

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!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Earth Day movement began with Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson in 1969 following a massive oil spill in California. He decided that enough was enough; and began to plan for a national day to focus on the environment and the consumptive way of life that was taking its toll on the planet.


Senator Nelson aimed to infuse the energy of the anti-war protests with awareness of air and water pollutions. April 22, 1970 was selected as the First Earth Day because the main demographic he wanted to engage was young people in college/university who typically participated in such events. April 22 was between spring break and final exams, as well as on a Wednesday, which was planned to cause the most disruption/draw the most attention to the rallies.

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 engaged 20 million people who protested the deterioration of the environment and called for its protection. A ripple effect began!

By 1990 Earth Day had gone global with 200 million people engaged. 2020 marked the 50th anniversary of Earth day, and **in 2021, over 1 billion people were engaged!**

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

Updated safety precautions are in place.
For more information, [please click here](#).



A very curious Barred Owl has been seen regularly at Wye Marsh lately! Have you spotted it yet?

ON THE WILD SIDE:

April is a great time to garden - *inside!* Seedlings should be started roughly 4-6 weeks before transplanting to your garden, depending on the plant of course. Chilly, rainy, April days are perfect to pull out your seed tray and plant away if you haven't started already!

Outdoors, take your time and wait to clean your yard. With the weather still fluctuating, many species may be taking refuge in leaf debris in your yard and deep in the soil. Leaf and twig debris can also be useful nesting material for birds. Spreading mulch too early can block the emergence of insects and plants, and cutting your lawn too early can uproot delicate spring growth. Early pollinators will flock to blooming weeds that may be the only food available to them. So, take this as your official excuse to avoid that yard work a little longer - for the environment's sake!



Be on the lookout for critters large and small as they awake from their winter slumber!

The Dangers of Phragmites

Invasive Phragmites (European Common Reed) are an invasive species to Ontario. According to the World Conservation Union, invasive species are the second most significant threat to biodiversity, after habitat loss, because of their disruption to the native eco-system.

Invasive species are non-native to the area in which they are growing or living, and harmful to the environment either directly or through a chain reaction. Invasive species can be plants or animals, such as phragmites, glossy buckthorn, common carp or zebra mussels – all of which are invasive species in our area.



Invasive species are often highly adaptable, have few predators, and are able to reproduce quickly. This often gives them dominance in their new environment as they outcompete native species for food, habitat, or growing space by disrupting the food webs which have been established over long periods of time.

Invasive Phragmites grows in stands that can be extremely dense with as many as 200 stems per square metre, and can reach heights of up to 5 metres (15 feet). It has stems that are tan or beige in colour with blue-green leaves and large, dense seedheads.

The identification and removal of invasive species like phragmites can help our ecosystems thrive!



HELP FIGHT PHRAGMITES!

Want to make a difference?
Become a Phragmites Fighter today!

Join our Volunteer Stewardship Team. Invest your time with Stewardship Manager, Patrick Jackson, to eradicate unwanted Phragmites from Wye Marsh this summer. Please email hkeery@wyemarsh.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

April 9
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Owl Card Making Workshop

Create an awesome customized owl greeting card under the guidance of Master Crafter Janet Dorion. All materials are provided to unleash your artistic side! \$25pp, learn more and register at: www.wyemarsh.com/card-making

April 9
10:00am

Friends of Wye Marsh Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Wye Marsh Annual General meeting will be hosted virtually on April 9, 2022. Any interested parties are welcome to view the meeting. Valid Annual Membership holders are able to vote. Interested parties should email info@wyemarsh.com for the Zoom invitation.

April 23
1:30pm - 3:30pm

March Winds Sign Painting Workshop

Welcome guests to your garden, home, or cottage with a handcrafted sign featuring a joyful frog among cattails. All materials are provided to unleash your artistic side! \$25pp, learn more and register at: www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-sign

April 23

Earth Day Celebrations - Take Action for the Environment

Wye Marsh celebrates Earth Day! Unearth your learning with activities designed for families to learn about stewardship in a hands-on way. Enjoy a day in support of responsible living on our beautiful Earth. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/earthday



May 8

Mother's Day

All mothers are admitted free on Mother's Day to Wye Marsh. We hope you will join us with your family to celebrate the day!

May 14
6:00am

Early Birds at Wye Marsh - a TO DO Ontario Experience

Catch the early morning rays and enjoy a guided hike through provincially significant wetlands. Afterwards, enjoy sharing your sightings with your fellow birders as you enjoy a hot meal at Mom's Restaurant in Midland. \$65 pp. [Learn more and register by clicking here.](#)

May 14

Global Big Day

Join Wye Marsh's naturalists and participate in Big Day - a global bird watching initiative. How many species can you spot? We hope you will join us to bird, or to take part in some of awesome activities. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/global-big-day

May 28,
June 4, 11, 18
9:00pm - 11:00pm

Marsh by Moonlight - Spring Paddle

Experience a guided canoe tour through the sparkling moonlit waters of the Wye Marsh and enjoy a fireside snack. What an unforgettable night! \$75 pp. Pre-registration is required. Learn more and register at www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-By-Moonlight-Canoe

June 19

Father's Day

All fathers are admitted free on Father's Day to Wye Marsh. We hope you will join us with your family to celebrate the day!



EARTH DAY

April 23, 2022



Activities from
9:30am - 2:00pm

AT WYE MARSH



- 9:30am Invasive Buckthorn Pull
- 10:00am Mini Orienteering Adventure
- 10:30am Vegetable Growing Workshop
- 11:00am Restoration Planning Project
- 1:00pm Raptor Demonstration
- 2:00pm Turtle Protecting Initiative



Learn about all the fun at:
www.wyemarsh.com/earthday

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 volunteers.

Thank you to all!

DAVE ROBERTSON

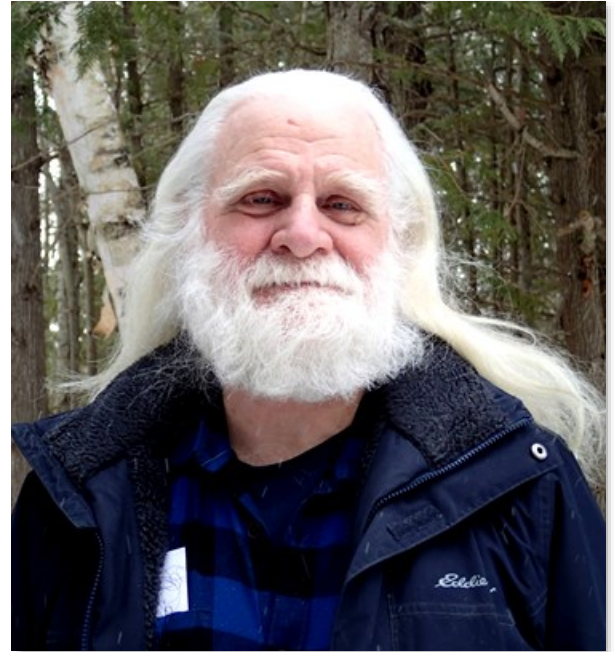
The sounds of spring are in the wind at Wye Marsh. Trumpeter Swans are bobbing heads and honking, solidifying pair bonds. Pine Siskins are back at the feeder. And, as long-time Sugar Shack Volunteer Dave Robertson says, “You can hear the snow melt!”

“I love it,” says Robertson. “It reminds me of my childhood.”

While many of us have fond memories of school trips to the sugar bush, Robertson’s experience was a bit more involved.

Growing up in the country, he spent a lot of time working on the farm. Each spring, from age of 9 to 13, he would meet up with a couple of boys and head out to the bush. “I took the week off from school, and worked in the Sugar Shack,” he recalls. “We lived, ate and slept in the bush. It was absolutely amazing!”

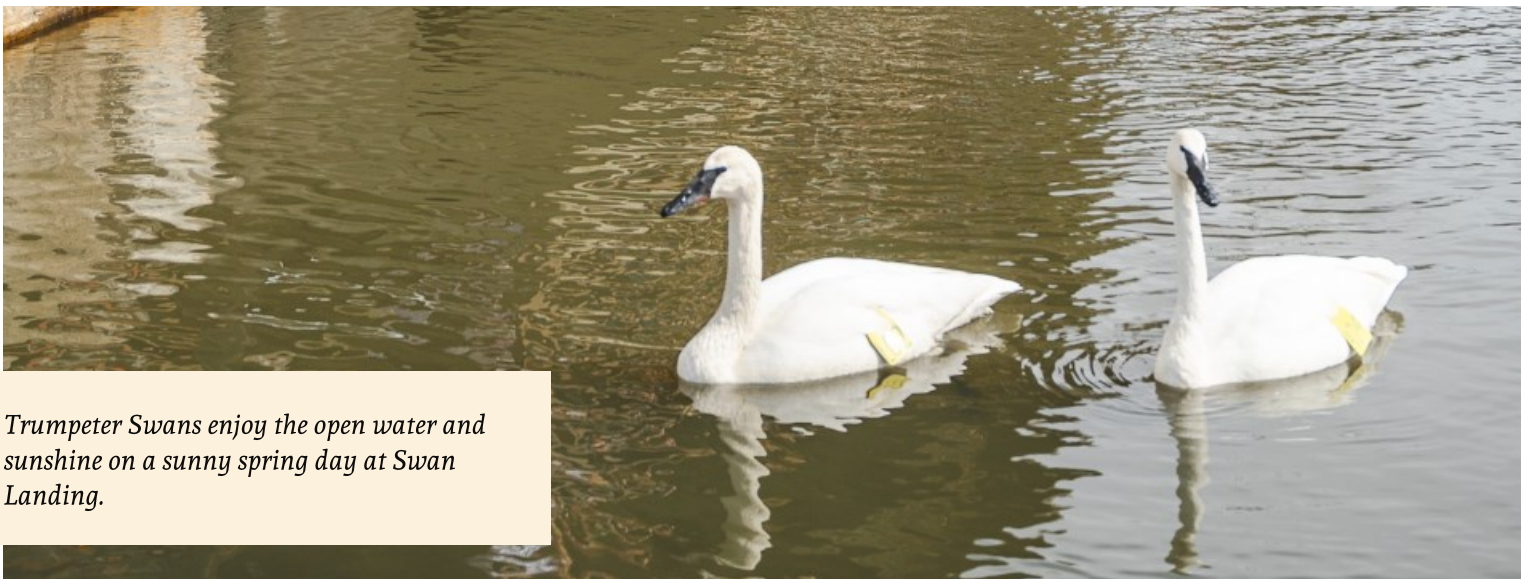
Now he enjoys the comradery among his fellow “Sapsuckers” at the Wye Marsh. The dedicated troupe of volunteers has been running maples syrup demonstrations for educational programs and weekend visitors for decades. Unable to do this for the last two years due to the pandemic, they were eager to get back to work this spring and managed to tap 31 trees and install



100 spiles. However, more important than that – they got to share their love of the season with visitors at the marsh.

“I love talking to people - especially school kids - about how to make maple syrup” says Robertson. “It can be a lot of fun surprising people with interesting facts about a sweet Canadian tradition. It’s really rewarding when someone says, ‘I didn’t know that!’”

While Dave and the Sapsuckers were teaching visitors about our unique heritage in the Sugar Shack, many others made Sweetwater Harvest Weekends happen this year. Many thanks to all our Sapsuckers, Firekeepers, Bannock Roasters, Swan Monitors, Hike Assistants, Parking Lot Attendants, Birds of Prey and Visitor Centre Teams, Kids Zone Crew, Volunteer Services, and Front Path Greeters. The smiles we saw on all the faces were because of you.



Trumpeter Swans enjoy the open water and sunshine on a sunny spring day at Swan Landing.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Spring has sprung! And although the skies are grey and the trees are still bare, nature is slowly starting to wake up. We have been excited to note the return of Red-winged Blackbirds, while Sandhill Cranes and Turkey Vultures once again soar overhead. The chipmunks have made their return and the Trumpeter Swans are pairing up, meaning cygnets will not be far behind.

Another sure sign of spring is field trips – and we are so excited to be welcoming school children back onsite for programming for the first time in two years!

The Wye Marsh team are hard at work getting things ready for a busy spring and summer. The canoes and kayaks are being checked, workshops, programs and events are being planned, summer staff are being hired, and camp registration will open this month – stay tuned to our website and social media for more specific information.

Spring truly is a magical time – come on out to see us at Wye Marsh and watch nature wake up! We look forward to seeing you here.

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



Red-wing Blackbirds have returned to Wye Marsh, a sure sign of spring!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As hopefully we put the last blasts of winter behind us, it is important to remember that the next two months, April and May, are amongst the most magical at the Wye Marsh. Things change constantly, as new bird species arrive, some on their way further north, and some to stay for the summer; soon our trees and plants will begin to bloom, blossom, and bud; and our reptiles and mammals will shake off their winter torpor and re-emerge to feed and breed. All of which makes for a lively environment for observation.

Please stay tuned to our social media and website for details of the escorted kayak and canoe trips which will enable you to see parts of the Marsh which are inaccessible by foot. And please remember that this is a time of the year when the Marsh truly deserves its name - the trails will be wet and muddy, so bring the appropriate footwear!

Welcome to the Wye Marsh in Spring!

- Alasdair MacLean, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors

SWEETWATER HARVEST WEEKENDS

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Sweetwater Harvest Festival Weekends this year. We had a SWEET time and we hope you did too!

Thank you to all the sponsors and supporters who made the festival possible - we couldn't have done it without you!

Join us for the last weekend of Sweetwater Harvest, from April 2-3! [Get your tickets online by clicking here.](#)



HURONIA
MUSEUM

**And thank you to
Wye Marsh Volunteers!**



The beginnings of spring thaw at Wye Marsh! We are looking forward to warm days in the sun as the Marsh becomes green, vibrant and full of new life for another season!