

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THE WYE MARSH WILDLIFE CENTRE.
OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, "MARSH MATTERS", WILL KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT WYE MARSH!



We're so excited to announce
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre
has won FOUR (4) Mirror
Readers' Choice Awards!

- Children's Entertainment
- Day Trip Destinations
- Family Activities AND
- Local Tourist Attraction

Thank you to everyone who
voted and believes in us. We're
looking forward to
another fantastic year together!



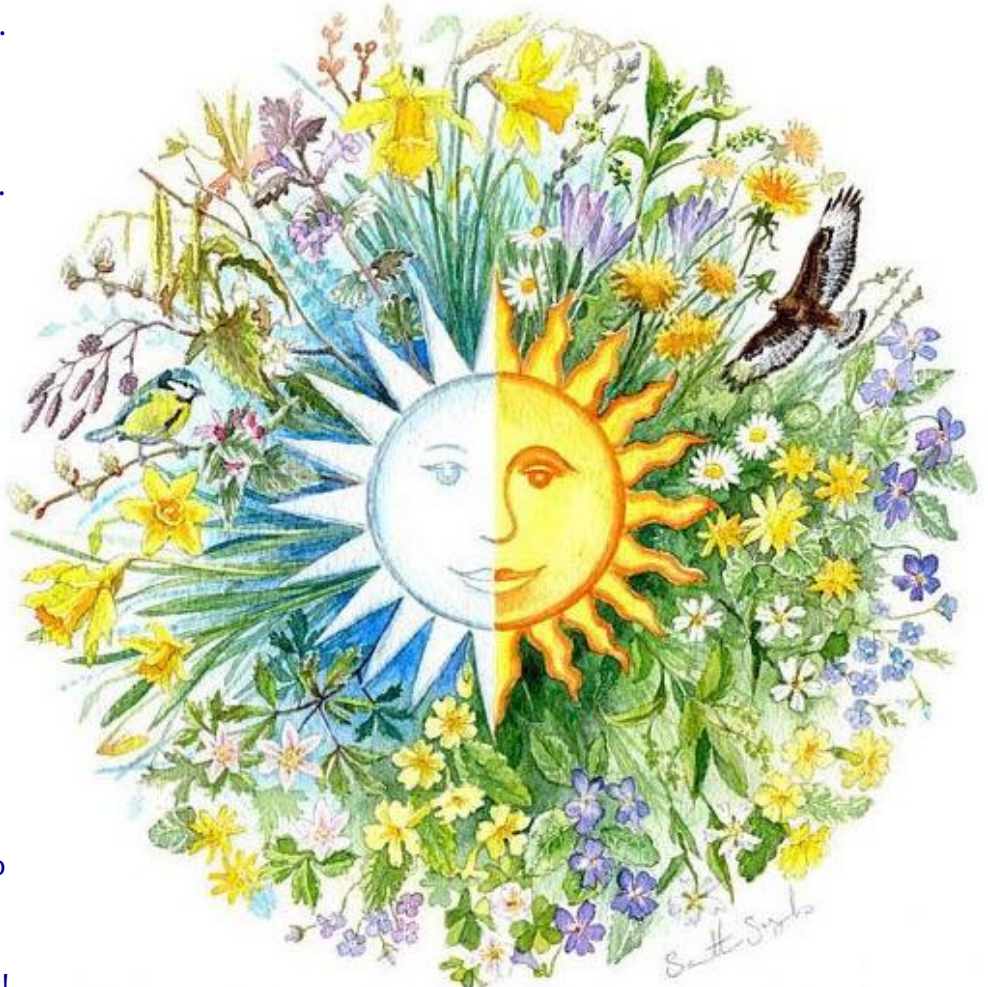
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING INVITE

Our Friends of Wye Marsh Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place at the Wye Marsh Visitors Centre, located at 16160 Highway 12 East, Midland, from 10 am ~ 12 pm on Saturday, April 29, 2023. Please make sure your membership is up-to-date so that you may cast a vote for our 2023 Board of Directors and auditors. Send RSVP to: hkeery@wyemarsh.com

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy Spring! There is so much I'm excited to share with you this month.

Camp registration opened in late March and many sessions are already full for July and August 2023. We continually look for ways to safely grow our camp, and each year it fills faster and faster. We have hired our expanded counsellor team for the summer and are excited to be making some new updates to our camps including Indigenous and Métis-lead programming blocks featuring crafts, stories, and hikes. We are also pleased to have created additional spots for local charitable groups like Chigamik Community Health Centre, Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions, We Are the Villagers, La Maison Rosewood, and Big Brothers Big Sisters North Simcoe. We are grateful to those who contributed to the Gordon Black Memorial Camp Sponsorship Fund to support the creation of these spots!



Our Board President has done an outstanding job of updating you on the invasive species work being carried out by our Conservation and Stewardship department this winter. Things may not look very nice right now on some of our trails, but nature will bounce back.

