

escape...explore...experience

WYEMARSH

October 2009
Wye Marsh Newsletter

Wetland Connection

Last winter I received a call from William Shotyk, asking if he had permission to go out into the marsh and take snow samples. This was immediately given, however my curiosity was sparked. Why would anyone be sampling four feet of snow?

It turns out that *William* is actually *Dr. Shotyk*, a professor at the University of Heidelberg and Director of the Institute of Environmental Geochemistry. His research group is responsible for Inorganic and Radiogenic Isotope Geochemistry. His main research interests focus on human impacts on the geochemical cycles of potentially toxic trace elements.

Dr. Shotyk's credentials are extensive and highly regarded throughout the world. He has published more than 160 articles and is a member of the American Geochemical

Society, American Geophysical Union, and the Geochemical Society. In addition, Dr. Shotyk started the Elmvale Foundation in 2007 along with the Elmvale Water Festival, a very successful event focused on every aspect of water.

Today, we are still waiting on the results of the snow sample due to the complicated process required to analyze the samples. A totally clean lab is necessary (without any pollution from the atmosphere) to test the melted snow.

Dr. Shotyk has a clean lab in Europe and this summer started constructing one on his **parent's farm just outside of Elmvale.** He will be using this to monitor water purity in the Elmvale area, specifically the aquifer where many residents obtain their drinking water.

Dr. Shotyk was kind enough to do a presentation for our Circle members and for our donors about wetlands this spring and fall. He discussed the different types of wetlands and how a scientist can determine levels of toxins from thousands of years ago to today through sampling techniques.

At this year's Elmvale Water Festival held in August, Dr. Shotyk invited me to speak on a topic dear to my heart – **"Wye Marsh Past and Present"**.

How fortuitous that Dr. Shotyk walked in last winter – a great relationship is growing where there will be mutual benefits, one that we hope continues to grow, connecting people through wetlands.

Laurie Schutt
Executive Director

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The Faces of Wye Marsh Meet the Stewardship Staff

Wye Marsh is a Proud Member

Wye Marsh is a member of *Wetland Link International* (WLI- pronounced 'wellie'). The WLI program is a global network of wetland education centres. The network defines a wetland education centre as, "any place where there is interaction between people and wildlife and CEPA (communications, education and public awareness) activity occurs in support of wetland conservation aims".

Thus the WLI network embraces wetland nature reserves with a wide range of visitor facilities, environmental education centres, field study centres, zoological and botanical gardens, many interactive natural history museums and a wide variety of community site-based projects and programs.

WLI network members are engaged in:

- CEPA delivery in support of connection to nature and wetland conservation objectives;
- Capacity building for CEPA about wetlands;
- Providing venues for appropriate professional training and development.

The WLI network is endorsed by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (through a memorandum of understanding) and coordinated by The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).

Information provided by
www.wwt.org.uk/wli

SARA STREET Environmental Technician

My name is Sara Street I grew up in Brechin Ontario and have always been passionate about wildlife. While growing up my love for the environment was nurtured by working on a farm and I decided to pursue a **Bachelor's of Science majoring in Zoology**. Attending University of Guelph in this program gave me the opportunity to take specific courses that interested me and I graduated with Honours in 2006. Following University I chose to attend Sir Sanford Fleming College for an Ecosystem Management Technology Diploma.



In November of 2008 I began working at the Wye Marsh on a part-time basis in the Program Department. In May 2009 we received funding for me to begin the refuelling of the Stewardship Department. My work since then has been half environmental education and half research based. The Marsh is a beautiful and very valuable place, it is truly magnificent to have this opportunity to work here and be a steward of the Marsh.

BRANDY HUSSEY Environmental Technician

Hi my name is Brandy Hussey and I have recently been hired here at the Wye Marsh. **I'm completing a six-month contract** as an Environmental Technician. I completed my Masters in Ecology and Environmental Sustainability at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. My previous work experience includes working for Tanzanian Coastal Management Partnership in Tanzania, Africa. During my time there, I assisted a community in developing alternative livelihoods for Artisanal fishermen. As well, I worked on the Gannet Islands of Labrador completing research on remote seabirds.

Here at the Marsh I will be working with Sara Street to write a Management Plan and



complete a species at risk (SAR) inventory of the Wye Valley. Currently Sara and I are going out into the marsh once a week to inventory species. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to re-establish some of the stewardship

projects that require more sustainable funding.

Event Reminders

OWLS on the proWL
Friday, October 23, 2009 6pm-8:30pm
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto
\$100 per Ticket

Marsh Monster
Friday, October 30, 2009 6pm-9pm
\$5 per person, children 3 and under free

Halloween Activities
Saturday, October 31, 2009 9am-5pm
General Admission

Wye Nature Workshop Series:
Weaving with Cattails
Saturday, November 7, 2009 1pm-4pm
\$30 per person; include all materials and admission to Wye Marsh. Pre-registration required.

Falconry Workshop
Saturday, November 14, 2009 10am-5pm
\$175 per person, pre-registration required.

Wye Nature Workshop

Weaving with Cattails



Saturday, November 7, 2009
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wye Marsh is proud to present Peggy Moore on Saturday, November 7th as she teaches the first ever Weaving with Cattails workshop. Peggy is an accomplished artist creating wood furniture, cedar arbours, hanging cradles, plant stands and more.

During the two hour workshop, participants will learn how to weave placemats, wine bottle holders and baskets with Wye Marsh cattails. Peggy brings years of experience working with natural materials in our own backyard. Utilizing these materials is a wonderful way to create beautiful, useful pieces of art.

Enjoy an afternoon at Wye Marsh and learn the ancient art of weaving. Come early and experience the beauty of fall colours to provide additional inspiration to your weaving.

\$30.00 per person
includes all materials and
admission to Wye Marsh.
Pre-Registration Required
705.526.7809

Falconry Workshop

The cornerstone of this workshops is to generate an interest in and instill an understanding of the importance for maintaining natural habitats for birds of prey.



Saturday, November 14, 2009
10:00am - 5:00pm

This is achieved by allowing participants to personally meet and handle these wonderful animals. Working with birds of prey during hands on training, encourages a sense of appreciation for the rarity of interacting with owls, hawks and falcons, either in a controlled environment or sightings in nature.

During the falconry workshop, you will learn how to accurately identify differentiating traits, habitats and hunting styles of hawks, falcons and owls as well as proper use and maintenance of falconry equipment and basic general management including housing, health care and feeding.

To learn more about the important role these birds play in our natural environment, contact Wye Marsh and come to an amazing Falconry Workshop.

\$175.00 per person
Pre-Registration Required
705.526.7809 ext. 207

Wreath Making Workshop

You are cordially invited to join us for our annual Wreath Making Workshop



Saturday, November 21st &
Sunday, November 22nd
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Begin the afternoon with a one hour guided walk with experienced naturalists.

This will bring inspiration and creativity to the forefront of your mind as you experience the visual beauty of Wye Marsh.

Following your walk you will return to the main building for some refreshments and receive a two-hour professionally instructed wreath making session by Helen Riffin and Loretta Hamilton

And don't forget, the holidays are all about sharing, so bring a friend!

* * *

\$45.00 per person
Admission, refreshments & all materials included.

Pre-register by calling
705.526.7809 or email
info@wyemarsh.com

Gift Certificates are available

Marsh Matters

THE INCREDIBLE CHANGING MARSH!

Natural succession of a marsh allows gradual changes from water to cattail, cattail to grasses and shrubs, then to trees. Historically, excess phosphorus and nitrogen from farms upstream was stored in the Marsh. This stimulated and accelerated growth of cattail increased the rate of succession.

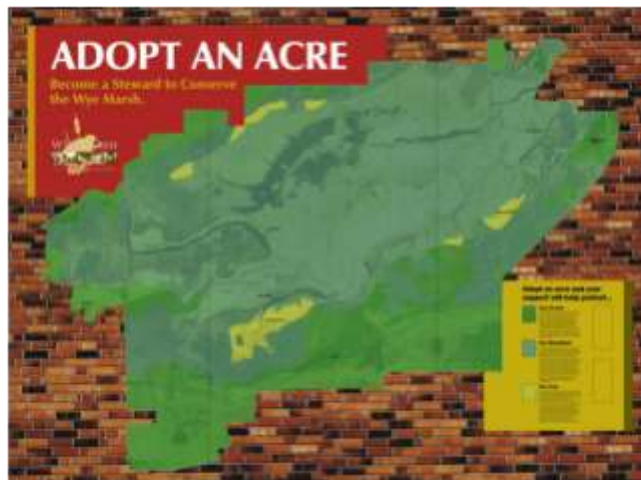
The open water which is vital to migratory waterfowl staging, habitat for complex food chains that provide food for species at risk, and nesting territories for marsh edge bird species is being lost. These open water habitats, once filled in with cattails, become a virtual desert with no biodiversity. Food will collapse and existing species will disappear.

Over the years the Friends of Wye Marsh have conducted a number of stewardship projects. However, the resources to develop an integrated plan have not been enough to sustain long term, year round strategies to protect the natural heritage and ecological integrity of the Wye Marsh.

You can help the Friends of Wye Marsh to develop an effective and ongoing Marsh Management Plan. This will allow parts of the Marsh to succeed naturally while keeping open bodies of water and a healthy mass of cattails. This will ensure Wye Marsh continues to provide wildlife habitat while purifying the water flowing into Georgian Bay.

How You Can Help! Adopt An Acre of Wye Marsh Today!

Visit our website at www.wyemarsh.com to learn about this unique program.



Ecosystem Contest: Skill Testing Question

Can you name the *three main ecosystems* in a wetland?

Submit your answer to fundraising@wyemarsh.com by November 15, 2009 to become the proud adopter of AN ACRE OF WYE MARSH.

Your name will be added to our Marsh map in the interpretive centre and you will receive our annual stewardship update. This contest is open to all members, donors and volunteers of the Wye Marsh. (Wye Marsh staff are not eligible..... because you know this stuff!)

(Hint . . . you can find the answer through the *Donate Now* link on our website. Stop by, find the answer and make a donation. Your gift will help fund our work to save "The Changing Marsh.")

✂

Yes! I would like to Support
ADOPT AN ACRE

Online at www.CanadaHelps.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Yes! I would like to become a friend of....

<i>The Forest</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 or \$10/month
<i>The Marshland</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$300 or \$25/month
<i>The Fens</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000 or \$85/month

I would like to make a **Monthly Donation** of \$ _____

I have enclosed a cheque made payable to:
Friends of Wye Marsh

I prefer to make my gift by Visa Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiry _____ / _____

Signature _____

Thank you for your support!

Please return this form with your donation or fax: 705.526-3294.

An official tax receipt will be issued for income tax purposes.

Charitable # 101894426RR0001

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