



## MARSH MATTERS NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 2022

How can it be November already?

If our newsletter looks a little different this month, it's because it is in new hands. We said goodbye to Amanda Swick last month and for the time being, I have taken over the newsletter - without any of Amanda's experience or talent. We thank you for your understanding and patience as we work through this transition.

As a reminder, although the weather is colder and the days are shorter, **Wye Marsh's trails remain open throughout the fall, and 362 days of the year.** While many might think we are a seasonal destination, please consider that nature has something to offer all year round! Yes, we are even open on holidays, except for Christmas Eve, Christmas and Boxing Day.

**Late Fall workshops** are in full swing, and many are filling up fast. There's something for everyone from crafters to birders, and explorers to nature lovers. We hope you will discover something new this season. For what's happening this fall, [click here](#).

The big news this month is that our online **Silent Auction: Connecting for Conservation** is running from November 4 to November 20. We are excited about the many wonderful items included in this year's auction, and hope you take the time to check it out, make a bid, and share it with your friends! To see this year's online auction, [click here](#).

We are also excited to announce that **Winter Camp** is back after a few years' hiatus. Kids from 6-12 years old are encouraged to register for one or both weeks on our website. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Please note that with the conclusion of Daylight Savings Time on Sunday November 6, **Wye Marsh trails will be closing at 4pm** until the time changes again in the spring.

And of course, thank you for your ongoing support of Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre! It makes the work we do to conserve wetlands, educate the public on stewardship, monitor threatened species, and care for the injured wildlife who live at Wye Marsh possible.

**Kim Hacker**  
Executive Director  
Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre



## Workshops & Events

Check out the events, programs and workshops happening at Wye Marsh - including Marsh by Moonlight snowshoeing, birding, crafting, nature walks and more!

[Learn More](#)



## Membership at Wye Marsh

Membership is your all access pass to fall colours, nature, excitement, and memories at Wye Marsh. Members enjoy unlimited access to the trails as well as discounts.

[Become a Member](#)

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Wye Marsh's Annual Fundraiser:  
**CONNECTING FOR CONSERVATION**  
November 4 - 20, 2022

Funds raised will support conservation, stewardship, and environmental education at Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre!

## Online Silent Auction

Place your bids online for incredible prizes including:

- ◇ Adventures
- ◇ Live Entertainment
- ◇ Luxury Experiences
- ◇ Local Art and more!

## Local Partners in Fundraising

Wye Marsh is pleased to partner with these local business who are helping raise funds for Wye Marsh.

Check out Grounded Coffee Co., Mega Mindful Living, and Boulangers Midland City Bakers for some awesome eats that support Wye Marsh!





## CONSERVATION CORNER – INVASIVE BUCKTHORN MANAGEMENT

BY PATRICK JACKSON, STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Over the past year, Friends of Wye Marsh (FOWM) has begun ramping up management of woody stem invasive shrubs; primarily Glossy Buckthorn, Common Buckthorn and Tatarian Honeysuckle. The efforts are part of a ten-year plan developed by the Wye Marsh Stewardship Department and Canadian Wildlife Services to prevent the spread and introduction of invasive plants, and preserve the important habitats present at the Marsh.

The most dominant shrub at the Marsh, Glossy Buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*), is a tall deciduous shrub originating from Eurasia. It was introduced to Canada in the late 1800's primarily in agricultural areas for fencerows and windbreaks. It spreads quickly with the help of birds and animals that eat its fruit and can thrive in a wide range of soil & light conditions, enabling it to invade a variety of habitats.

At Wye Marsh, Glossy Buckthorn accounts for 60-70% of the understory on many of the trails. Staff and volunteers have led small-scale management efforts over the past decade with mixed results. The primary management technique to this point has been mechanical removal, using weed wrenches, shovels, and good ol' elbow grease to physically pull the plants from the ground. In a small area, these strategies can be very effective, but need a consistent effort to deplete the seed bank. Part of the challenge at Wye Marsh is the sheer scale of the invasion, with most of the 47-hectare National Wildlife Area (NWA) hosting some invasive buckthorn.

To help get the tenacious plant under control, FOWM will be bringing in Restoration Artists, a company that specializes in invasive species management and ecosystem restoration. Over the winter, buckthorn will be removed from 3-5 hectares around the

Hardwood & Return Trails, with herbicide being applied directly to harvested stumps. In the spring, staff and volunteers will continue pulling invasive seedlings until the seedbank is exhausted. After much of the buckthorn is gone from an area, remediation efforts will begin in earnest. Native wildflower seeds will be spread across the managed area and cuttings from beneficial native shrubs such as willows, dogwoods, and alders will be planted.

