

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!

It is
nesting
season!



HIGHLIGHTS:

Volunteer of the Year: Roger Flint



Wye do butterflies sip mud?



Big News! On Indigenous Peoples Day



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

Big News! On Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21), Friends of Wye Marsh announced free trail access for Indigenous people – First Nations, Métis and Inuit can now visit us 362 days a year to walk the trails free of charge. This is part of a greater Diversity & Inclusion initiative on which we have been working in partnership with Environment and Climate Change Canada. We are excited to be able to allow free land access once again to those who walked here first.

You may also have noticed some new signage, both in the Display Hall and on the trails, translated into not only French, but also Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) and Michif (the Ontario Métis language). We are grateful to our translators, Mitch Akerman (Anishinaabemowin) and René Laurin (French/Michif), both shown in the photo below, for their assistance with this initiative.

We are also introducing new Indigenous-led workshops (look for beading, moose hair tufting, and moccasin workshops in the fall); newly-designed camp programming (new stories, games, crafts, lessons and activities with an Indigenous focus have been added this year); and revamped educational programming (a return to Marsh School in September!); and we are in the early stages of shaping an Indigenous Advisory Committee to support us moving forward on decisions about programming and environmental stewardship.

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

*Kim Hacker,
Executive Director*



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To paraphrase a poem, one written anonymously, *Summer has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is?* Well, we all know where the birdies is – right here at Wye Marsh. A peaceful land to see ducks, geese and their young, perhaps swans and their young, the osprey, woodpeckers and a large assortment of other feathered friends. And as always our very own birds of prey.

Every season is grand here at the marsh, and summer offers so many choices of things to do. Come for a walk, or sign up for a daily guided canoe or kayak tours, available on a first come first served basis. Or perhaps a 3-hour Eco Tour is on your list of things to do (The Eco Tours need to be booked two weeks in advance). There are also the Birds of Prey shows, meet the naturalist and other exciting events. Just keep in mind many events are weather dependent. And as much as we aim to offer these programs on a regular basis, we are also subject to staffing matters. And speaking of which, a big thank you to the marvellous staff and volunteers who provide us all with their knowledge and love of the marsh.

Rick Brady

President, Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.



MEET LEELA!

AGE: 6

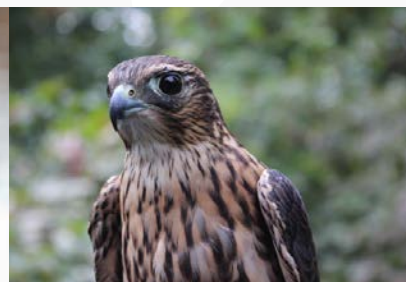
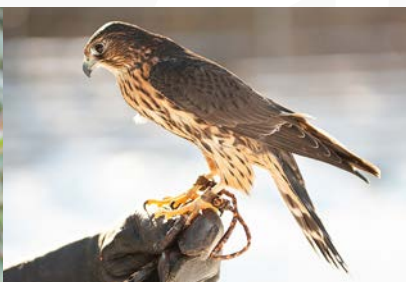
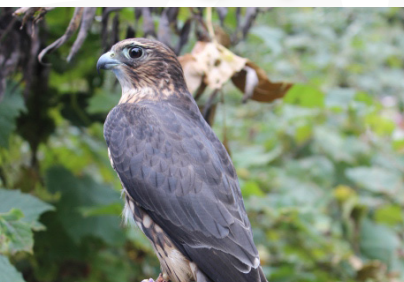
Merlin

REASON FOR LIVING AT

WYE MARSH: Permanent injury to left eye from window collision

FUN FACT:

These falcons are pursuit predators and often hunt other birds in pairs. The smaller male will flush the flock from below while the female hunts amidst the confusion.



FRIENDS OF WYE MARSH LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Wye Marsh is located along the shores of the Isaraqui River, (River of Dancing Waters) better known as the Wye River. It is the traditional homelands of many nations including the Anishinabek, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is now home to many diverse First Nations and Métis people.

This land is also home to many of our animal and plant relations as well as our sacred waters. This includes a wide variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects, as well as century old mixed forest, old field meadows, abandoned farmland and wetland.

As stewards of the land, we are devoted to value life in all of its forms and to live with a more inclusive way of thinking. We honor Mother Earth and her extraordinary balance of all living things.

Wye Marsh is committed to building pathways towards Reconciliation by honoring Indigenous history and culture and turning to Indigenous communities for guidance on conservation, traditional knowledge, and wisdom.

We are dedicated to walking together with First Nation, Métis and Inuit and to support one another in the act of caring for the land. Loyal to the ancestral principle of reciprocity between people and nature, we hope to ensure the health and vitality of the Wye Marsh for many generations of species and people to come.

WYE DO BUTTERFLIES SIP MUD?

Butterflies are known to flutter from flower to flower in search of nectar to eat. Nectar is rich in sugars and while this is a butterfly's main food source, they do need other nutrients to survive as well – including salts and minerals.

Salts and minerals can be found in healthy soil, which butterflies consume by sipping up mud puddles. This behaviour is called 'puddling'. Puddling is most common in male butterflies as the nutrients are necessary for reproduction. Butterflies will often puddle in large congregations, specifically swallowtail or pierid species.

The salts and minerals are absorbed by the butterfly, and the excess water is excreted. Butterflies can also get these nutrients from other sources – including the feces or sweat of other animals, or carcasses. However, sipping mud – or puddling – is the most common.



WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH AT WYE MARSH:



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!



FEATURE CREATURE

Monday - Friday this month @ 1:00 pm

Join our Animal Care Team for the chance to meet the day's "Feature Creature". Get to know more about the personality, favourite foods, and natural habitats of one of our Educational Ambassadors. This 45-minute demonstration is included with the price of admission!



PHRAGMITES REMOVAL

Help restore native wildlife habitat by removing invasive alien species at the Wye Marsh this Summer. Join Wye Marsh's Stewardship Team to learn how to safely remove invasive plants from the area. If possible, bring your gardening gloves, drinking water, and bug spray. Registration not required, but it would be great to know you are coming! *Please call Anna at 705-526-7809 ext. 205, or email abolliger@wyemarsh.com*



KAYAK ECOTOURS

EcoTours run daily 3-hour trip (July, August)

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#*



DAILY GUIDED KAYAK TOURS

All of July 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.*



TURTLE ID WORKSHOP

Sunday, July 23 from 10 am ~ 12 noon

How can you tell a Blandings from a Musk Turtle? What's the average lifespan of a snapping turtle? Do turtles actually "freeze"? Learn about turtle identification, fun facts, habitat and ongoing conservation efforts in Ontario as part of this dynamic two-hour workshop. Hike through the forest. Kayak through the marsh. Put your new skills to the test. \$20 per person + HST . Ages 10 + (Children must be accompanied by an adult). Rain date July 29. *For information about registration please visit: www.wyemarsh.com/Summer-Events*



WET
N SCALEY

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 Scaley" 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!



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.



THE SECRET LIFE
OF TREES
WORKSHOP

Sunday, July 30 from 1:00 ~ 3:00 pm

We have all talked about "family trees." Now here's a chance to look at "tree families" in a new light. New research suggests that trees form communities, linked together by a subterranean circuit of mycorrhizas that are used to pass along chemical alarm signals, nutrients and even hormones to neighbours. Find out more during this informative 2-hour workshop. \$15 per person + HST. Ages 7+ all children to be accompanied by an adult. *For information about registration please visit: www.wyemarsh.com/Summer-Events*

See additional upcoming events on our website:
www.wyemarsh.com/events-page

TURTLE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT

All of Ontario's Native turtle species are listed as Species at Risk. One of the main reasons why is due to habitat destruction. Wetlands of all kinds are being destroyed in the face of urban expansion.

You can alter this trend by protecting existing wetlands from development and degradation by sharing their importance and visiting wetlands. If you own property adjacent to or containing wetlands you can improve its use as turtle habitat and nesting area.

