

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!



Cumulus clouds make for a dramatic sky over the boardwalk. The name Cumulus comes from the Latin word *cumulo*, meaning heap or pile, as these clouds look like piles of fluffy cotton in the sky. While they appear light and fluffy, clouds are made up of tiny water droplets and so they can actually weigh more than a million pounds depending on their size.

DID YOU KNOW?



Say “Hi!” to your favourite feathered friends!
Birds of Prey Field and Trails are OPEN at Wye Marsh daily from 9:00am– 4:00pm.
Learn more on page 4.

September is National Honey Month, where we recognize the importance of bees, local beekeepers, and the amount of work that goes into delicious honey! Honey Bees are only 15mm long, but they are incredibly insects. To make 1lb of honey, a single bee would have to visit about 2 million flowers for nectar! That means they would have to fly about 140,000km, or around the world 3 times. Depending on the type of flowers visited, honey can also have different flavours like apple, wildflower, or berry. The type of flower would also affect the honey's colour.





Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:

CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION



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

Online Silent Auction

October 2 - 23, 2020

Place your bids online for deals on incredible prizes including artwork, excursions, gift certificates, and more!

Dine at Dock Lunch

October 2 - 4, 2020

Enjoy a \$20+tax special of Chicken Souvlaki, Fish and Chips, or Vegetarian Stuffed Pepper at the **World Famous Dock Lunch in Penetang** and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to Wye Marsh!

Online 50/50 Draw

October 22 - November 19, 2020

One lucky supporter will win half the pot, with the rest supporting Wye Marsh.

Tickets 1 for \$10, 5 for \$25, or 15 for \$50.

WWW.WYEMARSH.COM/ANNUAL-FUNDRAISER



ON THE WILD SIDE:

August was bursting with life in the summer heat again at Wye Marsh! A Great Blue Heron hung around the Muskrat Boardwalk hunting fish in the marsh, while ducks, Trumpeter Swans and geese waded in along the boardwalk and the edge of the cattails. Snapping Turtles will be hatching in the coming weeks. These young turtles will be only about the size of a toonie when they hatch.

There has been reported porcupine activity with sightings of tracks and a suspected den. If you see a porcupine on the trails please keep your distance and allow them to pass.

As we get into the fall weather this month, the colours will begin to change. The marsh looks beautiful lined by oranges, yellows, and reds in the trees—but hopefully we have a few weeks of sunshine yet!



Great Blue Herons are excellent hunters—using their long beaks to catch prey underwater. This Heron has caught fish for dinner!

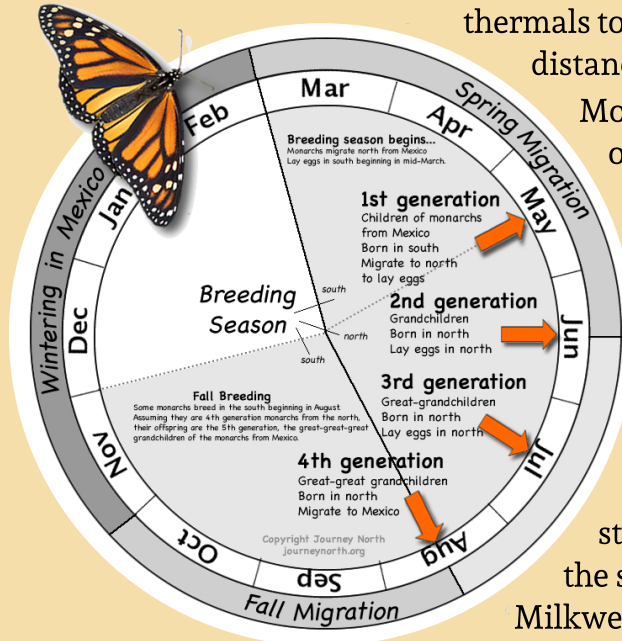
Lakehead University Orillia is offering great online workshops this fall including Mushroom Identification and Exploration, hosted by Bob Bowles.

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/orillia-campus/community-programs/omnp/Workshops>



Monarchs on the Move

Monarch Butterflies are beginning their ~5,000km migration south to their breeding grounds in Mexico. They can travel between 80-160km miles a day, so it can take up to two months to complete their journey. They use a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances.



