

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

2073 HARRISON AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45214

NO. 21 JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1990



A Special Christmas Gift to Wildlife

189.9 new acres were added as protected Oxbow habitat when Oxbow, Inc, exercised the option held on the property and closed with the previous owners on Thursday, December 21, 1989!

The success of the fundraising campaign was overwhelming. Prior to closing, money in the land acquisition fund totaled **\$217,000!** Donations came from many sources. A last, big push came from \$10,000 donated by board member Sherwood McIntire, and a \$5,000 grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The Greater Cincinnati Foundation serves the community's needs in many areas. We are pleased that this Foundation supports the preservation of the Oxbow.

Success would not have been possible without the support of Leonard A. Weakley, Trustee of the Robert H. Reakirt Foundation and a generous grant of \$30,000. Also a contributing factor were several gifts of stocks donated to Oxbow, Inc. and sold. BIRDATHON '89 was a significant contributor but, by and large, the bulk of the funding came from the majority of members and friends of Oxbow, Inc.

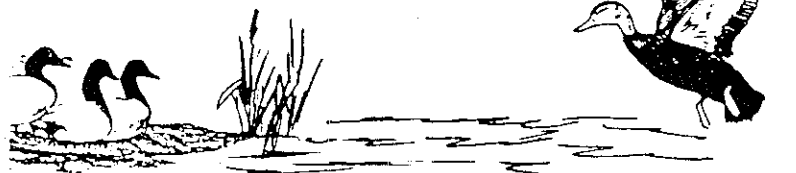
Certain contributions stand out from others - those that came from unexpected sources -

- Jean Durbin's third grade students who recycled aluminum cans and pooled their allowances to make a donation for wildlife.
- Janet Chahrour's Cincinnati Country Day Middle School students who made Oxbow, Inc. the beneficiary of their annual civic project. A roller skating party raised \$245 for the land acquisition fund.
- People from California to Wisconsin to New York who read about the fundraising campaign and sent donations and words of encouragement.

It is, perhaps, satisfying to look back on 1989 and the accomplishments it brought. More satisfying, however, is the level of participation of the younger generation and their growing awareness of the necessity of the individual to protect the environment. It is their commitment and effort that will assure the future of a country that is appreciated and enjoyed for its wildlife and beauty. It was the combined effort of all that made 1989 a success for Oxbow, Inc.

What a special gift you have given this year to wildlife!

Thanks to all for your support.





FIELD NOTES

Morris Mercer.



How swiftly the autumn passed. Winter weather arrived a little early this year but I've enjoyed it and I'm looking forward to having a nice winter season. The willows are bare and the Oxbow stands silent under a cover of ice and a light dusting of snow. The ducks in the area have moved to the river and open water.

It seems just a few days ago, but it was October 24th and I was up early to check on the wildlife in the Oxbow. A look out of the window towards the river told me there was no reason to hurry. I couldn't see the river and could barely see across our porch deck. The fog was very heavy and showed no sign of lifting. It was just after 9 A.M. that I arrived at what I was sure must be the Oxbow. I could hear ducks, but could see nothing except a thick, grey curtain of fog. The Ohio stood at 33 feet and falling, and I was sure the soybean fields would be flooded. It was to be almost two hours later that the fog began to clear enough to reveal great blue herons standing like silent statues in the flooded field while ducks worked among the soybeans. The unveiling continued, and soon I was gazing at a familiar scene of which I never tire. Mallards and blacks were working in the shallow water. 36 green-winged teal, some, with head tucked, were napping as others were wading across the muddy bean rows. To my left, a touch of class.... a couple of pintail drakes tipping as they searched for food. Several baldpates (American Wigeon) were working the same area. Three pairs of gadwalls moved smoothly across the water.

I turned the 'scope towards Wood Duck Slough, and there I counted seven wood ducks among the willows. I asked myself, "Now is there anything more beautiful than that?"

I counted 40 great blue herons. A pied-billed grebe moved out into the open water. A few coots busied themselves in the mud. But time had run out, and I was going to be late again getting home. Before leaving I had to watch a flight of ducks circle and drop into some open water. Through the 'scope I could see eight ring-necked ducks, the first diving duck of the morning.

As I reluctantly turned to go, I thought to myself, "Wetlands do matter!"



On our December field trip we joined the Hamilton County Parks for their winter bird count. Shawnee Lookout kept us in the Oxbow area. With the morning temperature in the teens and a light snow cover, it looked and felt like winter.

It was a joy to roam the hills and to study the signs in the snow. Wing-marks revealed where a bird of prey had picked up his lunch. Also present were tracks of field mice, rabbits, birds and white-tail deer. The call of the Carolina wren was heard throughout the count. It was not this way in the winter of 77/78 when this little bird disappeared from our area during the bitter cold. This year the golden-crowned kinglets were abundant. As the sun caught the crown it appeared to be 24-carat gold.

