

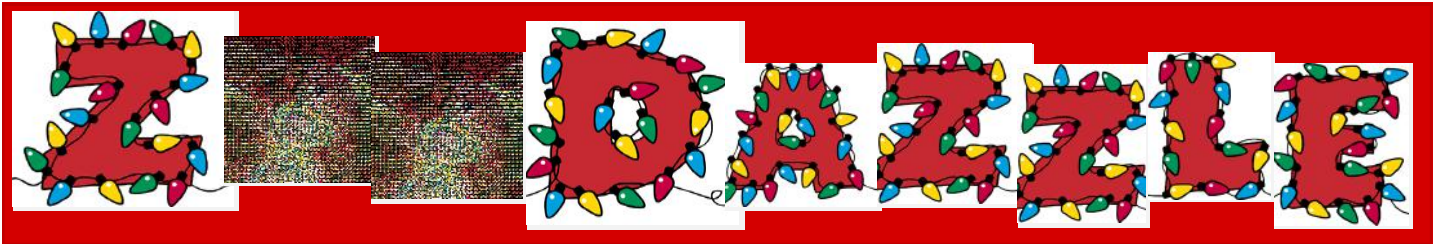


PO Box 6552
Rochester, Minn. 55903

THE FOX DEN

Newsletter for Friends of Oxbow www.friendsofoxbow.org

Dec 2010/Jan 2011



JOIN US FOR SOMETHING NEW THIS YEAR AT OXBOW! Mark your calendar for the evening of **Saturday, December 4, 2010, from 4pm to 7pm.** Stroll the boardwalk and be enchanted by the Christmas lights strung throughout the zoo. The critters will be modeling their new fur coats for winter.

There will be games for the kids and they can make a variety of fun, easy, nature-themed holiday decorations to take home with them. You can even do a little gift shopping, as FOX merchandise and maple syrup will be available for purchase. If you like, you can even get your gift wrapped!

If the weather cooperates by bringing in some snow, evening skiing and snowshoeing will also be featured. Warm up afterward with hot cider and some delicious snacks. For sure, there will be something for everyone! Come on out and join us in celebrating the wonder and beauty of the winter season! Admission is free for everyone!

Make This Quick & Easy Pinecone Bird Feeder

Don't forget our feathered friends this winter! Make a natural pinecone bird feeder for a fun and simple craft for "kids" of all ages. Make several and hang them from your trees outside as homemade outdoor ornaments.

What you'll need:

Pine cones	Paper plate	Butter knife
Scissors	Birdseed	Ribbon or yarn
Smooth peanut butter		

How to make it:

1. Cut a long length of yarn or ribbon to hang the bird feeder.
2. Tie the ribbon in a knot around the pine cone near the top (about 3 sections down).
3. Tie a loop in the other end of the ribbon.
4. Use the knife to get a large clump of peanut butter on the paper plate. Spread peanut butter inside the pine cone and around the edges.
5. Roll the pine cone in the birdseed that is on the plate.
6. Hang the bird feeder on the tree.
7. Enjoy watching the birds eat their treat!



About Our Organization

Friends of Oxbow's mission is to support the educational, environmental and recreational goals of Ox-bow 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: Julie Manville-Camp, 5731 Co. Rd 105, Byron, MN 55920 or as email to: foxdennewsletter@gmail.com. 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 Members

Everett Beck
Jean Davison
Loren Dehling
Kristin Hjerleid
Chad Jorgensen
Marina Kemp
Peggy Morris
Jen Rand
Ruthann Yaeger
Dawn Zollman

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

Want to sponsor a zoo animal?

Go to:
www.friendsofoxbow.org

Dec/Jan Programs and Events at the Parks

ZooDazzle—Saturday, December 4th, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Oxbow Park—see front page article for details.

Park Report by Celeste Lewis

September 23, 2010 brought massive amounts of rain to southeastern Minnesota, resulting in devastating flooding throughout many areas and communities. Oxbow Park was no exception. The park experienced record flooding, prompting staff to consider building an ark to take the animals to safety! Fortunately, nothing that drastic was required but staff did have some anxious moments as the water rose and road access was completely closed off to the zoo, leaving the park caretaker and campground hosts stranded for a day.

The flood waters required that the farm animals be evacuated to higher ground, but the rest of the zoo escaped any serious damage and all the animals were safe and sound in their pens. That being said, the month of October brought



beautiful weather making clean-up that much easier (more flood photos can be found at www.friendsofoxbow.org).

