners of the properties decide they wish to sell. This will not be easy but our record to date implies that we have every right to believe we can be successful.

If we are successful there will be nearly 3000 acres crossing two states of protected floodplain from Lawrenceburg to Shawnee Lookout and from the Ohio River to Lost Bridge. Now that would be something that each of us could **Mark as the right thing to Leave.**

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2008

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2008 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 on page 11. Cut out the memorandum. Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelop 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.

Moving your nest?

Make sure **WETLAND MATTERS** goes with you!

Name _____

Old Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

MAIL TO:

Oxbow Inc.

P.O. Box 43391

Cincinnati, OH 45243

Please mail right away - Wetland Matters is third class mail and is not forwarded!

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS

Tuesday, May 13, 2008, 7:30 pm
EarthConnection,
College of Mount St. Joseph

Al Winstel, retired Hamilton County Parks Naturalist, and **Julie Robinson**, current park naturalist at Sharon Woods, will discuss a cooperative education program between Reading High School and the Hamilton County Parks on the monitoring of red-backed salamander populations in selected areas of Sharon Woods. Don't miss hearing about this model program for outdoor education that results in practical research on the health of salamander populations. Questions: Contact Al Winstel at 513-729-2563 or at radiata_5@fuse.net.

To reach Earth Connection take Delhi Rd. east or west, or Neeb Rd. south to the intersection of Neeb and Delhi. From the intersection proceed south on Neeb. Turn up the first driveway on the left and go to the top of the hill. Turn right and proceed directly across the parking lot.

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, 7:30 pm
Lawrenceburg Public Library
Lawrenceburg, IN

Bob Genheimer, Rieveschl Curator of Archaeology at the Cincinnati Museum Center, will present a talk entitled, "Millions and Millions of Flakes at an Exotic Flint Knapping Locale in Warren County. Come and see how careful excavation of this site has led to some remarkable conclusions about the life and economy of Indians existing in the Little Miami Valley prior to the advent of the Europeans. Bring your detective caps because this is a puzzle worth solving and the clues are really tiny. Questions; Contact Bob Genheimer at 513-455-7161.

To get to the Lawrenceburg Public Library at 123 High Street in downtown Lawrenceburg, take US Hwy 50 to Walnut St. Turn south on Walnut and then right onto High St. The library is two blocks on the right. There is parking both in the back and front of the building.

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS

Thursday, May 22, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
 Meet in the upper Oxbow Inc. parking lot near the cement plant.

Leader: Darlena Graham
 (859) 341-4893, darlena@fuse.net

Darlena will lead us on what should be a pleasant spring evening trip in the Oxbow area. Spring migration will still be under way and any number of interesting birds might be found. If water conditions are right, shorebirds and herons should be present. Migrant and resident songbirds and warblers will also be plentiful. Darlena will likely check out a few different spots and will probably make a side trip over to the Shawnee Lookout side of the river. This trip will continue until dusk. Feel free to contact Darlena if you have any questions.

Saturday, June 7, 2008, 8:30 a.m.
 Meet in the upper Oxbow Inc. parking lot near the cement plant.

Leader: Ned Keller,
 (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

Join Ned in the morning for a few hours of looking for summer residents in the Oxbow and at Shawnee Lookout. Indiana and Ohio are both currently in the middle of Breeding Bird Atlas projects and our finds for the day will contribute to those projects. Breeding songbirds and other species should be found in abundance on this trip. If you have any questions feel free to contact Ned.

Oxbow Clean Up

Please Join us on
June 21 - 9:00 a.m. to noon
to clean up the Oxbow
(we especially need trucks!)

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 (i.e. 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, 2008

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.**

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		

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, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728
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
Programs	open
Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan	(513) 681-2574
Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Newsletter Editor, Meg Poehlmann	(513) 931-4072
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Member Communications: Joanne Earls, Kathleen Corneil, Lynda Mason, Velda Miller, Pat Shanklin, Sarah Shell, Suzanne Skidmore, Barb Varland, Jim Wilgenbusch

Wetland Matters, the newsletter for members of Oxbow, Inc., is published bimonthly.



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