



P.O. Box 6552
Rochester, Minn. 55903

THE FOX DEN

Newsletter for Friends of Oxbow

www.friendsfoxbow.org

June / July 2010

OUR BEST SPRING FEST EVER!!



SPRING FEST 2010

Our 2010 Spring Fest was our most successful ever! Over 2500 people visited the park, were entertained, enjoyed the festivities, munched delicious food and relaxed.

New this year, a demonstration was put on by the Eagle Center from Wabasha. We also had our famous Lois Nash History of Oxbow horse & wagon ride, live music, balloon critters made to order, face & hair painting, many games, a wolf howling contest, miniature horse petting, and much, much more.

Returning by popular demand were the Lions Club of Byron, sponsoring the Build your Own Bird House or Feeder. The Lion's ran out of wood, so a lot of kids built feeders and boxes!

There was also spirited bidding on over 150 fine items available at our Silent Auction.

Friends wishes to thank our local businesses

for being so generous despite their restricted budgets. We really appreciate their support and hope you will too!

We also wish to thank all the volunteers who helped make our Fest so successful! It takes a lot of help to make it all work - parking assistants, cashiers, games helpers and "backstage hands", and those intrepid volunteers who tirelessly canvassed local businesses for items to put in our Silent Auction. We especially want to thank the Park staff, Uncle Tim's Balloons, the Miniature Horse caretakers, Dale Blanshan's music and the Eagle Center naturalists.

All proceeds from this event will go toward our Wildcat exhibit campaign. We are almost there and hope to be able to reach our financial goal by next year. Due to budget cuts however, it is uncertain at this time if there will be enough staff to build the exhibit next year.

About Our Organization

Friends of Oxbow's mission is to support the educational, environmental and recreational goals of Oxbow Park. Our Newsletter is published 6 times a year. Copy deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month prior to the publication date. All submissions are subject to editing. Copy may be submitted as typed copy to: Ruthann Yaeger, 5731 Co. Rd 105, Byron, MN 55920 or as email to:

friends@friendsofoxbow.org. The Friends board meets monthly at Oxbow Park Nature Center on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Friends Board Officers

President - Peggy Morris
Vice President - open
Secretary - Jean Davison
Treasurer - Ruthann Yaeger

Friends Board Members

Everett Beck	2-11
Loren Dehling	2-11
Chad Jorgensen	2-12
Marina Kemp	2-12
Jen Rand	2-11
Kristin Hjerleid	2-11
Dawn Zollman	2-12

Friends Web page

www.friendsofoxbow.org

Olmsted County Parks Information

www.co.olmsted.mn.us

Oxbow Park Hours

Park Grounds: 7 am -10pm

Nature Center & Zoo:

10 am to 4 pm daily

Nature Center, Zoo are closed for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day and Easter

Want to sponsor a zoo animal?

Go to:

www.friendsofoxbow.org

Programs and Events at the Parks

Oxbow Park

*In case of inclement weather, call 775-2451 for program details
All programs are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted*

Reptiles and Amphibians – Saturday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Come and learn more about some of the most misunderstood animals around. Learn about their natural history and eliminate some of your possible fears. You will have the opportunity to touch an example of each, and will be pleasantly surprised!

Feed the Bison – Saturday, June 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Bring the entire family out for a closer look at the majestic Plains Bison. You will learn about these marvelous beasts and get a close-up look at feeding time. A short hike is involved and accommodations can be made for non-hikers.

ROCHESTERFEST – Saturday, June 19

Scheduled animal feedings throughout the day - Bear at 10:00 a.m., River otters at 1:00 p.m., and Raptors at 3:00 p.m. As always, admission is free to all.

Feed the Wild Cats – Saturday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m.

Join park staff as we feed our resident cougar and bobcat. These are not your typical house cats, so there is no "Meow Mix" here!

Deer and Elk Feeding – Saturday, July 3 at 1:00 p.m.

A short hike over to the elk and deer pens will allow participants to get a closer look at these spectacular creatures. Come and learn about antlers, behavior, and possibly even get the chance to give them a treat! (Accommodations are made for non-hikers)

Feed the Bear – Saturday, July 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Our resident black bear is awake and hungry once again! Join us as we share some natural history facts about black bears. We will tempt her with a wide variety of foods. What will she eat first? Come to this program to find out!

Prairie Hike - Saturday, July 17 at 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a beautiful afternoon stroll through one of Oxbow's restored native prairies. A park naturalist will guide you on a short hike, discussing the benefits of native plants.

Tree identification - Saturday, July 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Let us share some basic tree identification tips with you! This "how to" class is great for anyone interested in learning about "trees and such." (Ages 8 and up)

Children's Zoo Time - Saturday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m.

This program is one you just can't miss. You'll get an up-close look at a few of our zoo critters (maybe even touch one), plus learn some interesting facts about the wild creatures that live in southern Minnesota. This will be great fun for the whole family.

Think 'Green' - Get Your Newsletter Electronically

Please help Friends of Oxbow save trees and other natural resources by receiving your newsletter by email (PDF). A big benefit to you is that you will always get it in full color. Postage and printing costs are taking their toll on Friends resources and those of our planet. These costs use donations that would otherwise go toward the interns, exhibits and other work we do. Under no circumstances will we ever sell our mailing list or send you fundraising pleas or other spam. By saving us postage, you will also be making an 'extra' donation to your park every other month!

Please send your name and email address to friends@friendsofoxbow.com. Thank you for supporting this very special park!

