

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!



GLOBAL BIG DAY!

Be a part of birding's biggest team!
Global Big Day is an annual celebration of the birds around you. No matter where you are, join us on May 13th to help celebrate World Migratory Bird Day, and share the birds you find with eBird.

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

Happy May!

I am so excited for the upcoming summer and all of the plans we're making.

This summer we are joined by a big team of summer students who will deliver educational and public programming, lead canoe and kayak excursions, run fun and safe summer day camps, work on conservation and stewardship projects, and assist in our maintenance department. The first crew of students will be joining us the first week of May, with others joining us later in June. We are grateful to Canada Summer Job and Métis Nation of Ontario funding which will allow us to hire so many wonderful students this Summer!

Public weekend programming will be starting on the Victoria Day weekend. We will be running three to four canoe trips a day on Saturdays and Sundays, as well as kayaking in the mornings on weekends. Our Bird of Prey show happens on Sundays at 1pm, with a Creature Feature on Saturdays at 1 every weekend in May.

And finally, thanks again to those who attended this year's AGM on April 29. We appreciate your interest and support and look forward to continuing to build on our financial sustainability so that we can continue to support environmental sustainability for many years to come.

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

Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I was visiting the Wye Marsh recently, and was made aware by Kim, our Executive Director, of an outstandingly generous personal donation which we had just received.

On behalf of the Marsh and its denizens, I would like to thank these donors for this amazing gesture. Although we boast a shiny Federal Government sign on our entrance road, most people do not realize that we receive little or no actual money from either the Federal or Provincial governments towards our upkeep (although we do receive from them invaluable support in kind). As a result, the money that we need to sustain all our operations has to be raised by us, in the form of grants, donations, fees, and dues.

The generosity of our donors goes a long way towards supporting our endeavours, and for this I would once again like to thank these donors, and all the many others, who contribute towards the operations of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Without you, we could not continue to function.

I would like to remind all of you that membership gives you unlimited access to over 25 kilometres of trails at the Marsh, which you can appreciate year-round (the type of footwear needed changes!), and that some of the most rewarding seasons at the Marsh (for wildlife, scenery, and all the many photographic opportunities that they afford), are Spring and Fall.

I look forward to seeing you all on our trails.

Alasdair MacLean.

President, Friends of the Wye Marsh Inc.



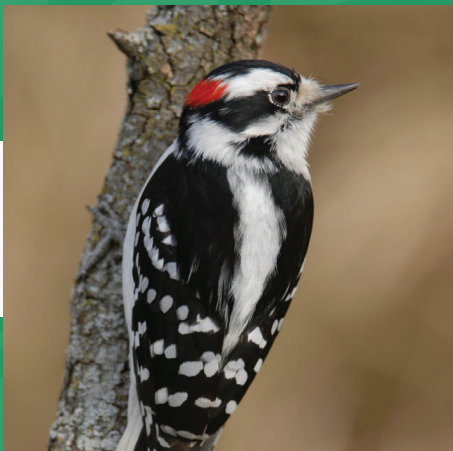


ON THE WILD SIDE:

May and June are prime turtle nesting season, and so here is your annual reminder to please be watchful for our shelled friends on the roadways. Their dark shells and slow nature often have them mistaken for debris on the road, leading to road mortality. This is one of the leading threats to Ontario's turtle populations. Turtles will travel great distances for prime nesting habits in sandy areas - often on the side of roads in marshy areas. If you see a turtle on the road, please brake and give it space. If it is safe to do you may encourage it across the road from behind, or carefully pick it up with two hands from the middle. Carry it low to the ground so as to not drop it and be mindful of scratching claws. If the turtle is a Snapping Turtle, identifiable by their size, sharp beak-like mouth, and spikey tail, **DO NOT** attempt to lift it - they are swift with their powerful bite. Just encourage the turtle to move along from a safe distance.

Protected wetland habitat like Wye Marsh is crucial for our turtle populations. We hope you will join us on the boardwalk to spot the different species who live in Wye Marsh, including Painted Turtles, Blanding's Turtles, and Snapping Turtles.

FUN BIRD FACT!



Downy Woodpeckers can be found on backyard bird feeders. They make a high-pitched pik sound and the descending whinny call.





WATERCOLOUR
WORKSHOP

Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 1pm - 3pm

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. No matter your level of skill, you are welcome to share an afternoon of discovery with Lisa. Materials provided. \$55.00 Price includes admission to our interpretive centre and trails for day following the workshop.



MARSH BY MOONLIGHT
SPRING PADDLE

May 26, 27, June 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 from 9pm - 11pm

Bathe in moonlight. Take in the stars. Paddle through inky waters as our guide introduces you to the night life at Wye Marsh. The Marsh by Moonlight Paddle Series features a guided voyageur style canoe tour through the sparkling moonlight waters of the Wye Marsh. Twinkling voyageur canoes and boardwalk, night noises, Bannock roasted over the open fire accompanied with a hot drink will make for an unforgettable night! \$75.00 Per participant. Includes all equipment and gift to take home.



