

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!

DID YOU KNOW?

Leaves have different pigments, natural colouring produced by leaf cells. The composition of these pigments depends on the tree. Leaves have the yellow, red, orange, brown, and even purple toned pigments that we see in the fall all year round. They just appear green because of chlorophyll – the biomolecule that absorbs energy from sunlight and gives leaves green colouring.

The 3 main pigments that colour leaves are:

- chlorophyll (green)
- carotenoid (yellow, orange, and brown)
- anthocyanin (red, purple)

As the weather gets colder and there is less sunlight, this green pigment is broken down into colourless compounds. Different pigments are then revealed. Most trees will appear yellow at first, but other chemical changes cause red, orange, or deep purple colouration.



MARSH SCHOOL

Registration for October, November, and December 2021 sessions is **now open!**

Students learn science, art, and more through the lens of nature in small groups and hands-on classes!

To learn more or register, [please click here](#).

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser is happening virtually this month - an online silent auction, meal partnership with World Famous Dock Lunch, and a 50/50 Draw!

For more info see page 4, [or click here](#).



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is **open daily**, from **9:00am-4:30pm**.

Updated safety precautions are in place. For more information, [please click here](#).

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

October 9
10:00am &
2:00pm

Global Big Day

Join Wye Marsh's naturalists and participate in Global Big Day - a global bird watching initiative. There will be 2 guided birding hikes, lead by Wye Marsh's Outdoor Naturalists. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, [please click here](#).

October 22-24

Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation—Dine at Dock Lunch

Enjoy a \$25 special at the World Famous Dock Lunch, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Wye Marsh! Specials include Souvlaki, Fish & Chips, Vegetarian Lasagna, & more. For the menu and more information on the fundraiser, [please click here](#).

Auction:
Oct. 23 - Nov. 20

Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation—Silent Auction & 50/50 Draw

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser goes virtual again this year! Place your bids online for incredible prizes including local artworks, gift certificates, unique items, and more! There will also be a 50/50 draw. 50/50 tickets are 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50, and are available for purchase at Wye Marsh. For more information on the fundraiser, [please click here](#).

50/50 Draw:
Oct. 23 - Dec. 30

October 23
1:00pm-3:00pm

Art in the Marsh—Watercolour Painting

Participants will learn the basics of this fluid and expressive medium, as well as composition and colour techniques, and other tips and tricks from local artist Lisa Harpell. Ideas and compositions will be relevant to artists of all skill levels. \$45 pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

Fridays in
October, November
& December

Marsh School - REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Marsh School offers safe, inquiry-based learning in small groups with an Outdoor Naturalist. Students experience nature at their own pace, making greater connections to nature through art and discovering the wonders of nature through a scientific lens. Pre-registration is required. To learn more about Marsh School or to register, [please click here](#).

