



WYE MARSH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WYE MARSH CHALLENGES SIMCOE COUNTY BUSINESSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST ANNUAL SWAMP RALLY

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

On Sunday, September 13, a team of Wye Marsh office staff (called the “Swamp Sisters”) will be competing in the first annual Swamp Rally and challenging other teams to compete as well. The Swamp Rally is a fundraising effort for the Turtle Basking Platform.

“This is a fun way to get people physically involved at the Wye Marsh,” says Laurie Schutt, Executive Director at Wye Marsh and team leader for the Swamp Sisters. “The event has been designed to showcase a number of programs that we offer and gives businesses an opportunity for team building both during the rally and before as they work together to raise money to participate.”

The Swamp Rally is one event offered during the three-day 25th anniversary celebration in September. The event will have teams of 4 (with 2 subs) moving throughout the entire Marsh, who will be challenged to complete a series of events over 3 hours, including a GPS challenge, kayaking, species identification, mountain biking, and others. The rally has been designed to accommodate people of all abilities.

Proceeds are being raised for a new Turtle Basking Platform. “Because 7 of the 8 turtle species in Ontario are at risk, it’s vitally important that the turtles we have here at the marsh are able to conduct their daily behaviors, one of which is basking in the sunshine,” says Sara Street, Wye Marsh Naturalist. Entry for the event is a minimum of \$120 per team. The team that raises the most money over and above their entry fee will receive a one-year Wye Marsh family membership for each participant.

While all participants will have fun learning about the marsh environment and the meaning of stewardship, only the winning team will receive the coveted Swamp Trophy and a medal for each team member. Wye Marsh office staff members, seen here vigorously plotting their strategy, challenge any and all takers to beat them at their own game. They are the “Swamp Sisters”, and will have learned how to use their equipment, without breaking a single nail, in plenty of time to destroy the competition.

For more information, please visit www.wyemarsh.com.

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Wye Marsh is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to operating year-round programs for the public, students and other organizations to promote awareness, appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of our environment and wildlife resources in the Wye Valley.

For more information contact

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The Swamp Sisters: (from left) Linda Belcourt, Cathy Lewis, Laurie Schutt, Louise Sparrow, Nicole Saltsman. Not shown: Darlene Lenehan.