

*escape...explore...experience*

**WYEMARSH**



**March 2009**

*Wye Marsh Newsletter*

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## Memories and Mile Stones

*Twenty-five years of memories and mile stones, tends to make a strong foundation.* With this foundation we are able to continue on from a solid history and prepare for a strong future.

Recently, Suzanne McDonald, Resource Development Director here at Wye Marsh had the pleasure of spending some time with Bob Whittam. Mr. Whittam shared his memories of Wye Marsh and important milestones.

Some of these milestones include:

April 1985, the fateful time when the government decided to shutdown Wye Marsh. Luckily the Friends of Wye Marsh had already been established and lobbied to keep the facility and programs open.

Also in 1985 Harry Lumsden reintroduced the Trumpeter Swans to Wye Marsh and his rehabilitation program continues today.

In 1977, local woodcarvers started meeting at Wye Marsh as an informal group. A portable was obtained in 1999 and The Wye Marsh Association of Woodcarvers was officially formed. Their talent is seen today throughout the Interpretive Centre for all to enjoy.

In 2001 the Swan sculpture was unveiled.

This year we've got some new milestones to add to the list. There will be a new roof on the Interpretive Centre, we're in the process of taking the Swan Treatment Centre completely off grid and we're introducing some new programs that we hope you will enjoy now and for years to come.

With our year-long celebration soon to begin, we'd like to hear your stories and learn about some events that you feel were important achievements contributing the continued growth of Wye Marsh.

We would like to post your stories, share your memories and photo's of your time here at Wye Marsh. So please, drop us a line or give us a call.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Laurie Schutt  
Executive Director

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## Environmental Awareness Month

April is an especially wonderful month at Wye Marsh not only because we're enjoying more agreeable weather, but it's a month of environmental stewardship celebration.

### National Wildlife Week: *Our Home & Native Plants*

April 1-11, 2009

National Wildlife Week contributes to a growing awareness for our continued endeavors about environmental stewardship.

### Environmental Education Week April 12-18, 2009

Become a steward of your own backyard, and we'll teach you how! Wye Marsh is celebrating this week with a special Frog Watch Workshop on Saturday, April 18th. Learn about frogs, the sounds they make and the different species found right in your backyard!

### Earth Day Early Celebration Sunday, April 19, 2009

Wye Marsh is offering families the opportunity to participate in an early Earth Day Celebration. Come and pick-up a tree to plant at home!

### Earth Day Wednesday, April 22, 2009

This year we will be contributing with our Ogden Beach Road Cleanup. For all volunteers who participate Wye Marsh will be offering a special presentation of Planet Earth. Yes, we will be providing the popcorn!



# 18th ANNUAL SWEETWATER HARVEST 2009

This is it! The quintessential event that we've all been waiting for...the Wye Marsh 18th Annual Sweetwater Harvest 2009.

We have been experiencing another long, cold winter and it's time to get spring under way. Though we can't do anything to rush Mother Nature along, we can certainly take the opportunity to let her know we're ready and waiting.

The Sweetwater Harvest is the first Spring festival in the North Simcoe area and enjoyed by thousands each year. Experience and enjoy the many activities and exhibits along our trails including Native, Pioneer and Modern Maple Syrup demonstrations, a Maple Kid Zone with crafts and face painting, cook your own Bannock over an open fire, test your strength and skill at the Swede Saw with a friend and learn to pull your own taffy.

**Saturday, March 28th &  
Sunday, March 29th**  
10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
\$5.00 admission per person  
Children 3 & Under FREE

But the fun doesn't stop when you come inside! As you enjoy the different vendors, Wye Marsh Woodcarvers and Wildflower Gardener displays, live contemporary and traditional Canadian music will be playing.

Plus if you're hungry you'll certainly want to savour the All Day Pancake Breakfast starting at 10:00am with our last seating at 3:30pm. Pancakes, sausages, maple syrup and your

choice of beverage for only \$5.00! You can't beat it!