November 13
1:00pm-3:00pm

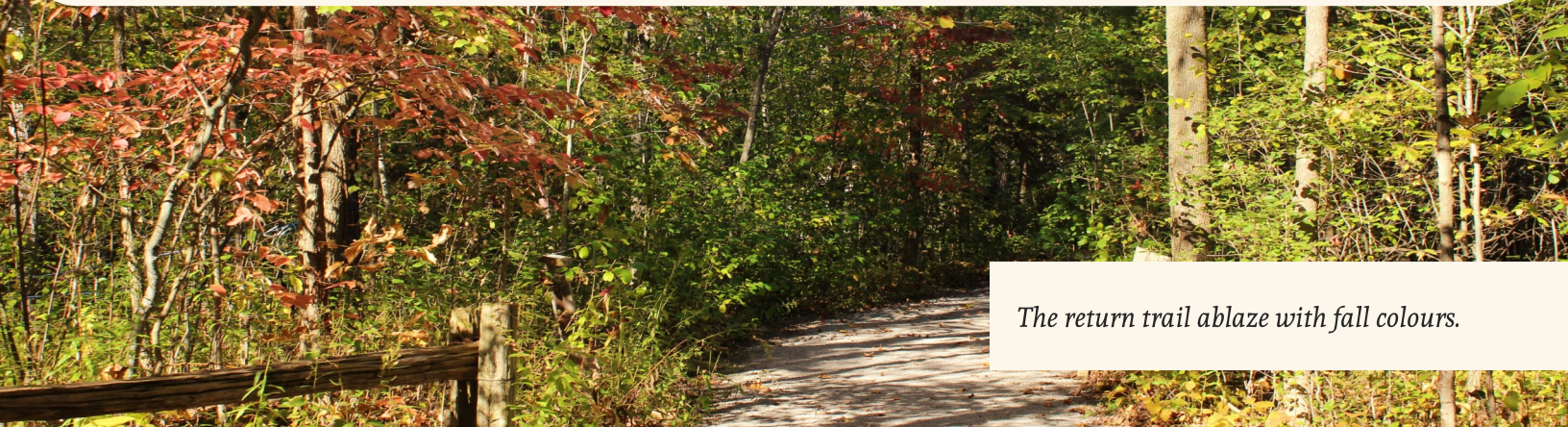
Art in the Marsh—Stone Carving

Be inspired by nature at this introductory class for carving alabaster & soapstone. Participants will create pendants and small sculptures, and learn how to finish and mount their pieces. \$47 pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

October 30
1:00pm-3:00pm

Fall Colours Photography Workshop

Join celebrated photographer Jason George with camera in hand to learn some tips, tricks and skills to master nature and wildlife photography. Suited to photographers of all abilities. \$30 pp. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, [please click here](#).



The return trail ablaze with fall colours.

ON THE WILD SIDE:

The colours of the Marsh have started to turn, and the changes in wildlife are in full swing. Turtles, frogs and snakes are soaking up the last of the warm weather and sunshine. Be on particular look out for baby Snapping Turtles. These hatchlings are about the size of a toonie, and camouflage well against sand or gravel. They will be making their way to the relative safety of the water.

Migratory birds have begun to flock through our area as well. Be on the look out for Black-Throated Blue Warblers,

Red-Shouldered Hawks, Sharp-Shined Hawks, Saw Whet Owls, Barn Swallows, and more.

As wildlife prepares for the cooler seasons, so will us humans. You can lend a hand to wildlife by preparing a bird feeder to put up this winter. If you already have a bird feeder, let this be your reminder to clean it for the season to ensure there is no bacteria for the birds. You can also help our wildlife in your yard by waiting to clean up your yard - relax a little longer!. Late blooming flowers provide food for bees, and leaf litter provides shelter for many critters, and nesting material for winter preparations.

Snapping Turtle hatchling on the Berm.



Sharp-shined Hawk.

BENEFITS OF BATS

Bats get a bad reputation sometimes. The portrayal of bats in the media as scary and blood sucking (especially around Halloween) has caused unwarranted fear and persecution of bats. Bats are in fact very beneficial to humans and the ecosystems in which we live!

All species of bats living in Ontario are insectivores, meaning that they eat insects. Their primary diet consists of pest insects like moths, beetles, flies, and mosquitoes.

Through their insect consumption:

- Bats help control annoying insects like mosquitos or flies who prey on humans.
- Bats help control insect pests around crops, increasing crop yields.
- Bats help reduce insect vector diseases, such as West Nile virus.

Bats also help the environment through pollination. Some species of bat drink nectar, and in doing so transfer pollen, much like bee butterflies, which then pollinates flowering plants.

4/8 species of bats found in Ontario are listed as Provincially and/or Federally Endangered.

This is due in part to persecution and fear, habitat destruction. You can help bats by building a bat box, learning more about bats, supporting bat research, and respecting bat roosting places by leaving them undisturbed.



Presented by:
THE
SEASONS
ON LITTLE LAKE
MIDLAND

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:
**CONNECTING FOR
CONSERVATION**

Funds raised will support Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre's conservation, stewardship, and environmental education efforts.

Online Silent Auction

Oct 23 - Nov 20

Place your bids online for incredible prizes!

Bidders over the posted value will be entered in a High Bidder's Draw!

Dine at Dock Lunch

Oct 22 - 24

Enjoy a \$25 special at the World Famous Dock Lunch, with a portion of proceeds donated to Wye Marsh!

