

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 41, May-June 1993

Oxbow Donates Trees

Oxbow, Inc. has donated 1000 trees to the Hamilton County Free Tree Program. This program is part of a statewide initiative by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Forestry to increase tree planting in Ohio by 5 million trees by 1995.

The Hamilton County Free Tree Program provides trees without cost to such organizations as churches, schools, and municipalities who agree to plant and care for the trees. Each of the trees will carry a tag identifying Oxbow, Inc. as the donor.

Low Level Dam Study

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees from Bloomington, Indiana will visit the Oxbow area and investigate the feasibility of constructing a low level dam to help retain water in the Oxbow Lake. The dam can't be constructed if it would adversely affect land of other owners in the area, which is why the preliminary study is needed. USF&W will make a proposal to Oxbow, Inc. if they determine that the dam can be constructed and will improve the quality of the habitat in the area.

Goose Pond Restoration

The Goose Pond project is active again. A joint venture of Oxbow, Inc., The Hamilton County Park District, The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and Duck Unlimited, the Goose Pond project will restore the silt-filled Goose Pond to a shallow water area suitable for shorebirds and ducks. Ducks Unlimited will provide the use of their bulldozer "The Blue Goose", and ODNR will provide the operator. The Hamilton County Park District is arranging for the permit, since the Goose Pond is on park land.

The restoration was postponed last summer because it was so rainy and wet that moving heavy equipment into the area was impossible.

Airpark News

An airpark, including a 2400 foot sod runway and portable aircraft hangers, is set to be built on property leased from I-275 Enterprises. The land is located behind Miller Cemetery.

The Oxbow Board of Trustees has hired attorney Tim Mara to look into the proposed Airpark. Mr. Mara is quoted in the Dearborn County Register as saying, "Oxbow questions whether the County Plan Commission and Board of Zoning acted properly in approving what they call a "special exception" to allow the airpark for small aircraft in the land zoned for manufacturing."

Mr. Mara will report on what he has learned to the Board at the April meeting.

Buffer Zone Expanded

The farm road that parallels the lake shore on Oxbow's land will be moved about 60 feet farther from the lake. The land in between will either be planted with trees or allowed to regenerate naturally, providing an additional buffer zone to isolate the lake from human activity and to reduce erosion of topsoil.

The expanded buffer zone was suggested by ecologist and Oxbow specialist Dr. Gae-Jae Joo, whose research on the wetlands in the area was supported by a grant from Oxbow, Inc.

Personnel from the Indiana Soil Conservation Service will visit the site to determine whether the buffer strip qualifies for support under the Conservation Reserve Program. This program could provide funds to help defray the cost of establishing the buffer strip.

Oxbow, Inc. plans to keep several strategically located foot paths open from the road to the lake shore. These paths should provide sufficient access for birding and other nature observation.

Calendar Meetings

6 May (Thursday) at 7:30 P.M. Color Slide Program at Lawrenceburg Public Library.

Mr. L. L. Binkley, of Cincinnati, Ohio, will present a program of nature slides photographed around his summer home in Ontario. Admission is free. Contributions will be accepted for the proposed Dearborn Adult Center. Contact Elvin Blasdel at (812)-537-2602 for more information.

11 May (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M. Oxbow Meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. (Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.)

David Styer and Joanne Olman will share a trip they made by four-wheel drive into an area few will have the opportunity to visit. Buckle your seat belt and enjoy their slides of the wildflowers and beauty of some remote parts of Colorado.

8 June (Tuesday) at 7:30 P.M. Oxbow Meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library. (From Cincinnati, 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.)

This program, based on a video presentation, is concerned with hazardous waste: where it comes from and how it is disposed of. Come learn about an issue we will all have to deal with sooner or later.

14, 15 June (Monday, Tuesday) EnviroLink 1993— Governor's Conference on Ohio and the Environment, Columbus, Ohio.

A gathering of Ohioans to discuss environmental issues. See the article in this issue of Wetland Matters. Contact Irene Probasco at (614)-421-7819 for registration materials.

Moving?

Please send us your new address. The Post Office will not forward third class mail and we want you to keep receiving your Wetland Matters.

Send your change of address information to:
 Oxbow, Inc.
 PO Box 43391
 Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Field Trips

7-8 May (Friday-Saturday) 5 P.M. to 5 P.M. Oxbow Birdathon.

