

March—April 2013

No. 160



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

Window on the Future of Oxbow (Part I)

.....by Jon Seymour

In the last Wetland Matters I promised to start a series that would provide a window into the future of Oxbow, Inc. and, its sister organization, Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. I started by republishing our vision for Oxbow, Inc. that the Board adopted in 2004. We are working toward realizing that vision. The future of Oxbow, Inc. is really the method by which we go about attaining that vision.

It is best to start out looking into the future by looking back at the past to see "from whence we came". This should help provide clarity and understanding when we turn to look into the future.

In the beginning we were a group of letter writers. The "Save the Oxbow Society" was organized to bombard the legislature with letters promoting saving the unique Oxbow area ecology. The next generation followed immediately after the successful letter writing campaign. This generation formed Oxbow, Inc. with the intent to buy land in the Oxbow floodplain and protect the nature found there. Another often forgotten goal was to allow people to experience nature in a wide variety of ways.

This original group concentrated on fund raising, looking for ways to get money to buy land. We started with our first purchase in 1987 or 27.5 acres and started building from there. As a newly formed 501(c)3 organization we also had educational responsibilities. Super volunteers (people giving 30+ hours per week to the Oxbow, Inc., all volunteer effort) showed up with names like Judy Bramstedt, Morris Mercer and Norma Flannery. Many others also gave many hours of volunteer effort but it required a super volunteer at the head of the organization to hold it all together. Our major functions were fundraising and education.

Very quickly it got even more complicated. The first major complication was farming. As we purchased working farms we decided to maintain farming and lease the land to farmers for help with operating expenses.

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Green Fire, the story of Aldo Leopold New Documentary on Leopold Showing at Sharon Woods Centre

The film *Green Fire* reminds us that the legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*, is the founder of modern environmental philosophy. We are still discovering, nearly 100 years later, how forward his thinking was.

On Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the Sharon Woods Centre in Sharon Woods County Park, 11450 Lebanon Rd., Sharonville, Ohio, the Cincinnati Bird Club and Oxbow, Inc. will host a free screening of a new film called *Green Fire*. It is the first full-length, high definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold. The film explores Aldo Leopold's life in the early part of the twentieth century and the many ways his land ethic idea continues to be applied all over the world today.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. The film shares highlights from Leopold's life and extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation in the twentieth century and still inspires people today. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

The film has been shown, in community screening venues like this one, nationwide. It recently was awarded a Midwest Emmy Award.

According to Aldo Leopold Foundation Executive Director Buddy Huffaker, "Aldo Leopold's legacy lives on today in the work of people and organizations across the nation and around the world. "What is exciting about *Green Fire* is that it is more than just a documentary about Aldo Leopold; it also explores the influence his ideas have had in shaping the conservation movement

(continued on page 2)

Green Fire (Continued from Page 1)

as we know it today by highlighting some really inspiring people and organizations doing great work to connect people and the natural world in ways that even Leopold might not have imagined.”

Green Fire illustrates Leopold’s continuing influence by exploring current projects that connect people and land at the local level. Viewers will meet urban children in Chicago learning about local foods and ecological restoration. They’ll learn about ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico who maintain healthy landscapes by working on their own properties and with their neighbors, in cooperative community conservation efforts. They’ll meet wildlife biologists who are bringing back threatened and endangered species, from cranes to Mexican wolves, to the landscapes where they once thrived. The *Green Fire* film portrays how Leopold’s vision of a community that cares about both people and land—his call for a land ethic—ties all of these modern conservation stories together and offers inspiration and insight for the future.

“The making of *Green Fire* has been a process of discovery,” says Curt Meine, the film’s on-screen guide and Director of Conservation Biology and History at the Center for Humans and Nature. Meine’s doctoral dissertation was a biography of Aldo Leopold, published as *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988). To give the film its modern perspective of Leopold’s influence in the conservation movement today, Meine was charged with conducting hundreds of interviews with people practicing conservation all over the country. “Meeting all those people has really yielded new connections between Leopold and nearly every facet of the environmental movement, including ocean conservation, urban gardening, and climate change—issues that Leopold never directly considered in his lifetime but has nonetheless affected as his ideas are carried on by others,” said Meine.

