



P.O. Box 6552  
Rochester, Minn. 55903

# THE FOX DEN

Newsletter for Friends of Oxbow

[www.friendsfoxbow.org](http://www.friendsfoxbow.org)

Oct / Nov 2010

## There's Something Fishy Going on at Oxbow!



If you have visited the Nature Center recently, you may have wondered why one corner of it is now painted blue. This area will soon be the home of a fine new aquarium showcasing native Minnesota fish.

Thanks to the efforts of FOX intern Beth Twaddle, who worked with Colleen Drumheller of United Pet Group, the company Marineland Tetra donated a 265 gallon tank, lighting, heater, two large filter systems, some decorations, and even water treatment and fish food! The value of this astoundingly generous donation was over \$2700. The remaining decorations for the tank were purchased at wholesale value from Eric Johnson of Rent-a-Reef.com.

Park Director, Kevin Crilly is in the exciting process of selecting exactly which species will be represented, and plans include various panfish species such as sunfish, and maybe some member of the bass family. The aquarium will be placed in the Nature Center in front of the blue wall, with educational information next to it.

A heavy metal frame has been constructed to bear the weight of the tank which, when full of water, will weigh well over a ton. Plants and rocks from around the area will also be used to provide a realistic background for the fish. There are several stages of preparation and water changes necessary before the fish are placed in it, but the first stage will begin in early October. It will take several weeks to condition the water, rocks and decorations before the fish can be safely added. Be sure to come in and take a look at our newest exhibit!

*The picture above is an illustration from the internet and is not a picture of the actual Oxbow aquarium.*

## Zollman Memorial Dedication & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

FOX celebrated its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner this month and a grand time was had by all. Volunteers contributed over 4000 hours to Oxbow Park last year, and are on track to increase that amount this year. A nice dinner was catered by the Bear's Den in Byron and gift certificates to contributing area businesses were given as door prizes to three lucky attendees.

Scott Nelson (right), the sculptor who donated his time to create the bronze bust of Dr. Zollman, gave a fascinating presentation explaining



how it was done and brought with him the various stages that the sculpture must go through before becoming a bronze. It's a much more complicated process than many people realized!

The highlight of the evening was the grand unveiling of the finished sculpture, and it is magnificent! Local newspaper reporters were present, and champagne was provided by the Morris family to make a toast to the memory of Dr. Zollman. Several members of the Zollman family were in attendance, making it a very special evening, indeed.

**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: Ruthann Yaeger, 5731 Co. Rd 105, Byron, MN 55920 or 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 of Directors**

President - Peggy Morris  
 Everett Beck  
 Jean Davison  
 Loren Dehling  
 Kristin Hjerleid  
 Marina Kemp  
 Chad Jorgensen  
 Jen Rand  
 Ruthann Yaeger  
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**Friends Web page**

[www.friendsofoxbow.org](http://www.friendsofoxbow.org)

**Olmsted County Parks Information**

[www.co.olmsted.mn.us](http://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.friendsofoxbow.org](http://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*

**CHILDREN'S ZOO TIME – Saturday, October 2 at 10:00**

This program is one you just can't miss. We will let you get an up-close look at a few of our zoo critters (maybe even touch one), plus learn some interesting things about the wild creatures that live in southern Minnesota.

**T-SHIRT BACKPACKS – Saturday, October 9 at 1:00**

Come learn how to make an old T-shirt into a new backpack. This fun and simple craft is the perfect way to recycle your favorite t-shirt. You **must** bring an old T-shirt to participate. (Ages 4 and up)

**BISON FEEDING – Saturday, October 16 at 1:00**

Bring the entire family out for a closer look at the majestic Plains Bison at feeding time. A short hike is involved, and accommodations can be made for folks needing a ride to the bison pen. Dress for cold conditions!

**OTTER FEEDING – Saturday, October 23 at 1:00**

The otters eat, you watch! Who will you root for, the otters or the minnows? This popular program promises to inform and entertain!

**NATURALIST CHOICE – Saturday, October 30 at 10:00**

Let us pick a topic that is relative to the day you visit. It is sure to be fun!

**RAPTOR FEEDING – Saturday, November 6 at 3:00**

Spend the afternoon learning interesting facts about some of our area's most common birds of prey. You'll also enjoy watching them eat!

**NATURALIST CHOICE – Saturday, November 13 at 1:00 - As above****PINECONE TURKEYS - Saturday, November 20 at 1:00**

As Thanksgiving is near, come and join in making a fun, festive decoration for your table. These turkeys will almost be as big a hit as the one in the oven! (Ages 3 & up)

**DEER / ELK – Saturday, November 27 at 1:00**

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

## 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 the 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](mailto:friends@friendsofoxbow.com). Thank you for supporting this very special park!

## Park Report by Celeste Lewis

Backpacks, pencils, color crayons and calculators - these are the items on many peoples' minds this time of year. While here at the park it is seed collecting, leaves changing, and frost coming.

The fall is always a wonderful time at the park for both staff and visitors, and this year is no different. We have begun fall classes, so the students are coming and eager to learn. As for "new" things in the zoo, we have recently acquired a short-eared owl, which is displayed with the barred owls. We are also close to being finished with our native fish display in the nature center.

However, the most prominent addition here would be the completion of the lovely Dr. Paul E. Zollman Memorial at the entrance to the zoo and nature center. The pergola structure is a beautiful frame to the cypress monument which displays a gorgeous bronze bust of "Doc". If you haven't been out to see it yet, you must come.

## No Halloween? A New Event!

Friends of Oxbow is going to try something new this year. Instead of our usual Halloween party, we are going to offer a different kind of celebration, a Friends of Oxbow *ZooDazzle!*

Mark your calendar for the evening of Saturday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm to 7 pm**. 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. 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, coffee and tea, and some delicious snacks. For sure, there will be something for everyone!

Come on out and join us in celebrating our state's longest and most (in)famous season!

## 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.*

### Seed Collecting Dates at Chester Woods Park

Please join Friends of Chester Woods in collecting MN native plant seeds to create needed habitat in new places. We'll show you how!

Wear long pants, a hat, sturdy shoes and bring water! We have collection containers, or bring your own with a strap for carrying. Meet at the boat ramp kiosk.

NOTE: Session will be canceled if seed is likely to be damp.

**Sept 25, Sat, 1:30- 4 pm**

**Oct 7, Thurs, 1- 4 pm**

**Oct 23, Sat, 12:30 - 3:30 pm**

This session is part of our Friends of Chester Woods workday, but all are welcome!

## Goodbye and Hello!

In response to my request in the June issue, I am pleased to announce that Julie Manville-Camp has agreed to accept the position of editor of the FOX newsletter, starting with the December / January issue. She has had experience writing articles and putting newsletters together and hopes to add more content of interest to both children and adults.

I have thoroughly enjoyed producing this newsletter (especially the Critter Columns!) for many years, but have now taken on more responsibilities, so I am delighted that Julie has agreed to take over the FOX Den newsletter. When possible, I hope to contribute columns now and then.

I wish Julie all the best and know that she will produce a fine newsletter that will keep you all informed and aware of the goings-on of importance at your favorite 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"/> <b>Renewal</b>
<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  
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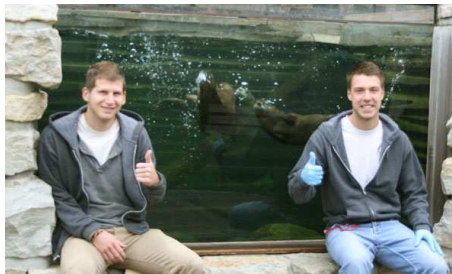
**No Halloween Party?**  
See inside for exciting details!

## Meet the FOX Fall Interns

Hello to all the Friends of Oxbow. I'm Eric Saxman, a Fall intern at Oxbow. I'm grateful to you all for giving me the opportunity to gain this valuable new experience. Like Rik, I also grew up in Rochester. After graduating from Mayo High School, I went on to Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

While there, I enjoyed volunteering with the Environmental Conservation Organization on campus, and began to consider a branch of environmental studies as a future career. In the middle of my senior year, I was able to travel to Iceland, Germany, and Denmark to study Environmental Philosophy. From then on I was hooked. I graduated last year, and this is my first work experience in the field. In the future I hope to pursue my Master's Degree in Environmental Studies or Zoology. My time spent here will be an invaluable first step.

Again, thank you all very much for the wonderful opportunity, and I hope to see you out at the park!



Hello everyone, I'm Rik de Groen, a late summer/fall intern at Oxbow this year. I am a Rochester native, frequenting Oxbow Park and Zollman Zoo as a child, and was ecstatic to be given the opportunity to work with the animals here.

I graduated from Mayo Senior High School and attended the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. While at the University of Minnesota I majored in Biology and minored in Spanish.

After finishing my internship this fall I will be moving to Rotterdam in the Netherlands to work on Hepatitis C research at Erasmus Medical Center.

I would like to sincerely thank the Friends of Oxbow members for this experience and greatly appreciate this unique opportunity to interact with and learn about so many animals native to Minnesota.

*Eric Saxman, left, and Rik de Groen with the otters*