



September—October 2014

No. 169

# WETLAND *matters*

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

*Have you visited our website?...[www.oxbowinc.info](http://www.oxbowinc.info)*

**Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835**

## **Birdathon Dollars for Ducks (and other living stuff)**

*.....by Jon Seymour*

The dollar results are in for Birdathon 2014 and unfortunately they are lower than last year's income from Birdathon 2013. There are several reasons that Oxbow sponsors and runs the Greater Cincinnati Area Birdathon: camaraderie, promotion of birding, getting young people interested in nature, and increasing the *awareness* in the community of Oxbow, Inc. are a few. One of the biggest reasons is that it raises money for the improvement of habitat and access to viewing the wildlife in the Oxbow. If we gather in fewer dollars, we have fewer dollars to spend on things like bush hogging to maintain prairie areas, mowing firebreaks for fire control, fire equipment to provide safety, culvert maintenance to maintain water levels and road maintenance to create and maintain viewing access to the Oxbow area, to name a few of these.

We will be working on ways to increase the income from Birdathon in 2015. Do your part by thinking about how you will support your favorite hard working Birdathon team in 2015.

### **2014 Money Raising Results:**

All unspecified donations are credited to the highest scoring team in the Birdathon and along with the specified donations the highest scoring team of Joe Bens and Jack Stenger brought in donations of \$986.00 to also win the title as the team that raised the most funds.

*(continued on page 2)*

## **Great Outdoor Weekend 2014**

That's right, Great Outdoor Weekend 2014 is Coming to an Area Near You

Mark your calendar for either Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> for the Greater Cincinnati area Great Outdoor Weekend. Here is your chance for a free family experience featuring 140+ different outdoor activities and programs. Oxbow Inc. will have two programs from 5:30 to 7:30 pm both evenings. This is a great introduction to the Oxbow. Our program, both nights, consists of a two hour, one and one-half mile walk on flat ground through the top end of the Oxbow. Our program tour guides will give information on the establishment of Oxbow, Inc., the geology and natural history of the area, and will discuss plants and animals found along the way.

This is a perfect way to visit the Oxbow for the first time or introduce a friend, neighbor or grandchild to the Oxbow. Pick a night to come and enjoy fall in the Oxbow and the gathering of wading birds prior to the fall migration. Come both evenings if you wish, no trip through the Oxbow is the same as any other trip. On past Great Outdoor Weekend excursions we have seen Eagles, Beaver, and Otter. So come and help us find some really nifty animals. We walk on fairly flat roads that are graveled and passable in most weather. Bring comfortable shoes, mosquito repellent, water, and binoculars. Of course, a camera is a great sidekick in the Oxbow.

We only have 2 of the 140 programs available that weekend so go to [www.greatumbrella.org](http://www.greatumbrella.org) or [www.greatoutdoorweekend.org](http://www.greatoutdoorweekend.org) to browse all the other programs available. If you and your family cannot take advantage of 4 or 5 programs during the weekend you are not trying hard enough. Get out and enjoy and help continue the tradition of Great Outdoor Weekend making the Greater Cincinnati area a spectacular place to Meet Outdoors.

Birdathon Funds Raised 2014 (continued from page 1)

Following Joe and Jack are:

- The Ladyhawks: Sister Marty Dermody, Lois Shadix, Chris Moran & Katherine Miller bring in pledges of \$666.00 (a devilish number of dollars)
- The First Timers – The Dog Walkers: Jon Seymour & Denis Conover with a total of \$578.00.
- The Non-combatants: Wayne Wauligman & Charlie Saunders. In perhaps the most unusual money raising activity by a team that for various reasons could not participate this year, Wayne and Charlie raised \$400.00 to come in fourth in this competition. Way to Go!!!
- The Miami Valley Christian Academy with 8 participants 18 and under (Maddie Varias, Caroline Cassidy, Mathew Hildeman, Alex Bird, Colin Hasting, Tyler Ficker, Cassidy Ficker & Ethan Rising) and adult guides (Bill & Renee McGill) raised \$215.00.
- The X-perts from Xavier University with Nick Baker, Scott Gula, Molly and Sean Kirby & leader George Farnsworth raised \$117.00.
- Birding Buddies - Madeleine and Jerry Lippert & Rick Lisi brought in \$92.20.
- Dave and Jane Styer (California Birding) raised \$70.00
- Birds EludeUS - John Eckles, Vicky & Dave Tozier brought in \$50.00.

