



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

The Growth of Green Umbrella

.....by Jon Seymour

Oxbow, Inc. is not the only conservation organization in the Greater Tri-state area! I know this comes as a shock to many of you ultra-loyal Oxbow supporters. But be honest now, most of you donate to other nature related causes, too. I know because I see your names on the list of donors for many other organizations. I get those lists because I donate to the same causes and I see my wife's and my name on the same list. This is only right because there are a lot of very worthy conservation causes close to home, in this peculiar little corner of three states, where we live all bound together by a circle freeway crisscrossed with interstate roads.

Some of these organizations have directors, paid staff, and extensive investment in facilities, while others are all volunteer, limited budget and just scrapping by from year to year. All are worthy, but as different as night and day. Each is trying to carry its message to the general public to generate revenue, volunteer support, and general awareness of their assets and capabilities. We all worry about the future of conservation, the future of the animals and land, the future of our air and water, and the future that awaits our children and grandchildren. We are all trying to make a difference and leave the world a better place.

The thought may occur to you that, "We would all be better off if we could join together, raise our voices, and act as one great voice in defense of the future". But the sad reality of the conservation world is that we are all in competition with each other. We are trying desperately to obtain funding from the same set of environmentally conscience foundations, while at the same time we are trying to entice the

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Oxbow Needs

If you can help, call Jon at 513-851-9835 or send an email to jlsjks@hotmail.com

This New Year consider giving a gift to Oxbow, Inc. of yourself, your time and talent. The kinds of gifts that Oxbow needs are listed below and you may be able to think of others.

- We need a gift of someone to be our volunteer coordinator. We need someone willing to stay in contact with our of volunteer workers and make them aware of volunteer opportunities as they arise.
- We need a gift of someone to document the amazing efforts of our volunteers and make sure their stories get told in *Wetland Matters*. This would mean interviewing a volunteer or two every two months and putting together their story for publication in *Wetland Matters*.
- We need the gift of someone to monitor our Conservation Easements once a year and fill out a report on the monitoring visit.

Correction

All photos included in the previous issue of *Wetland Matters* (Issue #165) were inadvertently credited to Denis Conover. They should have been credited to Carol Herzog. Thanks Carol for sharing your photos of the Oxbow. Anyone else can share a photo they have taken of the Oxbow with us by sending the photos to jlsjks@hotmail.com marked Oxbow photos and include a note of permission to publish them. If they meet the needs of the newsletter or our outer publications we may be able to publish them or use them in our electronic media. Many thanks to all our generous photographers who have shared so many of their Oxbow photos/experiences with us over the years.

Green Umbrella...(continued from page 1)

same 1% of the population (the 1% that will actually donate money to environmental/conservation organizations) to donate to our individual causes. Then, to top that off we are trying to obtain the people power to run these organizations from the same 0.1% of the population that is actually willing to donate their time and effort. It is not uncommon to hear the executive director of one organization tell a member of the Board of another that they should not be "encroaching on a funding source", the "It's our source and keep your hands off!" mentality that goes with a very limited sources of funding.

But what if we could find a way of acting as one? What if we could find a way to amplify and multiply our collective voice? What if there was a way to bring in new and even larger sources of funding and people resources? I think this would be a very good thing indeed! Most importantly, for the last three years we have been working very hard on making this actually happen.

In 2011, a small coalition of local park systems, government park systems, Land Trusts, and interested environment groups expanded its' charter to include "sustainability efforts" in all its' different guises. This had the immediate effect of allowing large groups of people, businesses and institutions to come together under one banner for the betterment and good of the community, in this case the tri-state area. The small group had the name of Green Umbrella and now for the first time was actually living up to the name it had selected for itself. It finally became an umbrella encompassing all manner of "Green" (sustainable) actions.

The key action that started the ball rolling was for Green Umbrella to form a partnership with Vision 2015 from Northern Kentucky and with Agenda 360 from Cincinnati. Both groups are the visionary planning arms of the Chambers of Commerce on both sides of the river. Purists may say that conservation and the environment our polar opposites of the Chamber of Commerce. However, a closer look at a modern Chamber of Commerce reveals areas of shared concern. And, as a bonus, Green Umbrella's focus had been on 9 counties surrounding Cincinnati (Clermont, Warren, Hamilton, and Butler, in Ohio; Boone, Kenton, and Campbell, in Kentucky, and Dearborn and Franklin in Indiana). The focus of the revised Green Umbrella would stay on those 9 counties emphasizing the interconnectedness of the tri-state area.

