

# wetland matters



## OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

No. 67 September-October 1997

## Calendar

### Meetings

**Sept 9 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building.** (Enter through the employees' entrance off Erkenbrecker Ave. The gate attendant can direct you to the education building.)

Oxbow board member Sandy Schnur will present "Bridges Across Land and Water," a video that was produced by her business, Impact Video Productions.

**Oct 14 (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.** (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.)

Sandy Schnur will show the video "Bridges Across Land and Water" at this meeting as well. Impact Video's productions have been so popular, you won't want to miss this presentation. There's a rumor that the door prize will be a copy of the video.

### Field Trips

**Sept 13 (Saturday) 8:30 A.M. Field trip to the Oxbow area.**

Meet at the Gardens Alive! parking lot for this trip into the Oxbow area. A leader hasn't been scheduled yet, so call Gardens Alive! at 812-537-8698 if you need information.

**Sept 14 (Sunday) 9:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

Meet master birder and raptor enthusiast Ned Keller at the Gardens Alive! parking lot for this trip into the Oxbow area. If you need more information, call Ned at 513-941-6497.

**Sept 27 (Saturday) 8:30 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

Greg Mendell and Connie McNamee will lead this trip. They'll be looking for migrant birds and other signs of fall. If you need more information, call Greg or Connie at 812-926-2522.

**Oct 11 8:30 A.M. Field trip to the Oxbow area.**

Meet at the Gardens Alive! parking lot for this trip into the Oxbow area. A leader hasn't been scheduled yet. For info call Gardens Alive! at 812-537-8698.

**Oct 25 (Saturday) 8:00 A.M. Oxbow field trip**

In recent years this has been a phenomenal weekend for birding in the Oxbow. Shorebirds, late warblers, and migrant sparrows can all be expected. Under such dynamic conditions, you'll be glad to have an expert like Paul Wharton to guide you. Meet him at the Gardens Alive! parking lot. Questions? Call Paul at 513-353-3403.

### Research

Oxbow has awarded biologist Dr. Denis Conover a grant to conduct a survey of the plants growing on Oxbow-owned land. Dr. Conover's project, which will span the 1998 growing season, will pay special attention to wetland plants. He will also identify the locations of any state listed plants, and map the locations of other sensitive plant communities. His results will be important when Oxbow formulates future land management plans for the area.

Another reason a plant study is so important at this time is that Argosy's contractor will soon be introducing new plants at their wetland mitigation site. In future, it will be interesting to know which species of plants were naturally occurring in the Oxbow area and which were introduced as part of the mitigation. We will also be interested in evidence that the introduced plants have established themselves and spread into neighboring habitat.

## Field Notes

### Morris Mercer

It has been so nice to get back to the Oxbow area as I missed much of the cool, wet spring. Frances, my wife, and I have found that Shawnee Lookout is a nice place to do some of my rehab walking. One day we were taking Oxbow membership brochures to the golf club house, but before we got there we saw a doe and her fawn. The deer were in a wooded area, and these two had stopped in the open. The sunlight was like a bright spot light on the deer. The beautiful fawn was still wearing its spotted coat.

Our son David and our grandchildren (Noel, 11, and Katie, 9) came up on vacation. We had many things planned, and a canoe trip was high on the list. I hadn't been in the canoe since my trip to the hospital, but with Dave to do the heavy work, it seemed time to give it a try. The kids put on lots of sunscreen, and life jackets. We were soon on our way.

We put in at the Shawnee boat ramp and immediately crossed the river to head upstream in the deep water under the high bank. There were several Great Blue Heron fishing in the shallows by the sandbar. We moved upstream towards Lost Bridge. I remembered a gravel bar where the water isn't more than a couple feet deep all the way across the river. I thought it would be a good place to play — before some gravel company digs out all the gravel, at least.

For about the next hour Dave, Noel and Katie were busy playing in the water. They ran down the sandy bank and jumped in the river, or just floated in their life jackets. I pulled the canoe up in the shade of some willows and captured some of the action on video. When time came to start downriver, I rode the canoe while the three of them floated and waded their way back to Shawnee.

It was on one trip with Noel and Katie floating along on their tummies that a small fish (a shad, I believe) jumped to get away from Noel and landed on Katie's back before flopping back into the water. I said it was a small fish, but I'm sure to Katie it seemed like "Jaws." Katie screamed and her brother thought it very funny. (I did get it on video.)