Specials include Chicken Souvlaki, Fish & Chips, Vegetarian Lasagna, & more.

50/50 Draw

Oct 23 - Dec 30

Get your tickets to win!

Tickets are 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50. Available for purchase at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.

WWW.WYEMARSH.COM/ANNUAL-FUNDRAISER



Support the fundraiser with a donation for the a Silent Auction!

Perhaps a weekend away at a cottage, a stunning offering in your wine cellar or among your collectables, or a service you/ your business provides?

As a non-profit organization, we appreciate the generosity of our community. Every donation helps us raise environmental awareness, and teach the public about the importance of the wetlands and their biodiversity. If you have an item or service to donate to the silent auction, please contact Heather at 705-526-7809 ext. 217 or hkeery@wymarsh.com.

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!

GRAHAM & SUSAN SCRIMGEOUR

Graham and Susan fell in love with the Wye Marsh when they were teaching in York Region. In fact, they enjoyed taking their students to the Marsh so much – they moved here when they retired six years ago! Since then, the two have become an integral part of the Wye Marsh family.

Susan and Graham have shared their passion for the environment as Trail Ambassadors, Outreach Committee Members and Special Events Crew. They have even recruited new Board Members for the Wye Marsh!

Graham enjoys being a Trail Ambassador, sharing insights on the ecosystem and marsh wildlife with visiting families and small groups. He also likes interacting with the public at



Susan (L) & Graham (R) pose at an event they attended with the Wye Marsh Outreach Committee.

community events, as part of the Marsh's Outreach Team.

For Susan, volunteering to paddle a canoe during “Marsh by Moonlight” is a perfect fit. Graham noted that being on the water, under the stars, “is absolutely peaceful.” For Susan, “It’s magical.” That is what our volunteers are to us, here at the Wye Marsh - magical!

Celebrating a happy milestone at Wye Marsh!

Volunteers Peter and Laura Forma, with their 2-year-old grandson Lucas, celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary at the Wye Marsh. Congratulations!

Photo by Lucy Li-Forma.



Announcement from the Wye Marsh Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is coming out of its COVID-induced hibernation!

This group of dedicated volunteers is excited about resuming its participation in local and regional events, on behalf of the Wye Marsh, in 2022. The primary objective of the group is to make people, whether they be local or ‘from away’, aware of the Wye Marsh’s attractions, programs, and stewardship objectives –and we have lots of fun doing it!

We are looking for additional members to assist in staffing existing ‘Marsh marketing’ events and to search out new opportunities to spread the word about the gem that is the Wye Marsh. If you are interested, please consider attending the Outreach Committee’s end-of-season meeting at the Wye Marsh on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 25th at 2:00 p.m.**

Please contact Graham Scrimgeour at boursin10@yahoo.com for further information.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