Those shared areas of concern had to do with the quality of the employees retained or attracted to the area, the health of the work force, and the bottom line of corporate profits seen in reduced landfill, lower energy and transportation costs.

Who would have "guessed" that talented new employees want modern accessible cities and workplaces, alternative methods of transportation, lower pollution, breathable air, clean/fresh drinking water, access to the outdoors and nature related recreational opportunities? They want to live and work in a place where their concerns about sustainability are part of the culture and they feel supported by the community in these concerns. Local corporations are awakening to this fact of recruitment and retention.

Who would have "guessed" that employers would want a healthy workforce that provides maximum productivity because they have a bright mental outlook and a healthy body that works more productive hours per year. Who would have "guessed" that breathing clean air, drinking pure water, having access to healthy foods, and getting proper exercise enhance the prospects of having a healthy worker.

Who would have "guessed" that not sending waste to landfills, not using as much electricity, not driving as far to work (or not driving at all), not building another road, not building another power plant, and not having to clean up the water and air from pollution would save corporations so many billions (yes I said billions) of dollars off the bottom line.

These truths are seemingly "self-evident", at least to some of us, but they are now being discovered by a whole new generation of employers and employees. Green Umbrella has expanded its role and is now actively trying to harness all this energy for sustainability into one giant clearinghouse to aid in creating progress and developing synergies as well as a more unified voice for conservation.

So what is all happening? Green Umbrella formed six natural sustainability teams. Energy, Land, Waste, Food, Education, and Transportation and invited the tri-state area to join and participate. The first summit, three years ago, drew over 100 people, representing over 80 organizations, who divided themselves into areas of interest and began to form a team structure and develop goals. Almost immediately the Land and Energy Teams split in two. The Land Team split into Land and Water, while the Energy Team split into Reduction and Renewable. A year ago a ninth Team formed which is the Trails

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Green Umbrella (continued from page 2)

Team. Each of these teams have volunteer leaders and report to a volunteer Green Umbrella Board who steer the organization. The Board hired Brewster Rhoades, a highly respected local environment advocate, and other staff to support and coordinate the work of the Action Teams.

Three years into the effort Green Umbrella consists of over 225 organization and business members as well as about 80 individual members. (Yes, you can join as an individual.) The current budget is \$300,000 per year and we support staff as well as a growing cadre of interns from local institutions of higher learning. The money comes from member fees and institutional grants. It is the best of both worlds. We are being heard on important issues with one voice. There is tremendous synergy in the size and make-up of the organization that lends itself to enhanced coordination and catalyzation of actions. Green Umbrella is not in competition for grant money with its' member groups, it is creating a whole new area of funding for the region.

Because the members include not only park systems and land trusts like Oxbow, Inc. but banks, manufactures, city waste managers, architectural firms, etc. there is a broad base of support for participation in at least one of the action teams. Meanwhile the action teams actively look across at the other action teams for opportunities to work together on issues of interest to more than one team. It brings in a wider base of support and new volunteers to nearly every environmental issue we are facing in the sustainability area.

Green Umbrella has absorbed the management of already established events such as Kid's Expo, Paddlefest, Great Outdoor Weekend, Ohio River Swim, and Peddlefest, to name a few. It has also been active in helping place plants in Smale Park, bring a bicycle exchange to Cincinnati, and become an active partner in the ongoing Taking Root Campaign led by the OKI Regional Council of Governments. In addition, there have been seminars, master plans, and revised Bus routes. And this is just starting to roll.

Oxbow, Inc. is still closely linked to the Land Action Team (the team most resembling the previous incarnation of Green Umbrella) and of course it is also linked to the Water Team for concerns about water quality and healthy riparian zones. But these are not the only two teams that affect Oxbow, Inc. The Meet Me Outdoors (education) Team links to our outdoor education efforts as well as to our efforts to expand our membership which has been shrinking since the

economy collapsed in 2008. The Trails Team is working on a master plan that would contain linking the portion of the bike trail on top of the levee with other trails in the area and making the Oxbow a cycling destination area. The Land Team has provided seminars on invasive plant control and canopy restoration that address current problems managing our land trust. And, of course, the Waste Management Team will hopefully be able to institute programs that reduce the solid and liquid waste that escape into the environment.

