

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!



### February 2 is World Wetland Day!

Wetlands are incredible all year- green and lush or under a coat of snow. Even though they are snow covered this time of year, the wetlands at Wye Marsh continue to brim with wildlife. Wintering birds fly up above, while turtles & frogs are buried beneath the mud in hibernation. Animals leave tracks behind in the snow, letting us know who is around. Beavers remain active in the water underneath the ice going in and out of their lodges. Foxes and other mammals utilize the frozen waterways to go to and from their dens; leaving their tracks behind, marking their path for us to see.

DID  
YOU  
KNOW?



## SKI TRAILS: OPEN

All 25km Cross Country Ski Trails at Wye Marsh are open to explore. Staff are working to groom as conditions allow. A Barred Owl has been spotted/ heard on the Blue Trail. Keep Your eyes and ears open!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

## Marsh by Moonlight Snowshoe

Feb. 1, 8, 22  
5:30pm-7:30pm

Experience the sights and sounds that snowshoeing along our moonlit trails! After learning about the Wye Marsh at night through hoots, chatter, coos, yips and howls relax by a crackling fire to enjoy a hot snack and tea. Pre-registration required. \$50.00 pp.

## Feb. 2 Snowshoe Eco-Tours

9:00am-12:00pm  
Feb. 15, 16, 29  
1:00pm-4:00pm

Experience areas of the Wye Marsh that are otherwise not open to the general visiting public! After a brief lesson on the art of snowshoeing, you will head out in search of the many mysteries that animal tracks & signs present. Pre-registration required. \$65.00 pp.

## Snowshoe FUN-damentals

February 16  
10:00am-12:00pm

Learn the FUNdamentals of snowshoeing with this family orientated workshop. Participants will learn the basics of this engaging outdoor activity, as well as participate in games designed to engage all ages! \$20.00 pp or \$65.00 for family of 4.

## Family Day at Wye Marsh

February 17  
9:00am-4:00pm

Step out onto the trails, enjoy the beauty of nature, and make new memories together this Family Day! Explore the trails by ski or snowshoe, stop to hand feed chickadees, or meet some of the Animal Ambassadors. Activities included in general admission.

## Backyard Birding: Feeder Birds Workshop

February 22  
1:30pm-4:00pm

This workshop will introduce the budding birder to the basics of bird watching, from how to use binoculars and understanding the details of a bird identification book, to learning bird calls and other identification skills. No experience is needed! \$20.00 pp.

## Owl Prowl: Nocturnal Birding Hike

March 6  
8:00pm-10:00pm

Join Raptor Educators Tom Goldsmith and Delaney Scott, as they guide attendants on an Owl Prowl through the Wye Marsh in search of the 5 species of owls that commonly inhabit the area. Pre-registration required. \$30.00 pp.

## Sweetwater Harvest Festival

March 28 & 29  
10:00am-4:00pm

The biggest event in Wye Marsh's calendar! Celebrate an uniquely Canadian tradition in a distinctively Canadian landscape. Escape to a time when maple syrup was made over an open fire, experience our history and explore nature at its best. Adults: \$10.00 pp, Children: \$5.00 pp. Pancake breakfasts: \$5.00. Cash only festival.



# CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider becoming to be part of our enthusiastic team! To sign up for or inquire about these positions, contact Amanda at **705-526-7809 ext. 217** or **ASWICK@WYEMARSH.COM**

## Sweetwater Harvest Festival

March 28 & 29, 2020

The success of Sweetwater Harvest Festival is due largely to the volunteers who make it possible! Volunteer with us for a day of fun in one of the following roles. There are AM (9:30am-12:30pm) PM (12pm-4pm) shifts, or all day (with lunch break) on March 28 or March 29.

- Pancake Flippers (6 volunteers)
- Pancake Hall Helper (5-10 volunteers)
- Pancake Running (2-4 volunteers)
- Pancake Serving (1 volunteer)
- Sausage Serving (1 volunteer)
- Syrup Serving (1 volunteer)
- Beverage Station (1 volunteer)
- Pancake Mixers (2-4 volunteers)
- Lobby/ Front Desk Help (2-4 volunteers)
- Maple Kids Zone Helpers (2-4 volunteers)
- Taffy at the Log Cabin (3-5 volunteers)
- Bannock Roasting (2-3 volunteers)
- Parking Directors (5-7 volunteers)

## Raptor Box Monitor

**ROLE:** Observe and record activity at the 3 Raptor Boxes in the Marsh. Enter recordings into database. Volunteer is not required to open the boxes. This is an ideal role for someone who walks the Marsh frequently!

**TIME COMMITMENT:** 1 hour/ week + 1-2 hours of training on locations, ID, and paperwork.

## Front Desk Volunteers

**ROLE:** Greeting visitors, answer the phone, provide direction, and process admission and gift store purchases. Training provided.

**TIME COMMITMENT:** Between 4-12 hours per month



28th Annual  
**SWEETWATER HARVEST  
FESTIVAL**  
March 28 & 29, 2020

Sugar Shack Demos · Maple Taffy  
Bannock Roasting · Horse & Wagon Rides  
Pancake Breakfast · Kid's Zone  
Woodcarvings · Vendors

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Happy 2020 everyone, we are all looking forward to an exciting New Year, and our favourite events and activities are already well on their way in the planning stages. Stay tuned for something exciting news regarding the return of an event that a lot of you have been asking for!

The Board of Directors, Auditors, and staff are working diligently to finalize the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2018 / 2019, which must be completed before we can publish the notice for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Members will be given thirty (30) days notice prior to the date of the AGM. This year we will be sure to let volunteers know about the AGM as well, but please remember that in order to be eligible to vote you must hold an annual membership that is valid on the day of the AGM. We have some new Directors that have already started pitching in, and we are looking forward to working with. Please check our website for new Directors bios, and be sure to say welcome when you see them at the AGM!

- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director

## Looking for something to do on Family Day? Get together and explore the great outdoors at Wye Marsh!

**February 17, 2020**

- Cross country skiing (rentals available)
- Snowshoeing (rentals available)
- Bannock roasting - 11am to 3pm
- Guided walk/snowshoe - 10am, 12pm & 2pm
- Wonder Wye Kid's Craft 10 am - 3pm
- Wet n' Scaly Demonstration - 11 am
- Birds of Prey Demo - 1 pm
- Chickadee feeding - all day



## 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 team of volunteers.

**Thank you to all!**

### SHARON MARSHALL & IRENE SCOTT

Sharon and Irene are a dynamic duo who Wye Marsh staff know we can always rely on when we need a hand. They are a staple at Sweetwater in the buffet line, and run the kid's craft at multiple events including Earth Day, Family Day, and Open Houses. Sharon and Irene also help sew tears in our dip nets, make the bannock roasting kits, and so much more. And, if all that wasn't enough, Sharon is also a member of the Wildflower Gardeners! Both Sharon & Irene have a sense of humour that lights up the Wye Marsh when they are around and we are lucky to have them as part of the team. **Thank you both!**



*Irene (left) & Sharon (right) at Wye Marsh's Winter Open House where they ran the bird feeder craft for kids!*



## DAY CAMP AT WYE MARSH

**March Break &  
PA Day Camp available!**



At March Break Camp, campers will learn to cross-country ski or snowshoe, tour a working sugar shack, hand feed chickadees, see live reptiles, amphibians, and birds of prey, plus much, much more!

PA Day Camps are a part of Marsh School, and offer fun, hands on, unique activities. Camps run everyday that school isn't! More info/ registration is available on our website, or by contacting Makenzie at **705-526-7809 ext. 202.**

