



OXBOW, inc

Save the Oxbow Society

## Hamilton County Park Levy



In November, the Hamilton County Park District will go to the voters and ask for an increase in revenue. The proposed levy is for 1 mill for 15 years and, when it is approved, the existing  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill levy will be eliminated, resulting in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mill increase. The levy is needed because funds generated by the 1973 levy have decreased as inflation increased. What cost \$100 in 1973 now costs \$234. This means that now, in 1988, the old levy is providing less than half of its original value because of inflation.

The average home owner will be asked to pay about \$1.00 a month. The amount to an individual property owner will remain fixed, or decrease, over the 15 year life of the levy.

Hamilton County ranks 84th out of 88 Ohio counties in outdoor recreation acreage per 1,000 residents. Open space and critical natural areas are being lost every day. Remaining wetlands, and especially the Oxbow, need to be protected. Of the new funds generated by the passing of the levy, 31%, or about \$2 million, will be used to acquire land and natural resources, including wetlands, while they are still available. There are only 2,000 acres of wetlands remaining in Hamilton County, and, of these, 1,000 acres are in the Oxbow. Although it may not be possible to secure the entire 1,000 acres, the Park Board is committed to acquiring as many acres as it can. Over the 15 year life of the levy, Oxbow property will be acquired by the Park District as it becomes available, either through outright purchase or conservation easement.

Some question the reliability of election rhetoric and the dependence upon it for Oxbow preservation. Once the levy has been approved, the question remains whether or not the Park District will honor its commitment.

Evaluation of the Park District's past promises to the voters shows that, not only have they kept every levy promise, but also, they have provided even more. The Hamilton County Park District is deserving of the voters' trust and support.

The Board of Trustees of Oxbow, Inc. has studied the issues involved and gives its full support to this levy request. The Trustees urge all Oxbow, Inc. Hamilton County resident members to go to the polls on November 8th and cast a vote F O R the Hamilton County Park Levy. It will be a vote for the preservation of the Oxbow!

**Vote for Parks November 8!**

# New Tristate Birders' Guide



In his introduction to A Birder's Guide to the Cincinnati Tristate, author Robert Folzenlogen states that his book is directed primarily at beginning birders and newcomers to the region. That targeted audience will find the book useful, but more advanced birders will be disappointed by its omissions and inaccuracies.

The first section, which is devoted to descriptions of fourteen birding areas in the Cincinnati area, will be the most useful. While anyone could complain that one of his or her favorite areas, such as Meldahl Dam and Spring Grove Cemetery have been omitted, the areas chosen represent a good geographical balance and cover 14 of the major habitats to be found in the tristate. The treatment of each area includes accurate directions to reach the area, descriptions of the better birding spots within the area, and an uncluttered map which displays those spots well. Many of the areas discussed are open and free to the public.

The third section of the book presents suggested field trips for the early, middle, and late portions of each month. By combining the first and third sections, a new birder, or a birder new to the area, should be able to find a good sample of the birds which are to be found in the tristate area. Even more experienced birders will find some ideas for new places, or times, to look for birds.

The middle section, on the birds of our area, was a disappointment to the reviewers. By intentionally omitting rarities, the author unnecessarily restricts the appeal of the book. Descriptions of the frequency of occurrence of the birds are too general or are omitted altogether. The peak migration periods for each species are stated in a general manner, but there is no description of the full range of the migration periods. Bar charts which show the time and frequency of occurrence, and are standard elements of regional bird guides, are omitted here. Reviewers felt this information would have been at least as useful to the target audience as to experienced birders.

More troubling to the reviewers than the book's omissions are its inaccuracies. Several which were noted are the following:

Cliff Swallows are colonial summer residents, as well as migrants, nesting, among other places regularly and in large numbers under the bridges at Brookville, Ind.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Upland Sandpipers, and Loggerhead Shrikes may be looked for at Lunken Airport, but will not likely be found.

Rather than being present all year, Ruffed Grouse are present only as accidentals.

(Continued, next page)

Judging by the lack of acknowledgements, this book appears to have been a solo effort by Mr. Folzenlogen. While he has, obviously, put considerable effort into his book and demonstrates a broad knowledge of the birding opportunities to be found in the Cincinnati area, a more informative, more accurate book could have resulted from a wider range of input from established area birders.

The paperback volume is published by Willow Press, 1030 Willow Avenue, Glendale, OH. and is stocked at both the Museum of Natural History and the Cincinnati Nature Center. Price is \$8.95. The reviewers recommend the book to tristate visitors and new birders as it does provide a good guide to the better birding areas in and around Cincinnati.

Reviewed by:  
 Paul X. Hellmann  
 Ned Keller  
 George Laycock  
 Karl Maslowski  
 Art Wiseman



## Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

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 to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor and should be sent to Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. 45214. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of the donor and those to receive an acknowledgement.

