

January—February 2012

No. 153

WETLAND

matters

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

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What's Taking Flight

.....by Jon Seymour

I will start with a sad note and hopefully finish on a higher note. This year, two very valued, long-term, very dedicated Directors passed away. Dr. Aaron Perlman ended his dedication to the community and service to humanity after 96 honor filled years. And, in a freak accident, we lost John Getzendanner long before we should have. Both were dedicated to the Oxbow vision and had worked tirelessly for years to preserve the Oxbow area.

This year we were reminded nearly every time we turned around that even in these difficult economic times there are always those who see a floodplain as a space to fill in and "improve". The thinking goes something like: "It is cheap and of no value to anyone. Let's fill it in and build on top of the fill." Of course, members of Oxbow, Inc. find fault with this reasoning since we all are well aware of the tremendous value of floodplains in general and specifically the Oxbow floodplain. However, this year we encountered three separate plans to encroach upon the Oxbow.

The first of these was when we were approached by a representative of the Dearborn County Chamber of Commerce. The representative was asking if we would trade 400 acres of Oxbow land along the Ohio River, so that a Barge Port could be built, for 450 acres of floodplain currently owned by I-275 Enterprises (the RV park east of I-275). We, of course, said no, so the Chamber representative immediately switched to a plan B, which was to build the Barge Port on I-275 Enterprises land. We said we would also oppose this as we considered the property

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Review and Revisions to Oxbow's Regulations

Periodically, the Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. appoints a committee to review the Regulations of these two organizations. The Regulations govern the structure and operating procedures of each organization. This review was completed recently and, in accordance with the Regulations, a summary of significant changes is being reported herein to our members. Most of the changes made were to clarify language and update procedures by allowing for "new" technologies, such as email use for time-sensitive decisions among the Board of Directors. However one significant change needs to be reported. In the past, Board members were elected at the annual members' meeting normally held each January. Members attending this meeting voted on a slate of names presented and those persons voted in became members of the Board of Directors. Since these members represent only a small fraction of our total membership, it is now felt to be more reasonable to list the nominees in Wetland Matters and have members mail in their votes. The new procedure as stated in the revised regulations is: "Each year, Directors elected two years prior shall serve as a nominating committee and the President shall appoint one of them as chair. A ballot of nominees, containing a provision for one write-in candidate, shall be included in the November-December newsletter with votes accepted until January 1. Ballots shall be opened and counted by a committee and the results reported at the annual members' meeting."

The complete revised Regulations of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are available on our website at www.oxbowinc.org. A vote on these changes will be held at our Members' meeting on January 10, 2012.

What's taking flight ... (continued from Page 1)

integral to the floodplain and a large part of our future plans. Since that time, inquiries to the Chamber for status of their continued interest in this issue have not been returned. We continue to watch and wait, and in the meantime have checked several sources such as some local and state politicians, the IDNR and the US Army Corp of Engineers and received positive response to our holding the line against destruction of the floodplain.

The other two encroachments were plans to develop land both immediately north and south of the Exit 16 road from I-275 at its junction with US Highway 50. Both projects are in areas essentially lost to floodplain protection already because of zoning, previous construction, grandfathered land use, and the exact legal definition of a floodplain. However, we feel a need to challenge design and usage of these areas so that water flow is maintained into the Oxbow, pollutants are not added to the water, and that building in the floodplain doesn't seem to catch on as the next great thing. We work closely with our legal advisors and our local backers to make sure we can respond to these threats as they occur.

While we were unable to obtain any additional land this year we have four parcels of land comprising about 500 acres in the floodplain to obtain to achieve our goal of complete protection of the remaining floodplain. While we were not busy buying land or conservation easements, we were very busy protecting current lands as mentioned above and conducting several other projects.

