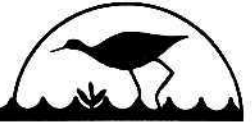


# wetland matters



## OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 53 May-June 1995

## Calendar

### Cleanup

To celebrate Earth Day, Tom Harrison organized another cleanup of Oxbow-owned land. John Homer, Mike Kluesener, Tim Mara, Dennis Mason, and Greg Mendell helped. Much of their time was spent on removing large appliances. In the end they removed 4 stoves, 1 freezer, 3 refrigerators, 1 dryer, 1 air conditioner and 1 hotel-sized ice-maker. These were brought to the Fairgrounds, where the Dearborn County Solid Waste District was running an appliance collection day.

### Gifts to Oxbow

Oxbow gratefully acknowledges gifts of \$500 from The Polly M. & Kenneth B. Bassett Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation; from the Helen G. Henry F. and Louise Tuechter Dornette Foundation; and from the Southern Ohio Dog and Game Protective Association, W.S. Moore, President.

On April 21st, Oxbow's President, Norma L. Flannery, accepted a \$1,500 grant from Cinergy Foundation. The presentation was made by CG&E President George Stinsen at a ceremony held at the Phoenix Hotel. The funds will be used to fund more research in the Oxbow area.

### Zoo and Museum Withdraw

On April 3rd The Cincinnati Zoo and the Natural History Museum announced that they have withdrawn from an arrangement with Empire Casino & Resort Company that was included in Empire's application for a gambling permit in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

The proposal called for constructing a "wetlands museum" in the Oxbow wetlands. Oxbow, Inc. was opposed to such development and thanks the Zoo and Museum for re-thinking their position.

### Meetings

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

Kaniaulono Meyer, Education Director at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History is just back from a trip to India. In her talk "India, Land of Contrasts," she will share her trip (and slides) with us.

**13 June (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.** (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut St. Turn right onto High Street. The Library is on the right side of High St.)

Kani Meyer has agreed to present her program on India (see above) again for people in Lawrenceburg. This might be your last chance to hear about her experiences traveling in India.

### Field Trips

**23 May (Tuesday) 6:30 P.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Meet Dave Styer at 50's Root Beer for this year's first evening walk at the Oxbow. Sunsets are beautiful at the Oxbow. Call Dave at (513)-772-4395 if you need more information.

**3 June (Saturday) 8:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip.**

Meet Paul Wharton at 50's Root Beer and see how this "Fire and Brimstone" birder finds all those birds. Call Paul at (513)-353-3403 for more information.

## Letters

Representatives of Oxbow, Inc. will be invited to present evidence to the Indiana Gaming Commission in Indianapolis. As a result, the time available for letter writing has been extended. Your letters are very important and we need them no later than June 1, 1995. Please address your letters to the officials listed below, but mail them to Oxbow, Inc. (PO Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391). The letters will then have a bigger effect because they can be delivered *en masse*.

### Address your letters to:

Indiana Gaming Commission  
John J. Thar, Executive Director  
302 West Washington St.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-2767

Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
Water Division  
James J. Hebenstreit, Assistant Director  
402 West Washington St.  
Room W264  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2212

Mayor Don Combs  
Eads Parkway  
Lawrenceburg, Indiana 47025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Louisville District  
Doug Shelton, Chief  
Permits, North Section  
P.O. Box 59  
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-0059

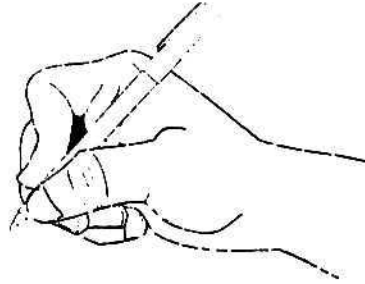
Many letters have already arrived. Here are some "good lines" that were used in letters that Oxbow has already received. Perhaps they'll inspire you or serve as a starting point for your own letters.

"I have been to the Oxbow and this beautiful and recreational resource is wonderful."

"I look forward to gambling at the new facility, (but) I trust that the Indiana Gaming Commission is not willing to gamble with the fragile Oxbow ecosystem."

"Indiana's prime natural heritage areas must not be compromised..."

"Nature has an intrinsic value and right to exist..."



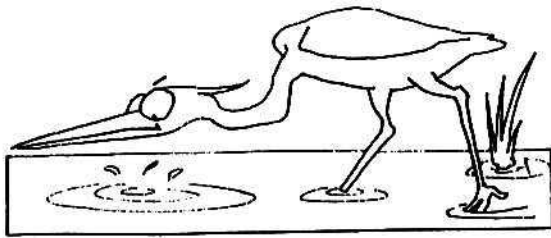
Most of the letters mentioned one or more of these points:

- 1) Serious consideration of alternate sites for gaming development.
- 2) Possible negative impacts of development on the Oxbow ecosystem.
- 3) The value of wetlands (as habitat for wildlife; for flood control, water purification, and aquifer recharge).
- 4) Unknown effects of changing the hydrology in the area.
- 5) Archaeological sites and wetlands are protected because they are irreplaceable.

MOTHER'S DAY FATHER'S DAY  
Get Mom and Dad out of the house!

WALKING CINCINNATI...\$12.95  
HIKING OHIO...\$12.95  
HIKING KENTUCKY...\$14.95

At bookstores & nature centers or directly  
from Willow Press, 6053 S. Platte Canyon  
Rd., Littleton, CO 80123; free shipping!



## Birdathon '95

It isn't too late for you to participate in Birdathon this spring. If you act fast, you can probably still register by telephone. Call Steve Pelikan/Anita Buck at (513)-681-2574. You should call soon, since you'll need lots of time to solicit pledges.

Birdathon novices sometimes think that birdathons are about birding. They're really about money — raising money to protect the Oxbow in this case. The more pledges you collect, and the more birds you see, the more money we raise. So the important work of birdathoning — asking all your friends, acquaintances, neighbors, officemates, local merchants, and anyone else you can think of for a pledge — starts weeks before the competition. The birding is over in a short 24 hours. (We do hope you see some great birds.) But **GET OUT THERE AND GET THOSE PLEDGES!**

Here's some of the information you need in order to participate. We'll send you the complete rules when you register.

**Time and Date:** 5 p.m. Friday May 12 to 5 p.m. Saturday May 13.

**Where:** You may start your count anywhere in the official Birdathon area (see the map). Any mode of transportation except airplanes is allowed. All contestants must finish at the tally point with their totals ready to submit at 5 p.m. May 13th.

**Tally Point:** This year's tally and dinner will be held at Hamilton County Parks Farbach-Werner Preserve. The preserve is south of Poole Road just west of Colerain Ave.

**Note the change in location of the tally from last year.**

**The region:** includes any county of Kentucky, Indiana, or Ohio any part of which overlaps a circle of radius 50 miles centered at the Oxbow lake.

## Categories of competition

Most categories are available for teams (2 to 6 members) and individuals. Included is a **guess** at the tally that will win the competition in each category this year. (If the weather's strange - and even if it isn't - these guesses might be worth the paper they're printed on.)

1) Most species in the entire Birdathon area. (Golden Starling Award, teams 151; Solitary Vireo Award, individuals 122)

2) Most species in one county of the Birdathon area. You pick the county. (Teams: 112; individual: 95.)

3) Most species traveling by human/animal/solar or non-fossil fuel power. Fossil fuel to point of departure and back, but no species counted at that time. (Keep it in the ground award, teams 95 and individuals 85)

4) Most species in Birdathon area, high-school age and younger. Teams may have 1 or 2 older members, but 50% of the team must be minors. Individuals may be accompanied by an older, nonparticipating driver. (Fearsome Fledglings Award) Team 92, individual 82.

5) Most pledges raised per species. One prize for under 18, one for everyone else. Money raised as a team through sponsoring institution doesn't count. Over 18: pledges of \$5.50/species. Under 18: **no one has ever entered.**



## Birdathon

Oxbow, Inc.'s annual fund raiser, Birdathon '95, will be held between 5 P.M. May 12th and 5 P.M. May 13th. Teams sponsored by Tri-state area conservation organizations will spend 24 hours searching for birds. They raise pledges of money for each species of bird they detect and split their pledges with Oxbow.

Oxbow, Inc. will sponsor three teams of its own. All money raised by these teams will go to Oxbow and be used to protect the Oxbow wetlands. You can participate in Birdathon by pledging your support for one of these Oxbow teams.

