



# Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

## Reeder

March/April 2006  
Volume 14, Issue 2

### MARSH HAPPENINGS

#### Narcisse Snakes

Oak Hammock Marsh volunteers love their annual trip to the Narcisse Snakes Pits. Each May, volunteers hop in the vans and head an hour north to the largest concentration of Red-sided Garter Snakes in the world. As we walk the three-kilometer trail to visit the four den sites we see the snakes slowly starting to emerge from the limestone bedrock cracks and crevices. The males wait at the bottom of the den for the females to come out of their long hibernation. That's when the fascinating mating rituals begin! To find out more about the snakes and sign up for an experience of a lifetime call Interpretive Centre to see when Oak Hammock leads tours to the snakes!

#### World Day for Water

Since 1992, the U.N. has recognized March 22 as the World Day for Water, a day devoted to raising awareness about water issues. And why not? Water is life! It plays an important role in every part of your day. But how much do you know about this precious resource? Did you know that:

- Wetlands filter sediments and toxic substances from water?
- North Americans use more water per person than all other nations?
- A new Manitoba Water Protection Act came into force Jan. 1, 2006?

You can learn more about water at [www.ec.gc.ca/water/](http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/) or by visiting the Interpretive Centre. And on March 22, and every other day, be thankful for the gift of water.

#### Spring at the Marsh...

Spring brings many animals back to the marsh and there are many opportunities for you to discover them. Learn to identify the returning birds with the help of displays, games and presentations. Enjoy films about swans, coyotes, pelicans or owls from our new collection. Listen to the sounds of Manitoba's frogs and head out with an interpreter to monitor the frogs of the marsh. Or, walk among the cattails and willows and discover it all for yourself.



Wood Frog

### ASK THE NATURALIST

**Do birds use smell to locate new birdfeeders?**

The avian sense of smell is not completely understood. We do know however, that most birds have a fairly poor sense of smell. This is due to the relative levels of importance of the senses. The two most important senses are sight and hearing. Some birds however, do use the sense of smell to find food. These birds are largely ocean dwelling, fish-eating birds that smell the oils on the surface of the water. Vultures also use smell to a certain degree to locate decaying meat.

So, do birds simply see new feeders? The answer is yes. Birds are excellent at finding food. While flying about, birds can spot new feeders based on their experience with feeders as places of ample food reserves. As a general rule, smell is not the main sense for any bird.



Turkey Vulture

### VOLUNTEER NEWS

It's with great sadness that we've recently had to say goodbye to two of our devoted long time volunteers.

Howie Clowes passed away on November 2<sup>nd</sup> following a brief illness. Howie and his wife Marge were the Interpretive Centre's first volunteers.

Emily Mayor passed away on December 14<sup>th</sup> following a brave battle with cancer.

We shall miss them both!



# MARSHY QUIZ

## Water Water Everywhere!

- How much of the water on earth is available to drink?
  - 95%
  - 26%
  - less than 1%
- How much of your body is made up of water?
  - 70%
  - 50%
  - 30%
- How long could you live without water?
  - 3 months
  - 1 month
  - 3 days
  - 1 day
- A hundred years ago, the earth had
  - more water than today
  - less water than today
  - the same amount as today
- Water that is safe to drink is called
  - potable
  - piliated
  - run off
  - effluent
- Water in Manitoba rivers flows:
  - north
  - south
  - east
  - west
- How many of the 15 largest lakes in Canada are found in Manitoba?
  - 1
  - 2
  - 3
  - 4



Check out our new interactive Watershed Legacy Map at: <http://arcntsrv.ducks.ca/public/wlp/viewer.htm>

- Although 75% of the earth is water, only 2.7% is fresh water. Because this water is mostly locked up in glaciers and polar ice caps, less than 1% is available!
- a) 70%
- Although you can live several weeks without food, you would not likely survive more than 3 days without water.
- The same amount, as the water cycle is a closed system.
- Manitoba is the only province in Canada where all rivers eventually flow north.
- Lake Winnipeg, Lake Manitoba and Lake Winnipegosis.

Answers:

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre  
1 Snow Goose Bay at Highway 220  
Stonewall P.O. Box 1160  
Oak Hammock Marsh, MB R0C 2Z0

### For More Information

Inquiries: 204-467-3300  
Bookings: 204-467-3299  
Fax: 204-467-3311  
Toll-free: 1-888-50-Marsh (62774)

E-mail: [ohmic@ducks.ca](mailto:ohmic@ducks.ca)  
Web site: [www.ohmic.ca](http://www.ohmic.ca)

### Hours of Operation

May to October  
10 a.m. - 8 p.m.  
November to April  
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

\*Closed Christmas day

Extended hours during the fall.

The Centre is also open beyond its public hours for group bookings and meetings.

Café hours are variable. Please call ahead.

## SPRING CAMP

### Spring into camp



What better setting than a world-renowned wetland and interpretive centre to enjoy spring break! Every day camp has a different theme and includes both indoor and outdoor activities. Combining a great setting with lots of fun-filled interactive programs is a winning combination. Sign up today! Spring camp will run daily from March 27-31.

## ECO TIP



A 10-minute shower with a standard shower head uses 200 litres of water! Installing a low-flow shower head will save you 130 litres of water every time you shower. And rather than wasting water while adjusting the temperature, collect it to water



Interpreter Fun!

## RECRUITMENT

### Looking for a fun job?

Being a Nature Interpreter at Oak Hammock Marsh may just be for you. Deliver wetland education programs to schools and public. Deadline for spring/summer applications is March 17, 2006. Fax or e-mail your resume to the Education Coordinator.

### Receptionists needed:

Perhaps greeting people as they enter the Centre is more to your liking. We are looking for evening and weekend receptionists. Fax or e-mail your resume to the Visitor Experience Coordinator.