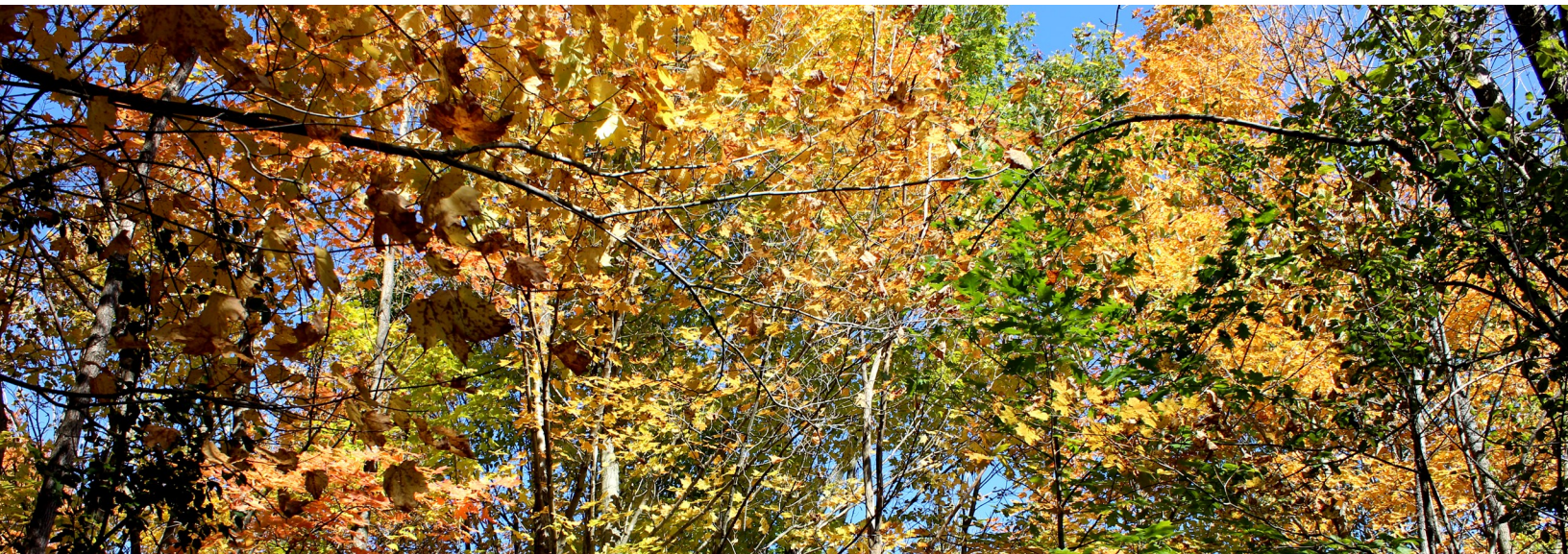
October is my favourite month of the year. The changing leaves are gorgeous, the sky is the most incredible shade of blue, and one can enjoy the outdoors without bug repellent!

Here at Wye Marsh we are excited to be moving into our fall season. We have resumed virtual programming with Simcoe County District School Board, and also Connected North, an organization which fosters student engagement and enhanced education outcomes in remote Indigenous communities. We are also enjoying the return of overnight Scout and Guide Groups, who we've been missing for the past year and a half.

This month features the October Big Day on Saturday October 9 – a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far. Join Outdoor Educator Ashlea at 10:00am or Stewardship Manager Patrick at 2:00pm for a guided bird hike at Wye Marsh. This month we will also be hosting workshops on watercolour painting and fall photography – see page 2 or our website for more details. And the best part of October is Halloween! Visitors are encouraged to wear their costumes for a visit on Sunday October 31.

We look forward to seeing you at Wye Marsh this October! Come to see the leaves, work off the turkey, and enjoy the last bits of warmth before we settle into winter. Happy October!

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

For those of us who visit the Wye Marsh on a regular basis, October is one of the more fascinating months to be out and about on the trails. As I write this, bird migration to warmer southern climates has already started; but many species will continue to migrate over the next few weeks, giving visitors a chance to see birds not normally resident at the Marsh. We have knowledgeable ornithologists on staff who will be happy to share their expertise with you.

It is also a perfect time to simply be on the trails, especially as most of our plaguey flying insects have gone. I expect that the Fall colours in our area will be approaching their peak within the next two weeks, giving the usual spectacular effects. Remember that we are open to visitors right through the fall season, including Thanksgiving Monday!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Wye Marsh.

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

FROM THE WOODCARVER'S SHOP

The Wye Marsh Woodcarvers have been hard at work, creating beautiful works of wooden art! The group is preparing for competition next month and we wish them the best of luck as they present these carvings!



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Do you enjoy gardening or would you like to learn more about native plants and pollinators? The Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners meet at the gardens every Thursday morning from May - October, and are looking for more volunteers to help the group maintain the wildflower gardens.

From late October - early December, on Thursday mornings, we package the seeds we have collected all season for sale.

New members are always welcome! If you don't think you can commit to being a member, we also welcome occasional volunteers. No experience is necessary for any of these fun activities!

For more information contact Joan Whitman at whitman.joan02@gmail.com.



