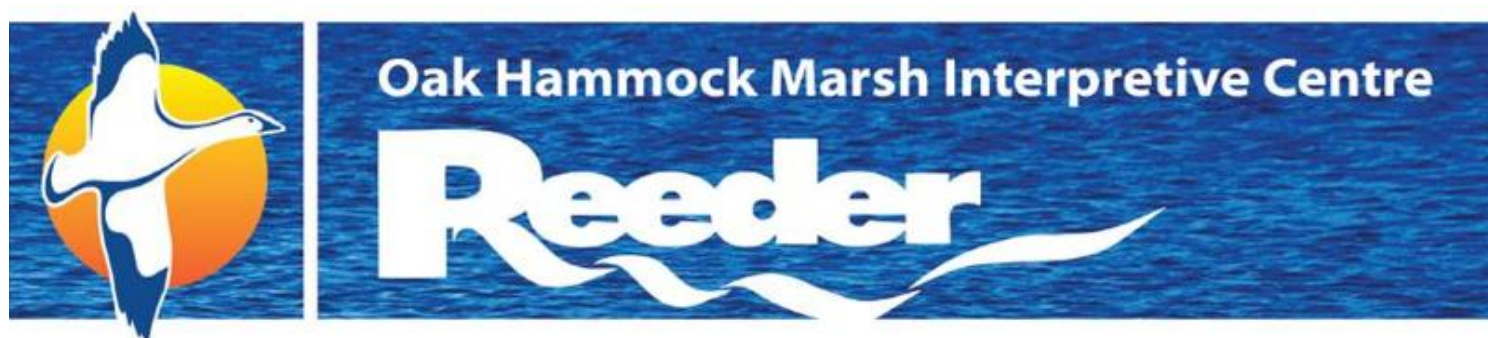


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May 2014

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Join our list

**Join our mailing list!****Greetings!**

Welcome to **The Reeder**. This monthly newsletter highlights activities coming up this month at the **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre**.

**Decoy Carving Competition**

May 3 &amp; 4

The **Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild** will be hosting its Eleventh Annual Decoy Competition.

This event will take place at the **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** and will be open to True Hunting, Traditional Style and Contemporary Style Waterfowl Decoys, Rest of the Marsh and Stylized Representation of the Marsh Decoys.



This competition will feature five purchase awards:

1. The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre will again be offering a purchase award for a Puddle Duck Decoy.
2. Oak Hammock Carving Guild Purchase Award sponsored by Richard Whitton.
3. The Rod Fowler Memorial Purchase Award sponsored by Russ Muth.
4. The Ross Gage Purchase Award .
5. "Shadow" Purchase Award sponsored by John and Konrad Frye.

The **Oak Hammock Marsh Carving Guild Competition and Show** will also feature a 50/50 sale table where the carvers set the price for their carving and if sold 50% of sale price goes to the carver 50% to **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre**.

**International Migratory Bird Day**

May 10

**International Migratory Bird Day** is a special day dedicated to the celebration of migratory birds and to conservation awareness across the continent. It is celebrated annually on the second Saturday of May in the United States and Canada.



The **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** is celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with many activities including bird banding, birding walks, live birds of prey viewing with **Wildlife Haven** and presentations by guest speakers throughout the day.

11 a.m. - Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program by **Tracy Maconachie** (Project Coordinator)  
 1 p.m. - Birds of Manitoba by **Christian Artuso** (Breeding Bird Atlas coordinator)  
 2:30 p.m. - Important Bird Areas by **Charlie McPherson** (IBA Caretaker, Netley-Libau Marsh)

The Marsh offers great wildlife viewing opportunities, especially during this time of the year.

[For more information about this event...](#)**Mother's Day Lunch & Wildflower Sale**

May 11

Your Mom will love the native grasses and wildflowers on sale at our annual **Mother's Day Wildflower Sale!**

These wildflowers are well-adapted to thrive in our climate and will attract butterflies and birds to any backyard.



All the proceeds from the sale will support education programs at the **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre**.

After shopping for flowers, treat Mom to our special **Mother's Day Lunch** in our scenic Café overlooking the Marsh from noon to 2 p.m.

Explore the Marsh by canoe or on foot, or take advantage of our **Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides** from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m to explore some lesser known areas of the marsh. A fee of \$3 for Interpretive Centre members and \$5 for non-members applies for the canoe and wagon rides.

[For more information about this event...](#)**Birding Hour - Warblers**

May 11 - 1 p.m.



Warblers are one of the most diverse members of the passeriformes family (perching birds). They share some common characteristics, such as being fairly small, vocal, and insectivores. They tend to be more easily heard than seen and identification can be difficult and may be made on the basis of song alone.



Learn more about this colourful family of birds with our Resident Naturalist, **Paula Grief**, during this month's Birding Hour.

Pre-registration required.  
Workshop fee is \$5 plus admission.

[For more information about the Birding Hour...](#)

#### Biodiversity Weekend

May 17 to 19

Wetlands, such as **Oak Hammock Marsh**, are among the most productive and ecologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. As an example, a staggering 300 species of birds have been recorded at the marsh. This represents close to 50% of all the birds found in Canada!



Wetlands are also home to many species of mammals, fish, reptiles and amphibians. During breeding season, visitors to **Oak Hammock Marsh** can listen to the croaking of seven of the twelve species of frogs and toads found in Manitoba!

Visitors will have the opportunity to discover and learn about the many different bird, fish, mammal, reptile, amphibian and invertebrate species that call **Oak Hammock 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 and appreciate the amazing diversity of wildlife that surrounds us.

[For more information about this event...](#)

#### Cache the Marsh VIII

May 25

The **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre** is hosting its eighth annual **Cache the Marsh** event!

An introduction to GPS and geocaching will be offered prior to the event from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Pre-registration is required for the workshop. Fee is \$5 plus regular admission and includes the use of a GPS unit.



The Cache the Marsh Challenge will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. As in the past, the Challenge will require some canoeing skills, basic knowledge of birds and other wildlife found at Oak Hammock Marsh, as well as a good sense of adventure. Prizes will be awarded at 5 p.m. during a B.B.Q. supper.

The Marsh offers great wildlife viewing opportunities, especially during this time of the year. Make sure to bring your binoculars!

[For more information about this event...](#)

#### Early Risers - Birds and Breakfast

May 31 - 7 a.m.

The morning hours just following the sunrise is the best time of the day to watch and listen to the multitude of birds calling the marsh home.

Join our Resident Naturalist on a morning walk in the marsh to see spring migrants and nesting waterfowl. After the walk, enjoy a delicious hot breakfast in our scenic Café.



Cost is \$12/person plus admission.

[For more information about this activity...](#)

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The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is located 20 minutes north of Winnipeg on highway 67 between highways #7 and #8. For more information call 467-3300.

Sincerely,

Jacques Bourgeois  
Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre

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