



MARSH HAPPENINGS

Career Trek Program and Oak Hammock Marsh

Career Trek, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to fighting poverty through career education, is making a trek to Oak Hammock Marsh. The organization works with 10 to 11 year olds and their families, to help them appreciate the importance of staying in school and gaining a post-secondary education.

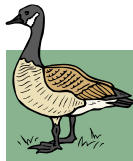
The Apinochek Pasaquok ("Children Rising") Project is the component of Career Trek that operates in communities in Manitoba's Parkland Region. This project, originating in Skownan First Nation, is also designed to develop community capacity for independence. This goal is accomplished primarily through experiential programs that allow the participants to experience a variety of different careers, which is where Oak Hammock fits in.

Students from the Skownan First Nation will visit the Centre in April to participate in a range of environmental education programs that focus on career-building skills. Students will learn about careers in conservation through programs such as Radio Telemetry, All About GPS, and different invertebrate sampling methods through Critter Dipping. These students will hopefully be the conservationists of tomorrow!



First Signs of Spring

Even though snow is still on the ground and the mercury dips well below zero, thoughts of spring are starting to peek through the back of the mind, like a Prairie Crocus pushing up through the snow. There are many different moments that we can pinpoint and say, "Yes, it is now spring!" but these moments tend to vary from person to person.



Here at Oak Hammock Marsh, one cannot help but look to the skies and strain to hear the sound of the first returning Canada Goose.

Another bird that we commonly think of as the first sign of spring is the American Robin. One glimpse of his bright red breast or catching the notes of his joyful, "cheerily, cheeriup, cheerio, cheerily" can't help but make you think of long warm sunny days.

For some it's not the return of the birds that let them know spring is finally here, but rather the sound of frogs. At first it's only a random call that may be heard, but after just a few days a whole chorus of frogs can be heard crooning to their lovers. This usually results in leaving a window open and being awakened in the early hours shivering with cold. But it's worth it to drift off lulled to sleep by frog calls.

Come to the Interpretive Centre this spring and see if you can be the first to find a flower showing through the snow, spot the first goose or maybe hear the first frog!



Snow Bird Beach Day – March 22

The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre celebrates the end of winter with a Tropical Beach Party!

Come out and enjoy a tropical oasis in the middle of the winter prairie. The geese migrating home from their southern wintering grounds have brought back some of their parrot friends.



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 a limbo contest or try out salsa and merengue lessons. Find out about the latest fashion trends in the annual Beachwear Fashion Show and enjoy a tropical lunch in the Café.

New this year is an evening Luau dinner in the Café on Saturday, March 21 at 6 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advanced.

MARSHY QUIZ

Match the following animals with the appropriate group noun. We've put them in groups of four to make it easier (i.e.: the answers to numbers 1-4 will only match a-d, 5-8 will match e-h, etc.).

Answers:
 1. d 2. a 3. b 4. c 5. e 6. g 7. h 8. f 9. j 10. i 11. l 12. k 13. o 14. p 15. m 16. n 17. t 18. s 19. r 20. q

Group	Animal
1. Army	a. Bears
2. Sleuth	b. Hummingbirds
3. Charm	c. Jays
4. Scold	d. Ants
5. Exaltation	e. Larks
6. Siege	f. Mallards
7. Lounge	g. Bitterns
8. Sord	h. Lizards
9. Chain	i. Owls
10. Richness	j. Bobolinks
11. Parliament	k. Otters
12. Raft	l. Martens
13. Cover	m. Ravens
14. Convocation	n. Frogs
15. Storytelling	o. Coots
16. Knot	p. Eagles
17. Scurry	q. Turtles
18. Bale	r. Starlings
19. Descent	s. Woodpeckers
20. Mumuration	t. Squirrels



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.

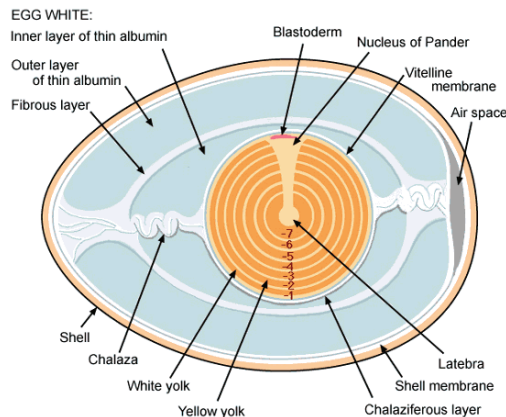
Extended hours during the fall.

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

ASK THE NATURALIST

What is that stringy stuff in an egg?

The white stringy stuff is called **chalazae** (kuh-LAY-zee). It is ropey strands of egg white which anchor the yolk in place in the centre of the thick white. There are two chalazae anchoring each yolk, on opposite ends of the egg. They are neither imperfections nor beginning embryos. It does not act like an umbilical cord; the growing embryo receives its nutrients from the yolk. The purpose of the chalazae is to hold the yolk in place. The more prominent the chalazae, the fresher the egg.



SPRING CAMP

Looking for something exciting to do during spring break? Well look no further because Oak Hammock Marsh day camp is the place to be. The Centre is offering day camps for children ages 6 to 9 on March 30th and 31st and April 1st to 3rd. Camps run daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each day has a different theme with

fun-filled indoor and outdoor activities that could include scavenger hunts, animal tracking, tasty bonfire snacks, wacky experiments and nature crafts. For more information or to register a camper please visit our website or call the Centre.

