

September — October 2008

No. 133

WETLAND *matters*

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

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Oxbow Area Recognized as Part of Audubon Important Bird Area

Audubon Ohio announced the recognition of the Lower Great Miami River as an Important Bird Area. In a ceremony held at Miami-Whitewater County Park, John Ritzenthaler, Director of Habitat Conservation, Audubon Ohio, presented plaques to Jon Seymour, President, Oxbow, Inc. and Jack Sutton, Director of the Hamilton County Park District (and Dearborn County resident). The plaques commemorate the important role that Hamilton County Parks located in the Lower Great Miami River valley and the land protected and preserved by Oxbow, Inc. played in achieving this distinct honor.

Important Bird Areas (IBA) are selected through analysis of data provided to Audubon regarding the importance of the nominated area to the welfare of birds. The Lower Great Miami River was named an IBA based on observations of rare or unusual birds in the area such as the wintering population of Bald Eagles and Black Vultures, migrating Ospreys, unusually large summer concentrations of wading birds such as Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, and the use of the area as a major migratory path for ducks. Many different species of birds use the area. The Oxbow area, adjacent to Lawrenceburg and Greendale, alone lists 283 species of birds using the area. This number is more than many National Wildlife Refuges.

"The Lower Great Miami River is a perfect example of the important role Ohio's landscape plays in survival of birds," said John Ritzenthaler. "Located near major migration routes, birds pass through as they travel to their winter and summer destinations. They rely on our land to survive their journeys. Through the Audubon's Important Bird Areas program, we are working to ensure places such as this rich corridor continue to be managed for the benefit of these birds, as well as the enjoyment of local communities."

Board members Dave Styer and Jay Stenger were instrumental in obtaining and submitting the data on bird observation in the Lower Miami Valley and the Oxbow area in particular that led to the selection of the Lower Great Miami Valley as an IBA.

"We are honored to be a key part of this Important Bird Area," said Jon Seymour. "Oxbow, Inc. is dedicated to the preservation and improvement of the floodplain that supports the diverse bird population that brought the area this honor."

Great Outdoor Weekend Comes Again September 27-28, 2008

It is time again for the Great Outdoor Weekend. Over 50 nature organizations in the Greater Cincinnati Area have again combined their efforts to bring you a spectacular weekend of a series of outdoor events that will entertain and capture your imagination. Oxbow's role will be conducting two "Introduction to the Oxbow" tours. On Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 6-8 p.m. we will explore the Oxbow as the sun starts to set. The diurnal animals will be getting ready to spend the night resting while the first stirring of the nocturnal animals may be evident. This is one of the grandest times to be in the Oxbow with the setting sun looking out across Oxbow Lake.

If the evening hours are just not possible for you, we will be out again Sunday morning, September 28, 2008 starting at 8 a.m. and finishing up about 10 a.m. It will be another introduction to the Oxbow tour but this time we will try to catch the morning animals as they start about their business day and we may find a couple of the nocturnal animals settling down for a good days rest.

Be it morning or evening come out to the Oxbow for a good time close to nature. If you have the time, stop by our new Office Grand Opening on Saturday the 27th from 2-5 pm and then stay on for the evening walk.

Visit cincygreatoutdoorweekend.org for information on all events. Schedules may be found in local libraries as the event approaches.

Grand Opening of the Oxbow Office

In conjunction with the Great Outdoor Weekend 2008, we will have the Grand Opening for our new office from 2 - 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2008. The Office, located at 301 Walnut Street in Lawrenceburg, is the new home of Oxbow, Inc. Come to the Grand Opening and then stay late to join our guided evening tour of the Oxbow that starts at 6 p.m. and should last to about 8 p.m. The office will house our collection of papers and memorabilia that we have accumulated over 25 years of existence and serve as our new primary location for lectures and meetings. We invite you all to come and help us inaugurate our new home in style. Lawrenceburg will be having a festival on the same day and walnut street will be blocked to traffic. Follow signs for parking. The Oxbow Office is on the corner of Center and Walnut.

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS

Tuesday, September 9, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
Winton Centre at Winton Woods
(note special location)

Ohio Goldilocks and the MORE than Three Bears.