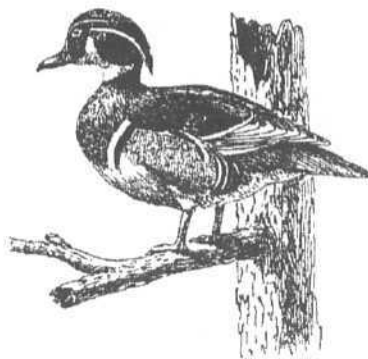
If you wondered what happened to the Ultralight Airport, I can't help you much except to tell you how dead it looked the other morning. The portable hangers are in disrepair, and on top of the old hanger were half a dozen Turkey Vultures, while two Black Vultures rested on the ground nearby. It sure looks as if the Ultralight field is dead. Also, the two new large signs near the runway (put up to advertise the gambling boats) would be a real hazard if they were still flying from there.

Here in midsummer we have had some very dry, hot days. But one day, a front came through. While we didn't get any rain, the temperature dropped quite a bit. After supper I headed for the Oxbow.

I checked Beaver Pond and found some fishermen there. I moved on over to the middle of the big bend of the Oxbow Lake. A couple of Oxbow members from Clifton were already there, had set up their lawn chairs, and were enjoying the cool of the evening. They didn't seem to mind my joining them. In fact, they had a lawn chair that I used. We sat and enjoyed Mother Nature's evening show.

The evening was as near perfect as one could ask for. The heavenly breeze out of the north caused the green willows to sway gently and rippled the surface of the water.

There were many Great Blue Heron; several were standing statue-like while others stalked the shallow water. There were Great Egrets that looked pure white against the green of the



willows. And there were many Wood Duck, looking a little dull in their eclipse plumage, feeding in the flooded brush at the edge of the lake. Double-crested Cormorants flew over, and we watched one sitting still on a stump drying its wings.

The show got even better just before the sun set. I believe the Black-crowned Night Herons were the class act of the evening show. They seemed to be in the spotlight. Some were in juvenile plumage, while adults were showing their hind neck-plumes. As darkness approached, even more birds came to the water hole. The Mallards, Wood Ducks and shorebirds soon faded from view. In the last bit of light we watched as Turkey Vultures seemed to cover the tower at C.G.&E.

As darkness closed in, more night herons arrived. They seemed to want to land where we were standing. We headed for home with a thin crescent moon in the western sky and a bright evening star. We agreed the Oxbow area should be kept as it is. It is sure good to be back at the Oxbow.

I do so enjoy being outdoors and experiencing the seasons. In summer there are canoe trips and long evenings filled with the music of Wood Thrushes and the flashes of lightning bugs winking over the fields as the deer come out to feed. But even here in mid-summer signs of fall can be seen. The leaves of the locust trees are turning brown and there are yellow leaves on the cottonwoods. I can even close my eyes and picture the valley hushed and white with snow. But we certainly don't want to overlook Autumn with Indian Summer and all that brings. What a great time of year it will be at the Oxbow. Hope I meet you there!



## Oxbow Memorials

### In memory of

Geraldine L. Braun  
Cassie Devine  
Cassie Devine  
Ed Kehling  
Pat Wise  
Dusty Youngs

### Donor

Ray and Audrey Boehringer  
Oxbow, Inc.  
Deborah A. Wise  
Greg Mendell and Connie McNamee  
Deborah A. Wise  
Oak Crest Animal Hospital  
Cheryl Devine, D.V.M.

**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) 772-1287  
Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner (812) 537-5728

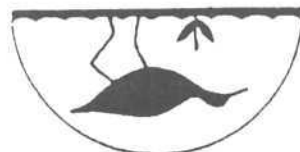
**Committee Chairpersons**

Conservation, Bill Bocklage (513) 922-2445  
Easement Inspection,  
Michael Kluesener (513) 574-1220  
Richard Pope (513) 637-1365  
Fund Raising, Anita Buck (513) 681-2574  
Marketing, Connie McNamee (812) 926-2522  
Land Management, Dave Styer (513) 772-1287  
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery (513) 471-8001  
Programs, Morris Mercer (513) 941-2534  
Research, Meg Riestenberg (513) 921-3986  
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513) 941-2534  
Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513) 681-2574

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



P.O. BOX 43391  
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243



**Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!**

