

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?

A group of Trumpeter Swans is called a *bevy*, and in flight a group is called a *wedge*. These colder months are when you are most likely to see a bevy of Trumpeter Swans congregated at a source of unfrozen, open water. The freezing of their regular waterways brings these beautiful birds together so that they can continue to dine on the underwater vegetation. While the water may be freezing, you need not worry about the Trumpeter Swans—they have a nice thick layer of down to keep them warm in frigid temperatures!

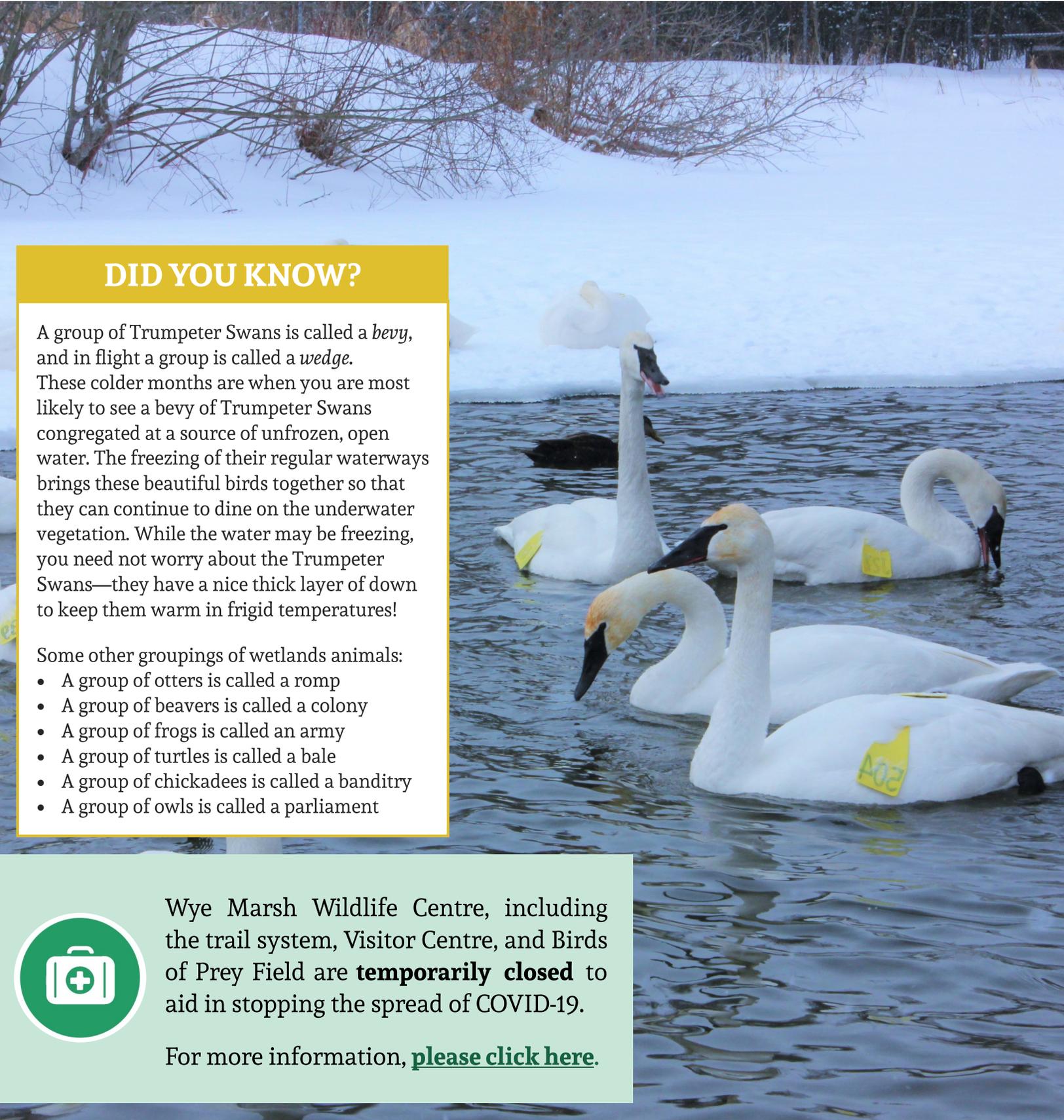
Some other groupings of wetlands animals:

- A group of otters is called a romp
- A group of beavers is called a colony
- A group of frogs is called an army
- A group of turtles is called a bale
- A group of chickadees is called a banditry
- A group of owls is called a parliament



Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre, including the trail system, Visitor Centre, and Birds of Prey Field are **temporarily closed** to aid in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

For more information, [please click here](#).



# ON THE WILD SIDE:

The handsome face to the left belongs to Marley, the Rough-legged Hawk. Wye Marsh welcomed Marley this month as the newest resident to Wye Marsh. He is a young male, and was injured in that was likely his first migration. Marley was rescued and rehabilitated, however due to his injuries he had to have a partial wing amputation meaning he cannot be released to the wild. Marley is a welcome addition to the Birds of Prey Field where he will help educate visitors and students about hawks and their habitat, migration, and the importance of respecting wildlife.

We welcome spring this month, with the Spring Equinox taking place on March 20, 2021. While the waterways of the marsh are beginning to thaw, Trumpeter Swans are still congregating at Swan Landing for now. As things warm, they will disburse to breeding grounds and we will begin to see some more activity around the trails and in the skies of the marsh. Along with an abundance of rabbits and other small critters, a handful of turkeys have been spotted on a few occasions in the parking lot - perhaps trying to aid in the construction efforts?



*Wye Marsh welcomed Marley, the Rough-legged Hawk this month.*

## MMM-MMM-MAPLE!

It's the sweetest time of the year - and time to harvest the sweetest crop of the year—MAPLE EASON!

As sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*) grow they accumulate starch, which converts into sugar and mixes with the water absorbed through the tree roots. In the spring the temperature fluctuations from above 0°C during the day to below-freezing nights creates pressure changes in the tree. A positive pressure is created during the warmer days causing the sap to flow when the tree is tapped. The daily cycle is repeated for roughly 6 weeks in early spring.

During the height of the sugaring season sap contains between 2% and 5% sugar and drops off to 1% near the end of the season.

By the time the sap goes through the evaporation process to thicken and make it sweeter, it takes 40L of sap to make 1L of maple syrup!



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

We are pleased to be visiting schools again to offer Wye Marsh nature based programs to classes at Simcoe County School Board. Looking ahead, planning is underway for the 4th Annual Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 25. Stay tuned for details, contingency plans will be in place for virtual programs if the event cannot be held at Wye Marsh. Plans are underway for spring and summer stewardship activities with an emphasis on invasive species management such as phragmites and glossy buckthorn and the Earth Day Celebration will provide information on how to ensure these species don't make their way into your garden. Thank you to everyone for their patience with our new COVID-19 protocols, we want you all to be safe and healthy for the spring and summer that are just around the corner.

A number of members have asked if there will be any extensions to memberships due to the lock-down in January. Wye Marsh has not made a decision at this time as there is a fair amount of uncertainty as to whether or not there will be additional lock-downs or for how long, we should know more by mid-March and will make a formal announcement in the April Newsletter. The **Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on April 24**. An invitation will be sent the third week of March to all Members who hold an annual membership and details for the meeting will be provided at that time. Any non-members who wish to attend should contact us directly at [info@wyemarsh.com](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com).

**- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director**



*The beginnings of spring on the boardwalk.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

I trust you are keeping safe and healthy. It was very nice to see people back at the marsh recently, unfortunately it was short term. Please visit our web site regularly for updates. The positive news is that the weather has been very conducive for being outdoors and enjoying winter.