(Rescheduled from July due to an accident that Ms. Garza-Behr suffered.) Learn about the resurgence of the Black Bear in modern Ohio. Meet Kathy Garza-Behr, Wildlife Communications Specialist for the Ohio Division of Wildlife who will detail a number of Black Bear sightings in Ohio and tell you what to do if you meet one. The Black Bear were extirpated in Ohio by the 1850's but in the early 1990's they returned to the Buckeye State and have been detected in ever increasing numbers since that time.

(To get to Winton Centre take I-275 exit #39 south on Winton Road to the entrance to Winton Woods Park. Turn right and go in the first driveway on the left.)

Tuesday, October 14, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg, IN
*******The Oxbow, Inc. Office*******

Kani Meyer, Oxbow, Inc. board member, will present a talk entitled "Stressed Out Coral Reefs". Kani recently returned from a conference on coral reefs and will bring us up to date on the latest concerns. Earth's reefs are suffering from a multitude of onslaughts ranging from global warming, overfishing, and coastal pollution. Come and see the beauty of the coral reef; learn about the complexity of this diverse community of plants and animals and hear about the problems they are facing in the light of global change and ever-expanding human population.

Tuesday, November 11, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
301 Walnut St. Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

OXBOW'S DINOSAURS—Birds are the living relatives of the dinosaurs. "Descent by Modification" over millions of years has established the birds as living dinosaurs. Through the sources of evidence from Paleontology, Embryology, Anatomy and Genetics we can demonstrate the evolutionary process of T. REX to Chickens. Join Jack Berninger, retired biology teacher with a Masters Degree Xavier University, for a discussion of the dinosaurs among us. Jack leads local field trips and does some endangered plant population research in the Fakahatchee State Park in Florida. Jack will bring some hands on items to accompany his presentation.

No Member Meeting in December Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
301 Walnut St. Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Learn about the early written history of the Oxbow through the eyes and lives of such larger than life characters such as John Cleves Symmes and William Henry Harrison. Discover the unique history of Fort Finney and its critical role in the formation of the United States of America. Tom Strohfeltd, former curator of the Ohio Historical Society, is a student of frontier history and is an avid hiker and canoer. He worked at Williamsburg, VA for ten years as a trained rifle maker. He has published 47 articles on the American frontier.

(To get to the Oxbow, Inc. Office take Highway US 50 south from the #16 exit of I-275. Pass the Argosy exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stop light where Walnut changes from two way to one way. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building.)

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, September 21 2008, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Charlie Saunders, (513) 829-6981

Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant

Here in Ohio and Indiana, September represents the peak of shorebird and songbird migration and the Oxbow area is a great place to witness the spectacle. Shorebirds, herons, egrets, terns, warblers and other songbirds as well as raptors that have summered in the far north are on the move south and all of these species use the Oxbow area as a staging area. Join Charlie on a leisurely morning walk through the Oxbow as he looks for many of these species. Charlie, a skilled birder, also has an interest in butterflies. You can be sure Charlie won't ignore the many species of butterflies that can be found in the Oxbow during September.

(continued on page 3)

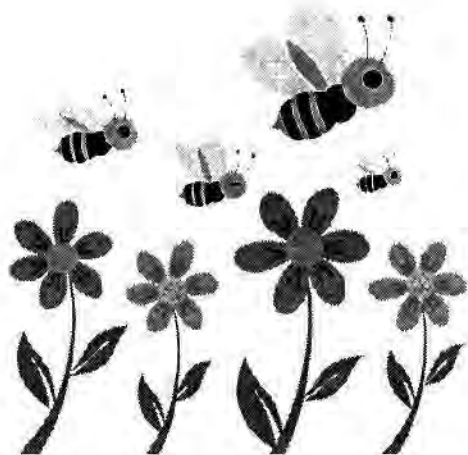
Saturday, October 25 2008, 8:00 a.m.

Meet in the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance just beyond the cement plant

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

Autumn is a beautiful time of the year and by late October that season is well underway. And with that advancing season comes waterfowl, which are then just beginning their southward migration. From a birding perspective October is an interesting season. Shorebird migration is winding down, but many of them are still moving through. The same is true for songbird migration. Some summering and migrant songbirds are still lingering and at the same time many of our winter residents are returning in force. Darlena knows the birds so come out and join her as she leads us on a walk through the Oxbow looking for this "mixed bag" of migrants and residents.