Litter can be detrimental to wildlife, including turtles. It is important to always dispose of waste correctly, recycling where possible to support the health of our ecosystems.

How you can help my habitat:

1. By preserving existing healthy habitat on your land or supporting wetlands and parks such as Wye Marsh to conserve wetland habitats
2. By improving existing wetlands
3. By creating new habitat



BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL, DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

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



Always burn local
or heat-treated
(kiln-dried) firewood

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

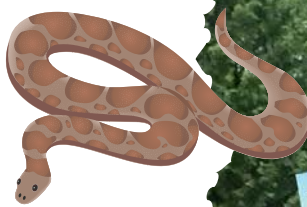
Learn more: inspection.canada.ca/firewood or 1-800-442-2342

Walking through the marsh, you may have noticed that a lot of trees have been cut down.
This was due to the devastating impact of the Emerald Ash Border.

THANK YOU

to all the visitors who arrived to
celebrate snakes with us on June 24th!

We hope that you will spot many using their new basking site and share all your observations with us. Thank you to Elmvale District High School's Outdoor Pursuits class for all their ideas and assistance; and thank you to TD FEF for their contribution which allowed this I.C.E. project, stewardship installation, and new signage to come to into being.



SNAKES ARE GREAT!



IT'S NESTING SEASON



It's turtle nesting season and turtles need our help! If you have recently visited the Wye Marsh, you will notice wood boxes lining the driveway and trails. These are turtle nest protectors that have been placed in areas where we have witnessed turtles actively nesting, in order to protect the eggs from predation. Turtle eggs act as a food source for a wide variety of wildlife, and only a very small percentage of eggs survive to be part of the population.

Females lay their eggs by very slowly digging a hole, depositing their eggs, and burying them. The female turtle doesn't provide any care for the eggs past this, and once hatched the nestlings are left to find their way to water on their own. If you see a turtle nesting, be sure to give her ample space. If she is scared too many times, she could abandon her nest and become egg bound, which can be very harmful.

This year has been a very active season, with Friends of Wye Marsh staff placing 33 nest protectors so far. We have had additional nest protectors and materials donated by volunteers and the Town of Midland which has allowed us to build and place 12 more boxes. We were also assisted by the students in the shop class at St. Theresa's High School who took the time to build us an additional 11 nest protectors. We are so grateful for all the help from the community and are excited to see the nestlings emerge later this year.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:

This year's Volunteer Appreciation Day was held on June 22, 2023, with about 65 wonderful volunteers attending a delicious BBQ Pig Roast & Potluck Supper supported, in part, by the Rotary Club of Midland.

As some people reconnected for the first time in three years, it was a very festive occasion. It was also the perfect time to shine the spotlight on someone who has paddled and hiked his way into the hearts of visitors, volunteers, and staff alike: Our 2023 Volunteer of the Year, Roger Flint!

With his extensive knowledge of native species, and the Wye Marsh ecosystem, Roger knows how to connect people with nature and foster environmental stewardship at a grass roots level. We are very fortunate to have him as part of our team, and he has enjoyed:

- sharing his passion for the environment as a Canoe & Kayak Volunteer;
- engaging children and adults visiting the marsh on group tours; and
- enriching visitor experiences as a Trail Ambassador.

Roger has also helped raise funds to feed and enrich the lives of our Birds of Prey, by representing our charity at BINGO. And we can always count on him to pitch in with our special events.

Plus, Roger loves being a "Sap Sucker". He has learned a great deal tapping trees, boiling sap, and providing educational interpretation for school tours and Sweetwater Harvest Festival visitors. As such, he has helped introduced thousands of people to the sweetest Canadian Tradition of all: making maple syrup in the sugar bush!

In recognition of his on-going dedication and commitment, and generous positive spirit, we thank our dear friend and Volunteer of the Year Award, Roger Flint.