A committee of the Board worked hard to revise our bylaws to bring them up to date with our actual operation and suggest modifications that will make us more effective in the modern age. The new bylaws allow the Board to discuss and vote on issues outside the regular monthly meetings via electronic media. The other major change recommended will be to revise the method of electing the Board to a mail method rather than the voice vote at the annual meeting. Only a small portion of the membership attends the annual meeting and since it is held in January, sometimes attendance is reduced to near zero by inclement weather. The Board felt that an election conducted by mail was much fairer and would involve much more of the membership. That being said the change in the bylaws must be voted on by the members attending this January's annual meeting so try and get there to exercise your right to vote. We always have a special program for the

annual meeting and this year is no different. This year noted historian and fantastic story teller, Mr. Tom Strofeldt will update us all on the private life of David Crockett (Yes, Congressman Crockett of frontiersman fame – not the Disney version). This will be not only interesting but fun.

This past year Dr. Denis Conover completed a two-year survey of vascular plants in the Oxbow that was commissioned by the Board of Directors. The Board last commissioned a plant survey in 2000. The new survey found 472 species of vascular plants in the Oxbow, an increase of 45 new species, with 66% being native plants. Some of the non-natives are considered invasive and as a result of the survey, plans are being made to eradicate patches of invasive plants where they were found.

We continued our long-term sponsorship of the Cincinnati Area Birdathon with outstanding success. The combined number of species seen by all 21 reporting teams in the field was 199. Not bad for this little corner of nature. We continued to have several young people, Middle School age and younger, as well as few young people in college, participate in the Birdathon. It is always great to see so many young people involved. We also managed to raise \$6560 for access and habitat improvement. This year the Birdathon was also a stop for the Big Year that our own Matt Stenger is conducting in 2011. Matt was drawn back to the Cincinnati area by the presence of a Garganey at Fernald during the Birdathon but added 12 additional species to his year list for the effort. I look forward to hearing more from Matt after his Big Year is completed.

One of the most exciting developments of the year was the continued growth in our outreach programs that we hope will build more interest in and better protection for the floodplain of the Great Miami River at the Ohio. The Board of Directors affirmed our intense desire to help protect the waters of the Great Miami River upstream from the Oxbow and authorized a \$2000 grant to the Great Miami River Citizens Water Quality Monitoring Program. Volunteers from several counties regularly sample the waters of the Great Miami River and its tributaries during the summer. The grant from Oxbow will help support the analysis of the samples. The data can be used in a variety of ways that we hope will result in cleaner water in the Great Miami River.

In a separate development the Board also voted to offer local high school seniors a scholarship toward higher learning about nature.

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What's taking flight ... (continued from Page 2)

As a result, 3 local seniors each received a \$500 scholarship toward their continued education. The Art and Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education fund hit its stride this year awarding 5 grants to such diverse institutions as Seven Hills High School, Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School, The Queen City Birding Festival, Miami Valley Christian Academy, and the Cincinnati Waldorf School. Many of these grants were blended with other grants and volunteer services to make an even bigger project possible. The grants varied from supplies to aid in nature study to signs and training for natural area education. Oxbow is very proud to be able to help the children in the Cincinnati have increased opportunities to get outside and study and appreciate nature.

We enter 2012 with a number of challenges ahead of us. While I started this review with a low note, I believe we have ended on a high note looking to a future that is full of promise.

Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums & Memorials

Donor	In Memory of
Maureen Bode	Mercedes Rohe
Kennith & Shirley Durbin	Dale Dubrin



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.

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

Lisa S. Corbett

Drs. Robert & Darcy Folzenlogen

Joanne Jeffery

Jean Kearns

Bonnie Pence

Legacy gift from the Estate of Jean C. Manning

Kathryn Shahani gift to the Art & Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education Fund

Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS



To reach the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 south 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.)

Tuesday, January 10, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg

The Oxbow, Inc. Office

After a special vote taken at our annual Member's Meeting regarding acceptance of the revised Regulations, Tom Strofeldt, noted historian and popular Oxbow presenter will speak on the courtship of David Crockett. Crockett tells his own tale of rejection, heartbreak, and eventual success in his attempt to 'hunt up a wife' told in his own inimitable vernacular. His charismatic personality shines through it all as he tells us, "I found I generally had a much better opinion of myself than others had of me... and with my five dollars in my pocket I rode along thinking there were but few greater men in the world than me."