Chester Woods Programs

A \$5.00 daily or \$25.00 annual vehicle pass is required to enter Chester Woods Park. Call 287-2624 for program information, registration and in case of inclement weather. Programs are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted



Nature Walk - Sat., Jun 12th at 9:00 a.m.

Get some fresh air and enjoy an exciting morning hike. Led by Jim Peterson. Meet at the boat ramp.

Prairie Walk - Sun., Jun 13th at 3:00 p.m.

The park has several

types of prairie, and active management is improving the outlook for prairie plants and animals. Led by Joel Dunnette. Meet at the boat ramp.

Summer Solstice Hike - Sun Jun 20th at 9 am & 6 pm Hike the 2.4-mile Dam Overlook Trail and learn the history and the facts behind Chester Woods Park dam and Bear Creek reservoir. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a picnic at the Dam Overlook. Special accommodations can be made for senior participants by calling the Park Staff at 507-287-2624. Meet at the boat ramp. By presenting a Rochesterfest button the vehicle entry permit will be waived for the day.

Nature Walk - Sat., Jul 10th at 9:00 a.m.

Get some fresh air and enjoy an exciting morning hike at Chester Woods Park. Led by Nora Dooley and Ruthann Yaeger. Meet at the boat ramp.

Annual Butterfly Count- Sat., Jul 17th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Join Joel Dunnette and other volunteers for the 12th annual butterfly count. Meet at the boat ramp.

Aquatic Wonders - Tues Jul 27 6 PM Learn about the aquatic life of Minnesota including Dragon and Damselflies led by Joel Dunnette. Meet at the boat ramp. To be followed by:

Prairie Walk Join us at 7 PM to explore the wonders of one the largest prairies in SE Minnesota. Led by Jim Peterson. Meet at the boat ramp.

Star Gazing - Sat. Jul 31st at 8:30 p.m.

Join astronomer Don Borland for a fun, fact-filled evening exploring the heavens. Interesting slides, sky legend and lore, and powerful telescopes will all make for a perfect evening. Meet at picnic shelter #6.

Park Report by Celeste Lewis

Yes, spring is here and we have babies! As of 5/25 we have 3 fawns, 1 bison calf, and a baby porcupine.

Our campground opened on April 30 and has been busy every weekend since. All our picnic areas are open getting used regularly, as is our group camp. Spring classes are just finishing up this week and were full. Zoo visits by busloads of children are keeping staff on our toes!

Zollman zoo has a new red fox! Currently in quarantine, the fox will be out on display in June.

Thank you to all Friends of Oxbow for a very successful Spring Funfest 2010! This event brings lots of people to the park and much needed funds as well.

Meet Our New Intern

I'm Tony Nelson - originally from St. Cloud, MN, I'm attending St. Cloud State University, and only have one semester left to finish up my degree in Wildlife Biology. Previously I've held several different jobs including St. Cloud park maintenance, Caribou Coffee, livestock hoof trimming, event/wedding videography, managing a Hickory Farms kiosk, private contracting, and any job I can get outdoors. I did an internship with the MN Zoo last summer, and am excited about the new



experience that Oxbow Park has to offer. I have a strong passion for animals and teaching others about them. I would like to thank Friends of Oxbow for giving me this opportunity to continue my learning and provide for new experiences.

Oxbow Wish List

Just as they do in your own home, things eventually wear out and need to be replaced here at the park. Sometimes there isn't enough money to replace all of them.

For instance, the park's collection of snowshoes is really showing it's age, so if your children have outgrown their snowshoes, or you find you just don't use them much anymore, please consider donating those still in very good condition to Oxbow Park.

Check with staff (775-2451) before you bring your donation out to make sure it's still needed, and that someone will be here to receive it.

Thank you for thinking of your park!

FRIENDS OF OXBOW
PO Box 6552
ROCHESTER, MN 55903-6552

Friends of Oxbow

Yes, I'd like to be a Friend of this great Park!

<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	\$25 - 49	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
<input type="checkbox"/> Partner	\$50 - 99	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$100 - 249	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ranger	\$250 - 499	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$500 - 999	
<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropist	\$1000 - 4999	
<input type="checkbox"/> Director Circle	\$5000 and up	

Be sure to ask your company if it matches donations!
Name: _____

Address: (home or EMAIL - please print clearly)

City/State/Zip:

I prefer to receive my newsletter in color by email
I have entered my email address above

Make checks payable to Friends of Oxbow.

Mail to: Friends of Oxbow
PO Box 6552
Rochester, MN 55903

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Ever Wanted to Be a News Editor? Here's Your Chance!

As the volunteer editor of the FOX newsletter for many years, I have had the challenging and rewarding task of researching and writing park-related articles that might be of interest to our readers. It has been fun and educational for me and I hope, of interest to our readers as well.

Regretfully though, I find that increasing responsibilities in other areas have left me with too little time to give this newsletter the attention it deserves, so Friends is currently seeking a new volunteer editor to take over as of January 2011.

Being an editor involves researching topics of interest to readers, writing articles, and reviewing articles submitted by others for content, length, grammar, spelling, etc.

You also get to introduce new park staff, interns and seasonals to FOX readers.

This activity can easily be done at home if you have a computer and internet access (needed for researching topics from other sources and reviewing articles submitted to you electronically from Friends members).



MS Publisher is the program currently in use, but any publishing program would do. I would be happy to help anyone learn layout techniques if needed. If you or someone you know might be interested in pursuing this offer, please call

the park at 775-2451 or send an email note to friends@friendsofxbow.org

Image from: www.somacon.com/p4.php