

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!

Happy New Year

From all your winged, furry, scaled & human
friends at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre!



Congrats

to the Midland Penetanguishene Field Naturalists' Club
for hosting another fantastic Christmas Bird Count. 36 volunteers
counted 4,601 birds and 61 species on December 18, 2022
to meet their all-time record
set in 2012!

Congrats

to our
50/50 Draw Winner
Lisa Lucchese
won \$1,247.50!

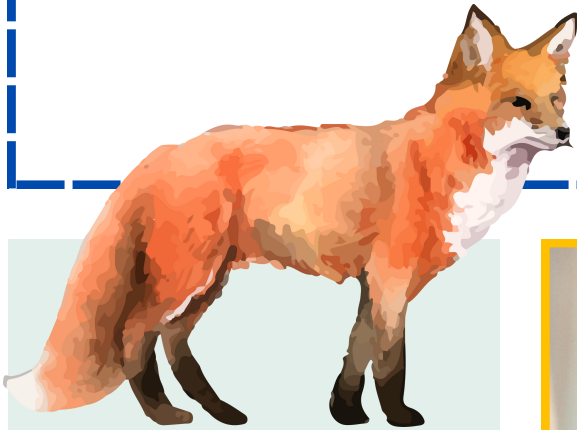
A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Who doesn't want to start the new year with great news?

I am excited to share with you that back in December we were the recipients of \$130,000 in funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation – Capital Stream. We quickly got to work making repairs to two boardwalks – the ID Trail Boardwalk, and the Muskrat Boardwalk – and I am thrilled to publicly announce for the first time that both boardwalks are now complete, and the Muskrat Boardwalk is once again open to the public, connecting the wetlands of the Berm with the woodlands of the Muskrat Trail. This area has been closed for several years, so we are pleased to be able to announce that, instead of closing trails in 2023, we will be reopening them! Stay tuned for an update on the ID Trail Boardwalk

and our plans to reopen sections of trail on that side of the property in the spring. We look forward to seeing you at Wye Marsh in January!

Kim Hacker, Executive Director



MARSH BY MOONLIGHT

Crunch along snowy trails bathed in moonlight. Take in the sounds of the night. Warm up by a crackling fire.

January 20, 21, 27, 28 and
February 3, 2023
\$75 per person.

Register by clicking:
[Marsh-by-Moonlight](#)





MEET MARLEY

SPECIES
Rough-legged Hawk

AGE: 2

WHY MARLEY
LIVES @ WYE MARSH:
We do not know how
Marley lost his wing.
All we know is that he is the
only full-wing amputee
serving as an Animal
Ambassador at Wye Marsh

FUN FACTS: Rough-legged Hawks have feathered legs all the way down to their feet. This helps them stay warm in colder climates.

Although Marley cannot fly, he gets lots of exercise balancing on the glove while being taken for walks on the trails and jumping from perch to perch for his food.

Many Thanks to Karolina Nabialek for “Adopting” Marley!



Photo: Friends of Wye Marsh Executive Director Kim Hacker, and EarlyON Child & Family Centre - Simcoe North Program Facilitator Maggie Leonard.

IT'S A MATCH!

We are grateful to Keebee Play for their generous donation of a Wall-mounted Memory Game for our Friends of Wye Marsh Connecting for Conservation Fundraising Auction.

We in turn are pleased to donate this gorgeous educational toy to EarlyON Child and Family Centre - Simcoe North.



Sainte-Marie among the Hurons is excited to offer educational programming and celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the region during the 2023 Sweetwater Harvest Festival on March 18, 19, 25 & 26. Add to your Sweetwater experience by visiting Sainte-Marie! Explore our artisan market, highlighting unique local arts and crafts, and check out live historical demonstrations. Come learn how the Huron-Wendat and local Indigenous communities welcomed spring and explore our award-winning indoor museum.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As I write this, we have just experienced the first major blast of winter weather; unfortunately, apparently to be followed by our usual early January thaw! As a result, the trail conditions (especially the cross-country ski trails) remain extremely variable, so it is definitely worth checking with our front desk if you are intending to ski or snowshoe. It is also worth remembering that, until we have a good hard frost, the water is still running in and around the Marsh. The ice is very thin, especially if covered by snow, and is extremely unsafe. Do not venture out on the ice, stick to the marked trails, and make sure that your dogs are safely leashed at all times. Otherwise, enjoy the Marsh, especially the newly-reopened Muskrat Loop!

