

wetland matters



P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

Number 45, January-February 1994

Harrell Purchase

The closing on the Harrell property took place in early December. This added another 121.53 acres to the land Oxbow, Inc. has protected. As Oxbow's President Norma L. Flannery said to those attending the December meeting in Lawrenceburg, "Thank you! It is the members of Oxbow who made this acquisition possible."

Oxbow plans to keep the land under cultivation. In the past, bids for 3 year's use of Oxbow's land have been solicited from interested farmers. A committee considers the bids and tries to select the best bid — weighing the money offered and the proposed farming practices. Some practices that protect the soil and benefit wildlife may not be quite as profitable for the farmer. A bid indicating that these desirable practices will be employed might be accepted even though it offers less money per acre than other bids.

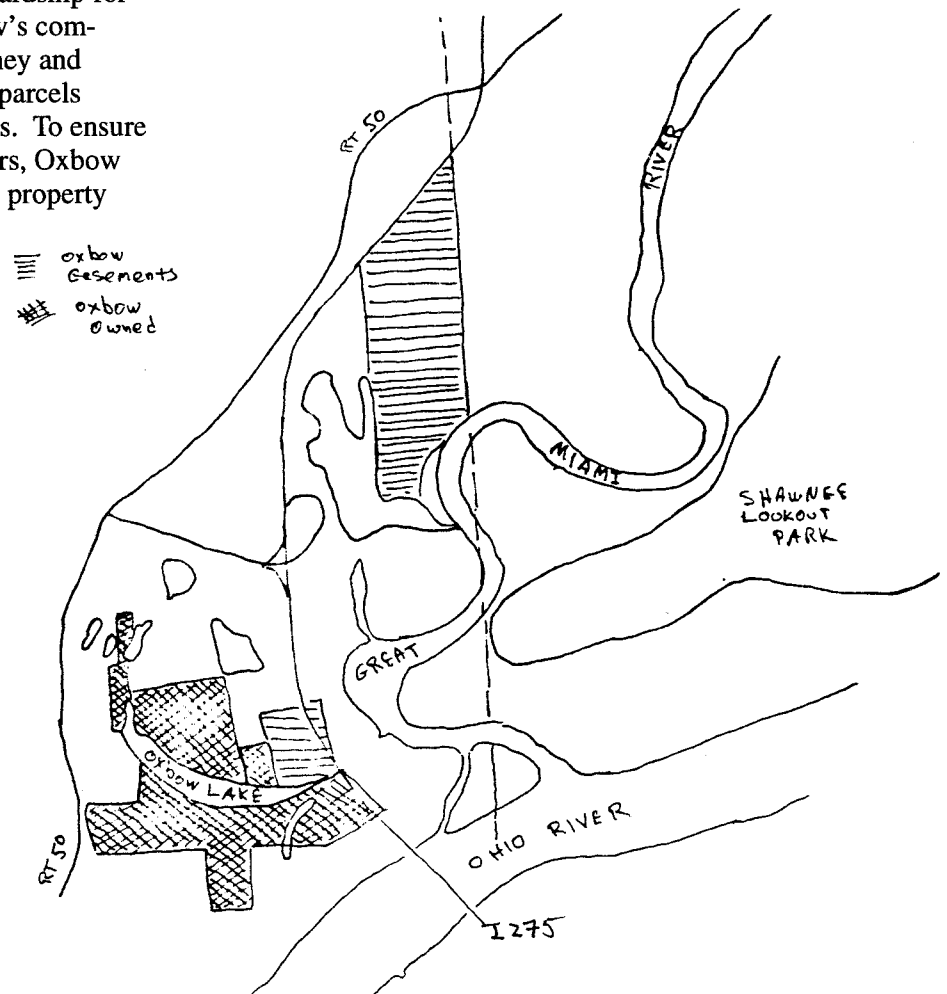
Oxbow board member Rick Pope pointed out at the November meeting that it might be a hardship for a farmer to lose (or gain) the use of Oxbow's combined land (about 300 acres in the McKinney and Harrell tracts). The board decided that the parcels should be offered for bids in different years. To ensure that the parcels are offered in different years, Oxbow will have the current tenant on the Harrell property continue for the next two years.

Elections

The business of Oxbow, Inc. is conducted by an elected Board of Trustees. Board members serve 3-year terms. Annual elections are held at the January meeting. This year the meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on 11th of January. (See the Calendar for details.)

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the board, give his/her name to David Styer who heads the nominating committee. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the January meeting, but it is easier if we can have everybody's name printed on the ballots in advance. You can 'phone David with your nominations at (513)-772-4395.

MOST IMPORTANT: Oxbow still needs a board member with marketing and inventory skills to handle the shirt, book and video sales. Interested people with abilities along these lines should be brought to David's attention.



Oxbow Memorials

In Memory of

Dale Durbin
 Dale Durbin
 John Gatch
 Julie Godsey
 Pat Goodpaster
 Edna Maslowski
 Charles C. Michel
 Leopold Posival
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 Worth Randle
 The Reverend Raymond Sanchez
 Alfred Schlomeus
 Noshir Toddywalla, M.D.
 Sam Wissman

Donor

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Durbin
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Noll
 Peggy and Fred Gatch
 CMSGT James and Mrs. Billie Godsey
 Rosemary and Bill Farrell
 Edith and Charles Harper
 Rosemary and Bill Farrell
 Mr. and Mrs. James Beatty
 Robert L. Black, Jr.
 Harry Connor
 William and Jeanette Donaldson
 Larry Gara
 Peggy and Fred Gatch
 Edward Roberts
 Noel Rowe
 Stan and Louise Rowe
 Ann Swanson
 Art and Jinny Wiseman
 Mr. and Mrs. William Farrell
 Mary Alice and David Crouch
 Alan Kohlhaas, M.D. and Lynn Ryan, M.D.
 Cheryl Winslow, D.V.M.

Oxbow Tributes

In honor of

Ed and Faith Pelikan (Gift membership)

Donor

Anita Buck and Steve Pelikan

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. Contributions should be sent to Oxbow, Inc., P.O. Box 43391, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45243-0391. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those to receive the acknowledgment.

Riverboat Gambling

On election day voters approved riverboat gambling in Dearborn County. By February 2, 1994, interested developers will submit detailed proposals to the Indiana Gaming Commission. The politically appointed Commission will then solicit and consider comments on the proposals from other interested parties. There will probably be 5 or more proposals for the Commission to consider. In all likelihood, one of the developers will be granted a license to build and run a riverboat gambling operation, although the Commission need not grant a license for Dearborn County.

From a developer's point of view the best place for a riverboat gaming operation is on the Ohio River at Lawrenceburg or immediately upstream. Proximity to the interstate and to the airport are important factors because most developers expect to bring in 6,000 visitors each day. The population of Lawrenceburg, which already congests route 50 at rush hour, is only about 4,500. Putting the development on the west side of Lawrenceburg would be less profitable, and would greatly increase the problems with traffic and parking.

Even though the law permitting gambling states that the largest city in the county (Lawrenceburg) must be the site of the development, some people have suggested that this requirement may be loosened in the interest of having the best possible development. Consequently, neither a gaming development at other locations, nor the development of other locations in conjunction with a Lawrenceburg gaming operation, can be ruled out.

Oxbow believes that development must take place with as little damage to the environment (especially critical wetland habitat) as possible. Large scale development will bring many changes to the Oxbow and great care must be taken to ensure that the environmental impact of these changes is minimized. In addition to development itself, the environmental effects of a large gaming operation (24-hour-a-day activity, vehicle exhaust, and sound and light pollution) need to be considered.

Oxbow, Inc. plans to commission an environmental study so that well informed decisions can be made about how development and gaming operations can take place with as little damage to the natural resources of the area as possible. Requests for proposals have already been sent to environmental firms, and a search has begun for funds to pay for the study. Oxbow hopes that potential developers will contribute towards the study. Indeed, contributing to such an independent study would be one way that a developer could demonstrate a sincere concern for the welfare of the environment.

Calendar

Meetings

11 January 1994 (Tuesday) at 7:30. Oxbow Meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. (Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.)

Election of board members is the main order of business at this meeting. Then Ron Austing will show some of his video on the urban Peregrine Falcon. Ron has pictures of both the Dayton and Cincinnati nests. Don't miss this chance to see some top-notch videography of some beautiful birds.

3 February (Thursday) at 7:30. Slide Program at the Lawrenceburg Public Library.

Elvin Blasdel announces this, the 17th in a series of slide shows. Tonight's speaker will be Roy Mast, a Cincinnati Color Slide Club member. He will present his travelogue "The Republic of France." Roy is an award winning photographer who has published photos in many magazines.

15 February (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.)

February is a good month for seeing ducks in the Oxbow area, and this program is designed to help you know what you're looking at. Charlie Saunders will be our speaker. He co-teaches the Ohio Audubon's bird identification course. This evening Charlie will give us a special program on duck identification tailored to the needs and interests of Oxbow birders.

Field Trips

20 January 1994 (Thursday) 7:30 PM. Oxbow field trip.

The January field trip will be a night walk at Shawnee Lookout Park. We will meet at the golf clubhouse at 7:30 P.M. We'll just take an easy walk to see what the woods look like on a winter night. You'll want a 1994 Hamilton County Parks Sticker for your car's window. Call trip leader Morris Mercer for more information: (513)-941-2534.

26 February (Saturday) 9:00 AM. Oxbow field trip.

Meet trip leader Dave Styer at 50's Root Beer for this trip into the Oxbow. The waterfowl migration should be in full swing, so bring binoculars. For information, call David at (513)-772-4395

Field Notes

Morris Mercer

I used to think a week passed fast, and now it's seasons and years. The shortest day of the year will soon be here, as will the end of 1993. I planned an early December trip to the Oxbow and the day broke bright, clear and crisp. The Ohio River was falling past 34 feet so I knew the water would be leaving the fields around the Oxbow.

I checked out the Hidden Valley Lake on my way to the Oxbow. There weren't many ducks on the lake: 50 or 60 Coot near the boat ramp, a few Mallards, and 10 Gadwall. All these and 8 beautiful Canvasback made the stop well worth my while. But the Oxbow was calling, and I was anxious to get there early.

The sun was defrosting the landscape as I arrived and walked down for a look at the Oxbow. It was also in my eyes as I looked out towards the flooded corn stubble. I could only see ducks as silhouettes. As I moved around to get the sun behind me, I marveled at the great crop of mud that the receding waters had left behind. From my new vantage point, I could see all the wildlife in living color. Much of the land — Oxbow, Inc. land — was still under water and the shallower water was partially ice covered. More than 50 Ring-billed Gulls were sitting on the ice. Mallards and Black Ducks were feeding in the open water. From across the water comfortable sounds came to me as the ducks contentedly talked among themselves.

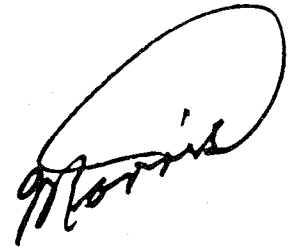
Eleven Great Blue Heron stood statue-like at the water's edge. I was checking along the willows down towards Wood Duck Slough, and came upon 39 fine looking Sandhill Cranes. The sight of them, with their gray plumage in the slanting morning light pleased me so much I had to do as the kids do and give a "YES!!". I was delighted that these birds chose to visit Oxbow's land.

Just a few days after seeing the cranes I was again down by the flooded willows and saw more than 40 Green-winged Teal feeding among the trees. I recalled the quotation "A thing of beauty is a joy forever" as I watched these bright little ducks dabbling. As I stood there I couldn't help wondering what riverboat gambling will do to the area. What

impact will all the development, all the people, roads, buildings, pavement, lights, cars, and buses, have on our Oxbow? When she was young, our daughter used to say, "Lets not talk about the bad things." But I'm afraid we will have to face bad things soon.