Tuesday, February 14, 2012, 7:30 p.m.

301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg

The Oxbow, Inc. Office

Dr. Denis Conover, Field Service Associate Professor at UC, will present some of his observations on a variety of things in the Great Outdoors, ranging from turtles trapped in duck nest boxes to earlier flowering of plants linked with warmer average annual temperatures to the advantages of culling deer to help plants to the role of beavers in certain wetlands.

Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS

To reach the upper Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to the end of the road, then left. The lot is on your right.



Annual Moonlit Evening Winter Walk

Friday, January 6, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

Meet: At the Shawnee Lookout Golf Course Parking Lot

Leader: John Klein, (513) 941-4877

Oxbow's beloved Morris Mercer loved the night winter woods, especially if there was snow on the ground. He and John Klein started doing this trip together many years ago. Morris is no longer with us, but his good friend John loves the tradition, has kept it alive, and we now refer to the annual event as the Morris Mercer Memorial field trip.

If you are looking for a unique experience join John as he leads us on a night walk through the Park to see what the night woods have to offer. There will be a near full moon on this date and a good chance that owls and deer will be seen or heard. John will talk about the history of the area and also have a scope available for stargazing. John, a long time member of Oxbow Inc and recently retired Land Manager for the Hamilton County Park District, is the perfect guide. Meet John in the parking lot of the Shawnee Lookout Golf Course Clubhouse at 7:00 pm. The walk should last about an hour and a half. John is like Morris - he would like a little snow on the ground. However severe weather will cancel this trip. Any doubts as to whether the trip is cancelled or not, call John at (513) 941-4877. This trip is highly recommended. Dress warmly.

Early Spring Waterfowl Migration

Saturday, February 25, 2012, 8:00 a.m.

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

Leader: Paul Wharton, (513) 353-3403, pwharton@fuse.net

Spring waterfowl migration should be in full swing by this date and those species will be the primary focus of this trip. Bald Eagle numbers are increasing as well and this is also a great time of year to find multiple Bald Eagles in the Oxbow. A diverse number of other seasonal and migrant birds and wildlife will also be seen.

Paul is an expert birder with great bird finding abilities so expectations are high. Paul will move around to several spots in the Oxbow area depending on accessibility and water conditions. Aside from seeing waterfowl and other birds, mud is also guaranteed, so dress appropriately. This morning trip should end before noon. Contact Paul with any questions about the trip.

Oxbow's Christmas Wish List for 2012

During the recent Christmas Season, like many others, we have prepared our Wish List for Santa. In the past Santa has filled several of our wishes so we must have been on the good list. We hope that if members know about items and talents that we need, they might realize ways they might be able to help, and may want to play the part of Santa.

- **Oxbow's current Treasurer is retiring from the position and we are in NEED of a volunteer to become the Treasurer of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. This is a difficult position in that it does require a great deal of dedication and time. But I know there are members that have that degree of passion to help us preserve the Oxbow. Our books are currently kept on QuickBooks and we employ a CPA to file our 990 tax return.**
- We need a volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories, on the efforts of other volunteers, for publication in the Wetland Matters.
- We need a volunteer coordinator to make phone calls and send email messages to the many volunteers who participate in our activities through the course on the year.
- We need someone to donate the year round use of a dumpster in the Oxbow area so that we can take the trash we have on an irregular basis there for dumping. (We will still ask Rumpke to donate a dumpster on site for large projects.)
- If you have a truck that is in good shape that you are no longer using and wish to donate it to Oxbow, we are interested.

If you can help with any of these needs or think you know someone who can, please call Jon Seymour at 513-851-9835.

