

wetland matters



OXBOW, INC. NEWSLETTER

P. O. BOX 43391
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45243

Number 57 January-February 1996

Election of Board Members

Calendar

Meetings

9 January (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo Education Building. (Enter through the exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue.)

“Geology, Plants, and People” is the title of this evening’s presentation. The speaker is Dr. Meg Riestenberg from the Chemical and Physical Science Department of the College of Mount St. Joseph.

13 February (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow Meeting at 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.)

Dr. Gene Kritsky, from the Biology Department of the College of Mount St. Joseph will speak on “Tiger Beetles of Southwestern Ohio Waterways.” He will tell us about some of his ongoing studies in the Oxbow area as well.

Field Trips

30 January (Tuesday) 7:30 P.M. Oxbow Field Trip.

Morris Mercer and John Kline will lead this evening field trip to Shawnee Lookout Park. Meet them at the golf club house for a winter’s night walk. This could be a “cool” evening. For more information, call Morris at 513-941-2534.

11 February (Sunday) 8:00 A.M. Oxbow Field Trip.

Meet Ned Keller at the upper parking lot at the Shawnee Lookout boat ramp. You’ll want a Hamilton County Parks motor vehicle sticker. Ned will be looking for all sorts of wildlife as well as the earliest signs of spring.

Elections are held for Oxbow’s Board of Trustees each January. This year, the elections will be held at the meeting at the Cincinnati Zoo’s Education Building, on January 9th at 7:30. Board members serve 3 year terms and approximately 1/3 of the board is elected each year.

If you plan to nominate someone to serve on the board, call Oxbow’s president Norma L. Flannery. She is serving as the nominating committee this year. Although nominations are accepted from the floor, it would be easier to have all the names in advance so we can prepare ballots.

Big Swamp

Oxbow members Albert and Debora Lane wrote to report on their recent trip to one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the world — Brazil’s Pantanal. Threatened by development into cattle ranches, some of the Pantanal is still wild. It is home to a huge variety of birds (Rhea, Hyacinth Macaws, Storks, Ibis, Kingfishers and Herons) and other animals: Tamantua (Giant Anteaters), Capybaras, and Caiman.

The Lanes’ trip was led by Doug Trent of Focus on Nature Tours. They report that Mr. Trent’s tour was very well organized and run. Doug grew up in South America, speaks Portuguese and Spanish perfectly, and is extremely knowledgeable about the natural history of South America. The Lanes recommend his services to other Oxbow members interested in South America and especially the in Pantanal.

A representative from FONT will be present at the Adventure Travel Expo held at the Convention Center in Cincinnati on this winter.

**IF YOU COULD FLY
WOULD YOU WINTER IN CINCINNATI?**

AT LEAST 100 BIRD SPECIES DO!

**A BIRDER’S GUIDE
TO THE CINCINNATI TRISTATE
BY ROBERT FOLZENLOGEN**

AT BOOKSTORES & NATURE CENTERS

Oxbow Memorials

In Memory of

Larry M. Bell
Heather Betz
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Samuel Blesi, Jr.
Charles Cecil
Dale Durbin
Dale Durbin
Mary Louise Early
Frank "Elm" Hays
Lacy Kiser
Mildred Kramer
Audrey Warburton Kyle
Ivan Lindren, M.D.

Dr. Walter W. Lippert
McGee Milazzo
Mrs. Alfred Schlomeus
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Smokey Wolfram

Donor

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Noll
Peggy and Fred Gatch
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Cheryl Winslow-Devine, D.V.M.
Peggy Ann Gatch
Marti and Mike Capizzi
Alan Kohlhaas, M.D.
and Lynn Ryan, M.D.
Constance Fox, M.D.
Cheryl Winslow-Devine, D.V.M.
Mary Alice and Dave Crouch
Ann M. Keene
Cheryl Winslow-Devine, D.V.M.

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 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.

Field Notes Morris Mercer

Once again autumn came to the Oxbow. One October evening I met some of the Western Hills Country Club Garden Club members for a field trip into the Oxbow area. The evening was ideal with the temperature in the 60s and a mostly clear sky.

