



MARSH HAPPENINGS

Biodegradable Dishes in the Café

Thanks to Winnipeg's own Waste Reduction Store, the Interpretive Centre Café is making another step in the green direction. All take-out containers in the Café, including those commonly used coffee cups, are now made of plant materials and are totally biodegradable!

Rather than the typical, and controversial, plastics frequently found in take-out containers, these biodegradable containers are made entirely of corn. Once finished these corn containers (and lids and straws too) can be added to a compost bin where they will break down into organic material that can be used in gardens. It only takes 45-60 days, on average, for one corn cup to break down! This helps reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills. And since these new containers are petroleum-free the amount of energy and emissions associated with the production, transport and disposal of these containers is much less than plastic.



To encourage staff and visitors to compost their containers as well as their food scraps, the Centre has also purchased two new compost bins located outside the Café. These initiatives are two more examples of how the Centre is reducing its footprint on the Earth.

Festival of Dragonflies - July 19 & 20

Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is celebrating the third Dragonfly Festival on July 19th and 20th.

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

Discover the lifecycle of these amazing insects that call wetlands home. Many activities are planned for all ages including dragonfly safaris, a dragonfly art workshop using food, live nymphs in an aquarium display, a collection of beautiful photographs, informative presentations and films, dipping for dragonfly nymphs, playing a life size dragonfly board game, dress up costumes and more.



Our Café will be serving a special lunch and dragonfly jewelry and other items may be purchased in our Giftshop. Take home a beautiful event poster as a keepsake.

Plant Dye Workshop - August 17

Most people don't know that a great source for natural dyes can be found right in their own backyards. The flowers, roots, seeds, and nuts from many common plants can be used to create a multitude of colors ranging from pink to yellow to brown. These plant dyes have been used for centuries to colour hair, wool, leather, and fabric such as silk and linen.



In honor of this tradition the Interpretive Centre will be offering a plant dye workshop using prairie plants on August 16th and 17th, 2008 at 2 p.m. The workshop will run as a part of the Centre's Tall-grass Prairie Weekend and will feature a hands-on demonstration, information on what plants can be used, tips on collecting plants, as well as instructions to take home. The workshop will be held on Sunday, August 17th at 2 p.m. Please call for more details.

MARSHY QUIZ

- How many species of bats can be found in Manitoba?
 - 3
 - 6
 - 9
 - 12
- In which of the following places can bats live?
 - Mountains
 - Prairies
 - Wetlands
 - Deserts
 - All of the above



- What is the wingspan of the largest bat in the world, the Flying Fox?
 - 0.5 m
 - 1 m
 - 2 m
 - 5 m
- Worldwide, which of the following things will bats eat?
 - Fruit
 - Nectar
 - Insects
 - Fish
 - Blood
 - All of the above
- Bats are important to the environment because they:
 - Pollinate flowers
 - Distribute plant seeds

- Eat insects
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- How many young do most bats have per year?
 - 1
 - 3
 - 5
 - 10



Answers: 4. f
1. b
5. d
6. a
2. e
3. c

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
Website:
www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

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 we have water snakes in Manitoba?

The simple answer is no. Water snakes are their own group of snakes. Many people also call cottonmouths or water moccasins water snakes.

There are 5 species of snakes red-sided garter, western plains garter, northern red belly, smooth green and western hognose in Manitoba. Of these the garter snakes are often found near water and can like to swim! Which is why people believe they are water snakes. Garter snakes eat frogs, toads, salamanders, small fish, mice and earthworms. Many of these animals make their homes in wetlands.

CANADIAN ICON EXHIBIT

What do the beaver, bannock and maple leaves have in common? The answer is here at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre! With National Aboriginal Day, St. Jean Baptiste Day, Multiculturalism Day and Canada Day all celebrated this summer, the Centre has put together an interesting new exhibit highlighting some of the many iconic symbols associated with our country. Come in to learn more about these Canadian icons!



SUMMER CAMP 2008

Can you think of a better way to enjoy the summer than in a fabulous setting surrounded by wildlife and friendly enthusiastic interpreters? Oak Hammock Marsh is offering three camps this summer:



Cattail Camp: ages 5-7

Blackbird Camp (optional 1 night sleepover):
ages 8-10



Harrier Camp (2 night sleepover):
ages 11-13

Activities may include scavenger hunts, canoe excursions, critter dipping, animal detective, a bison farm visit, and more!