Monarchs' bright orange colouring is not only beautiful—it serves as a warning to predators. Monarchs retain a toxic steroid found in the sap of Milkweed that they consume as caterpillars.

This gives them a foul taste to predators, who associate the orange colour with avoidance. Their toxin is not deadly, but is enough to deter predators like birds.



How can you help Monarchs on their migration? Having flowering wildflowers in your garden (like Milkweed, Clover, or Goldenrod) and a water source gives them a waystation to refuel. You can also avoid the use of pesticides, and record monarch sightings in databases like iNaturalist to help track the migration.

VISITING WYE MARSH DURING COVID-19:



The Wye Marsh trail system and Birds of Prey Field is open daily from 9:00am-4:00pm.

Admission is currently by donation at the donation box in the parking lot.

While on the trails, please keep the following in mind:

- Be mindful of wildlife who have become accustomed to the trails and boardwalks being unused by humans. Please give them space and do not attempt to approach or feed them, especially on the boardwalk.
- Respect social distancing guidelines while on the trails, especially at intersections and narrow sections.
- The gates will open daily at 9:00am and close at 4:00pm.
- Paper copies of the trail maps are not available at this time. Please see the page 6 of this newsletter or our website for a digital copy of the trail map, noting the one way entry and exit trails.
- Respect one way trails where signage notes it at the entry and exit points on the map.
- For your safety, the safety of wildlife, and the conservation of the marsh, please stay on the trails.

The Visitor Center remains **closed** to the public. There is access to portable washrooms. . Programming remains suspended at this time. If the parking lot is full, we respectfully ask that you visit again at another time, please do not park on the road.

Thank you to everyone for your support during this time. It is through your generosity and ongoing appreciation for Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre that we are able to continue to educate and spread awareness about the importance of wetlands.

We are very excited to welcome you all back to Wye Marsh - see you soon!



**BIRDS OF PREY FIELD:
NOW OPEN DAILY: 9AM-4PM!**

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

It has been over five months since we closed the doors of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. We were very happy to open the gates to the public on June 1, and in the past few weeks people have been able to come into the Birds of Prey Field. While we have a ways to go before we fully re-open, we view each step, however small, as getting us that much closer to being back up and running. Having said that we expect there will be some bumps along the way before everyone can come back into the Centre, please check the website or our social media pages for updates.

We understand the trepidation felt by everyone as the kids go back to school in September, we are feeling it to. Wye Marsh is working on running some limited programs for kids in the fall as we feel it is in the best interest of the kids to continue their education, keeping in mind the COVID-19 protocols that will be in place for the staff and participants. The kids will be outside as much as possible for these programs, but that isn't any different from before, it is best to be in nature in order to learn about nature!

- Mary Ann Milne, Executive Director



A Green Heron rests on a branch on a sunny marsh day.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Hello all. Well the first signs of the season change are evident. Acorns are falling, squirrels are busy stocking their winter caches and the night air has a bit of a nip to it. Great conditions for a walk on the Wye Marsh trails.

Your Board has been busy putting together a fundraising effort aimed at local industries and larger companies that do business in our area. It will be rolled out shortly. Two members of the Board have had to withdraw their services due to circumstances beyond their control. We thank them for their contribution and wish them all the best. It is important that we maintain a healthy and active board. The prerequisites to become a board member are: 1) believe that the Wye Marsh is essential to the development of conservation, environmental protections and public education, 2) have 10-12 hours per month to contribute to Board activities, 3) share your personal skills and experience to compliment the boards diversity and 4) contribute as an ambassador for the Wye Marsh's continuing development to ensure a strong and lasting future. If you feel you share some of these ideals I would love to hear from you at drobertson@wyemarsh.com. or 705-245-0529.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and keep safe.