We made our way back to the Beaver Pond on a fairly dry, but rough, road. About halfway back I set up the scope for a closer look at several Great Blue Herons standing in the field of soybean stubble.

It was in the bean field that we took time out to watch a falcon fly his Peregrine. He said the bird was young and it was doubtful it would make a kill but anyway it was breath-taking to watch the falcon fly. What speed, what grace! The swift flying Peregrine got the attention of many birds. A cloud of redwings took to the wing as the falcon passed over the tree line along the Beaver Pond.

There were several heron in the shallow water at the edge of the Beaver Pond. Double-crested Cormorants were busy coming and going from the water while others rested in the cottonwood trees.

Our next stop was the big bend of the Oxbow. Here again we found many Great Blue Heron in the shallow water. Across from us an immature Black-crowned Night-heron hunted for a snack before calling it a day. Five mallards rested on a log. A Wood Duck spoke up as it flew across the lake. (I always enjoy the cry of the Wood Duck.) With the aid of the 'scope we saw Turkey Vultures coming in to roost on their favorite tower at the C.G.&E plant over along the Ohio.

This was a beautiful autumn evening. A gentle breeze from the southwest rustled the corn's brown, dry leaves. The few clouds took on the color from the after-glow of the setting sun. As twilight closed in we took yet another look across the valley, as the breeze seemed to whisper its autumn farewell.

Saturday morning, October 14th, Jim Simpson and I joined Steve Pelikan on the Oxbow field trip. The three of us were the only ones to show up for the trip. (The fact that it had been raining all morning could have kept the crowd down.) Steve had seen a Yellow Rail and a Sedge Wren; neither species had been recorded at the Oxbow before. The three of us made a couple trips around the inside bend of the Oxbow. We saw a Sedge Wren, but we couldn't find the Yellow Rail again. We did see a number of Soras and several Meadowlarks. We were walking in tall grass and I doubt we would have been wetter if we'd fallen in the lake.

On Saturday, November 4th I joined Sally O'Hern and 35 members of the Earth Club from Harrison Elementary School for a look at the Oxbow area. We made a trip to the Oxbow in Indiana, crossed over the river into Kentucky and back to Ohio. We saw Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawks, a few ducks, lots of crows and several Ring-billed Gulls. We crossed Lost Bridge, and several students asked how the bridge got its name. I told the stories I'd read in Marjorie Burress' book *It happened 'Round North Bend*.

We stopped at Shawnee Lookout Park, and hiked up Miami Fort Trail. The trail was extra pretty all covered with leaves. Many of the leaves were from paw-paw trees. About halfway up the hill we walked through a passing snow shower. I don't know who enjoyed the snow more, the children or me. We all enjoyed seeing deer along the way.

The trip back to school was fun. We went over Cliff Road, and it was like an aerial view from the bus. Looking out over the big north bend of the Ohio and the hills of Kentucky was extra nice on a fall morning.

Would you believe there was another "first" at the Oxbow that morning? A White Ibis! I didn't see the bird until Monday, when Steve Pelikan and I watched it in the shallows at the end of the Oxbow lake. It was strange to see a White Ibis without palm trees around. There were Greater Yellowlegs, Wood Duck, Mallards, and Hooded Mergansers in the area as well.

November 11th Jim Simpson and I made a trip into the Oxbow. When we started a light rain was falling, the wind was strong, and the temperature near 60. We saw Ring-billed Gulls, Bufflehead, Coot, and Mallards. We checked the CG&E tower for vultures and were surprised to see four Black Vultures in place of the usual Turkey Vultures.

On the Miami Fort Trail at Shawnee Lookout we found many birds feeding on wild grapes. Robins, towhee, junco, titmice, chickadees and many White-throated Sparrows. One of the white-throats was an albino.

The wind was still strong, the temperature down to 30, and the rain had changed to sleet. About time to head home.

Fall has been nice around the Three Rivers, but now I'm looking forward to winter at the Oxbow. Don't miss being out at this great time of year.