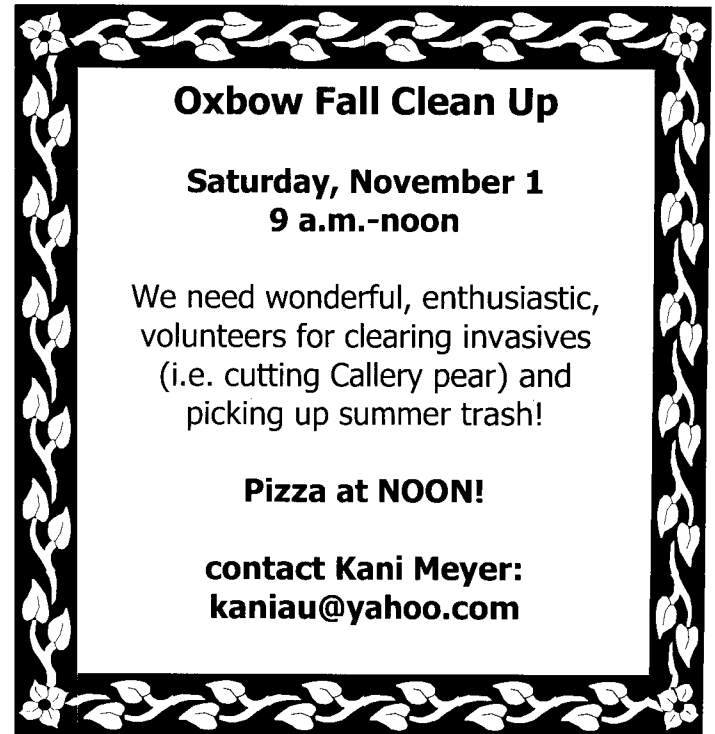
The following individuals or teams all brought in \$20.00 each:

- Erich Baumgardner
- Eric Burkholder & Kirk Westendorf
- Chris & Suzanne Clingman
- Gary & Jeremy Stegner
- Josh Eastlake, Bill Hull, Bill Zimmerman, & Brian Wulker

The team of Jason Gantt & Alexandra Robinson-Gantt (bringing 3 year old Jean Gantt along) raised \$15.00

The teams of Don & Mark Koller, and Mark Gilsdorf & Harris Abramson raised \$10.00 each

A great big huge Oxbow THANK YOU to all the teams and their money-raising efforts. Every dollar makes a difference.



**Oxbow Fall Clean Up**

**Saturday, November 1  
9 a.m.-noon**

We need wonderful, enthusiastic, volunteers for clearing invasives (i.e. cutting Callery pear) and picking up summer trash!

**Pizza at NOON!**

**contact Kani Meyer:  
kaniau@yahoo.com**

**Giving to Oxbow**

As part of charitable giving, think of Oxbow, Inc. We are seeking donations specifically to our endowment fund for the future stability of the organization or for donations to our education fund that is used to support local educators teaching nature to children. Donations may be made to Oxbow, Inc. and marked on the envelop or on the check, endowment or education fund. Send those donations to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. If you are interested in making a large donation or naming Oxbow in your will, contact us and we will help make the necessary arrangements. Contact Jon Seymour, 513-851-9835 or send an email to [jlsjks@hotmail.com](mailto:jlsjks@hotmail.com).

Thanks for thinking of us!