What can you do? Lots! Go to www.greenumbrella.org and sign up for the weekly e-newsletter and learn more about the various programs that Green Umbrella offers. Figure out where you would like to help and then volunteer to make a difference.



New Oxbow T-Shirts Are Here— a MUST for Spring Birding!

The new oxbow T-shirts, designed by local wildlife artist Ann Giese, are available. \$15 if picked up at the Oxbow office. By mail, \$19 (including shipping). Advertise your love for the Oxbow area with this great t-shirt.

Oxbow T-shirts come in M, L, XL and XXL only. If there is a large demand for another size, we may be able to have them printed.

To order your T-shirt, send \$19.00 per shirt, to:

Oxbow, Inc.
Attn: T-shirt
P.O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

**Be certain to include
your return mailing
address!**

Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 by Jon Seymour

Rick Pope, Board Member and Oxbow farmer has arranged a meeting with Brad Reinholt, the new Indiana Conservation Officer for this district in Indiana. Our rendezvous point is the junction of the Oxbow Lake road and the railroad track at the corner of the Lawrenceburg conservancy district. Rick has arranged the meeting to help Brad become a bit more familiar with the Oxbow property and our rules and regulations. Brad is not new to the Oxbow but we have never had the opportunity to sit down and familiarize him with the area and our operation.

It won't be exactly easy today. Four days ago the river crested at 45 feet Cincinnati (measured at the Roebling Suspension Bridge in downtown Cincinnati) and only now has returned to a relatively normal 28 feet Cincinnati. During that time overnight lows have been in the low single digits and highs have hardly exceeded 20 F. It will make for some interesting road conditions but Rick feels we can reach most of the critical areas.

I abandon my car beside the electrical station for Hollywood Casino at the top of the levee and Board Member, Denny Mason, picks me up in his 4-wheel drive truck. I took one look at the steep packed snow covered road and calculated that my car might not make it back up the incline. Denny bounces us over the snow plow enhanced road-edge to the Casino parking area and we descend the levee to join the others who are waiting.

After a round of introductions we all pile into Rick's extremely comfortable, 4-wheel drive truck and we are off down the railroad track drive to overlook the corner where our property comes together with the property of two other land owners. This is always an area of potential confusion on hunting issues as the two property owners occasionally give hunters permission to hunt on their land. The hunters can easily stray onto our property, which may be an honest error, but they could also be taking advantage of the ambiguity of locating themselves in the Oxbow and be hunting on our land on purpose. Sorting this out can be difficult but arming Brad with a visual understanding of the property lines will aid his decision making process when policing our land for future hunting violations.

Using maps of the area we were able to give him a better understanding of where we do allow hunting and Denny gives him a description of our permitting process and the material we give our permitted hunters to identify themselves as legally registered with us. Denny also describes our arrangement with the Dearborn County Sheriff's Office so that Brad has a clear picture of how they operate in the area. We discuss some actual and some hypothetical situations and try to give Brad a glimpse into how we have handled situations in the past and how we would be likely to handle new situations in the future.

The road conditions are interesting to say the least. Most everything is compressed snow and ice with a dusting of snow on the top. Rick is viewing the situation with a great deal of caution and there are certain interesting signals that give a cause for concern. A look down the grade into the bottoms along the RR at Wood Duck Slough shows a low area in the road below that is crisscrossed with slabs of ice 3 inches thick and pointing 2-3 feet into the sky in a pattern reminiscent of WW II beach defenses. These are the result of frozen ice that collapsed as water drained out from under it and lie completely across the road. We will not be driving any further down the road.

Backing up and turning around we head back to our starting point and head north along the Lawrenceburg Conservancy District (LCD). We explain our relationship with the LCD and give Brad a visual memory of the LCD boundaries. We are back on gravel with hard snow pack on top and moving along the road smoothly. Rick notices ahead that the snow pack is apparently cracked. We stop and a quick look out the cab window shows that we have transitioned from snow pack to solid ice with a thin coat of snow and we are now on top of what was the lake just 4 days ago. We notice a track on the left side of the car that seems to go right through the middle of the truck and continues out the right side of the car and off into the distance. We know that a cross country skier was here sometime in the last two days. Discretion being the better part of valor, Rick turns the truck around and we head back to the starting point.