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

LEGEND

Hiking Trails ———

Boardwalk - - - - -

One Way Trail 

(Trail System Entry/ Exit Points)

Marsh March  1.9km
(Wheelchair & stroller accessible friendly)

Hardwood & Return Trail 0.4km

Muskrat Loop 1.6km

Woodland Trail 1.5km

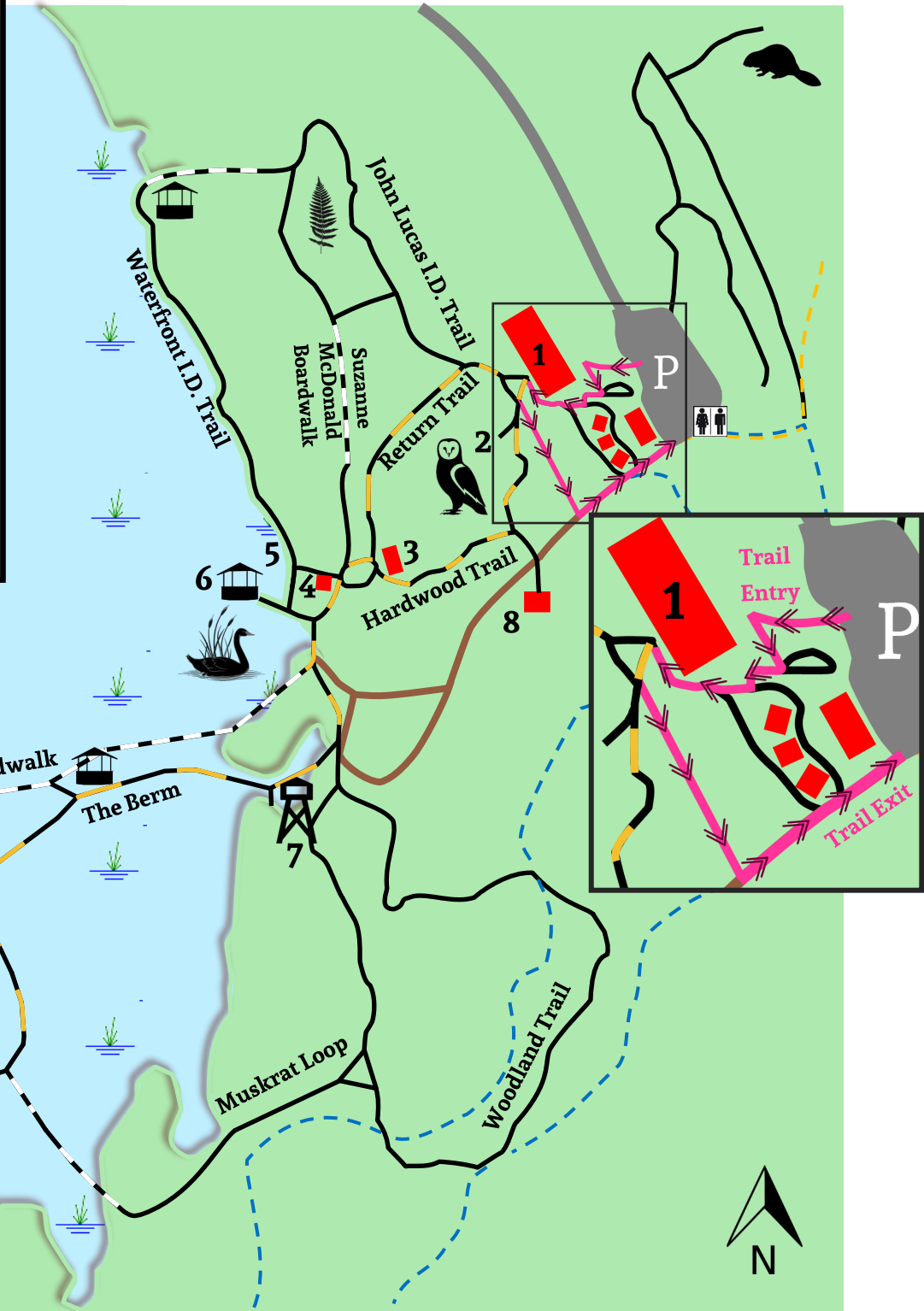
Ski Trails 

Service Road 

PLEASE RESPECT SOCIAL DISANCING.
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, EXPECT TWO-WAY TRAFFIC ON TRAILS. USE AT YOUR OWN RISK. GATES LOCK AT 4:00PM

- 1 Visitor's Centre - Closed
- 2 Birds of Prey Field - Closed
- 3 Sugar Shack - Closed
- 4 Log Cabin - Closed
- 5 Canoe Dock - Closed
- 6 Waterfowl Monitoring Station - One Family at a time
- 7 Observation Tower - One Family at a time
- 8 Bee House - One Family at a time

 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.