

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!

50TH
EDITION!
Thanks for
reading!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Things are getting *spoooooky* this month as Halloween approaches. Some wetland critters that get a bad reputation at this time of year thanks to frightful Halloween lore - and one of them is bats.

Of the 8 species of bats found in Ontario, 4 are listed as Provincially and/or Federally Endangered. This is largely due to persecution and fear, habitat destruction, White-Nose Syndrome, and wind turbines.

Bats can be quite helpful to have around to keep bug populations in line. They can eat up to 1,200 mosquitoes an hour. Yes, you read that right - 1,200 mosquitoes in an hour!

Not all bats are nocturnal. Those that are can locate insects to eat by using inaudible high-pitched sounds and listening to the echoes. This is called echolocation.



ON THE WILD SIDE:

Everybody has a different way to prepare for cooler seasons, and wildlife are no different! Here's how some of the wetland critters are preparing for fall and the chilly winter.

Squirrels are busy stocking up their cache (food storage) for winter. They don't hibernate so it's important to be as stocked as they can come the cold.

Bats are very active in the fall trying to eat as many insects as they can before they enter full hibernation in the winter. They will nest anywhere warm, quiet, and dry to hibernate.

Trumpeter Swans don't really feel the chill, but are gobbling as much of the aquatic vegetation as they can before it's gone. Waterfowl require open water, so as the ice comes in they will either migrate south for it, or search for areas of open water like at Swan Landing at Wye Marsh.

Hérons will migrate south to warmer waters with active fish and amphibian populations.

Skunks are searching for the perfect den to spend the winter in a state of torpor. Torpor is a deep sleep where body functions are slowed to conserve energy, but not quite a full hibernation.

Turtles are soaking up the last of the sun's warmth and rays before burying themselves into the muddy bottom of the marsh to spend winter in a state of torpor. Baby turtles are just hatching in the fall - some as small as a toonie - and will be searching for water and vegetation as they begin their life cycle.

The preparation during fall is key for survival during winter. It means these species and many others within the Wye Marsh are quite active and busy - making for some amazing opportunities to spot wildlife!



A skunk finds a potential den in an old tree stump.



*A young Snapping Turtle in the grass.
Photo by Garry VanGelderren.*

TREES OF WYE MARSH

October's monthly mini BioBlitz theme is trees.

To identify a tree species, check the bark, buds, berries, and leaf shapes/ sizes/ clusters. Once you get up close you'll notice the differences that make each species unique.

To participate in October's BioBlitz, explorers will list their sightings either through iNaturalist or the Google Form. With each contribution you will be entered into a draw to win a Wye Marsh tote bag in December.

Sightings are fun to track, AND help Wye Marsh's stewardship initiatives. It's citizen science at work!

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

Marsh By Moonlight—Fall Paddle

October 7, 8, 9
6:30 - 8:30pm

The Marsh by Moonlight Paddle Series features a guided canoe tour through the sparkling moonlit waters of the Wye Marsh. Twinkling canoes and boardwalk, night noises, some yummy bannock and lots of laughs will make for spectacular photo-ops and an unforgettable night! Connect with nature and enjoy this unique and different perspective of the Marsh. \$75 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-By-Moonlight-Canoe

Yoga in the Marsh: Relax and Unwind

October 8
8:00am - 9:00pm

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

Art in the Marsh: Photography Workshop

October 8
10:00am - 1:00pm

This workshop will focus on nature photography, particularly birds. Richard will go over composition, camera settings, and approaching wildlife respectfully to get the perfect shot. \$75 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/art-workshops

Winter Finches Workshop

October 15
9:30am - 12:30pm

The Winter Finches Workshop will include insights into the identification of all Ontario finches and how best to attract finches to your backyard. \$35 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/winter-finches

Halloween at Wye Marsh

October 29 & 30
10:00am - 2:00pm

Unleash your spooooooky side and celebrate Halloween at Wye Marsh. Learn about some fascinating creatures and trick-or-treat along the trails. Costumes are encouraged for all ages! Activities are included in regular admission, but please consider bringing an item to donate to Midland OSPCA from their wish list found here ontariospca.ca/how-to-help/wish-list/

Summer Memories Scrapbooking Workshop

October 29
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Come and get this one-of-a-kind 2-page limited-edition spread for your summer photos. Enjoy an afternoon clipping, pasting and chatting! \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation

November 4 - 20

An online fundraiser in support of conservation, environmental education, and stewardship initiatives at Wye Marsh! Bid in the silent auction, or take part in some of the initiatives at local fundraising partners.

Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/annual-fundraiser

Art in the Marsh: Stone Carving

November 5
1:00pm - 3:00pm

This is an introductory class for carving alabaster & soapstone. Participants will learn how to use tools and techniques to sculpt a small pendant - or sculpture. All materials provided. \$65 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh

Owl Prowl Nocturnal Hike

November 5 + 12
6:30pm - 8:30pm

Join Mak Soden as he guides attendants on an Owl Prowl through the Wye Marsh in search of the 5 species of owls that commonly inhabit the area. All materials provided. \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/owl-prowl

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!**

JOAN WHITMAN

Joan Whitman has been canoeing her whole life. From paddling on the lake at the cottage, and at Girl Guide Camp as a kid, to giving canoe tours as a volunteer at Wye Marsh, it is an eternal pleasure.

“It’s different canoeing on a lake than on the marsh,” she says. Both can be a lot of fun, but the awe she experiences when she’s gliding through black waters of the marsh, decorated by lilies in bloom, is unique. “What you see when you are paddling through the marsh - the turtles and the frogs - is so gratifying!”

Retiring to the area in 2017, the former HR Director of a multinational corporation was drawn to the marsh and its simple beauty. She wanted to get involved. She started as a guide, leading people along trails by foot and canoe. Over time, she found herself digging in the earth alongside the Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners every Thursday morning, and becoming the club’s President.

“At first, I wanted to learn everything I could about native wildflowers and pollinators,” Joan says. “It’s a lot of hard work, but being part of the club has so many benefits. The comradery



and expertise is amazing. The stunning beauty feed the soul. And has the chance to learn from people who have been enhancing wildlife habitat through their gardening practices for years.”

“It’s important that we educate ourselves and others about native species,” she says, “to be good stewards of the environment.”

In the spirit of empowering others, Joan and the members of the club collect wildflower seeds each fall, package them over the winter, and sell them [online at this link](#) in the spring.

Sales promote biodiversity, help create pollinator friendly green spaces, and raise funds to support the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. Thank you Joan, and thanks to all of our Wildflower Gardeners!

HALLOWEEN AT WYE MARSH

October 29 & 30 | 10:00am - 2:00pm

All things spooky, silly, and sparkly are invited in costume to celebrate Halloween in the marsh. Learn about unique creatures and trick-or-treat along the trails and collect stamps in a limited edition passport!

Activities are included in regular admission, but please consider bringing an item to donate to Midland OSPCA. [Click here for their wish list.](#)





Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:

CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION

November 4 - 20, 2022

Funds raised will support conservation, stewardship, and environmental education at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre!

Online Silent Auction

Place your bids online for incredible prizes like art, gift certificates, experiences, and more!

Local Partners in Fundraising

Wye Marsh is pleased to partner with these local business who are helping raise funds for Wye Marsh.

Check out **Grounded Coffee Co.**, **Mega Mindful Living**, and **Boulangers Midland City Bakers** for some awesome eats that support Wye Marsh!

WWW.WYEMARSH.COM/ANNUAL-FUNDRAISER

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The leaves aren't the only thing changing at Wye Marsh this month.

After big changes in our Animal Care department last month, this month we are saying goodbye to a long-time friend of Wye Marsh, Marketing and Communications Coordinator Amanda Swick. For those who don't know, Amanda has been a key part of Wye Marsh since 2018.

Initially starting in the Event & Volunteer Coordinator role, Amanda has since moved into Marketing & Communications and completely overhauled our website, newsletters, and social media.

Not only that, but she is also the talented artist behind our tote bag, mug and t-shirt designs!

So this month I am taking the chance to thank Amanda from the bottom of my heart for five years of dedication, and pay tribute to her for all she has done for Wye Marsh in that time. This will be Amanda's final newsletter, so please enjoy it, and join me in wishing Amanda all the best moving forward.

We hope to see you at Wye Marsh in October!

- **Kim Hacker, Executive Director**



Membership is your all access pass to fall colours, nature, excitement, and memories at Wye Marsh. Click here to become a member!

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

We are now officially in Fall, season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. September and October are some of the best months to observe the Marsh, as we transition towards winter. There are many activities and workshops available to increase your enjoyment and appreciation of our unique facility, and I urge you to take advantage of these opportunities.

One of the many key components of our organization, the Friends of the Wye Marsh, is your Board of Directors, to whom Kim, as Executive Director, reports. Each director brings a unique skill set to our oversight of the Marsh; and it is a splendid way to give back to the community. The composition

of the Board changes constantly, as people move away or accept different employment opportunities. As a result, we are constantly on the lookout for new recruits to the Board, especially anyone with a financial background. If you would like to know more about what is involved in joining the Board, please contact us and we will be happy to provide you with the necessary information.

Enjoy your Wye Marsh!

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