KAYAK
ECOTOURS

EcoTours run daily 3 Hour trip - you pick the start time between 8:30am - 11:30am

Book a private three-hour guided tour, in French or English, for a unique outdoor experience that fits your schedule and interests. Please note - some physical endurance required. \$65.00 Per participant, 3 person minimum and 6 person maximum.



INTRO TO
BEEKEEPING

Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 9:30am - 11:30am

(Raindate: June 17, 2023 from 9:30am - 11:30am)

Want to be more self sufficient? Want to connect with nature? Learn the basics about keeping bees. Not only does this 10,000 year old tradition provide honey, the bees from each hive also pollinate tens of thousands of plants! This is one workshop you don't want to miss. All materials are included. \$40.00 Per participant. Flowers and card stock are provided.



PRESSED FLOWER CARD
WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 10am - 12pm

Enjoy giving blossoms from your garden, and nature, all year long. Create beautiful gift cards displaying pressed flowers. Victorians enjoyed crafting beautiful gift cards with pressed flowers from their garden. Now it is your turn, reflect on the people you love, as you carefully arrange blossoms and petals into creative designs to mark a special occasion. \$30.00 Per participant. Flowers and card stock are provided.



MEDICINE POUCH
WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Spend a tranquil afternoon, working with leather and creating your own medicine pouch while learning about the Anishinaabe culture. Then our Instructors from Noopimiing Creations for a walk along Wye Marsh trails to learn about traditional medicinal plants, and enjoy some cedar tea. \$65.00 Per participant. All materials provided.



INVASIVE
SPECIES PULL

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 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*



MEET GINGER!

AGE: 12+

REASON FOR LIVING AT

WYE MARSH: Bred in Captivity, Ex pet, owners unable to continue care.

FUN FACT:

1. There are over 800 Corn Snake Colour Morphs.
2. Snakes play an important role in environmental health by controlling the rodent population.
3. Snakes are ectothermic meaning they need an external heat source to warm their bodies and digest food.

WONDER WYE???

Wye are flowers so COLOURFUL?

Flowers rely largely on insects and birds for pollination. Vibrant colours help to attract these pollinators to land on the plant. When they land to gather the nectar or pollen for food, pollen sticks to their body and is transported to their next stop. This aids in seed dispersal and the life cycle of the plant. Sweet fragrances and unique petal shapes also help attract pollinators.

A flower's colour comes from the pigmentation in its petals. The more pigmentation, the more saturated the colour. Generally, the vibrancy and saturation of a colour are good indicators of the plant's overall health. The most common pigments are called anthocyanin and carotenoids which can create a variety of colours - reds, blues, yellows, purples, pinks, and even browns.

GLOBAL BIG DAY!

Saturday May 14th, 2023

Birding can happen in all weather! Please dress appropriately as the majority of your time will be spent outdoors.

JOIN WYE MARSH'S NATURALISTS
AND PARTICIPATE IN BIG DAY -
A GLOBAL BIRD WATCHING INITIATIVE!



What is Global Big Day?

Global Big Day has become a May tradition for tens of thousands of eBirders: 24 hours to put your favorite park/county/state/province country/continent on the global birding stage. Global Big Day 2022 also falls on World Migratory Bird Day!

There are so many fascinating birds passing through Wye Marsh, Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) that staff and volunteers will be conducting a bird count all day long.

We hope you will join us to bird, or to take part in some of these awesome activities all included with the price of admission on May 13, 2023.

Special Event:

7:00 am - Early Bird Guided Tour with Mak \$30

Join resident bird expert, Mak Soden, for an exclusive early morning two-hour birding excursion at Wye Marsh. With Mak as your guide, you will have access to this National Wildlife Area two hours before the gates are unlocked for visitors. Together you will: greet the morning chorus; identify bird calls; see songbirds, waterfowl, and raptors; and take in the wonders of the marsh. Participants are welcome to make their own way to Mom's Restaurant, after the event, to share tales and relive highlights with Mak. (Breakfast not included.) Please bring your own binoculars. Field guides available.

Pre-registration required on Eventbrite. *Registration closes May 10th.*

9:00 am - Wye Marsh Bird Survey

With Regular Admission:

10 am - 2 pm - Interactive Bird Booth, Display Hall

11:00 am - Family Discovery Hike

1 pm - Meet our Feature Creature in the Display Hall

You do not need to pre-register for the activities on Global Big Day.



WYE MARSH TRAILS SYSTEM

16160 HIGHWAY 12 EAST, TAY, ON | (705) 526-7809

LEGEND

Hiking Trails	—	
Boardwalk	- - -	
Marsh March (Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)	—	1.9km
Hardwood & Return Trail	—	0.4km
Muskrat Loop	—	1.6km
Woodland Trail	—	1.5km
Beaver Trail	—	1km
Arboretum Trail	—	0.6km
I.D. Trails	—	0.9km
Ski Trails	- - -	
Service Road	—	

**TRAILS CLOSE AT 4:30PM
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.