

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 the Wye Marsh!

POISON PIE, OTHER FUNGI, & PARASITIC PLANTS



Saturday, August 26, from 10 am - 12 noon
From Ghost Pipes to Birds Nest Fungi and Wolf's Milk, you never know what you will see when walking the trails at Wye Marsh. Must register in advance. See www.wyemarsh.com/Summer-Events

HIGHLIGHTS:

Volunteer of the Month



Music in the Marsh



Invasive Species Alert



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is **open daily**, from 9:00am-4:30pm.

 16160 Highway 12 East, Midland, ON L4R 1K6  705-526-7809

 info@wyemarsh.com  www.wyemarsh.com  [wyemarshwildlifecentre](https://www.facebook.com/wyemarshwildlifecentre)   [@wyemarsh](https://twitter.com/wyemarsh)

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Here we are halfway through summer, and we are as busy as ever at Wye Marsh! Camp is in full swing, and we are excited to introduce new Camp Director Céleste Leblanc (Fisher), who has recently joined our team on a permanent basis. We are running public kayaking, canoeing, and Meet the Naturalist programs seven days a week, and teaching people about our Feature Creatures – bees on Fridays, reptiles on Saturdays and raptors on Sundays! As we sometimes have to cancel programs due to weather or visiting groups, we recommend giving us a call on the day of your visit to confirm whether something is running.

Coming this fall, we have a wonderful evening music event planned for Saturday September 23, our ever-popular Marsh by Moonlight paddle program in late September/early October, and for the little ones, we are offering Marsh School – a homeschool or out-school option for children aged 4 to 12 on Tuesdays. To learn more, check out our web page or give us a call.

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

*Kim Hacker,
Executive Director*

OUR TRAILS ARE PET FRIENDLY!

Pets are welcome at Wye Marsh, provided they remain on a leash and with their human at all times. Pets are not permitted in the Birds of Prey area for the safety of the Birds of Prey or in Swan Landing for the safety of the Trumpeter Swans.

**Please pick up after your pet. Bring the waste back to the Visitor Centre.*

We find a lot of little bundles on benches!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hard to believe we have reached the month of August. They say that time flies when you are having fun. I can personally state the campers and visitors to the marsh thus far are having great fun. From those enjoying the kayak and canoe tours, to taking time to meet a naturalist, to hiking the trails, to being an active camper, it is truly common to see the smiles and hear laughter. The wildlife here at the marsh has not let us down, with the Ospreys raising their young, to bull frogs, turtles, herons and a marvellous assortment of other critters. There is always something to see and enjoy.

As a challenge, take some time in the Discovery Hall and test yourself on egg knowledge. No, not fried or scrambled! Check out the egg display and guess what was born from these eggs. Thus far, I am aware of one young fellow who was recently able to correctly answer two eggs. How good are you? And if you ever have questions or comments, do not hesitate to speak with any of our staff or volunteers. We are all here to help you enjoy your wildlife experience.

Rick Brady

President, Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.



MEET DARWIN!

Turkey Vulture

AGE: 6

REASON FOR LIVING AT
WYE MARSH: Human Imprint

FUN FACTS:

- Turkey Vultures play an important role in keeping the viral and bacterial loads in the environment low by eating carrion (animal carcasses).
- This species is the most widespread western vulture and can be found from southern Canada to the tip of South America.
- Turkey Vultures have a keen sense of smell and can smell the gasses coming from a rotting carcass from just under 3km away!





INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Oak Wilt has been confirmed in two locations in Ontario: *Niagara Region and Springwater Township.*



A new invasive species has been detected in Canada. Oak wilt is a vascular disease of oak trees, caused by the fungus, *Bretziella fagacearum*, and has recently been found in Simcoe county, Niagara and Niagara-on-the-lake. This fungus is transported by beetles above ground, and below ground through tree roots. Once the fungus enters the tree, it grows on the outer sapwood of the Oak, restricting flow of water and nutrients, killing the tree in as little as one year. Oak wilt has spread through the Eastern United States and the first case in Canada was confirmed in Niagara Falls in 2023. This is of serious concern as Oak wilt can result in habitat loss, decline in biodiversity, and loss of food supply to forest animals.

There are a number of different signs and symptoms to look out for at different stages of the disease. The leaves of the tree become discoloured turning dull green, brown or yellow, progressing from the edge of the leaf inwards, beginning at the top of the tree and moving downwards. Wilting, bronzing of leaves, and pre-mature leaf drop are also possible evidence of oak wilt. Evidence of fungal mat development under the bark is also possible, leading to vertical bark cracks in the trunk and large branches caused by the pressure of the fungal mat under the bark. These mats are black and emit a fruity smell.

