



MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 57

JUNE 2023

Thank you for your interest in the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre.
Our monthly newsletter, "Marsh Matters", will keep you up-to-date on what is happening at the Wye Marsh!

Explore the beauty of the marsh on a guided canoe or kayak tour.



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

 16160 Highway 12 East, Midland, ON L4R 1K6  705-526-7809

 info@wyemarsh.com  www.wyemarsh.com  [wyemarshwildlifecentre](https://www.facebook.com/wyemarshwildlifecentre)  [@wyemarsh](https://twitter.com/wyemarsh)

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I am excited to be celebrating my two year anniversary at Wye Marsh, and it's made me somewhat reflective. Over the past two years we have been able to replace the T-Bridge at the canoe docks, rebrand Swan Landing with new paint and signage, revitalize our Display Hall with three new exhibits, repair both the Muskrat and ID Trail boardwalks, remove dangerous ash trees and invasive buckthorn, and replace our hardworking (and ancient) tractor. We have replaced old wiring in the bunkie cabins, developed new educational and camp programming, expanded our roster of amazing volunteers, and are in the process of sourcing and buying at least one new canoe. This is a pretty decent list, especially since Covid was still impacting operations for a lot of that time. And this is just the beginning... we have so many exciting plans for the future!



To support us in our goals, our Board of Directors is working hard on fundraising initiatives like Legacy Giving, as well as planning an exciting new event for the fall. Our new Board President Rick Brady is evaluating our existing systems and providers, and we always make the best of what we have. We continually look for ways to improve and welcome your feedback.

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

Kim Hacker,
Executive Director



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is never easy to leave a position of responsibility, great challenge, and immense reward; and it is with regret that I have decided to step down from the position of President of the Friends of Wye Marsh, to pursue other interests, not least those which drew me to the Wye Marsh in the first place, namely stewardship and the amazing trail system.

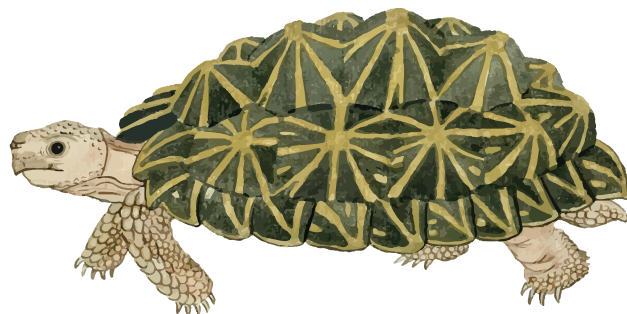
Obviously the major ongoing challenge during my two-year term has been adjusting to, firstly, the pandemic, and then the reality of a brave new post-COVID world. A major contributing factor to our viability as an organization has always been the dedication and flexibility of our staff, especially our new Executive Director, Kim, who, despite a very steep learning curve, has risen magnificently to the challenge of reestablishing our post-pandemic operations, and indeed has expanded their scope considerably. I know that we all look forward to working with Kim for a great many years to come. Our volunteers of course remain incredibly important to the day-to-day operations of the Wye Marsh, and special events such as the recent Sweetwater weekends could not possibly happen without them, their knowledge, and their enthusiasm.

I would like to take this last opportunity to thank each and every member of staff, every member of the Wye Marsh, and every volunteer, for all their dedication and support, without which the Friends of the Wye Marsh, and the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre itself, could not continue to function.

I like to think that the Wye Marsh today is a more vibrant and viable operation than possibly ever before in its history. Our efforts may seem never ending, but I hope that they will continue to bear fruit for many generations to come.

It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to be your President for the last two years.
I look forward to seeing you on our trails!

*Alasdair MacLean,
President, Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.*



A MESSAGE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As I write this, it does seem that at long last spring has arrived, and Mother Nature is providing us with sunshine and warmer temperatures. Most certainly the wildlife here at the marsh have embraced spring, with the Osprey back and actively nesting, the Geese and Swans nesting, the Turtles out sunning, as well as countless birds, some snakes and many other critters awakening for another fine season.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for trusting me and electing me President of the Board of Directors. Many thanks to Alasdair for his hard work as President. He is still a member of the Board and has assumed the role of Secretary. Thanks to Tory Salisbury, who is not only newly elected to the Board, but also stepped up to the role of Treasurer. The Board would like to thank Allan Marion, Alan Grant and Natalie Majer, who all served on the Board for the last few years and have stepped down for personal reasons.

