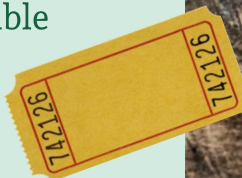


WELCOME TO THE MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER, A MONTHLY PUBLICATION TO KEEP OUR VALUED MEMBERS, VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS IN THE LOOP ABOUT THE HAPPENINGS OF THE WYE MARSH!

SUMMER RAFFLE!

Feeling lucky this summer? Grab a raffle ticket when you're visiting Wye Marsh next for your chance to win some awesome prizes while supporting an awesome organization!

Tickets are \$5.00 each and available at the Visitor Centre.
Lottery License #M788358.



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

DID YOU KNOW?

Blanding's Turtles are one of the 8 species of turtles found in Ontario. They can be found throughout North America in marshy areas, but due to population size, sightings are rare. Blanding's Turtles are listed as Threatened in Ontario per the Species at Risk in Ontario List. They were added to the list in 2008, and their status was confirmed through a reassessment in 2014. Slow population growth is partially attributed to the fact that Blanding's Turtles can take 14-20 years to reach maturity. They will live in the wild up to 75 years.

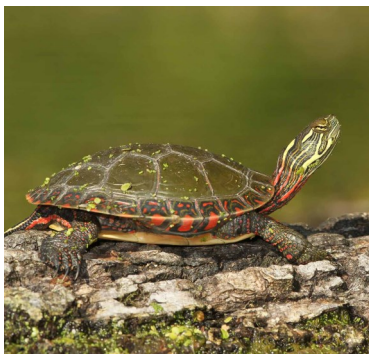
Blanding's Turtles are easy to identify by their vibrant yellow throat and long neck. They also have a highly domed shell. A unique feature of Blanding's Turtles is their hinged shell. The bottom half of their shell will hinge shut once the turtle's legs, head, and tail are inside to help protect it from predators.

Blanding's Turtles were named for William Blanding, an American Naturalist in the late 1700s-early 1800s.

Turtles you
may observe at
Wye Marsh:



Common Snapping Turtle



Midland Painted Turtle



Blanding's Turtle

ON THE WILD SIDE:

A BioBlitz is a study of the biology (Bio) of a particular area through a quick/timed (Blitz) survey. BioBlitzes are great ways to understand the different flora and fauna present in and environment at a given time. Examples include the Global Big Day bird count or the Christmas Bird Count.

Wye Marsh is hosting some self-guided mini BioBlitzes for 2022. Each month there will be a theme, and explorers will be able to list their sightings either through iNaturalist or through a Google Form for those who do not wish to have an iNaturalist account. With each contribution you will be entered into a draw to win a Wye Marsh tote bag in December. **The theme for July is turtles.**

These sightings are not only fun to track, but also help Wye Marsh's various stewardship initiatives. It's citizen science at work!

[Click here for the Google Form.](#)

[Click here for the iNaturalist page.](#)



INVASIVE PHRAGMITES REMOVAL EVENT

August 6, 2022 at Wye Marsh's far end

Help protect our valuable wetlands from invasive Phragmites! Join us for a day outdoors participating in hands on stewardship and meeting some other local naturalists. Grab some friends and see who can pull the most!

Pre-registration is required. **Email hkeery@wyemarsh.com to register.**

[Click here to learn more!](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

**EVERYDAY
THIS SUMMER**

Discover Wye Marsh Summer Programming

Enjoy the summer weather with our Naturalists. Tour the marsh with our guides by foot or canoe, watch our Birds of Prey show and so much more! See the schedule at www.wyemarsh.com/Daily-Programming-Summer

July & August

Kayak EcoTours

This three hour guided tour will take participants well beyond the limits of our walking trails, providing them with the best opportunity to fully explore the beauty of Wye Marsh. \$65 pp. Pre-registration is required. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/canoe-kayak-ecotours

**July 16
10:00am - 11:30am**

Incredible Invertebrates Workshop FOR KIDS

Take a tour through the world of invertebrates and gain an understanding of how they are classified. Is a lady bug a bug? Is a firefly a fly? Come find out! \$15 pp. Pre-registration is not required but is encouraged. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/incredible-invertebrates

**July 23
10:00am - 12:00pm**

Wildlife Photography with Jason George

Join Jason George as he shares his passion and knowledge for photography through a hands on workshop followed by a hike in the marsh where he will provide photography tips and tricks in action! \$20pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/Photography

**July 30
1:30pm - 3:30pm**

Sewing a Turtle Coin Purse Crafting Workshop

Make and take home an adorable funky coin purse inspired by this cool reptile, under the guidance of Master Crafter Janet Dorion. All materials provided. \$25pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/craft-workshops

**August 6
10:00am - 1:00pm**

Web of Life Series: Symbiosis FOR KIDS

Many different species, plant and animal, have evolved to work together to better thrive in their habitats. By exploring different forms of symbiosis within the protected areas of Wye Marsh, this workshop will help people further recognize and appreciate the deep interconnectedness of the world around them. \$20 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/web-of-life

**August 6
All day - come
when suits you!**

Invasive Phragmites Removal Event

Help restore native wildlife habitat by removing invasive alien species at the Wye Marsh this summer. Join Wye Marsh's Stewardship to learn how to safely remove invasive plants from the area. Pre-registration is required. Email hkeery@wyemarsh.com to register. Learn more at www.wyemarsh.com/invasive-species-pulls

**August 12
11:00pm - 2:00am**

Marsh by Meteor: Perseid Meteor Shower Viewing + Astronomy Workshop

The Perseid Meteor Shower is known for its stunning fireballs and bright meteors. Many burn intensely with bright, persistent trails! Enjoy a memorable night on the boardwalk under a blanket of stars and watch the annual meteor shower erupt during this time of maximum meteor activity while learning about planets, constellations, star clusters and more. \$55 pp. Pre-registration is required. Register at www.wyemarsh.com/marsh-by-meteor

Immerse yourself in Wye Marsh and learn about nature with daily, family friendly summer programming.