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is distributing the film to community screeners, and is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation’s mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. “Nothing so important as an ethic is ever ‘written,’” he explained. “It evolves ‘in the minds of a thinking community.’” Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.

IF YOU GO:

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm, at the Sharon Woods Centre, 11450 Lebanon Rd. Sharonville, OH. **Free to the public but reservations are requested. Call 513-375-1025 to reserve seating.**

Note: After the movie Thane Maynard, Director, Cincinnati Zoo; Jack Sutton, Director, Hamilton County Park District; Bill Hopple, Executive Director, Cincinnati Nature Center, and Jon Seymour, President, Oxbow, Inc. will discuss how the Land Ethic affects modern day conservation efforts in the Cincinnati area.

For more information: Contact Jon Seymour at jlsjksa@hotmail.com and put “Green Fire” in the subject title.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Aldo Leopold Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization based in Baraboo, Wisconsin. The foundation’s mission is to inspire an ethical relationship between people and land through the legacy of Aldo Leopold. Leopold regarded a land ethic as a product of social evolution. “Nothing so important as an ethic is ever ‘written,’” he explained. “It evolves ‘in the minds of a thinking community.’” Learn more about the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the *Green Fire* movie at www.aldoleopold.org.

The Center for Humans and Nature explores and promotes human responsibilities in relation to the whole community of life. Connect with the center’s ideas through the free e-journal *Minding Nature*, and find out more about their work by visiting the Programs & Projects webpage at www.humansandnature.org.

Established in 1905, the U.S. Forest Service is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres, conducts forest research, assists forest landowners and helps formulate international forest policy. Learn more about the Forest Service at www.fs.fed.us.

Window on the Future of Oxbow (continued from page 1)

This also fit with our formation ethic that said that farming, done properly, can coexist and even enhance nature. We all needed to realize that human habitation and farming of the floodplain had been in existence for 8000 years. Why should we change it? We just had to be smart about how to manage farming with nature,

Farming requires rules, legal contracts, working with the US Department of Agriculture, obtaining bids and making leasing decisions. It also requires excellent relations with the farmers themselves.

The next major complication was a gamble, literally a casino. Now we were negotiating with the city, the county, the state, the casino owners, the utilities, and the railroad, to name a few. We were transitioning from being seen as tree hugging outsiders to active community members working to preserve a valuable local resource. This meant meetings, negotiations, legal issues, community relations, and renewing our own values.

During this time we ran tours and nature hikes, attended festivals, and conducted educational forums. We continued to raise money and purchase land but around 2002 we looked around and realized for the first time that we had finally achieved a solid block of land of over 700 acres. Then the realization hit us that we were no longer just in the business of buying land --- NOW WE HAD TO MANAGE IT!

Suddenly we found that we needed to plant and burn and mow prairie areas. We had to establish fire breaks. We had to install culverts and raise road beds. We had to gravel some roads, close other roads, and relocate others. We had to hire security to patrol the area and end violations of the property use rules that we had established. We had to create our rules and management methods for hunters and we had to tighten our management rules for fishermen. This put us in contact with the local sheriff department, local contractors, fire officials, and state permit granting organizations, again to name a few. The hours of commitment were beginning to pile up. All volunteer hours from many volunteers but still held together by the glue of the super volunteer hours heading the organization.

And then things really got complicated.....!

(Continued next issue.)

Daniel Boone's Capture

.....By Kani Meyer

At our annual members' meeting, historian Tom Strohfeldt presented an account of the capture of Daniel Boone and a group of settlers who were preparing salt at Blue Licks. Through cunning, Boone convinced them not to attack Boonesborough that winter but to wait until spring. While at the village of Chief Blackfish, he was adopted by the chief as was their custom. Many of the captives were taken to Detroit and turned over to the British. Boone remained with the Indians but escaped before they were to begin the move on Boonesborough so that he could warn the town. Boone was later tried for treason as some of the group captured actually thought he had betrayed the group to the Indians.

Midwest Native Plant Conference

www.midwestnativeplants.org

July 26, 27, & 28, 2013

The fifth annual *Midwest Native Plant Conference* will be held the weekend of July 26-27-28, 2013 at the Bergamo Conference Center in Beavercreek, OH. We are growing with each year, and hope that you will join us for this event.

Last year we had 30 vendors and exhibitors selling everything from native plants, paintings, jewelry, photography, books, note cards and t-shirts, including information from various native plant organizations. We had 7 native plant vendors, making it one of the largest groups of Native Plant Vendors in Ohio gathered at the same venue. The 2012 conference was filled to capacity with participants who enjoyed browsing the vendors throughout the day, and we hope for the same in 2013! We will be open to the public on Saturday 9-5 for additional sales and there will be ample time throughout the weekend for our conference attendees to shop.

We are pleased to announce that our keynote speakers are Doug Tallamy, author of "Bringing Nature Home", David Fitzsimmons, award winning free-lance photographer and author of "Animals of Ohio's Ponds and Vernal Pools", also Judy Burris and Wayne Richards, brother & sister team back by popular demand. Our breakout session speakers will be David Brandenburg, Terry Fredrich, Don Geiger, Andrew Gibson, Bob Henn, John Howard, Janet Creamer Martin and Macy Reynolds. Friday afternoon and Sunday morning field trips will be offered to round out the week-end.



Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

An Early Christmas Gift from Oxbow

....by Paul Ice

A change in employment first brought me to the Cincinnati area in January 2006. The first year found me very busy with training in my new job and trying to get my prior home in West Virginia sold. 2007 found me with a little more time to get out and see what the greater Cincinnati area had to offer. I noticed an article in the paper about a presentation at a local photography club by a national nature photographer that looked interesting and I made it a point to go to the meeting. I met a lot of great people at Tri-State Photographic Society's meeting that night and ended up joining the club. I know many of you are asking at this point what does all of this have to do with Oxbow. If not for going to their meetings I might not have found out about Oxbow. While attending the photography club meetings in 2007 I was talking with various members about photographic opportunities in the Cincinnati area and one of the ladies (I believe it was Margaret Stigler) told me about Oxbow. She had been to Oxbow on outings with the Cincinnati Bird Club and thought I would enjoy going there. This led to my first trip to Oxbow in 2007.

Oxbow has since been my favorite place for nature photography in the greater Cincinnati area after finding out about it and I have been a regular visitor going there year around. Oxbow always has something to offer and some of my favorite photographs have been taken there. From eagles and ospreys catching fish to beaver resting on top of their flooded huts, Oxbow has always provided for an interesting outing. The list of wildlife viewed in Oxbow is long, including the normal things people see like numerous types of ducks, herons, songbirds, woodpeckers, and hummingbirds. It also provided surprises like the young buck I saw swimming the Great Miami River, otters playing and catching fish, sandhill cranes resting during migration, and a coyote hunting the corn field during winter months. Then you read about others seeing things like migrating pelicans and families of foxes and it makes you want to go back to see more.

I wasn't supposed to head home to West Virginia until the Sunday before Christmas so I decided to head over to Oxbow on Saturday, December 22nd, to get out of the house. I made plans to meet with Ken Geiger, one of my fellow photographers, in the morning to see what we could find. We were supposed to meet around 8:00 and as I was leaving my home in Kentucky, I stopped to wish my neighbors a Merry Christmas and talked with them for a little bit. This put me over to Oxbow a little later than planned. When I got to Oxbow I started down the road by Oxbow Lake where we normally meet and Ken had already started making his way on through Oxbow. I took my time checking the lakes and fields to see what