Back in our individual cars we head for the north entrance (Shell/Best Way) and at the entrance parking area we reconvene and board Rick's truck and head down Oxbow Lake Road. We are trying to reach Osprey Lake but the road is weird. There are places where the road surface appears to have collapsed. We know there is no water under the ice on the road but we are hearing ominous cracking sounds as the truck proceeds down the road. Rick decides enough is enough and he pulls to a stop. The scene on either side of the truck is unworldly. Large slabs of ice 2-3 inches thick hang suspended a foot from the ground among the unharvested corn stalks. On the lake side of the car the same size slabs hang from tree branches 15 feet above the lake and the ice, that settled onto the lake as the water receded, lies folded like an accordion down the bank.

I decide I need some pictures of this and get out and walk along the road. There is a dusting of snow on top of a slab of ice. There is no water under the ice but the large slabs settled on the road intact, as the water drained out and are now balanced on the high points of the road. The truck's weight is cracking the ice as it rolls over it. As I walk along the surface of the road I hear the typical scrunch of cold snow under my boots. But there is another sound, a series of groans and occasionally a snap as the ice shifts under or near my step. This sound is scary as it is exactly what you hear walking across a frozen pond just before you get very wet, very cold, and very scared. I have to remind myself that there is no water under this ice to threaten my life. I take my photos and head back for the truck.

Rick backs the truck down the road retracing our path. We opt for plan B. Do not try plan B on your own. It is not allowed. Plan B is to drive the levee bike path to view the areas we cannot reach by road. We have special permission from the LCD to do this when areas of the Oxbow are not accessible in other ways. The top of the levee is a special place. Look west and you see the business park and 7 lanes of traffic dashing along Highway 50. Look east and you see woodlots, Osprey Lake, and Oxbow Lake. Both of the areas are floodplain. One just happens to have a levee between it and the water. As we pass a woodlot near the levee, I see a stand of young trees maybe 1-2 inches in diameter. About 5 feet above the ground, a fully intact ice sheet, several square yards in size, is held up by the densely packed tree trunks. I can't help but think that if anyone is under that ice when it falls they will likely need an emergency ride to the hospital. With this view we are able to continue to describe more Oxbow property boundaries to Brad.

Returning to the parking area we say good-bye to Brad and entreat him to call us with any questions about policy or borders. As Brad heads off to another meeting, Rick, Denny and I head for a lunch.

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 11, 2014 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Have you ever wondered what the great Ohio Wilderness really looked like before European settlement in the 18th century? Fortunately some of the first naturalists, explorers, Indian captives and missionaries from that time left vivid descriptions in journals. They described the vast pristine beauty of the land and rivers, the immense trees, remarkable wildlife and native people. **Mary Louise Holt** has created a series of paintings based on the colorful descriptions from those original journals. Travel back through time with the artist as she takes you into this wilderness with compelling stories and images from her paintings.

Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Using tiny security cameras, **Dr. Cheryl Dykstra**, has been studying the nest behavior of one of our most commonly seen hawks, the Red-shouldered hawk. Join us for a peek into the secret lives of Cincinnati's Red-shouldered hawks including their diet, sibling aggression, predators and causes of mortality.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 @ 7:30pm
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg
The Oxbow, Inc. Office

The Everglades Region was the last explored area of Continental U.S. The many ecosystems encountered in a short distance make this area a Capitol of flora and fauna. Jack and Elaine Berninger have explored this region over many winters in sunny Florida and invite you to join them on an adventure through this neo-tropical area.

