



WETLAND *matters*

Published bi-monthly for the Friends and Members of Oxbow, Inc.

Oxbow, Inc., Takes Action to Halt Unauthorized Use of Its Property

Bad Guys No--Birders Si!

The unauthorized use of Oxbow, Inc., land west of I-275 by dirt bikes, off-road-vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, hunters and dumpers has caused the Board of Trustees to take steps to curtail this abuse of the habitat. As trusted stewards of the Oxbow environment, the Board would be derelict in not taking action to regain control of its property.

To date "No Trespassing" signs have been put up and replaced as they have been destroyed either by gunfire or other means.

A locked gate has been installed with plans for two more to be erected. Property owners and tenant farmers have been given keys.

Off-duty Dearborn County deputy sheriffs have been hired to patrol the property on varying days and at varying times. To date, one arrest has been made for trespassing, and a growing list of names reflects the warnings that have been issued.

Birders are welcome and have full use of the property. Should birders be stopped and feel that they have a problem, they should ask the deputy to call 513-471-8001 and Oxbow, Inc., will vouch for them.

It is unfortunate that these steps must be taken, but it is the Board's responsibility to do so in order to protect the membership's investment in the Oxbow.

Calendar of Events

Programs

12 January (Tuesday) '99, 7:30 p.m., Cincinnati Zoo Education Building

Denis Conover is working on a plant survey at the Oxbow. He will give us an update on his work. Denis also has a slide of the note by "The Hunter" that was affixed to his windshield. Don't miss this.

9 February (Tuesday) '99, 7:30 p.m. We will meet in the Clifford Room at the College of Mt. St. Joseph on the Ohio. Due to the remodeling of the Lawrenceburg Public Library, the room we usually use will not be available.

Dr. Meg Riestenberg will speak and will answer questions on "Carnivorous Plants." Why do they exist? How do they work? Hope to see you at this most interesting meeting.

Field Trips

28 January (Thursday) '99, 7:30 p.m. Meet John Klein and Morris Mercer at the golf clubhouse at Shawnee Lookout Park for a winter walk. Last year we had 18" of snow and had to wait a few days for our moonlight walk.

27 February (Saturday) '99, 8:30 a.m. Meet Dave Styer at the Gardens Alive! parking lot at 776 Rudolph Way--just north of US 50 and just east of the levee. The ducks should be on the move, and Dave will take you where you can see them.

Ohio EPA Authorizes Goose Pond, Wet Meadow Terrace Work in Shawnee Lookout

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has issued permits for restoration of the Goose Pond and Wet Meadow Terrace in Shawnee Lookout Park according to a recent article in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*. Both have been catch basins for silt the past 30 years. Oxbow, Inc., together with the local chapter of Waterfowl USA, has been pushing the project. Both areas when completed will benefit ducks and other water fowl.

The work will involve excavation of about 6,000 cubic yards of sediment and silt from Goose Pond and 2,000 cubic yards from Wet Meadow Terrace in the park.

Both areas lie near the boat launching ramps, but are not easily accessible by the public as no trails lead to them.

The cost of the excavation alone is about \$7,000 according to John Klein, land manager for the park district. It is estimated that it will take at least a year for the work to be completed.

The project will also include planting seeds of native wetland plants.

Board Election Rescheduled

Balloting to elect six members of the Oxbow, Inc., Board of trustees will take place at the January 12 Oxbow meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo. The election was originally set to be held at the December meeting. Up for reelection to the three-year terms of office are Bill Bocklage, Norma Flannery, John Getzendanner, Steve Pelikan, Sandy Schnur, and Suzanne Skidmore. Persons wishing to make other nominations may do so by notifying Oxbow or by presenting the nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Foundation Grant of \$1,500 Received

The Lorika Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation has made a grant of \$1,500 to Oxbow, Inc. The grant was made at the suggestion of V. Anderson Coombe of the William Powell Valve Company. Oxbow, Inc., expresses its gratitude for this generous gift.

Hunting on Oxbow, Inc., Land East of I-275 Now Permitted

Oxbow, Inc., has opened its property east of I-275 for hunting. Permission to hunt may be obtained by calling 513-471-8001. A Memorandum of Understanding stating Oxbow, Inc.'s regulations for the use of the property will be sent. The Memorandum of Understanding must be signed and returned with two (2) copies of a current hunting license to Oxbow, Inc., 4137 Jamestown Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45205-2007. One copy will be returned with Oxbow, Inc.'s authorization for use of the property. The authorization must be carried with the hunting license and be available to any conservation officer or deputy sheriff upon request. Authorization will expire on the expiration date of the hunting license. Permission to hunt Oxbow Inc., property east of I-275 must be applied for annually.



Trumpeter Swans at Muscatatuck

As *Wetland Matters* went to press, the trumpeter swans that were possible going to winter at the Oxbow area were scheduled to arrive at Muscatatuck N.W.R. some time in December. The Trumpeter Swan Society of Ontario, Canada had planned the induced migration by November, but the swans were not as amenable to following an ultra-light aircraft as were their cousins, the Canada geese, and required more orientation. The swans also did not adjust easily to identification markers on their wings.

Field Notes -----

by Morris Mercer

This was to be a foggy autumn trip to the Oxbow. Jim Simpson and I were soon on our way. The visibility was very poor along the Ohio. We turned up over Cliff Road in the fog. As we neared the top of the hill, we broke out into the clear. The sky was so blue, the grass on the hilltops a special green. The river valley looked as if it was a river of fog. It seemed you could almost walk over to Kentucky on the fog.

Here on the hilltops autumn seemed perfect with the color in the leaves and a nice cool breeze. We rolled down the windows to listen for wildlife. The road soon dropped down the hill into the valley of the Great Miami. Again the fog was very heavy. We were going to cross the Great Miami River on Lost Bridge, that is, if we could find the bridge.

Soon we were on the dirt road along the Oxbow. The valley was blanketed with heavy fog. We wondered if our trip was going to be a blank. But we made our way back to Beaver Pond. After a little while, the fog began to lift. We could see a few double-crested cormorants in cottonwood trees in front of us. The fog seemed to move across the water hole with a quality of now you can see and now you can't. The great egrets were easiest to see. The great blue herons more difficult.

Jim was giving the scope a try and came up with a deer across the water. I took a look, and it was as if I was looking through a blowing curtain; again it was now I can see and now I can't. There were four deer at the water's edge. The whole scene was so different, yet there was a real beauty here on this October morn.

We were heading back for a better look at the Oxbow. We saw a large bird in the air above the water high in back of the cement plant. The osprey was spotlighted by the morning sun. We could see the bird hover above the water before diving into it and making a large splash. We watched as the osprey came back above the willows, but there was no fish in its talons. The bird must have made ten trips into the water only to come up empty each time. We wondered if it might be a young bird, as it seemed to fish poorly.

Just about the time we were ready to give up on the osprey, the bird came up with a nice fish. Now it was looking for a nice limb in a cottonwood where it could enjoy breakfast. It wouldn't do much for me, but

I'm sure the osprey would enjoy the carp as "The Catch of the Day."

We moved on along the road on the outside bend of the Oxbow. The fog was still heavy at the end of the lake near Wood Duck Slough, but most of the Oxbow was clear; the water and the sky were so blue, the trees colored for fall, and about a dozen wood ducks were in a brushy area near the bank. There isn't a much more beautiful sight than that, the wood ducks in an autumn scene. The willows were taking on some color. Seemed a few weeks ago, the willows stayed so green, but now were showing some brown and yellow. Autumn is a great season.

On November 7, '98, we were making a trip to the Oxbow. We drove up by Hidden Valley Lake. There were more than a hundred coots near the boat ramp, a dozen buffleheads, and one bird I had seen only once in the area. The kids and I had seen a surf scoter about 30 years ago on the Oxbow. This day the scoter was in great color and couldn't be mistaken for another species. I do like them like that when you don't have to guess what they are.

On November 28, '98, we stopped at the Oxbow and were a little surprised to see nine sandhill cranes at the end of the Oxbow near Wood Duck Slough.

December 5, '98, we were at the Oxbow again. It was one of those summer-like days we have had in December. There were turkey vultures in the air. On a dead limb near the water was a black-crowned night heron. We would have guessed these birds would have been in the deep south by this time, yet there they were at the Oxbow.

Maybe one of these days it will turn to winter. What beauty there is in the snow!



Moving?

Please send you change of
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The postal sevice will not forward
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Oxbow Memorials (continued)

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Oxbow Tributes

In Honor of

Donor

Gladys G. Schnur

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Each memorial 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. Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to include the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.

A Note of Thanks: Oxbow, Inc., expresses its thanks to Peggy Gatch for so capably taking care of the acknowledgements of the Memorial and Tribute gifts.

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 ecosystem known locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This agricultural area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. 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
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Suzanne Skidmore(513) 561-5718
Treasurer, Mark Westrich(513) 637-2175
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Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage(513) 922-2445
Easement Inspection,
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Fund Raising, Greg Mendell(812) 926-2522
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 Bill Bocklage(513) 922-2445

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