In subsequent years of the project, the management process will continue systematically across the remainder of the NWA. FOWM will be recruiting volunteers to help in the management and remediation process, with positions ranging from buckthorn pulling to native shrub planting. If anyone is interested in learning more about invasive species management at Wye Marsh or want to participate in management efforts, please contact [pjackson@wyemarsh.com](mailto:pjackson@wyemarsh.com).



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

As my colleague Kim has reminded you elsewhere, our clocks change during the weekend of November 5/6, and we Fall Back. Our evenings get darker, earlier, and we all start looking up the symptoms of Seasonal Affective Disorder.

But there are ways to deal with it! Getting outside, exercising, and exposing yourself to natural sunlight, can all help; and visiting the Wye Marsh can give you all three (although we cannot always guarantee the natural sunlight).

I know that many of us are longing for those crisp, clear winter days with clean bright snow underfoot, and I am sure that these are coming, but in the meantime a forest walk through the Wye Marsh and its surrounding woods will give you a chance to appreciate the subtle changes that are taking place all around you.

Remember, there is no bad weather, only the wrong equipment, so dress appropriately and head out on our wonderful trails!

**Alasdair MacLean**  
President of Friends of Wye Marsh Inc. Board of Directors

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MARSH?

**November 4 - 20** **Wye Marsh Annual Fundraiser: Connecting for Conservation**  
Help raise funds to support environmental education, stewardship and trail maintenance at Wye Marsh. Bid online at [www.givergy.ca/WyeMarsh2022](http://www.givergy.ca/WyeMarsh2022)  
Buy 50/50 Raffle Tickets at the Visitors Centre. Visit our awesome fundraising partners: Mega Mindful Living, Grounded Coffee and Boulangers Midland City Bakers!

**November 5** **Art in the Marsh: Stone Carving**  
**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** This is an introductory class for carving alabaster & soapstone. Participants will learn how to use tools and techniques to sculpt a small pendant—or sculpture. All materials provided. \$65 per person. Pre-registration required. Register at [www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh](http://www.wyemarsh.com/art-in-the-marsh)

**November 5 & 12** **Owl Prowl Nocturnal Hike—SOLD OUT**  
**6:30 pm - 8:30 pm** Join Mak Soden as he guides attendants on an Owl Prowl through the Wye Marsh in search of the 5 species of owls commonly inhabiting the area. All materials provided. \$20 per person. Pre-registration required at [www.wyemarsh.com/owl-prowl](http://www.wyemarsh.com/owl-prowl)

**November 18 & December 3** **PA Day Bonus Activities**  
**10:00 am - 2:30 pm** Connect your kids to nature instead of that video game console. Our unique programming encourages a love of nature, an interest in stewardship, and an understanding of the world around us. We strive to inspire curiosity and wonder in our PA Day visitors. It is all included with the price of admission.

**November 12, 2022** **Maple Syrup Workshop**  
From sap to sweetwater to syrup, learn the process and history of making maple syrup with the Wye Marsh Sap Suckers! \$12 per person. Please register at [www.wyemarsh.com/maple-workshop](http://www.wyemarsh.com/maple-workshop)

**November 12, 2022** **Peanut Suet Feeder Workshop**  
Join Project FeederWatch Volunteer, Garry Van Gelderon, and learn how to attract and identify feeder birds to your own yard. Learn how to make an irresistible peanut suet mix – using Garry's secret recipe – and take home a log feeder that will keep them coming back for more! \$25 per person. Please register at [www.wyemarsh.com/bird-feeder](http://www.wyemarsh.com/bird-feeder)

**December 3, 2022** **Wye Marsh OPEN HOUSE!**  
**10:30 am - 3:00 pm** Join us at Wye Marsh to escape, explore and experience for FREE! Roast Bannock, hike the trails or finish up your holiday shopping in our gift shop!

**December 3, 2022** **Wreath Making Workshop—SOLD OUT**  
Just in time for the holidays - create and hang a homemade wreath this year! Enjoy an afternoon creating evergreen wreaths with cedar, blue spruce, and painted pine cones.

**January 20, 21, 27, 28** **Marsh by Moonlight Snowshoe Series**  
**February 3, 4, 2023** Join us for this exciting opportunity to experience nature at night, then warm up by a cozy fire! \$75 per person. Please register ahead at [www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-by-Moonlight-Snowshoe](http://www.wyemarsh.com/Marsh-by-Moonlight-Snowshoe)  
**5:30 pm - 7:30 pm**

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