To get to the upper Oxbow parking area go south on US Hwy 50 from the I-275 #16 exit. In about 200 yards, turn left (east) at the edge of the Shell/Subway and go over the levee to the front of the cement plant. Turn right and go to the Oxbow entrance sign. Turn left into the Oxbow. The upper parking area is immediately on the right



The Big Garden (August Program)

Carol Mundy, the naturalist at Glenwood Gardens, shared the goals and activities of the Highfield Discovery Garden located at Glenwood Gardens in Woodlawn. Glenwood is one of the newest county parks and is adjacent to Winton Woods. Within Glenwood Gardens is the fantastic Highfield Discovery Garden designed to get children interested in nature through close contact with nature in the relatively protected environment of the garden. And what a garden! Giant scarecrows that change their clothes, swinging bridges just like Disneyland, fallen trees carved into creatures of the woodlands, butterfly gardens shaped like a butterfly, and Mr. Toad's pond. These are but a few of the features of the garden that is designed to capture the imagination of the preschool and elementary school set. Carol and the staff at Highfield Discovery Garden introduce the children to many aspects of encountering nature and thinking about our place in nature in the confines of the little garden. However the possibilities seem endless even in a little garden when you are interacting with nature. The hope of Carol and all of us is that the lessons learned in the small garden about the wonders of nature and our need to respect and cherish nature will continue with the young adventurers as they learn to appreciate and protect the Big Garden that we all live in.

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!

Conservation Corner

.....by Jon Seymour

*"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing leave behind us
Footprints in the sands of time."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, from "A Psalm of Life", 1938.

Taking a little break from quotes from Aldo Leopold I selected something from Longfellow who, like Aldo Leopold, tried to awaken the American conscience to the world of nature surrounding us.

We were disappointed recently to learn that the Indiana Department of Natural Resources will require us to make a formal application to build our seasonal flooding project. We had hoped that they would accept our informal application and allow us to go ahead with no additional expense required to file a formal plan. While this is a set back that will require more time and expense, it is part of the responsibility of having the IDNR also look after the appropriate use of the floodplain and share in the role of protecting it.

We will be working to complete application for a permit and get on with the building of the impoundment. This project is being funded by Birdathon money that has been raised over the last three years and will be a major boon to the wintering bird population in the Oxbow. We hope the result of the project will leave a few footprints in the sands of time for all those involved, but like most projects in the Oxbow the footprints will be more likely to be a little muddy.

Wanted: Weed Police!

Where: Meet at the Oxbow entrance parking lot
When: Saturday, October 25 at 9a.m. - noon
(rain date Saturday, November 1)

A weed may be defined as any plant growing where it is not wanted. It could be a beautiful lily among your favorite roses or a dandelion in your front yard. Whatever it is, you want to get rid of it. Just so in the Oxbow. We have native trees and teasels coming up in our prairie areas and bush honeysuckle in our hedgerows. They need to come out!!! So please come out to help us remove these unwanted. Bring pruning saws, shovels, chain saws and lots of energy and let's go get 'em! Please contact Kani Meyer at 513-948-8660 or kaniau@yahoo.com for more information and to let me know you'll be there.

The Ohio River Sweep in the Oxbow

.....by Kani Meyer

It was a thankfully cool morning on the banks of the Ohio River. One hundred years ago there was probably very little evidence of human habitation anywhere near this shore but today the debris of "civilization" lay strewn about the sand some nearly imbedded, others merely lying aimlessly about. Seven stalwart volunteers showed up for the Clean Sweep of the Ohio River on June 21. We picked up lots of softballs, fragmented car dashboards, children's toys and furniture, buckets, lots of bits of Styrofoam, tires, and rims (do they float in?). Along with collecting other flotsam, Dave Meyer dug up buckets and tires, Jim Wilgenbusch and Ted Scheall excavated a bicycle, Michelle Anderson and I concentrated on the lighter stuff: bottles (glass and plastic), balls of all sorts, foam and hunks of broken plastic stuff. Bob Schlegel did a lot of heavy carrying and Don Himburg dug but, most importantly, supplied the truck to carry this all back to the dumpster. The thought occurred to me that one upside of the upcoming fossil fuel crisis will be, perhaps, the end of plastic and tires? I suppose technology is already working on the alternatives.

Oxbow, Inc. very much appreciates the contribution of B.J. Ault of the Dearborn County Solid Waste Management District in arranging for the Rumpke dumpster and the pick-up of the tires collected in our clean ups. Their long-term partnership with Oxbow, Inc. contributes importantly in keeping this area a fit place for people and wildlife.

Birds Bring Bucks

.....by Jon Seymour

It was a horse race worthy of the Kentucky Derby going right to the wire with a winner by a nose finish (at least at publication time). This year the individual Birdathon teams raised a total of \$5,559.73 from 65 individual donors and two split the pot teams. The money raised will go to pay for habitat restoration and Oxbow access projects. Several of these projects are currently underway. We are planting trees along the west bank of the Great Miami River and the southwest bank of Oxbow Lake. We are started on these bank stabilization projects that also create higher quality edge for animal habitat. Our Seasonal Flooding project is our biggest project and is currently in the permit application stage for approval by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Now for the results of the Birdathon Money Race:

- Coming in First by a nose was the Cincinnati Nature Center team of Bill Creasy, Steve Bobonik and Dave Helm. The Nature Center raised over \$1800 and Oxbow's half of the split was \$922.88.
- Coming in second, and really proud of it, were the First Timer's team, proudly led by Jon Seymour and consisting of first time Birdathon participants Miles Spathelf, Gale Wulker, and Brian Wulker. They raised a total of \$851.80.
- In a close third place was the team of Charlie Saunders, Mike Busam and Steve Pelikan who finished with a total of \$831.00
- And in fourth place pushing the money leaders was the team of Paul Wharton, Joe Bens, Jay and Jack Stenger (our total species leaders) with a total of \$812.00.

A photo finish!!!

- But that is not all. Several other teams also raised money and contributed significantly to the cause and the overall monetary total.
- Jerry Lippert, Erich Baumgardner and Wayne Wauligman - \$602.75
- Sister Mary Dermody, Katherine Miller, and Sara Krailler - \$512.80
- Dave and Jane Styer - \$250.00
- Ned Keller and Kathy McDonald (our half of the split with the Audubon Society of Ohio) - \$200.00
- Gary and Sally Stegner (Fernald Team)- \$70.00
- Don and Brendan Bogosian - \$65.00

Congratulations to all the teams raising money for Oxbow. You are our heroes.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials & Honorariums

Donor	In Memory of
Ed & Judy Krautter	Hubert Fantetti
Regeanna and Al Morgan	Mary L. Horn
Bob & Tina Schlegel	John Mullins, Jr.

Donor	In Honor of
Grant and Melissa Cowan	Suzanne Skidmore



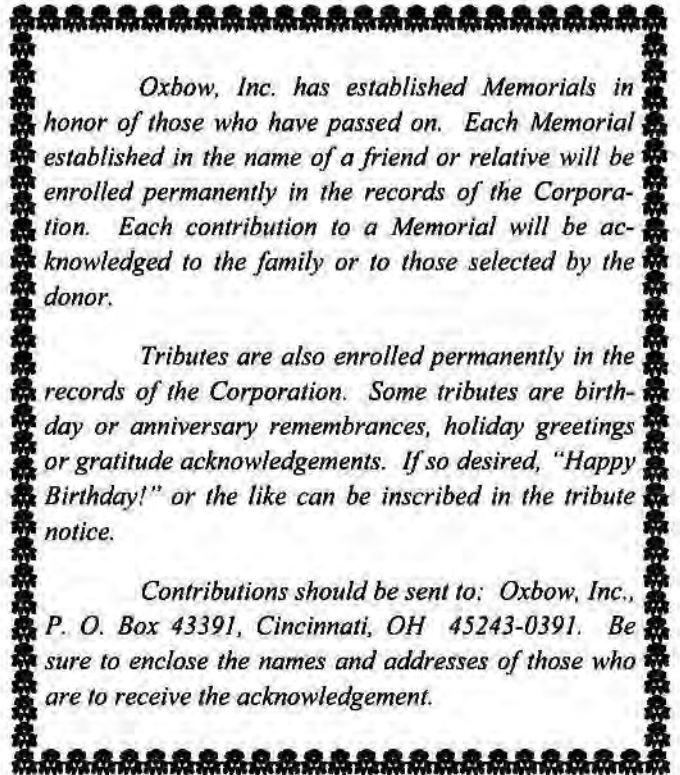
Oxbow, Inc. would like to thank:
Albert Lane for his generous gift of stackable
chairs for the Oxbow Office.

