



# \$\$\$ OVER THE TOP

## SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN SECURES GRANT. Art Wiseman, Treasurer

With at least two weeks to spare, Oxbow, Inc., reached its goal of matching the challenge-grant of Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood McIntire. The McIntires offered to donate \$10,000 to Oxbow, Inc. provided an equal amount of new money could be raised within six months.

The success of this campaign centered on the amount of money we received as dues from some 200 new members. The drive started quietly in July and then moved into high gear in September with a donation of over \$2200 from Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bassett. Another family pledged \$100 a month for five months. A local naturalist contributed \$500 to our "local conservation project." When this news was announced at a Cincinnati Bird Club Meeting, several members collectively matched this \$500 contribution. A \$200 check from the Lawrenceburg Lions Club was the only other large contribution received. All others were for \$100 or less. This indicates the strong grassroots support that exists for the preservation of the Oxbow

The Board of Trustees wishes to thank everyone who helped to make this campaign a success. Without your generous support we could not have gone "over the top."

THANKS TO ONE AND ALL, AND ESPECIALLY, MR. & MRS. MCINTIRE.

## LAND PURCHASE COMPLETE. Ned Keller, Attorney

Our efforts to complete the purchase of our first parcel of property in the Oxbow area have finally borne fruit. The purchase was delayed by the fact that the property was held by the estate of a decedent, some of whose heirs live overseas. It has sometimes seemed as though the process of moving the property through probate would never end, but we can now say that the wait is over.

On October 27, 1987, we received the deed to just over 26 acres of ground. The property is located near the south end of the Oxbow. Part of the property is tillable, and will probably be farmed for us by a tenant. More importantly for our purposes, the property also includes a large low area, which we have named "Wood Duck Slough." This area continues to hold water, and therefore waterfowl, after the spring floods have receded from the rest of the area. It is also one of the better local spots to find Red-Headed Woodpeckers, due to the quantity of large dead standing timber which is present.

There can be no doubt about the importance of this area to wildlife, but its importance to Oxbow, Inc. is even greater. We now have a tangible result to show for all our efforts. Each of us can take legitimate pride in saying, "My efforts have helped to achieve this."

At the same time, we need to remember that we have a long way to go. The property which we have purchased represents about one percent of the



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area which we want to protect. We have made a good beginning, and can deservedly pause to celebrate. But we must not lose the momentum which this purchase has created. Instead, we must use it to motivate ourselves to push forward down the long road which still lies ahead.

WORDS FROM THE DUCK BLIND.

Rick Bramstedt



Oxbow, Inc. has generously been offered a booth at the Bob Hart Travel, Sports and Boat Show January 9th through the 17th at the Albert B. Sabin Convention Center. Anyone interested in helping work this booth should call our Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck, at 513-631-5933. Exposure at the show will give Oxbow, Inc. an excellent opportunity to reach people with diverse outdoor interests. Diversity of interests has been a strength for Oxbow, Inc. Many groups working together increases our chances of success in saving the Oxbow.

Many of the booths are geared towards the sportsman. Over the years sportsmen have proven to be supportive of the wildlife protection concept. In the 1930's the condition of wildlife was at an all-time low due to drought, habitat destruction and market hunting. Pioneer sportsmen and conservationists saw the need for changes. Market hunting was banned and the Pittmann-Robertson program was enacted to tax sporting arms. Today the P-R program generates millions of dollars for wildlife restoration and hunter education. P-R funds have purchased over four million acres of habitat and are financing the management of another 50 million acres for game and non-game species. Over 700,000 hunters are educated yearly in safe gun handling, hunter ethics and the hunter's role in conservation. Most hunters, like myself, are very concerned about our natural heritage and are interested in protecting the valuable habitat that remains. To hunt is a privilege. With privilege comes the responsibility to eliminate behavior which is unethical, illegal or offensive to the public's impression of hunting.

