



PO. Box 6552
Rochester, Minn. 55905

FRIENDS OF OXBOW

www.friendsfoxbow.org

June / July 2009

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!



First Prize, won by Jeremy Schulz of Rochester. Original photo will be displayed at the park.

Friends of Oxbow proudly announced the winners of our first Photo Contest at our 2009 Spring Fest. The Grand Prize winner was Jeremy Schulz from Rochester. Second Prize went to Josh Worisek and Third Prize to Emily Boughey, both also from Rochester. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Keith Garvens, Byron; Darcy Sime, Alden, MN; Linda Walbruch, Mantoville; and Joann Karges, Rochester.

The Grand Prize winner received a \$100 gift certificate from Best Buy. Second and Third place winners received \$50 and \$25 certificates, respectively. The prizes were awarded at a small ceremony during Friends 2009 Zollman Spring Fest on May 16th. All seven winners will have their photos reproduced in the 2010 Oxbow Park fundraising calendar that Friends will have ready for sale this Fall.

Friends wishes to thank the following judges for volunteering their time and expertise: Karen Davis of Photos by KID and Oxbow photo safaris, Denise Dupras of One Woman's Nature, Elizabeth Nida from the Post Bulletin, and Ken Quattrin, videographer from Heartland Tours and Travel. They met in May to pick the three top prizes plus four Honorable Mentions. The judges had a very difficult time deciding on the winners! They all commented on the high quality of the entries.

How did they pick the winners? The entries were judged on several factors. Technical aspects such as crisp focus and eyeshine (people and animal photos); composition, or the arrangement of subjects within the picture; color and contrast; and importantly, how well the photo expresses what Oxbow park is all about.

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 or revision. Copy may be submitted as typed copy to: Ruthann Yaeger, 5731 Co. Rd 105, Byron, MN 55920 or as an email to: ryegr@q.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 Officers

President - Peggy Morris
Vice Pres. -Dory Gardner
Secretary - Ruthann Yaeger
Treasurer -Chuck Pavesich

Friends Board Members

Everett Beck	2-11
Jean Davison	2-10
Loren Dehling	2-11
Cindy Krueger	2-10
Jen Rand	2-11
Kristin Hjerleid	2-11
Dawn Zollman	2-11

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

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

Want to sponsor a zoo animal?

Go to:

www.friendsofowbow.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*

BEAR FEEDING – Saturday June 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for natural history facts about black bears, and watch her eat. What will she eat first?!

CHILDREN'S ZOO TIME – Saturday June 13 at 10:00 a.m.

We will let you get an up-close look at a few of our zoo critters. Great for the whole family!

ROCHESTERFEST ACTIVITIES – Saturday June 20

Join us for critter feedings as we help celebrate RochesterFest - bear feeding will be at 10:00 a.m., otters at 1:00 p.m. and the raptors at 3:00 p.m.

BIRDS OF PREY – Saturday June 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Come and learn a little about Minnesota's native birds of prey. You may be able to view one up-close.

BISON FEEDING – Saturday July 4 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for our nations birthday, and come face to face with North America's largest land mammal.

FEED THE CRITTERS – Saturday July 11 at 3:00 p.m.

Join park staff and watch river otters squabble over fish or a hawk tear into a "fresh kill!"

SNAKE FEEDING – July 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Learn more about the behavior of these fascinating critters. How do they eat food bigger than they are ?

NATURALIST CHOICE – July 25 at 1:00 p.m. What will be on the naturalists mind today? It's a complete surprise but it will surely entertain and amuse!

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.*

Moonlight Paddle – Sat. Jun 6th at 8:45 p.m.

Bring your own canoe/kayak, life preservers required. Will cancel for thunderstorms. Launch at 9 PM

Friends of Chester Woods Senior Day - Sat., Jun 9th. 9 a.m. to noon.

Nature walks, presentations, tours of park by wagon, fishing, or just watching the lake, there's something for everyone! Please register with Park Staff at 287-2624. Meet at picnic shelter 1.

Nature Walk - Sat., Jun 13th at 9:00 a.m.

Get some fresh air and enjoy an exciting nature hike at Chester Woods Park. Meet at the boat ramp.

Summer Solstice Hike – Sun, Jun 21st at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Hike the 2.4-mile Dam Overlook Trail and learn the history and facts behind Chester Woods Park dam.

