

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!

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



WYE MARSH 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 Wye Marsh!

Tickets are \$5.00 each and available at the Visitor Centre. Lottery License #M788358.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thursday, September 22, 2022 is the first day of fall. That's right folks we have a few weeks of summer left!

What makes September 22 the first day of fall you ask? The beginning of astronomical fall is marked by the Autumn Equinox.

In the Northern Hemisphere, where we are, the Autumn Equinox occurs when the sun crosses the celestial equator moving south. This means that, based on the Earth's tilted axis and rotation, there is less and less daylight each day leading to the Winter Solstice which is the day of the year with the least hours of daylight.

In the Southern Hemisphere the opposite occurs. September 22 is their Spring Equinox bringing warmer seasons and longer days.



ON THE WILD SIDE:

A common misconception is that once the heat of summer fades so too does the excitement in nature - but we're here to remind you that there's just a whole different kind of activity! Migratory species start passing through, hibernating species start to prepare for winter and are thus out and about more, and reptiles are particularly active on sunny days catching those rays. So, with the changing seasons wildlife activity is changing but still afoot!

Speaking of changes, there are exciting things afoot in Wye Marsh's Animal Care department these days. With Delaney's return to school and Tom's retirement, we are pleased to introduce a new member of our team - Jenny Hagerman. Jenny will be supporting Johanna in Animal Care, helping to take care of and work with our Animal Ambassadors.

Over the course of the next few months, Johanna and Jenny will be working to build on their experience and confidence in handling our Birds of Prey. As a result, we will be limiting the number of offsite programs and will be running more static bird shows onsite throughout the fall and winter. We appreciate your understanding as we make this transition.

Please join us in welcoming Jenny to the Wye Marsh team!



Jenny getting to know her 'co-workers'!

FROGS OF WYE MARSH

September's monthly mini BioBlitz theme is frogs.

Did you know there are over 13 different species of frogs that live in Ontario, including terrestrial, arboreal, and aquatic frogs?

Frogs and other amphibians are considered to be an 'indicator' species of an environment's health. If frog populations are thriving, generally it means the environment is healthy. When they start to dwindle, you know something is wrong.

To participate in September's monthly BioBlitz, explorers will be able to list their sightings either through iNaturalist or through a 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.](#)

Frogs you may observe at Wye Marsh:



Green Frog



Northern Leopard Frog



Wood Frog

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

- September 10**
10:00am - 1:00pm
- Art in the Marsh: Nature Photography**
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
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- September 17**
9:30am - 12:30pm
- Migratory Birds Workshop**
As our fall migrants travel through our region we are offered a brief glimpse at these species as they travel south. \$35 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/migratory-birds-workshop
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- September 24**
9:30am - 12:30pm
- Introduction to Falconry Workshop**
With over 30 years as a general falconer, Tom Goldsmith will be leading a workshop at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre to outline some considerations a person should keep in mind before committing to the exciting and ancient sport of falconry. \$50 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/falconry-workshop
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- September 24**
1:30pm - 3:30pm
- Card Making Workshop**
Create a playful customized greeting card featuring a cute fox, under the guidance of Master Crafter Janet Dorion. \$25 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops
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- September 30**
All Day
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**
Wye Marsh would like to acknowledge the importance of this day as we reconcile our country's history. For those who you like to reflect in nature, there will be free admission for anyone wearing an orange shirt.
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- September 30**
October 1, 7, 8, 9
6:30 - 8:30pm
- Marsh By Moonlight—Fall Paddle**
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
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- October 15**
9:30am - 12:30pm
- Winter Finches Workshop**
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
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- November 5**
1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Art in the Marsh: Stone Carving**
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
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- November 12**
10:00pm - 12:00pm
- Build a Peanut Suet Feeder Workshop**
Learn how to make an irresistible peanut suet mix and take home a log feeder that will keep them coming back for more! All materials provided. \$25 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/bird-feeder

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!

JULIEN DESROCHERS-DIOSO

Julien Desrochers-Dioso is passionate about the environment. A possible future Climatologist, he is having a great time volunteering at Wye Marsh.

“I don’t usually see a lot of animals at other parks,” says, Julien. “I know they are there, but you can’t see them. But when you go out into the marsh - you are practically guaranteed to see something.”

For example, Julien saw a giant snapping turtle during his orientation session as a Summer Camp Counsellor-in-Training (CIT), and a River Otter when volunteering as a Trail Ambassador. Once, when he was acting as a hike caboose with our Day Campers, his group spotted more than 90 frogs out on the marsh!

“I love kids,” he says, and finds being a CIT a lot of fun. “I would recommend it.”

