



P.O. Box 6552
Rochester, Minn. 55903

THE FOX DEN

Newsletter for Friends of Oxbow

www.friendsfoxbow.org

Jan/ Feb 2012

Prairie Dogs, Lynx, and Otters Oh My!

This past fall has been a busy one here at Zollman Zoo with the acquisition of thirteen new critters. The Canada Lynx, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs, and River Otters were purchased, from a game farm in northwestern Minnesota, by the Friends of Oxbow.

The two three year old otters that were purchased will join the two fourteen year olds that are currently on display. The introduction of the otters will be the most trying part. Even though otters are known to be social animals they are still very territorial. So the staff has written out plans on how the introductions will take place. Once the initial "getting to know you" phase is complete the otters should cohabitate just fine.

Black-tailed Prairie Dogs are always a lot of fun for visitors to watch as they scamper around, in and out of their holes. The aging prairie dog population here at the zoo has caused the numbers to dwindle in the exhibit. For this reason we decided that it was a good time to bring in some young ones to keep up the population. Staff decided on purchasing ten new prairie dogs and are currently over-wintering them in the barn. The decision was made that this



Photo By: Eric Weaver

would be best, not knowing whether they would actually have enough time to cache food for the winter and establish underground living quarters.

The final of the new critters is the beautiful eight month old male Canada Lynx. With the acquisition of this animal Zollman Zoo has now completed its collection of native Minnesota wild cats. The lynx is currently on display near the fishers and red fox. However its permanent home will be in the new wild cat exhibit that will be built the summer of 2012.

By Celeste Lewis



Photo By: Celeste Lewis

Friends of Oxbow Annual Meeting

Attention all Friends Members! Annual Meeting is schedule on Saturday February 18, 2012 at 10:00am. We will be discussing the Annual Financial Report, planning of the Wildcat Exhibit, upcoming and past events. Meeting will be held at Oxbow Park/Zollman Zoo Nature Center.

About Our Organization

The Friends of Oxbow mission is to support the educational, environmental and recreational goals of Oxbow Park. Our Newsletter is published six 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: Jen Rand 5731 Co. Rd 105, Byron, MN 55920 or email to: friends@friendsofowbow.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 of Directors

President - Peggy Morris
 Sec./Treas.- Ruthann Yaeger
 Everett Beck
 Jean Davison
 Loren Dehling
 Marina Kemp
 Jen Rand-Weaver

Friends Web page

www.friendsofowbow.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

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

Want to sponsor a zoo animal?

Go to:
www.friendsofowbow.org

Park Update

All picnic areas with the exception of Main have been closed for the winter months as has the campground. Staff has been busy trimming trees throughout the zoo and greater park area, the cross country ski trail is marked and the groomer is out awaiting the first abundant snowfall for visitors' enjoyment. The posts have also been placed on the east side of the zoo marking the 50' expansion that will accompany the building of the new wild cat exhibit next year.

One area of the greater parks that has endured a tremendous amount of attention over these past few months is the trail system. Park staff replaced the stairs climbing from second bridge to the Maple and North Meadow trail. The remaining trail system received extensive work by Work Force Development crews. The Work Force Development Center received federal funding to help employee those in need, by placing them in crews assisting in flood related clean-up projects. The trail system here endured tremendous damage due to 2010's heavy flooding rains. The Work Force Development crews have spent several months repairing the damage attained from this.

By: Celeste Lewis

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*

- ◆ There are no scheduled programs, but contact the Park for any changes

Chester Woods Park

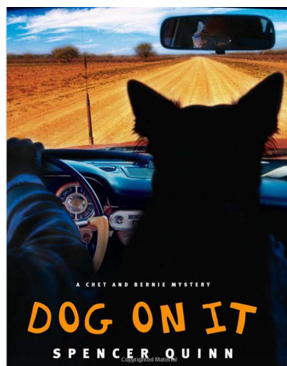
A \$5.00 daily or \$25.00 annual vehicle pass is required to enter Chester Woods Park. Call 287-2624 for program information, registration and in case of inclement weather. Programs are appropriate for all ages unless otherwise noted.

- ◆ There are no scheduled programs, but contact the Park for any changes

BOOK REVIEW

“Dog on It” by Spencer Quinn

If you like a good mystery and you love dogs, this is the book for you! The story is told from the perspective of Chet, a mutt who failed K-9 school. Chet is now a dedicated PI who lives and works with Bernie, owner of Little Detective Agency. Their first case is about a missing teenage girl and her developer dad. It won't take you long to become captivated by Chet's doggy ways. He is full of heart, prone to mischief and intensely loyal to Bernie. Bernie is also likable. There is everything a good mystery should have, suspense and intrigue. You also get a good look at the unbreakable bond between dog and their humans.



This is the first book in a series. So if you loved it and I think you will, you can get more of Chet and Bernie with “Hangs a Tail: A Chet and Bernie Mystery” and “To Fetch a Thief: A Chet and Bernie Mystery”. By: Peggy Morris

Girl Scout Project - "Mini-Raptor" Cage Silver Star

8 Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valley Girl Scouts, from St. John' the Evangelist and Lourdes schools, worked for several months on their Silver Award Project - building "Hooterville" an Aviary to house up to 4 mini-raptors at Oxbow Park. At the moment, 3 resident mini-raptors (Screech Owl, Saw-whet Owl and American Kestrel) are living in the office, each separately in small quarters with 3 solid wood walls and 1 wall with small dowel rods so they can see outside, yet not get loose or hurt.

The girls worked at one of the leaders houses with plans drawn up by Joel Lovejoy and much guidance from many parents. The girls did all of the actual work and learned about the use and safety needs of more than 10 power tools! They were taught about many things in small groups and in turn taught each other (with supervision, for safety sake) so they could learn about leading and teaching others...



Photo By: Mary Barry

By: Mary Barry

Eagle Scout Project - Sam Brust



Photo By: Celeste Lewis

Another wonderful project completed this summer, by a young man on his way to earning his Eagle Scout, was the face lift of the Beulah's outdoor classroom. Sam Brust of Rochester took on this project and ran with it. The outdoor classroom is located north east of the zoo parking lot and is used often during the spring – fall seasons for teaching. The new bench seats, landscaping, mulch, path, and seeding are remarkable.

By: Celeste Lewis

Think 'Green' - Get Your Newsletter Electronically

Please help Friends of Oxbow save trees and other natural resources by receiving your newsletter by email (PDF). You will get *The FOX Den* in color and with the postage and printing costs Friends will save makes more of your donation go towards the Zoo/Park.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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4

Jan/ Feb 2012

Happy New Year !

Things are always changing. Mother Nature showed us how summer changed into fall with frost and leaves slowly falling to the ground. Now we are seeing dark eyed juncos at bird-feeders. Change can be hard for some, but for the most part, it is a good thing.. Months ago you were sent a note that the newsletter will now be published quarterly. This changed from being published bi-monthly was asked of the Board by me. I know how important it is for members to be informed and updated on the comings and goings of the zoo and park. It's going to take several issues before I become comfortable putting the newsletter together.



Frosty greets Park/Zoo visitors during Zoodazzle

Photo By: Park Staff

Please email me at jen_rand@yahoo.com with photos and subject ideas. Also, last year we changed from having a Fall Halloween Fest to a winter Zoodazzle celebration. It was so great last year, we add on a day. Lastly, Friends of Oxbow is in need of Board members. We all have busy lives, but if any of you have a few hours a month to attend meetings and help with special events, Friends needs you. Please contact President Peggy Morris for details. *By: Jen Rand-Weaver*