# Horseshoe Bottoms Diary

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014**  
**by John Klein**

## **That Stubborn Elm Branch**

Recently I met Jon Seymour at the Oxbow to look at the firebreaks and we noticed a branch from an elm tree hanging just above the entrance road near the parking lot. I happened to have a bit of rope in my truck, so we lassoed the branch and tried to pull it down. After several attempts and out of breath, I backed my truck up to the end of the rope. This only resulted in breaking the rope several times. Knowing that I would be back in two days to meet the mower operator, we decided the branch wasn't going anywhere and I would bring back stronger straps upon returning.

I arrived two days later and saw that the branch that looked like it could fall at any time was still there staring at me. I met the mower operator and showed him the prairie boundaries then headed back to tackle the branch. On the way I came across Paul Roell one of Oxbow's farmers who was leveling out the road with some fresh gravel. He had a large tractor and offered to help pull the branch down while waiting for his next load of gravel. Well after about a half dozen attempts and breaking strap after strap, we also had to give up.

The job would have been much easier had it been almost any other type of tree. An elm has twisted grain making it extremely difficult to split. Just ask anyone who cuts his or her own firewood! Hopefully by the time you read this the limb will be down and we will have won this war (even though we lost the first two battles).

**Wednesday, July 16, 2014**  
**by Jon Seymour**

## **Those Stubborn People (or can a tree laugh?)**

*(Above John Klein gives a factual detailed image of our battle with an elm tree branch (yes we have a few live (ancient) elms at our entrance). I want to take this as an opportunity to give my perspective on the "battle".)*

Ed Gemperle had reported finding a large downed branch at our entrance blocking the road, so

when John Klein called to tell me he was meeting the mower contractor I told John about the limb blocking the road and we agreed to meet to cut up the limb and talk about his meeting with the mower operator.

When I arrive, I cannot find any blockage on the road but notice a large limb shoved off to the side of the road and pushed slightly back into the brush. I do not know who cleared it out but I am thankful for their effort. John and I will not have to fire up the power saw. At the same time I notice a hanging branch that looks tenuous as it hangs right over the middle of the road. I guesstimate that the limb might weigh as much as 400 pounds.

John's truck comes up out of the Oxbow where he had been driving down the road looking for the obstacle that no longer existed. He drives right under the branch. When John gets out of his truck, I point out the hanging branch and we both decide that we should try to get it down. John has some lighter rope and I have a short section of nylon rope so we tie them together, and with the aid of a small stick he finds on the ground, John slings the lighter rope over a portion of the lower end of the branch. John quickly fashions a "magic" knot and tightens it on the branch. We both grab hold of the rope and start pulling toward us. In the tree 25 feet above our heads we hear a "crack!" but as the branch swings back toward the other end of the pendulum we just created both of us are pulled along but we manage to get the brakes on the swing.

Now I am having visions of a swinging branch hurling two people like a sling shot to the other side of the parking area. More carefully now, John and I attempt a series of several more swings and we generate 3 more audible "cracks" in the process. But still the branch just hangs there. (Is there a slight chuckling noise nearby?) This is when we decide to attach the rope to John's truck hitch and drive the truck down the road and of course pull the branch down. (Were there any cameras from "Hillybilly's are Us" reality TV nearby?)

John gets in his truck and moves out at a slow pace and the branch starts to swing toward the truck, and then the rope snaps like a rubber band. (Is there someone nearby laughing?) We had given it our best effort and we came up short. Now I realize that all we have accomplished is to weaken the branch further, making it more of a hazard. (Now, I am certain there is someone laughing nearby!)

John says he will come back later better armed for battle and take care of it. (See that result above). For my part, I think that elm is laughing at us.