Julien would also recommend spending some time with our Trail Ambassadors. The team of dedicated naturalists walk the trails every day from 11 am - 2 pm, enriching visitor experiences by sharing insights on the Wye Marsh and its wildlife.



Julien has enjoyed his time with Trail Ambassador Coordinator, Dorothy Harper. He has learned a lot from her, and Ambassador Roger Flint. “It’s amazing how Roger can spot wildlife,” he says.

You can really see so much more when you are with an experienced naturalist, he says. For example, when he went on a mini BioBlitz with Stewardship Coordinator Patrick Jackson, he saw a pink and white Primrose moth for the first time - which was awesome!

Building skills as a CIT and learning more about nature, the Wye Marsh, and invasive species as a Trail Ambassador have been very rewarding for Julien. “It will help me in the future”, he says. Thank you, Julien, and all our volunteers, for another great summer!

**Experience the sparkling
waters of Wye Marsh
under the moonlight.**

**Marsh by Moonlight is back
this fall, on September 30,
October 1, 7, 8 & 9.**

**[Click here for dates
and to register!](#)**



THANK YOU to our friends at Bayles Deschamps Holloway Wealth Management of RBC Dominion Securities Inc. who have donated \$1,500.00 towards our ongoing efforts to manage invasive phragmites on the provincial wildlife area.

The funds will help with remediation efforts this fall, planting native species in place of the invasive phragmites that has been removed in August. The Invasive Phragmites Management Project is a team effort, with collaboration from Severn Sound Environmental Association, and Cambium. The project is part of the Eastern Georgian Bay Initiative to help protect and preserve sensitive habitats across Southern & Eastern Georgian Bay.

Pictured are representatives from Severn Sound Environmental Association, Cambium, Wye Marsh, and Bayles, Deschamps, Holloway RBC Dominion Securities.



Royal Mail for Wye Marsh! You may recall that in the spring, Friends of Wye Marsh adopted Trumpeter Swan C70 and named her Elizabeth in honor of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

We mailed a letter to this effect to Her Majesty, explaining the re-introduction program and the success of wild Trumpeter Swan populations in Ontario now.

This week we received a response, and wanted to share that with you as well.

We love spreading awareness about the conservation work done at Wye Marsh - with everyone!



WYE MARSH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser, an online silent auction, Connecting for Conservation, is set to take place from November 4-20, 2022.

Last year's success was with many thanks due to our generous Board of Directors, Members, and local businesses donations of gift certificates to their favourite restaurants, artwork, charming collectibles, and a sailing adventure!

We are hopeful that you may donate to the auction again this year! Experiences, gift certificates, artwork are all welcome and appreciated.

As a non-profit organization, we appreciate the generosity of our community. Please contact Heather at hkeery@wymarsh.com if you have any questions, or other ideas on how you would like to be part of Connecting for Conservation.

THANK YOU!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

In my previous life as an educator, September always meant new beginnings – pristine clothes and supplies, new schedules and routines, fresh hopes and resolutions. The “real” new year started in September.

With this in mind, I thought September was a great opportunity to remind everyone to check on the status of your Wye Marsh Membership. With life moving as fast as it does, it's easy to forget to renew seasonally or annually, and we want to ensure everyone can take advantage of Wye Marsh's ever-changing beauty as we head into autumn. It's easy to renew either through our website or our front desk, and if you need a hand, or don't know when your membership expires, we're here to help! All Members receive 10% off purchases in

our gift shop, and Annual Family Members are entitled to 35% off camps (including our upcoming Winter and March Break Camps) and ski/snowshoe rentals.

September is also a great time to create new routines for yourself and your loved ones. Regular walks in nature provide a wealth of physical and mental health benefits! And with more moderate temperatures, fewer mosquitos, migrating birds and changing foliage, WYE not take more walks this month?

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

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



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

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

By the time that you read this, our Canadian Summer will almost certainly be Officially Over. The trees are slowly starting to change, the birds are practicing for migration, and many people are heading off to school or college.

It is a marvellous time to savour the Wye Marsh. Bird activity over the next two months will increase, all the colours will become more vibrant, the scents and odours of marsh and woodland will become more distinctive. And the mosquitoes have gone!

We are still fighting the depredations of the Emerald Ash Borer, so I must apologise for the amount of emergency work

being done by our arborists along the trails closest to the Wildlife Centre. The safety of our guests and visitors is of paramount concern, so some of the "tidying up" is being deferred until a little later in the season.

I know that we have a full programme of offerings for the Fall and early Winter seasons, so I hope that you will all take advantage of the many opportunities to enjoy our beautiful Wye Marsh.

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