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

ON THE WILD SIDE IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK COLD!

Sharp spikes & fabulous filamentous crystals coating the landscape on a cool, crisp morning...all good indications of hoar frost. Although it sounds a bit like a Northern Ontario swear word, hoar frost, is an extremely interesting and beautiful weather phenomenon. On a calm clear night, ice crystals attach to vegetation. Humid air skips the droplet stage and goes straight into crystallization. With a rapid drop in temperature, the surface of a snowfield rapidly cools with the interior remaining warmer. This heat radiates out along with the humidity of the melting snow. This moisture contributes to the growth of frost.

Hoar is Old English for "gray-haired with age" The frost has a feathery or hairy appearance somewhat resembling an old man's beard. The beauty of this frost is not long lived, as wind and the morning sun quickly melt the crystals back into the Marsh.



SNOWSHOE FUNDAMENTALS

This family-friendly outing will keep everyone smiling as you learn the basics of this lively winter activity together. Play games. Hit the obstacle course. Warm up with hot chocolate. Soak in some Vitamin N(ature)!

1-3 pm on Saturday, February 18

\$20.00 per person, \$65.00 for a family of 4.

Price includes workshop, rentals, and hot chocolate

Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

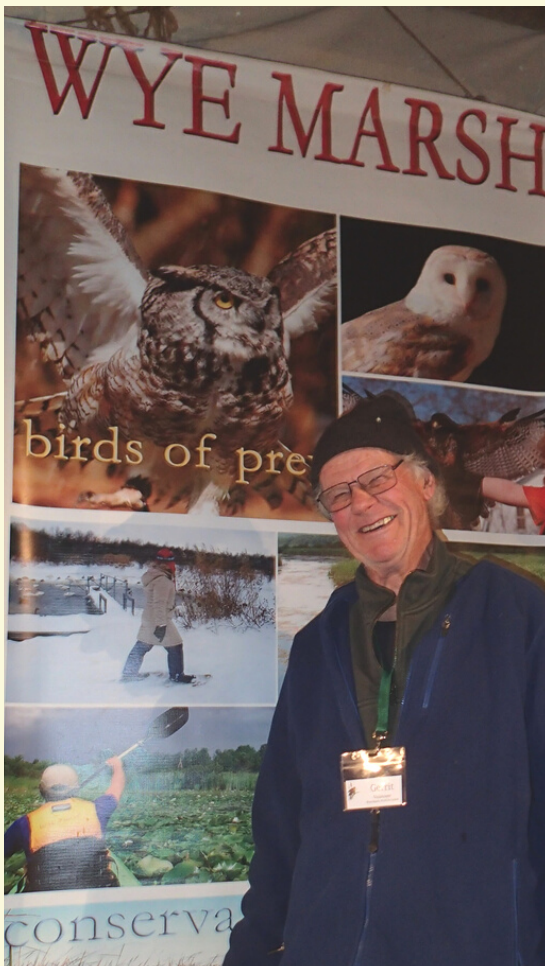
Having grown up in the area, and worked abroad for many years, Gerrit Huvers let his heart strings pull him back to Midland when he retired in 2017. Reconnecting with old friends, he was recruited as a Wye Marsh "Sap Sucker" and joined our dedicated team of maple syrup volunteers.

"I was surprised how little I knew, and how much I learned from Max Wagg," says Gerrit. It seems like every season, there is something new to learn and share. Last fall, he helped host a workshop on maple syrup production for private landowners. And he is keen to welcome everyone back to the Sugar Shack this March for our Sweetwater Harvest Festival!