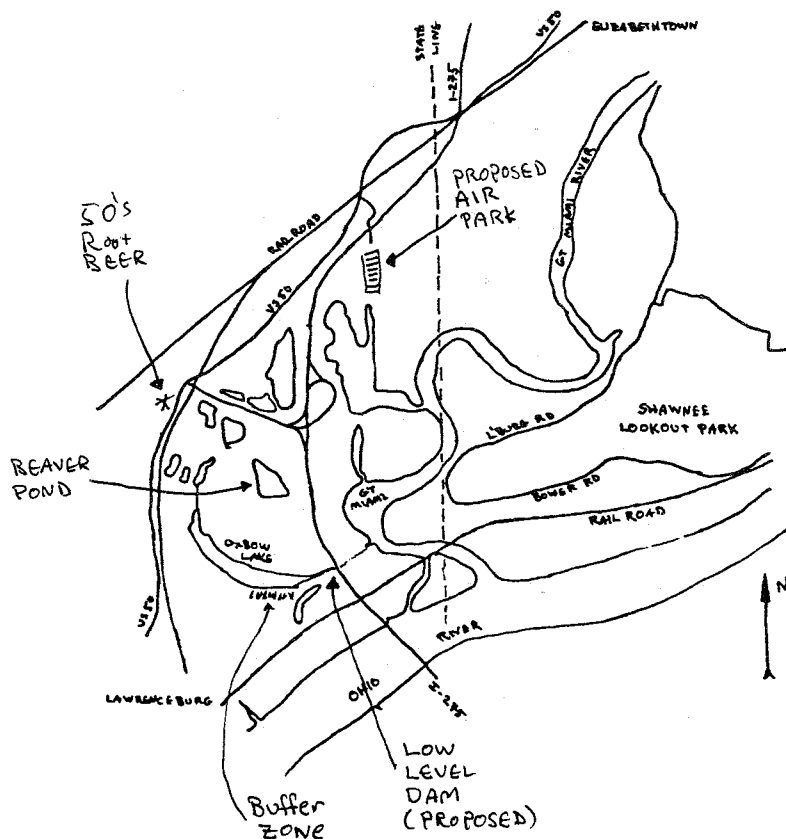
If you're not actually out counting birds, you can participate by pledging money to support the team of your choice. There's a pledge form in this Newsletter.

22 May (Saturday) 10 A.M. Oxbow Plant Trip.

This trip will concentrate on looking for trees and shrubs in the Oxbow area. No experience in plant identification is needed. We'll attempt to add to the plant inventory of the Oxbow area while learning some new plants and enjoying a pleasant walk. Meet Steve Pelikan at 50's Root Beer. Questions? Call Steve at (513)-681-2574.

2 June (Wednesday) 6:30 P.M. Oxbow Field Trip.

David Styer will lead this search for shorebirds, late migrants and whatever else is about. Meet at 50's Root Beer. For more information, phone David at (513)-772-4395.



Fifties Root Beer

One of the most important landmarks in the Oxbow area is Fifties Root Beer. It's centrally located and easy to find on Route 50 just west of the Lawrenceburg exit off I-275.

For years, owner Tom von Holle has permitted Oxbow field trips to meet in the 50's parking lot. Sometimes people even have parked their cars there and carpooled with other field trip participants. Circumstances have recently made it necessary for Mr. von Holle to charge for parking in the 50's lot. So many people — not just Oxbow members — have found it convenient to park in the lot that sometimes 50's employees and customers have had to park along the road in back of the restaurant.

To ensure that his customers have easy access, Mr. von Holle has instituted a charge for parking in the lot. Recently the rate was (a very reasonable) \$2.00 per day. But, Mr. von Holle points out, parking is permitted (and free) along the road immediately behind the 50's lot. Please make sure that Oxbow's neighbor Mr. von Holle isn't inconvenienced by your parking in the lot.

Many Oxbow members stop in at 50's, either before or after a field trip, for a snack, coffee, or a quick meal. Patronizing 50's is a good way for Oxbow members to show Mr. von Holle how much we appreciate his friendly attitude towards our activities in the Oxbow area. Besides, 50's has the best root beer anywhere.

EnviroLink 1993

The first Governor's Conference on Ohio and the Environment will be held June 14th at the Radisson Airport Inn, Columbus, Ohio. EnviroLink 1993 will be a gathering of representatives from Ohio business and industry, education, government, agriculture, community groups, and environmental organizations.

Concurrent sessions will be "Pollution Prevention", "Ecosystems Approach to the Environment", and "Environmental Stewardship". A variety of field trips are planned for the 15th of June.

The cost for the one-day program, including luncheon and conference materials, is \$45.00. For registration information contact Irene Probasco, Ohio Alliance for the Environment, 445 King Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201, or call (614)-421-7819.

Matching Donations

Many area employers have plans in which they match their employees' donations to nonprofit institutions. If you work for such an employer, you can easily double the good done by your donation to Oxbow, Inc.

Simply ask your personnel office for a corporate matching gift form, fill it out and mail it to Oxbow. Oxbow will use the form to verify your donation and return it to your employer. In return, your employer will send a matching check to Oxbow.

Here is a short list of some of the corporations with matching gift plans.

It is possible that your company has a matching gift plan even if it isn't listed here. Why not inquire at your personnel office?

Allied Chemical; Armco, Inc.; Arthur Anderson Co.; Avon Products, Inc.; Borden, Inc.; Bristol-Myers; Campeau; Chevron Corp.; Cincinnati Bell, Inc.; The Coca-Cola Co.; Dow Chemical USA; Eli Lilly & Co.; Exxon; Fifth-Third Bank; General Electric; B.F. Goodrich Co.; Group Health Association; Gulf Oil Co.; Hobart Corp.; IBM Corp.; McDonald's Corp.; Marion Merrell Dow; Mead Corp.; Mobil Oil Corp.; Mutual of America; NCR Corp.; National Distillery; Nordson Corp.; Ohio Bell Telephone Co.; Pfizer, Inc.; The Procter & Gamble Co.; Quantum; Ralston Purina Co.; Scott Paper Co.; Jos. E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.; TRW, Inc.; 3M Corp.; United Parcel Services; Xerox Corp.; Arthur Young & Company.

Birds of the Oxbow

David Styer's book *Birds of the Oxbow* is on the way to the printer and will be available soon. Based on many years of field observations, the book includes a discussion of factors that influence the population and distribution of birds in the Oxbow area and an annotated checklist of all the birds recorded in the area. The book is illustrated with wonderful bird drawings by Indiana wildlife artist William Zimmerman. Watch future *Wetland Matters* for details on how you can obtain your copy.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

In memory of

Edward F. Beck
 Robert M. Braun
 Robert M. Braun
 Lois Crawford
 Julie Godsey
 Julie Godsey
 Harlan Hauser
 Michael Ivan Hollen
 Lyman S. Houlton
 Stephen Kipp
 Nat Lewis
 Nat Lewis
 David Maker
 Davis Maker
 David Maker
 David Maker
 David Maker
 David Maker
 David Maker
 David Maker
 Margy Ryan
 Margy Ryan
 Margy Ryan
 Hester Stephenson
 Hester Stephenson
 Hester Stephenson
 Hester Stephenson
 Winston F. White, Sr. (Easter Remembrance)
 Mark Young
 Mark Young
 Mark Young

Donor

Frederick C. Young
 Roy and Jane Bernzott
 Ray and Audrey Boehringer
 Sue Lancaster
 CMSGT James and Billie Godsey, Jr.
 Mary Frances Godsey
 Mr. & Mrs. William Farrell
 Marc Millspaugh
 Bobby and Kent Ross
 Gilbert Symons
 Roy and Jane Bernzott
 Ray and Audrey Boehringer
 Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Dietz, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Kief
 Mark Kremzar & Friends at HVC
 Jane Lutz
 Robert and Glad McCarthy
 Earl Rachford
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schuck
 Al Smith, Paint
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Webb
 Natalie Becker
 Pat Breuer
 Norma L. Flannery
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Borghamer
 Cliff Budke
 Bettyann Dickey
 Karl Maslowski
 Frieda R. White
 William and Pat Dittoe
 Frederick C. Young
 Marian C. Young

Oxbow Tributes

In Honor of

Audrey Boehringer — Retirement
 Norma L. Flannery — Thank You
 Norma L. Flannery — Thank You
 Art and Jinny Wiseman

Donor

University of Cincinnati Hospital
 Nutrition Services Staff
 Kim Goddard Good Samaritan Hospital
 Foundation
 Do Kuhlman & Staff 15 A-B
 Good Samaritan Hospital.
 Anonymous

Field Notes

Morris Mercer

What is so rare as a day in March? The week had been much as late winter should be, cloudy with some rain and a nice wet snow. The morning of our field trip into the Oxbow area broke bright and clear, with a heavy frost on the windshield, the trees, and the grass.