Coming up this month is our AGM on Saturday April 29 at 10am. This hybrid event will be an opportunity to recap our last year, and look ahead to the next. To register to attend please email hkeery@wymarsh.com. Zoom links will be sent out the week before the meeting, and only members will have an opportunity to vote. Be sure your membership is up to date!

Also on April 29 we are excited to FINALLY be able to show off the work that has been done to upgrade our Display Hall over the past 12 months. We are grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their funding for this project, and hope to see you at our recognition event at noon on Saturday April 29.

We look forward to seeing you at Wye Marsh in April!

Kim Hacker, Executive Director



MEET Ziibi

SPECIES
Bald Eagle

AGE: 7

WHY ZIIBI
LIVES @ WYE MARSH:
Permanent injury
to right eye,
cause unknown.

FUN FACTS:

-Juveniles under 5 are often dark brown with large patches of white. Only after 5 do they start to transition into their adult plumage with a white head and tail, and yellow beak and feet.

-Eagles have incredible vision and can see 4-5 times farther than people; they can spot a rabbit from over 4 kilometers away!

Ziibi is currently available for "adoption"!

A HUGE SHOUT OUT to our AWESOME Team of Sweetwater Volunteers, Staff, Sponsors and Program Partners!



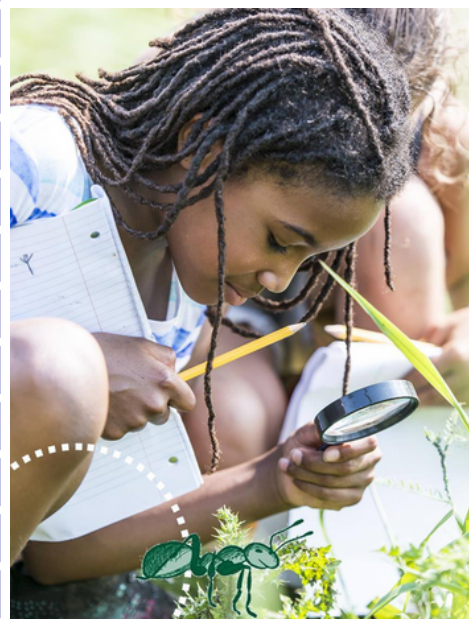
More than 2,000 people attended the four-day event to see our Sugar Shack, raptors, trails and marsh.

While high winds kept us from roasting Bannock on site - and actually closed the trails one day - we got creative.

Compliments to the Sap Suckers for relocating props to the Pavilion, and thanks to the staff at Sainte-Marie for welcoming us into the longhouse to roast Bannock for the second weekend!



Our gratitude goes to Charlene & Raymundo at Boulangers Midland City Bakers. Their sweet and savoury pie sales helped raise \$160 for Wye Marsh!



Friends of Wye Marsh is now accepting applications for its popular Summer Camp Counselors-in-Training Volunteer Program.

Open to youth ages 13-17

A great way to earn volunteer service hours, build skills, and be part of a dynamic team in an exciting outdoor setting.

Download application forms at:
www.wyemarsh.com/CIT

EMERALD ASH BORER UPDATE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"For those of you who have recently visited our trail system, you might have been forgiven for thinking that you were walking through a commercial logging operation, with felled trees all over the place. For this we apologise. What you are seeing is the unavoidable consequence of dealing with the aftereffects of the Emerald Ash Borer and its depredations. As you know, Ontario is facing many challenges from different Invasive Species - birds, plants, insects, diseases, marine life, mammals. These Invasive Species are not necessarily a threat or a menace in their home environments, where checks and balances have evolved to keep them under control; but when transplanted to an alien environment (eg. Ontario!), they frequently go unchecked, and run rampant. Hence the frequent prohibitions and regulations which attempt to prevent the introduction or spread of alien breeds and strains. You may wonder why there are strict regulations regarding the import of plants and foodstuffs, regarding the transportation of firewood, regarding the washing and cleaning of boats and trailers; every day we, and organizations like us, fight a battle to limit the effects of other people's thoughtless past actions. You will also notice around the Marsh our attempts to control the invasive Glossy Buckthorn (the black plastic bags).

There is unfortunately no quick, easy and affordable remedy for the Emerald Ash Borer. The affected ash trees die, and fall; and hopefully in time a more resistant strain regenerates. However, the dead trees, while still standing, pose a considerable hazard if they are anywhere near our trail system. Closing the trails for 5 to 10 years while nature takes its course, was not considered to be a viable option. So, in consultation with and in collaboration with Environment & Climate Change Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, the affected ash trees near to our trail system (and therefore a potential hazard to all trail users), have been felled by a trained arborist. Tidying up of the felled areas will take place as the ground dries up. In the meantime, we ask your forbearance as Time and Mother Nature make good the damage.

Enjoy your Marsh!"

Regards,

Alasdair MacLean, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.

