

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

2073 HARRISON AVENUE
CINCINNATI OHIO 45214

NO. 27 JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1991

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

A COMMITMENT TO PURCHASE NINE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS PROTECTING 226 ACRES OF INDIANA FLOODPLAIN HAS MADE IT NECESSARY FOR OXBOW, INC. TO CONDUCT ITS SECOND MAJOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN.

\$100,000 MUST BE RAISED BY JANUARY 31, 1991 TO HONOR THIS COMMITMENT. LETTERS HAVE BEEN MAILED TO ALL MEMBERS REQUESTING HELP IN REACHING THIS GOAL. BECAUSE OF A RESTRICTED TIME FRAME, FOLLOW-UP TELEPHONE CALLS WILL NOT BE MADE. DONATIONS MUST FLOW FROM THE INITIAL, AND ONLY, REQUEST.

THE RESPONSE TO DATE HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING, BUT NOT OVERWHELMING! CURRENTLY, \$35,000 HAS BEEN RAISED, LEAVING \$65,000 NEEDED BY JANUARY 31ST.

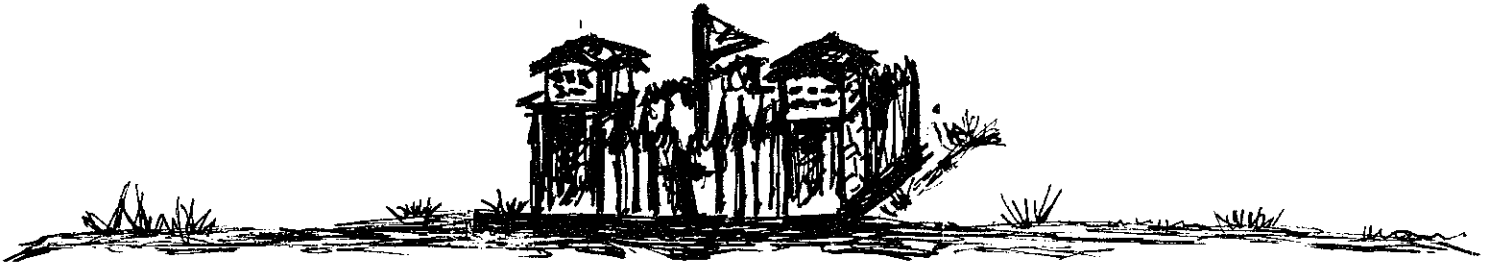
PROTECTING HABITAT IS AN EXPENSIVE ENDEAVOR, BUT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE IF THE OXBOW IS TO BE A SAFE REFUGE FOR WILDLIFE. TO BE A MEMBER OF OXBOW, INC. IS TO BE WILLING TO GIVE AS GENEROUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY, TO KEEP THE WORK OF HABITAT PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION MOVING FORWARD.

YOUR RESPONSE IN THE PAST HAS ALWAYS BEEN FANTASTIC! WE HAVE NEVER FAILED TO REACH A STATED GOAL. WITH YOUR PRESENT CONTINUED SUPPORT WE WILL SUCCEED AGAIN!

Please Help!

A HISTORY OF THE OXBOW AREA.

Don Bogosian



PART 6 - FORT FINNEY.

Along what is now Brower Road, at the entrance to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company's power plant near the Oxbow, is a historic marker commemorating Fort Finney which was the first United States military outpost in the area. At the insistence of George Rogers Clark, this outpost was established in 1785, and was named after Major Walter Finney who led the operation. Clark wanted the fort built to convince the Shawnee and Miami Indians in southern Ohio to cede all the lands east of the Great Miami to the United States. The treaty was signed in January of 1786, but the Wyandotte, who controlled the area at the time, were not included.

Fort Finney should not be confused with a fort of the same name at Louisville, later named Fort Steuben. Fort Finney was a complex of block-houses, a stockade, and cabins. It was used specifically for treaty negotiations, which were lengthy.

John Cleves Symmes was supposed to have used the fort when he came to settle the area in 1789, but, due to high water, it had been abandoned soon after the treaty signing. Symmes went to North Bend instead and began his settlement there.

The remains of the fort were used by early Ohio and Kentucky settlers, families like the Bakers and Garrisons, some of whom are buried in Dark Hollow Cemetery. They referred to the fort location as Sugar Camp which had 30 log structures strung out along what is now Brower Road in the early 1800's. Initially used temporarily for maple sugar gathering, some of the structures later became permanent homes.

The permanent settlement was eventually given the name "Finney" and today is the site of the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company's Miami Fort Power Plant. In the 1920's, up in the nearby hills, C.G. & E. established a company town and called it Columbia Park. The town was for workers and support people of the new power plant. Today, some of the foundations and roads can be seen in Shawnee Lookout Park near the Historic Museum.