On the Hamilton County Parks Winter Bird Count several of us were in Shawnee Lookout Park. We enjoyed a beautiful, cool, December day. The birds I took most pleasure in seeing were birds that can be found in the park on any winter day. The beautiful Eastern Bluebird, Rufous-sided Towhee, Cardinal, and White-throated Sparrow were there in good numbers. I enjoyed hearing the calls of Carolina Wrens and the snorting of deer.

Winter is almost here with the cold winds and the snow. Winter adds a beauty to the landscape that warms my heart. Don't miss being afield at this magical time of year.



Moving?

Please send your change of address information to
Oxbow, Inc.
P.O. Box 43391
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243
The Post Office will not forward Wetland Matters,
since it is not sent as first class mail.



Oxbow's treasurer, Jim Rettig, reports that receipts from Birdathon '93 totaled \$15,500.00. The money raised helped to pay for Oxbow's newest land purchase.

Oxbow benefitted from the event, and so did many other organizations. The Cincinnati Zoo, Tri-State Wildlife Center, Gilmore Ponds Conservancy, the Hamilton County Park District, the Cincinnati Nature Center, and Raptor, Inc. all sponsored teams and split the money they raised with Oxbow. A good year for Oxbow is thus a good year for many of the area's other environmental organizations.

It isn't too early to start planning for Birdathon '94. Birdathon is always held on the Friday and Saturday before Mother's Day. This year Birdathon will be held from 5 P.M. on May 6 to 5 P.M. on May 7.

Birding information

If you're one of the many Oxbow members who is a bird watcher, there are two organizations you should know about: The Indiana Audubon Society and the Cincinnati Bird Club. Indiana Audubon publishes a newsletter and a quarterly magazine (*The Indiana Audubon Quarterly*) concerned with conservation issues, reports of bird censuses and of rare bird sightings. Many records of birds observed in the Oxbow area appear in the season summaries of the *Quarterly*. The Cincinnati Bird Club holds monthly meetings, schedules field trips, and runs a hot line with a tape recorded message about interesting bird sighted in the area. The number of the hotline is (513)-521-AVIS.

For information about membership in Indiana Audubon, write to Mrs. Shirley Keller, 22505 E. Maynard Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46227. For information about the Cincinnati Bird Club, call Peggy Gatch at (513)-831-3378.

Gifts to Oxbow

The employees of the Andrew Jergens Company sent Oxbow a donation of money they raised with their recycling program. From the generosity of the gift it seems that their recycling projects are very successful. So Oxbow thanks them and congratulates them at the same time.

A gift also arrived from the Seton High School environmental club, "SSEARTH" (Seton Students Environmentally Aware and Ready to Help). The club is in its second year. Oxbow invites SSEARTH members (and everyone else who is interested) to attend the monthly meetings and field trips.

The Helen Steiner Rice Foundation will give Oxbow Inc. \$10,000 a year for the next two years. The gift is in honor of artist and naturalist John Ruthven. The money will be used to provide better access to the Oxbow area for school children. Local school teachers interested in having their students visit the Oxbow should talk with someone in the Speaker's Bureau.

Window decal

Window decals with the Oxbow logo will be printed soon. Sandy Schnur designed the decal and Mary Beth Cluxton (at the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History) used a scanner and computer to produce the camera-ready version that will be sent to the printer. Thank you, Sandy and Mary Beth!

You will receive your decal with a future number of *Wetland Matters*.



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)-922-2443

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

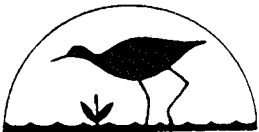
Speakers Bureau, Morris Mercer (513)-941-2534

Volunteer Coordinator,

John Getzendanner (812)-537-5728

Newsletter Steve Pelikan (513)-681-2574

Need a Speaker? Give Us a Call!



P.O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