If you missed this bird count, there will be several more during the Christmas season. You can enjoy the beauty of nature and the fellowship of some nice folks. It's always nice to be afield.

Morris Mercer.

POLICY ON VISITORS TO OXBOW, INC. LAND.

While Oxbow, Inc. would like to welcome members and friends to enjoy visits to our property, there are constraints that prevent us from extending an open invitation at this time.

The first problem is that we still rely on the goodwill of our neighbors to enter our own land. It is of utmost importance that we respect our neighbors' properties. People may not enter cultivated fields or posted areas, but should stay on the edges and the turnrows.

In the future we hope to have land open to visitors at all times, although we anticipate having some areas closed seasonally. However, the level of visitation must always be held low enough that it doesn't substantially interfere with wildlife. Historically, individuals who treat the Oxbow area respectfully have not been asked to leave, except during waterfowl season. In any case, larger parties that plan to visit the area should first contact Oxbow, Inc.

Finally, Shawnee Lookout Park is part of the Oxbow area, and the public is welcome there. Also, the Great Miami River is in the public domain, and there is a boat ramp at Shawnee Lookout.

NO BLOOPERS OR BLUNDERS. JUST MANY OF THE WORLD'S WONDERS!

Members who attended the December 12th general meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library were treated to an evening of excellence as they viewed slides, all taken by Oxbow, Inc. amateur photographers.

Their slides covered everything from historic covered bridges to dew-covered spider webs.

This interesting evening was made possible by the following members who each contributed outstanding slides to the program -

Elvan Blasdale
Dave Dister
David Jolley
Millie McCarty

Carolyn McManaman
Yvonne Mohlman
Bob Nienaber
Bob Schultz

The many talents of our members never ceases to amaze. We wish to thank them for sharing their work with us. A word of caution to the professional wildlife photographers out there.

Peer cautiously through the **FILM** of your contentment. Competition is rapidly **DEVELOPING** - don't **SNAP** your fingers at it. The **PROOF** is at hand, and it's not a pretty **PICTURE!**

Yvonne Mohlman will present a program on February 13th of her slides from Alaska. See "Meetings" for more information.

THE CINCINNATI WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY.....

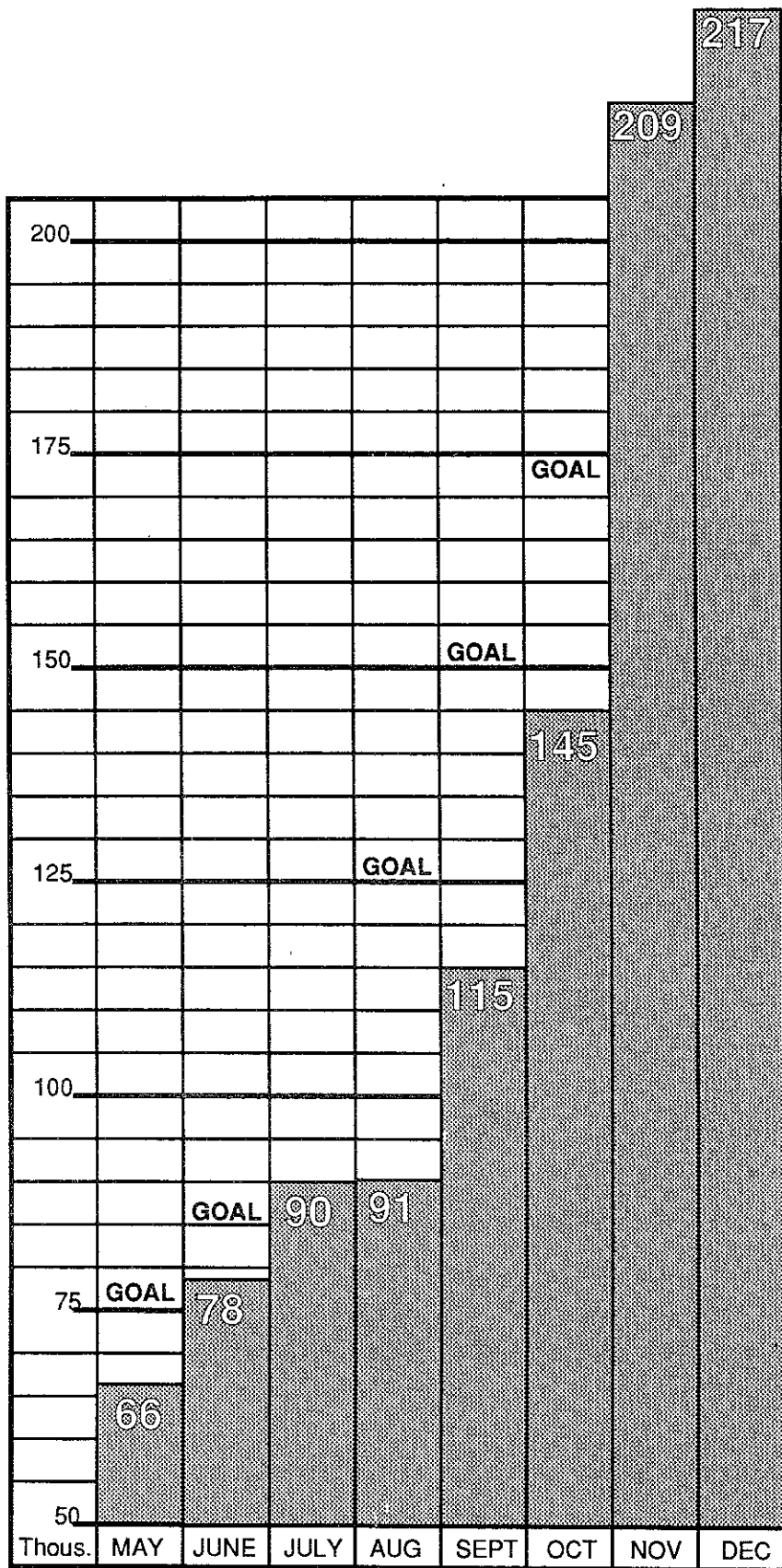
has extended an invitation to Oxbow, Inc. members to attend their February meeting. David Styer will be the featured speaker and will present a new program, "The Flora of the Oxbow."