moving. Plenty of ducks and herons but they were all too far away for my liking. When I got to the overlook parking area I called Ken to see where he was and if there was anything I should watch for. He was down by the railroad tracks watching some juvenile eagles chase each other up the creek behind Jackpot Pond. I told Ken that I would head that way and would probably stop around the northern end of Jackpot. I could see an eagle sitting in one of the trees from there so I parked my vehicle and walked back to Jackpot Pond. One of my favorite eagle photos came from the upper end of Jackpot Pond and I was hoping that these eagles would decide to do some fishing in that area. I waited for a while and the eagles never made their way out on the lake so I decided to head back to the vehicle. When I got back to the vehicle I took another look around and just happened to see a bird in the air. I quickly realized what it was and was excited to see a Northern Harrier hunting the grasses along Jackpot Pond. This was another Oxbow first for me so I headed back towards the lake so that I could have a better view of the native grassland area and the harrier. It appeared to be a young male as it didn't have the full color of an adult male. Ken and I were both able to photograph the harrier several times as it made numerous trips around the area until a car came in from the southern exit and it quickly disappeared. We talked about what to do next and ended up driving down to the southern exit to see if the eagles were still around. The last Ken had seen them they were flying towards the Ohio River. They hadn't made their way back. Ken decided to head out. I decided to make my way back through Oxbow before leaving hoping to either see the harrier or the eagle again.

I decided to first drive back to the Great Miami River if possible to see what might be going on back there. I wasn't sure if the road would be passible as it gets really bad around the bridge. The highlight of the drive was a juvenile eagle that was following the railroad tracks west back towards Jackpot Pond. It was probably one of the juvenile eagles that Ken had watched earlier in the day. I also saw a red-tail hawk, some ducks, and songbirds back closer to the river.

I made my way back to the main road in the Oxbow and in the distance I could see the distinctive white head of an adult bald eagle sitting in a tree along Jackpot Pond. As I got closer I could see there were actually two adult bald eagles in the tree and a juvenile bald eagle about twenty feet away. When I got to a good spot to watch the eagles, I pulled to the side of the road and turned the vehicle off. The distance across Jackpot Pond is a little longer than I would like for photographs but it was a good opportunity for some photos. Once again I was hoping at least one of the eagles would be hungry and decide to catch a fish. It didn't happen but it really didn't matter to me. As I sat watching the eagles, one of them would call out occasionally. I kept the camera on the two adults most of the time. As I was watching them, the juvenile eagle decided

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Birdathon 2012 Pledge Form
(May 11-12, 2012)

Name _____

Address _____

My Pledge for Birdathon 2012 is: Fixed Amount: \$ _____ () Check Enclosed () Bill me after the Birdathon
(Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.)

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, & Joe Bens

_____ Team #2 – Wayne Wauligman, Erich Baumgardner, & Jerry Lippert

_____ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, & Chris Moran

_____ Team #4 – Steve Pelikan, Bob Lacker, & Charlie Saunders

_____ Team #5 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

_____ Team #6 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

Mail To: Oxbow of Indiana, Inc P.O. Box 4172 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 Attn: Birdathon
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Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers as possible participate in the Birdathon. While there is a basic competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during 24 hours, there are many ways to compete besides most species for the total Birdathon area. To get your mind working, here are some possible categories of competition:

- *if not the entire Birdathon area then a portion-*
- Most Species seen: in one state, in one county or a river watershed
-maybe it is a small area-
- Most Species In One Location: like the Oxbow, back yard, or a big sit
-maybe the type of team-
- Most Species seen: by a family, a group under the age of 20, a school class
-maybe it can be a special category-
- Most money raised: by a team, an individual, a class
-or-
- Most birds seen without using fossil fuel, while building a deck, taking the kids for a hike
-or-
- Most birds photographed

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, please call Jay Stenger @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835. We like to know how many are going to be participating on the Birdathon so that we can get the Pizza order right for the Grand Tally Party at the finish of the Birdathon.