Gerrit is passionate about fostering a love of nature in everyone. That is why he is also part of our Outreach Committee. "I'm always running into old friends," he says, and inviting them to bring their families to the marsh.

"My grandkids really enjoy it. You can come here and see what a wetland looks like. It's a pretty special place," says Gerrit, and when people learn about the Trumpeter Swans and the incredible biodiversity at the marsh – they want to protect it. And THAT makes the difference!

For all he does, and everything all of our volunteers do to foster environmental stewardship at a grass roots level – THANK YOU!



WEEKEND FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS WANTED

- Greeting and welcoming visitors
- Processing admission & purchases
- Answering phone calls
- Assisting with ski/ snowshoe rentals
- Performing opening/closing duties
- 4-hour shifts on Saturday or Sunday
- Contributing to a welcoming, fun and engaging atmosphere

Call Heather: 705-526-7809 ext 217
or email: hkeery@wyemarsh.com



Severn Sound Environmental Association is excited to offer a variety of native tree seedlings for spring planting in

- Tay Township
- Township of Severn
- Township of Springwater
- Township of Georgian Bay
- Town of Midland
- Town of Penetanguishene
- Township of Tiny
- Township of Oro-Medonte

Order TEN PACKS of
Pine, Cedar, Spruce, Tamarack,
Maple, Oak, Birch, Hickory, etc. at:
<https://bit.ly/SSEAtrees>.

Email Travis for more info at:
Tvanengelen@severnsound.ca



WHAT'S ON AT WYE MARSH



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT FOR KIDS

10:30am- 1pm on January 7³

Bring in your kids and join Mak for a fun-filled winter birdwatching event. Learn about birds, connect with nature, and become Citizen Scientists together! Kids 12 & under are FREE (Must be accompanied by an adult.) Click [HERE](#) for details.



WINTER CAMPING WORKSHOP

12 pm - 3 pm on Saturday, January 28

Find out how to stay warm and comfy when camping - even when the temperature drops to 30 degrees below zero! We will discuss what to bring and what to leave home, different techniques to use when travelling, and how to stay warm. \$25 per person Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



BECOME A WINTER CAMP CHEF!

12 pm - 3 pm on Saturday, February 4

Forget the hot dogs. Let's look at how good nutrition, a meal plan, safe food storage, and the right stove can help you curate the perfect Winter camping experience! \$25 per person Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



ART IN THE MARSH CLAY SCULPTING

1 pm - 3 pm on Saturday, February 4

There is something special, healing, and fun about molding clay with your hands. Discover the gratification that comes when imagination takes shape in physical form. This a great class for artists of all skill levels. Materials provided. \$65 per person. Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



ANIMAL TRACKING WORKSHOP BEYOND FOOTPRINTS

12 pm - 3 pm on Saturday, February 25

Unlock the hidden stories left behind by wildlife as we trek through a variety of amazing habitats! Refresh the fundamentals of animal tracking before departing on a hike to discover the drama of animals' lives left behind in their trails. \$25 per person Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



ART IN THE MARSH WATERCOLOURS

1:00pm - 3:00pm on Saturday, May 6

Celebrate Spring at the Wye Marsh! Be inspired by the blossoms and new life all around us at Wye Marsh. Dive into vibrant colours and tap into the rhythms of nature with Lisa Harpell's Introduction to Watercolours. Learn basic techniques, and a few tips and tricks, that spark your creativity. All skill levels welcome. Ages 14+. \$55.00 per person. Materials included. Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



SPRING INSPIRED STONE CARVING

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 2

Take in a Wye Marsh Birds of Prey Show at 1 pm. Find your inspiration. Let your imagination soar like an eagle. Hold ancient stone in your hands, and carve away the excess, to reveal the beauty within, under the tutelage of Lisa Harpell, owner/founder of Creative Madness Art Studios. \$70 per person. Materials included. Must pre-register [HERE](#) on Eventbrite.



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.