With all Wye Marsh events you will certainly want to experience the Live Animal shows. You'll have a chance to witness the grace of the birds of prey in flight, and discover how quickly a turtle actually moves.

We're looking forward to celebrating spring with you and your family!

## Event Reminders

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
18<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweetwater Harvest  
10:00am-4:00pm  
Admission: \$5.00 per person,  
Children 3 & Under Free.

**Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
National Environmental Wildlife Week

**Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - Monday, April 13, 2009**  
Spring Fling Family Fun Weekend

**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
Environmental Education Week

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**  
Frog Watch Workshop Pre-Registration Required

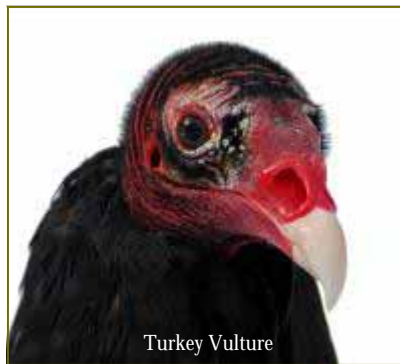
**Sunday, April 19, 2009**  
Celebrate Earth Day at Wye Marsh  
Pick a tree & plant it at home  
Pre-Registration Required

**Wednesday, April 22, 2009**  
Ogden Beach Road Clean-Up  
Planet Earth: The Movie and popcorn

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
Guides Groups & Scouting Groups Badge Days

# Marsh Matters

## A Face Only A Mother Could Love?



Turkey Vulture

Dragon is a 9-year-old female Turkey Vulture who moved to Wye Marsh last year. Turkey Vultures originated in South America and lived in rainforests and due to the nature of their original

habitat they are the only birds that have a highly developed sense of smell. This allowed them to locate buried carcasses on the ground while they soared high above the forest canopy. In addition, once on the ground, they are quite coordinated as they are descendants of storks.

Though they are part of the birds of prey species, they are the only birds who do not hunt for live food. Over time, Turkey Vultures found their way up to North America due to the abundance of food in summer.

Though we may not consider them the most attractive of the birds of prey species, they are necessary in keeping the environment clean and free of disease.

The Wye Marsh staff must admit, we are kind of partial to this mug and are happy to have Dragon living with us.

To learn more about Dragon and her unique eating habits, please come visit her and the other birds of prey at our weathering yard.

p.s. Dragon has not yet been adopted so if you love her like we do....call us!

## Thank You



Garfield Dunlop sure can bring in a crowd! Friday, March 6, 2009 marked the 3rd Annual Spaghetti Dinner at Wye Marsh. Both the 5:30pm and 7:00pm dinner times were sold out. Many volunteers, including Garfield Dunlop and his wife Jane, served happy

Bruce Stanton and other dignitaries including Scott Warnock, Jim Downer and Anita Dubeau, all helped to raise over \$2,000 for Wye Marsh education programs.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Phil Robitaille of Phil's Catering, Quota Club, Maurice's Valu-Mart, and Eurobuns Bakery for their continued support of this yearly event.

## Follow-Up



Last month, Laurie Schutt informed our readers of a report composed by Roger Chittenden. We have since learned quite a bit about Mr. Chittenden and his accomplishments. He could have been called the Curator of Mud at Wye Marsh because his probing into the Marsh determined the ups and downs of water levels in the Wye Valley over the last 2000 years. Mr. Chittenden did enough research to complete a PhD but it was all done out of an interest in the geomorphology of the Wye Valley. Bob Whitten has provided us with a wonderful account of Mr. Chittenden, who at over 90 years of age was still volunteering for the Wye Marsh. "He was a diminutive fellow", recalls Mr. Whitten "but large on energy and intellect." We take our hats off to Mr. Chittenden for his love of the Marsh and his unending contribution as one of the pioneer volunteers of the Friends of Wye Marsh.

## Yes! I would like to Support Wye Marsh Birds of Prey Caring for Dragon - Turkey Vulture

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Yes! I would like to give a gift of...

\$25  \$35  \$50  \$100 or Other \_\_\_\_\_

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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