**Team #1:** "The Geriatric Gents and a Junior", will be headed by Karl Maslowski. Karl said he thought the team would spend a good part of its time in Adams County. Every year Karl's team finds birds that no other team finds. Who knows what they'll find this year!

**Team #2** "Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild." Joe Bens and Paul Wharton. Last year Joe and Paul won the Golden Starling Award by finding a record-breaking 159 species of birds. We expect no less from them this year.

**Team #3** "No See 'Ums", David Styer, Charlie Saunders and Steve Pelikan. Last year, Dave and his team found 156 species of birds. Dave said they'd try even harder this year.

# PLEDGE NOW!

Pledging your support is easy. Fill up the form and mail it in. After Birdathon is over, you'll receive an account of the adventures of Oxbow's teams and a memo telling what your pledge comes to. Thank you in advance for your support.

## BIRADTHON '95

### Oxbow Team Pledge Form

NAME:  
ADDRESS:  
City/State:  
Zip:

mail to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
P.O. Box 43391  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391

I pledge \$1.00 \_\_\_ \$0.75 \_\_\_ \$0.50 \_\_\_ \$0.25 \_\_\_ \$0.10 \_\_\_ other: \_\_\_  
per species found in support of:

- Oxbow Team #1 "Geriatric Gents"  
 Oxbow Team #1 "Fire and Brimstone Birder's Guild"  
 Oxbow Team #3 "No See 'Ums"  
 Highest scoring team

## Field Notes

Morris Mercer

This year the large flights of waterfowl passed through the Oxbow area in February. The flooding has been much less than in 94 but still there have been many spectacular days of wildlife viewing in the Oxbow.

I've seen the Oxbow land flooded and crowded with ducks and geese and watched as other flights came in to join those already in the fields. The large flights are mostly Mallards and Black Ducks but I've also seen more Pintails than for several years. As I watched Tundra Swan and Common Loons I wondered where they would spend the summer and raise their families before coming back through in the fall.

The first week of April was delightful. On Friday I made a trip to the Oxbow to prepare for a field trip scheduled for the weekend. I pulled in and stopped as soon as I could see the water. The shallow water out toward the Beaver Pond seemed to be alive with ducks. Most of the birds before me were Green-winged Teal. I counted 77 of them, and there were some Blue-winged Teal as well. The Green-wings were perfect with their brown, green and yellows in just the right places.

All the ducks were busy — some hurrying along the bank, and most feeding half submerged. Some stopped eating just long enough to chase one of their flock-mates that had crowded too close. The water was so shallow that it seemed about knee-deep on a short duck. A few Pectoral Sandpipers hurried around in the corn stubble.

I looked toward the Oxbow Lake and it was busy too. I could see Great Egret, several Black-crowned Night Heron in the weeds and shallow water. Some Coot busied themselves in the water while others stood atop the old Muskrat house. Carp splashed around them, and there were more teal, Shovelers, and Wood Ducks sharing the weeds and water. There were many Double-crested Cormorants in the air, and then I saw a couple trees almost black with cormorants (there were more than 50).

The next morning, Jim Simpson and I arrived to see much the same scene I had seen the day before. After looking around we moved on toward Wood Duck Slough. Really, you had to be there. A warm gentle breeze was out of the south, carrying the sweet smell of spring. Turkey Vultures circled easy in the blue sky. Across the water of the Oxbow the pale green willows stirred in the breeze. Halfway down the willows was a light brown line left by the last high water. Below the line the willows were still dark. But they'll green up soon.

We crawled up for a peek over into Wood Duck Slough. What a tranquil scene was there before us. Blue-winged Teal were busy in the brushy water. A pair of Wood Duck cruised along the other side, and the male climbed up on a small log to preen. Down the slough were more woodies and teal, along with a few Shovelers and several Greater Yellowlegs. There were many more birds than we had seen as we found out when they all took to the air as a train rumbled past the other end of the slough.

As we walked on down toward the old beaver dam, a fine looking Cooper's Hawk came up off the ground in front of us. The hawk swiftly found its way through the trees. It was time to head out. On the way out we had a close look at an Osprey. I was trying to take a picture through the scope, but was much too slow. The Osprey seemed to scold us, as it flew back toward Wood Duck Slough.

