

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

2073 HARRISON AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45214

No. 19 September - October, 1989

1989 Conservation Achievement Award

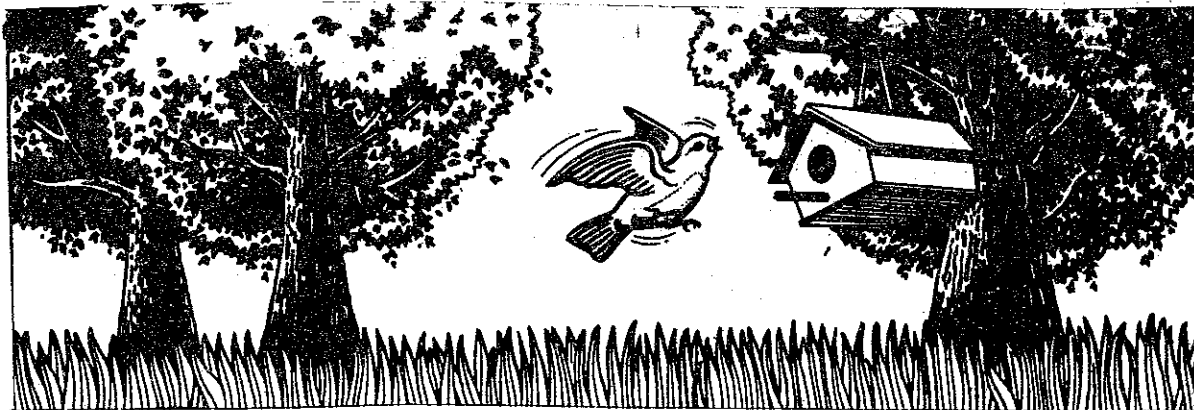
Mr. Joseph J. Sommer, Director, Ohio Department of Natural Resources recently presented Oxbow, Inc. president, Norma L. Flannery, the Department's 1989 Conservation Achievement Award.

This award is given to an individual, group or company making a significant contribution to the conservation of Ohio's natural resources. The contribution may be one act demonstrating environmental concern, or it may be a continuing effort.

The plaque reads - "Oxbow, Inc. is a citizens organization created in 1985 and dedicated to the preservation of the wetlands at the confluence of the Ohio and Great Miami rivers, known as the Oxbow. It is the most important remaining 2,500-acre wetland in the Central Ohio Valley that serves as a staging area for thousands of migrating waterfowl and other wildlife. Since its inception, Oxbow, Inc. has purchased or has options on more than 200 acres of this land and is working to ensure that the area remains in its traditional agricultural use and retains its historic value to migrating wildlife."

This year, only five Conservation Achievement Awards were given throughout the state of Ohio. Oxbow, Inc. is very proud to have been selected for recognition.

