

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

NO. 35 MAY - JUNE, 1992



Our **BIG** yearly fundraiser is upon us! The sands have trickled down to the final grains. Teams and individuals have their game plans made and are waiting for the word **GO!**.

This is our **SERIOUS-FUN** time of the year. **FUN** because we get to do what we like to do most, birding, and **SERIOUS** because this is **THE MAJOR FUNDRAISING PROJECT** of the year.

Oxbow, Inc. refrains from bombarding its members over and over during the year with requests for additional contributions. We look forward to your membership renewal, we are not above asking you to participate in a raffle now and then, or to purchase a Charlie Harper T/Sweat Shirt, or give a gift membership to a friend - **BUT!**, when it comes **BIRDATHON** time, we urge you again and again to participate with a generous pledge for your favorite team or individual.

The purchase of land or conservation easements is an expensive project. Funds must be available when desirable property is offered for sale. All of Oxbow, Inc.'s acquisitions were made without paying interest on

borrowed funds. The Board of Trustees is proud of that record and you should be also as it was your contributions that made it possible. Help us keep that record going. Pledge as much as you can. It is for a cause you believe in and have made successful.

Results of **BIRDATHON '92** will be printed in the July-August **WETLAND MATTERS**. If you should receive the May-June issue after May 9th, there is still time for you to make your pledge. Contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Now all that's needed is for the weather to cooperate and a large turn-out of eager participants!

DON'T TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE FILLED OUT YOUR PLEDGE!

THANK YOU!

Birdathon Pledge Form. Please mail to P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH 45243

I pledge _____ per species identified during Birdathon '92 by:
_____ Team 1 _____ Team 2 _____ whichever team scores higher _____ both teams.

Team 1: the Geriatric Gents and a Junior
Karl Maslowski, George Laycock, Jack Gottschang & Jerry Meyer
Team 2: Paul Wharton, Joe Bens, Tony Leukering

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

FIELD NOTES

Morris Mercer.



It's almost mid-April and time to check the Oxbow again. As our birding group worked its way toward the Beaver Pond the sky was cloudless and the temperature registered in the 50's. There were Coots feeding in and around the willows. Others left white-capped wakes as they chased each other across the open water. We were all startled as a mallard hen flushed from her nest just a step or two off the road. As we looked at her clutch of eggs nestled snugly in the soft down-lined nest, we couldn't help but wonder if they would have a chance to hatch before the fields were to be planted. Busy Killdeer went running before us and we heard the cry of others as they flew out over the water. One of the birders saw a nest, or I should say, a scrape in the ground, that held the speckled eggs of the Killdeer. Again, we wondered if these eggs would hatch before the plow made its way across the field.

There was very little to be seen on the Beaver Pond - a few ring-necked ducks, a possible double-crested cormorant, and some black-crowned night herons in the newly-emerging leaves of the willows. The young immature leaves gave the trees a dainty, lace-like appearance.

The group looked skyward to see an Osprey pass over, its deep wing-beats taking it swiftly toward Shawnee Lookout. There were some gulls and Great Blue Herons in the air but, to me, most beautiful were the blue-winged teal, the blue of their wings high-lighted by the afternoon sun. I believe everyone enjoyed their aerial show.

At the big bend of the Oxbow lake I soon had the 'scope on a nice flock of ring-billed gulls and several Caspian terns. The lake itself had some blue-wings working in the shallows and, sure enough, there was a ruddy duck, stubby tail feathers erect, its bill tucked securely under a wing, paddling along neither looking nor caring where it was going. From here we could also see a Great Egret. With the sun behind us, and the egret before us, we could view this beautiful bird in full breeding plumage!

It seemed there was much more for us to see but it was time to go. Time always seems to be too short but now, as migration goes on, there is never enough time to enjoy the pleasures of watching the birds of the Oxbow.

A week ago I had seen more ducks and, uncommon to the area, four common loons. All were asleep. They had just stopped to rest. I had to wonder what northern lake would hear their lonesome cries this summer?

Spring is always a good time to be afield.

HIKING OHIO

Scenic Trails of the Buckeye State

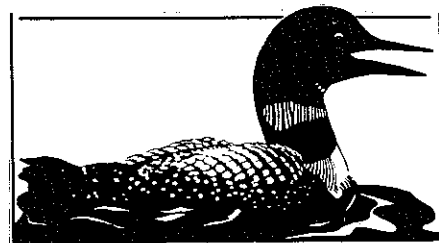
by Robert Folzenlogen

A guide to over 100 Day Hikes at 64 areas across the State.

Illustrated with maps and photos.

Available at bookstores, nature centers, and outdoors shops;
or send \$14.95 to Willow Press, 6053 South Platte Canyon Rd
Littleton, Colorado 80123

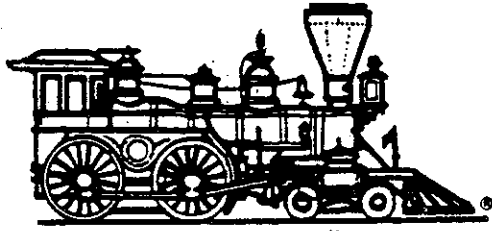
A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Morris Mercer". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located above a framed illustration of a loon.



A HISTORY OF THE OXBOW AREA.

Don Bogosian

PART 14 -



THE OHIO AND
MISSISSIPPI
RAILROAD.

The Ohio and Mississippi Railroad was constructed in 1854 and ran out of Cincinnati along the Ohio river section of the Whitewater Canal, continuing westward along Brower Road. The vast railroad bridge placed across the mouth of the Great Miami river just below the Oxbow was considered a major construction feat of the day.

The Ohio and Mississippi was a wide-gauge railroad. Its tracks measured six feet apart. This unusual gauge was used because the O & M was originally planned to be a westward extension of the wide-gauge Erie Railroad.

With the near-collapse of the Erie, the Ohio and Mississippi went to standard-gauge in 1871 and was soon operating on its own as an important link with the American west. Immigrants rode the crude trains west and cattle were shipped to markets in the east. The O & M was sold to the powerful Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1888 and became part of Cincinnati's longest through-passenger routing, from Baltimore, MD to St Louis, Missouri.

A very historic event took place at the still standing Ohio and Mississippi Railroad station in Lawrenceburg, IN. In 1861, then President-elect Abraham Lincoln, on his way to his inauguration in Washington, DC, spoke from the back of the train to a crowd gathered at the station.

The Ohio and Mississippi Railroad began operations with many freight, and four passenger, trains a day. The passenger trains soon grew to as many as twelve and included NO.1 and NO.2, the "National Limited", Cincinnati's long distance luxury train.

The Great Miami river bridge was completely washed out in 1866. Tracks were flooded in 1883 and 1884, and the bridge partly washed out again in 1913. A major track upgrading project resulted in today's bridge being constructed in 1921.

O & M traffic, as other railroad traffic, declined after World War II. The passenger trains disappeared altogether in the early 1970's, except for an occasional, and rare, excursion train. In 1980 the Baltimore and Ohio became part of CSX and the Ohio & Mississippi line was de-emphasized as a through route. But, many modern innovations were seen as CSX ran unitized coal, grain, and oil trains as well as intermodal road-railer and container trains. Today, only one or two trains a day use the line each way, including local service to Lawrenceburg.

Next - The Battle of Lawrenceburg.

A TOE TAPPIN' HAPPENIN'

Gilmore Ponds Conservancy is hosting its first formal fund raising event on **FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH**, from 8:30 P.M. to 12:30 A.M. A dance will be held at the American Legion Hall on Winton Road in Greenhills. Tickets are \$13 for singles and \$25 for couples. Prices include live music, beverages, snacks, and door prizes. For those with two left feet, there will be a story-swapping area. To order tickets, or for additional information, call Ann Ohlhauser, 513-825-1794.

Dig out those bib overalls, flannel shirt and checkered handkerchief, hitch old Bessie to the buggy and have an event! Your support will be gratefully appreciated.

COLOR SLIDE PROGRAM.

On Thursday, May 7th, at 7:30 P.M. in the Lawrenceburg Public Library on High Street, Mr. Elvin Blasdel will present the ninth in his series of Color Slide Programs in conjunction with the Cincinnati Color Slide Club.

Mr Blasdel will show his own slides, "COVERED BRIDGES AND OLD COURTHOUSES". Elvin tells us that Park County, Indiana boasts 36 restored bridges, many of which are still in use, and that the old court houses, many of which were built in the 1800's, are interesting for their varied architecture and charm.

A free will offering will be accepted for the benefit of the Dearborn County RSVP. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program). For more information contact Mr. Elvin Blasdel, 812-537-2602

CINCINNATI HOME & GARDEN SHOW.

For the 1992 Cincinnati Home and Garden Show held last February and March, we created new displays and handouts for the Oxbow, Inc. booth, emphasizing wetlands vegetation as well as birds and other wildlife. It was a sizable endeavor and Oxbow, Inc. was happy to receive help from a number of sources.

Doug Hart and the rest of the staff at Hart Productions, who were so accommodating to Oxbow, Inc. and the other nonprofit groups in the show; Stan and Ruth Trosset, who provided slides of, and information about, wetland plants; Dave Evans of Accu-Photo, a Clifton photo lab, who graciously donated color print processing for the display; Stan Lockwood, who furnished Cincinnati Wild Flower Preservation Society handouts; JoAnn Buck, who sewed our new table drapes; and Steve Pelikan, who spent hours cutting foamcore and mounting prints.

In particular, we'd like to thank the many Oxbow, Inc. members (and a few non-members!) who came downtown to the Convention Center to work the booth. This kind of outreach is extremely important to us. Literally hundreds of people we spoke to over the nine days of the show now know where and what the Oxbow wetland is, and why it is important that it be preserved.

Thanks, everyone!
Anita Buck.

"Cincinnati's Friendliest Photolab"
accuPhoto
366 Ludlow Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45220 (513)281-3466

WETLAND MANUAL UPDATE.

The following article appeared in the Hooser Environmental Council's "Boardwatch"

WETLANDS: ENVIRONMENTALISTS FIGHT BACK.

"A well-planned, multi-dimensional assault on America's wetlands protection programs has been slowed by a stunning reply from citizens nationwide. Last fall the Bush Administration, at the urging of Vice President Dan Quayle's Council on Competitiveness, proposed to seriously weaken the federal interagency manual used to identify regulated wetlands. The result is that as many as 50 million acres of America's remaining wetlands, and nearly 60% of Indiana's wetlands, would have lost any regulatory protection. Environmentalists, sportsmen, wetland regulators and a number of the nation's governors reacted with outrage. Opposition to the emasculation of the wetlands manual is running nine to one against the change.

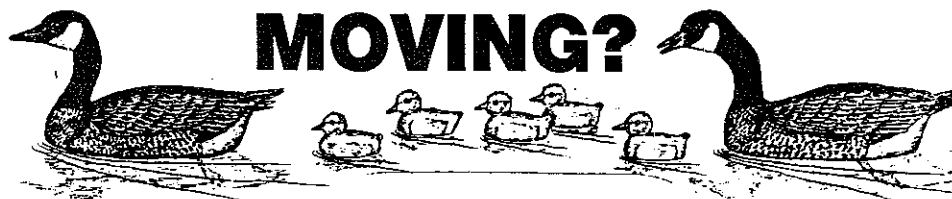
The second level of anti-wetlands attack came in the U.S. Congress, where several bills were introduced in order to relax the wetlands protection requirements in the Clean Water Act. Citizens and congressional resistance has stalled these bills.* Representatives Don Edwards of California, Jim Jontz of Indiana, and a number of other congressmen have now responded with a strong pro-wetlands bill, the Wetlands Reform Act, HR 4255. The Edwards bill improves wetlands protection by:

- + establishing a national wetlands policy.
- + expanding the Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 authority to include wetlands destruction activities such as draining, flooding, and excavation.
- + strengthens the EPA's role in the Corps' permit review program.
- + provides funding for additional Corps' wetlands regulator training programs, and
- + eases regulatory uncertainty for farmers who own wetlands.

HR4255 attempts to resolve the wetlands manual controversy by commissioning a National Academy of Sciences study of the issue. Wetlands supporters should contact their Representatives immediately and urge them to cosponsor HR 4255."

* HR 1330 & S 1463

Representative Jim Jontz should be contacted and thanked for his support and cosponsorship of HR 4255 - ED.



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. P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Please notify us immediately so we can update our records. The Post Office does not forward third class mail.

Oxbow, Inc. Memorials

* * * * *

IN MEMORY OF

DONOR

* Helen W. Feist
 *
 * Ralph R. Hogue
 * Patricia McDonough
 * Dr. Walter H. "Chip" Meyer, Jr.
 * Russell Relia
 * Mary Jane Rhoades
 * Carl Schlaegel
 * Dr. Lester O. Schmalz-DMD
 * Winston F. White, Sr. Easter Mem.
 * Thomas P. Winborne
 * Mrs. Walter Zimmerman

Cincinnati Zoo Marketing - Cathy
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 Penny Jarret Geary
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 Mrs. Frieda R. White
 Mr. & Mrs. John M. Murray, Jr.
 David and Suzanne Skidmore



* * TRIBUTE *

* Leon Cohen Birthday	Carol Oppenheimer
* John Ruthven In Honor Of	Hamersville Garden Club

* * * * *

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

I would like to thank our members for your checks, notes, and comments. It's fun to open the mail! A nice check "makes my day." In fact, all checks, large or small, do that. What a delight to have a check arrive from school children, the Scouts, or the many that are sent with a sincere desire to make the world a better place. The fact that Oxbow, Inc. members really care about the environment is very obvious from the mail. Your criticisms, good and bad, are all carefully studied. Important ones are shared with the Board or passed on to the appropriate person.

We have more than 1,100 members. There is no paid staff, and we want every penny of the money you send to be used to protect the Oxbow. Therefore, it is impossible to acknowledge every check. Please remember that your cancelled check is your receipt. And, also remember that every contribution is very important. Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. On the upper right corner of your WETLAND MATTERS label you will find the date your membership expires. A renewal reminder will be sent at approximately the same time, along with your newsletter.

Memorials and tributes have grown into an important source of income. Many of you are using Oxbow, Inc. to honor and remember those you care about. We have a new and very capable Memorial Chairperson, Melanie Millspaugh. She will inform the appropriate person(s) of the donation without revealing the amount given and also let the donor know their wishes have been carried out. Printed cards let the recipient know that someone cared to send a birthday, Christmas, or "whatever" gift in their honor. It's a wonderful idea when you don't know what to buy.

Suzanne Skidmore
 Corresponding Secretary.

Meetings

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library

Elvin Blasdel's slide program, "Covered Bridges and Old Court Houses."
(see cover article.)

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo Education Building.
Enter through the Exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.

Dr. Gregory McDonald, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology for the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History will present "Ice Age Animals from the Caves of Ohio."

TUESDAY, JUNE 9TH, 7:30 P.M. Lawrenceburg Public Library.
Turn left off of U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right on High Street. The library is on the right side of High Street.

Come and hear Dr. Gae-Jae Joo explain the work he has been doing for Oxbow, Inc. His limnological research project will provide us scientific data relevant to the Oxbow ecosystem. Dr Joo is doing post-graduate work through the Miami University Department of Botony. His program will utilize slides depicting **visual results** of his work.

FRIDAY, JUNE 12TH, 8:30 to 12:30 P.M. American Legion Hall, Winton Road.

Gilmore Ponds Conservancy's fund raising dance.
(see cover article.)

Field Trips



WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH, 6:30 P.M. 50's Root Beer Parking Lot.

Jolly Jay will be off on an evening trip around the Oxbow looking for those devilish shorebirds and other wetland denizens.

Leader, Jay Stenger 513-522-4245

MONDAY, JUNE 15TH, 7 P.M. 50's Root Beer Parking Lot.

A full moon will be rising above Shawnee Lookout and Diligent Dave will be searching out shorebirds with insomnia and who knows what else? Come along. This one should be a howl!

Leader, Dave Styer 513-772-4395



Corporation Officers

President, Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
Vice President, Morris Mercer	513-941-2534
Secretary, Earl Thirey	513-528-3371
Corresponding Sec., Suzanne Skidmore	513-561-5718
Treasurer, Jim Rettig	513-561-0211
Agent, Dave Styer	513-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bonnie Fancher	812-438-3641
Easement Inspection, Michael Kluesener	513-574-1220
Richard Pope	513-637-1365
Fund Raising, Greg Mendell	812-926-1966
Land Management, Dave Styer	513-772-4395
Marketing, Julie Godsey	513-451-5793
Preservation, Norma L. Flannery	513-471-8001
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
Volunteer Coordinator, John Getzendanner	812-537-5728

Editor

Norma L. 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., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



P.O. BOX 43391
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