



## MARSH HAPPENINGS

### Volunteer Week

The Province of Manitoba has proclaimed April 28 to May 2, 2008 as "Volunteer Week."

Volunteering your time is an excellent way of helping others and contributing to causes you identify with!

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre:

- Help out with bird banding while enjoying your passion for birding and increasing your skills.
- Assist an interpreter in presenting a program while increasing your knowledge of wetlands and the environment.
- Join our friendly volunteer group at its monthly meetings and enjoy making new acquaintances, participating in fundraising events, preparing educational packages – not to mention the fun potlucks and trips to Narcisse!

The Centre's volunteers are planning a fundraising event on Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with *Snowbird Beach Day*. A bake sale will be set up in the main entry area. Proceeds from the sale will support the interpretive programs. We invite you to drop by the Centre, to enjoy the beautiful birds and the spring-like atmosphere. At the end of your visit, take away some home baked goodies and think about coming back to join our group of volunteers!

### Nature Tours

The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre offers a variety of nature tours throughout the year.

Whether you're looking to familiarize yourself with hawks and owls or get acquainted with snakes and songbirds, a guided nature tour will be the perfect way to get a closer look at wildlife with a knowledgeable nature interpreter.

Some of the many tours offered by the Centre this spring are:

- Windygates Hawk Tour — Saturday, March 29
- Eastern Manitoba Owl Prowl — Saturday, April 27
- Snakes of Narcisse — Sunday, May 4 and Saturday, 10
- Spring Migration (Assiniboine Park & Oak Hammock Marsh) — Saturday, May 24

Each tour includes transportation from Winnipeg, binoculars, field guides and the service of an experienced nature interpreter.



Tours are available on a first come basis and seats are limited, so book your spot today!

Tours are just \$50 per adult and \$25 per child. A 10% discount is offered for seniors and members of the Centre. Children under the age of three are free.

Pre-registration is required one week prior to tour date for all Nature Tours.

### Snow Bird Beach Day

March 30

For most Manitobans, spring is synonymous with warmer and longer days, melting snow, plants flowering, and birds migrating back from their southern wintering grounds. The first geese have returned and the search for a suitable nesting site is on.



The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre celebrates the arrival of spring with a Beach Party!

Join us on the Oak Hammock Beach to celebrate our annual *Snowbird Beach Day*. Marvel at dozens of live parrots from the Parrot Club of Manitoba. Participate in our sandcastle building contest and find out about the newest fashion trends in our annual Beachwear Fashion Show. Learn the basic steps of Salsa and Merengue and enjoy a tropical meal in our Café.

## MARSHY QUIZ

1. True or False? Canada Geese find a new mate every spring.
2. Bats come out of winter torpor when temperatures are consistently above:
  - a. 0°C
  - b. 5°C
  - c. 10°C
  - d. 15°C
3. On warm, sunny days, ground mosses and lichens can start growing under how much snow?
  - a. 1cm
  - b. 3cm
  - c. 5cm
  - d. 7cm



4. For Mallards, the female is the one that:
  - a. Inspects the nesting site
  - b. Builds the nest
  - c. Incubates the eggs
  - d. Raises the young
  - e. All of the above



5. True or False? After Common Yellowthroats (a songbird) have completed building a nest, it may be up to a week before the female lays any eggs.
6. Male Spring Peepers (a frog) will defend a territory of approximately:
  - a. 10 to 40 cm
  - b. 10 to 40 feet
  - c. 10 to 40 m
  - d. None of the above

7. Beetles are by far the largest groups of insects. Worldwide, how many species have been identified?
  - a. 170,000
  - b. 270,000
  - c. 370,000
  - d. 470,000
  - e. Over 500,000



Answers: 3. c 4. e 5. true  
6. a 7. c

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Interpretive Centre  
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### For More Information

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### Hours of Operation

July to October  
10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
November to June  
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.

## ASK THE NATURALIST

Do all eggs hatch in spring?

While we are most familiar with birds who lay their eggs in spring and hatch by early summer, there is a marsh animal that lays eggs in late summer that hatch in early fall. The painted turtle lays 5 to 20 eggs in loose sandy soil in mid to late summer. The young turtles may leave the nest once hatched, but often the young will overwinter in the nest and emerge early the next spring. Hatchlings can tolerate being frozen to as low as -11°C.



## FROM THE GIFTSHOP



Just in time for spring, come and check out our t-shirt line *Advice From*. This line of nature-inspired apparel really has something for everyone! With words of wisdom from the wolf, "Howl with your friends and pack life with good memories!", to the sunny thoughts of a sunflower, "Be outstanding in your field and spread seeds of happiness", these tees are funny and thoughtful. Also available: words of advice from dog, cat, bear, loon, squirrel, horse, bat, hummingbird, owl, butterfly and polar bear.

## SPRING BREAK

What better way to spend time on your own or with the kids than taking in some of the Centre's many activities during spring break, from March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Even if it still feels like winter, we will find an activity that will put a spring in your step!

- We will be offering spring camp for ages 6 to 9. Every day promises to be a new adventure. Camps run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members \$24. Non-members \$30.
- Visitors can discover the wild and wonderful world of Oak Hammock Marsh with daily walks, themed crafts, games, films and special presentations.