Double Feature: Aquatic Wonders - Tues Jun 23rd at 6:00 p.m. and Prairie Walk - 7 p.m.

Learn about the aquatic life of Minnesota including Dragon and Damselflies. Meet at the boat ramp. Join us at 7 to explore the wonders of one the largest prairies in SE Minnesota. Meet at the boat ramp.

Birds of Prey- Sat., Jun 27th at 7:00 p.m.

A raptor guest from Oxbow Park will be visiting. Meet at the Kisrow Classroom in the campground.

Nature Walk- Sat., Jul 11th at 9:00 a.m.

Enjoy an exciting morning hike at Chester Woods Park. Meet at the boat ramp.

Moonlight Paddle– Sat., Jul 11th at 8:45 p.m.

Bring your own canoe/kayak, life preservers required. Will cancel for thunderstorms. Launch at 9 PM

Annual Butterfly Count- Sat., Jul 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The 11th annual butterfly count. A great time to learn more about the butterflies. Meet at the boat ramp.

Naturalist Choice- Sat., Jul 25th at 7:00 p.m.

An evening of discovery. An Oxbow naturalist may bring along a few critters. Meet at the Kisrow Classroom in the campground.

More Winners From the Photo Contest



Second prize (at left) was taken by Josh Worisek and third prize (above) was submitted by Emily Boughey, both from Rochester. Come down to the park to see these photos and others!

New Friends Intern



Our new Friends intern this spring is William (Will) Moor. "I applied to Oxbow Park for my internship so that I could encounter different experiences than a veterinary clinic could offer. After this internship, I will be graduating from RCTC with a degree in Veterinary Technology.

"After graduation, I plan to continue working for my current employer in Chatfield while searching for other opportunities in the field of animal research. I live in Nodine, MN with my wife Serena and 8 month-old son Maverick and hope to spend more time with them. I would also like to volunteer some of my time at Oxbow park because the experience here has been great and has exceeded my expectations. I will never forget it, and wish to thank Friends of Oxbow for making this internship possible!"

Park Report , cont'd

that are on loan from Bob Eustice.

We have a beautiful new Replica Bald Eagle's nest on display now across from the Bald Eagle exhibit (see article next pg). It makes a wonderful addition to the newly completed raptor exhibit.

Park Report by Celeste Lewis, Naturalist

Spring has been as busy as ever here at the park. Whether staff is busy blowing out water lines, repairing infrastructure, or prepping the zoo for the busy summer months there is definitely not a dull moment during this crazy time of year! Spring classes are underway and schools are taking advantage of the great location and reasonable cost of our nature classes.

The good thing about this time of year is the fact that we begin getting our seasonal staff back to help out with part of the workload. This summer we are happy to announce that Clarissa Josselyn has returned as our six-month naturalist, and both Bob Fitch and Jeremy Baumbach are our three-month maintenance employees. Will Moor started on April 6 as one of the three Friends of Oxbow interns that will be here this summer. We also have Dean and Dot Worden back this season as our campground hosts. The campground officially opened on May 1 this year and will remain open until the night of October 3.

The zoo has kept us really busy this spring with a few new arrivals. We recently acquired a young pair of pygmy X goats from Ed Kuisle that make a wonderful addition to our domestic exhibits. Also, the long waited wolf pups are finally here, but they will remain in quarantine for a couple of months until they have been fully vaccinated and are large enough to display.

We also have two young Holstein calves again this summer
Cont'd in left column

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!

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

Be sure to ask if your company matches donations!

Name:

Address:

C/S/Zip:

Make checks payable to Friends of Oxbow.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FRIENDS OF OXBOW

JUNE / JULY 2009

The Eagle Has Landed!



Well, not *that* Eagle exactly, but a huge eagle's nest has! Thanks to Jason Schluttner, who built the nest as an Eagle Scout project, we now have an accurate and beautifully crafted replica right next to the very birds who would make that kind of nest. Come on down and see it and all the other new things now showing at your park!

2009 Zollman Spring Fest - Best Ever



Friends 2009 Zollman Zoo Spring Fest was an enormous success! The Wolf howling contest had over 50 contestants and our Silent Auction raised more than twice as much as last year's.

The magician, wagon rides, miniature horses, Lion's Club bird boxes and musicians were enjoyed by nearly 2000 people! Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and businesses for making it all happen!