

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!



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS!

We wish you a safe, merry, and nature filled holiday season, from all the staff & Board of Directors at Wye Marsh!

DID YOU KNOW?

December 4th is World Wildlife Conservation Day - and what better story to celebrate conservation than the Trumpeter Swans! Trumpeter Swans' extirpation from eastern Canada was primarily due to hunting pressure and habitat loss. Biologist Harry Lumsden began a provincial reintroduction program in the early 1980's to re-establish the

Trumpeter Swan in its former habitat and range. Wye Marsh partnered in this reintroduction program, and continues to monitor the wild population.

Currently there are over 1,500 wild Trumpeter Swans in Ontario. From extirpation to a growing population - this is the incredible impact conservation can have!



Would you like a chance to win up to \$2,500 to start 2021?

Don't forget to buy your 50/50 tickets for Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser!

More info on page 2.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser: 50/50 Draw!**November 29 -
December 31**

Feeling lucky? Wye Marsh's annual 50/50 raffle is now live! Get your tickets at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. The draw date is set for December 31, 2020 so one lucky winner will start the new year off with some extra cash in their pocket! Funds raised will benefit educational, conservation, and stewardship efforts at Wye Marsh.

* Must be 18 years of age and a resident of Ontario to play.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids**December**

The Christmas Bird Count for Kids will be different this year - rather than a count on one specific day, young birders are encouraged to explore outdoors and record their birding sightings as over the month as they are able. Wye Marsh will be posting some At Home Activities related to birding so stay tuned. The 2020 Christmas Bird Count for Kids tally sheet from Bird Studies Canada is on page 7.

Wye Marsh is closed for the Holidays**December 24-26**

The Trail System and Visitor Centre at Wye Marsh are closed.

Marsh School**Fridays from
January 8-29**

Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre has been providing outdoor experiential learning focused on the natural world, conservation and environmental stewardship since 1969. Marsh School offers safe, inquiry-based learning in small groups with a certified teacher. Join us and have your student excited about learning!

* Pre-registration is required. Please visit www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-school for more information regarding class times and age groups.

Snowshoe Eco-Tours**January &
February**

Experience areas of 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 is required, \$65 per person, which includes rentals.. Minimum group of 3, maximum group of 8. Contact education@wyemarsh.com to arrange your tour!



Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:

50/50 DRAW

1 Ticket = \$10**5 Tickets = \$25****15 Tickets = \$50**

Draw Date December 31, 2020

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

Buy your tickets at Wye Marsh today!

ON THE WILD SIDE:

With a fresh blanket of snow comes winter birding, snowshoeing, guessing the animal tracks, more Trumpeter Swans to Wye Marsh—and coincidentally 2 new residents to live at Wye Marsh!

In November we welcomed Becker the Great Horned Owl, and Scarlet the Red-Tailed Hawk. Becker is a young Great Horned Owl who cannot be released to the wild because she imprinted on humans, and Scarlet cannot be released due to injuries. We are excited to have them both with us at Wye Marsh, and will provide care and enrichment tailored to each bird. Be sure to come and say hi next time you visit!

December also marks the Christmas Bird Count and the Christmas Bird Count for Kids as many winter species are back in the area. The Christmas Bird Counts are one of the largest citizen science projects across the globe with thousands of birders reporting their sightings. These sightings are reported to eBird and Bird Studies Canada and help monitor bird populations world wide. Normally Wye Marsh hosts bird counts for both of these events—however this year we are instead encouraging you to get out and bird on your favorite hiking trail or location (maybe even at Wye Marsh!). More info about the Christmas Bird Count can be found at BirdsCanada.org. The 2020 Christmas Bird Count for Kids Tally Sheet is on page 7 of this newsletter.



Name: Becker
Species: Great Horned Owl
Likes: Hooting at Visitors
Dislikes: When you don't hoot back!



Name: Scarlet
Species: Red Tailed-Hawk
Likes: Basking her feathers in the sun
Dislikes: Cloudy days

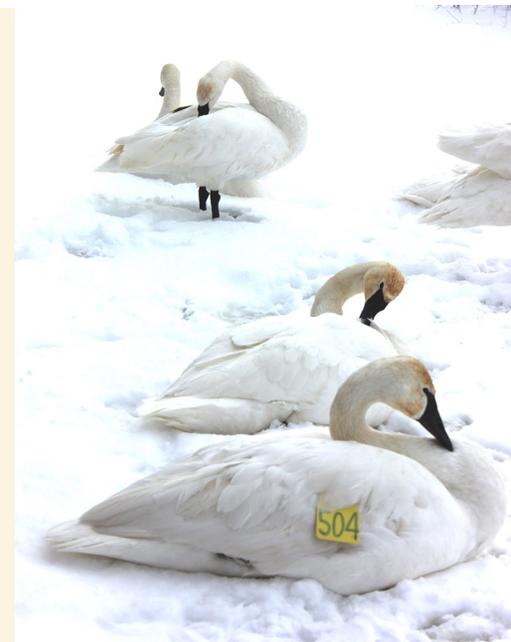
Reporting Trumpeter Swan Sightings: Why, How & Where?

