



Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

Reeder

September/October 2008
Volume 16, Issue 5

MARSH HAPPENINGS

Partnership Agreement Renewed

The Province of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) have renewed for five more years their partnership on the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

Conservation Minister Stan Struthers and DUC executive vice-president Jeff Nelson signed the renewal agreement each committing \$1.25 million in funding for the Interpretive Centre over the next five years for a total of \$2.5 million.

"The increase in funding will enable the Centre to explore new opportunities and continue to deliver the message of conservation and the importance of wetlands and ecosystems," said Struthers. "The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is a world-class environmental education facility and we are pleased to continue our support."

"It's so important to raise the awareness and appreciation of wetlands," said Nelson. "The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre does tremendous work in educating and informing people about these vital natural areas and the need to conserve them. Thanks to the Province of Manitoba's ongoing support, the centre can continue to deliver its award-winning, high-quality educational programming."

The first agreement between the Province and DUC was signed in 1991 for construction, operation and maintenance of the Interpretive Centre. It was renewed in 1998 and 2003.

Rocks and Minerals Weekend September 20 & 21

Visit the many exhibits featuring collections from the Mineral Society of Manitoba and the Rock and Mineral Club of Winnipeg. Be dazzled by the beauty of minerals from around the world. Fossil, mineral and gem dealers will be on site as well. Learn about the history of Manitoba with displays from the Archaeological Society and view the numerous artifacts they have unearthed during the past years.

Other activities will include gold panning and digging for fossils. Be sure to participate in the exciting Rocks and Mineral Silent Auction on both days at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Enjoy a horse-drawn wagon ride on Sunday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.. A fossil tour to Stony Mountain will be offered on both days from 9 a.m. to noon for an extra fee. Pre-registration is required.

Migration Farewell Concert



- October 19

Experience a memorable musical journey as we say goodbye to the geese for the season. The audience will be treated to the music of a string quartet featuring members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Wine and cheese will be served during intermission when you can bid on fabulous auction items. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and ends at 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00 for members of the Interpretive Centre or \$30.00 for non-members. Reservations are required.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Marsh Carnival September 7

Manitoba's summers are short but sensational. The many parades, festivals and exhibitions give Manitobans and visitors to the Province an opportunity to get out, enjoy the sunshine, fresh air, and relaxed atmosphere while participating in some "good old fashioned fun."

The Oak Hammock Marsh volunteers are planning a "Marsh Carnival." The volunteers are busy organizing various activities that will appeal to both the young and the young-at-heart.

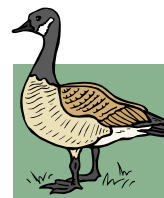
Please mark September 7th on your calendar – take a break from the "back to school" mayhem. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the Marsh. Have your face painted, take part in a game of bocci ball or one of the other "carnival" type games. There will be fun for everyone! Also, check out the produce and bake sale table – maybe you will find something there that will provide the perfect ending for great day. We hope to see you there.



MARSHY QUIZ

1. True or False? During the winter, Monarchs live off body fat and therefore do not eat while at their wintering grounds.
2. How many subspecies of Canada Geese can be found in Manitoba?
 - a. 2
 - b. 3
 - c. 4
 - d. 5
3. How far can Canada Geese fly non-stop before needing a rest?
 - a. 200 km
 - b. 400 km
 - c. 600 km
 - d. 800 km
4. Which species of goose has a "blue" phase?
 - a. Canada Goose
 - b. Snow Goose
 - c. Ross's Goose
 - d. Greater White-fronted Goose
 - e. A and B
 - f. B and C
 - g. C and D
5. What makes the Harlequin Duck's migration different from other ducks?
 - a. It migrates east-west.
 - b. It has the longest migration.
 - c. It flies the highest.
 - d. All of the above.

6. How do geese navigate while migrating?
 - a. They follow landmarks.
 - b. They use the constellations.
 - c. They have a built-in compass. (magnetite)
 - d. They follow more experienced birds who know the route.
 - e. All of the above.



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

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



How do birds know when to migrate?

As the days get shorter in fall or longer in spring, hormones are produced that enable birds to store large amounts of fat (hyperphagia). This ensures that they have the energy required to make long journeys from one stopover site to another. These hormones also trigger migratory restlessness (**Zugunruhe**) – the birds literally feel the urge to begin migrating.

Weather also plays a role in the exact timing of migration. When ready, if the weather is good on a given day then the birds may leave. If there is a strong head wind then they may stay put and wait for better conditions.

TAKE A WALK ALONG THE MIGRATION TRAIL

How far do birds fly? Which birds migrate the furthest? When do birds tend to travel? All these questions and more will be answered when you follow our Migration Trail this fall here at the Centre. A series of new signs, both inside and out, will guide you through the science of migration and allow you to travel the relative distances of many common migrants while exploring the Centre and the marsh. Come gain a new perspective and appreciation for this annual miracle.



SPOOKY HALLOWEEN HUNT

School groups visiting from October 27 to 31 will have the special opportunity to book a spooky Halloween hunt which will include an investigation of some of the most creepy wetland creatures.



Look for clues, explore unknown phenomena and expect the unexpected!!

