

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!

*Happy
Holidays*

*From the staff & all
friends furry, scaled, or
feathered at Wye
Marsh Wildlife Centre!*



DID YOU KNOW?

The Christmas Bird Count is an annual initiative by Bird Studies Canada to monitor bird populations. It's beloved by many birders as a winter tradition, but did you know it started as a hunt?

Many people in the 17th up to the 19th century in North America would participate in a bird hunt on Christmas Day. The point of this tradition was not to hunt specific game, but to hunt as many different species as possible. This was referred to as the Christmas Hunt.

In December 1900, U.S. ornithologist Frank Chapman, founder of Bird-Lore (which became Audubon magazine), proposed counting birds on Christmas instead of killing them. From there on out, it became a tradition and the Christmas Bird Count was born!

SKI TRAILS: OPEN



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

Winter Break Activities - December 21st, 2019 - January 5th, 2020

Dec. 21 - Jan. 5
9am-4pm

Be sure to soak up some Vitamin N(ature) this winter break!
Bannock Roasting from 10am-12pm, Feature Creature at 1pm, Snowshoe Discovery Hike at 2:30pm!

December
24, 25, 26

Wye Marsh is closed for the Holidays

These are the only 3 days of the year that Wye Marsh is closed.

December
23, 27, 30
January 2, 3

Winter Break Camp at Wye Marsh

Get your nature lovers outside this winter break! Campers ages 6 - 12 (must be in grade 1) will be given so many opportunities to connect with nature that they will forget all about connecting to their devices! Pre-registration required.

January 4
10am-12pm

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

The Christmas Bird Count for Kids is a fun winter birdwatching event for kids and families. Join us to learn about birds, connect with young naturalists, and become a Citizen Scientist! Included in admission!

January 12
1pm-3pm

Winter Raptor Review

Winter is the best time of year for raptor watchers! Join Tom Goldsmith who will provide you with the skills to confidently identify raptors commonly found throughout central Ontario during the winter. Pre-registration required.

January 12, 19, 26
February 2, 23
March 1

Winter Pursuits

Exclusively run outdoors, this program will focus on embracing all that winter has to offer - from snowshoe obstacle courses & bannock to shelter building & animal tracking!

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22
5:30pm-7:30pm

Marsh by Moonlight Snowshoe

Experience the sights and sounds that snowshoeing along our moonlit trails! After learning about the Wye Marsh at night through hoots, chatter, coos, yips and howls relax by a crackling fire to enjoy a hot snack and tea. Pre-registration required.

Jan 26 & Feb. 2
9am-12pm
Feb. 15, 16, 29
1pm-4pm

Snowshoe Eco-Tours

Experience areas of the Wye Marsh that are otherwise not open to the general visiting public! After a brief lesson on the art of snowshoeing, you will head out in search of the many mysteries that animal tracks & signs present. Pre-registration required.

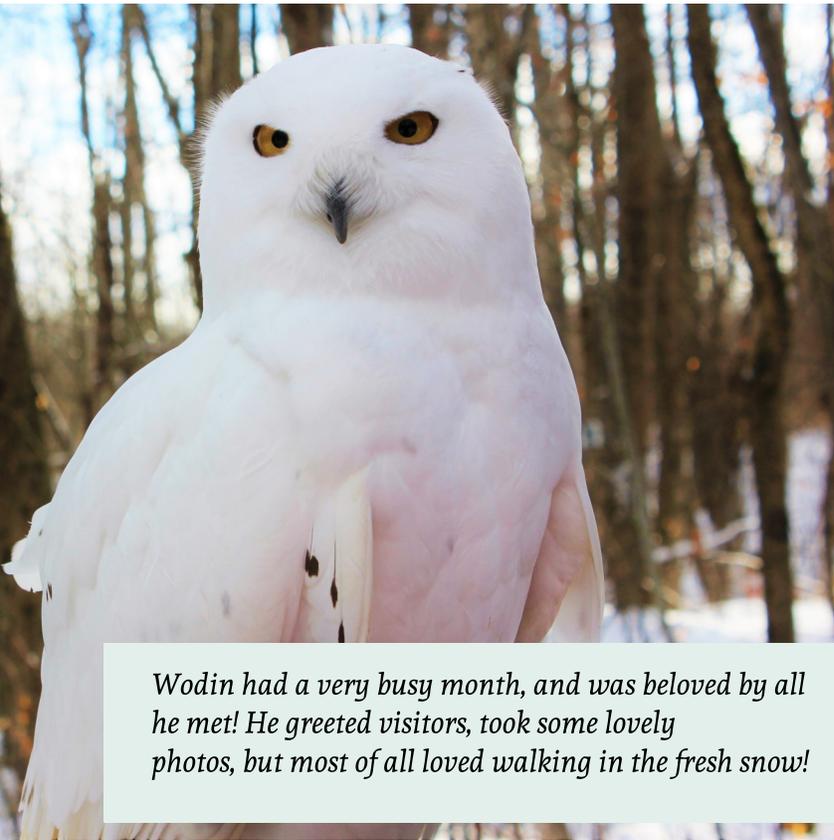


6675

6675 hours were donated in 2019 by our fabulous team of over 100 volunteers. From animal care to outreach, from public programs to the front desk and beyond, your time has made a big difference at Wye Marsh. **THANK YOU.**

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider becoming to be part of our enthusiastic team! To sign up for or inquire about these positions, contact Amanda at **705-526-7809 ext. 217** or **ASWICK@WYEMARSH.COM**



Wodin had a very busy month, and was beloved by all he met! He greeted visitors, took some lovely photos, but most of all loved walking in the fresh snow!

Bannock Roasting/ Fire Keeper

ROLE: Duties include to build and maintain a small fire, and we explain to guests what Bannock is, and the steps in roasting it. This role is excellent for someone who enjoys being outdoors and interacting with others. Training provided.

TIME COMMITMENT: On call, 2 hour shifts.

Front Desk Volunteers

ROLE: Greeting visitors, answer the phone, provide direction, and process admission and gift store purchases. Training provided.

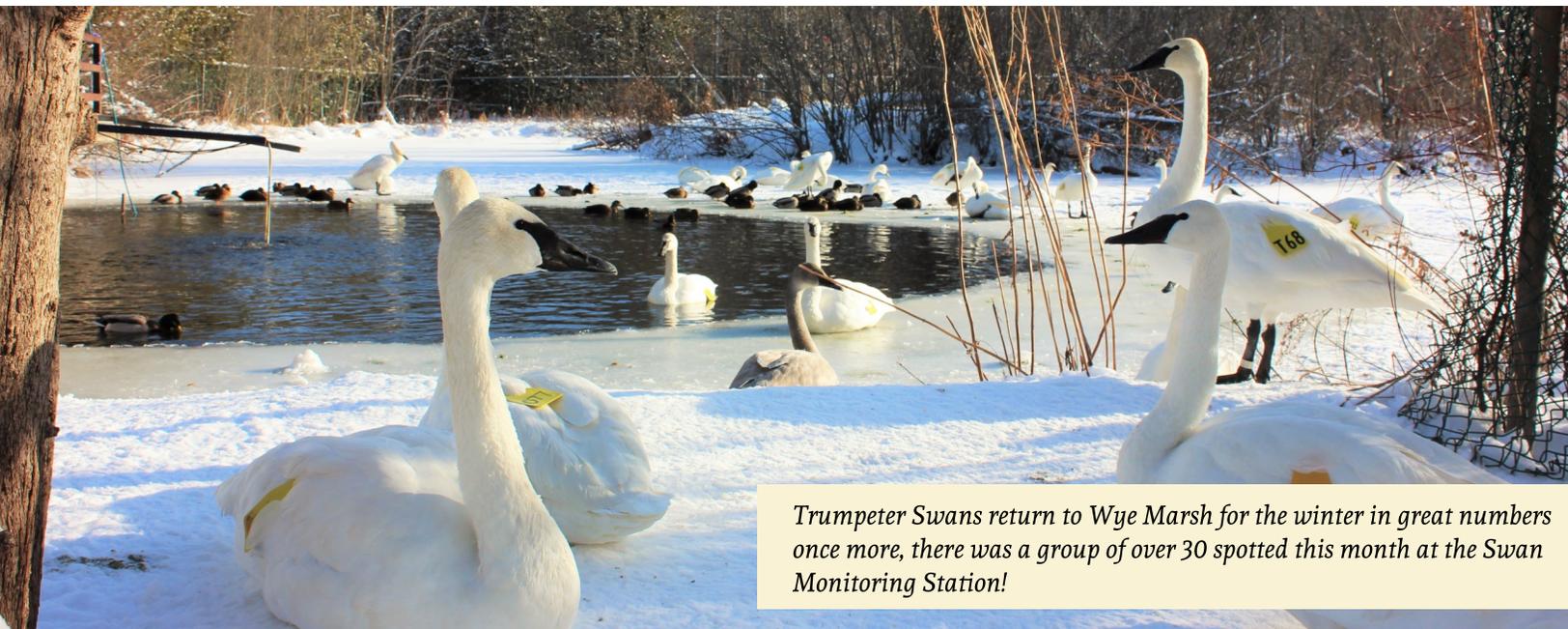
TIME COMMITMENT: Between 4-12 hours per month.





THANK YOU to our friends at LabX Media Group and Huronia Community Foundation gift from the LabX Media Group Charity Fund - Huronia Community Foundation on December 6th. We are incredibly grateful for the support!

L - R: Jana Lucker - Friends of Wye Marsh Board of Directors, Rob Walker - Lab X, Scott Warnock - ED Huronia Community Foundation, Cheryl Ward - Lab X, Dave Robertson - Friends of Wye Marsh Board of Directors, Roberta Bald - President Board of Directors, HCF.



