



MARSH HAPPENINGS

2008 Minister's Dinner a Huge Success for Environmental Education

Over 190 of Manitoba's corporate leaders joined the Honourable Stan Struthers, Minister of Conservation, at the St. Charles Country Club on Thursday, February 28, to celebrate the 12th Annual Minister's Dinner Event in support of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

In the last 12 years, the Minister's Dinner has raised more than \$1,000,000 for educational programming at the Centre, a partnership between Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) and the Province of Manitoba. The Centre, a 20-minute drive north of Winnipeg, is a world-class facility that has garnered recognition from around the globe.

As Event Patron, Minister Struthers announced that the Province has renewed and increased their support of the Interpretive Centre for another five years.



(l-r) Hon. Stan Struthers, Michael Sinclair, Q.C., Jim Ripley, Don Douglas, Bill Burnett, Q.C., Tod Wright. Don Douglas, managing partner of law firm Thompson Dorfman Sweatman LLP received a special customized street sign to be placed at the Interpretive Centre, in recognition of TDS's 10 years as Minister's Dinner Sponsor.

National Aboriginal Day

- June 21

Stories and myths have always played an important role in Native North American cultures. Stories not only provide a means for passing on cultural knowledge, but contain the identity of the people within their teachings. In the past, people of all ages would gather when a story was told because the value of stories was known to all generations.

This year, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is proud to offer a week of storytelling as a part of the Centre's National Aboriginal Day celebrations. Award-winning children's author Joe McLellan will be visiting the Centre for five days, from June 16th to June 20th, 2008, to share his stories with school children.

Joe has worked as an educator and storyteller for over twenty years, sharing his stories in over 400 schools. In 1994, Joe reached an even wider audience through a visit to Sesame Street where he shared his story of the Ojibway trickster Nanabosho. His appearance prompted the creation of two more books.

Throughout his week at the Centre, Joe will delight his audience with tales from his latest work, titled "Goose Girl." This book tells the story of a young Métis girl, Marie, and her special connection with the geese. Oak Hammock Marsh certainly provides a perfect backdrop for the "Goose Girl" readings!

Joe's storytelling sessions will run through the week and are open to the public. Please call for more details.

International Migratory Bird Day - May 10

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created specifically to highlight the migration of nearly 350 species of birds that travel between nesting habitats in North America and wintering grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

This year's theme, Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People, highlights these long trips. This day explores the birds that make these fantastic journeys, the habitats on which they depend, and the people who are important to the conservation of birds and their habitats along the way.

Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable, and remarkable wildlife that share our world. Many of us know migratory birds as symbols of spring and melodious songsters of the woods. Migratory birds are also an important economic resource, controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars.

Unfortunately, research has shown that many migratory bird species are in decline, facing a growing number of threats along their migration routes, as well as in their summer and winter habitats.

Come celebrate birds at Oak Hammock Marsh — a migration hotspot and one of the best birding sites in Manitoba!

MARSHY QUIZ

Some common Manitoba birds are very colourful and easy to identify. Match the descriptions with the species.

1. Brown-headed Cowbird (male)
2. American Crow
3. Baltimore Oriole
4. Red-winged Blackbird
5. European Starling
6. Belted Kingfisher
7. Eastern Bluebird
8. Great Blue Heron
9. Black-capped Chickadee
10. Dark-eyed Junco
11. White-breasted Nuthatch
12. American Robin
13. American Goldfinch
14. Common Yellowthroat
15. Yellow Warbler
16. Yellow-headed Blackbird

- a. All black
- b. Almost all yellow
- c. Black and orange
- d. Gray above with a black cap and bib
- e. Black with a brown head
- f. Yellow with black cap, wings and tail
- g. Black with red shoulders
- h. Blue with a red breast
- i. Gray above and on breast, white outer tail-feathers
- j. Black with a yellow head
- k. Gray above, black crown, white cheeks and underparts, stubby bill
- l. Long neck, long legs, sharp bill, blue-gray
- m. Brick red breast, dark back
- n. Shiny black with little dots, short tail
- o. Olive above, yellow below, with a black mask
- p. Blue and white with a crest, short tail



Answers: 6. p
 1. e
 2. a
 3. c
 4. g
 5. n
 6. p
 7. h
 8. l
 9. d
 10. i
 11. k
 12. m
 13. f
 14. o
 15. b
 16. j

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For More Information

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 Website:
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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

How long do ducks sit on their nests?

On average, a mallard hen (female) lays one egg per day for about nine days. She will incubate (sit on) the eggs for about 26 to 28 days before they hatch. Once hatched, it will take about 50 days before the ducklings can fly (fledge). Canada Geese take a little bit longer but they start earlier. Incubation is 25 to 30 days and fledging happens up to 73 days after hatching.



MOTHER'S DAY WILDFLOWER SALE

Why give Mom cut flowers when she could have a beautiful carpet of natural flowers growing all summer long in her garden? Support the Interpretive Centre by buying Mom some beautiful native flowers. These flowers are beautiful and better adapted to Manitoba's climate and type of soil. As a bonus, they will attract butterflies and birds to your backyard!

Beautiful flowers such as Canada Anemone, Philadelphia Fleabane, Stiff Goldenrod, Yellow Coneflower and Wild Bergamot will be available. Drop by the Interpretive Centre to pick up some beauties for Mom. She will love you for it.

GREENING YOUR BACKYARD

Do you enjoy the setting here at Oak Hammock Marsh? Do wish that your yard attracted more wildlife? If so, our new exhibit is just for you! "Natural Neighbours" is all about simple things you can do to make your yard a place for wildlife. Ideas include:



- water features

- feeding stations
- plants that provide food
- plants that provide cover
- nest boxes



Come down and check it out to get some ideas for your yard this summer.