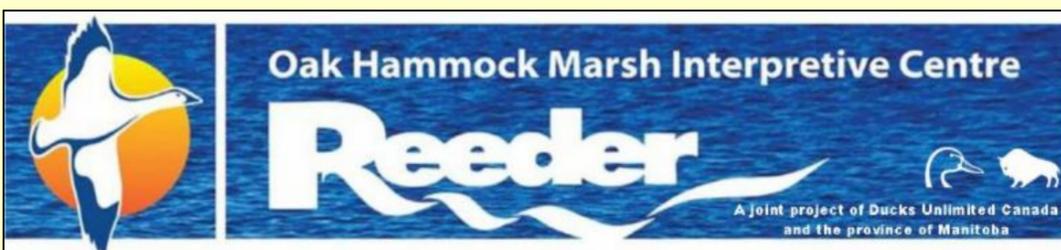


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February 2018

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Greetings!

Welcome to the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre Newsletter. Here are some upcoming and noteworthy events happening this month.

World Wetland Day / Groundhog Day

February 2

Join us on February 2 to learn more about wetlands as Oak Hammock Marsh, a Wetland of International Importance, proudly celebrates **World Wetlands Day**.



Manitobans also mark February 2 as the day they find out if spring will arrive early.

While ordinary groundhogs living in Manitoba are still sleeping soundly in early February, **Manitoba Merv**, the weather predicting groundhog, takes on the annual task of coming out of his den to announce the arrival of spring.

If **Merv** sees his shadow at sunrise, a late spring will follow. But if no shadow is seen, an early spring is on its way!

[For more information about this event](#)**Battle of the Bannock**

February 4 - 1 to 3 p.m.

Join us for our second edition of the **Battle of the Bannock** where, after learning bannock making basics, participants will test their culinary skills over an open fire.



Our judges will determine which bannock has the best texture, consistency and, of course, taste. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

[For more information about this event](#)**Decoy Carving Workshop - Ring-necked Duck**

February 4, 11 and 18 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn to carve your very own Ring-necked Duck decoy from award winning carvers. This three-day course will teach you the classic North American art of decoy carving.

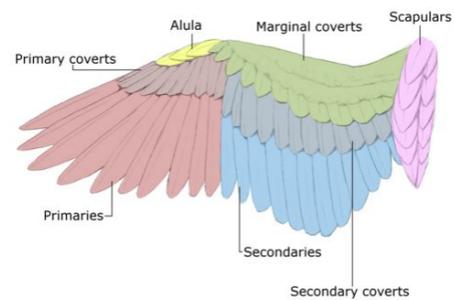


Pre-registration is required. Workshop fee is **\$100 for Oak Hammock members, \$120 for non-members**.

[For more information about this workshop](#)**Birding Hour Workshop - Anatomy of a bird**

February 17 - 1 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what makes a bird a bird? Learn the ins and out of birds with our Resident Naturalist, **Paula Grieff**. The workshop will discuss the many unique features of feathered friends.



Workshop fee is **\$6 for members and \$14 for non-members**.

[For more information about this workshop](#)**Voyageur Day**

February 19

Bring the whole family out and test your Voyageur skills through activities such as **Voyageur Challenge** and **Bannock Tossing**.



You can also learn how to make your own delicious Bannock at 11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

Bring your skates and gently glide on **Cattail Pond** or take up sponge hockey in the sheltered bay. Sticks, nets and pucks are available for your use.

Join an interpreter on a snowshoe walk and look for clues of wildlife activity. Jackrabbits, coyotes and winter birds are still present and active in the marsh.

[For more information on this event](#)

Astronomy Night - Sketching the night sky

February 22 - 7 p.m.

The astronomical version to paint night. Learn the art of sketching the moon and other celestial objects with **Gerry Smerchanski** from the **Royal Astronomical Society of Manitoba**.



An indoor presentation in our theatre will be followed by an outdoor observation session with telescopes from the rooftop.

Sketchbooks and pencils will be available for purchase.

Members \$5, non-members \$10.

[For more information about this event](#)

Twilight Snowshoe Walk

February 25 - 6:30 p.m.

Help us celebrate our 25th anniversary by experiencing the marsh on snowshoes at twilight.



Embrace winter with an invigorating 1-2 kilometer snowshoe hike on the frozen marsh. Learn basic snowshoeing skills and enjoy hot chocolate by the fire afterwards. No special boots are required. Layering warm clothing and bringing a headlamp is suggested.

Pre-registration is required.

Workshop fee: **\$6 for members, \$14 for non-members**

[For more information](#)

First Goose of the Year Contest

Until February 28 or the arrival of the first goose.

Make sure to enter our **First Goose of the Year** contest, which for us marks the official arrival of spring.



Guess the date and time of the arrival of first Canada Goose at **Oak Hammock Marsh** and you could win a family membership for one year!

Traditionally, the first goose arrives between the end of February and the end of March. Last year, the first goose was seen on February 21st!

To enter the contest, fill out a ballot at the **Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre**.

The contest will close on February 28 or when the first goose is seen.

[For more information about the contest](#)

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The Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre is located 30 minutes North of Winnipeg on highway 67 between highways #7 and #8. For more information call (204) 467-3300.

Sincerely,

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