

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

NO. 31 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1991



"THE UNLIKELY FIELD TRIP" Morris Mercer.

After a month of very hot, dry weather, I was awakened by thunder and lightning that rattled the windows and sounded like the Fourth of July. But it was the eighth of July and there was an evening field trip at the Oxbow. Maybe it would clear up I hoped, but the day remained cloudy with rain. The five o'clock weather report warned,

"For southeastern Indiana and western Hamilton County until 8 P.M., rain with possibly severe thunderstorms, hail, high winds, and dangerous lightning."

Not the weather you would want for a field trip!

The leader was to be Jay Stenger who has a long drive from his home to the Oxbow. I called and told him not to come. Being closer, I would go to the 50's Root Beer and tell anyone that might show up that we had better cancel. The lightning didn't sound good.

By six, the rain had ended and the sky was clearing. Rick Pope, an Oxbow, Inc. board member was already in the parking lot, ready and waiting. A number of other "muddies" arrived. Some had never seen the Oxbow and really wanted to go. They urged, "let's go for it!", and we were off.

The predicted high winds were now only a summer breeze that greeted us as we set out. We picked up another "mudder" who had started out earlier and had seen a prothonotary warbler. The rattle of a kingfisher directed our attention to a fleeting glimpse of his rapid flight. Out from behind the willows floated a child's pull-toy that, in our binoculars, became a female wood duck. As she made her way across the lake she was followed by her brood of almost-grown woodies.

Above us, purple martins, in company with bank, rough-winged, and barn swallows, swooped and darted, gathering a final meal before the day was gone. Killdeer seemed to be everywhere. One positioned himself in front of us and performed the "broken wing" act for which this species is noted. A number of birds circling to our left were thought to be gulls until a closer look identified them as Caspian terns. A black-crowned night heron flew overhead. As we walked on, each step left a larger foot print. This was really good mud!

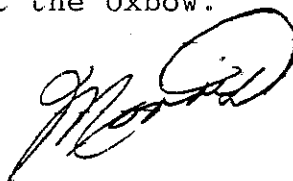
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con't.

Now we could see the open water of the big bend of the lake. Here, some in the group got their first look at a great blue heron as it winged its way slowly over the trees. Through the 'scope we could pick out several black-crowned night herons, some resting on dead branches, others sitting on snags out in the water. Framed within the 'scope was this beautiful picture: In the foreground, atop a snag, sat a mature black-crowned night heron, while against the far bank, perched on a dead limb, the lighter plumage of an immature heron stood out from a dark green background of viny foliage interwoven with clusters of pink hibiscus blossoms. A picture with a touch that only Mother Nature could produce! Nearby, a pectoral sandpiper worked the mud flat. A Caspian tern wheeled and dropped, lightly skimming the water to capture a small fish, a bedtime snack.

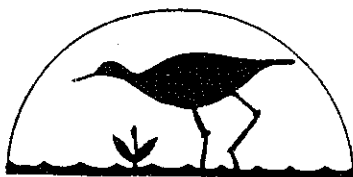
The gentle southerly breeze trembled the leaves of the tall cottonwoods and swayed the shoreline willows. Long-legged birds were silhouetted against the evening sky, while a cloud of shore-birds seemed to hurry along above the interstate. Songs of a willow flycatcher and horned larks accompanied our return trip to our cars. A muddy birder exclaimed, "This is wonderful! It's like watching a wildlife film! You should tell people about this place!"

As I was cleaning the mud from my boots, I thought of the enjoyment I've had here at the Oxbow, in all of its seasons and in all kinds of weather, and I concluded that even a wet, very muddy day is a good day to be afield at the Oxbow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Styer', written in a cursive style.

Editor's note:

Dave Styer suffered a similar fate on his August 19th field trip. His 'muddies' had to ignore more serious reports of a tornado touch-down in northwest Dearborn County. Super-Duper Dave reported that the weather cleared enough to keep his "No Rain Out" record intact, and that good birding was enjoyed by the hardy 'mudders' who outlasted the weather report.



A HISTORY OF THE OXBOW AREA.

Don Bogosian



PART 10 - LAWRENCEBURG.

Lawrenceburg, Indiana was originally settled by Stephen Ludlow in 1796, but the town was founded by Samuel Vance in 1802, and named after his wife, Mary Lawrence. The earliest part of town, on the banks of the Ohio River, was called Oldtown, and was once an extensive steamboat landing area.

Further in town from the landing, the area around High and Walnut Streets features many restored buildings from the 19th century, and has been nominated for the National Register of Historic Sites.

In the mid-1800's, many German immigrants came to Lawrenceburg and established a number of churches that still stand today. There is the 1847 Hammelin Chapel, the 1866 St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, and the 1867 Zion Church of Christ, all on Walnut Street.