Why: Thanks to conservation efforts, Trumpeter Swans have gone from an extirpated species in Ontario to a growing population. The monitoring and reporting of Trumpeter Swan sightings helps to note population growth, health, and movement.

Trumpeter Swans are tagged and banded to help monitor the growth and health of their population. Yellow tags can be seen on their wings, and have a unique alpha-numeric ID (ex. J23). As Trumpeter Swans are wild, not all swans are tagged. Reporting untagged swans is just as important!

How: When reporting a Trumpeter Swan sighting, it is important to note the date, location, how many swans you have spotted, any tag numbers you can read, and if there are any cygnets (young swans, notable by their grey feathers).

Where: To report your Trumpeter Swan sighting, please visit www.wyemarsh.com/swan-sightings or call 705-526-7809 to report your sighting.



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

As most of you are aware Amanda Swick, Wye Marsh Event and Volunteer Coordinator, is going to another organization. Amanda has had an incredible impact on Wye Marsh in her time here and so many of our achievements are a result of her hard work and dedication. The good news? Amanda will continue to work on the Wye Marsh marketing, including the newsletter and social media, so stay tuned for more amazing content and side splitting puns.

Thank you for your donations on Giving Tuesday. Your support of Wye Marsh is deeply appreciated. We know so many people are facing uncertainty this year, but if you are thinking of making a charitable donation please consider Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre this holiday season. Wye Marsh wants to do its part to help the community in this very difficult time, and we are asking visitors to bring a non-perishable good with them when they visit Wye Marsh between December 4 to December 18 and we will ensure everything is delivered to the Salvation Army Food Bank. As with every upcoming holiday season we wish you the very best, but especially this year our thoughts turn to a hopefully brighter time in 2021. Thank you to everyone who supported us this year, just coming into the Centre with laughing kids or a warm hello made all the difference to the staff and volunteers.

- **Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director**



From **December 4 - December 18, 2020**, please consider bringing a **non-perishable food item** when you visit Wye Marsh. All items will be donated to the Salvation Army Food Bank to ensure that everyone in our community can have the best holiday season possible!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

There have been some changes at the Marsh recently. I think by the time you read this there will be a freshly paved parking lot. A bit of disruption during the work but well worth the inconvenience. I am sure you will join me in expressing our disappointment that Amanda is moving on. Not only has she been a tremendous asset to the organization but she also had become a valued friend. She had a way of brightening your day with her constant enthusiasm and positive outlook. I and the Board wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

Recently we advertised for people who may be interested in joining the Board of Directors. The response has been very good and we are currently working through the interview process with a number of prospective candidates. We will likely have some on board by the end of the year. We hope this effort will increase the diversity of experience on the board and allow us to better support the organization.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday season. It will probably be very different for most but we can still be creative and celebrate the season safely. Please keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

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



NATURE LOVER'S GIFT GUIDE

From stocking stuffers to stuffed animals, jigsaw puzzles to nature kits, memberships, symbolic adoptions, mugs, sweet honey and maple syrup, holiday décor and more - get everything for everyone on your holiday list this year at Wye Marsh! All purchases made in the Marsh Memories store at Wye Marsh support the conservation of wetlands and all the species who call them home. Shop Local & give the gifts that keep giving!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Consider becoming to be part of our enthusiastic team! To sign up or inquire about volunteering, contact INFO@WYEMARSH.COM.

FRONT DESK VOLUNTEERS

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

TIME COMMITMENT: 4-12 hours per month. Shifts are either 9:00am-1:00pm (AM) or 1:00pm-5:00pm (PM).

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill shifts Monday-Fridays, and can work with your schedule for what suits you best—either a weekly, or on call commitment.

December 5th is **International Volunteer Day**, meant to shine a light on the impact of volunteers worldwide.

Wye Marsh is supported by an incredible team of over **100 volunteers** who on an average year donate over **5,000 hours** of their time to aid in stewardship, educational programming, events, administrative work, maintenance, and more. The Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre wouldn't run how it does without your help, suggestions, and patience.

2020 has been a unique year in so many ways, and a constant for Wye Marsh was the aid of volunteers - with the animals, administration, in the Wildflower Gardens, and beyond.