Roger Flint



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



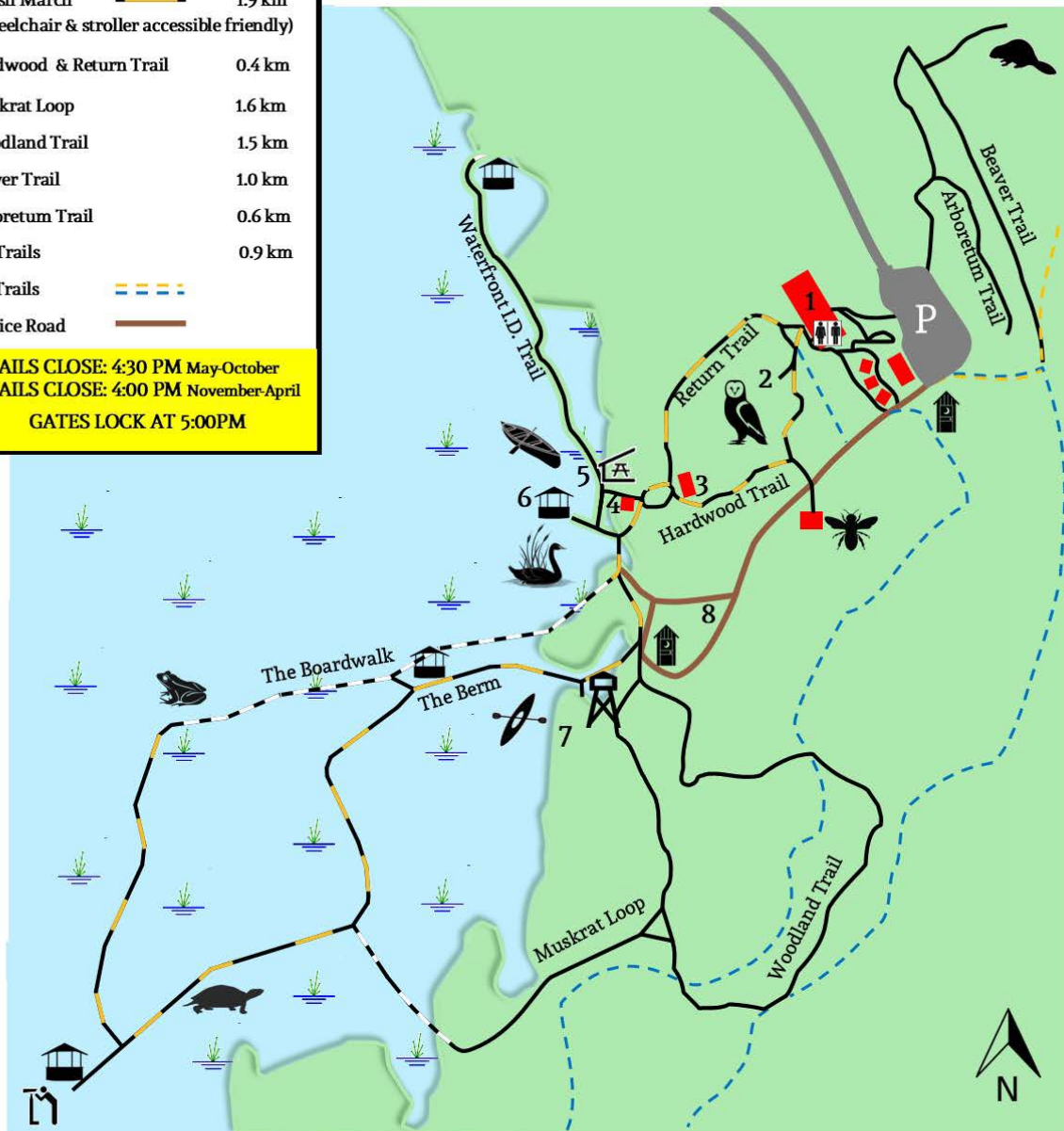
Wye Marsh Trails System

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

LEGEND	
Hiking Trails	—
Boardwalk	- - -
Marsh March (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 Waterfowl Monitoring Station | 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.