



MARSH HAPPENINGS

2010 Minister's Dinner

Another great attendance of 190 of Manitoba's corporate leaders joined the Honourable Bill Blaikie, Minister of Conservation in February, to celebrate the 14th Annual Minister's Dinner raising over \$112,000 in support of the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

Over the last 13 years, the Minister's Dinner has raised \$1.2 million for educational programming at Oak Hammock Marsh.

In his welcome address to guests as Event Patron, Minister Blaikie emphasized the Centre's critical role in educating the community: "Through innovative education and outreach programs, this award-winning tourism and education facility will continue to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to value and conserve wetlands. This in turn will provide a strong foundation for the future of conservation in Manitoba."

Thank you to all who attended and supported this successful corporate event.



A special thank you to the law firm Thompson Doreman Sweatman LLP (TDS) that has become an institution at Oak Hammock for its gracious support of the Minister's Dinner for the last 13 years. TDS has been instrumental in making the Minister's Dinner a success.

Mother's Day

May 9

What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than to spend the day with your Mom at Oak Hammock Marsh. There are a great deal of fun-filled activities for the whole family on this special day. Explore the marsh by horse-drawn wagon and visit lesser known parts of the marsh with local nature-lover Allan Webb and his horse-drawn wagon. Or don a lifejacket to paddle a voyageur-style canoe through the marsh. Both activities are available for \$2 for members and \$4 for non-members.

The Café is hosting a Mother's Day lunch where you can enjoy a spectacular view of the marsh. All Mother's having lunch at the Interpretive Centre will receive a special gift.

As in previous years, there will be a prairie wildflower sale, which makes a perfect Mother's Day gift. She can enjoy a beautiful carpet of natural flowers growing all summer long in her garden. These flowers not only rival non-native flowers in beauty, but they are better adapted to Manitoba's climate and soil. As a bonus, they will attract butterflies and birds to her backyard! Beautiful flowers such as Canada anemone, Philadelphia fleabane, stiff goldenrod, yellow coneflower and wild bergamot are a very colourful addition to any garden.



Thank you to Prairie Originals for supplying the wildflowers.

International Day For Biodiversity

May 22

The United Nations declared 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on Earth and of the value of biodiversity to our lives.

Wetlands, such as Oak Hammock Marsh, are among the most productive and the most ecologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. As an example, an astounding 300 species of birds have been observed or recorded at the marsh. This represents close to 50 per cent of all the birds found in Canada! Wetlands are also home to many species of mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. One of the reasons for the high biodiversity in wetlands is the abundance of food and water.

Visitors will have the opportunity to discover and learn about the many different species that call the marsh home. Several presentations will be offered throughout the day as well as some hands-on surveys.

This event is a great way to get acquainted with the amazing diversity of wildlife that surrounds us everyday and to learn how we can protect and conserve this biodiversity.



MARSHY QUIZ

- Manitoba is starting a Breeding Bird Atlas. Which of the following provinces have also created a Breeding Bird Atlas?
 - Ontario
 - Maritime provinces
 - British Columbia
 - Quebec
 - All of the above
 - None of the above
- True or False? Yellow Warblers will often abandon or build on top of nests that have been parasitized by cowbirds.



- The Sora often nests in:
 - The tree tops over marshes
 - Grasslands/uplands surrounding marshes
 - Dense wetland vegetation at the edge of marshes
- When Great Horned Owls nest, they:
 - Often take over old nests from other birds
 - Reuse nests from previous years
 - Nest as early as February or March
 - Nest in all forested regions south of the tundra
 - All of the above
 - None of the above



- True or False? Canvasbacks and Redheads lay eggs in each other's nests to ensure that some eggs survive any predation.
- Male Marsh Wrens build more than one nest in an attempt to:
 - Impress the females
 - Confuse predators
 - Take over a larger territory
 - Build one that meets his high standards
 - a and b only
 - c and d only



Answers:
 1. e
 2. True
 3. c
 4. e
 5. True
 6. e

Oak Hammock Marsh
 Interpretive Centre
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 Stonewall P.O. Box 1160
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For More Information

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 (62774)
 Email: ohmic@ducks.ca
 Website:
 www.oakhammockmarsh.ca

Hours of Operation

September & October
 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 November to August
 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 a breeding bird atlas?

The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas is an ambitious five-year project to engage citizens in documenting the distribution and abundance of all breeding birds throughout Manitoba. Everyone is encouraged to participate! This is your chance to be a part of one of the most comprehensive environmental monitoring projects ever undertaken in our province.

For more information on Manitoba's Atlas check out <http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/>.

Y.E.S. (Youth Encouraging Sustainability) Workshop

May 27 & 28

Working with Y.E.S., an initiative of the Science Council Manitoba, the Centre will hold a field workshop for students. In the workshop, "Monitoring Aquatic Systems", students will find out more about aquatic ecosystems by exploring a wetland habitat. The students will get up close and personal with some intriguing invertebrates and discover secrets about the health of their ecosystem. Participants will learn about wetland soils and their characteristics and find out the key role aquatic plants play in a wetland. Students will also develop skills to make a Showcase Project about the sustainability of aquatic systems! Visit the Y.E.S. website for more information (www.scmb.mb.ca).

SUMMER CAMPS

Spend a week this summer at Oak Hammock Marsh!

Spring has sprung and winter is done so now it's time for summer camp! Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is offering week-long camps in July and August. A variety of age-appropriate

activities including cool crafts, scavenger hunts and canoe adventures will keep campers from age 5 to 13 entertained as they learn all about wetlands. For more information about camp dates and themes or to register a camper, please call the Centre or visit the website.