



OXBOW, INC

Save the Oxbow Society

MATCHING FUNDS GROW RAPIDLY IN SEPTEMBER

Art Wiseman - Treasurer

The great interest in protecting the Oxbow from destruction and in assisting Oxbow, Inc. to lead this crusade continues as strong as ever. New names have been added to the membership list and financial assistance has been received almost daily through September. At the halfway point in the campaign to match the \$10,000 S.W. McIntire challenge-grant, over 75 new members have been enrolled. Over \$6,000 from both new and "old" members has been added to the matching funds. You will recall that Mr. McIntire specified the funds be new money, not merely the same dues or the repeat of a contribution from the past year. About \$1,000 of the money received did not qualify as matching funds and was applied to the land acquisition account.

After a slow start in July and August, fund raising activities in September started with a "giant step" in the form of a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Bassett who donated 15 shares of Taft Broadcasting stock. After fees and taxes, the sale of the Bassetts' stock netted Oxbow, Inc. \$2,230.42. We greatly appreciate the Bassetts' interest and their financial support.

In case you feel that small contributions are ineffective, let me point out that 82 contributions which ran from \$10 to \$100 and included one \$500 check, averaged \$40.12. When combined, they totaled \$3,290 which is more than half of what was collected to match the McIntire grant. Therefore, we are very pleased to receive small contributions as well as larger ones. As one young naturalist who works locally said, "I want to save all areas, but rather than give \$10 or \$25 to several organizations across the country, I decided to give one large (for me it is large) donation here in my own area". His check was for \$500. Don't be afraid that your donation is "too small" to count. Every dollar helps!!!

This also applies to new members. Several of our current members have contributed a gift membership to a friend or relative. One member contributed \$20 as a gift membership to an old friend who, in turn, sent us a check for \$100 because they too wanted to help save the Oxbow. Similarly, a lady sent a membership to an out-of-town brother who then passed our brochure on to a cousin. The cousin is associated with a large brewery and he hopes to present Oxbow, Inc. to his company which may, in turn, make an "industrial strength" contribution. Another gentleman asked for brochures so he could approach his colleagues about joining Oxbow, Inc. There are more stories but I think these make the point. Won't you approach your friends to see if they wish to join? Perhaps you would prefer to give them a gift membership. Christmas is just around the corner and this suggestion could save a lot of worry and shoe leather.

Finally, let me thank all of you who have recruited new members and who have made contributions which were very generous. We are all working toward a common goal and need help to complete the job. By our next Newsletter I hope to report that we have not only matched the grant, but have gone over the top. Thanks to each and every one of you for your interest and support. Remember, all contributions to Oxbow, Inc. are tax deductible.



FALL NOTES

Have you felt it? The season is a changin'. Maple, birch, oaks and hemlock are dropping their autumn leaves. Mornings are tipped with the first crisp winds of promised winter. Dewy mists muffle the tramp of feet reluctantly returning to school. Now is the time that the birds on sub-arctic Canadian breeding grounds feel the stirrings in the wind. Migrating restlessness shudders through the flocks.

Fall migration has begun. Herons, hawks, eagles, falcons, hummers, swifts crows and swallows will travel by day. Rails and most songbirds will journey by night. Others, such as the loons, ducks, gulls, geese, plovers, sandpipers and terns will fly by either night or day. For them, where, rather than when, is more important. Waterfowl and shorebirds have less choice of habitat than do land birds. Tired wings seek the refuge of a safe sanctuary where they may rest and feed until mysterious urgings pick them up and send them on again.

It is this season that reminds us why it is we've pledged ourselves to protect the Oxbow area from exploitation. The waters of the Oxbow provide an instinctive age-old layover for migrating shorebirds and waterfowl, one they have come to rely on. If, upon some seasonal return, a steel and concrete industrial complex should stand in place of this staging area, no bird would stop to question. Fighting hunger and exhaustion, the circling flocks would merely fly on, extending their search for a safe refuge.

Some would make it. Many would not.

Will you help us save the Oxbow?

OHIO RIVER REDEVELOPMENT - A 20 YEAR PLAN

In Cincinnati City Hall Council Chamber, on the evening of September 16, 1987, Ned Keller and Dave Styer spoke in behalf of Oxbow, Inc. before the Ohio Riverfront Redevelopment Task Force.

The task force is composed in part of Directors of the Ohio Departments of Development, Health, Transportation, Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency; representatives of all the counties (14) which border the Ohio River; four members of the Ohio Senate and four members of the Ohio House of Representatives.