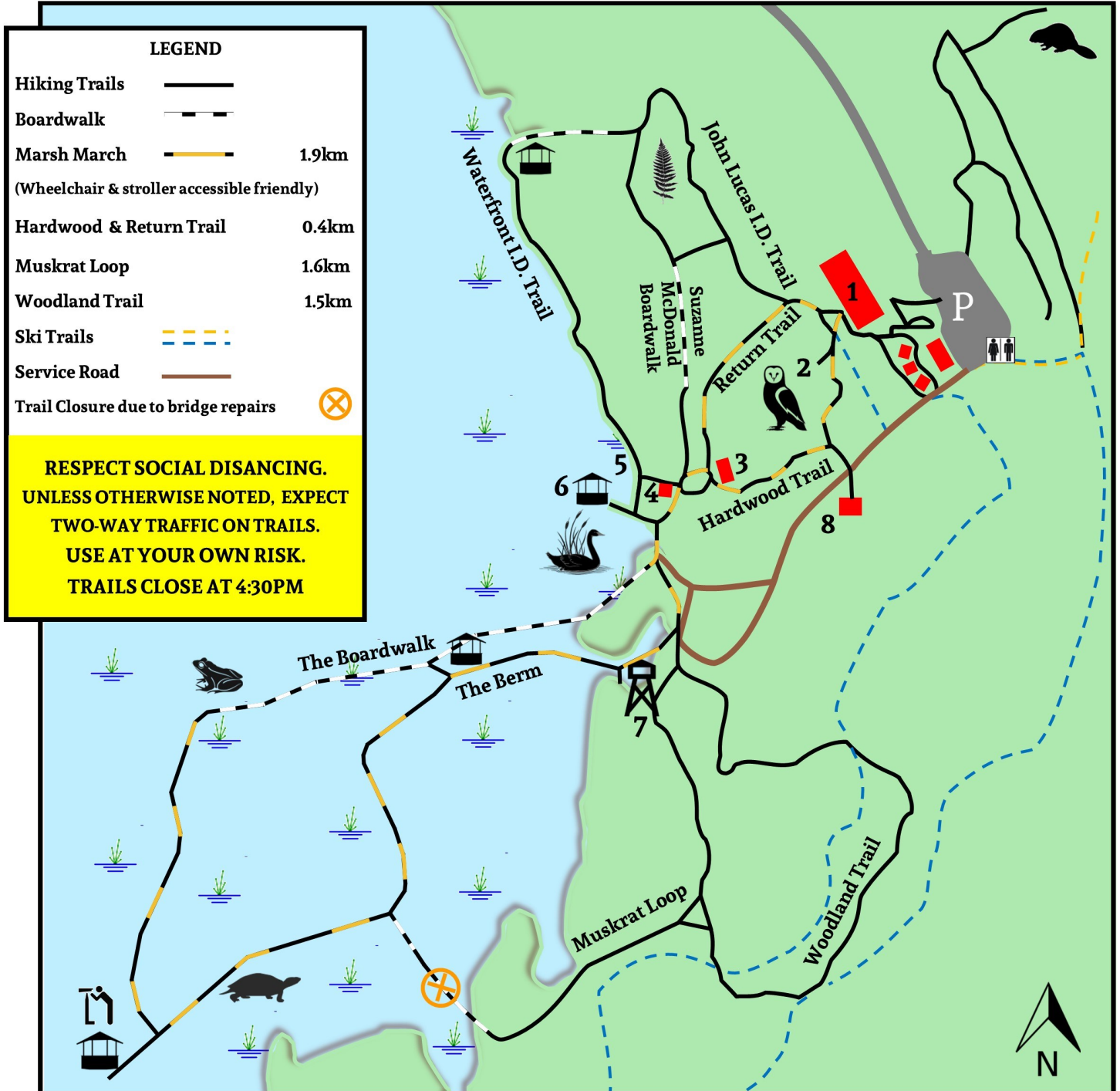
VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is open to explore 7 days a week, in all seasons!
Trails are open daily from 9:00am –4:30pm.

- 1 Visitor's Centre
(Masks or face coverings required)
- 2 Birds of Prey Field - OPEN
- 3 Sugar Shack - Closed
- 4 Log Cabin - Closed

- 5 Canoe Dock - Closed
- 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station - One Family at a time
- 7 Observation Tower - One Family at a time
- 8 Bee House - One Family at a time

-  Open Land/ Forest
-  Wetland/Open Water
-  Building



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.