The Vosmer Memorial Fund for their
generous gift

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.





For Ken Geiger a extra bit of patience paid off big as mama otter brought 4 pups to the top of the old beaver lodge in Juno Pond, and while still a bit leery of him, his presence did not seem to bother the otters after they took a few minutes to get used to him. River Otters have been seen in the Oxbow for at least the last three years and this are the closest photos that have been taken of the newest residence of the Oxbow wetland. (Photo by Ken Geiger)



Whether or not there is a strange photographer sitting just across the water, play time is play time and four young otters are not about to waste a moment of it. This activity went on for nearly two hours before the Otter Family decided to move to less busy area. Sorry Ken, but nearly 400 photos will have to do. And many thanks for sharing your experience with Oxbow, Inc. (Photo by Ken Geiger)



Don Himburg excavating a rim in the sand. (photo by Kani Meyer)



Jim Wilgenbusch and Ted Scheall "riding" along the Ohio. (photo by Kani Meyer)



Jon Seymour, President of Oxbow, Inc. (left), Jack Sutton, Director Hamilton County Park District, (center) accept memorial plaques representing the Lower Great Miami River being named by the Audubon Society an Important Bird Area from John Ritzenthaler, Audubon Ohio (right). (photo by Cammie Seymour)



Bob Schelegal working the shores of the Ohio. (photo by Kani Meyer)



Ken Geiger was taking an early morning walk in the Oxbow and while trying to photograph a bird noticed a movement off to his side. Being a patient man he sat down and waited and after about 20 minutes the first otter appeared. This adult river otter was aware of Ken's presence and alert but did not seem to view him with alarm.



by Dave Styer

The Magnolia Warbler: A Preponderance of Fall Records

Fall is a great season to see migrant warblers at Shawnee Lookout. The Magnolia Warbler comes to mind because it is pretty and also because it seems more visible in the fall than in the spring. I decided to check to see if my impression is borne out by actual records. Up until I left Cincinnati Ned Keller and I shared an MS Access database on Greater Cincinnati area bird sightings. The Cincinnati area bird database contained 4 spring records of Magnolia Warbler in the Oxbow area, all in May, and 43 fall records, mostly in September (but 1 in August and 6 in October). That seems absurd; don't any birders go to Shawnee Lookout in spring?

To achieve, perhaps, a better balance I looked at French Park records. For years Harry Connor went there through the seasons. Nearly all of the French Park records on the database are Harry's. There are 14 spring records and 74 fall records of Magnolia Warblers at French Park.

Magnolia Warblers come through Cincinnati in spring in around 15 days, but they come through in the fall in some 60 days. On those grounds we could expect to have 4 times as many sightings in the fall. If all else were the same you might expect 4 times as many Magnolia Warblers per day in the spring. After all, the whole population has to pass through in much shorter time period in spring. In fact, at French Park there was an average of 3.3 individuals seen on spring days they were reported, and 4.6 recorded on fall days they were reported. That is, if you see Magnolia Warblers at all, on a particular day you are likely to see more in the fall. This is true even though the spring males are at their showiest and announce themselves by song. I have rarely, if ever, heard them sing in the fall.

Perhaps the individual Magnolia Warblers spend a lot more time here in the fall. In spring the birds are rushing to their nesting grounds; there is a big job ahead of them. In fall, what's the rush? They will not be nesting on their wintering grounds in the Caribbean or southern Mexico, or Central America. The insects creeping around on the leaves in the woods around Cincinnati must be too delicious. Who can blame the Magnolia Warblers for not wanting to leave a great feast? I don't really know if Magnolia Warbler individuals spend more time here in the fall.

These warblers migrate by night. What if they fly much greater distances in spring than in fall? If so, many

more would fly right over. They would spend minutes in the Greater Cincinnati area, and not be seen here. If, in the fall, these warblers take a lot of short flights (hops) south, in contrast to long flights in spring, that might land many more in the Cincinnati area. I have no knowledge that this is true, and I suspect that it isn't. The very opposite is true of the Blackpoll Warbler. In spring this species migrates north over land. In fall many migrate to the New England coast, and then perform the unbelievable feat of flying straight to South America over the Atlantic Ocean.

One thing is clear. Magnolia Warblers nest in the north in summer, but not on their wintering grounds. According to George A. Hall, in *The Birds of North America*, Magnolia Warblers raise 1 brood a year, and in the vast majority of nests 4 eggs form a full clutch. If all birds paired, and each pair successfully raised 4 young, and they all flew south, there would be three times as many Magnolia Warblers coming south in fall as went north in spring. Not all birds pair, and not all nests fledge 4 young that live to fly south. It would be more reasonable to suppose that twice as many Magnolia Warblers fly south in fall. That's still impressive. Also, the young of the year are often less shy than adults. Do we see more Magnolia Warblers in the fall because we are watching the young of the year gleaning insects on wild grape vines at the edge of the woods while the adults hide inside the foliage?

The news for the rest of the year seems not so good. If there are approximately twice as many Magnolia Warblers in fall as in spring, then there are about half as many birds living by the next spring. Besides accidents, such as road kills, these birds are preyed upon all the time by hawks, owls, mammals, and snakes. There are diseases and parasites that weaken them. On top of that most of these birds migrate south across the Gulf of Mexico in fall, and back north across the gulf in spring. I don't know how many stories I have read about thousands of migrants dying at sea because the wind changed, and they couldn't make it back to land. This wind change is what makes High Island, Texas famous during the spring migration. If the wind stays in the south the trans-gulf migrants simply fly over, and birding is relatively dull. If a storm comes and the migrants can barely make land, they drop in by the thousands, too tired and hungry to seek cover. Then the birding is really exciting.

Why would birds fly across the Gulf of Mexico when they could, instead, fly up the Mexican coast? The answer is that on the average it is safer to cross the gulf than to fly up the coast. This is a vivid demonstration of the severity of predation. That said, overall Magnolia Warblers are doing well, and the road along the ridge at Shawnee Lookout is a fine place to watch them.



Oxbow Inc. Helps the Queen City Bird Festival 2008

The very first Queen City Bird Festival was held May 3, 2008 at EarthConnection on the campus of the College of Mount St. Joseph. The Festival, the brain child of Dr. Jill Russell, Assistant Professor of Biology at the College, is the first of its kind in the area. Unfortunately the first couple hours of the festival were slow to get moving due to a local monsoon that drenched everything that would have been outside including the participants. As the day progressed the sun came out and by early afternoon, Jill's husband Dr. David Russell, Miami University, was banding birds and giving the attentive audience mini lectures on the natural history of each bird banded.

Periodic guided birding tours were held for children with the children provided with their own small set of binoculars to use. Educational booths were in abundance with games and educational activities for children to explore nature and specifically the biology of birds. Educational materials were made available to teachers to take back to their classrooms. Participants in the event were measured and classified just like banded birds, which was a fun thing for all the kids (of all ages). If the Queen City Bird Festival is lucky enough to recapture some of those same participants next year they will be able to document their growth from 2008 to 2009.

What made this event special for Oxbow, Inc. was that it was the first use of our new educational grant funds. The fund established in the name of Art and Jinny Wiseman will provide small educational grants throughout the year to local teachers and naturalists. This event was specifically funded with a grant for education provided by Vishnoo and Kathy Shahani. The grant from Oxbow, Inc. funded reusable educational materials that can be used by teachers in elementary classrooms, study guides, introductory bird books that can be used from year to year and the children's quality binoculars that will bring many generations of new birders their first up close look at a bird in the wild.

The event was such a success that it was featured in the "Environment for the Americas", an international bird education organization, international newsletter. Way to go Jill and David. What a wonderful way to get started.



Another Idea to Get Out

The Children & Nature Network is encouraging the formation of Family Nature Clubs. These are self-formed groups (i.e. neighborhood parents getting together) that are springing up in various parts of the country.

