

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!



SUMMER RAFFLE!

Feeling lucky this summer? Grab a raffle ticket when you're visiting Wye Marsh next for your chance to win some awesome prizes while supporting an awesome organization!

Tickets are \$5.00 each and available at the Visitor Centre. Lottery License #M788358.

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's trails are **open daily, from 9:00am-4:30pm.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Monarch Butterflies are some of the great migrators of the animal kingdom. In late summer/ fall these butterflies migrate ~5,000km from Canada and northeastern United States down to southwestern Mexico, then in the spring. Monarch Butterflies can travel between 80-160 km a day, so it can take up to 2 months to complete their journey one way. No one butterfly makes the whole migration cycle, instead it takes 4 generations to make the loop.

Monarchs' bright orange colouring is not only beautiful - it serves as a warning to predators too! Monarchs retain a toxic steroid found in the sap of Milkweed that they consume as caterpillars. This gives them a foul taste to predators, who associate the orange colour with the taste and then avoid them. Their toxin is not deadly, but it is enough to deter predators like birds.

Sadly, Monarch Butterflies are listed as an Endangered Species. You can help by planting Milkweed, avoiding pesticides, and helping protect wild space for them to thrive and rest along their migration.



ON THE WILD SIDE:

The wild highlight this month is the Perseid Meteor Shower - because it will be the highlight of the sky!

The Perseid Meteor Shower is an annual meteor shower that takes place in July and August. It lasts for a little over a month and every night there is a little more activity until the peak night, where it begins to slowly decrease thereafter. The peak nights for 2022 are August 11-13. On the peak nights hundreds of meteors will shoot across the night sky; approximately 80 meteors every hour. The best viewing times will be from midnight until 5:30am when the sky is the darkest. The showers are best viewed in dark and quiet places away from sources of light pollution.

The Perseid occurs when Earth flies through the cosmic trail of the Comet Swift-Tuttle. As the comet travels around pieces fall off, they enter the Earth's outer atmosphere and produce a light trail that can be viewed from Earth. A telescope is recommended, but the meteor shower can be seen by the naked eye.

If you're looking for somewhere to watch the Perseids and to learn more about them as well as other astronomy, consider attending the **Marsh by Meteor** event at Wye Marsh on August 12! It will be an evening of stargazing and counting comets on the boardwalk while learning about the moon, our solar system, stars, constellations, and more. Spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. [You can learn more and register for this event by clicking here.](#)



BUTTERFLIES OF WYE MARSH

August's monthly mini BioBlitz theme is butterflies!

Did you know there are over 100 species of butterflies that can be spotted in Ontario?

Not only are they beautiful, butterflies are important pollinators who help our eco systems thrive. They are also delicate and need our help to preserve wildflower spaces for them to thrive.

To participate in August's monthly BioBlitz, explorers will be able to list their sightings either through iNaturalist or through a Google Form for those who do not wish to have an iNaturalist account. With each contribution you will be entered into a draw to win a Wye Marsh tote bag in December.

These sightings are not only fun to track, but also help Wye Marsh's various stewardship initiatives. It's citizen science at work!

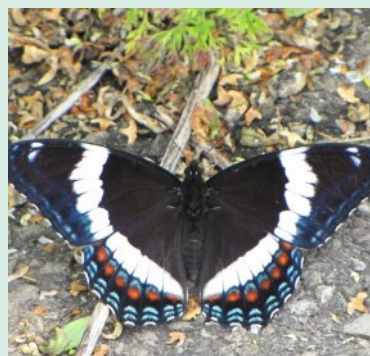
[Click here for the Google Form.](#)

[Click here for the iNaturalist page.](#)

Butterflies you
may observe at
Wye Marsh:



Monarch Butterfly



White Admiral Butterfly



Cabbage White Butterfly

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

EVERYDAY THIS SUMMER

Discover Wye Marsh Summer Programming

Enjoy the summer at Wye Marsh! Tour the marsh with our guides by foot or canoe, watch our Birds of Prey show and so much more! See the schedule at www.wyemarsh.com/Daily-Programming-Summer

August 6
10:00am - 1:00pm

Web of Life Series: Symbiosis FOR KIDS

Many different species, plant and animal, have evolved to work together to better thrive in their habitats. Kids can learn all about interconnectedness of the world around them at this workshop. \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/web-of-life

August 6
**All day - come
when suits you!**

Invasive Phragmites Removal Event

Help restore native wildlife habitat by removing invasive alien species at the Wye Marsh this summer. Join Wye Marsh's Stewardship to learn how to safely remove invasive plants. Pre-registration is required. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/invasive-species-pulls

August 7
8:00am - 9:00am

Yoga at Wye Marsh: Relax and Unwind

Get in tune with nature as you relax with gentle stretches and zen poses on the boardwalk at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre with Terri Brophy. \$15 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/yoga

August 12
11:00pm - 2:00am

Marsh by Meteor: Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing + Astronomy Workshop

The Perseid Meteor Shower is known for its stunning fireballs and bright meteors. Many burn intensively with bright, persistent trails! Enjoy a memorable night on the boardwalk under a blanket of stars while learning about planets, constellations, star clusters and more. \$55 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-by-meteor

August 13
10:00am - 12:30pm

Amphibian BioBlitz & Workshop

Frogs, skinks & salamanders - learn all about Ontario's amphibians! This workshop is designed to teach participants about amphibian ID, ecology & then put your skills into practice! \$15 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/amphibian-workshop

August 20
10:00am - 1:00pm

Art in the Marsh: Drawing

Focusing on the fundamentals of drawing, composition, tone, proportion and more the student will be taken through the steps of creating a fine art drawing from beginning to end. Materials provided. \$75 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/art-workshops

August 27
10:00am - 2:00pm

Art in the Marsh: Oil Painting

Colour mixing technique and proper application of oil paint will be the focus of this workshop. No prior experience is required - bring only your enthusiasm as you learn to work with oil paints! Materials provided. \$100 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/art-workshops

August 29
All Day!

Tay Library Day at Wye Marsh!

Join us to celebrate the end of summer and summer reading with the Tay Township Public Libraries. There will be activities and fun to be had for all. Special admission rate of \$5 for every Tay Township Library Card holder!

September 24
9:30am - 12:30pm

Introduction to Falconry Workshop

With over 30 years as a general falconer, Tom Goldsmith will be leading a workshop at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre to outline some considerations a person should keep in mind before committing to the exciting and ancient sport of falconry. \$50 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/falconry-workshop

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!

RICK BRADY

When Rick Brady moved to Penetanguishene, he was on the look out for a place to volunteer. As a former Trail Ambassador and Visitor Experience Host at the Royal Botanical Gardens, being part of an organization connecting people with green spaces was at the top of his list. Wye Marsh was a natural choice for Rick, and now he volunteers at special events, in the Visitor Centre, as part of the Community Outreach Committee and serves on our Board of Directors.

Jumping in at Front Desk at Wye Marsh, there's a "big learning curve," says Rick, but in a good way! Beyond the handing the summer rush, there are just so many programs, workshops and activities being offered at the marsh. Plus, you get the chance to connect with staff, volunteers, and visitors each day.

There is an amazing transformation that takes place when people experience the marsh, says Rick.

"In many cases, the kids come back bouncing," says Rick, excited by everything they have seen. Their joy is infectious, and everyone ends up beaming from ear to ear."



And for the people who arrived looking like they could really use a break... it is amazing how an hour or two on the trails can wash away the worries of the day. Rick says they often come back to the Visitors Centre relaxed, smiling, and refreshed.

"I love seeing nature 'do her job!'"

Rick is also passionate about promoting the Friends of Wye Marsh (FOWM) at community events, because it gives him the chance to invite others to take a break at Wye Marsh.

"Even if you just have 20 minutes in a day, it is worth the trip to come and experience the Wye Marsh!"

Immerse yourself in Wye Marsh and learn about nature with daily, family friendly summer programming.

- ✓ Canoe Tours
- ✓ Kayak Tours
- ✓ Dipnetting on the Boardwalk
- ✓ Meet the Creatures
- ✓ Guided Discover Hikes

[For the full schedule, click here.](#)



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

By the now while summer is in full swing, we are looking ahead to fall and winter and the amazing events, programs and activities we're putting together. Once again, we will be running our Marsh by Moonlight evening paddle program – stay tuned for dates in October – and we have a wide range of new and returning workshops as well including Introduction to Falconry with Tom Goldsmith, and holiday wreath-making with Lisa Harpell. But before I get ahead of myself, there is a great deal of summer left to enjoy!

We continue to work on the Ash Tree issue, and are pleased to have made some headway in the Birds of Prey area last

month. And speaking of Birds of Prey – there will be some changes in our Animal Care department this month. At the end of August, we say goodbye to Delaney, Wye Marsh's Animal Care Coordinator, who will be heading back to school this fall (although we know she'll be back regularly). We are excited to announce Johanna Rumney will be taking on the lead role in September.

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

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



Thank you for all of your hard work, Delaney! From co-op student to Animal Care Coordinator you have made a lasting impact on Wye Marsh during your time, and we can't wait to see what you do next!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I am sure we are all noticing the same thing - that the passage of time accelerates during the summer, and decelerates during the winter! Having said that, I hope that everyone is making the most of our somewhat rambunctious summer weather.

We are continuing to grapple with the issues arising from the large number of dead and dying Ash Trees on the marsh property. Unfortunately, some of the affected areas are too large to do anything other than let nature take its course; the trees will fall in their own good time, and continue to form part of the ever-changing mosaic which is the Wye Marsh habitat. For safety reasons, affected trails have had to be closed while this process unfolds.

To counteract that, we are making strenuous efforts to improve and enhance the open trails. As always, our dedicated staff and volunteers will be happy to keep you updated with the current trail situation. I would particularly urge you to consider some of the longer trails which are typically used more for cross-country skiing in the winter, but which are perfectly walkable during the summer. My personal favourites are the outbound Red ski trail, and the Blue ski loop. Again, our Visitor Centre staff and volunteers will be happy to advise.

I wish you all safe trails, and a wonderful summer!

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