

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 44, November-December 1993

Harrell Property

Oxbow's offer to purchase the Harrell property has been accepted. The closing has not been scheduled yet, but will take place before the end of the year. The Harrell property consists of 121.53 acres and lies primarily on the inside bend of the Oxbow lake.

New Corporation

Oxbow of Indiana has just been incorporated and has applied for nonprofit status. The goals of this sister corporation are the same as Oxbow's. There are several advantages to having a separate organization, incorporated in Indiana, pursuing the goal of preserving and protecting the Oxbow area.

Stuck for Gift Ideas?

How about a year's **membership in Oxbow Inc.** together with an announcement of your gift membership in the "tributes" section of *Wetland Matters*?

Or maybe an **Oxbow shirt or sweatshirt**? Many different sizes of shirts carrying the Wood Duck design by Charlie Harper and the message "The Duck Stops Here" are available. Most are a poly-cotton blend; some 100% cotton shirts are also available. A limited selection of **Oxbow Birdathon shirts** are also available. People sporting these shirts with Fritz Haas designs have been seen at birding hotspots from coast to coast. They'd make an ideal gift for a fashion-conscious birder!

Another possibility is the *Birds of the Oxbow* video by **Impact Video Productions**. These tapes include wonderful, close-up images of many of the birds common in the Oxbow area.

Dave Styer's book about birdlife at the mouth of the Great Miami River (also called *Birds of the Oxbow*) is a great gift idea for people interested in birds or natural history in general. The book is illustrated with pen-and-ink drawings by Bill Zimmerman.

All of the above can be obtained at the upcoming Oxbow meetings. Or you can call 471-8001.

Worth Randle

Worth Randle died on Saturday, October 9th. He was 74.

Most people knew Worth as an avid naturalist, field biologist, and educator. He was co-author of the book *Birds of Southwestern Ohio*, taught biology at Cincinnati Country Day School, worked as a park naturalist at California Nature Preserve and as a wildlife photographer. He banded birds, contributed to many breeding bird studies, and is credited with establishing the first Ohio breeding records for several species of birds.

Worth had a contagious ability to appreciate the beauty of nature. He spoke out strongly and eloquently about the importance of protecting our natural heritage.

Worth was a strong supporter of Oxbow, Inc., and served on Oxbow's advisory board for many years.

Oxbow Decal

The plan to produce an Oxbow, Inc. window decal was given the go-ahead at the last board meeting. The current plans are to produce a black on white decal with Oxbow's name, logo, and the phrase "Protecting Wetlands". The stickers will be a benefit of membership. When ready, they will be mailed with the newsletter.

Moving?

Please send your change of address information to:

Oxbow, Inc.

PO Box 43391

Cincinnati, Ohio 45243

Field Notes

Morris Mercer

I look forward to the changes of the seasons since each season brings something special to the Oxbow area. I made some evening trips recently to see what autumn holds in store. The standing corn is a golden brown in the sun, and the dried corn leaves whispered in the cool breeze of the late afternoon. Great Egrets add their beauty to the water's edge and a Great Blue Heron glides in low over the willows, landing next to many others near Wood Duck Slough.

With the sun low at my back, the light was good on the other shore of the water hole and the 'scope showed many things that my binoculars hadn't. Killdeer seemed to be everywhere. Two Sanderling, a nearly white shorebird that I don't often see, worked the mud flat. I watched a Short-billed Dowitcher, a couple of Greater Yellowlegs, and several mallards, as a nice flight of Blue-winged Teal came in over the willows to share the water hole.

Many Bank Swallows were coming and going from a dead tree on my left, and several birds were busy in the brush before me. I was pleased to find that they were mostly Palm Warblers. I looked up from the wildlife around the Oxbow and there in the sky just above "the point" at Shawnee was the full moon. I had planned to be near the fox den at Shawnee before dark, so now I really had to hurry.

It was almost dark as I drove by the fox den. I only saw one fox. The White-tailed Deer all seemed to be out for an evening stroll. The scene I remember most was a doe and her twin fawns browsing in a meadow. The whole scene glowed with the pale moonlight. The trip home was nice too. From Cliff

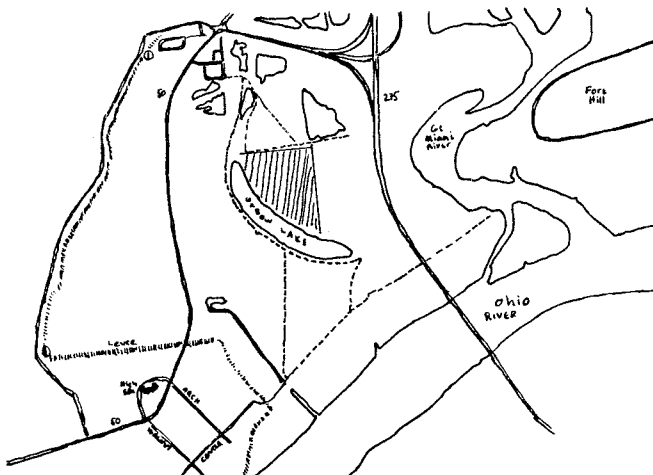
Road I could see the big valley of the Ohio bathed in the moonlight. The north bend of the river was a shimmering path of silver. It was a beautiful, beautiful evening.

The Oxbow field trip into the area in September found many of the same birds that I've observed on my evening walks, but they were also treated to the sight of a Bald Eagle flying just above them. I was sorry to have missed that!

On another evening trip, this one following a bright blue, Indian summer day, I watched a Black-bellied Plover feeding on the mud. It would hurry along the mud, stop briefly to probe for food, and then hurry along again. In autumn plumage, these birds lack the black underside which gives them their name, but they still have large dark eyes.

I met a young couple that evening, and we talked about the Oxbow as we walked out to the beaver pond. A Sharp-shinned Hawk flew low overhead. At the beaver pond we saw egrets, mallards, and great blues in good numbers. Five Wood Duck flew in as we watched, and deer browsed in the willows across the pond. There were two does and a fine looking buck.

We heard a squawk and looked up to see seven Black-crowned Night-herons as they flew from the line of cottonwoods. Day was coming to a close and the wading birds and corn were silhouetted against a golden sky. As we watched the gold turned to a fiery red and then faded to a deep purple as the curtain of night fell over the Oxbow. It was nice to be with young people who care and will watch over the Oxbow in years to come. There will still be many autumn days this year on which to enjoy life in and around the Oxbow. See you there.



Approximate location of the Harrell Property

Calendar Meetings

9 November (Tuesday) at 7:30, Oxbow meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education building. (Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.)

David Skidmore Jr. will share, through slides, a recent safari he made to Kenya.

14 December (Tuesday) at 7:30, Oxbow meeting at the Lawrenceburg Public Library. (From Cincinnati, turn left off U.S. 50 onto Walnut Street. Turn right on High Street. The Library is on the right side of High Street.)

This evening's program will be presented by Jim Oehlschlaeger, a participant in Alaska's Iditarod — the marathon race by dog sled. Jim will describe his training, technique, and experiences in this account of North America's most amazing contest.

18 November (Thursday) at 7:30, Slide program at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.

Local photographer Elvin Blasdel will sponsor this two part slide show by nature photographer Bill West of the Cincinnati Color Slide Club, "Under the Sea" and "Wings over Florida". Admission is free. Voluntary donations for the Dearborn Adult Center will be collected.

Field Trips

6 November (Saturday) 9:00 AM. Oxbow Field Trip.

Meet trip leader Dave Styer at 50's Root Beer for an autumn walk around the Oxbow to check on the fall migration. For more information, you can call Dave at 772-4395.

For December field trips, we will join one of the areas Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's). Below are the dates of the counts, along with the phone number to call in order to sign up for the count or for more information.

11 December (Saturday) Hamilton County Parks Winter Bird Count. (521-7275)

18 December (Saturday) 6th Ohio River Christmas Count. (Joe Bens 221-1835)

19 December (Sunday) 32nd Western Hamilton County CBC. (Ned Keller 941-6497)

19 December (Saturday) Paint Creek CBC. (Steve Wagner 831-7606)

26 December (Sunday) 48th Cincinnati CBC. (Jay Stenger 522-4245)

2 January (Sunday) East Fork CBC. (Joe Bens 221-1835)

Oxbow Memorials

In MEMORY

Arthur Blackstone
Lawrtence J. Bollman
Rose Breuer
Julie Godsey—Birthday Remembrance
Julie Godsey
Allan and Elizabeth Linsenmeier
Edna Maslowski
Worth Randle
Worth Randle
Worth Randle
Brad Witt

DONOR

Janet Raczynski and Edwin Griff
Rosemary Hasler Farrell
Norma L. Flannery
Norma L. Flannery
CMSGT James and Mrs. Billie Godsey
Janet Raczynski and Edwin Griff
Karl Maslowski
Bob and Helen Black
Red Bird Hollow Association
David and Suzanne Skidmore
David and Suzanne Skidmore

Oxbow Tributes

Aunt Norma—Thank You

Zoe Farrell

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	Family	\$15
Contributing	\$25	Supporting	\$50
Patron	\$100	Cornerstone	\$250
Sponsor	\$500	Benefactor	\$1000
Organization/club	\$25		

Mail to. **Oxbow, Inc.**
P.O. Box 43391
Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391
513-471-8001

Corporation Officers

President, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001
Vice President, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534
Recording Secretary, Dennis Mason (513)-385-3607
Corresponding Secretary,

Suzanne Skidmore (513)-561-5718

Treasurer, Jim Rettig (513)-561-0211

Agent, Dave Styer (513)-772-4395

Committee Chairpersons

Conservation, Bill Bocklage (513)-922-2445

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,

Preservation, Norma L. Flannery (513)-471-8001

Programs: Ohio, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Indiana, Betty Myers (812)-537-1631

Research, Kaniaulono Meyer (513)-948-8630

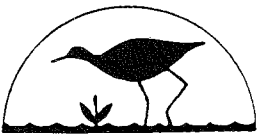
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Volunteer Coordinator,

John Getzendanner (812)-537-5728

Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513)-681-2574

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



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