

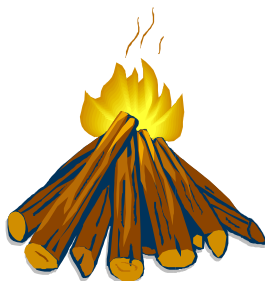


MARSH HAPPENINGS

Winter Solstice

Together with the equinoxes, the solstices are the defining moments of the start of the seasons. A solstice occurs two times a year, at the time when the sun path is at its greatest distance from the equator. For over 30,000 years, solstices have been celebrated by cultures around the world. The winter solstice, in particular, was considered by many ancient peoples as an awesome and enigmatic event. The winter solstice takes place around December 21st every year. For those in the northern hemisphere, this is the day that the sun rises the latest and sets the earliest. Here in Canada, Aboriginal people often hold feasts around the winter solstice as a celebration of the upcoming spring. Across the globe, other cultures such as Native South

Americans, Celts, Persians, Orientals, and Africans have also observed the solstice. Bringing a large log into the house was a midwinter ritual of tree-worshipping Druids. Even in Baltic regions today, corn is scattered near the door of the house for sustenance. So, celebrate the winter solstice in your household by creating your own tradition. Or come down to Oak Hammock Marsh to participate in traditional games, crafts and more during the winter months. We would love to celebrate with you!



We are open year round!

Just because the geese and ducks are gone for the winter doesn't mean that the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre will go into hibernation! The Centre remains open for business as usual every day of the week except Christmas Day. We close for only one day, and re-open on December 26th with many fun activities for families and out of town guests looking for something to do. Make sure to drop by Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre this winter for some outdoor fun or to catch a glimpse at the beautiful Snowy Owls. Winter hours are from 10:00am to 4:30pm.

See you at the marsh this winter!



ASK THE NATURALIST

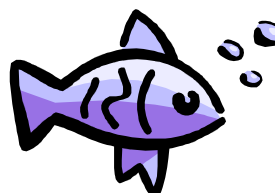


Where do fish go in the winter?

Fish have several strategies for dealing with winter. Some fish migrate. They may swim south, or move into deeper, warmer water. However, other species of fish stay active in the cold

water. They may be less active than in the summer. When the weather gets cold, most fish move to the bottom of lakes and ponds where the water doesn't freeze. There, they hide under rocks, logs or fallen leaves. They live off the fat reserve they built up during the summer, when

meals were easier to come by. Active fish will gather in any little bit of open water.



MARSHY QUIZ

1. True or False? Joining a guided snowshoe walk is a great way to explore the marsh during the winter months.
2. Coyotes can communicate using:
 - a. Vocal signals
 - b. Facial expressions
 - c. Scent markings
 - d. All of the above
3. In the winter, Snowy Owls migrate to southern Manitoba because:
 - a. The climate is too cold on their nesting grounds
 - b. There is not enough food on their nesting grounds
 - c. There are too many Polar Bears on their nesting grounds

4. Which of these weasels turns white in the winter?
 - a. Short-tailed Weasel
 - b. Long-tailed Weasel
 - c. Mink
 - d. a & b
 - e. b & c



1. True
2. d
3. b
4. d

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: 204-467-9028
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.

Café is open for breakfast and lunch Monday to Friday.

*Closed Christmas day

Extended hours during the fall.

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

ECO TIP

The number of trees saved by recycling one tonne of newspaper: *approximately 17.*



WINTER CAMP AT OAK HAMMOCK MARSH!

There is no better way to celebrate the winter than exploring the clues nature leaves for us. We will be offering day camps during the holiday break (December 27-29 and January 3-5) for ages 7-10. Although every day covers a different theme, there are always both indoor and outdoor activities, a craft to take home and a "marshy" snack.



HERITAGE DECOY EXHIBIT

Mrs. Barbara Aldous generously donated her late husband's collection of Toronto-style decoys. These eight decoys represent an important part of Manitoba's hunting heritage. The decoys, once owned by George Galt form a welcome and valuable nucleus for the Centre's growing heritage collection. The Interpretive Centre's wildfowling collection is designed to enhance public awareness and understanding of the rich history of wildfowling in Manitoba. The new decoys are featured in a temporary exhibit currently on display at the Centre.



LAKE WINNIPEG WATER QUALITY

The Lake Winnipeg Water Quality exhibit in the Conservation Cabin highlights the water quality problems of one of Manitoba's great lakes. Too many nutrients in the water causes algal blooms and impacts both wildlife and humans. Visit this exhibit to learn more. Try to pick the type of dishwasher detergent that people should use to decrease the amount of phosphorus they add to the water.