You can even make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in the Birdathon's 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! Then celebrate all the fun at the Grand Tally Party**

Green Fire

ALDO LEOPOLD AND A
LAND ETHIC FOR OUR TIME



DATE & TIME:

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013
7:00 pm.**

LOCATION:

Sharon Woods Centre

11450 Lebanon Rd., Sharonville, Ohio

DETAILS:

Free to the public but reservations are requested. Call 513-375-1025 to reserve seating.

Sponsored by Oxbow, Inc. and the Cincinnati Bird Club

PRODUCED BY:



www.GreenFireMovie.com

Paul Ice went walking in the Oxbow and came back with a set of amazing tall tales. Tall yes, but well documented. These two adult Bald Eagles take exception to a young juvenile Bald Eagle trying to join them in their tree. (Photo by Paul Ice)



A Northern Harrier takes a pass over the Jackpot Pond prairie area. (Photo by Paul Ice)



It is hard to tell who is the most startled, the deer or the photographer, Paul Ice.



Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS—submitted by Kani Meyer

To reach the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 west from the #16 exit off I-275. Pass the Hollywood Casino exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stoplight at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building. All meetings are at The Oxbow, Inc. Office, 301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg unless otherwise noted

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Xavier University professor emeritus **Stan Hedeem** will present a comprehensive narrative of Big Bone Lick from its geological formation forward explaining why the site attracted animals, regional tribal people, European explorers, and scientists, and eventually American pioneers and presidents.

**Tuesday, April 9, 2013 @ 7:00pm (note venue & time change)
Sharon Woods Centre**

Special Showing of *Green Fire* cosponsored with the Cincinnati Bird Club

The first full-length documentary film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, *Green Fire* highlights Leopold's extraordinary career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement. Leopold remains relevant today, inspiring projects all over the country that connect people and land. Following the film there will be a discussion featuring Thayne Maynard, Jack Sutton, Bill Hopple, and Jon Seymour.

To reach Sharon Woods Centre take I-275 to Sharonville (Route 42) exit; south on Route 42/Lebanon Road to park entrance on left. Once in the park, take the second left into the parking lot of Sharon Woods Centre.

**Tuesday, May 14, 2013 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

The Mill Creek Watershed Council enables the Mill Creek communities to protect and enhance the value of the Mill Creek, its tributaries and watershed. Through collaborative action, the Council strives to make the Mill Creek area a more desirable place to live, work and play. **Jennifer Eismeier**, Executive Director, will be speaking on watershed action planning and how it ties to overall water quality improvement in an urbanized stream.

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS—submitted by Jay Stenger

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

Saturday, March 23, 2013, 8:00 AM

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

Leader: Joe Bens, (513) 353-4229, joebens@live.com

March in the Oxbow means ducks as spring waterfowl migration reaches its peak during March. The Oxbow has historically been a magnet for migrating birds, especially waterfowl. Shake off your cabin fever and join trip leader Joe Bens on this morning trip. An expert birder and original Oxbow member, Joe doesn't miss much in the field. We expect many species of ducks and geese, as well as many other early spring migrants should also be found. Bald Eagles reach peak numbers during March and Sandhill Cranes are also a good bet. March also brings rain and potential flooding to the Oxbow making some areas inaccessible— Joe will adjust his plans accordingly on the day of the trip.. Catch "spring fever" and see a variety of birds and other wildlife. Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. Contact Joe if you have questions.

