



## MARSH HAPPENINGS

### Fisheries Enhancement

Not unlike the annual migration of geese to Oak Hammock Marsh, the Fisheries Enhancement Initiative (FEI) stamp and print exhibit will be hosted at the Interpretive Centre this fall from September 11<sup>th</sup> through to October 9<sup>th</sup>. This exhibit features original paintings for the Fisheries Branch's annual competition. The winning artwork will be used for the 2007 Manitoba fishing licence.

The FEI program was established in 1993 to fund projects that strengthen fish populations, improve fish habitat or provide fisheries education. To date, over 277 projects throughout Manitoba have been funded. The annual competition not only promotes this fund but also promotes Manitoba artists and their artwork.

The winning artwork is reproduced into stamps and limited edition prints. This year Manitoba fishing scenes will be highlighted and can include images portraying the act of fishing, the bait, commercial or sport fishing industries, Fisheries' policies/programs such as "catch and release," or habitat enhancement activities.

The winning artwork will be revealed on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Until then Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre visitors will have the opportunity to choose the painting they prefer. The artwork with the most votes will be awarded the People's Choice Award.



### Best Sustainable Tourism Award

On Thursday June 15, the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre received the Sustainable Tourism Award from the Interlake Tourism Association during their Celebration of Stars dinner. This award recognizes excellence in the delivery of a product or service that effectively demonstrates sustainable tourism practices. This is the latest in a series of awards received by the Centre including, Tourism Service Excellence Award, Best Outdoor Site in Canada (Attractions Canada) and World's Best Environmental Experience (British Airways Tourism for Tomorrow).



## ASK THE NATURALIST

### Which wasps like picnics?

Yellowjackets (*Vespula* spp.) are the wasps that show up to every picnic in late July and August. The adults are attracted to fruit, nectar and bits of sweet tasting food; they will even carry off bits of food! They are important pollinators. Yellowjackets



have a stout body boldly banded with yellow (sometime white) and black. They create a paper nest in the ground or at ground level in stumps and fallen logs.

Wasps generally do not sting unless provoked. Never swat at a Yellowjacket — it is a good way to get

stung. Instead, quietly move away or let the wasp leave of her own accord. When disturbed the females will aggressively defend their nest and will sting repeatedly.



## MARSHY QUIZ

### Mad Migration!

1. What percentage of Canada's birds migrate south for the winter?

- a. 90%
- b. 20%
- c. 75%
- d. 35%



2. How many individual waterfowl can you find at Oak Hammock Marsh during fall migration?

- a. 300 – 500
- b. 1,000 – 2,000
- c. 5,000 – 10,000
- d. 100,000 – 400,000

3. Why is Oak Hammock Marsh so important for migrating birds?

- a. It provides a safe place to rest and relax.
- b. It provides plenty of food for them to build up their fat reserves.
- c. It's a prominent landmark to help them navigate.
- d. All of the above.

4. What bird holds the record for the longest migration, 20,000km, from the north pole to the south pole?

- a. Ruby-throated Hummingbird
- b. Arctic Tern
- c. Blue-winged Teal
- d. Canada Goose

1. a  
2. d  
3. d  
4. b

Answers:



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

Welcome Back! I hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful, hot & humid summer! The marsh has been busy with visitors from all over the world. Canoeing and critter dipping were the favourite activities and the dragonfly festival was a HUGE success with all visitors. The volunteers are going to be very busy this fall with a lot of events & special projects coming up. Join us at the volunteer meeting Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> to hear more updates and the work — and FUN — we have ahead.

## MIGRATION FAREWELL CONCERT

The migration season is already upon us and soon, hundreds of thousands of waterfowl will grace the sky daily with their annual ritual. The birds will leave the marsh early morning at sunrise to go out and feed in the surrounding fields only to return at sunset in a spectacular symphony of sounds and sights. It is a wonderful and unique display of nature. The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre will be hosting its Annual Migration Farewell Concert on October 22 at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of live classical music as we say a last goodbye to our feathered friends. A wine and cheese will be featured during the intermission. Tickets are \$20 for members and \$30 for non-members and can be purchased at the Interpretive Centre or by calling 467-3300.

Oak Hammock Marsh  
Interpretive Centre  
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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: 204-467-9028  
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.

## ECO TIP

Recycling one (pop) can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours.



## MANITOBA HUNTER & FIREARM TRAINING COURSE — AUG 27 & SEP 10

The purpose of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety and Training Course is to promote responsible and ethical hunter conduct, to emphasize the importance of wildlife management, laws and regulations, and the safe handling of hunting equipment. Students will obtain a better understanding of their obligations to the resources, the landowners, other hunters and to themselves. Manitoba law specifies all hunters born as of January 1, 1951

must successfully complete a recognized hunter safety course to qualify for a hunting licence. Graduates receive a temporary certificate immediately upon successfully completing the Hunter Safety course and a permanent certificate is issued shortly thereafter. If a hunting licence applicant is between the ages of 12 and 17, they must be able to show proof of having successfully completed the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training course. Register today!