Riverfront is defined to include the Ohio River, its shorelines, adjacent flood plains and the counties contiguous to the Ohio River.

One of the goals of the task force establishes the Ohio River Region as an effective steward of its natural resources. An initiative is to identify and protect ecologically significant land. Quoting from the task force draft report, "Ecologically significant land includes those areas which are unique in flora and/or fauna or those which are supporting endangered or threatened flora or fauna species. These lands are generally considered irreplaceable, cannot be "engineered" by human efforts and have long term implications for abundance and diversity of species. As stewards of our environment we must maintain and, if possible, improve the ecologically significant land that will provide sustenance to this and future generations.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- o The Oxbow area, at the mouth of the Great Miami River bordering Indiana, an area rich in geological, archeological and anthropological history, and an area that provides an agricultural flood plain and staging area for seasonal migrations of waterfowl."

Oxbow, Inc. is pleased that the task force is aware of the Oxbow and that it recognizes the uniqueness of this irreplaceable land. We look to Mr. Joseph J. Sommer, Director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and an important member of the task force, to keep the Oxbow area a high priority for protection as they work towards the fulfillment of this strategic twenty-year plan.

F Y I

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens donated booth space to Oxbow, Inc. during their "Wildlife Weekend". We appreciate having been part of the festivities and wish to thank them for giving us the opportunity of spreading the Oxbow word to the many people who came and enjoyed.

The Speakers' Bureau is doing a good job of spreading the Oxbow word also. Groups that have used the service this summer are the Isaac Walton League, Hamilton; Sierra Club Conservation Group; Cincinnati Color Slide; Cincinnati Wildflower Preservation Society; Scoutmaster's Round Table, Kuliga District; Fernbank Garden Club and the Southern Ohio Protective Dog & Game Club.

Frank Marnell, a local tax attorney, has joined the Speakers' Bureau and has become a very active participant. Thanks for volunteering your time Mr. Marnell.

Ralph Scott, who has spent the last 15 years perfecting his own system for photographing birds as they spread their wings to land, has donated two color prints of birds in flight to Oxbow, Inc. A house wren carrying insects in its bill is the subject of one print; a goldfinch about to land on a thistle is the other. Both 16" x 20" prints display the grace and beauty of birds in flight. The cost for each print is \$40. Proceeds will go into the land acquisition fund.

We thank Ralph for his generosity and applaud his desire to assist Oxbow, Inc.

A local permit has been granted a land owner allowing the establishment of a gravel pit on 71 acres near Hardintown, Ind. on the western side of the Oxbow lake. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources must approve the project. We ask our Indiana members to write to Mr. James Ridenour, Director, IDNR suggesting that, if permission is granted, the Department stipulate that the work be done to the ecological benefit of the area and its wildlife.

MEETINGS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 7:30 P.M. Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education Building. Enter through the Exit gate on Erkenbrecher Avenue. Stewart Welsh, Deputy Director, Hamilton County Parks, will present a program with artifacts about the Prehistoric Indian cultures of Hamilton County.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 7:30 P.M. Greendale Cabin, Greendale, Indiana. The speaker will be Stan Stuary, Indiana Soil and Water Conservationist. Mr. Stuary will talk about the new Farm Bill and its effects on area wetlands.



FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, 8 A.M. GILMORE POND. Take Rt. 4 north of I-275. Turn right onto Bypass 4. Take second road to the left (Symmes Rd.). Go 1/2 mile and park across the road from the water tower. Meet Dave Styer for this Audubon sponsored field trip. 513-772-4395.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS ANNUAL BIRD COUNT.

Help count birds in the Ohio parks. Call the Hamilton County Park District's volunteer office at 513-851-4734 to sign up to participate in your favorite park or for more information. Park motor vehicle permit required.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH, WESTERN HAMILTON COUNTY BIRD COUNT.

This is a Bird Club project to inventory all birds within a 15 mile diameter circle. \$3.00 National Audubon Society participation fee required. Call Ned Keller to participate or for more information. 513-941-6497.

HAPPY HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ALL, AND MAY YOUR
BIRDING BE GOOD IN THE NEW YEAR!



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OXBOW, INC.

A non-profit 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 the 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 solicited and encouraged.

Individual	\$10	Organization/Club	\$25	Cornerstone	\$250
Family	\$15	Supporting	\$50	Sponsor	\$500
Contributing	\$25	Patron	\$100	Benefactor	\$1000

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