The remaining dates for waterfowl hunting seasons are:

DUCKS	OHIO	DECEMBER 21, 1987 - JANUARY 16, 1988
	INDIANA	DECEMBER 5, 1987 - JANUARY 9, 1988
GEESE	OHIO	DECEMBER 7, 1987 - JANUARY 4, 1988
	INDIANA	DECEMBER 9, 1987 - JANUARY 17, 1988

SEE YOU AT THE BOB HART BOAT SHOW!

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From the Dec-Jan 1988 National Wildlife Federation Magazine comes this reminder to all hunters.

"Lead shot pellets poison two to three million ducks, geese and swans every year and as of summer 1987 have killed 144 bald eagles that had fed on waterfowl."

The use of non-toxic steel shot insures that only what is shot is killed

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

John Miller, Vice Pres.

The people listed below are being considered for election as trustees of Oxbow, Inc. The term of office is three years. The election will be held January 12, 1988 at the general membership meeting to be held at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Building. Officers of the Corporation will be elected at the January, 1988 Board of Trustees meeting.

ANITA BUCK  
\*RICHARD DURRELL  
CAROL FOLTZ  
JOHN HEENEY  
\*JERRY JOHNSON  
\*EDWARD (NED) KELLER

FRANK MARNELL  
THANE MAYNARD  
\*GREG MENDELL  
KANI MEYER  
\*DAVID STYER  
\*DONNA WAGNER

\* incumbent

THANK YOU!

Thanks from Oxbow, Inc. has to be given to Mr. & Mrs. Jack Mueller for designing and making the display boards that are used in the show booths. Norma Rae from Photo Lab Inc. processed the bird prints used on these boards. Photos were donated by Ron Austing, Karl Maslowski and Morris Mercer. Mr. Harold Foltz designed and made stands and Barb Gerke made posters. Banners worn by the booth volunteers were made by the Wiseman's skinning class.

We also have to thank Mark Wolter who has donated six Wood Duck nesting boxes to be used on our property at the Oxbow.

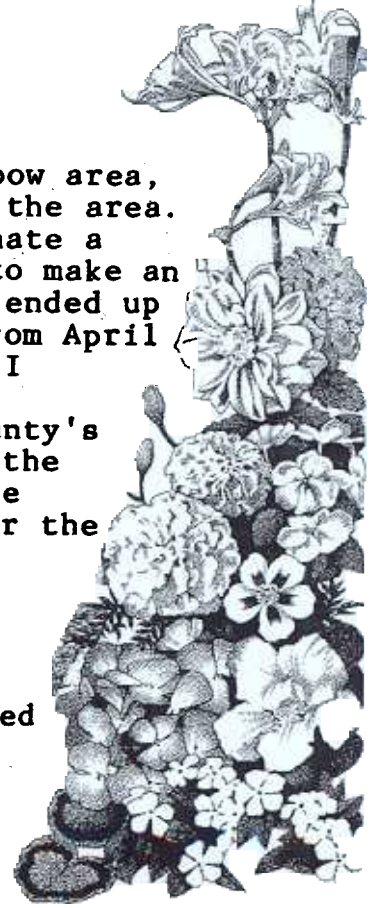
PLANTS AND PATRIOTISM.

David Styer

Although we have a good many records of birds in the Oxbow area, we know very little about the rest of the natural history of the area. In order to help Oxbow, Inc., Ruth Trosset offered to coordinate a group within the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society to make an inventory of plants. Thus it was that Ruth and Stan Trosset ended up leading plant-finding expeditions virtually every Saturday from April to November. Since I had encouraged the Society to help us, I thought it only fitting to pitch in and help out.

The trips were restricted to the portion of Hamilton County's Shawnee Lookout Park that lies between Lawrenceburg Road and the Great Miami River. The Hamilton County Park District gave the Wildflower Preservation Society permission to thoroughly cover the region. Collections could be taken when necessary for identification, and specimens were turned over to the U.C. Herbarium for permanent records.