**Our Post Office Box
In Madeira is CLOSED**

Please be certain to change the address on any legacy gifts, memorials, or standing donation directives to:

**Oxbow, Inc.
P.O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025**

Indiana Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

Ohio recently adopted a Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights (Wetland Matters, Issue No. 147) and now several organizations in Indiana have put forth a similar Bill of Rights that is gathering support from many conservation and park organizations. Oxbow, Inc. recently signed on as a supporter of the bill. As the support grows, the intent is to ask the Governor of Indiana to throw his support behind the Bill of Rights also. While not intended to be an official law, the Bill of Rights is a declaration that the children of Indiana have the right to enjoy the outdoors and should be encouraged to do so.

Here is the petition:

It is our goal to encourage Indiana's children to participate in outdoor activities and discover their heritage. Numerous studies have shown that children who participate in outdoor activities are healthier, do better in school, have better social skills, a stronger self-image and lead more fulfilled lives.

We believe that all Indiana children are entitled to experience these activities in the outdoors, regardless of ability:

1. **Explore and play outdoors in a safe place.**
2. **Follow a trail and discover native plants, wildlife and history,**
3. **Experience traditional outdoor activities like fishing or hunting.**
4. **Discover and celebrate Indiana's past.**
5. **Camp out under the stars.**
6. **Climb a tree.**
7. **Visit a farm.**
8. **Plant a seed or a tree and watch it grow.**
9. **Splash and play in streams, lakes, and ponds.**
10. **Enjoy the outdoors using all the senses.**
11. **Ask questions, find answers and share nature with a friend.**

It is amazing that this is a need! But in the urban, electronic world we live in there are grown children and even some adults who have never done any of the things listed above.



While not an Oxbow photo, this photo is important to the Oxbow. It shows one of the Adult American Bald Eagles on the nest just up the Whitewater river from the Oxbow in 2011. (Photo by Mike Dorsey, HCPD)

Michael George (Cincinnati Parks District) gives instruction to Matthew Monteith and Claire Duncan as these students from Seven Hills High School mark and measure trees in a standardized plot of forest adjacent to the High School. Money from the Art and Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education Fund was used to purchase the materials need to make the measurements. (photo by Linda Ford)



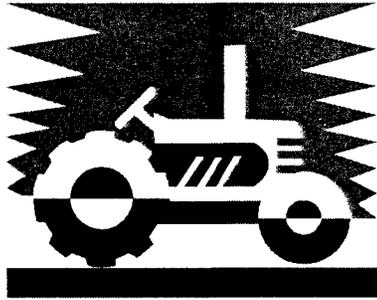
Organizer/Teacher Nancy Lillie holds the sign next to Susan Haines of the US Fish and Wildlife Service along with representatives from the Girl Scouts, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and Sunman-Dearborn Intermediate School. Ms. Lillie is holding a sign that indicates that the school wildlife area is designated a Wildlife Friendly Habitat by the Indiana Wildlife Federation. Money from the Art and Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education Fund was used to create additional interpretive signage and train teachers for maximizing the outdoor learning potential of the wildlife area. (photo by Velda Miller)



When asking a question you need to have a question mark. So it is important to inquiring minds to have this little Question Mark Butterfly come along at just the right moment. --- So what was the Question??????? (Photo by Wayne Wauligman)



With punctuation flying all around the Oxbow, nature enthusiast, Wayne Wauligman, was able to put some of the punctuation on paper. Photo paper that is. This Comma Butterfly shows us that careful observation is needed to be sure of your punctuation. (photo by Wayne Wauligman)



Big Year for Oxbow Farming

.....by *Jon Seymour*

The year 2011 marks the end of our five year leases for Oxbow farms and that means we have been actively seeking new bids for the five year period 2012 to 2016. This is an important activity for Oxbow since, as some of you might recall, the Board tries to run the day to day operations of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow, Inc. of Indiana from the farm income that is received. For the past two years almost all the day to day expenses have been funded by the income from our farms. With the new bidding season complete, we now know that we will be able to continue funding programs and efforts as we have in the past and be able to direct money paid in memberships and gifts toward land acquisition, habitat improvement, and improved access. So if you see any of our farmers working the fields, be certain to thank them for their support of Oxbow, Inc. and respect their operations as they move trucks and other heavy and often wide farm equipment along the Oxbow roads. Please continue to respect their investment and drive only on the designated Oxbow roads and not in any of the fields.