We appreciate every contribution from the team of volunteers, **THANK YOU!**



*Why were the squirrels laughing?
They were having **SNOW** much fun!*

VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:

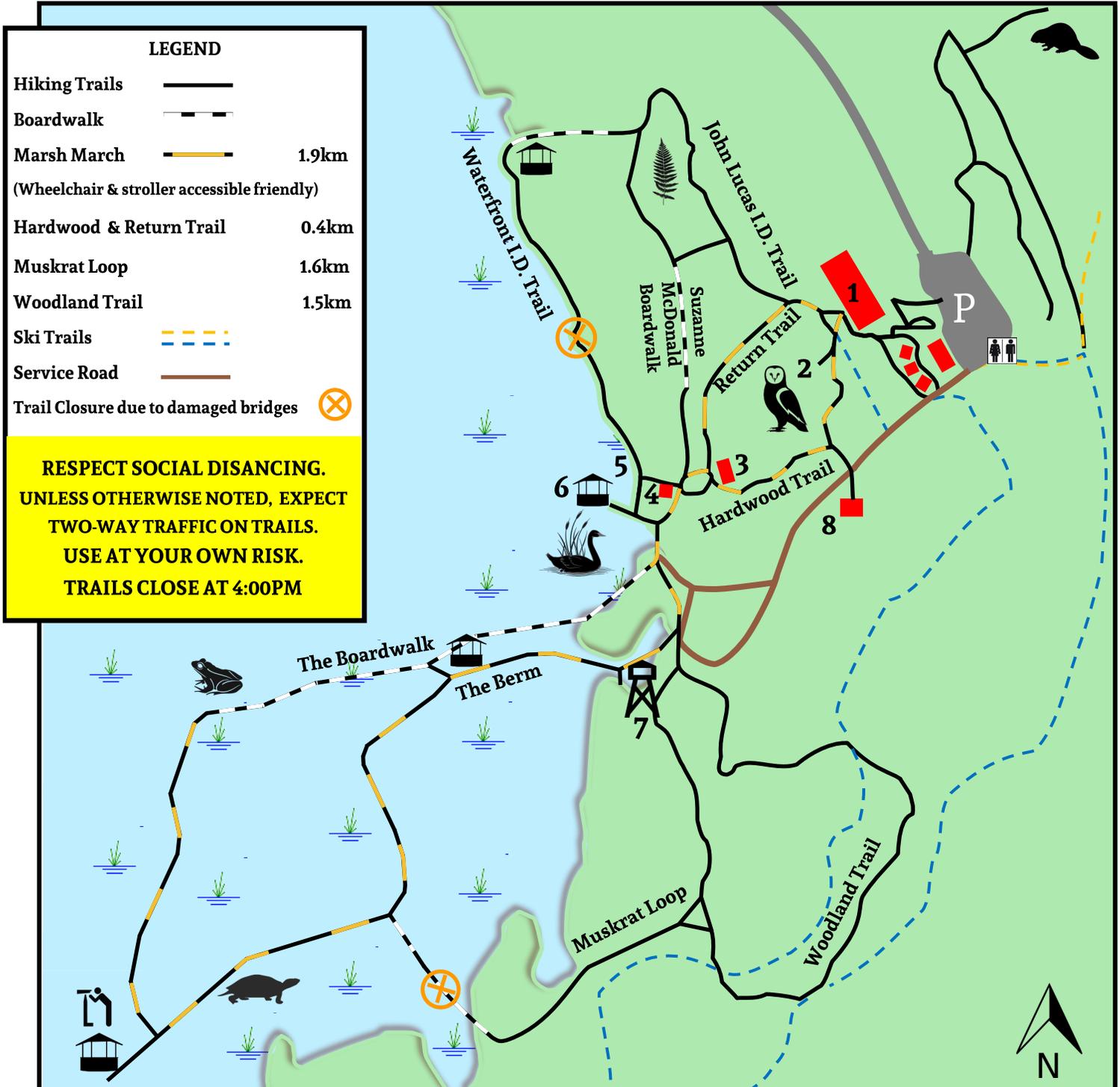
Wye Marsh is pleased to have the Visitor Centre, Birds of Prey Field, and Trail System open 7 days a week!

Trails & Birds of Prey Open: 9:00am—4:00pm

Visitor Centre Open: 9:00am - 5:00pm

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Visitor's Centre - OPEN
(Masks or face coverings required) | 5 Canoe Dock - Closed |
| 2 Birds of Prey Field - OPEN | 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station - One Family at a time |
| 3 Sugar Shack - Closed | 7 Observation Tower - One Family at a time |
| 4 Log Cabin - Closed | |

- 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.