On the way out we stopped to talk to Sue Simon and Gene Kritsky. They were getting ready to put out turtle traps to aid them in their study of the turtles of the Oxbow. Sue was getting into her waders. I think Gene was saving the deeper water for Sue.

We checked the Great Horned Owl nest from Mt. Nebo Road and the nest in Shawnee. Each nest has two young. We saw an adult at Shawnee.

The floor of the woods is greening up. Several deer browsed on tender shoots. On the wooded hillside the Dutchman's Breeches and Squirrel Corn are in bloom. The leaves of the Buckeye trees are getting bigger and the patches of dark green were May Apples now about 8 inches high. Songs of birds are in the air, including that of the Sycamore Warbler which surprised us. We heard Pileated Woodpeckers as well.

The sun was getting high so we headed home for lunch. After lunch Frances, my wife, Marilyn, our daughter, Sarah, our grand-daughter, Jim and I made a trip back to the owl's nest. I wanted everyone to see the owlets before they leave the nest. They seemed to be hot in the afternoon sun. Sarah was looking at them through the 'scope and said that one of the owlets winked at her. It was a fun trip.

I'm sure there is more cool weather to come before summer, but today was a beautiful warm spring day in the Oxbow. It's my hope we can keep this area as it was today.



## **Oxbow Memorials**

**In memory of**  
Joseph Fitzwater, Sr.  
Julie Godsey — Remember  
Blue Boy Johnson  
Alfred Schlaemeus  
Wallace F. Smith  
Wallace F. Smith  
Wallace F. Smith

Wallace F. Smith  
Wallace F. Smith  
Ida and Frank Waldron  
Herbert Westendorf

**From**  
Fred and Peggy Gatch  
Norma L. Flannery  
Cheryl Winslow-Devine, D.V.M.  
Bob and Betty Myers  
Lisette Anhofer  
David Dierig  
Employees of the Fairfield Overhead  
District, Cincinnati Gas  
& Electric Company  
James W. Robinson  
George and Linda Uchtman & Family  
Wayne R. Wauligman, D.D.S.  
Wayne R. Wauligman, D.D.S.

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 will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor. Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgment.

### **Need a Speaker?**

Oxbow has a speaker's bureau. If your club, organization or class would like to know more about wetlands, the Oxbow, and Oxbow, Inc.'s preservation efforts, we'd be pleased to make a presentation.

For more information, 'phone Morris Mercer at (513)-941-2534.

Oxbow, Inc. has some funds available to assist the visit of school children to the Oxbow area. If a field trip to the Oxbow would enhance your curriculum, call Morris for more information about class trips to the Oxbow.

### **Survey Completed**

The survey of land owned by Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. is complete. Mr. Esposito, of the Hoosier Valley Survey Company met with the Oxbow board and presented a preliminary map. The final version is being prepared.

The Board appointed a committee to determine which corners of the property should be marked with monuments. The committee has recommended about 20 corners to be marked. Mr. Esposito said that he will be able to install the markers soon.

The same committee has been charged with posting NO TRESPASSING signs and recommending how gates can be constructed to restrict access to Oxbow-owned land. Oxbow's attorney, Tim Mara, has drafted a notice to be placed in local newspapers informing people that trespassing, hunting, trapping, fishing, dumping etc. are not allowed on Oxbow's land.

## Billboards

In March, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Water held a public hearing concerning an application by I-275 Enterprises Inc. to construct billboards in the floodway of the Great Miami River. It seems that the application was rather vague, and IDNR engineers were not able to interpret it correctly. The engineers thought that the proposal was for **one** billboard in the floodway of the Great Miami River. At the hearing, a representative of I-275 Enterprises, Inc. explained that the proposal was for **up to 21** billboards in the floodway. He would not say exactly how many billboards the proposal was for. He also declined to say how they would be supplied by electric power, how they would be installed, or exactly how large the signs would be. He thought they might be up to 95 feet high. He also said I-275 Enterprises, Inc. didn't plan to survey the area for possible archeological sites before construction because they didn't think there were any sites present and because they didn't know how to go about such a survey.