I send out a very big thank you to the amazing staff here at Wye Marsh. A truly dedicated and hardworking team whose love of the marsh shines through in all they do. And many many thanks to the Volunteers! Your giving of so many hours to assist with the programs I incredibly appreciated.

We all look forward to seeing all of you at the marsh as you walk the trails, see the sites and take part in many of the programs being offered this year.

Rick Brady,

New President, Friends of Wye Marsh Inc.



MEET GUY SMILEY!

AGE: 14

Ferruginous Hawk

REASON FOR LIVING AT WYE MARSH: Permanent Wing Injury

FUN FACT:

1. Ferruginous means rust-coloured. This refers to the red legs and back of light-morph birds which are more common than dark morphs; Guy would be considered a light-morph.
2. These hawks often live in prairielands and prey on prairie dogs.



MARSH BY MOONLIGHT
SPRING PADDLE

When: 9pm - 11pm on June 2, 3, 10, 16 & 17

Bathe in moonlight. Take in the stars. Paddle through inky waters as our guide introduces you to the night life at Wye Marsh. The Marsh by Moonlight Paddle Series features a guided Voyageur style canoe tour through the sparkling moonlit waters of the Wye Marsh. Twinkling Voyageur canoes and boardwalk, night noises, Bannock roasted over the open fire accompanied with a hot drink will make for an unforgettable night! \$75.00 Per participant. Includes all equipment and gift to take home.



KAYAK
ECOTOURS

EcoTours run daily 3 Hour trip - You pick the start time between 8:30am - 11:30am
Book a private three-hour guided tour, in French or English, for a unique outdoor experience that fits your schedule and interests. Please note - some physical endurance required. \$65.00 Per participant, 3 person minimum and 6 person maximum.



INTRO TO
BEEKEEPING

Saturday, June 10, 2023 from 9:30am - 11:30am
(Rain date: June 17, 2023 from 9:30am - 11:30am)

Want to be more self sufficient? Want to connect with nature? Learn the basics about keeping bees. Not only does this 10,000 year old tradition provide honey, the bees from each hive also pollinate tens of thousands of plants! This is one workshop you don't want to miss. All materials are included. \$40.00 Per participant.



PRESSED FLOWER CARD
WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 17, 2023 from 10am - 12pm

Enjoy giving blossoms from your garden, and nature, all year long. Create beautiful gift cards displaying pressed flowers. Victorians enjoyed crafting beautiful gift cards with pressed flowers from their garden. Now it is your turn, reflect on the people you love, as you carefully arrange blossoms and petals into creative designs to mark a special occasion. \$30.00 Per participant.



MEDICINE POUCH
WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Spend a tranquil afternoon, working with leather and creating your own medicine pouch while learning about the Anishinaabe culture. Then join our Instructors from Noopiming Creations for a walk along Wye Marsh trails to learn about traditional medicinal plants, and enjoy some cedar tea. \$65.00 Per participant. All materials provided.



INVASIVE
SPECIES PULL

Help restore native wildlife habitat by removing invasive alien species at the Wye Marsh this Summer. Join Wye Marsh's Stewardship Team to learn how to safely remove invasive plants from the area. If possible, bring your gardening gloves, drinking water, and bug spray. Registration not required, but it would be great to know you are coming! *Please call Anna at 705-526-7809 ext. 205, or email abolliger@wyemarsh.com*

See additional upcoming events on our website:
www.wyemarsh.com/events-page

JUNE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

Sade Johnson

There's a lot of competition to be a coop student at Wye Marsh because there's such an incredible variety of experiences to enjoy. This spring, Sade Johnson has been investing her time and energy with us, building skills, learning about nature, and planning to take Environmental Studies at university in the fall.

"I love coming here," says the St. Theresa's High School student. The people, animals, and working environment are awesome. Plus, she has enjoyed learning a lot more about indigenous culture and local wildlife by getting involved with our Outdoor Education Program. In addition to assembling materials and prepping for school visits, Sade has also assisted staff delivering programs both online and in person.

Sade has also joined other staff to: canoe along the channels and clear away cattails; tag swans; clean a few mews (bird pens) and prep meals for our birds of prey.

"Just walking around Wye Marsh makes me happy," she says. Walking along the boardwalk, "you can see so much wildlife. Even though I live in the country, you don't see as much as you see here. There are snapping turtles.. and so many different birds I've never seen before."

"Everyone should come here," she says with a smile. And we agree!

Thank you, Sade, for all your energy and gifts. We have enjoyed having you on our team, and wish you all the best as you embark on your next adventure: University!



WONDER WYE???

Why are bees so important to our food?

They are responsible for pollinating an estimated 70% of North American crops. Pollination is part of the reproductive cycle for plants. It occurs when pollen from the male part of the plant, called the stamen, makes its way to female part of the flower, called the pistil. This can be done by the wind, but in most cases, it occurs when a bee, hummingbird or other insect gets pollen on them while feeding on the plant's nectar and then transfers it to the next flower they visit. Bees aren't just important for pollinating the food we eat. Their pollination also helps grow habitats for many different species to live in and plants for them to eat as well. Bees contribute to complex, interconnected ecosystems that allow diverse species to co-exist.



BUY LOCAL, BURN LOCAL, DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD

A single piece
of firewood
can **DESTROY**
millions of trees.

Always burn local
or heat-treated
(kiln-dried) firewood



Moving firewood, even just a few kilometres away, can spread invasive insects and diseases to our forests.

Learn more: inspection.canada.ca/firewood or 1-800-442-2342

Walking through the marsh, you may have noticed that a lot of trees have been cut down.
This was due to the devastating impact of the Emerald Ash Border.

Invasive insects and tree diseases can live and travel in your firewood. Moving untreated firewood, even just a few kilometers to or from a campground or a cottage, is a common way for invasive insects and diseases to spread. Firewood is one of many pest pathways. Invasive plant pests can hitch a ride on:

- Planes and ships (cargo)
- Soil (yes, even the dirt on your shoes)
- Campers and vehicles
- Outdoor furniture
- Firewood
- Outdoor gear
- Tools and equipment

How YOU can protect Canada's forests and Wye Marsh:

- Learn about invasive species and tell family and friends. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) website and reporting apps such as iNaturalists and EDDMapS are a great start.
- Know where your wood comes from. When you buy it ask, where it came from. Buy local, burn local and never bring it home.
- Clean up. Remove organic debris from footwear, gear, tools, and equipment.
- Inspect, detect and connect. Check trees, campers, equipment and items stored outside.
- Check your package list. Declare food, plants, soil, untreated wood, seeds and animal items when crossing the border. All of these things can carry damaging pests.

JUNE VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:



Liam Kenny, Logan Gravel, Jesse Collins and Nathaniel Yardy have lots of reasons to smile. They are loving their time as co-op students at Wye Marsh, and we're so grateful for everything they do! After a very muddy spring, this awesome team of diligent workers from St. Theresa's arrived to give the Visitors Centre a "deep clean", as well as help tidy up the Birds of Prey Field and Trail Head. First time volunteer, Liam Kenny, thought he was going to be working on construction projects at Wye Marsh. He was kind of relieved that wasn't the case. "It's a lot easier than I thought," he says. He likes that he has had the chance to "create new goals, learn how to achieve them, and learn new stuff."

Logan Gravel is also super happy to be serving his co-op at Wye Marsh, because he is passionate about nature. He enjoys working outside, walking the trails, and seeing all the birds. His favourite spot is the look-out tower, because of the cool views. "I get to see everything around. It feels mesmerizing." Jesse Collins agrees Wye Marsh is a good place to visit. He recommends swinging by the Birds of Prey Field, and likes that everyone is so friendly here. He has enjoyed his time at the Marsh, and volunteering with other local charities, and says "it's good to get out and help the community."

Spending time in a natural setting is also very appealing to Nathaniel Yardy. Being out in nature, walking the boardwalk, and seeing the Trumpeter Swans makes him feel "joyful." Plus, there is a lot of variety that comes with working indoors and outdoors at Wye Marsh. From raking leaves to sweeping floors, he says his co-op has been "a wonderful experience."



