



MARSH HAPPENINGS

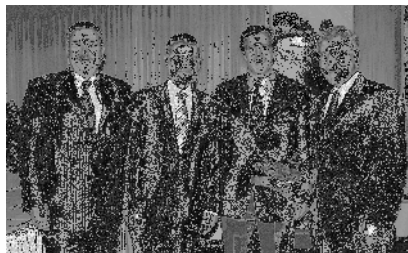
10th Annual Minister's Dinner

Over 175 of Manitoba's corporate leaders joined the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, at the St. Charles Country Club on Thursday, February 23, to celebrate the 10th Annual Minister's Dinner Event in support of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

In the last 10 years, the Minister's Dinner has raised some \$820,000 for educational programming at the Centre, a partnership between Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Province of Manitoba.

In his welcome address to guests as Event Patron, Minister Struthers emphasized the Centre's critical role in serving as "not just an

educator but also a facilitator of environmental research and a proud promoter of the wealth, diversity and beauty of Manitoba's natural heritage...." The Minister's Dinner, DUC's highest profile and most successful corporate event in Manitoba, raised \$120,000 for the Centre this year!



Peter Carton DUC President, Bill Burnett Q.C., Jim Richardson DUC Director, Michael Sinclair, Q.C. Bill Burnett and Michael Sinclair represented local law firm and 2006 Dinner Sponsor, Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP

Celebrating Orchids

What do insomnia, vanilla beans and ice cream have in common? They are all indigenous uses of orchids. The orchid family contains over 25,000 species spread over every continent (except Antarctica), yet most people know very little about these fascinating plants.

Orchids differ widely in size, colour and shape, but they all have 3 sepals and 3 petals, one of which is modified into a lip to attract pollinators.

Manitoba is home to 36 species of native orchids and, unlike tropical orchids that support themselves on trees, all our orchids are terrestrial.

Unfortunately, orchid species all over the world are disappearing as their habitats are being destroyed. In Manitoba, most of our orchids grow in or near wetlands and we have lost over 70% of our wetlands since the 1900s.

So we've decided it is time to celebrate these beautiful yet threatened plants with an Orchid Festival! Join us, and local orchid organizations on June 3 and 4, for presentations, videos, orchid plant sales, games, stories and prizes in celebration of orchids.



ASK THE NATURALIST

Why do birds sing at dawn?

Birds sing for two main reasons: to defend a territory and to attract a mate.

The best time to hear birds singing is at dawn. The dawn chorus is one of the marvels of nature. Birds all over the world show the greatest amount of singing activity around dawn. But why they do it is still not clearly understood.



One reason may be that dawn is the best time for sound to travel, as there is little wind and less noise and disturbance. Songs sung at dawn can be 20 times more effective than those sung at midday. Dawn is also a time when birds can't do much else; low light conditions, make it difficult for them to find food, low temperatures keep insects on the ground.



MARSHY QUIZ

Spring is here!

1. Which frog, commonly heard in spring at the marsh, sounds as if someone is running their finger across a comb?

- Leopard Frog
- Boreal Chorus Frog
- Bullfrog
- Spring Peeper

2. Which two colourful blackbirds can be seen fighting for territory over the water?

- Red-winged and Yellow-headed Blackbird
- Tri-coloured and Yellow-winged Blackbird
- Purple-shaded and Tri-coloured Blackbird
- Red-winged and Purple-coloured Blackbird



3. Which owl nests in the fields surrounding Oak Hammock?

- Great-Horned Owl
- Great Gray Owl
- Short-eared Owl
- Burrowing Owl



5. c
4. a
3. c
2. a
1. b

Answers:

4. Which species of mammal lives in large colonies of underground burrows at the main mound?

- Richardson's Ground Squirrel
- Pocket Gopher
- Prairie Dog
- Chipmunk

5. To what would you associate the term "head-bobbing" and "head-thrashing"?

- A new dance interpreters like to perform for school groups
- Strategies used by visitors to attract birds during a marsh walk
- Displays used by ducks to attract a mate
- A description of bug movement through the water

SUMMER CAMP

Sensational summer camp!

Summer camp at Oak Hammock offers children a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the wonders of wetlands through hands-on games, experiments and crafts. Every day offers a blend of indoor and outdoor activities including scavenger hunts, critter dipping canoe excursions and more. Offsite activities may include swimming at Bird's Hill Park and a visit to a bison farm! An optional Thursday night sleepover is available for ages 7 and up. To find out more, check out our website or contact us to register!



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

Web site: 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.

ECO TIP

If every household in Canada used 1 roll of toilet paper made from recycled fibres, we could save over 45,000 trees.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Written by Shirley (OHMIC Volunteer)

Since our last article the volunteers have been very busy at the marsh with stuffing envelopes, making educational Caribbean kits, helping out with the spring camp, special events and even discussing our theme for the November 2006 tree festival in Selkirk. We are also busy getting ready for the first ever Marsh Market.

"What the mind can conceive and your heart can believe you can achieve"

MARSH MARKET

1st Annual Outdoor "Marsh Market" Sale

Saturday, June 24
10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Stop & shop or Rent-a-table and sell your goods at Oak Hammock Marsh's 1st Annual Outdoor Marsh Market!

Table Rental fee is \$10.00 per table for OHM Members or \$15.00 per table for non-members!

Sell anything from fresh vegetables, crafts, baked goods, books and other items!