

escape...explore...experience

WYEMARSH



April 2009

Wye Marsh Newsletter

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Coming Home to Nest

With each passing year the Wye Marsh family keeps growing. This past month we welcomed home Buzzy Junior, soon to be one-year-old rattle snake who was born last June with his siblings. Since coming to Wye Marsh our display hall inhabitants have grown in numbers and in size.

Currently we have four snake species, four turtle species, three frog species, and two salamanders. In total we have 24 inhabitants in our display hall.

It's really enjoyable teaching people about the behaviours, characteristics and habitats of these reptiles and amphibians. Each Saturday during our Terrific Turtles & Slithery Snakes Show we watch people learn something new about these quiet creatures and even sometimes overcome an unknown fear and actually touch a snake! It's great to watch.

An important part of our mission is to spark a commitment and interest in wildlife. The Display Hall Animals help people gain a greater awareness of the important role animals play in a healthy environment.

For example, frogs let us know what's happening right in our own backyards. By properly identify and interpreting their song we are able understand the health of wetlands and woodlands.

Did you know that rattle snakes are actually quite shy and timid, rarely announcing their presence even if stepped over? Believe me, they want to stay away from you as much as you do from them!

The more we understand about the world beyond our doors, the more we appreciate it, the more we want to take care of it and conserve it.

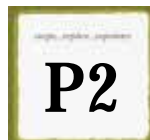
Taking care of the world around us is something that we can all do in small simple ways. Simply learning one new thing about a salamander, snake, turtle, bird, fish, weasel, bear, moose, deer or even a wildflower, can improve the world we live in.

We welcome home Buzzy Junior and all the other animals who come to the centre. They are an integral part of who we are at Wye Marsh.

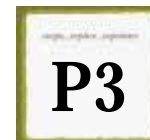
Laurie Schutt
Executive Director



Weekend Programs
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Spring Weekend Programs

It's true...we're all feeling it. The snow and ice are quickly vanishing, the sun is warmer day by day and the spring flowers are starting to show their faces. It's Spring and we're happy!

Our weekend programs have switched over to gentle spring activities. As much as we enjoyed snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, we're liking the lighter footwear for walking and we're preparing for water activities.

Check us out this weekend and participate in some of our balmy-weather fun.

Saturday & Sunday

- 10:00am Swans & Cygnets
- 11:00am Spring Strides
- 1:00pm Live Animal Shows
- 2:00pm GPS Animal Trivia
- 3:00pm Spring Strides

Additional Activities

Beginning May 16th

Guided Kayak

9:30am & 3:30pm

Guided Canoe

11:00am, 12:30pm & 2:00pm

Saturday Evening Kayak Ecotour

5:00pm - 8pm

Sunday Morning Canoe Ecotour

7:00am - 10:00pm

Starting Thursday, May 21st

Every Thursday Wye Marsh will be

Open from 9:00 am - 9:00 pm



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Walking on the Wild Side

Wye Marsh is pleased to kick-off our new twelve-month Wye Nature Workshop series with the Wildflower Gardening Workshop hosted by the Wildflower Gardeners.

Together with the Wildflower Gardeners, we are offering a unique workshop on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Come for a spectacular wildflower and garden slideshow, listen and learn as the ladies share general instructions for constructing or enhancing your own wildflower garden, plant your very own wildflower seed to take home and savour a cup of wildflower tea.

**Wildflower Gardening
Workshop
Saturday, May 2, 2009
1:00pm - 3:00 pm**

With over 590 years experience between the volunteers there's a lot to be learned from these ladies. Their passion for wildflower gardening can be seen as you walk into the Interpretive Centre at Wye Marsh as they have beautifully established and cultivated our very own wildflower garden.

If you're at all interested in wildflower gardening, you're not going to want to miss this event. In addition, you will be able to purchase wildflower seeds, and peruse our Marsh Memories book store for more planting ideas.

WM Country Turtles Visits Toronto - It's Good to be Green!

Sam (snapping turtle), Buddy (blanding's turtle) and Marsha (painted turtle) are packing their bags, practicing their acts and preparing to wow people in Toronto at the Green Living Show. This is the third annual Green Living Show held in Toronto on Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26, 2009, Exhibition Place. Wye Marsh was invited to participate in the show and will have a booth near the Kids Zone as well as presenting two *Species at Risk* shows each day. So wishing our four-legged friends a safe trip, knock 'em dead with your show-biz charms and we'll keep your tanks ready and waiting for your return!

Event Reminders

**Wye Marsh at the Green Living Show
Friday, April 24 - Sunday, April 26, 2009**
Exhibition Place, Toronto
www.greenlivingshow.ca

Saturday, April 25th & Sunday, April 26th, 2009

Guides Groups & Scouting Groups Badge Days

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Wildflower Gardening Workshop
1:00pm-3:00pm \$25 per person
Pre-Registration Required

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Mother's Day: Bring your mom & she get's in free!