- ✓ Canoe Tours
- ✓ Kayak Tours
- ✓ Dipnetting on the Boardwalk
- ✓ Meet the Naturalist
- ✓ Meet the Creatures
- ✓ Guided Discover Hikes

[For the full schedule, click here.](#)



From the Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners

The Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners are sending out an SOS (Save Our Sprouts)!

This dedicated team of green thumbs meets every Thursday from 10:00 am - 12:00pm throughout the Spring, Summer and Fall. While they are always looking to welcome new members to their weekly activities, even some short term help would also be fantastic.



They are hosting a **Garden Rescue on August 18, from 10:00am – 12:00pm**, with a rain date of August 25. Many helping hands on this day will make light work! Please volunteer for an hour or two if you are available.

Help the Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardeners restore the front path garden beds. They greet visitors, showcase native wildflowers, and encourage others to create pollinator friendly green spaces.

If you are interested, please email Heather at hkeery@wymarsh.com

Limited Edition Trumpeter Swan Brooches

Every one of these whimsical brooches is lovingly hand crafted, and unique. They are crafted and donated by the Wye Marsh Association of Woodcarvers.

Brooches are \$10 each.

They are available at the Visitor Centre, and all proceeds go to the Wye Marsh!



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 volunteers.

Thank you to all!

DALE & FRANCIS

Who knew embracing environmental stewardship could have so many rewards? For Dale and Francis, it has spawned a life filled with adventure and purpose. They have explored foreign lands, served as Citizen Scientists, and helped protect endangered species at home and abroad.

They met while on vacation in St. Croix, volunteering for a Leatherback Turtle conservation project. Despite living on different continents, the two eventually came together to live permanently near Midland, and Wye Marsh captivated their hearts.

“Wye Marsh’s mission statement matters,” says Dale, which is why the two have invested the last two decades into conducting wildlife monitoring surveys, leading group hikes, and delivering education programs at the Marsh.

Annual monitoring surveys support the Wye Marsh’s designation as an Important Bird Area, and the two are always pleased to paddle visitors out into the Provincially Significant wetland to share their love of the environment.



Dale (L) & Francis (R) pose on a warm summer day at Wye Marsh!

“People need to see how beautiful this place is”, says Francis. “I feel so privileged when I come here. We think about all the amazing people we’ve met at Wye Marsh and all the amazing experiences we’ve shared”.

“People need to make a wildlife connection”, says Dale. “As the saying goes, you have to know it to love it, and you have to love it to want to protect it”.

The two do everything they can to help visitors realize that we are all part of the web of life. It is not just important to protect Wye Marsh, but to care about and protect the environment as a whole.

Wye Marsh is grateful to them, and volunteers, for instilling a sense of environmental stewardship at a grassroots level.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY

Wye Marsh staff were so happy to host volunteers for a day of appreciation in thanks for all that you do. You are an invaluable part of Wye Marsh and we were thrilled to celebrate your contributions!

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

By the time you read this, we will be fully into our summer swing. We are thrilled, after a two year hiatus, to be able to offer guided hikes, as well as guided canoeing and kayaking seven days a week. Be sure to check the website regularly to see all of the amazing public programs, workshops and events we have planned for this summer.

The bad news this month is that we unfortunately have had to close some of the sections of trails, including the John Lucas ID Trail, to the northwest of our property, thanks to the damage caused by the Emerald Ash Borer. While the world was all quarantining at home, these little insects had been feasting on and killing our Ash trees, resulting in a large area that Canada Wildlife Services deems unsafe for

visitors and staff. We are currently working on a management plan and hope to have a more positive update in the near future.

While the field trip season is over, camp season is just beginning! We wish Camp Director Moose and his team of counsellors a safe and fun eight weeks of programming for kids aged 4 to 12 starting on July 4. Camp is now full for the 2022 season.

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

- Kim Hacker, Executive Director



A paddling adventure awaits you at Wye Marsh! Prior experience is not necessary. Equipment is provided.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Now that summer is officially upon us, I hope that everyone is trying to make the most of the amazing opportunities that summer in Ontario affords.

As Kim has mentioned, the depredations of the Emerald Ash Borer have forced us to temporarily close a small part of our trail system (the John Lucas ID Trail and the Susan McDonald Boardwalk) for safety reasons. However, this is but a fraction of the whole trail system in the Wye Marsh, which we urge you to explore.

We do recommend that you wear a hat, carry drinking water, and wear sturdy footwear if you are planning to hike the further trails.

Just a reminder that the best times to observe many of the birds and animals that inhabit the Wye Marsh, are either earlier or later in the day, when it is cooler, and there are fewer people around - the nature of your experience cannot always be guaranteed!

I wish you all a fun summer!

- Alasdair MacLean, President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors