

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?

April is Frog Month! Frogs are an important species in any ecosystem, acting as both predator and prey in the food web.

Like other amphibians, frogs are also considered to be indicator species.

Biologists (and citizen scientists) will monitor for populations in an area to help gauge the overall health of their habitat because they are so affected by changes.

Frogs' skin is *permeable*, meaning that things can easily pass through it. This allows them to both breathe and drink through their skin, but it also means they are very susceptible to pollutants or other changes in their environment. When the health of a frog population declines, this usually indicates that there is a shift in pollutants. A healthy and stable frog population generally indicates a healthy environment with clean water.



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is **open to explore**.

Updated safety precautions are in place. For more information on visiting Wye Marsh during COVID-19, [please click here](#).



Earth Day is April 22, 2021.

Join Wye Marsh in celebrating our wonderful planet with at home activities, a webinar, and a seedling giveaway on April 25.

More information on page 4.

Join us **April 24, 2020**
at **10:00am** for the
Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.
Annual General Meeting



The Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held virtually.

Members will be emailed an invitation with link prior to the meeting.

Volunteers/ visitors who are interested in to attend may do so, and should email info@wyemarsh.com with a request.

[Click here to Register for the AGM](#)

2021 CAMP REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

To learn more or register, visit
www.wyemarsh.com/camp or [click here](#).

Wye Marsh Day Camps are exciting, safe, and well loved for ages 4-16. Camps run in July & August with various themes.

Please note that the safety of campers, visitors, staff and volunteers is top priority for Wye Marsh. We are taking every precaution to ensure the best, and safest, experience possible for everyone.



NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 18-24

Wye Marsh is a special place, but what makes it so? In truth, it's partly the nature, and partly the people. The team of over 200 volunteers without whom the Wye Marsh as we know and love it would not be here.



Volunteers who come regardless of weather to monitor swans, who give up their holiday Mondays, who help on the front admissions desk, who guide folks along the trails, who spend hours cleaning out some pretty smelly messes left behind by the birds of prey, who canoe in the heat, who collect the maple syrup in the spring, and who tend fires for bannock roasting in the winter.

Volunteerism is a pillar of our organization. To all the volunteers who donate your time to Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre - **THANK YOU.**

ON THE WILD SIDE:

Happy spring, happy spring. Many residents of Wye Marsh are returning from migration or emerging from hibernation. Red-Winged Blackbirds, a Garter Snake, chipmunks, and others have all been spotted enjoying the sunny weather and double-digit temperatures of late. Soon the marsh will erupt with sounds of frog choruses, and turtles will make their way to breeding sites.

With the changing of seasons we are more likely to encounter wildlife when out exploring – both young and adult. It is important to respect wildlife as we share their habitat when we are out exploring. Here are few reasons why you should give wildlife their space:

- When approached, wildlife may startle and panic potentially causing harm to themselves or you when they try to escape.
- If wildlife feel threatened, especially if they have young nearby, they may attack and cause harm to you or themselves in defense.
- Young animals, including birds, deer fawns, rabbits and other mammals may be left alone for periods of time by their parents in search of food. Intervening could leave your scent, or cause unintentional harm to the wildlife.
- Moving young or injured wildlife to a different location can be fatal as they will be disoriented and at greater risk of predation.
- If wildlife need to be rescued, it should always be done by trained and/or licensed individuals.

Out of respect for them, please give wildlife their space and admire them from afar by taking only photographs.



A Red-Winged Blackbird calling out over Wye Marsh.



A young Robin chick in its nest.

TURTLES ON THE MOVE—GIVE THEM A BRAKE!



It's turtle nesting season, meaning that turtles will be travelling to nesting sites in sandy areas. Sometimes this means crossing the road (or even laying their eggs in the sandy shoulders of the roadways).

All 8 of the native turtle species in Ontario are listed as of concern, and road mortality is one of the reasons why. Please be vigilant when driving, as turtles could easily be mistaken for debris on the road. If you spot a turtle, brake and allow them to cross. You can help encourage them across the road from behind with a car mat, but they should not be handled. They may panic and scratch/ bite you, which may prompt you to drop them. If you see a Snapping Turtle, notable by their spiky tail and size, give them plenty of space.

CELEBRATE OUR EARTH

Earth Day: April 22, 2021

Wye Marsh Celebrations: April 25, 2021



Backyard BioBlitz with iNaturalist

Ever wondered what's in your backyard? Download iNaturalist or Seek on your mobile device and join the **Wye Marsh for a BioBlitz** around your neighborhood.

[Click here to participate in the Wye Marsh iNaturalist Backyard BioBlitz.](#)



Seedling Giveaway

Join the Wye Marsh in planting Ontario's Tree in your yard! On **April 25th 2021, from 10:00am to 4:00pm the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre will be giving away 200 Eastern White Pine seedlings** via Marsh-side pickup. Seedlings will be given away on a first come, first serve basis and will be restricted to one per family.



At Home Activities

Wye Marsh has a number of **nature-based activities to engage naturalists of all ages** to get outdoors to learn about and appreciate our wonderful planet.

[Click here for these At Home Activities.](#)



Invasive Species Webinar with Bob Bowles

Join **Bob Bowles**, award-winning writer, artist, photographer and local naturalist for a webinar which will highlight **some of the most prominent invasive species that are affecting wetlands** like the Wye Marsh. More information to come.

LETS GO GREEN!



Looking for everyday changes that can help our planet?

There are so many ways to help our earth, 5 to try this month include:

1. Support conservation efforts to preserve wildlife and their habitats
2. Instead of plastic bags, use reusable canvas bags
3. Use smart power bars that drain less idle electricity to help conserve energy when appliances are not in use
4. When getting takeout, say no to disposable cutlery and use your own reusable utensils
5. Record your wildlife and plant sightings to help monitor the health of local ecosystems



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

The Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Annual General Meeting is taking place virtually on April 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance is encouraged but please remember you must hold a valid annual membership in order to be eligible to vote on the motions put forward at the meeting. To attend, please follow the link on page 2. Your feedback is important to the Board of Directors and I, whether you are a member, volunteer, or an occasional visitor, we are always interested to hear different perspectives. If you have any questions about the AGM please contact us at info@wyemarsh.com.

The snow is off the trails and Staff at Wye Marsh are busy preparing for summer. We are working on two contracts to tackle invasive species at Wye Marsh with an emphasis on phragmites and glossy buckthorn, you will see lots of activity around various parts of Wye Marsh to map and remove these plants. Applications are coming in for the various summer jobs, and online registration is now open for Wye Marsh Day Camp. Time will tell who the staff will be to spot the first turtle of the season, always a sure sign of spring! We look forward to welcoming the Wildflower Gardeners, they are busy every Thursday morning. Feel free to talk to them about the gardens and planting native species, they are a wealth of knowledge.

- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Hello again. We hope you are all doing well and enjoying this very nice spring weather. So glad the Wye Marsh trails have been opened to add to your enjoyment. It has been so nice to see so many people, especially the little ones, roaming the trails and taking in the emerging nature.

With more and more vaccines being administered we are looking forward to the days when we can start bringing back some programming features. It may be a while yet, but they are coming. Staff is working hard to make sure the Marsh will be ready.

The Board is working on several initiatives. One committee is focused on recruitment of our future Executive Director to take over from Mary Ann when she retires in July. That project is right on schedule. Thanks again to Joep Diening and Bill Byrick for assisting our VP, Nicole with this effort. The fundraising committee's 5 members are working on several ideas to increase revenue. Another committee is working on the creation of an Endowment Fund which will provide sustainable revenue for generations to come. We also have a board member on the Stewardship Committee with a busy year ahead of them.

The Board currently has 11 members with another possibly joining in April. It is a great team. We are still looking for someone with a financial background, either accounting or business, to join the Board to help with financial planning and analysis.

This is my final contribution to the Marsh Matters Newsletter. Unfortunately, I have developed some personal health issues which make it impossible for me to fulfill board responsibilities. I will not be standing for re-election at the AGM. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of the Marsh. You are the backbone of this wonderful organization. Better days are just ahead. Continue to stay safe and healthy and continue your support of one of the most wonderful places we have.

- Dave Robertson, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors