

WELCOME TO THE MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION TO KEEP OUR VALUED MEMBERS, VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE LOOP ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS OF THE WYE MARSH!

Trails at Wye Marsh are open **9:00am– 4:00pm**.  
Learn more on page 2.

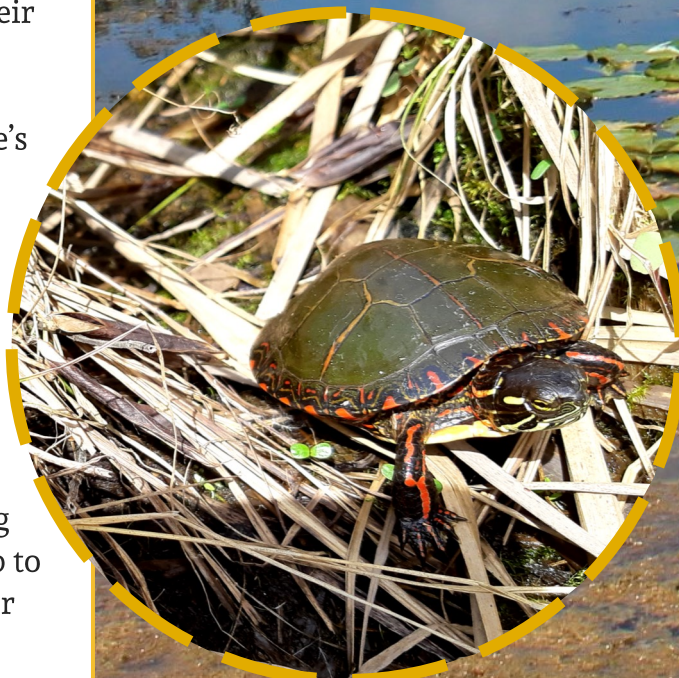
## HOW TO WATCH THE METEOR SHOWER:

The Perseid Meteor Shower takes place every August. This year, the peak dates to see it are August 11, 12, and 13. During the peak, you could see up to 40 to 50 meteors per hour.

For your best chances of seeing the Perseid Meteor Shower, head out to a place where there is little to no light pollution, and face west. The best times to go would be after midnight on August 11, 12, or 13. It takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to adjust to the dark, so plan for enough time to enjoy the shower!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Turtle's shells are actually part of their skeleton! Their spine is connected to the back ridge of their shell. Turtle's shells are made of different bone plates called scutes. As a turtle grows, the shell grows with the turtle. A Midland Painted Turtle's shell (right) is made up of 13 different scutes. Most turtles have dark shells—either black, dark brown, or dark green. This is to help them soak up as much of the sun's warmth as possible to give them more energy. Snapping Turtles have serrated edges on their shells, and are so big that they can't fit all the way inside their shells—that's why they SNAP! Blanding's Turtles have a hinged shell, meaning that the front underside of their shell hinges up to close like a door when the turtle hides inside for extra protection.



## VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:



**The Wye Marsh trail system is open daily from 9:00am-4:00pm.**

Wye Marsh staff have been working with Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) on a plan to safely reopen in phases. During the first phase, admission will be by donation in the box at the trails in the parking lot.

While on the trails, please keep the following in mind:

- Be mindful of wildlife who have become accustomed to the trails and boardwalks being unused by humans. Please give them space and do not attempt to approach or feed them, especially on the boardwalk.
- Respect social distancing guidelines while on the trails, especially at intersections and narrow sections.
- The gates will open daily at 9:00am and close at 4:00pm.
- Paper copies of the trail maps will not be available during this phase. Please see the page 5 of this newsletter or our website for a digital copy of the trail map, noting the one way entry and exit trails.
- Respect one way trails where signage notes it at the entry and exit points on the map.
- For your safety, the safety of wildlife, and the conservation of the marsh, please stay on the trails.

The Visitor Center remains **closed** to the public. There is access to portable washrooms. There is no access to the Birds of Prey Field during this time. Programming remains suspended at this time. If the parking lot is full, we respectfully ask that you visit again at another time, please do not park on the road.

**Thank you to everyone for your support during this time. It is through your generosity and ongoing appreciation for Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre that we are able to continue to educate and spread awareness about the importance of wetlands.**

***We are very excited to welcome you all back to Wye Marsh - see you soon!***



*A Blanding's Turtle found by Naturalists in Wye Marsh.*

# ON THE WILD SIDE:

Both the flora and fauna of Wye Marsh are thriving in this beautiful summer weather!

Wildflowers are blooming throughout the Wye Marsh trails, and pollinators like Bumble Bees and White Admiral Butterflies flutter from flower to flower to enjoy their nectar. The warmth has drawn many turtles and snakes out to bask on logs, rocks, or even in the middle of the trails to soak up the sun. An Osprey is still nesting atop the tower, and we are hoping for successful fledglings. Tadpoles are becoming froglets, and can be spotted resting on lily pads. A family of Barn Swallows have once again nested under the first Boardwalk bridge and can be seen swooping in. It's been wonderful to see the marsh so vibrant with wildlife activity!

*A Wood Duck family, mom + 5 ducklings, out for a swim by the kayak dock.*

**Monarch Butterflies** are some of the great migrators of the animal kingdom. Each fall these butterflies migrate ~5,000km from Canada and northeastern United States down to southwestern Mexico, and then back north in the spring. No one butterfly makes the whole migration cycle, instead it takes 4 generations to make the loop. Monarch Butterflies can be found in Ontario right now! Look for them anywhere that Milkweed grows. Milkweed is the sole food source for Monarchs, and it's also where they lay their eggs. Monarch Butterflies have been spotted fluttering about on the Boardwalk and Berm trail at Wye Marsh.



Snakes, like this **Northern Watersnake**, will often cross roads to get to where they need to be or lay on the warm asphalt to bask in the sun. They can often just appear as cracks in the road or debris. Please drive with caution, and if you see a snake - brake! If the snake is staying still on the road, you can either avoid them or if you want to help them across you can encourage them to move along from a distance!



Photo: Rondeau Ric

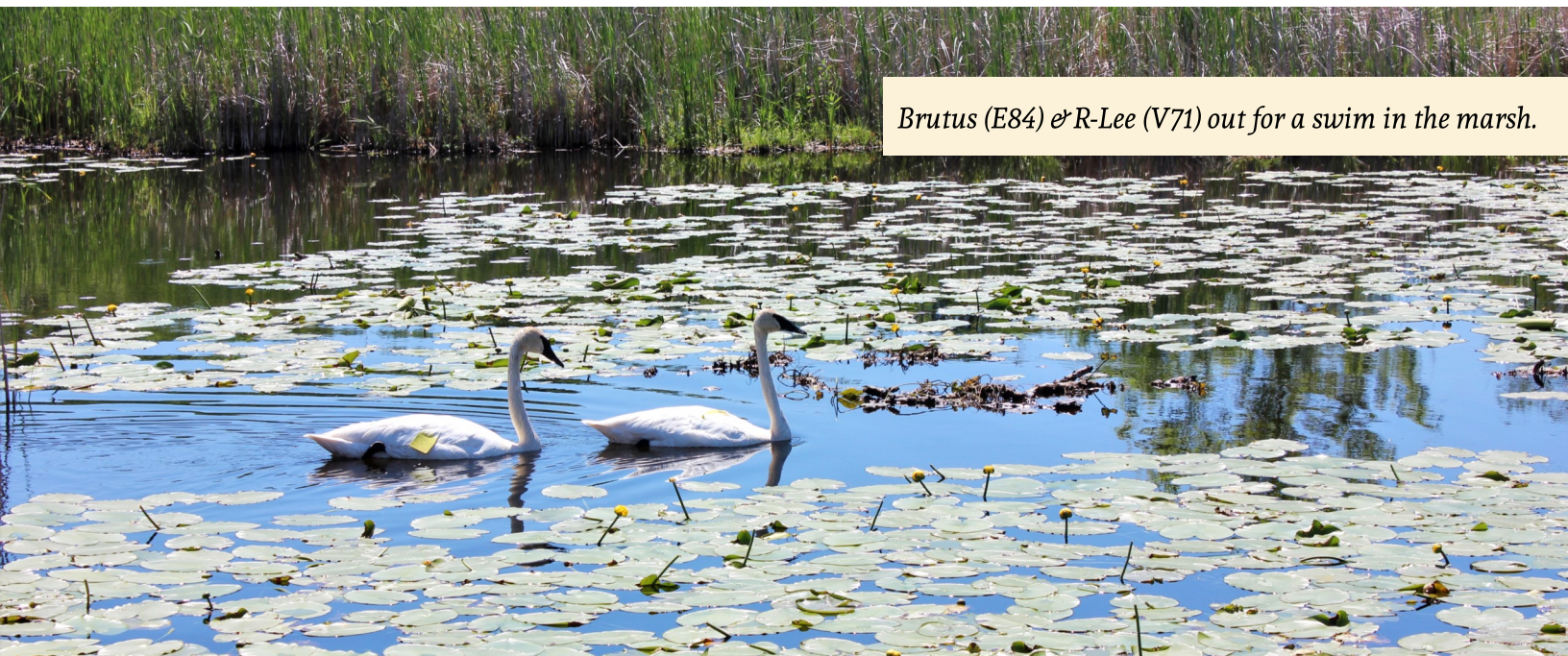
*The honey bee hives at Wye Marsh are healthy, happy, and full of honey!*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are so happy to see visitors at Wye Marsh since our gates re-opened June 1. Admissions will continue to be by donation for non-members and we very much appreciate everyone's generosity. Nature is essential to our mental and physical well-being, and in these unsettled times we are glad to be able to offer a place where people can come and enjoy the serenity of the marsh and surrounding forest. You will see staff out and about working to make this happen, please reach out to them if you have any questions or concerns. Your support will allow the Friends of Wye Marsh to continue to work to ensure the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre remains as accessible as possible for everyone. Thank you from everyone here at Wye Marsh.

**- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director**



*Brutus (E84) & R-Lee (V71) out for a swim in the marsh.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Hello all. Hope you are managing our very hot weather. It appears we may set a record as the hottest July ever.

Your Marsh staff is effectively managing the essential activities and working hard at preparing for the future. It is still uncertain what our education connection will look like this fall so different options such as virtual Marsh School are being pursued. The web site has many nature based activities for kids to participate in in the mean-time. I encourage you to access them and enjoy with your children.

We continue to offer trail access only with admission by donation. I feel the very essence of Wye Marsh is the marsh itself and our interaction with the many creatures that call it home. Please come out and enjoy a quiet walk through the well maintained trails. It is easy to social distance. We encourage you to bring drinking water, and make a donation if you can. We would love to have you enjoy the facilities.

Stay safe, stay healthy.

**- Dave Robertson, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors**



*An American Bullfrog rests among the cattails on a sunny day in the marsh.*

## AN UPDATE FOR VOLUNTEERS:

To our fabulous team of volunteers - **thank you for your patience.**

Your efforts and enthusiasm for Wye Marsh are deeply appreciated during the uncertainty this year. As a health and safety precaution, volunteering duties currently remain suspended. Staff are still coming onsite in staggered shifts to minimize the number of personnel here at one time. While I don't have a specific date for you, we are looking forward to having you all back to volunteer once it is safe. In the mean time, I hope you are able to come for a hike and enjoy the trails.

If you have any questions, please reach out and I will be happy to help!

You can reach me at [aswick@wyemarsh.com](mailto:aswick@wyemarsh.com) or 705-526-7809 ext. 217 on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

**- Amanda Swick, Event & Volunteer Coordinator**



Wye Marsh  
**CAMP**  
**@HOME**

Wye Marsh's Camp @ Home Kits include everything you need to bring all the fun of camp to your own yard in 4 exciting themes:

- **A Bug's Life**
- **Birding Bonanza**
- **Nature Detective**
- **Crazy for Camp**

Order your kit online at [www.wyemarsh.com/camp-at-home](http://www.wyemarsh.com/camp-at-home).

Kits are \$50 each, and an add-on can be purchased for \$25 each, which includes additional craft supplies so that another camper can participate.

Marsh-side pickup, local delivery, or shipping options are available.

For more information please contact 705-526-7809 ext. 220 or [camp@wyemarsh.com](mailto:camp@wyemarsh.com)

**LEGEND**

Hiking Trails ———

Boardwalk - - - - -

One Way Trail  (Trail System Entry/ Exit Points)

Marsh March  1.9km  
(Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)

Hardwood & Return Trail 0.4km

Muskrat Loop 1.6km

Woodland Trail 1.5km

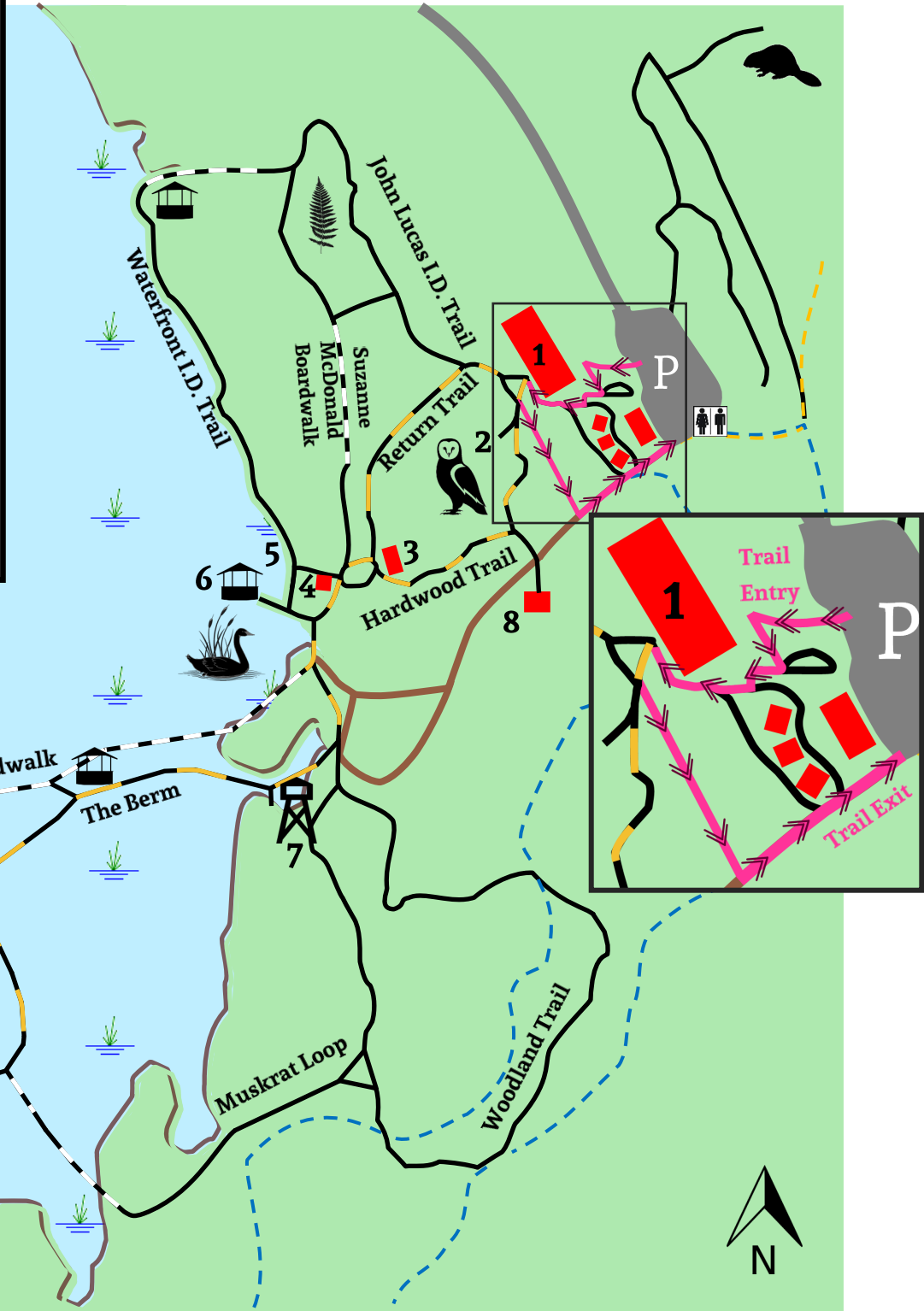
Ski Trails 

Service Road 

**PLEASE RESPECT SOCIAL DISANCING.  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,  
EXPECT TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON TRAILS. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK.  
GATES LOCK AT 4:00PM**

- 1 Visitor's Centre - Closed
- 2 Birds of Prey Field - Closed
- 3 Sugar Shack - Closed
- 4 Log Cabin - Closed
- 5 Canoe Dock - Closed
- 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station - One Family at a time
- 7 Observation Tower - One Family at a time
- 8 Bee House - One Family at a time

 Open Land/ Forest     Wetland/Open Water     Building



Please use caution on all trails, walkways, boardwalks, waterways and property of the Wye Marsh. Appropriate hiking footwear is recommended. Slippery conditions exist when wet. Be aware that plant roots and loose rocks can create natural trip hazards when extending above paths. Immediately exit the trails if foul weather conditions threaten.