The Great Miami was running swift and muddy, the Whitewater had spilled out of its banks, and the Ohio was at 45 feet. The Oxbow was flooded. Jim and I had started about sun-up, and had checked the entire area before meeting the group. When we told the group what we'd found everyone was anxious to get started.

There was some ice around the edges of the big field by the Oxbow lake, but most of the water was open. Lots of the corn stalks had drifted into the tree line along Beaver Pond. The ducks and geese were busy searching for breakfast among the floating stalks.

First to catch our eye was a beautiful Tundra Swan. The large snow white bird had a black bill marked with yellow, just like in the field guide. Redheads were everywhere and the bright morning sun made it obvious why they'd received their name. Many other ducks shared the crowded tree line including Mallards, Blacks, Pintail, Gadwall, Wigeon, a few Ring-necked Ducks, Scaup, Golden-eye, Wood Duck, and one Ruddy Duck.

More than 100 Canada Geese worked the shallow water near a small island. Two blue-phase Snow Geese made a pretty picture standing on the ice. Jim checked the tree line around the Oxbow, finding more Wood Ducks, our first Shoveler of the season, and 7 Hooded Mergansers. Along the willows near Wood Duck Slough were several Green-winged Teal.

Our group moved on to see what was at Cemetery Lake. We turned up many more ducks, a Pied-Billed Grebe, several Great Blue Heron, and flocks of Ring-billed Gulls. Very noticeable were more than half a hundred mergansers — mostly Common and Red-breasted. With the fine weather and beautiful birds, it was a wonderful day for a trip to the Oxbow.

This year the late winter and early spring has been and is spectacular. To me it has been a real field of dreams. (If there is water, they will come.) I can't help but wonder how many thousands of birds have stopped to rest and feed at the Oxbow.

It's Not Too Late

You can still pledge your support for one of Oxbow's Birdathon teams. Team #1, "Geriatric Gents", is organized by Karl Maslowski and includes George Laycock, Jerry Meyer, and Sandy Cooper. Team #2, "The Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild", is made up of Joe Bens and Paul Wharton.

Last year, Birdathon raised about \$15,000 for Oxbow, Inc. Much of that came from your pledges for Oxbow's teams. Thank you! With your help, we will do at least as well this year.

Most people pledge a certain amount for each species of bird the team finds during the competition. After the Birdathon is over, you'll get a report on how the teams did, what exciting birds they found, and a memo about the total amount of your pledge.

Birdathon '93

Oxbow Team Pledge Form

YES I want to pledge per species:

\$2 \$1 75¢ 50¢ 25¢
 10¢ other

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE, ZIP: _____

My pledge is for the higher scoring team

My pledge is for Oxbow Team #1
(Geriatric Gents)

My pledge is for Oxbow Team #2
(Fire & Brimstone...)

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.
PO Box 43391
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

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	Family	\$15
Contributing	\$25	Supporting	\$50
Patron	\$100	Cornerstone	\$250
Sponsor	\$500	Benefator	\$1000
Organization/club	\$25		

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**
P.O. Box 43391
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391

Corporation Officers

President, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001
Vice President, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534
Recording Secretary, Dennis Mason (513)-385-3607
Corresponding Secretary,

Suzanne Skidmore (513)-561-5718

Treasurer, Jim Rettig (513)-561-0211

Agent, Dave Styer (513)-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage (513)-922-2445

Bonnie Fancher (812)-438-3641

Easement Inspection,

Michael Kluesener (513)-574-1220

Richard Pope (513)-637-1365

Fund Raising, Greg Mendell (812)-926-1966

Land Management, Dave Styer (513)-772-4395

Marketing,

Preservation, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001

Programs: Ohio, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Indiana, Betty Myers (812)-537-1631

Research, Kaniaulono Meyer (513)-948-8630

Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Volunteer Coordinator,

John Getzendanner (812)-537-5728

Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513)-681-2574

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



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