Sunday, April 21, 2013, 8:00 AM

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

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

By mid-April, spring should be well advanced and winter forgotten. Spring migration will be near peak and a diversity of species should be found in the Oxbow area. Join skilled birder and Oxbow veteran Ned Keller on this morning trip to the Oxbow. Ned's approach for this trip will depend on the weather but he expects to find a mixed bag. Ducks, herons and egrets, shorebirds, raptors and migrant songbirds are all expected on this date. Even an early Prothonotary Warbler is possible. So join Ned on a spring morning visit to the Oxbow. Expect some mud on your shoes when visiting the Oxbow. Contact Ned if you have questions regarding this trip.



by Dave Styer

The Cackling Goose



Until 2004 the American Ornithologists' Union treated the Canada Goose as a highly variable species with many subspecies. These varied in size from the large Canada Geese we normally see around Cincinnati to small, Mallard sized geese that are rarely seen in the Cincinnati area. For many years students of these birds have felt that there was more than one species involved. The trouble was that people had been unable to make a clear case of how to split the Canada Goose into different species.

The deciding factor by 2004 was our understanding of DNA and our ever-increasing ability to determine the DNA sequences that show relationships. Apparently it became clear that the DNA of individuals in the overall Canada Goose complex fell into two different groups, and the division was sufficiently clear that the biologists could split the Canada Goose complex into two separate species. Thus, we now have the Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*, and the Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii*.

While the Canada Goose nests throughout much of North America, north of Mexico, the Cackling Goose nests in the extreme north near the coast from the north end of Hudson Bay west across Alaska, and in the Aleutian Islands. The Cackling Goose winters as far south as Texas, but its main migration route is west of Indiana. None-the-less, enough of these geese wander east so that a few are seen annually in Ohio and Indiana. On Jan 15, 2007 Jeff and Anna Rowe, and Andy Bess got to add the Cackling Goose to the Oxbow area bird list. The sighting was near Lost Bridge. Thanks to Jon Seymour for providing me with this information. Since then the Cackling Goose has been seen nearly annually in the Oxbow area, and this January they have been seen often in the same area.

You may think that if it takes DNA to tell the difference between Cackling Geese and Canada Geese, how can birders know what they are seeing? Actually, the two species don't look exactly the same. On average, the Cackling Goose is much smaller than the Canada Goose. That's not very satisfying: does the bird have to be average? The clincher is not the size of the goose, but the shape of the bill. The Cackling Goose has a much stubbier bill than the Canada Goose.

Why didn't they separate the species by bill shape a hundred years ago? Think of the situation like a

mystery in which there are "red herrings" – pieces of information that are misleading or irrelevant. Here is an example: the *occidentalis* race of the Canada Goose and the *minima* race of the Cackling Goose have remarkably similar plumage. It is dark breasted and unlike any other race of either species. Even the downy young have similar dark plumage. In 1925, when Arthur Cleveland Bent published *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, Part 2, including the Canada Goose, color was just one of the confusing sets of characters exhibited by the different races. To quote Bent "it is ... of interest to note that the downy young of *occidentalis* and *minima* resemble each other very closely and are quite different from the downy young of" other Canada Geese, and that "this suggests the possibility of a distinct dark-breasted, western species. But perhaps ... these matters will be cleared up when more material is collected." Here is another, possibly confounding factor: R.R. MacFarlane studied birds on the Arctic coast in the 1860s. He wrote that he had "no doubt about Hutchins goose [now a subspecies of the Cackling goose] being a good species; its mode of nesting alone would go far to prove it distinct from the Canada Goose, which it so closely resembles." The former "scoops a hole in the sand or turf, lining its sides with down, while the nest of the latter is composed of a large quantity of feathers and down placed on or supported by some dry twigs or willow branches." I can't tell if this distinction was a "red herring."

So there you have it. In the 20th century the Canada Goose was treated as one highly variable species with several subspecies. Now, in the 21st century, with the insight provided by DNA, we have two highly variable species, each with several subspecies.

Upcoming Events for our Western Wildlife Corridor Friends

**Friday, April 5
6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Sixth Annual Wildflower Festival College of Mt. St. Joseph



This family event will feature nature games and activities for children, a wildflower plant sale, hand-crafted items for sale, a painting class, and presentations by local environmental organizations. See article for more details.

Contact Rebecca at (859) 512-1983 or rsisson654@zoomtown.com to learn more about this enjoyable event or to inquire about participating.