**2013 FINANCIAL REPORT  
INCOME & EXPENSE**

| Category                                 | <u>Oxbow, Inc.</u> | <u>Oxbow of IN, Inc.</u> | <u>Combined</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                            |                    |                          |                 |
| Contributed Support                      | 6,531.69           | 0.00                     | 6,531.69        |
| Legacies & Bequests                      | 27,871.23          | 0.00                     | 27,871.23       |
| Earned Revenue <sup>1</sup>              | 55,851.73          | 57,777.89                | 113,629.62      |
| Special Events Restricted Funds Activity | 0.00               | 4,417.30                 | 4,417.30        |
| Cost of Goods Sold                       | <u>6.00</u>        | <u>0.00</u>              | <u>6.00</u>     |
| Total Income                             | 93,229.46          | 62,195.19                | 155,424.65      |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                          |                    |                          |                 |
| Grants                                   | 5,731.25           | 0.00                     | 5,731.25        |
| Legal & Accounting                       | 12,156.37          | 1,497.50                 | 13,653.87       |
| Non-Personnel Exp. <sup>2</sup>          | 0.00               | 21,734.04                | 21,734.04       |
| Occupancy Expenses <sup>3</sup>          | 0.00               | 19,028.00                | 19,028.00       |
| Travel & Meetings                        | 768.63             | 10.00                    | 778.63          |
| Miscellaneous                            | 1,085.00           | 692.74                   | 1,777.74        |
| Business Expenses                        | <u>1,386.25</u>    | <u>0.00</u>              | <u>1,386.25</u> |
| Total Expenses                           | 21,127.50          | 42,962.28                | 64,089.78       |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>                        | 72,101.96          | 19,232.91                | 91,334.87       |

**BALANCE SHEET**

|   |                    |                |                    |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Checking & Savings                        | \$1,377,123.16     | \$93,896.15    | \$1,471,019.31     |
| Mutual Funds & Stocks                     | \$410,655.21       |                | \$410,655.21       |
| Other Current Assets                      | <u>\$960.00</u>    | <u>\$0.00</u>  | <u>\$960.00</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>               | \$1,788,738.37     | \$93,896.15    | \$1,882,634.52     |
| Land                                      | \$245,551.60       | \$1,383,982.86 | \$1,629,534.46     |
| Easements Owned                           | \$231,963.28       | \$0.00         | \$231,963.28       |
| Land Improvements                         | \$8,438.10         | \$11,631.60    | \$20,069.70        |
| Office Furn. & Equip.                     | \$3,783.00         | \$0.00         | \$3,783.00         |
| Other Assets                              | \$0.00             | \$500.00       | \$500.00           |
| Accumulated Amort. - Land Improve-ments   | -\$3,539.00        | -\$1,509.00    | -\$5,048.00        |
| Accumulated Depr. - Office Furn. & Equip. | <u>-\$3,596.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u>  | <u>-\$3,596.00</u> |
| <b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>                 | \$482,600.98       | \$1,394,605.46 | \$1,877,206.44     |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                       | \$2,271,339.35     | \$1,488,501.61 | \$3,759,840.96     |

**2013 INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

The income and expense report for Oxbow, Inc., and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc., for the year 2013 is presented here. Net income was about half what it was the prior year (2012). In December, 2012, we received a catch-up distribution from the Witte endowment of over \$60,000 (under Legacies & Bequests). Since then it has been less than \$30,000 per year. Contributed Support is general gifts and memorials, and they were \$24,500 less than 2012. Earned income was up about \$4,000, and other items were about the same.

Expenses were up about \$4,000 versus the prior year, with no single item standing out. Primarily a general increase in the cost of doing business.

The balance sheet shows the fixed assets have stayed the same, since we acquired no additional land during 2013. The land value is recorded as the value when it was obtained (bought or donated), and is not the current value. Current Assets have increased about \$92,000 during the 2013 fiscal year.

Ed Gemperle  
Treasurer  
August 8, 2014

<sup>1</sup> Dues, Interest, Cropland Rental

<sup>2</sup> Office Exp., Fundraising, Special Events, Postage, Printing

<sup>3</sup> Exp. related to renting office & maintaining land, including property taxes

**Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS—submitted by Kani Meyer**

To reach the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 west from the #16 exit off I-275. Pass the Hollywood Casino exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stoplight at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building. **All meetings are at The Oxbow, Inc. Office, 301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg unless otherwise noted**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2014 @ 7:30pm**

**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**

**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

34 Years and still Growing! Jack Sutton, Executive Director of Great Parks, will present the history of Great Parks of Hamilton County, including its mission and key focus on conservation of natural resources, outdoor recreation and nature education. The talk will also include an update on Oak Glen Nature Preserve and the restoration efforts underway following the March, 2014 oil pipeline spill.