Recent archaeologists and historians have found cannon balls, metal buttons, and other relics buried in the river bank around the power plant.

Next - Hayes' Station and Dunn's Station.

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.

* * * * * Oxbow, Inc. Memorials * * * * *

1990

IN MEMORY OF:

DONOR



Edwin B. Ahrens
Bert Buhrlage
Sam Cecil

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Proctor & Gamble Credit
Operations

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Dale Durbin
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Clifford O. Kreuter

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Kathryn H. Luebke
Steve Mitchell

Margaret B. Keller
Ken Fulmer

Ed. note - The Nov-Dec memorial to Winston F. White should have read, Winston F. White, Sr.

WISHES DO COME TRUE!

Oxbow, Inc.'s wish for a late-model photo-copier was fulfilled by Oxbow, Inc. member Emmy Lou Cholak. Oxbow, Inc. has shared the use of a photo-copier with Raptor, Inc. Their move to new headquarters made the arrangement impractical and a "wish list" essential. The Board sincerely thanks Emmy Lou for her generous donation and for proving wishes do come true!

FIELD NOTES



Morris Mercer.

Let me start by thanking those who carried out the field trips while Francis and I made our trip to Alaska. The trip was everything we had hoped it would be, and then some!

I did not get to visit the Oxbow from June to October. I'm sure this was the longest I've been away from the Oxbow in more than twenty years.

My first trip back was on a pleasant October morning. A look around told me this had not been a dry summer. The water was still backed up to the edge of the fields. There were no mud flats and some of the fields had never been planted.

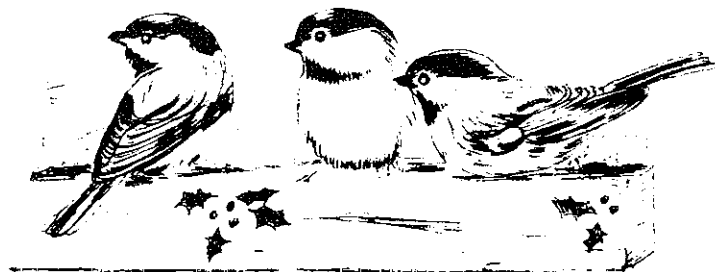
Great blue herons and great egrets stood at the water's edge, with others in the fields in front of the willows. Movement to my right caught my attention, and there, in the shallow water, behind the willows, were two sora rails. One hurried off into the willows and the other made a short flight. I enjoy the sora's flight, maybe because I don't get to see it that often. To me, the sora looks as if it flies standing up.

Out across the field, under a blue sky, the sun was warm as I carefully approached the edge of a water hole that held many, many ducks. With the help of the binoculars, I looked out upon a beautiful scene. All of the ducks were wood ducks! I counted 76, with others moving back and forth in the willows. Also around the water hole were great blues, great egrets, and a couple of black-crowned night herons. To my left I could see some downed young cottonwoods that had been cut by beaver. I thought how nice it was to stand once again in the floodplain of the Great Miami River.

Our next field trips will be in January and February, but winter is a great time to be afield. Check the dates in your "Wetland Matters" and come join us for a field trip into the Oxbow!

Have a great 1991!

Morris.



Meetings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. Enter through the Exit Gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.

"EARTHQUAKES - THE MOVERS AND SHAKERS!" Dr. Meg Riestenberg will relate events which occurred along the New Madrid fault during the devastating earthquakes of 1811-1812. Dr. Riestenberg will allude to the possibility of earthquakes occurring along the fault again, but she **WILL NOT** predict the date future quakes could occur.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 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.

Ron Austing, noted naturalist - photographer will be the speaker this evening. Ron is always an entertaining speaker and his slides are always outstanding. He's a busy man who is hard to get ahold of so don't miss this opportunity.

Field Trips



SATURDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 9 A.M. Meet at the upper parking lot at the Shawnee Lookout Park boat ramp for a winter walk. Park Motor Vehicle Permit required.

Steve Wagner 513-831-7606

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 9 A.M. Meet in the parking lot of the Fifties Root Beer, U.S. 50 and the I-275 Lawrenceburg - Greendale Exit Ramp. We should be able to find some waterfowl.

Jay Stenger 513-522-4245



MOVING?

Make sure your WETLAND MATTERS 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

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

Corporation Officers

President, Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
Vice President, Rick Bramstedt	812-438-2129
Secretary, Earl Thirey	513-528-3371
Treasurer, Art Wiseman	513-481-4302
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Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Preservation, Ned Keller	513-941-6497
Programs:	
Ohio, Morris Mercer	513-941-2534
Indiana, Bonnie Fancher	812-438-3641
Research, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630
Speakers' Bureau, Kaniaulono Meyer	513-948-8630

Editor

Norma Flannery	513-471-8001
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Oxbow, Inc.

A nonprofit 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 encouraged and solicited.

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, OH 45214

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



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