Dave has suggested that he will present "A Description of Natural and Unnatural Plants in a Naturally Disturbed Area." (The floodplain). His talk will stress new findings in the Oxbow area, especially those of this past summer. Included will be findings in the upper part of Shawnee Lookout Park in addition to those noted by the Rankin Study.

The program will be held on Friday, February 9th at 7:30 P.M. at the Avon Woods Outdoor Education Center, 4235 Paddock Road, Cincinnati, OH.

For more information call Ruth Brush, 513-662-8551, or Vic Soukup, 513-761-2568, evenings only.

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN



THERE'S STILL TIME

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE.

"EACH ONE BRINGS ONE!"

Our membership goal of 1,000 members by the end of the year is still a reality.

As we go to print, only 15 more members are needed.

Who will be the one to be number 1,000? The lucky 1,000th member will receive one year's free membership in Oxbow, Inc.

If your membership is due to be renewed, please stay with us. Think about renewing at a higher level.

Don't wait...renew your membership and bring the lucky new member in with you!

ONLY THREE MORE DAYS TO GO!

SENDING MONEY?

Are you thinking about sending money to Oxbow, Inc.? Be sure to tell us how you wish your donation to be allocated. Land Fund? Dues renewal? Challenge Grant? Gift membership? Memorial? ... Just ear-mark your check, or send us a note, and we will assign the funds according to your direction.

Meetings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1990 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Bldg. Enter through the Exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue. "Tropical Rain Forests" will be discussed by Jeff Kapella. Mr. Kapella is on the staff of the Cincinnati Krohn Conservatory. We look forward to his slide presentation and his views on this important topic. This is Oxbow, Inc.'s annual election meeting. Please plan to attend.



Alaskan Wilderness

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1990 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library. Turn left off of U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right onto High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street. Yvonne Mohlman will share her personal slides taken on several of her visits to Alaska. We were given a preview of Yvonne's work at our last Lawrenceburg meeting. You will not want to miss this evening's presentation.



Field Trips

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1990 7:30 P.M. Don't miss Morris's night walk in Shawnee Lookout Park. We will meet at the golf course parking lot. Park motor vehicle permit required.

Morris Mercer 513-941-2534.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1990 9 A.M. Dave Styer will be taking a look around the Oxbow to see what he can see. Join him at the 50's Root Beer parking lot, U.S. 50 and I-275 Lawrenceburg-Greendale Exit.

Dave Styer 513-772-4395.



MOVING?

Make sure your WETLAND MATTERS newsletter goes with you.

Name

Old Address

City/State/Zip

New Address

City/State/Zip

Effective Date

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

★ Please notify us immediately so we can update our records. The post office does not forward third class mail.

HERE'S TO YOU,

OXBOW, INC.

presents this

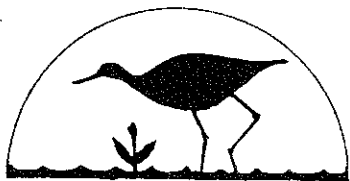
Certificate of Appreciation

For

Your loyal support of Oxbow, Inc. in
its on-going progress toward the goal
of preserving the Oxbow's wildlife
and habitat.

December, 1989

The Board of Trustees.



OXBOW, inc.

CONGRATULATIONS!

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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

Need A Speaker? Give Us A Call!



2073 HARRISON AVENUE
CINCINNATI OHIO 45214

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