The inventory had several highlights. One of them was finding hundreds of the lovely fern-leaved Phacelia, a spring wildflower whose distribution in Ohio is pretty much restricted to the southern boundary of the state. In mid-summer Alvin Jose found a large patch of hibiscus. The hugh pink flower would have enhanced any garden; they reminded me of the tropics.



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In late summer and early fall the center of attention shifted to the mud-flats and sand-bars of the Great Miami River. We found a new and entirely different collection of plants on these lowest and wettest of areas.

Another highlight was the Great Ragweed, known locally as Horseweed. Great Ragweed grows to world record heights in these bottoms. In one area we found plants approximately 21 feet tall. Although ragweed is not appreciated around here, State Botanist Allison Cusick says that this is its native home, and the river bottoms are its natural habitat. Surely, this is the sort of news that makes the hay-fever sufferers tingle with delight!

Oh yes, patriotism! As I've said, we met virtually every Saturday. That meant we met on the Fourth of July. As usual, we did our best, and I took home some specimens to "key out" with the aid of a microscope and texts. Among the specimens were small branches from several ash trees. When I finished I called Ruth to let her know that I had identified White Ash, Blue Ash and Red Ash. Ruth responded that that was certainly appropriate for Independence Day!

Oxbow, Inc. extends its thanks to the Trossets and the members of the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society for a fine survey.

#### THE GAVEL IS PASSED - A PRESIDENT LOOKS BACK.

Judy Bramstedt, President

Two years ago, citizens of Ohio and Indiana joined together to protect an area at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio Rivers known as the Oxbow. The Oxbow is significant to many people for different reasons. For many, it is the fact that it is a major staging area (resting stop) for migratory waterfowl on their annual migration north and south. Others enjoy the long-legged shorebirds that can be seen every year. Some are fascinated by the unique geological history which formed the high floodplain of the Great Miami River. Historians and archaeologists are interested in the Prehistoric and Historic Indian cultures that flourished and disappeared in and around the Oxbow. Whatever their individual reasons, over 700 people have joined Oxbow, Inc. and are working to keep this wetland intact.

1987 has been a successful year for Oxbow, Inc. The year began with a \$5000 grant from the Audubon Society of Ohio which was matched by donations from our membership. We have just matched a \$10,000 grant from Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood McIntire. With the funds we have raised, we have purchased 26 1/2 acres of land in the Oxbow area and are now looking at strategically located parcels that may be available. This year, thanks to a survey by the Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society, we know more about what plants are to be found in the Oxbow area. Our Speakers' Bureau has continued to spread the word of our work to many organizations and clubs. We are continuing to work closely with the Indiana and Ohio Departments of Natural Resources and are pleased with their stated interest in protecting the area.

The Oxbow has been a renewing source of pleasure to many people and these people have repaid their pleasure by donating their time, talent and money. People with many diverse interests are helping us every day. So many times people have pitched in to help at just the right moment that sometimes I am simply amazed. I have enjoyed learning many new facts about the Oxbow from all of our experts. Most of all, however, I have enjoyed the company of some of the finest people I have ever met. I have learned an enormous amount from these new friends about the natural world and how to be a better person in that world.

I look forward to this year with anticipation as many dedicated people

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**IMMEDIATE AND CRITICAL NEED FOR LETTERS!**

Preservation of the Oxbow area as wildlife and farmland can be greatly helped by a letter of support from you within the next thirty days. It is urgent at this time that each friend or member of Oxbow, Inc. contact the Departments of Natural Resources of Indiana and Ohio. Trustees of Oxbow, Inc. have been meeting with representatives of both Departments. Both have expressed a long-range committment to the preservation of the Oxbow area. It is critical that both states be strongly encouraged to act now. Letters should be mailed no later than February 1, 1988.