EARTH DAY



FREE ADMISSION

Sat, April 22, 2023

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 9 am ~ 10 am.... | Wye River Clean-Up: Meet at Sainte-Marie Park. Wear gloves! |
| 9:30 am | Our Beautiful Bees: Family fun in the Display Hall. |
| 10 am | Drumming: An ancient celebration of life forces. |
| 11 am | Recycling Goodness in the Garden: Making pop bottle terrariums, planting seedlings in the classroom. |
| 11 am | Rubber Boot Hike: Meet us at the Back Door to hike the ski trails. |
| 1 pm | Wet'N Scaly: Climate Change & Turtles in the Display Hall.
Creation Story: Hear how we all live on "Turtle Island". |
| 2 pm | Pollinator Seed Bombs: Make one in the classroom to take home! |
| 2:30 pm | Dip Netting: Examining aquatic life floating by the Boardwalk. |

WYE DO TRUMPETER SWANS NOD THEIR HEADS?

Trumpeter Swans have a habit of nodding their heads and trumpeting at each other. If you visit Wye Marsh each season, you might have noticed this behaviour is more prominent in the spring. It's not because swans agree with each other all the time - it is part of the pair bonding ritual and sign of affection!

Trumpeter Swans mate for life.

The male "cobs" and female "pens" begin to look for a mate when they are 4 - 7 years old, with courtship taking place from March through to May.

Pair bonding displays consist of spreading or raising their wings, flapping their wings at each other, trumpeting together, or nodding at one another. These actions solidify their bond, and let their neighbours know that they are mates.



IG: sadiee_emily

Once couples have been established or reunited, the pens and cobs work together to build their nest together.

Nests range from 1.2 meters to 3.6 meters in diameter and take 2 -5 weeks to build on the ground. They are often found deep among the cattail beds of a marsh, where they are surrounded by water for protection.

Pens lay one egg every other day, until they have a clutch of 3-8 eggs. It takes about 34-37 days of incubations before the grey "cygnets" hatch.

Only half will make it to October, having managed to escape predation from snapping turtles, coyotes, and other predators. Another half will likely perish before reaching reproductive age. For those that make it to their fourth year, and hear their biological clocks ticking, they will start their trumpeting and bobbing their heads, as generations have done before them, looking for their mate.

To learn more about Trumpeter Swans please visit:
https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Trumpeter_Swan

WHAT'S ON AT WYE MARSH



EARTH DAY

9 am - 3 pm on Saturday, April 22

Join Friends of Wye Marsh for a wonderful action-packed Earth Day celebration. Free workshops and family-friendly activities - plus drummers and a storyteller! FREE ADMISSION. (Donations appreciated.)



BIRD BATH PAINTING WORKSHOP

2:30 ~ 4 pm on Saturday, April 22

Attract birds to your back yard - and give them a chance to cool down this summer - with this cute bird bath. All materials provided. \$30 per person
Please pre-register at: www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10 am ~ 12 pm on April 29

Join us in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's Display Hall at 10 am to review last year's successes, audited financial statements and committee reports. Please make sure your membership is up-to-date as only Members may vote to elect our 2023 Board of Directors and auditors. To register please email: hkeery@wyemarsh.com



WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

1 ~ 3 pm on May 6

This is an introductory watercolour painting class. Participants can be inspired by the blossoms and new life all around us at Wye Marsh. Learn basic techniques, and a few tips and tricks, that spark your creativity. No matter your level of skill, you are welcome to share an afternoon of discovery with Lisa. \$55 per person
Please pre-register at: www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh



SPRING MARSH BY MOONLIGHT

9 ~ 11 pm on May 26, 27, June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17

Bathe in moonlight. Take in the stars. Paddle through inky waters as our guide introduces you to the night life at Wye Marsh. Limited dates available for these nocturnal adventures. \$75 per person
Please pre-register at: www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-By-Moonlight-Canoe



INTRO TO BEEKEEPING WORKSHOP

9:30 ~ 11:30 am on June 10

Want to be more self sufficient? Want to connect with nature? Learn the basics about keeping bees. This is one workshop you don't want to miss! \$40 per person
Please pre-register at: www.wyemarsh.com/Beekeeping-Workshop



KAYAK ECOTOURS

June, July, August

Go off trail - and explore remote parts of Wye Marsh by kayak this summer. Book a private guided tour, in French or English, for a unique outdoor experience that fits your schedule and interests. \$65 per person. Please book your adventure at least TWO (2) weeks in advance.

www.wyemarsh.com/canoe-kayak-ecotours#



WYE MARSH TRAILS SYSTEM

16160 HIGHWAY 12 EAST, TAY, ON | (705) 526-7809

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

Open Land/ Forest
 Wetland/Open Water
 Building

LEGEND

Hiking Trails

Boardwalk

Trail closure due to repairs ⊘

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

TRAILS CLOSE
4:00 pm Nov-April
4:30 pm May-Oct

GATES LOCKED AT 5:00 PM



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.