Monday, May 18, 2009

Victoria Day

Friday, May 22, 2009

International Biodiversity Day

The Gordon Black Memorial Camp Sponsorship Fund



Picture by Emily Black

Established in 2003 by Margaret & Emily Black. Over the past six years \$10,000 has been raised to send 80 underprivileged children to Wye Marsh's Camp Marshes & Moccasins for one week during the summer.

Your gift of \$135 will enable an underprivileged child in our community to participate and enjoy the wonderful experience of going to summer camp.

As an underprivileged child himself, Gordon was not able to participate in summer camp. Margaret felt this would be a wonderful tribute to her late husband who enjoyed visiting Wye Marsh as a family with their daughter Emily. Local Social Services identify children who would benefit from a summer camp experience.

To make a donation to the Gordon Black Memorial Camp fund complete the donation form on page 4 or visit www.CanadaHelps.org and make your donation on-line.

Marsh Memories Gift Shop We're Making Some Changes

One thing is for sure at the Wye Marsh: there's always something new and exciting happening!

We are excited to announce a new look taking place in our Marsh Memories Gift Shop. The designs for the area are currently being finalized and the renovation will begin in the near future. We'll keep you posted as to when this will be taking place.

In the mean time, we are looking for a few unique items to "spruce" things up. If you have or know someone who has any upscale display items, please contact Chris in the store.

Also, we are looking to support our local artists and crafters by showing and selling your work in the gift shop.

We are looking forward to the new look and appreciate your continued support as we up-grade our services for your enjoyment.

If you would like further information about the upcoming changes, would like to discuss a donation or wish to display your artwork, please contact Chris Zwicker, Marsh Memories Store Manager at 705.526.7809.



Wye Nature Workshop Series

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Walk on the Wild Side

Wildflower Gardening
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saturday, June 6, 2009

Paint Your Own Paddle

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 4, 2009

Drumming

David A. Berger
Living Education Institute
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Saturday, August 1, 2009

Nature Photography

John Davidson
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Backyard Astronomy 101

Nathan Stanley
Midland Astronomy Club
8:00 pm - 10:00pm

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Cooking Wild Game

Tibor Haaz
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

This is the first six months of our twelve-month workshop series. Each workshop fee includes full admission to the Wye Marsh on the day of the event. Pre-registration is required.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about this workshop series as well as the cost per workshop, please contact us at 705.549.7809 or email info@wyemarsh.com.

Marsh Matters

More About Baby Buzzy Junior Returns to Papa

Wye Marsh had a surprise arrival last June – 8 baby rattlesnakes! Buzzy 1 (Dad) and Buzzy 2 (Mom) had been sharing an enclosure for three years and were thought to be both male snakes. Were we wrong!

Rattlesnakes give live birth so we had eight tiny rattlers crawling around the same tank as their parents. Our volunteer local rattlesnake expert, came and rounded up the youngsters. The MNR was immediately called as was the Eastern Massassauga Rattlesnake Recovery Team. It was a first – never had that large a litter of rattlesnakes been born in captivity.

After spending a week together as a family, the baby snakes were transported to the Toronto Zoo to be examined, quarantined and monitored until a decision about their future was made.



Wye Marsh was able to obtain a guarantee that one male would come back when it was old enough. We picked the one with a very unusual saddle back pattern. The two adult snakes had to be

separated to stop any further breeding, so Buzzy 2 was also taken to the Toronto Zoo.

Now Buzzy Junior, almost a year old, and a good size, has returned to Wye Marsh to join his father in a few weeks in the exhibit hall enclosure. He has a healthy appetite and hopefully father and son get along. It will be interesting to watch him grow and see how his saddleback pattern develops.

p.s. If you're interested both Buzzy Senior and Buzzy Junior are looking to be adopted. Come check them out and make them part of your family!

Sweetwater Thank You

Volunteers and staff of Wye Marsh would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to all the people who participating in make this years 18th Annual Sweetwater Harvest a success. Without the help and support of volunteers, members, sponsors, local businesses, merchants, musicians, government representatives and visitors, Sweetwater would not be possible. Saturday was a wonderful success with beautiful weather and large number of attendees. Even the Birds of Prey were happy to be in front of a crowd again as they sat and enjoyed the sun.

We served over 2,484 pancakes throughout the weekend and everyone truly enjoyed their maple syrup. Even though Sunday's rain put a damper on things, those that braved the elements had a great time.

Many thanks to you all!

Sponsors of Sweetwater Harvest 2009



Bruce Stanton
Member of Parliament
Simcoe North



Yes! I would like to Send a Child in Need to Camp Marshes & Moccasins

Online at www.CanadaHelps.org

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Yes! I would like to send a child to Camp Marshes & Moccasins

\$135 \$100 \$50 or Other _____

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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