**Tuesday, October 14, 2014 @ 7:30pm**

**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**

**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

**'Stuff seen while hunting Ohio's hognose snakes.'**

**Al Winstel** and his brother have gone on a couple of (unsuccessful for hognoses) hunts this year at Kelley's Island and Oak Openings, but saw a lot of other stuff, including patent leather beetles which are insects with a most complex acoustic language. Al does have some hognose pictures from past years and different areas so this all promises to be a great naturalist program.

**Tuesday, November 11, 2014 @ 7:30pm**

**301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg**

**The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Although born on an island surrounded by warm Pacific waters, Kani Meyer migrates every insufferable Cincinnati summer to another island surrounded by cold Atlantic waters. Swan's Island lies off Acadia National Park and offers a wonderful insight into not only island cultural life but a rich and varied natural history. Mitigated by fog and sunshine, mosses and lichens carpet the forest floor while blueberries and hay-scented ferns fill sunny meadows. And, of course, pink granite ledges and cobble beaches fringe the shore....then there are those lobsters!

**We have signed up with AmazonSmile**

Anyone who uses it and designates Oxbow of Indiana as the recipient organization, will have 0.5% of the value of their eligible purchases donated to us. Again, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Oxbow of Indiana** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Support Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. by doing all your Amazon shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. Be sure to designate Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. as your charity. The link is: <http://smile.amazon.com/gp/charity/1356071>.

the first of the two called  
both one ox-  
and a piece of the sec-  
ond, and a piece of the sec-



While Ron Austing is known for elaborate set ups of cameras and lights on scaffolding many feet in the air, he was also a master of setting up animals in natural settings even though they were not exactly "wild". (*photo by James R. Fisher*)



A side of Ron Austing not often emphasized was his breadth of understanding of nature. While Ron's amazing prowess as a photographer is legendary this photo (by Terry Duffy) shows Ron with his butterfly net, binoculars, and not a camera in sight, walking purposefully through a field of red clover.

**Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS—submitted by Jay Stenger**

**\*Revised Directions for Oxbow Inc Field Trip Meeting Location — Unless otherwise indicated, all trips start at the upper Oxbow parking lot.** To reach the upper Oxbow parking area, go south on US Hwy 50 from the I-275 #16 exit. In about 200 yards, turn left (east) at the edge of the Shell/Subway and go over the levee to where the road T's with a fence directly in front of you. Turn right and go to the Oxbow entrance sign. Turn left into the Oxbow. The upper parking area is immediately on the right.

**Sunday, September 14, 2014, 8:30 a.m.**

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.

Leader: Ned Keller, (513) 349-3369, [nedkeller45@gmail.com](mailto:nedkeller45@gmail.com)

Fall migration is well under way during September and that will be the focus of this month's field trip. Warbler (as well as other songbirds) migration peaks during mid-September and shorebirds continue to move south throughout the month. Raptors are also on the move at this season. The Oxbow area is a great place to see all of this avian diversity so we hope you come out and join us for what should be a great morning visit to the Oxbow. Our trip leader, Ned Keller, is a skilled and expert birder and has birded the Oxbow area for many years.

While we sometimes go to the Shawnee Lookout side of the Great Miami during peak songbird periods, Ned plans to stay in the Oxbow this time around. The Oxbow can actually be an excellent spot to find migrating warblers and other songbirds. Plus, it has the advantage of the wetland habitats that attract so many water oriented birds. So we can expect a great diversity of species on this trip. Ned also has a great interest in butterflies as well as plants, so expect a full morning on this trip. This trip should wind down a little before noon. Expect to do some walking but at a leisurely pace. Feel free to contact Ned if you have any questions.