Please take time today to write to the directors of the Departments listed below. Your letter can make a real difference. Remind the directors that wetlands are essential for:

STAGING AREAS FOR WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRDS.

2. OTHER WILDLIFE HABITAT
3. CONTROL OF FLOODS AND SOIL EROSION
4. GROUND WATER RECHARGE
5. NUTRIENT RECYCLING.
6. FILTERING POLLUTANTS BEFORE THEY REACH STREAMS, RIVERS AND UNDERGROUND AQUIFERS.

Remind the directors why the Oxbow area is so special. It is unique because of the wildlife it attracts. Golden Eagles, Bald Eagles, Osprey and numerous other rare bird sightings occur at the Oxbow. It is unique geologically and historically. The visual and aesthetic impact of this area can be important to Indiana and Ohio as an entrance for visitors to each state!

Please write to either or both of the directors today !

Mr. James Ridenour, Director  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
State Office Building  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Mr. Joseph J. Sommer, Director  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Fountain Square Building  
Columbus, Ohio 43224

THANK YOU!

step into new positions of leadership within Oxbow, Inc. We have accomplished much but still have a long way to go and need the continued support of all. I am, above all, proud to have been your first president and it is my wish that we continue to work together to see to the protection of this important area.



### VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Cay Tuck is still looking for all (or one or two) who can donate a little (or a lot) of their time for Oxbow-like duties. For more information, or to tell us what you would like to do to help, call Cay Tuck, Volunteer Coordinator, 513-631-5933.

People are needed to paint Wood Duck nesting boxes and to place the boxes on our property in Wood Duck Slough. We also need people to work the Oxbow, Inc. booth at the Bob Hart Boat Show. There are many

other things that need doing so call Cay and see what you can do to help.

### F Y I

There has been a disturbing occurrence at the Oxbow. On two separate occasions duck hunters have had blinds destroyed. Being the "new kid on the block", suspicion has fallen upon Oxbow, Inc. for these acts. This is unfortunate. Oxbow, Inc. wishes to preserve, not destroy, this area. We are too much a respecter of wildlife and habitat to indulge in practices we must all find despicable. Oxbow, Inc. does not hesitate to go on record as being opposed to all senseless acts of vandalism. We will continue working to preserve this unique area for all of the historical uses the land has empirically supported - agriculture, fishing, boating, birding AND hunting. Get out the binocs and scopes. Report any suspicious activity to local authorities but DO NOT attempt to stop or interfere with anyone you may encounter. Duck blinds can be replaced. Members of Oxbow, Inc. can't.

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Art and Jinny Wiseman were honored at a surprise cocktail party and buffet held at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History in celebration of their many years of service and devotion to the Museum. Both hold the title of Honorary Curators of Ornithology. Both have spent every Thursday night for most of the last 14 years training volunteer bird skimmers to prepare study skins for the Museum's collection.

John Ruthven presented them with his painting of the Yellow-Breasted Chat, Jinny's favorite bird.

Their many friends from all professions and organizations gave them a computer. It was an evening well deserved. Congratulations, Art and Jinny!

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Monday, January 11, 1988 PBS will present "Conserving America." This program, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, focuses on saving our wetlands and highlights the role that grassroots action plays in this critical need.

The program airs from 9 to 10 P.M. on WCET Channel 48.  
DON'T MISS IT.

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Remember William Zimmerman's Mallards in Flight and Ralph Scott's bird photographic prints. Both are excellent collectibles and make fine gifts. For more information, call Art Wiseman 513-481-4302.

Mr. & Mrs. Sherwood McIntire were honored by the Board of Trustees at a reception held Saturday, December 19, 1987 at the Zoo's Education Building.

The McIntires completed their challenge-grant by presenting a check for \$10,000 to President, Judy Bramstedt.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the McIntires with a framed painting of "Blackburnian Warblers" by artist Melinda Bitting.

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MEMORIALS ESTABLISHED.