Many people attended the hearing and wanted to present evidence they thought should be considered. The representative from IDNR Division of Water explained many times that she only wanted to hear about water-related matters, and that other divisions of IDNR would comment on the proposal, but not hold public hearings.

Since IDNR couldn't understand the original proposal, there will be another hearing. Many of the people at the first hearing took time off work to attend; we hope that the next one will be in the evening.

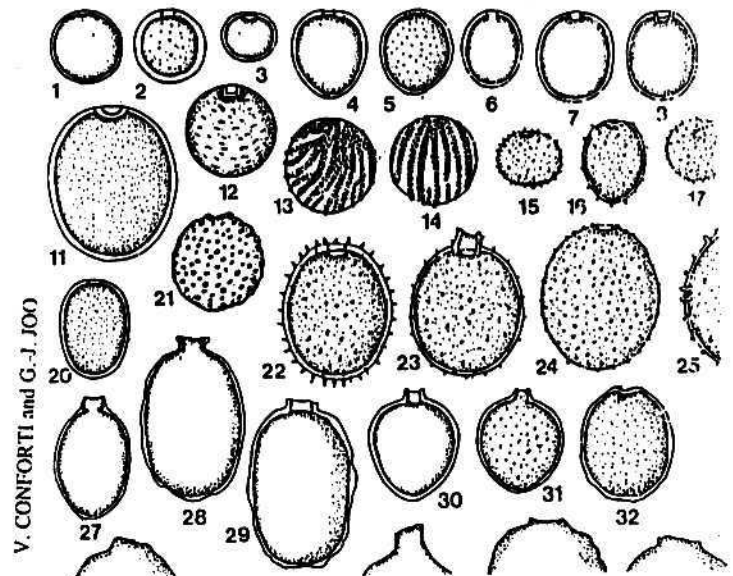
When it became clear that another hearing would be scheduled, Oxbow's attorney, Tim Mara, requested that representatives from other divisions of IDNR attend the next hearing. Oxbow, Inc. feels the I-275 Enterprises proposal should be considered as part of the many developments planned for the area, and the cumulative effects of all the billboards proposed in the area should be considered.

## Oxbow-Sponsored Research Published; Paper Describes 9 New Species

In the recently published paper "Taxonomic and Ultrastructural study of *Trachelomonas* Ehr. and *Strombomonas* Defl. (Euglenophyta) From Oxbow Lakes in Alabama and Indiana (U.S.A.)" Dr. Visitacion Conforti of the City University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Dr. Gea-Jae Joo, from Pusan National University (South Korea), describe 9 species new to science that were found during Dr. Joo's study of the Oxbow lake. The organisms are relatives of the *Euglena* familiar to many from high school biology class. In addition to the new species, Conforti and Joo also report on the discovery of 7 new varieties (sub-species) in the Oxbow lake.

When he described his work at an Oxbow meeting in Lawrenceburg several years ago, Dr. Joo explained that he attributed the large number and diversity of species in the waters of the Oxbow lake to the unique hydrology of the area, and to the shallowness and productivity of the lake itself.

Oxbow, Inc. sponsored Dr. Joo's investigation of the Oxbow lake while he was a postdoctoral researcher at Miami University. The insights gained from his research will help Oxbow, Inc. better manage the lake and surrounding lands. Dr. Joo strongly supported Oxbow, Inc.'s efforts at preserving the area and, since leaving Ohio, has spoken at several international meetings about his research here and about Oxbow Inc.'s conservation program.



## 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 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	Benefactor	\$1000
Organization/Club	\$25		

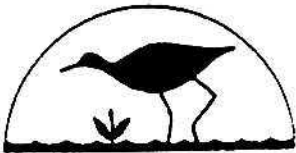
mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 43391  
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391  
513-471-8001

## 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, Mark Westrich (812)-637-2175  
Agent, Dave Styer (513)-772-4395

## Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage (513)-922-2445  
Easement Inspection,  
Michael Kluesener (513)-574-1220  
Richard Pope (513)-636-1365  
Fund Raising, Greg Mendell (513)-921-7147  
Marketing, Connie McNamee (513)-921-7147  
Land Management, Dave Styer (513)-772-4395  
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001  
Programs, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534  
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer (513)-948-8630  
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534  
Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513)-681-2574



P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

## Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Permit No. 7271