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 more ways to compete. 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

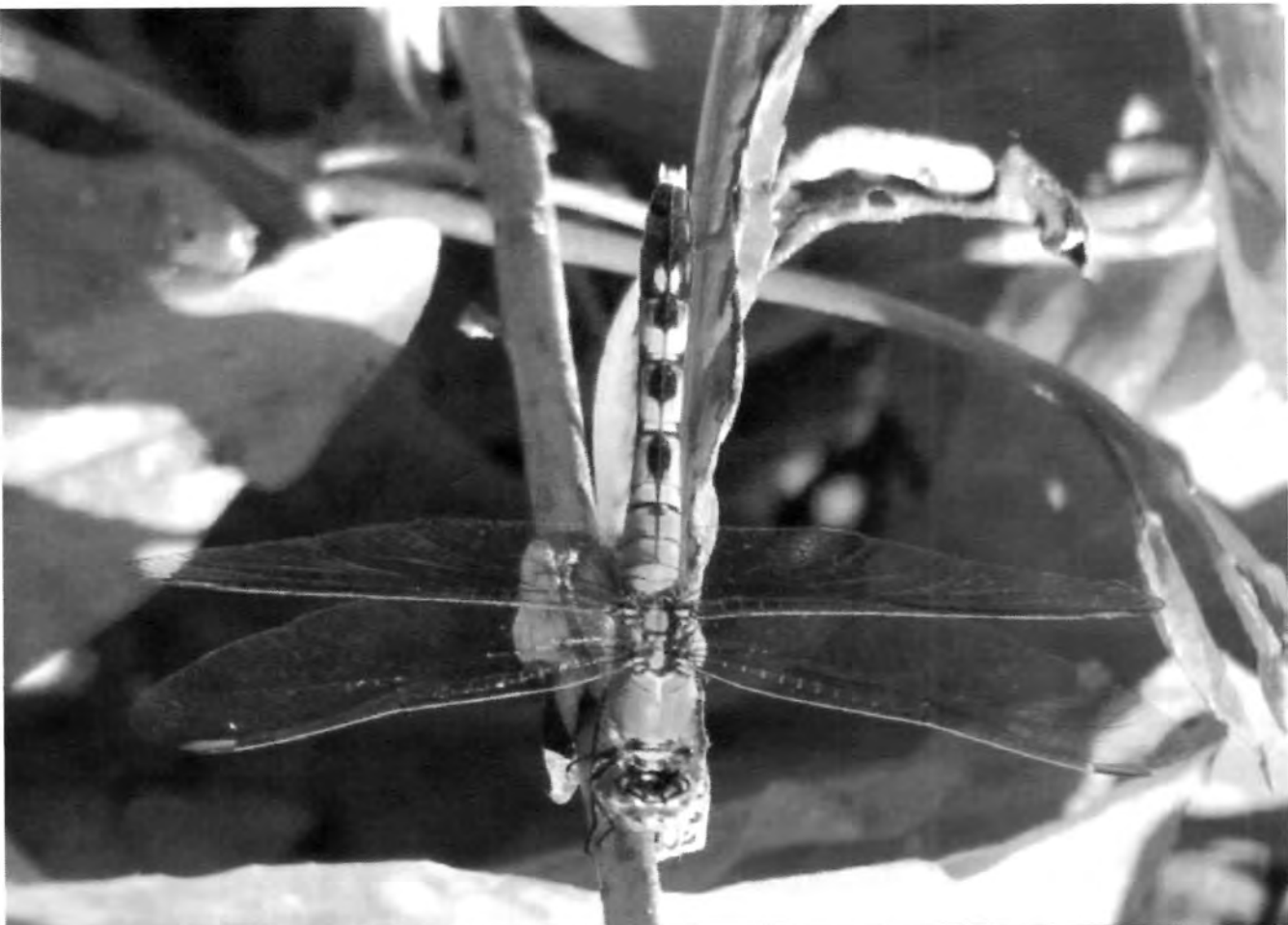
-or-

Most birds photographed

Or create your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species during the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will probably accept it. Remember the purpose of the Birdathon - to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. Each team or individual participating should do everything it can to raise money for Oxbow. **The way to do it is to have fun birding! Then celebrate all the fun at the Grand Tally Party**

Enter a team (or an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon by calling **Jay Stenger @ 513-522-8147** or **Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835**. We like to know how many will participate in the Birdathon so we get enough Pizza for the Grand Tally Party after the Birdathon finish. The \$5.00 per person fee covers the cost of the food at the Tally Party. See you ALL there.