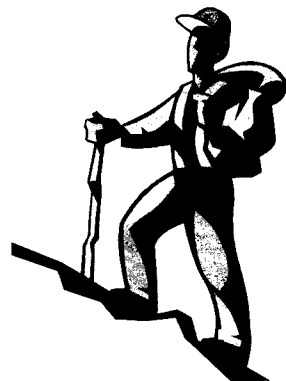
**Saturday, October 18, 2014, 8:00 a.m.**

Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main entrance to the Oxbow.

Leader: Darlena Graham, (859) 653-7223, [darlena@fuse.net](mailto:darlena@fuse.net)

October is a beautiful time of the year and fall color should be near peak by mid-month. October is also a great month from a birding perspective, as fall migration will be in full swing. Various species or families of birds migrate at different times during the protracted fall migration. Depending on the species, this could occur anytime from August through mid December. October is interesting because so many of these various movements overlap or converge during this month. Waterfowl migration is just getting started while shorebird migration is beginning to wind down. Some summering and migrant songbirds (such as warblers) are still lingering and at the same time many of our winter residents are returning in force. Raptors (hawks & eagles) are on the move throughout the month.

The various habitats of the Oxbow and the lower Great Miami River valley are a great place to see this diversity. Our trip leader Darlena is another skilled and expert birder and knows the birds and the area as well as anyone. So come out and join her as she leads us on what should be a crisp autumn morning walk through the Oxbow looking for this "mixed bag" of migrants and residents. This trip should end a bit before noon. Feel free to contact Darlena if you have any questions.







## usings

by Dave Styer

### The Wood Duck

Two or three weeks ago I saw a male Wood Duck on Streuve Slough. That was the first Wood Duck I've seen in over a year, here on the central California coast. Naturally, I thought of the Oxbow area, and many fond memories related to the beautiful Wood Ducks. There were trips with Morris Mercer to his "Wood Duck Slough." In my living room I enjoy a Charlie Harper silk-screen print of a Wood Duck, "Best Dressed."

A hundred years ago, on Sep 1 1914, the last Passenger Pigeon, Martha, died in the Cincinnati Zoo. At the time people thought the Wood Duck might also be headed toward extinction. There were two problems; over-harvesting and habitat removal. Fortunately, good conservation measures were put in place, and the Wood Duck is now widespread and common. Wood Ducks nest in holes in trees. For a time nearly all trees big enough to have a Wood Duck were being cut down. I believe there are far more old trees around now than there were a century ago. Of course, it was also found that Wood Ducks would nest in boxes put out for them near water. Thousands of Wood Duck boxes have been put out, and they are frequently used. Today the Wood Duck harvest is second only to that of the Mallard. Although I don't believe I've ever eaten wood Duck, it is said to be quite tasty. This leads to one of the famous Charlie Harper puns, this one on "best dressed."

Since Mallards and Wood Ducks are the only ducks commonly nesting in the Greater Cincinnati area, it seems appropriate to consider nesting. First, the eggs. The incubation period lasts around a month. While the chick grows within the egg, metabolic processes produce solid and gaseous wastes. The solid wastes stay within the egg, but the egg shell is porous, and the gaseous wastes pass out of the egg. Thus, the eggs get lighter as the chick grows. When I was a kid I learned that you could check if a chicken egg was fresh by putting the egg in water. If the egg sank, it was fresh; if the egg floated it was old. I don't think I knew why, but what goes on in Wood Duck eggs and chicken eggs must be similar.

Another feature about the egg is that the shell gets thinner, because some of the calcium of the shell is absorbed into the chick for bone growth. The shell thinning should make it easier for the chick to break out of the shell (i.e., pip) when the time is right.

Wood Duck hatchlings are marvels of development, and are ready to leave the nest within 24 hours. The female starts vocalizing to the chicks as soon as pipping begins. The chicks respond to this, and all hatch at nearly the same time. Since the clutch frequently contains 10 or more eggs, and these are laid one per day, the incubation process must not begin until the clutch is nearly complete. As the chicks get ready to leave, the female gets more and more vociferous. Apparently, this calling imprints the chicks on the female, so that they will follow her wherever she calls them. The next big event for the chicks, a day after hatching, comes when the female calls them out of the nest. From the nest hole they plunge into the water or onto the ground. These chicks are remarkably resilient. According to Happ and Bellrose's article in *The Birds of North America* the "ducklings have been known to jump 89 m (that's over 290 feet!) to the ground without injury." Thus, if you are walking under a tall tree when a Wood Duck duckling plunges out of the tree from 100 feet above you and lands on your head, the duckling will be OK. Now, that's really great to know. Actually, the female checks that the area is clear before she calls the chicks out of the nest.

