



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

November/December 2007
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MARSH HAPPENINGS

Watershed Ecovan Sponsor

The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is very pleased to announce Monsanto Canada through The Monsanto Fund is the Watershed Ecovan sponsor.

The Watershed Ecovan program is a traveling environmental education outreach program. The Monsanto funding will make the 2007-2009 program possible. The goals of the program are to reach students, educators and others with powerful messages and education about the importance of our watersheds and associated ecosystems; and through their increased awareness and understanding, spark a life-long interest in and commitment to a healthy environment.

Monsanto is an agricultural company. It applies innovation, research and technology to help farmers around the world protect its crops, produce healthier foods and better animal feeds with more fiber, while also reducing agriculture's impact on the environment.

Thank you Monsanto for your support!

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In Memory of Ray Whiteway – Theatre Dedication

On September 19, 2007, the 120-seat theatre at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre was dedicated in memory of Ray Whiteway, a volunteer with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) for many years and an avid sportsman.

Winnipeg South DUC Volunteer Committee members initiated the idea to



fundraise in memory of Ray Whiteway. Through family and friends, the campaign raised over \$122,000 for the Interpretive Centre.

Since opening, the facilities at Oak Hammock have been supported by a number individuals and corporations - The Royal Bank, The Winnipeg Foundation, The Eaton Foundation, Sun Life of Canada, CIBC, the Thomas Sill Foundation, Richardson Foundation, Trans Canada Pipeline, and more.

If you are interested in the Interpretive Centre's Dedication Gardens or sponsoring one of the facilities in memory of a relative or friend, please contact the Interpretive Centre.



Mrs. Myrna Whiteway and sons, Morgan and Brock

Christmas Bird Count

Saturday December 15, 2007

In 1900, American ornithologist Frank Chapman asked birders across North America to go out on Christmas Day to count the birds in their home towns and submit the results as the first "Christmas Bird Census." Little did he know that this suggestion would create one of the biggest organized birding events in the world and a holiday tradition for over 50,000 birders each year.

The Christmas Bird Count, as it is now called, is done in over 1,800 locations across Canada, the United States and Latin America. Each local group of birders picks a day between December 14th and January 5th, sets out a 24-km diameter circle, then does its best to count all the birds within that circle on the selected day.



The 108th annual Christmas Bird Count season is rapidly approaching and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with this fun and exciting event. Come help count the winter birds, while exploring the marsh and surrounding area! The Oak Hammock Marsh Annual Christmas Bird Count takes place on December 15th and costs \$5 for members or \$10 for non-members.

MARSHY QUIZ

1. The mammal sometimes called an "Ermine" is actually:
 - a. Short-tailed Weasel
 - b. Long-tailed Weasel
 - c. Fisher
 - d. None of the above
2. What makes owls fly so quietly?
 - a. They fly faster than the speed of sound.
 - b. Their feathers are designed to let some air through.
 - c. They usually fly downwind of their prey.
3. How do Honey Bees survive the winter?
 - a. They vibrate their wing muscles to create heat.



- b. They create a "living blanket" of bees around the queen and honey.
 - c. They hibernate.
 - d. a and b
 - e. b and c
4. The constellation, "Orion" is:
 - a. Most prominent in the winter sky.
 - b. A symbol of the changing seasons.
 - c. A constellation seen all around the world.
 - d. All of the above.



2. b
3. d
4. d

Answers:
1. a

ASK THE NATURALIST

What are the last birds to leave the marsh before winter?

The last of the migrant species to leave are the Bald Eagles and the Tundra Swans. Tundra Swans start showing up in good numbers in late October and will stay until the water freezes. Bald Eagles stay even longer, cleaning up any birds that didn't make it. They are often here until the middle of December. Some may even stay in Manitoba all winter long if they can find food.



Oak Hammock Marsh
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For More Information

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Fax: 204-467-9028
Toll-free: 1-888-50-Marsh
(62774)

E-mail: ohmic@ducks.ca

Website:

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.

*Call ahead for Café hours.

Extended hours during the fall.

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

EDUCATOR'S CORNER

Free education kits are currently available to schools! The themes are water, wetlands and watersheds. Each kit contains 20-40 activities, experiments and demonstrations that can be used in or out of the classroom. The kits are only available for a limited time, so book yours today.



Water is essential to life, and there's no better way to help young people learn about

water than a hands-on educational activity from Project WET.

Project WET "Water Education for Teachers" workshops are offered year-round. This hands on workshop includes a teacher's guide containing over 90 activities for grades K-12. Project WET can also be brought to your town upon request with a minimum number of participants. Call the Interpretive Centre for more details.

WINTER CAMP

Winter blues already? There's no better way to get your children or grandchildren excited about winter than signing them up for camp!

A variety of outdoor activities are planned including snowshoe walks, animal tracking, winter games and more. This will be a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy a winter wonderland at the Marsh. Don't worry about the weather, there are plenty of

indoor activities as well including scavenger hunts and seasonal crafts.

Camps run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (ages 6 to 9) on Dec 27, 28 and Jan 3, 4.