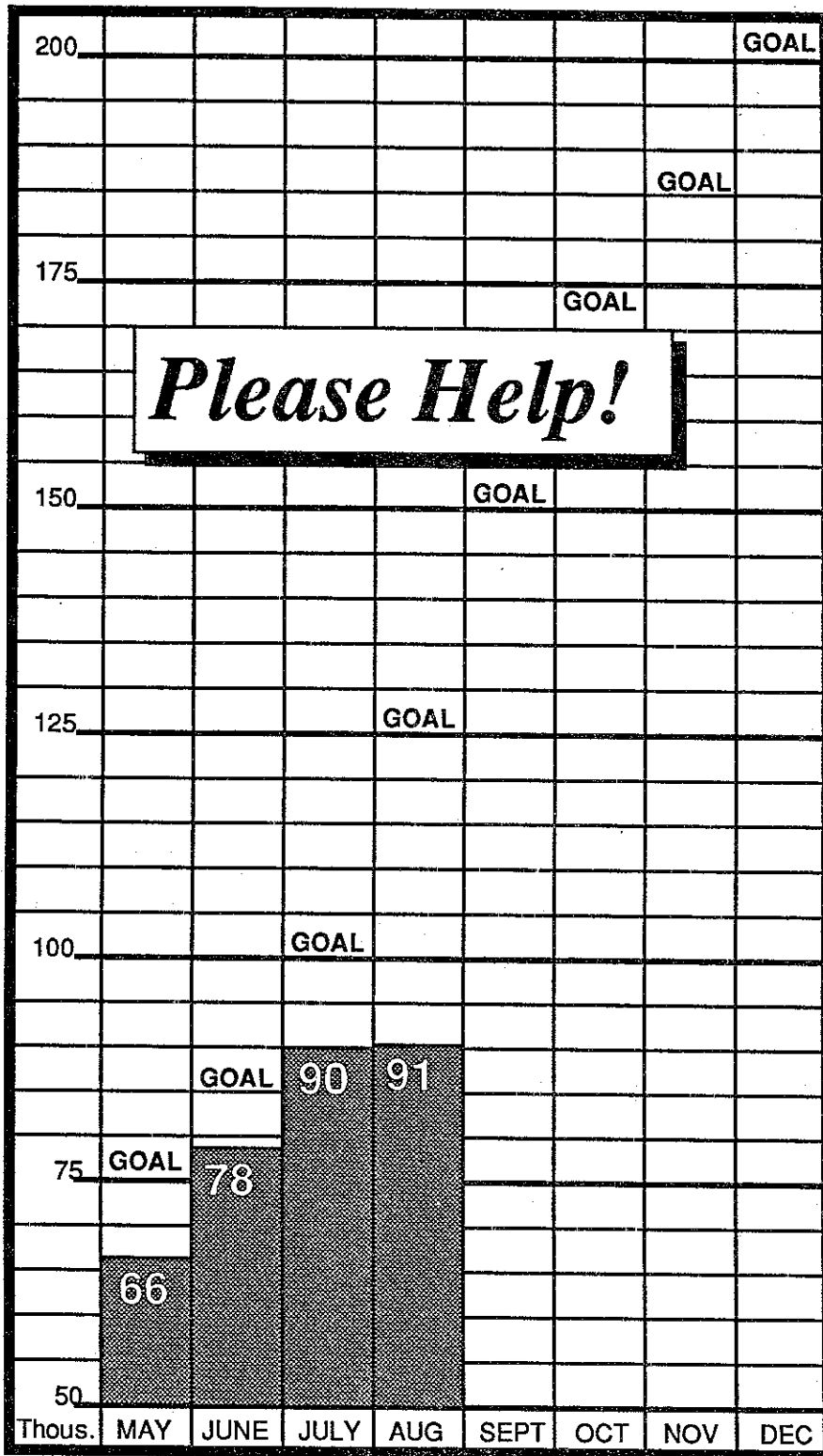
Morris and Francis Mercer accompanied Miss Flannery to Columbus, Ohio for the award ceremony.



BIRDATHON '89 CONTINUES TO PRODUCE FUNDS. Art Wiseman

Even though the contest was held back on May 12th and 13th, pledges continue to be received. As of August 20th, the funds received totaled \$13,069. Several of these contributions came from folks who merely delayed or postponed writing their checks. At this time, we still expect to receive another \$4000 for a total of \$17,000. We also want to say "THANKS" to all those friends who contributed to the success of the project--both financially and in the spirit of competition.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



FUNDRAISING DRIVE.

At the end of June we had cash on hand of \$81,095 which included about \$10,000 of income received primarily from BIRDATHON '89. July was also fairly productive and contributions raised the total to \$89,349. August was rather slow. Membership renewals and wetland seminar registrations brought the total to \$91,135. This means we still need to raise \$110,000 by December 1st to complete the purchase of the 189.9 acres we are contracted to purchase. We would be glad to hear from anyone who has a suggestion as to where and how this money can be raised. We are looking for funds from \$5 to \$10,00 to start a "Challenge Grant" before time runs out. Our thanks to all who have contributed. Remember, your donations are tax deductible.

Art Wiseman, Treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE.

Don't forget --
"EACH ONE BRINGS ONE!"

Our membership drive needs **your** effort to reach our goal of 1,000 members by the end of 1989.

Currently, the figure stands at **855** members. The exciting thing? Members coming back-renewing after having dropped their membership!

It is so important to Oxbow, Inc. to have an increasing membership.

For example, dues during the first six months of 1988 raised \$8,830. The first six months of 1989, dues accounted for \$12,639, a whopping 43% increase in revenue.

If your membership is due to be renewed, stay with us. How about renewing at a higher level or sending something extra for our \$200,000 goal?