Oxbow, Inc. has established memorials to honor 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. Contributions will be acknowledged as designated by the donor. Checks are to be made out to Oxbow, Inc. and mailed to 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45214. Be sure to enclose the name of the person being honored and the names and addresses of the donor and the recipient of the acknowledgement.

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<u>IN MEMORIAM</u>	
*****	
<u>In Memory of -</u>	<u>Donor -</u>
*****	
James J. Anderson	Karl Maslowski
James J. Anderson	Snowden Rowe
H. William Rettig	James W. Rettig
H. William Rettig	Art & Jinny Wiseman
Stanley M. Rowe, Sr.	Mrs. James Anderson
*****	
*****	

MEETINGS.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Building. Enter through the Exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue. Thane Maynard, Assistant Curator of Education for the Zoo will be the guest speaker. A short business meeting and the election of trustees will proceed the program.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 7:30 P.M. Greendale Cabin, Greendale, Indiana. The speaker will be Elvin Blasdel. Mr. Blasdel's historic photographs of the Oxbow make this program a must.



## FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MONDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 9 P.M. WCET Channel 48 "Conserving America"

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 7:30 P.M. "NEEAKE - SHAWNEE STORYTELLER."

Rev. Fred A. Shaw, official storyteller and "keeper of the history" of the United Remnant Band of the Shawnee Nation, weaves stories of Shawnee culture, ritual and tribal history. Please plan to attend this Audubon sponsored program to be held at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History auditorium, 1720 Gilbert Avenue. There is no charge.

Norma Flannery 513-471-8001

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 7:30 P.M. Night walk at Shawnee Lookout Park. Meet Morris Mercer at the Golf Course parking lot. Will cancel if more than 12" of snow or the temperature is more than 25° below zero. Motor vehicle permit required.

Morris Mercer 513-941-2534

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 9 A.M. Archaeological field trip. Meet Rebecca Bennett at the 50's Root Beer parking lot. Rebecca will lead us on a survey of the Oxbow area for Indian sites.

Rebecca Bennett 812-926-2687  
513-475-5613 U.C.

# THE OXBOW



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judy Bramstedt, President. . .	.513-662-4456
John Miller, Vice President.	.812-438-3920
Bonnie Fancher, Secretary. . .	.812-438-3641
Art Wiseman, Treasurer . . .	.513-481-4302
David Styer, Agent . . . . .	.513-772-4395

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Judy Bramstedt - Program . . . . .	.513-662-4456
Rick Bramstedt - Preservation. . .	.513-662-4456
- - Research	-
Greg Mendell - Fund Raising. . . .	.812-926-1966
Cay Tuck - Volunteer Coordinator .	.513-631-5933
Donna Wagner - Speakers' Bureau. .	.513-831-7606

EDITOR

Norma Flannery .513-471-8001

OXBOW, INC.

A non-profit 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 the 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 solicited and encouraged.

Individual	\$1	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$1	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$2	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$100

Mail to: OXBOW, INC. 2073 Harrison Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45214



OXBOW, INC.  
2073 Harrison Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE <b>PAID</b> CINCINNATI, OHIO PERMIT NO. 7271
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Mar '88

MARSHA BRADY TUCKER FOUNDATION  
ROBERT H. REAKIRT FOUNDATION

Norma Flannery  
4137 Jamestown  
Cincinnati, OH 45205

GRANTS OF \$2000<sup>00</sup> EA  
TO N.C. FOR LAND  
ACQUISITION - EDGE OF  
APPALACHIA

*Regulations of  
OXBOW, INC.  
TRUSTEES*

*ARTICLE 5*

*SECT 12 - QUORUM & MANAGE  
OF ACTING*

*SECT 15 - ACTION IN CASE OF  
OFFICERS IN CASE OF  
MEETING*

*SECT 6 - ARTICLES*

*SECT 1 -  
AUTHORITY*