



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

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MARSH HAPPENINGS

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre wins national award —

The Interpretive Centre recently received the 2007 Canadian Association of Science Centres "Best Outreach Program" award for the Watershed Legacy project. In 2005-2006, the Legacy project brought interactive programs to over 20,000 participants in 102 communities across the Hudson Bay drainage system. Visiting underserved rural, remote and culturally diverse locations in four provinces and one territory, the Legacy team engaged youth, teachers and communities in programs emphasizing the importance of healthy, clean watersheds for people and wildlife. In addition to interpretive programs, communities got involved with water quality monitoring and a hands-on application of GPS/GIS technology. Students were encouraged to explore and map their watershed as a key component of Canada's natural heritage using these high-tech tools. Their information was then posted on a Web-based map to share with the world

(www.oakhammockmarsh.ca). Variations of the traveling educational program will continue to be delivered.



Scott Langen, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Science Centre, Robert Laidler, General Manager, Oak Hammock Marsh, "Guest Envelope Opener" Cindy Boucher, NSERC.

Festival of Dragonflies

Dragonflies are an important species in wetland food chains. They are also an indicator of wetland health.

Looking for a fun filled weekend for the whole family? Come out to Oak Hammock Marsh on July 21st and 22nd to experience the beauty and mystery of these amazing insects. Lots of activities are planned including dragonfly safaris to catch, identify, and release dragonflies with an expert. You can also take part in a dragonfly art contest using edible foods (food supplied, imagination needed) to win great prizes. There will be dragonfly crafts, a dragonfly exhibit displaying pictures and a specimen collection, informative presentations, critter dipping for dragonfly nymphs, wagon rides (Sunday only), a life size dragonfly board game, films, and dress-up costumes.



After you have worked up an appetite visit the Café for a special lunch. And for those who collect dragonfly items, visit the giftshop. Take home a beautiful event poster as a keepsake.

GEOCACHING

Geocaching is an entertaining adventure game for users of Global Positioning System receivers (GPS). Here is how it works caches are set up all over the world and the locations of these caches are shared on the Internet. GPS users can then use the location coordinates to find the caches. Once found, a cache may provide the visitor with a wide variety of rewards. In return, visitors

sign their name, date, and time in the logbook. If they take something from the cache, they should leave something of equal or greater value for the next person to discover.

Geocaching is a great family activity at the marsh! There are 15 geocaches hidden within the Wildlife



Management Area waiting to be found. Some caches are easy to find, even for families with strollers, while others are much harder and will require a good hike or even a canoe!

Maps and coordinates are available at the front reception desk and GPS receivers can be rented for the day for only \$20.00 (deposit required).

Join the fun of this high-tech scavenger hunt this summer!

THE CAFÉ

You are invited to attend a Summer Marshland Evening Serenade.

The evening features a delicious rib-eye steak dinner including your choice of red or white wine, coffee, tea and dessert.

After dinner enjoy a musical canoe excursion through the marsh, with bell tones of birds and staccato of various creatures.



Please call (204) 467-3299 for more information and to reserve your seat. Interpretive Centre members \$25.00 & non-members \$35.00.

Dinners will be held on July 6th or 20th or on August 10th or 24th.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH

If you run a day care or summer camp, the Interpretive Centre is a great place to bring youth for an exciting wetland adventure.

There are over 40 programs to choose from including Critter Dipping, Animal Detective, Ecology Games and more. We are also happy to customize programs to meet your needs during the summer months. For a memorable experience at a reasonable cost, register for your field trip today!



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT NATURE'S SMALL WONDERS

Many of us have seen a northern pike before, but have you ever had the chance to look closer at its teeth? Well, this summer at the Interpretive Centre you can! Our new microscope station allows you to look at familiar creatures like never before. View the needle-like teeth of the pike or the intricate pattern and construction of a caddisfly's case. You will never look at nature the same way again. New items will be added throughout the summer, so visit often!



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For More Information

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Toll-free: 1-888-50-Marsh
(62774)

E-mail: ohmic@ducks.ca

Web site:

www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

Hours of Operation

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

Extended hours during the fall.

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

ASK THE NATURALIST

How many spots do lady beetles have?

Some species have no spots and others can have more than twenty! There are more than 400 lady beetle species in North America. Many of these species have been introduced to control other insects, as they eat as many as 5,000 insects during their



lifetime. In wetlands, lady beetles help control insect populations.

Although many of us use the term "ladybug", the proper name is lady beetle or ladybird beetle.

To learn more about lady beetles join an interpreter on Tuesday afternoons in July and August to search for and identify lady beetles.

CALLING ALL CARVERS

The Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild's third annual Endangered Species Competition will be held this September.

This competition is open to all carvers. Carvers can choose one of the following endangered species:

- ◆ Yellow Rail
- ◆ Least Bittern
- ◆ Monarch
- ◆ Great Plains Toad
- ◆ Northern Leopard Frog

Carving entry deadline is August 30, 2007. All entries will remain on display at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre until October 2, 2007.

Prior to October 2nd the entries will be judged by a panel.

For more information and/or to enter your carving(s) please call Brock (204) 489-5739 / Frank (204) 582-5460 or Cathy at Oak Hammock Marsh (204) 467-3320.