Lawrenceburg is the county seat of Dearborn County, Indiana, the third county established in the 1803 Indiana Territory, and whose present boundaries were established in 1845. Dearborn County is named after President Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of War, General Henry Dearborn. In 1872, the present ornate Dearborn County Courthouse was built in Lawrenceburg, and today also houses the Dearborn County Historical Society Museum.

Lawrenceburg prospered with Ohio riverboat traffic, early wagon roads, steam railroads, and as the terminus of the short-lived Whitewater Canal's Indiana Branch. Lawrenceburg's present-day Canal Street marks the approximate location where canal waters emptied into the Ohio River. Today, modern highways and industry keep Lawrenceburg a viable town on the edge of the Oxbow.

Next - Elizabethtown.

A LAST REMINDER -

Wildlife artist **JOHN RUTHVEN's** "Red-tailed Hawk", a signed and numbered Artist's Proof lithograph, will be raffled off at the Cincinnati Zoo September 10th meeting. You do not have to be present to win and there is still time to get tickets - call Julie at 513-451-5793 and have her send you a lucky ticket or two, or six, or twelve, or -

JOHN RUTHVEN LITHOGRAPH

"Red-Tailed Hawk"

27 1/2 x 24 1/2 Signed Artist Proof

Proceeds Benefit

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Donation \$1.00 each—6 for \$5.00

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Memorials

Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial, established in the name of a friend or loved one, 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 and should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH. 45243. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of the donor and those to receive the acknowledgment.

* * * * * MEMORIALS * * * * *



IN MEMORY OF

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Gail and John Kaufmann

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Oppenheimer
35th Wedding Anniversary

Janet Hoffheimer

Mr. & Mrs. Leo Oppenheimer
35th Wedding Anniversary

Betsy and Jay Karpen

WETLAND MATTERS has added TRIBUTES so friends and families may honor friends and families for any, or many, occasions.

PLAY IT AGAIN, CINCY!

Oxbow, Inc. will be joining with senior citizens on Friday, September 6th at Sawyer Point in an event so well received last year the Cincinnati Recreation Commission is repeating it.

If you are retired, on vacation, or just available for a few hours from noon to 7 P.M., call John Getzendanner, 537-5728, Indiana, and Anita Buck, 681-2574, Ohio. The Cincinnati Symphony will hold a free concert starting at eight.

Oxbow, Inc. thanks the Cincinnati Recreation Commission for making us part of their celebration.

OXBOW, INC. TO BENEFIT FROM STUDY.

Oxbow, Inc. board member Sherwood McIntire has generously underwritten a \$5,800 grant for a general limnological study covering water quality, primary productivity, and morphometry of the Oxbow lake and associated waters. Dr. Gae Jae Joo and Dr. David A. Francko from Miami University Department of Biology will complete the study by April, 1992.

Dr. Francko is the chair and professor of the Department of Biology at Miami University. Dr. Joo's home is in Pusan, Korea. He is a Post Doctoral Research Associate at the University.

Mr. McIntire is the custodian of the Chickasaw Foundation which has been very faithful in its support of Oxbow, Inc.

Meetings

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. Enter through the Exit Gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.

Video program, "**NORTH BY NORTHWEST TO ALASKA.**" This is a program everyone wants to see! Morris and Frances Mercer will share their van trip to Alaska via the Alcan Highway with Oxbow, Inc. members and friends.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library. Turn left off of U.S.50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.

DOUBLE FEATURE NIGHT! A Sierra Club Miami Group-produced video, "THE OXBOW", starring our own lovable Morris Mercer, and "FARMING WITH WETLANDS", a video program demonstrating how a Vincennes, Indiana farmer utilizes a restored wetland to improve his crops. This program is a MUST for Oxbow-area farmers.

Field Trips

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 8 A.M.

If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, what duck is it? Meet at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, U.S.50 and the I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit Ramp to find out. Jolly Jay will be identifying waterfowl and migrating shorebirds as he takes a morning walk through the Oxbow.

Leader - Jay Stenger 513-552-4245



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, 8 A.M.

Meet Dave Styer at the upper parking lot of the Shawnee Lookout Park boat ramp. Debonair Dave will be looking for migrating birds and other wildlife in the Shawnee-Oxbow area.

Leader - Dave Styer 513-772-4395



Make sure your WETLAND MATTERS newsletter goes with you!

Name

New Address

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MAIL TO: Oxbow, Inc. P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

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Richard Pope	513-637-1365
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Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers' Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, John Getzendanner	812-537-5728

Editor

Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
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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 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 encouraged and solicited.

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

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Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



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