You can help prevent the spread of oak wilt! First, learn the signs and symptoms and report any sightings to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Never move firewood; this can cause the spread of not only oak wilt but other damaging insects and diseases. Do not prune oak trees from April to October. Because oak wilt can be introduced through wounds, it is best to avoid injuring trees during peak transmission periods. If an oak tree is wounded during this time frame, cover the wound with a small layer of tree wound paint or latex paint.

Laboratory verification is required to confirm oak wilt, so if you suspect a case of oak wilt, please report it to Canadian Food Inspection Agency immediately at: [1-800-442-2342](tel:1-800-442-2342).

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

A single piece of firewood can **DESTROY** millions of trees.



* Please check your local fire hazard advisory before burning.

Moving firewood, even just a few kilometres away, can spread invasive insects and diseases to our forests.

Learn more: inspection.canada.ca/firewood or 1-800-442-2342

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT WYE MARSH:



DAILY GUIDED KAYAK TOURS

All of August starting at 10:00am

Pick your way through the water lilies, and discover wildlife hiding among the cattails, when you join our Naturalist for a 1.5-hour guided kayak tour of Wye Marsh. Must be 8 years of age or older. Tandem & single kayak options available. No advanced reservations. *Book your spot when you arrive at Front Desk, at least 15 minutes before departure from the tower docks. Cost is the price of general admission PLUS \$10 per person + HST.*



DAILY GUIDED CANOE TOURS

This month @ 10:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm & 3:30 pm

Take a one-hour guided canoe tour through the marsh in one of our voyageur canoes! No advanced reservations. Book your spot when you arrive at Front Desk, at least 15 minutes before departure from the canoe docks. *Cost is the price of general admission PLUS \$8 per person + HST.*



MEET THE NATURALIST

Monday - Sunday this month @ 11:45 am

There are so many fascinating stories to tell, and experiences to be had, at Wye Marsh! "Meet the Naturalist" and let them introduce you to a different intriguing topic every day, when you meet in the Visitors Centre at 11:45 am. All ages and abilities welcome. Sessions *included with general admission!*



MEET OUR WYE MARSH BEES

Fridays this month at 1:00pm

What's the buzz? Make a bee line for our Beekeeper to learn some fun facts about our Queen Bee and hives at Wye Marsh. This short educational demonstration is *included with the price of admission!*



WET N SCALY

Saturdays this month @ 1:00 pm

What do you know about the turtles and snakes at Wye Marsh? Find out more about our "Wet N Scaly" friends during this 45-minute demonstration, which is *included with the price of admission!*



BIRDS OF PREY DEMONSTRATION

Sundays this month @ 1:00 pm

Join us in the Birds of Prey Field for a captivating, live, educational demonstration featuring our beautiful Raptors. Learn about their habitats, diets, fun facts, and more! These 45-minute demonstration take place as weather/bookings permit, and are *included with the price of admission!*



KAYAK
ECOTOURS

EcoTours 3-hour trip (August & September)

For a unique outdoor experience that fits your schedule and interests, book a private guided Kayak Ecotour in English or French. Access remote parts of the marsh, well beyond the limits of our walking trails, and fully explore the beauty of Wye Marsh during this three-hour adventure. \$ 65 / person. *Please book at least 2 weeks in advance:* www.wyemarsh.com/canoe-kayak-ecotours#



POISON PIE,
FUNGI &
PARASITIC
PLANTS

Saturday, August 26 from 10 am - 12 noon

Black Witch's Butter? Devil's Urn? Deadly Galerina and Poison Pie? Join us for a fascinating 2 hour workshop, shining the spotlight on deadly sac fungi, jelly fungi, gilled mushrooms, slime molds and parasitic plants growing at Wye Marsh. Enjoy a guided tour. Make a "spore print" to take home! *\$20 per person + HST Register online at* www.wyemarsh.com/Summer-Events



PRINT
MAKING
WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 9 from 1 - 3 pm

Mimic rhythmic patterns, found in nature, to create wonderful dynamic prints under the tutelage of Lisa Harpell. Everyone of all abilities is welcome to join in the fun, for an afternoon of artistic experimentation. Materials provided by Creative Madness Art Studios. *\$55 per person, materials included Register online at* www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh



WILDLIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY
WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 23 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

Grab your camera, and get ready to play with lighting, composition and depth-of-field to create artistic wildlife images. Spend the morning with Richard Vandermeer, and learn how to approach skittish birds and other shy critters to get that perfect shot. Please bring a digital SLR camera with at least a 200 mm lens to this workshop. All other materials will be provided, and are to be returned at the end of session. *\$75 per person Register online at* www.wyemarsh.com/Fall-Events



BEADED
EARRINGS
WORKSHOP

Sunday, Sept 24 from 1:30 - 4:00 pm

Join Noopimining Creations for a wonderful introduction to an ancient artform. Learn techniques and skills to create beautiful jewelry, and take home your own beaded earrings to enjoy. *\$80 per person. All materials provided. Register at* www.wyemarsh.com/beaded-earring-workshop

WYE CAN GRASSHOPPERS JUMP SO HIGH?

Grasshoppers can jump up to 77 cm. Proportionately, that would be like a human jumping over the length of a hockey arena in one bound! As their name suggests, grasshoppers spend the majority of their time camouflaged in grasses and eating the plant life – when threatened they will jump to flee.

The hind legs of a grasshopper act like a catapult. Muscles in their hind legs slowly contract and the knee bends, while a special tenon acts as a spring storing the kinetic energy. When the grasshopper relaxes the muscle, the energy is released, and they propel forward.



WE ARE CELEBRATING THE LAUNCH OF MARSH SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2023

On June 28th we hosted an open house for Marsh School, in partnership with the Midland Public Library. Families gathered on the land for a community potluck, followed by an interactive nature hike and nature craft. Parents also had a chance to engage with our Education Manager, Jennifer Pelletier, to provide their feedback to help design our upcoming Marsh School, set to launch this September!

Marsh School is a perfect resource for parents wanting to augment their child's learning, and is designed for new and well-seasoned homeschoolers, as well as families searching for out-school fun. Our nature-based program allows children to experience their environment at their own pace and to get close to nature and wildlife through outdoor hands-on learning and meaningful explorations. They will have opportunities to make greater connections to nature through Indigenous land-based knowledge and wisdom, and discover the wonders of nature through a scientific lens.

Our programs are delivered by fully trained and experienced Outdoor Educators; we welcome all different learning styles and create opportunities for children to learn through play and exploration.

This year we are happy to announce that we plan to have two learning pods for children ages 4-6 (bilingual in French and English); and 7-14 years old (English only). *Keep an eye on our social media for upcoming registration dates!*



FEED A FRIEND!

Volunteer 2 hrs/month to raise >\$6,000 per year as a Wye Marsh Bingo Volunteer.

All funds raised help feed and enrich the lives of our other Wye Marsh Animal Ambassadors.

Call Heather at 705-526-7809 ext 217

Email: hkeery@wyemarsh.com

Thank you!





MUSIC IN THE MARSH

OPEN - AIR CONCERT



Septmeber 23, 2023 7-9pm \$25 per person

Let the sweet sounds of acoustic guitars, fiddles, and ukuleles lead you along the trails for a magical night at Wye Marsh.

Funds raised support trail maintenance, conservation projects and environmental education programs at Wye Marsh!

Ariko (The Lefaiwe Family)
Chas Laurie
Emma Reynolds
Nick Howell
Northern Mockingbirds

Online Tickets at: www.wyemarsh.com/music-in-the-marsh

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PURE
COUNTRY ★ RADIO

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BOUNCE
RADIO 104.1

**KEY MORTGAGE
PARTNERS**

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH:

Kyra Schefter

Every one of our volunteers plays a key role in our success at Wye Marsh, and we are thrilled to shine our monthly spotlight on some of the great work they do.

While Kyra Schefter is one of our youngest volunteers, she is also one of our most knowledgeable Animal Care Volunteers.

“I’ve been volunteering at Wye Marsh with the Birds of Prey (and sometimes the reptiles) since May 2017,” she says. She loves helping to take care of our raptors, especially the owls, and has learned about each Animal Ambassador’s natural habitat, risks in the wild, and reason for living at Wye Marsh.

In addition to cleaning bird pens, and turtle aquariums, Kyra also helps with food preparation and enrichment. By working closely with Staff, over the years, she has learned a lot of natural history - and developed excellent animal handling skills.

Sometimes you will find Kyra on the trails, taking Leela, Scarlet, or Casper for a stroll, and sharing her love of nature by having engaging conversations with visitors at Wye Marsh.

“My favourite part of volunteering is doing interp,” says Kyra, “especially with my favourite bird, Casper the Barn Owl.”

Casper is one of Ontario’s oldest living Barn Owls in captivity. Although he can be a bit of a grump in his old age, this 17-year-old raptor tends to show his “soft side” with Kyra because of all of the individualized enrichment she has provided. It has raised his quality of life, and inspired her stunning artwork, buttons and stickers. For all of this, we are very grateful.

Thank you to everyone for investing your time, talent and passion in Wye Marsh!



Think you have seen an invasive species?
REPORT IT! 1-800-563-7711 OR www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario



Wye Marsh Trails System

16160 Highway 12 East, Tay, ON | (705) 526-7809

LEGEND

Hiking Trails ———

Boardwalk — — — — —

Marsh March ——— 1.9 km
(Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)

Hardwood & Return Trail 0.4 km

Muskrat Loop 1.6 km

Woodland Trail 1.5 km

Beaver Trail 1.0 km




Arboretum Trail 0.6 km

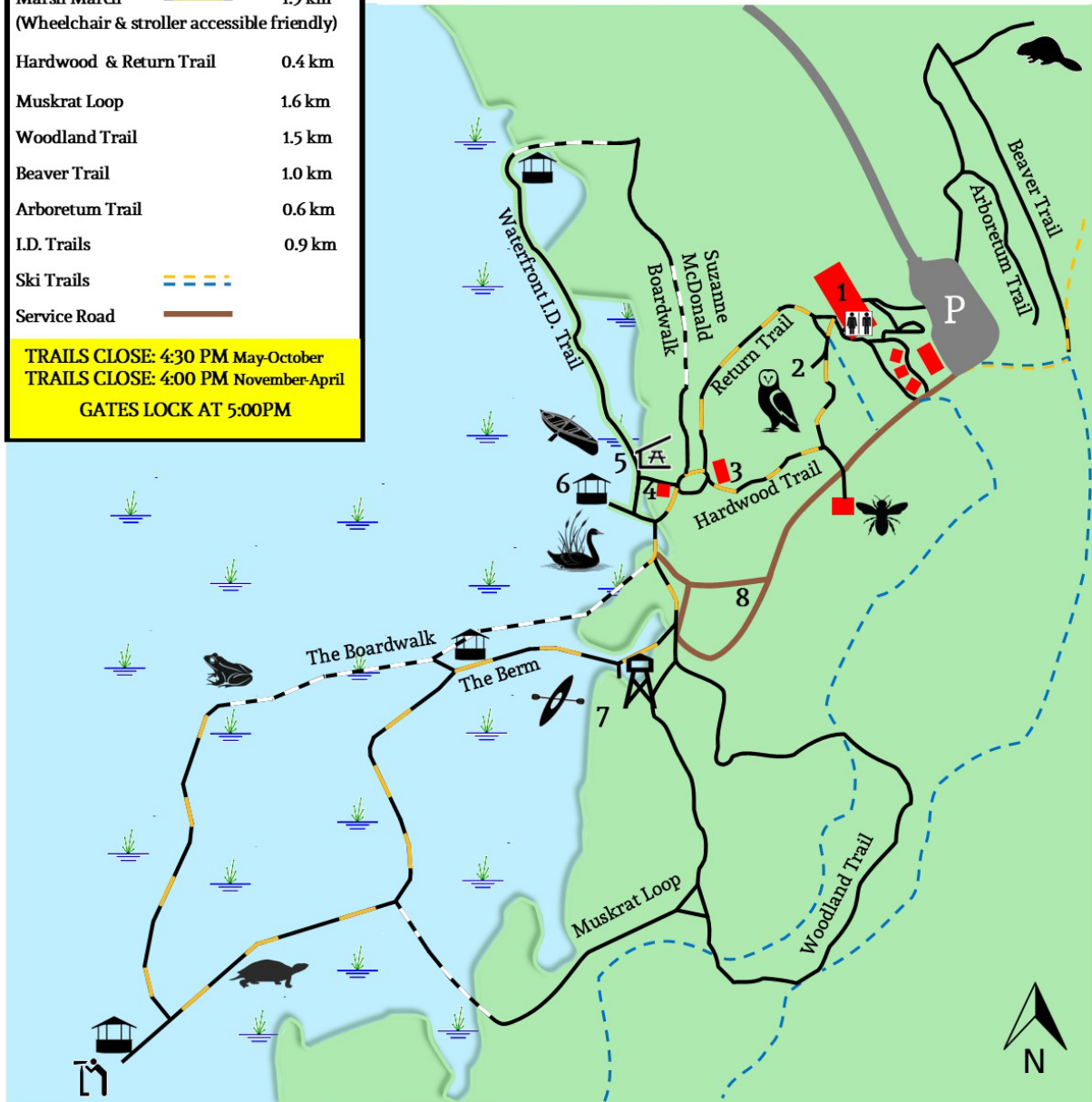
I.D. Trails 0.9 km

Ski Trails - - - - -

Service Road ———

TRAILS CLOSE: 4:30 PM May-October
TRAILS CLOSE: 4:00 PM November-April
GATES LOCK AT 5:00PM

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Visitor's Centre | 2 Birds of Prey Field |  Open Land/Forest |
| 3 Sugar Shack | 4 Log Cabin |  Wetland |
| 5 Canoe Dock | 6 Swan Landing |  Building |
| 7 Kayak Dock | 8 Tenting Field | |



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 return to the Visitor's Centre if foul weather conditions threaten.