Don't wait...renew your membership today and bring that extra person in with you!

FIELD NOTES

SUMMER IN THE OXBOW.

Morris Mercer.



The summer of 1988 and this, the summer of 1989, is a study in contrasts. 1988 was hot and so very dry. Last summer was the lowest I've seen the Oxbow. This

year, in the middle of June, the fields around the Oxbow were under water. And now, with the end of summer little more than a month away, we find the water still high. The water receded from the fields too late for a corn crop. While some of the fields are in soybeans, much of the land remains unplanted because it just hasn't dried out in time for a crop to make it this year.

I haven't found as many shorebirds as last year, but we don't have the large mud-flats of a year ago. There have been numerous field trips into the area by various groups that have enjoyed many summer hours there. One evening group took a cool walk around the inside bend of the Oxbow lake. We observed semipalmated plovers, spotted, least, and pectoral sandpipers, mallard and wood ducks, several great blue, and black-crowned night herons. There were also tree, bank, barn, and rough-winged swallows in good numbers.

A Cooper's hawk made a low flight over our heads. The group had a good look at the bird. The hawk didn't go unnoticed by the shorebirds either, as they all took to the wing until it was gone. We did get to see a white-tailed deer browsing on the lush green hills far across the river in Kentucky. What a pleasant way to spend a cool summer evening! An evening with good friends and the wildlife around the Oxbow.

* * * * *

On a clear night in the second week of August it was time for the Perseids. Joanne Olman and Dave Styer agreed to help me paddle the canoe up the Great Miami to observe meteor showers from the river.

It was twilight as Lost Bridge came into view. A great horned owl's flight carried it across the river to a resting place on the limb of a tall cottonwood tree. What a great silhouette against the evening sky!

We were at Lost Bridge as night came to the river. The paddles were placed in the canoe, and it was time to lie back and say, "river, take us home."

The canoe drifted and turned slowly in the current. Eyes searched the wide dark sky for meteors. Our one big problem was a bright moon over the Miami. We saw some meteors and I'm sure we would have seen many, many more, but the moon got in our eyes. (Must be a title for a song here somewhere.) Night sounds were all around us - frogs, crickets, and the incessantly calling katydids. We disturbed several roosting great blue herons. They put up some squawk as they flew from the trees in search of a safer haven.

Watching for meteors from a drifting canoe on a moonlit river on a warm summer night.... When I think of the Oxbow and all of the pleasant hours spent there and of all the many moods of the seasons, one thought comes to me. We must save the Oxbow!

Meetings

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Bldg.
Enter through the Exit gate on Erkenbercher Avenue.

C,R,E,W. (Center for Reproduction of Endangered Wildlife) will present a program covering the various methods of reproduction that have been developed in an effort to keep rare and endangered species from becoming extinct.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library. Turn left of U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.

A slide program depicting the wonderful color and diversity of the plants and animals to be found in the Amazonian rain forests. "TROPICAL RAIN FOREST" is a production of the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

Field Trips

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 6 P.M. Jay Stenger will conduct this evening walk around the Oxbow to find shorebirds, etc. Meet at the Fifties Root Beer parking lot, U.S. 50 and I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit.
Jay Stenger 513-522-4245

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 9 A.M. Meet Steve Wagner at the boat ramp at Shawnee Lookout Park for a check on what's stoppin' by on the way south.

Steve Wagner. 513-831-7606



MOVING?

Make sure your WETLAND MATTERS newsletter goes with you.

Name

New Address

Old Address

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Effective Date

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Ave Cinti, OH 45214

Corporation Officers

President, Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
Vice President, Rick Bramstedt	812-438-2129
Secretary, Bonnie Fancher	812-438-3641
Treasurer, Art Wiseman	513-481-4302
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Preservation, Ned Keller	513-941-6497
Programs, Judy Bramstedt	812-438-2129
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers' Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck	513-631-5933

Editor

Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
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Oxbow, Inc.

A non-profit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands area known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from future industrial development and to preserve the existing agricultural floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This is an agricultural area rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland. You can make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource.

Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is solicited and encouraged.

Individual	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

Mail to: OXBOW, INC.

2073 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Need A Speaker? Give Us A Call!



Oxbow, Inc.
2073 Harrison Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45214

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