**Saturday, April 27
Half day or all day**

Eighth Annual Flower-a-thon

This will be a great chance for you to learn about the wildflowers of our region by hiking through the forests and listening to a presentation by experts. See article for more details.



Contact Tim at (513) 922-2104 or tssison@fuse.net for more information.

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2013

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2013 to:

Oxbow, Inc.
c/o Denny Mason
10210 Scull Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45252

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed on page 11. Cut out the memorandum. Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self-addressed stamped envelope to Denny. 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.

If you have any questions contact Denny Mason at 513-385-3607.

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Caroline Detmer & Charles Stenley

In memory of Kenneth Weinel

Thank You

Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.

Polly Bassett

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Coombe

Charles Noe

Dannah Crosby, Third Protestant Memorial
Church Fund

Tom Zureick

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 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.

to fly over to the same tree. When it first flew in it tried to land on the higher limb much to the disapproval of the adult eagle sitting there. The juvenile eagle quickly backed off and landed on a lower limb near the other adult eagle. In watching the three eagles I could see that the two adults tolerated the juvenile eagle and it appeared that this was an actual family of eagles. Other than the disapproval of the juvenile eagle wanting the upper branch, the two adults accepted the juvenile and they all sat there peacefully, only speaking to each other every little bit. This was about to change though. As I watched the three eagles sitting there, hoping for some action from them, a fourth eagle flew in. This bald eagle appeared to be a sub-adult. It didn't have a full white head or tail, having a few areas of brown here and there. The two adult eagles became very agitated and both started "screaming" at the newcomer. As noted before, they accepted the juvenile eagle without much ado. This newcomer, though, was seen as an intruder, one that had to go. Both of the adult eagles turned towards the newcomer, constantly screaming out their disapproval. The adult on the lower branch flew up closer to the upper eagle and at this point both adults flew towards the newcomer. This younger adult quickly got the message and flew out of their tree, heading towards the Ohio River. The two adults really didn't fly very far, both landing close to where the newcomer had been sitting, both calling out their continued disapproval of the newcomer and probably telling him not to come back. I sat there for a while and continued watching these eagles, pulling up where I could see them better. The three eagles all stayed there for a while, calling out to each other. Then the juvenile eagle took to the air, followed shortly thereafter by the two adults. I watched as they climbed higher and higher, soon flying out of sight.

It was about noon and I was ready to head home. I was just passing the upper end of Jackpot Pond and looked down the tree line into the field and was surprised to see deer standing along the trees. I quickly grabbed my camera and found three bucks and a doe at the edge of the field. It was nice to see a large eight point buck had made it through the hunting season as well as the small four point and spike. It was also great that there was just enough light coming through the trees to highlight the bucks for the photo. The deer stood there, stomped the ground several times, and then all four deer ran across the field towards the trees near Osprey Lake. I watched for them as I drove on out through the Oxbow but never did see them.

Once again, the Oxbow didn't let me down, giving me several wildlife viewing opportunities and another first for me. It was a fun morning and I look forward to heading back soon.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Application and Memorandum of Understanding

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

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

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

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.
c/o Denny Mason
10210 Scull Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45252
Phone: 513-385-3607

I understand that hunting privileges 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 _____

**HUNTING PERMISSION RE-
QUESTS SHOULD BE SUB-
MITTED BY JULY 1, 2013**

(Hunting permission is granted for one year (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) only and must be reapplied for yearly.)

Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, 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		

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**
P.O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
513-851-9835

Corporation Officers

President, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Vice President, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason	(513) 385-3607
Treasurer, Ed Gemperle	(812) 539-3666
Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Indiana Agent, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-983
Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Land Management, Kani Meyer John Klein	(513) 948-8630 (513) 941-4877
Programs, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan	(513) 681-2574
Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Newsletter Editor, Meg Poehlmann	(513) 931-4072
Newsletter Email: meggster@fuse.net	

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Give Us a Call!**

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LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025