Note from your editor:

I wanted to let all of you folks know that if *Wetland Matters* seems a little less timely than usual, it may be due to my return to graduate school

I will make sure that any time sensitive information is on our website so you don't miss any programs or meetings. You can find our information at www.oxbowinc.info.

Thanks for your support, patience and understanding, but most of all, for your love of the Oxbow.

Meg

Learn to Identify Local Butterflies

Retired Hamilton County Park Ranger, Bob Nuhn, will share his knowledge of local butterflies. Learn butterfly observation techniques and identification pointers from Bob. If you miss this event, you will regret it by August when the butterfly season is in full swing.

Sunday, January 15, 2011, from 2-4 pm at the Civic Garden Center, 2715 Reading Rd. Cincinnati, OH 45206 (Program sponsored by Wild Ones)



Elections 2012

Standing for reelection to the Board of Oxbow, Inc. are:

- Denis Conover
- Dennis Mason
- Kani Meyer
- Meg Poehlmann
- Rick Pope

Standing for reelection to the Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are:

- Denis Conover
- Dennis Mason
- Kani Meyer
- Meg Poehlmann
- Rick Pope

All Directors are being elected for a 3 year term beginning February 1, 2012 and ending February 1, 2015

The election of the Directors will be one of the orders of business of the 2012 Members meeting called for January 10, 2012 for 7:30 pm at the Oxbow office at 301 Walnut St. in Lawrenceburg, IN. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in the election. The annual members meeting will be followed by the members meeting educational program. All attendees are encouraged to stay and attend the educational program.

Sighting of a Northern Goshawk

.....by Ron Dressman

It was about 11:30 on the morning of October 27 that my bird-watching partner, Dan Lindeman, and I were driving past Jackpot Pond headed in the direction of the casino. I was behind the wheel of my treasured '88 Ram pickup when Dan called for me to stop. He had seen something whitish high in a tree at the edge of the pond on the far side, being scolded by crows. We had spent about an hour there earlier in the morning training our scopes on the various ducks on the pond, the most notable of which were three Gadwalls and six or so diving ducks that appeared to be Lesser Scaup and/or Ring-necked Ducks among the many Mallards. A few Blue Herons were also in the mix of what we saw, but no Egrets.

Our first thought on this second pass was that we had spied an Osprey. But after more careful scrutiny - the bird remained on its perch for about 10 minutes, giving us ample time to take detailed note of its appearance - we dismissed the idea that it was an Osprey. Based on size alone it could have been either an Osprey or (as we learned later) a Goshawk, but the fine gray-barring on the grayish-white front of the bird was unlike anything we had ever encountered before (also ruling out other, more familiar hawks). The bird also appeared to be more "short-necked" and smaller headed than an Osprey. When the bird took flight, its relatively short wingspan and broad wing pattern did not fit that of an Osprey - nor did its now apparent dark gray feathering of back and wings. We also took note of its flap-and-glide style of flight that was unlike that of an Osprey.

We left convinced the bird was not an Osprey but uncertain as to exactly what we had seen, and I must admit, at that point, Northern Goshawk had not entered our minds. Upon returning home I carefully scrutinized my library of bird books, while Dan researched a few sources of information online. All of the mental notes we had made of the sighting fell in line for both of us with just one bird, the Northern Goshawk, a least likely candidate at the outset considering its rarity this far south of its usual range. Our independently-arrived-at, positive identification was reinforced when we learned that Northern Goshawks are known to range at least this far south as winter approaches, particularly when their main sources of prey (most notably snowshoe hares and grouse) may be down in numbers (which occurs

in 9 to 11-year cycles). Ducks beware! All in all, another great experience at the Oxbow.

*(The Northern Goshawk represents species #286** for the Oxbow. The amazing thing to remember is this is an area only five square miles in size. **Two (2) extinct species and one hybrid have also been recorded in the Oxbow.)*



REMINDER! SAFETY! REMINDER!

Hunting Season in Indiana lasts well into the Spring. While only small portions of Oxbow Land are open to hunting, it is still wise to be aware of the potential for encountering hunters. Also the small portions of land still in private hands in the Oxbow may also have legal hunters. It is a good idea to wear bright colored clothing while wandering Oxbow trails during hunting season.

Moving your nest?

Make sure **WETLAND MATTERS** goes with you!

Name _____

Old Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Address:

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

MAIL TO:

**Oxbow Inc.
P.O. Box 4172
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025**

Please mail right away - Wetland Matters is third class mail and is not forwarded!



usings

by Dave Styer

Future Bird Inventories

Not long ago, in the distant future, Captain James T. Kirk of the Starship Enterprise stopped by the Library of Congress to look at some bird books. He came upon a modest volume titled *Birds of the Oxbow* by David Styer (call number DL684.O3S95 1993) with delightful pen-and-ink drawings by William Zimmerman. Kirk read in the introduction that "thirty or fifty years from now it should be possible to collect data and compare with the current variety and abundance of birdlife in the area." Since the author obviously cared about the future, Kirk decided to take a brief vacation trip to the Oxbow.

Kirk headed off to the Oxbow area with binoculars and a spotting scope, always fine instruments to have along to enjoy the beauty of the local bird life. He also had an instrument that we don't yet know; a Star-trek tricorder to detect life forms. We have seen these in the movies, being used to detect life forms on new planets, or, perhaps, diseases in people. What they have not shown us is the vocational/avocational models for ornithologists and birders. Not only do these tricorders tell you where a bird is, but they can be tuned or "focused" to the species the tricorder is pointed at. Imagine knowing that a Lincoln's Sparrow is in the prairie before you have seen or heard the bird. It is obvious that the invention of these tricorders completely revolutionized biological inventories. The entomological tricorders are a good bit more expensive, but the idea of being able to know all insect species within a thousand feet just boggles the mind.

I was in my home office the other day trying to identify a plant I had found when someone knocked on the door. When I opened the door, and found myself facing James T. Kirk, I was nearly speechless. However, he put me at ease by saying he hadn't really come here by time-travel as Captain of the USS Enterprise, and to just call him "Jim." Jim said he mainly wanted to thank "the founding folks" of Oxbow, Inc., back in the 20th and 21st centuries, for having the foresight to save such a fine sanctuary. He knew that in time-travel you are not supposed to let anyone recognize that it has happened,

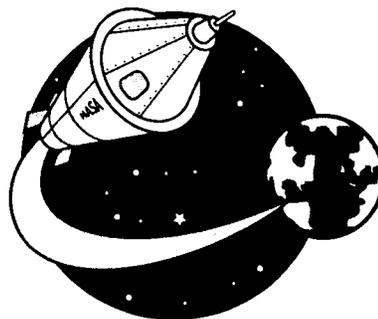
but "what the heck" a little rule-breaking shouldn't warp the time-space continuum too badly.

The fall trip that Jim "recently" took to the Oxbow area was delightful. Starting at Shawnee Lookout, he found a lot of vireos and warblers. His tricorder found 21 warbler species. That's three times as many as I would have expected at that date. Over at the Oxbow, he detected three rail species: Sora, Virginia Rail, and even two Yellow Rails. Since the Yellow Rail was not mentioned in *Birds of the Oxbow*, Jim wondered if anyone had seen one there. I told him that Steve Pelikan had seen one shortly after the book was written. He said that the sparrows were outstanding in the fields and the maintained prairie. He saw several Lincoln's Sparrows, and even a Harris's Sparrow. In a sense, the real prize was a Le Conte's Sparrow that the tricorder detected creeping around in the prairie. However, Jim never was actually able to see the bird.

I asked Jim if he would travel back a little farther in time. I had always been unhappy that I was unable to find a single Passenger Pigeon record, even though they must have been in the area in huge numbers 150 years earlier. "Oh," he said, "I forgot to tell you that the tricorder detected the bones of several Passenger Pigeons buried deep in the Oxbow mud." Thus, there are Passenger Pigeon records after all.

At any rate Captain "Jim" Kirk just stopped by briefly because he was on a tight schedule, but he did think we would want to know. I suggested that if he left a tricorder, I would immediately mail it to Jon Seymour for use in the Oxbow area. He said that would be absolutely forbidden; it was bad enough that he was leaving memories with me of his visit. He figured he could get away with the visit because most people would just make nasty comments about me, such as "what's he been smoking?" If he left the tricorder behind that would likely destroy the universe as we know it. With that, he requested to go outside. He said it wasn't necessary, but he found people to be less shocked when he initiated time-travel back to the future if he did it from outside.

Kirk then bid us all a farewell, pushed a button, and was gone.



Seven Hills High School Education Grant

...by Linda Ford (Seven Hills High School teacher)

In March 2011, I was awarded \$189 by the Art and Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education Fund to use in a campus biodiversity study at The Seven Hills School in Cincinnati, Ohio. I teach an environmental science elective to juniors and seniors. During last spring and then this fall, my classes followed an international protocol established by the Smithsonian Institute to study forest biodiversity. My students laid out five 20 m by 20 m quadrates on a campus woods. They then identified the trees, measured their diameters at chest height, and recorded their present status. We elicited the help of Michael George, a naturalist with Cincinnati Parks, in our tree identification efforts. It was great fun for the students to lay out the quadrates and try their skills at tree identification. We picked some beautiful days to be in the woods to do this work and were pleasantly surprised by the diversity (15 different tree species) that we found. Now that we have this data, we can recheck the status of the existing trees in future years. We have sent the data to our sister classroom in New Delhi, India. They are following the same protocol and will send data back to us to examine.

This project has been very beneficial in drawing student attention to diversity of flora. Too often they think of biodiversity loss as happening only to fauna, in particular large mammals. It also gives them an opportunity to evaluate the interdependence of life within a habitat. As we worked outdoors, we heard the calls of several birds, found deer scat, and watched a red fox scurry across Duck Creek Road. On behalf of my students, I extend my deepest appreciation for the equipment provided by Oxbow, Inc. through the Art and Jinny (Witte) Wiseman Education Fund.

Member Communications Committee:

Jennifer Borneman
 Joanne Earls
 Lynda Mason
 Velda Miller
 Jackie Seymour
 Pat Shanklin
 Suzanne Skidmore
 Barb Varland
 Jim Wilgenbusch

What's your Green Umbrella

Go to greenumbrella.org, click on the "What's Your Green Umbrella" box, follow the directions to get started and report on your carbon dioxide emission savings efforts. You can set up your own account and add your emission savings into the savings for the Greater Cincinnati area. Don't forget to add your savings to the non-profit area under Oxbow, Inc. The Zoo is currently leading with the Nature Center not far behind. Let's see if Oxbow members can add their savings together and give them a run. It is fun and you can go back monthly and add in your monthly activities such as recycling.



Growing the Wiseman (Witte) Education Fund

The education fund established by the Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. with an initial donation by Jinny Wiseman (Witte) has been quietly funding environmental learning projects around the tristate area for about 4 years but this year achieved a level of support that we hope will be able to continue funding multiple projects for outdoor nature education in the area. Grant recipients have to date included Sunman-Dearborn Elementary School, Seven Hills High School, Cincinnati Waldorf School, The Queen City Birding Festival, and the Miami Valley Christian Academy. We hope to be able to continue this granting program for many years into the future. To make the program even stronger we encourage members to make direct donations to the Education Fund. Donations can be made to the endowment for the fund or to the amount distributed annually per the choice of the giver. The grant applications are reviewed by a volunteer committee of educators led by Velda Miller, Oxbow's Education Director, and comprised of Linda Ford, Seven Hills High School, Cathy Mund, retired elementary teacher, Bright Elementary, and Heather Mayfield, ORSANCO.

Send your donation in support of nature education to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025 and mark them for "Education Fund".

(Anyone interested in applying for a grant can find an application on the website.)

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 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.**

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		

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