Vaccine deliveries are starting to ramp up so more of us will be protected soon. That is the key to the end of this journey we have been on.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Patrick Jackson, our new Event & Volunteer coordinator, to the Wye Marsh family. I'm sure a lot of you will have the chance to meet or communicate with him over the coming weeks. As you will see elsewhere in this edition the Friends of Wye Marsh Annual General Meeting is approaching. It will be held virtually and we hope that many of our members will join and provide their input and support.

As I have done several times over the past months I am appealing to our friends and supporters to consider bringing your expertise to the Marsh by joining the board. While the board consists of several very dedicated and qualified contributors we can always provide opportunity for additional skills. Two specific skills we are looking for are someone with a financial background and/or small business experience and someone with management and/or leadership experience. If you are interested in discussing the opportunity please give me a call. The upcoming AGM would be an excellent time to jump on board and help row the boat.

**- Dave Robertson, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors, 705-245-0529**

# WELCOME PATRICK!

Wye Marsh was pleased to welcome Patrick Jackson to our staff this month. Here is an introduction from Patrick:

“ My name is Patrick Jackson, and I will be the new Event & Volunteer Coordinator for the Wye Marsh.

I am a graduate of Lakehead University, studying Geography/Environmental Sciences. Being outdoors in nature is a passion of mine; birds, fish, plants, and lichens are all top areas of interest for me. I am looking forward to meeting and working alongside the many volunteers that help to make the Wye Marsh such a special place!



If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please do not hesitate to email me at [pjackson@wyemarsh.com](mailto:pjackson@wyemarsh.com)”

## 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](mailto:info@wyemarsh.com) with a request.



## CAST YOUR VOTES!

**The Mirror.**  
MIDLAND • PENETANGUISHENE • TAY • TINY

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2020

### Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre

**Nominated** - Favourite Outdoor Tourist Attraction

**Nominated** - Favourite Local Event: Sweetwater Harvest Festival

**Nominated** - Favourite Day Trip Destination

**Nominated** - Favourite Family Activities

**Nominated** - Favourite Non-Profit/ Foundations

**Nominated** - Favourite Summer Camps





A portion of Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre is designated as a National Wildlife Area (NWA) due to its environmental significance.

NWAs are managed by Environment & Climate Change Canada. Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. operates Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre as a steward of the Wye Marsh, including those sections of the property considered to be an NWA.

## LETTER FROM ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA:

To Whom it May Concern

### **Re: Seeking Input and Advice on the proposed Wye Marsh National Wildlife Area Management Plan**

Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service is updating management plans for its National Wildlife Areas (NWAs). These management plans provide the framework for management and permitting decisions on NWAs. Management of each NWA is required in order to maintain the ecological integrity of the protected area and maintain the attributes for which the area was designated and is protected under the *Canada Wildlife Act*.

Recently, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario drafted the Management Plan for the Wye Marsh National Wildlife Area. The NWA is 47 ha that includes areas of upland mixed forest, old field meadow, and small areas of marsh and swamp. The NWA is part of the larger Wye Marsh System that includes the Wye Marsh Provincial Wildlife Area. Priority management actions include maintaining the ecological integrity of the Wye Marsh NWA and broader Wye Marsh Wetland Complex while providing interpretive opportunities to Canadians.

The plan can be reviewed here in English: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/national-wildlife-areas/locations/wye-marsh/management-plan.html#toc16.html> and here in French <https://www.canada.ca/fr/environnement-changement-climatique/services/reserves-nationales-faune/existantes/marais-wye/plan-gestion.html> We invite you to provide us with any comments, concerns, or suggestions by **sending them directly to [ec.ap-consultations-pa.ec@canada.ca](mailto:ec.ap-consultations-pa.ec@canada.ca)** during the 60-day public comment period. Or send by mail to the address at this [link](#) during the comment period. Following the public comment period, we will finalize the document based on a review of all input received and post the management plan on the NWA website. Once finalized, the document may be amended if significant new information is brought forward. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.

Sincerely,

**Graham Bryan**

Manager, Protected Areas, Canadian Wildlife Service

Environment and Climate Change Canada / Government of Canada