We need some thought of spring as this winter hits the top end of the record books for the area. This photo of a female Eastern Pond Hawk dragonfly on green foliage should stimulate our thoughts of summer and keep us a little warmer. (photo by Caveman Ertis)



Consistent with the "let's think about spring" spirit, this photo of a False Crocus Geometer Moth takes our thoughts to a spring woodland and away from ice encrusted snow. (photo by Caveman Ertis)



It still is winter while this newsletter is being composed and this photo of a ice encased bud is a wonderful image of both the depth of winter's grip and the promise of spring to come. (photo by Wayne Wauligman)

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS—submitted by Jay Stenger

***Revised Directions for Oxbow Inc Field Trip Meeting Location — Unless otherwise indicated, all trips start at the upper Oxbow parking lot.** To reach 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 where the road T's with a fence directly in front of you. Turn right and go to the Oxbow entrance sign. Turn left into the Oxbow. The upper parking area is immediately on the right.

Spring Waterfowl Migration

Sunday, March 2, 2014, 8:00 am.

Meet: 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 this month. The Oxbow has historically been a magnet for migrating birds, but especially so for waterfowl. So it goes without saying that the primary focus of any March field trip in the Oxbow has to be ducks (and geese). As one of Oxbow's long standing motto's state, "The Duck Stops Here".

Shake off your cabin fever and join our trip leader Joe Bens on this morning trip. Joe is an expert birder and original Oxbow member and he doesn't miss much in the field. We expect many species of ducks and geese, but many other early spring migrants should also be found and Bald Eagles reach peak numbers during March.

March also brings rain and potential flooding to the Oxbows bottoms so some areas can become inaccessible during this month. Joe will adjust his plans accordingly on the day of the trip. So catch "spring fever" and see a variety of birds and other wildlife. Dress accordingly for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. Contact Joe if you have any questions regarding this trip.

Spring Migration

Saturday, April 19, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Meet: 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

The focus of this trip will be spring migration, which will be well advanced by this date. April is in the middle of spring migration (March thru May) and numerous species of birds either begin or continue their northward movements during this month. A great diversity of birds should be seen on this trip. Waterfowl, herons and egrets, gulls and terns, raptors, shorebirds and returning songbirds (including a few warblers) are all to be expected. Darlena's excellent birding skills and knowledge of the Oxbow will assure a good morning afield. Darlena may decide to spend some time on the Shawnee Lookout side of the Oxbow. This field trip will include mostly level, slow-paced walking. Muddy spots are always likely in the Oxbow so appropriate footwear is advised. Join Darlena for a very pleasant morning walk with signs of spring everywhere we look. Contact Darlena if you have any questions.

OXBOW INC. ANNUAL BIRDATHON 2014

Begins: 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2014

Ends: 5:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10, 2014

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details and more information or contact Jon Seymour or Jay Stenger directly.

Jon Seymour, 513-851-9835, jlsjks@hotmail.com

Jay Stenger, 513-522-8147, jaystenger@cinci.rr.com

Wildflowers of Ohio

taught by our own Dr. Denis Conover

Learn your wildflowers up close and personal! For nonbiology majors and open to public registration, this course provides an introduction to the diversity of the families of flowering plants with emphasis on plants that grow wild in the Ohio/Indiana area. Students will learn the anatomy and terminology involved in the acquisition of plant identification skills and the ecology of plants encountered during field trips. Based at the University of Cincinnati Center for Field Studies located in Miami Whitewater Forest County Park. Other locations that will be visited are Shawnee Lookout County Park, the Fernald Preserve and the Oxbow. May is a great time for wildflowers! To receive a registration form to register for the course contact Dr. Conover at conovedg@hotmail.com.

University of Cincinnati Summer course Biol 1009C

May 12-30, 2014, each Tues/Thurs 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



usings

by Dave Styér

The Ring-necked Duck

If you are out at the Oxbow and see a duck with a bright white ring around its neck, is that a Ring-necked Duck? Of course not; that's a drake Mallard. If you see a duck with a bright white ring around its bill, a rather pointed crown, and no particularly evident ring around its neck, that's a Ring-necked Duck, *Aythya collaris*. Even the scientific name *collaris*, as in collar, refers to the barely visible ring around the neck. The Ring-necked Duck has to be one of the birds that has led to the humorous observation that birds are named for their least obvious feature. I think, also, of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, where frequently no ruby crown at all is visible. However, when the kinglet does show his ruby crown, it is very obvious. Do you think that if the Ring-necked Duck had a bright white ring around its neck, and a nearly invisible ring about its bill, that it would have been named a Ring-billed Duck?

As pointed out in *Birds of the Oxbow* the handsome Ring-necked Duck has been the second most common bay duck in the Oxbow area. Its relative, the Lesser Scaup, is the most common bay duck there, but Redheads and Canvasbacks can also be reasonably common.

For me there is an historical mystery about the Ring-necked Duck. By the 1950s this duck is described as common enough throughout much of its range. Prior to 1900 it was often treated as rare or just overlooked. The history-mystery is this: was it rare or just overlooked? Let's look at more details. The current *Guide to Bird Finding in Eastern Massachusetts* presents the Ring-necked Duck as "hard to miss" for about a month in the fall. We turn now to the famous *Birds of Massachusetts and other New England States* by Edward Howe Forbush (1925):

The Ring-necked Duck is one of the rarest ducks of the Northeast. Though not so rare as the Gadwall or the Shoveller, it seems to occur less often than the European Widgeon. However it may be less rare than the general

would indicate. The males may easily escape notice in a flock of scaups; while the females and young resemble female scaups or Redheads, and so may be overlooked or mistaken for one or the other.

It's a bit shocking to see the Ring-necked Duck less common in New England than a "European Widgeon." Perhaps people then were focused too much on ducks at sea. As Bruce Peterjohn points out in *The Birds of Ohio*, "unlike most diving ducks, Ring-neckeds prefer inland bodies of water." Bruce was applying this to Lake Erie, but his statement is true for the oceans. Perhaps Massachusetts is too far away, and we need to look closer to home.

In *Birds of Southwestern Ohio* (1953) Kemsies and Randle call the Ring-necked Duck 'a common spring and fall migrant.' On the other hand, Amos W. Butler, in *The Birds of Indiana* (1898) states the following about the Ring-necked Duck:

Migrant; generally recognized as rare, but in the northern part of the State tolerably common. Occasionally found in winter in the southern part of the State.

Since Ames Butler lived in Brookville, Indiana, he was certainly close to the Oxbow area.

We could ask if the Ring-necked Duck was not recognized as a separate species until much later than our other bay ducks. It turns out that this species was given a scientific name in 1809, while the Canvasback, Redhead, and Lesser Scaup were given their scientific names later (1814, 1838, and 1838 respectively). Curiously, the Ring-necked Duck was described from a specimen found in a London market.

Finally, optics may be an issue, clouding our knowledge of the past. It's hard to imagine birding without binoculars, let alone a good spotting scope. I have read that birding with a shotgun was, more-or-less, standard in the 19th century. Did Ring-necked Ducks usually keep at a sufficient distance that they were rarely shot, and not even well enough seen to be recognized? To some extent, this question could be tested by going birding without optical equipment. Would the test have to be carried out where duck hunting is regularly done? Knowing the past soon gets too complicated for me. If my life depended on a vote one way or the other, I believe I would vote that Ring-necked Ducks were once much rarer than they are now.

**Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2014
(May 9-10, 2014)**

Name _____

Address _____

My Pledge for Birdathon 2014 is:

Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.

Fixed Amount: \$ _____

() Check Enclosed

() Bill me after the Birdathon,

-OR-

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 – Wayne Wauligman & Erich Baumgardner

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

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

_____ Team #5 – Jerry Lippert & Madeleine Lippert

_____ Team #6 – Jon Seymour & the First Timers

_____ Team #7 – Dave & Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)

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

Make checks payable to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. Note this is a change to allow us to better track the money for the purposes of habitat restoration and improved access. All donations to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are tax deductible.

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Donor

Memoriam

Ed & Judy Krautter

Mary Jane Neiheisel

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

Bonnie Pence

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.

Spring Cleaning in the Oxbow

Please come out this spring and help us do a spring cleaning of the Oxbow. We will supply gloves, trash bags and water.

**Saturday, April 26
9 a.m. to noon**

Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2014

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2014 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.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

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

Application and Memorandum of Understanding

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

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

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

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

Your Signature: _____ Date _____

Return Mail Address: _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

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

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY JULY 1, 2014

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

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) 851-9835
Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Land Management, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
John Klein	(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	

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

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Give Us a Call!

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