

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 is open daily, from 9:00am-4:30pm.

DID YOU KNOW?

June is National Indigenous Peoples Month, with June 21 being National Indigenous Peoples Day. During these celebrations and always its important to recognize the incredible contributions of Indigenous Peoples to Canada's history and culture.

Canoes are an icon of Canada. The canoe's construction was perfected by the Indigenous peoples of Canada. The Algonquin of the eastern woodlands are most closely associated with the style of birch bark canoe familiar today. The term canoe comes from root words in Indigenous languages.

Canoes are one of the most wetland friendly modes of transportation. They are quiet, making them great for not disturbing wildlife and allowing you to immerse yourself in nature. They are paddle powered, meaning they don't leak harmless oils or other harmful fluids into a valuable wetland environment. They also have a low draw, meaning they can get into shallow areas of a wetland to explore.



ON THE WILD SIDE:

The marsh is brimming with excitement! Turtles, frogs, waterfowl, insects, mammals, snakes, and raptors are all afoot at Wye Marsh basking in the sunshine, swimming the channels, and singing in the woodlands. This vibrancy makes for a wonderful time to take a hike (or a few) along the trails. With so much to look for, we've created a summer spotting list of some of the species who find refuge in the valuable wetland habitat that Wye Marsh protects. Can you check them all off this summer?



Great Blue Heron



Midland Painted Turtle

WYE MARSH SUMMER SPOTTING LIST:

- Trumpeter Swan
- Blanding's Turtle
- Spotted Turtle
- Snapping Turtle
- Midland Painted Turtle
- Leopard Frog
- Bullfrog
- Northern Watersnake
- Osprey
- Least Bittern
- Great Blue Heron
- Red-Winged Black Bird
- Mallard
- Wood Duck
- River Otter
- Muskrat
- Beaver
- Monarch Butterfly
- White Admiral Butterfly
- Honey Bee
- Dragon Fly

HOW TO ID POISON IVY

"Leaves of three leave it be" is a helpful reminder when thinking of Poison Ivy. The plant grows with leaf clusters of 3 that are each 5 - 10 cm long. Leaves are red/ green in the spring, are bright green in summer, and turn red or yellow in the fall, and have a glossy/ oily top. Stems have a slightly fuzzy appearance, and are reddish in colour. Plants generally grow 30- 50 cm tall and will vine around trees.

Poison Ivy is a very adaptable plant that can be found nearly anywhere in Ontario from deep forests to wetlands to sandy areas to gardens. Be on the lookout, and consider long pants or high socks and washing your hiking gear after each outing to avoid the itchy reaction that occurs when the oils come into contact with skin.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

**Saturdays &
Sundays in June**

Daily Summer Programming

Enjoy the spring weather with our Naturalists. Tour the marsh with our guides by foot or canoe, watch our Birds of Prey show and so much more! See the schedule here www.wyemarsh.com/Spring-Programming

**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 4, 11, 18, 25
9:00am - 11:00am**

Invasive Species Removal Pulls

Help restore native wildlife habitat by removing invasive alien species at the Wye Marsh this summer. From Garlic Mustard to Dames Rocket, Spotted Knapweed to Japanese Pachysandra, our Stewardship Team will be grateful to see you in action. Program is FREE and drop in. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/invasive-species-pulls

**June 9
10:30am - 11:30am**

Nordixx Pole Walking Workshop

Nordic Pole Walking can be great, low impact exercise. Learn about the benefits and proper use of walking poles, including a group test walk! \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Learn more and register at www.wyemarsh.com/pole-walking

June 17

Township of Tiny Mayor's Golf Tournament

The Township of Tiny is teeing up once again to host the Mayor's Charity Golf Tournament. The 8th annual tournament will be held the Orr Lake Golf Club. The tournament benefits local charities, including Wye Marsh! To register visit www.tiny.ca/events/golf-2022

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!

**June 25
1:30pm - 3:30pm**

Quill Dragonfly Gift Set Workshop

Dive into a medieval paper art project this afternoon, with Master Crafter Janet Dorion, and create a unique dragonfly hair clip & card gift set to take home. Pre-registration is required, all materials are provided. Learn more and register at www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops

**June, July,
August**

Kayak Eco Tours

This three hour guided tour will take participants well beyond the limits of our walking trails, providing them with the best opportunity to fully explore the beauty of Wye Marsh. This is an exciting opportunity for those looking for a unique and active outdoor experience. Excursions must be pre-booked. Learn more and book at www.wyemarsh.com/canoe-kayak-ecotours

**July 23
10:00am - 12:00pm**

Wildlife Photography Workshop

Join Jason George as he shares his passion and knowledge for photography through a hands on workshop followed by a hike where he will provide photography tips and tricks in action! \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Learn more and register at www.wyemarsh.com/Photography