<http://www.childrenandnature.org/natureclubs>

The website provides tips for putting together a family nature club. It is another way for families to get outdoors. The beauty of this idea is if the whole family cannot go then there are other adults available to take many kids on an exploration of the wonders of nature. Leaders do not have to be an expert on nature. The adults can learn right along with the kids and show the kids how to look up stuff. There is no better thrill for a child than to beat their parents to the answer of a question.

One of the best places to go is the Oxbow with its varied habitats and highly visible animals. Bring the family down, heck bring the whole neighborhood. It is a lot of fun to GET OUT!

Information on this can also be found on the Leave No Child Inside website. www.lncigc.org



*Indiana Invasive Species Task Force Findings and
Recommendations Executive Summary*
June 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Indiana is the crossroads of America—our waterways, railroads, highways and other transportation facilities are some of the finest in the nation. That distinction as a hub of transportation and commerce means Indiana has more than its share of invasive species problems. Invasive species enter Indiana through both transportation and commerce, and the rate at which invasive species are entering Indiana is increasing rapidly. We are also at a crossroads in time; by taking action now, we can lessen the impact of invasive species to our economy and environment.

Invasive species harm our economy, environment, and human health in many ways. Just one invasive insect, the Asian soybean aphid, has significantly decreased soybean productivity in the US. In 2003 an estimated 300 million bushels were lost to this pest. With today's soybean prices hovering at \$15/bushel this translates into a loss valued at \$4.5 billion nationally. There are dozens of invasive plants, aquatic species, insects, plant diseases, terrestrial animals, and animal diseases that threaten Indiana. Asian bush honeysuckle has invaded forests in every county in the state, significantly decreasing tree regeneration and growth. *Hydrilla* has invaded Lake Manitou in Fulton County, and if appropriate action is not taken it could spread to other waters and result in reduced aquatic biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and fish populations. Emerald Ash Borer is killing ash trees in northern and central Indiana, and will most likely be moved by people south to the vast forests of southern Indiana. Feral hogs are destroying crops and forested land in southern Indiana, potentially carrying brucellosis and pseudorabies, two diseases that have been eradicated in our domestic livestock but could be reintroduced by these animals.

In 2007, in response to the growing problem of invasive species, the Legislative Council of the Indiana General Assembly directed the Natural Resources Study Committee to investigate invasive species issues. Following the guidelines set forth in a resolution introduced in both houses, the Committee created an Invasive Species Task Force made up of individuals from a broad assortment of organizations and agencies with expertise in invasive species issues to provide findings and recommendations for the committee to consider in 2008. This document

summarizes those findings and recommendations. The most cost-effective way to address invasive species is to prevent them from reaching Indiana in the first place. If, despite prevention efforts, invasive species reach the state, early detection programs can help locate and eradicate those invasive species before they become widely established. If invasive species elude early detection and establish and spread in the state, control and management programs to monitor and minimize their negative impacts to the economy and environment will be necessary, but these efforts can be very costly. The sooner we act the more effective and less costly our efforts will be.

The current jurisdictional structure over invasive species in Indiana is basically sound; the Department of Natural Resources, Board of Animal Health, and Office of Indiana State Chemist work to address this important issue. However, communication and coordination between jurisdictional agencies and with affected parties is currently limited and has hampered the effectiveness and timeliness of invasive species efforts. Further, there is a lack of readily accessible information on the current location of invasive species in Indiana, a lack of coordinated outreach and education for the general public and for invasive species practitioners, and limited coordination with neighboring states. Resources dedicated to addressing invasive species in the state are extremely limited and there are inconsistencies in state agencies' policies and procedures on invasive species. Some of the few existing statutes lack clarity which hampers their implementation.

The Invasive Species Task Force here proposes seven recommendations to address these shortcomings, which are further explained in Chapter 3:

1. Improve coordination and communication between agencies and affected stakeholders through creation of an Invasive Species Council. While many agencies and organizations are working on invasive species issues in Indiana, there is currently a need for better communication between them. The regulating agencies and affected stakeholders have few opportunities to discuss these issues, which has led to a lack of effective invasive species coordination, inventory and data management, prevention activities, early detection efforts, and control and management activities.

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

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