### THE YEAR OF 1988

*****	
<u>In Memory of</u>	<u>Donor</u>
*****	
*James J. Anderson	Karl Maslowski
*H. William Rettig	James Rettig
*H. William Rettig	Art & Jinny Wiseman
*Stanley M. Rowe, Sr.	Mrs. James J. Anderson
*Veronica Kanuschak	Norma L. Flannery
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*David Hand	Edd. Young Family
*David Hand	Fred. Young Family
*David Hand	Greg. Young Family
*Dr. Clyde S. Roof	W. Rowell Chase
*Nancy Pangello Woodruff	Norma L. Flannery
*****	

## Park Motor Vehicle Permits

The Hamilton County Park Board is in need of your input and opinion! When the levy passes, do you recommend that the Motor Vehicle Permit be eliminated or continued?

This annual \$3.00 passport generates a gross income of \$350,000 in funds earmarked for land acquisition.

The park pass originated in 1961 at the suggestion of a group of concerned citizens who felt that the park levy income, at that time, needed supplementing. Send your opinion on the Motor Vehicle Permit to

Jon Brady, Director  
Hamilton County Park District  
10245 Winton Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231



## Volunteers Needed for Bob Hart Boat Show

Last year's booth at the Bob Hart Boat Show at the Convention Center drew in so many new members that Oxbow, Inc. has decided to participate in the show again next year. Volunteers will be needed to staff the booth for approximately two-hour shifts. Volunteers will sell T-shirts and encourage those who stop at the booth to join Oxbow, Inc. As a side benefit, participants will get free entrance to the show. Volunteers are needed all day for the weekends of January 7-8 and 14-15, and for the evenings of January 9 through 13. Sign up at the monthly meetings, or call Ned Keller, 513-941-6497.

## Attention All Members!!!

The date for the NOVEMBER General Membership Meeting has been changed from the usual second Tuesday of the month, November 8th, to the third Tuesday, November 15th.

The change is being made for NOVEMBER ONLY! Many members and Trustees will be working at the polls on November 8th in an effort to assist the passage of the Hamilton County Park Levy.

Please note this meeting change on your calendar and plan to attend the slide presentation being given at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building at 7:30 P.M. NOVEMBER 15TH by the Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society.

The December meeting will be held on the established second Tuesday of the month, December 13th at the newly redecorated Lawrenceburg Public Library. (See meeting information.)

# Holiday Gifts for Young and Old

If you're looking for a remarkably attractive, yet inexpensive holiday gift, we can help! Oxbow, Inc. T-shirts, bearing an original CHARLIE HARPER design, are now available in NINE sizes at low, low prices. You can order by mail or pick them up at 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH. (Call 513-481-4302 before coming). T-shirts are sold at field trips, programs and meetings of Oxbow, Inc., Raptor, Audubon Society of Ohio and the Cincinnati Bird Club. They may also be purchased at Farbach-Warner Nature's Niche, the Museum of Natural History and the Cincinnati Nature Center at non-member prices only. Your purchase is not tax deductible.

The white T-shirts are the best-quality 50% cotton, 50% polyester, and are machine washable. (Slight shrinkage). The two-color design is printed on a blue water background. The characteristic marks of the wood duck are clearly presented in bright white.



Sizes and prices: Youth 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16, members \$8. non-members \$9;  
 Adult S, M, L, XL, members \$8. non-members \$10. XX-L, members \$10. non-members \$12.

Mail orders: Add \$2 PER MAILING ADDRESS for postage and handling.

These T-shirts make an ideal gift so make a list and give us a ring or mail your order with your check---NOW!!!

**ORDER FORM**

## Oxbow T-Shirts Order Form

Quantity	Size	Price	Amount
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Postage & Handling \$2.00 per mailing address

**Total Amount**

**MAILING INFORMATION:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_ Allow ten days  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ for delivery  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to: Oxbow, Inc.  
 2073 Harrison Avenue  
 Cincinnati, OH 45214



# Birdathon

In addition to being a money-maker for the land acquisition fund, everyone so enjoyed the competition of BIRDATHON '88, that Oxbow, Inc. is making plans for an even bigger event next year.

BIRDATHON '89 will be held on Friday and Saturday, May 12th and 13th, 1989. Individuals, couples, sponsored teams or any organizations interested in participating, contact Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45214 or call Art Wiseman, 513-481-4302. The planning committee will be meeting to decide the rules and regulations governing BIRDATHON '89.



The "Golden Starling Trophy" will be in jeopardy. Will it change hands or can the University of Cincinnati team retain control of this coveted award? Smart birders will use the winter months ahead to plan strategy and map out prime birding locations.

Let's begin NOW by challenging ourselves to surpass the \$8,000 brought in by BIRDATHON '88. The goal for BIRDATHON '89 \$10,000!!!

## Need A Speaker? Give us a Call!

If your club or organization needs a speaker, we can help! Our Speakers Bureau Members will be pleased to accept your invitation. Call Kani Meyer, 513-948-8630 to reserve a speaker for your group.

## FYI



Past president, Judy Bramstedt, and her husband Rick, have left the Cincinnati area and moved to Rising Sun, Indiana. They celebrated the move into their new home with the birth of their first child - it's a boy!. Congratulations to Rick and Judy and our best wishes to Eric, the new Hoosier in the family



Oxbow, Inc. would like to thank the unidentified gentleman who walked in front of the WCPO-TV camera wearing his "The Duck Stops Here" T-shirt. WCPO-TV was filming coverage of the Zoo's Wildlife Weekend when our walking advertisement appeared. Thanks for the plug



Remember Jack's Camera, Fourth and Walnut Streets, Cincinnati, OH. when you need prints developed, film, or other photographic equipment or supplies.

# Oxbow, Inc. Membership Makes an Ideal Gift

The holiday season is the time for gifts and giving, and here is our suggestion for a multi-purpose gift - a membership in Oxbow, Inc.! First, the price may be of your choosing - ten dollars on up. Second, it's a gift that's guaranteed to please anyone who is interested in nature. Third, it will help us to preserve the Oxbow wetlands through our land acquisition program. Finally, it offers wildlife a gift of unlimited value - habitat protection.



This Christmas, consider a gift membership in Oxbow, Inc. for your family and friends. It's sure to please and it's tax deductible. Fill out the gift membership form below and save yourself a great deal of shopping time and aggravation. Include additional gift memberships on a separate sheet of paper.

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PLEASE SEND A GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN OXBOW, INC. TO:

NAME _____	Individual \$10.	Patron \$100.
ADDRESS _____	Family \$15.	Corner- stone \$250.
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____	Contribut- ing \$25.	Sponsor \$500.
DONOR _____	Supporting \$50.	Bene- factor \$1,000.

(Circle one)

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Make this a MERRY CHRISTMAS for your friends and wildlife!  
A note will announce your gift. Make check payable to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
2073 Harrison Avenue  
Cincinnati, OH 45214



## MOVING?

Make sure your NEWSLETTER goes with you

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
New Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Old Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Effective Date

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc. 2073 Harrison Ave Cinti, OH 45214

# Oxbow

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The Oxbow field trip, held on August 22nd, was a tremendous success. Ron Austing, the noted wildlife photographer, was present at the Oxbow lake and reported that some 300 shorebirds had arrived a few days before. Because of the drought conditions, the water level of the lake was low and surviving fish were clustered into a small remaining area. Probably, because these fish were so available, a couple hundred Great Blue Herons and a dozen Common Egrets were feasting on the trapped fish. This display of these migrant birds lasted over a month. By September 27th, Dave Dister reported only three shorebirds present. Dave Styer reported that among the many bird species using the area were such rarities as the Wilson's Phalarope, and the Baird's, Stilt, and Buff-breasted Sandpipers.

Members of Oxbow, Inc. can be proud that this small patch of wilderness was saved for the benefit of the many birds that visited to rest and feed at the Oxbow. We will continue to work for the preservation of this unique wetland.

## Meeting Rally Dates



Change of Date!

Tuesday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. Enter through the Exit gate, off of Erkenbrecher Avenue. The Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society presents "The Oxbow in Bloom." Follow the wild flower inventory team along the Great Miami River through Stan Trosset's slides, with comments from Alvin Jose, Dave Styer and Ruth Trosset. See the mudflats, floodplain and bordering hillside, along with the plants and small critters found there throughout the blooming season. Rare or common, huge or tiny, all are bright and beautiful.

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Lawrenceburg Public Library. 1988 in Review will be the topic of this meeting. We will cover the findings of the wild flower survey the reptile-amphibian survey, as well as what has been sighted "winging" through the area. It will be a time to look back on yesterday and forward to the coming new year. Refreshments will be served.



# Field Trips

Saturday, November 12, 9:00 a.m.

Meet trip leader Jay Stenger at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, U.S. 50 and I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit ramp, for a stroll through the Oxbow. Jay Stenger 513-522-4245

Saturday, December 10

Oxbow, Inc. will be a participant in the Hamilton County Parks annual bird count. Meet Morris Mercer at 8:30 A.M. at the upper boat ramp parking lot at Shawnee Lookout Park. See how many of the little birdies you can count. Park Motor Vehicle Permit required.  
Morris Mercer 513-941-2534



**Executive Committee**

President, John Miller	812-438-3920
Vice President, Ned Keller	513-941-6497
Secretary, Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
Treasurer, Art Wiseman	513-481-4302
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

**Committee Chairpersons**

Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Preservation, Rick Bramstedt	513-662-4456
Programs, Judy Bramstedt	513-662-4456
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Volunteer Coordinator, Cay Tuck	513-631-5933

**Editor**

Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
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**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 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	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

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