**July 30
1:30pm - 3:30pm**

Sewing Turtle Coin Purse Workshop

Make and take home an adorable funky coin purse inspired by this cool reptile, under the guidance of Master Crafter Janet Dorion. \$25 pp. Pre-registration is required, all materials are provided. Learn more and register at www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops



**Immerse yourself in Wye Marsh with
spring programming - Saturdays &
Sundays in June!**

9:15 – 9:45am Interpretive Hike
10:15 – 11:45am Guided Kayak Tour
1:00 - 1:45pm Feature Creature Demo
2:00 – 3:00pm Guided Canoe Tour
3:15 – 4:15pm Guided Canoe Tour

Thank You Rotary Club of Midland!

Thanks to funding from the Rotary Club of Midland, Wye Marsh Campers will enjoy new archery and other sports equipment at camp this year! The Rotary Club of Midland has been a long time supporter of Wye Marsh and we are extremely grateful!



Midland
Rotary
Club



Keep your eyes peeled when exploring, frogs are excellent at camouflage as they bask at the water's surface.

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!

DOROTHY HARPER

While we are recognizing the tremendous contributions of volunteers to the Wye Marsh. We would like to turn the spotlight onto someone who has been a mentor to Wye Marsh staff and volunteers alike.

In recognition for her time, dedication, and all valuable contributions to Wye Marsh, we were very pleased to present the Volunteer of the Year Award to Dorothy Harper during the Global Day celebrations on May 14.

As a Trail Ambassador, she helps unlock the mysteries of the Wye Marsh for children and adults alike. She connects people with nature and raises environmental awareness by sharing her extensive knowledge of the birds, plants, and animals.

As our Project FeederWatch Coordinator, she coaxes fellow birders into participating in our winter birdfeeder survey, thus contributing to a data pool used to monitor the presence – and absence – of bird species across North America.



L to R: Kim Hacker, Executive Director; Dorothy Harper, Volunteer of the Year; Heather Keery, Volunteer and Event Coordinator

She also helps promote our Wye Marsh programs and services as Outreach Committee Member, and we can always count on her support with our fundraising and special events programs.

The Wye Marsh is very fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers and generous community partners to bring our vision to life. Thank you to everyone who has donated their time to Wye Marsh, your contributions are invaluable!

Thank You Huronia Community Foundation!

Friends of Wye Marsh gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Huronia Community Foundation, a public foundation serving the people of Huronia. The Foundation builds permanently endowed charitable funds for the changing needs and opportunities of the Southern Georgian Bay Community and provides grants to eligible charitable organizations in support of the arts & culture, community services, environment, healthcare & mental health, seniors, sports & recreation, and youth & scholarships. Funding will help support our volunteers (like these smiling Swan Monitoring Volunteer) - with radios, lanyards, uniforms, and more. Thank you!



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Things are hopping at Wye Marsh these days (both literally and figuratively). The frogs and turtles are all active and providing lots of sighting opportunities for visitors. Our Ospreys are back in their platform nest, and we're hopeful that soon we'll see a little one or two. And although many of the swans have moved further afield for the summer, we've been enjoying seeing the geese with their fluffy goslings paddling through the cattails.

We are thrilled to have resumed Weekend Programming in late May, and are once again offering visitors the opportunity to participate in guided hikes, as well as guided

kayaking and canoeing on Saturdays and Sundays with our summer Outdoor Educators, Celeste and Owen.

This month we are looking forward to seeing some of the first upgrades to our Display Hall and are extremely grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for providing us with \$100,800 to kickstart the Display Hall Revitalization project. We are continuing to look for funding for this project, and welcome donations of any size.

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

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A family of Canada Geese share the Bern Trail with visitors, with their goslings in tow!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As you will see from our website and our social media posts, there are many exciting activities happening at the Wye Marsh this month. We are so pleased to be able to revive many of our well-loved programmes such as canoeing, while adding more new events such as the Wildlife Photography workshop.

Many of our events are limited in the number of people that we can take, so please remember to book early to avoid disappointment. As always, I would like to acknowledge all the hard work by our staff and our volunteers, that make so many of our events possible.

However, despite all our wonderful programming,

sometimes the best way to experience the Wye Marsh is to wander off on your own through our amazing trail system (over 25 kilometres). Turn off your mobile device, stand still, and let nature come to you!

A little reminder that nature also includes mosquitoes, ticks, and poison ivy, so please always dress appropriately, and bring insect repellent, sunscreen, and a water bottle (which may be purchased in our Gift Shop). See you at the Wye Marsh!

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