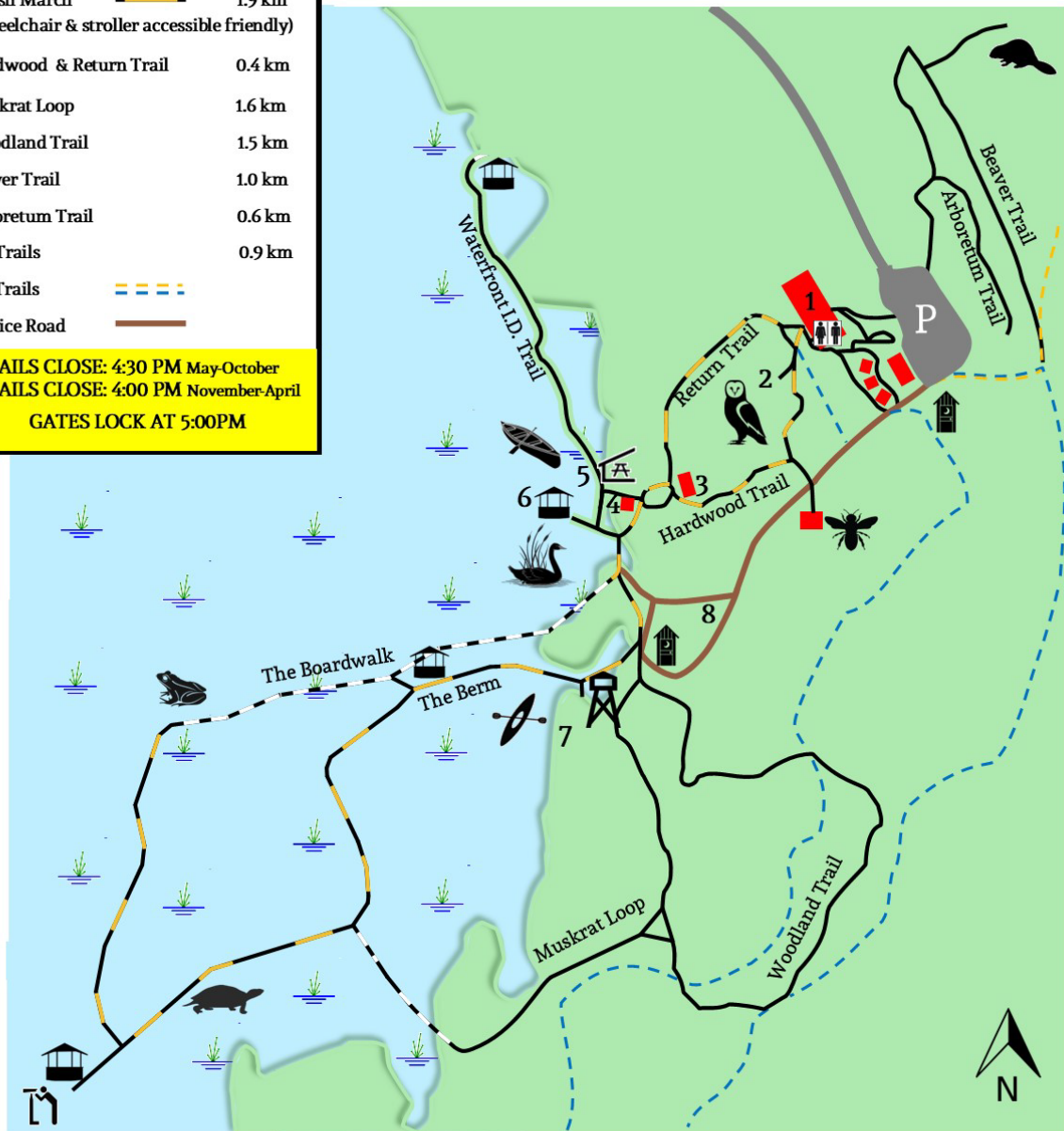
Wye Marsh Trails System

16160 Highway 12 East, Tay, ON | (705) 526-7809

LEGEND	
Hiking Trails	—
Boardwalk	- - -
Marsh March (Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)	—●—●—●—●—●—●—●—●—●—
Hardwood & Return Trail	0.4 km
Muskrat Loop	1.6 km
Woodland Trail	1.5 km
Beaver Trail	1.0 km
Arboretum Trail	0.6 km
I.D. Trails	0.9 km
Ski Trails	- - - - -
Service Road	—

TRAILS CLOSE: 4:30 PM May-October
TRAILS CLOSE: 4:00 PM November-April
GATES LOCK AT 5:00PM

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Visitor's Centre | 2 Birds of Prey Field |  Open Land/Forest |
| 3 Sugar Shack | 4 Log Cabin |  Wetland |
| 5 Canoe Dock | 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station |  Building |
| 7 Kayak Dock | 8 Tenting Field | |



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 return to the Visitor's Centre if foul weather conditions threaten.