Trumpeter Swans return to Wye Marsh for the winter in great numbers once more, there was a group of over 30 spotted this month at the Swan Monitoring Station!

CAMP AT WYE MARSH

Psst.. What are your kids doing when school's out? How about exploring?

March Break & PA Day Camp available!



At March Break Camp, campers will learn to cross-country ski or snowshoe, tour a working sugar shack, hand feed chickadees, see live reptiles, amphibians, and birds of prey, plus much, much more!

PA Day Camps are a part of Marsh School, and offer fun, hands on, unique activities. Camps run everyday that school isn't! More info/ registration is available on our website, or by contacting Makenzie at 705-526-7809 ext. 202.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Each of our volunteers is invaluable to the success of the Wye Marsh, and we appreciate every role that is taken up. This monthly volunteer spotlight is meant to highlight some of the great work done by our team of volunteers.

Thank you to all!

VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR: DALE REECHIA & FRANCIS STRINGER

Dale & Francis have been dedicated volunteers at Wye Marsh for over 15 years! This year at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon, they were presented the Volunteers of the Year Award for 2019. Dale & Francis were voted by both our team of volunteers as well as staff for this award!

Over the years, the duo have volunteered in many roles including as guided canoers, guided hikers, assisting with school groups, members of the Outreach Committee, and various stewardship initiatives such as the Frog Survey for Bird Studies Canada or working to stop invasive species in the Marsh.

They are a pleasure to be around, and Wye Marsh is lucky to have them as part of the team.

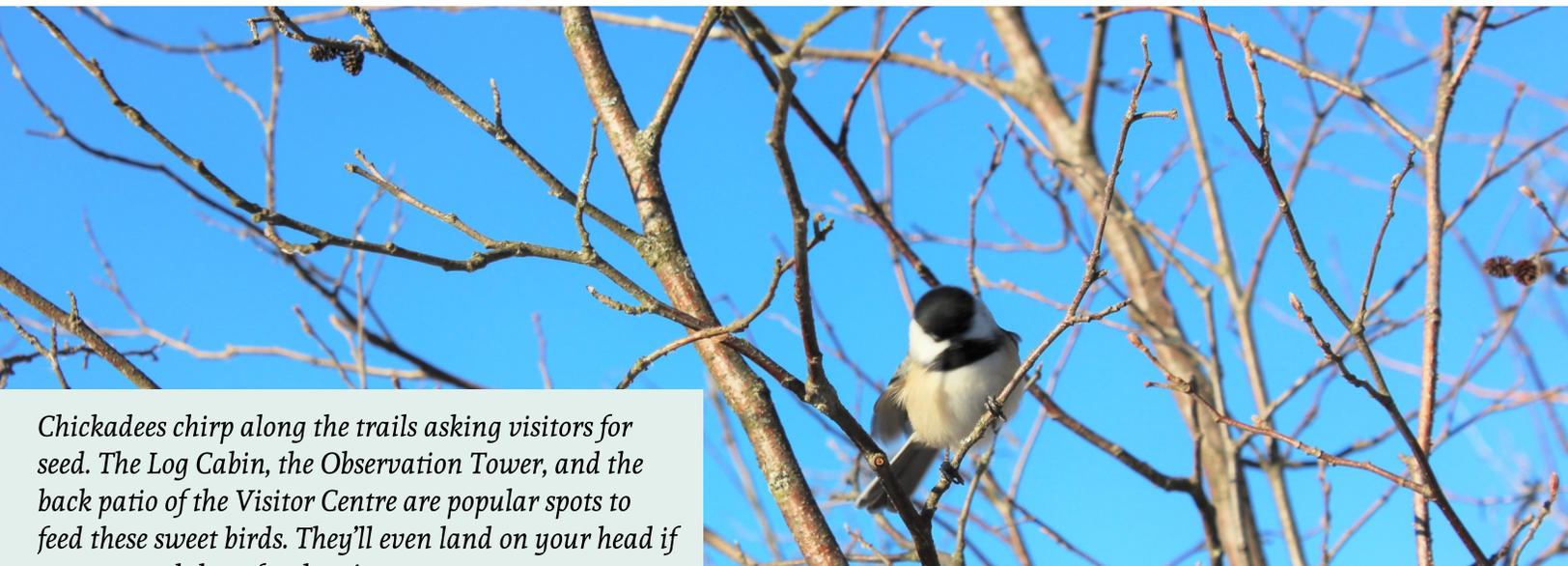
Thank you Dale & Francis!



(Top) Dale & Francis accept the Volunteer of the Year Award.

(Bottom L): Dale with Jimmer in Summer 2006.

(Bottom R): Francis with Artemis in summer 2006.



Chickadees chirp along the trails asking visitors for seed. The Log Cabin, the Observation Tower, and the back patio of the Visitor Centre are popular spots to feed these sweet birds. They'll even land on your head if