Approximately 280 hours of staff time and 1450 hours of volunteer time, so far, have gone into flood clean-up. Even with this clean-up taking a huge chunk of staff time, we still had zoo business and class as normal. Needless to say, it has been a very busy fall, but then again it always is!



Just remember even though the days are getting shorter and cooler, that doesn't mean you need to hibernate! Come out and visit the beautiful critters here at Zollman Zoo (and I don't mean the staff!).

Word search puzzle hidden sentence: ONE KIND WORD CAN WARM THREE WINTER MONTHS

The Critter Column by Marissa Vrieze

Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*)



In April 2010, the zoo welcomed a new male red fox from Sandstone, MN. This new little guy is just over a year old. He was placed on display with our existing female red fox this summer and they make quite the pair! They were fairly standoffish at first, which is normal, but are now getting along very well in their exhibit.

Red foxes are typically reddish-brown in color, with black legs, feet, and the back of their ears, and a white belly. But believe it or not, red foxes can actually vary in color. While most are auburn in color,

they can also be golden, brown, or even completely black! They typically weigh between eight and fifteen pounds, and are slightly larger than their very close relative, the gray fox. They have a relatively short lifespan in the wild, only two to four years, because they are largely preyed upon by coyotes, but in captivity they typically live between twelve and fourteen years.

Red foxes are generally solitary animals and can be found throughout most of the United States and Canada in forests, mountains, grasslands, and even deserts. They are mostly carnivorous, eating mice, rabbits, birds, and other small game animals, but may also eat fruits and vegetables on occasion. The red foxes at Oxbow are also fed whole eggs occasionally for variety.

Red foxes hunt between dusk and dawn, using their acute eyesight and hearing to find their prey. Although they are canines, (more closely related to dogs) they are cat-like hunters, stalking and eventually pouncing on their prey. Unlike many other predators, foxes sometimes cache their food (meaning they will bury it and come back for it later). You may notice this behavior during your next visit to the zoo, because both of our red foxes do this often!

If you have been out to see the red foxes lately, you may have noticed a musky, skunk-like smell coming from their exhibit. This smell comes from their urine and they use it to mark their territory. In the wild, red foxes generally control an area of about one square mile, and although they are fairly small, they can still run incredibly fast, about 30 miles per hour--that's as fast as Olympic sprinters! They can also jump about 15 feet in a single bound--that's further than a kangaroo!

Looking For A Winter Escape? By Julie Manville-Camp

How about curling up with a good book? Escape to a Minnesota that existed long before you were born in the fascinating story of Night Flying Woman. Artfully penned by Ignatia Broker, she recounts the story of her great-great grandmother, Night Flying Woman, a member of the Ojibway Indian tribe. You'll learn what Indian life was like before the white man settled Minnesota, what happened when the tribe was first introduced to the white strangers and "relocated" to the White Earth Reservation and what their life has been like since that time. This heart-warming story will teach you about the Ojibway philosophy of living, one that is as essential and meaningful today as it was in the past, and their tenets of respect—for the earth, for plant and animal life and for one another. A great read for young adults or for the whole family to read together. Available on-line from the Minnesota Historical Society at www.mnhs.org.



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!

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- Ranger \$250 - 499
- Sponsor \$500 - 999
- Philanthropist \$1000 - 4999
- Director Circle \$5000 and up

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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

Winter Fun Word Search Puzzle

Find and circle all of the winter-related words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining letters spell a secret message (See bottom of page 2 for the answer). Full puzzle solution can be found at www.friendsofowbow.org. Copyright ©2007 Livewire Puzzles (www.puzzles.ca).

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- BLACK ICE
- BLIZZARD
- BOOTS
- CARNIVAL
- CHRISTMAS
- COLD
- EGG NOG
- FIREPLACE
- FIREWOOD
- FOG
- FREEZE
- FROST
- GLOVES
- HAIL
- HEADBAND
- HIBERNATION
- HOCKEY
- HOLIDAYS
- ICE FISHING
- ICICLES
- KNITCAP
- LONG UNDERWEAR
- MITTENS
- OLYMPICS
- PARKA
- SCARF
- SEASON
- SKATES
- SKI DOO
- SKI PANTS
- SKIING
- SLED
- SLEET
- SLIPPERY
- SNOW CASTLE
- SNOW PLOW
- SNOW SHOVEL
- SNOW TIRES
- SNOWBALL
- SNOWBOARD
- SNOWFLAKE
- SNOWMAN
- SNOWSHOES
- SOLSTICE
- SOUP
- STEW
- STORM
- SWEATSHIRT
- TOBOGGAN
- VACATION
- WIND CHILL
- WOOL SOCKS