The hen then leads the chicks to their feeding areas in water, a trip that may be a mile long over land. There are so many land animals out there that would like to eat young Wood Ducks, that I would think the chicks in grave danger until they reach water. Part of the success of nest boxes must be that they are usually placed over or near water. Like many growing birds, Wood Duck chicks start off with a highly protein diet, mostly animal matter. As they grow up they switch to a higher vegetable diet. By a little more than a month they are ready to leave the care of the hen, and strike out on their own. Baseball terminology is not intended here.

## **The Passing of a Legend.....by John Klein**

The Oxbow lost another very good friend recently with the passing of Ron Austing. Ron will likely be remembered most for his wonderful photographs, mostly of birds (especially raptors). He was one of the world's best known nature photographers. His work graced the pages of National Geographic, Sports Illustrated and so many others. Many of his best photos were taken in and around the Oxbow. He was a perfectionist when it came to his photos, and most of it was well before the age of digital photography where he had to spend countless hours in the dark room.

He was a true conservationist and the Hamilton County Park District's very first Natural Areas Manager after holding the rank of Captain for the Park District's Ranger Dept. He started many of the techniques still used today in managing the natural areas of the parks. He always said that bird diversity was a good indicator of the health of an ecosystem. If you had the birds, then everything else in the food chain would be there. He developed schedules for woody growth removal and mowing to allow for a balance of various successional areas to develop. He started putting up nest boxes even before it was vogue. In fact, through Ron's leadership, the Park District became the first agency to ever install artificial nest structures for great horned owls. He also planted the first prairie at Miami Whitewater Forest and conducted the first prescribed burn. Safety became a higher priority after this first attempt jumped the road and burned a portion of the golf course. I always secretly wondered if that was intentional!

Ron retired from the Park District in 1983. That's when the Parks took a huge leap of faith in allowing me to become the second Natural Areas or Land Manager. Even though I was never the birder that Ron was, he always treated me with the utmost respect and I always appreciated that. We were talking once and came to realize that we both grew up in North College Hill and attended St. Margaret Mary Grade School (only 25 years apart). Ron introduced me to monarch butterfly tagging and how to find morel mushrooms. To this day, these are two of my favorite things.

He was also extremely generous with sharing his photographs. A great many of them have been and will continue to be used to promote the Oxbow. They are so good, that they'll outlive us all!

I still remember Ron at that very first Oxbow Meeting in 1985 when the Late Karl Maslowski literally passed his hat to come up with enough funds to become incorporated. In fact, there aren't a whole lot of us left who were at that first meeting. Ron always enjoyed speaking at Oxbow Inc. meetings and seemed very proud of what it had become. His knowledge, enthusiasm and love of nature will truly be missed. (See photos of Ron on page 7)

**Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the  
following donors for their generous gifts.**

Ken Miller and Bethia Margoshes

*Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or relative 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.*

*Tributes are also enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Some tributes are birthday or anniversary remembrances, holiday greetings or gratitude acknowledgements. If so desired, "Happy Birthday!" or the like can be inscribed in the tribute notice.*

*Contributions should be sent to: Oxbow, Inc.,  
P. O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.*

### Donors List for Birdathon 2014

Listed below are the names of all the great individuals who donated to Birdathon 2014. We are grateful for all these loyal supporters of Oxbow, Inc. They help make the Oxbow Experience possible.

|                              |                                |                           |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patton and Robyn Aungst      | Joan Franchi                   | Chris Moran               |
| Erich Baumgardner            | Diane Frey                     | Alfred and Regeana Morgan |
| Herbert and Wilma Beigel     | Jason and Alexandra Gantt      | Sharon and Bobby Morris   |
| Joe Bens                     | Mark Gilsdorf                  | Faith Pelikan             |
| Sr. Ruth Bockenstette/Forde  | Jeffrey Grothaus               | Tim and Dee Peters        |
| Therese Bocklage             | Tim and Margi Hughey           | Dave and Ginny Rice       |
| Jeanne Bocklage              | Bill Hull                      | Joyce Romer               |
| Judy Bohn                    | Kay Jackson                    | Charles and Mary Saunders |
| Jim Boland and Donna Hartman | Judy Kennedy                   | Jon and Jackie Seymour    |
| Eric Burkholder              | Mark and Don Koller            | Lois and Carl Shadix      |
| Chris and Susan Clingman     | John/Sarah/Evan Leon           | Judith Squire             |
| Barbara Denamur              | Jerry Lippert                  | Gary Stegner              |
| Sr. Marty Dermody            | Rick Lisi                      | Jeremy Stegner            |
| Tim and Laura Dornan         | Jennifer Loggie                | Jack Stenger              |
| John Eckles                  | Kani and Dave Meyer            | Joan Carlson Walson       |
| Doc and Frances Eckstein     | Miami Valley Christian Academy | Wayne and Paula Wauligman |
| George Farnsworth            | Katherine Miller               | Jm and Judy Wilgenbusch   |
| Sr. Victoria Forde           | Ken Miller/Bethia Margoshes    |                           |

### Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

#### Donor

Rodney and Charlotte Adams  
 Bill and Sandra Ange  
 Therese Bocklage  
 Marie Bell  
 Yolanda Garcia  
 Dorothy Lippert  
 Dorothy Lippert  
 Mary Preble  
 John and Velda Miller  
 Jon and Jackie Seymour  
 Kathleen Steenken  
 Spider and Barbara Webb

#### Memoriam

Michael Minor  
 Michael Minor  
 Bob & Jeanne Bocklage  
 Jeanne Bocklage  
 Jeanne Bocklage  
 Donald Byrd  
 Charles Becker  
 Michael Minor  
 Ron Austing  
 Jeanne Bocklage  
 Jeanne Bocklage  
 JoAnn Minor

## **Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, 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 know 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.**

|   |        |                   |       |
|---|--------|-------------------|-------|
| Prothonotary Warbler                    | \$ 15  | Wood Duck         | \$ 25 |
| Great Blue Heron                        | \$ 50  | Green-winged Teal | \$100 |
| Great Egret                             | \$250  | Osprey            | \$500 |
| Bald Eagle                              | \$1000 |                   |       |
| Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level) \$25 |        |                   |       |

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
513-851-9835

## **Corporation Officers**


|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| President, Dr. Jon Seymour                  | (513) 851-9835 |
| Vice President, Kani Meyer                  | (513) 948-8630 |
| Recording Secretary,<br>Dwight Poffenberger | (513) 241-2324 |
| Corresponding Secretary,<br>Dennis Mason    | (513) 385-3607 |
| Treasurer, Ed Gempeler                      | (812) 539-3666 |
| Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger             | (513) 241-2324 |
| Indiana Agent, Mike Kluesener               | (812) 623-7800 |

## **Committee Chairpersons**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour                | (513) 851-9835 |
| Easement Inspection,<br>John Getzendanner II | (812) xxx-xxxx |
| Education, Velda Miller                      | (812) 584-0187 |
| Field Trips, Jay Stenger                     | (513) 522-4245 |
| Land Management, Kani Meyer                  | (513) 948-8630 |
| John Klein                                   | (513) 941-4877 |
| Programs, Kani Meyer                         | (513) 948-8630 |
| Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan                  | (513) 681-2574 |
| Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour             | (513) 851-9835 |
| Newsletter Editor, Meg Poehlmann             | (513) 931-4072 |
| Newsletter Email: meggster@fuse.net          |                |

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

513-851-9835



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

www.oxbowinc.info  
LAWRENCEBURG, IN 47025  
P.O. BOX 4172

