

escape...explore...experience

WYEMARSH



Wye Marsh is Home to 598 Species

Did you know that Wye Marsh is home to: 388 plant species, 87 bird species, 12 mammals, 17 species of reptiles and amphibians, 46 butterfly species, and 48 species of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies)?

The Wye Marsh is here today as a result of two major events in history – glaciation and a shift in direction of water flow. As land rose, water stopped flowing towards Ottawa and the water levels of the upper Great Lakes – Lake Michigan, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay increased to the point that Georgian Bay crept into the basin of Wye Marsh which was previously dry ground.

As the water levels rose, a marsh environment was formed. At one point in history Wye Marsh was a lagoon of Georgian Bay and was over 40 feet deep!

As the outlet between Port Huron and Sarnia eroded, water levels fell and the marsh we know today was formed.

Wetlands are the nursery of life, and most animals depend on them in one way or another. Biodiversity is at its highest in healthy wetlands. In recent years, researchers have found 14 Species at Risk living in Wye Marsh. In fact, the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum) stated in 2002 that Wye Marsh had the largest breeding colony of Least Bitterns in Ontario. This population has been monitored regularly to ensure it remains stable.

Some other notable species at risk found in Wye Marsh; Blanding's Turtle, Eastern Hog Nose Snake, Eastern Milk Snake, Canada Warbler, Monarch Butterfly, Eastern Red Damsel, White Bog Orchid.

For a full report, please contact Wye Marsh Staff and visitors to the centre are being asked to record any sightings accurately to ensure continued monitoring of species. The front desk has many guide books on plants, frogs, turtles, butterflies and dragonflies, etc. to help with identification.

Wye Marsh has been working to conserve this valuable resource since the centre was opened. Wetlands purify water, contain high water events, and have incredible biodiversity both in plant and animal life. When over 75% of wetlands have been lost in Southern Ontario, protecting and enhancing remaining wetlands like Wye Marsh is vital. Join us in our efforts to ensure future generations benefit as we have.

Laurie Schutt
Executive Director

P2

Wye Marsh in Montreal
Event Reminders
Summer Camp

P3

Wye Marsh & OELP
Partnership
Wye Nature Workshop Series

P4

Marsh Matters
Jimmer's New Home
Follow-up's & Thank You's
WM Conservation Efforts



Encourage your child to cherish the outdoors!

Let our backyard be your child's playground.

Having fun outdoors with friends at Wye Marsh Camps helps promote a life long connection with nature. Through field exploration and hands-on activities your child will learn about the environment, animals and nature conservation.

Weekly themed outdoor activities, interactive games and live animal demonstrations.

- Kinder Camp**...ages 4-5
- Camp Marshes & Moccasins**...ages 6-12
- CSI Survival Camp**...ages 10-14
- Falconry Camp**...ages 12-16

Weekly Themes

- June 29th - July 3rd
Our Home & Native Land
July 6th - July 10th
Cygnets Spotting
July 13th - July 17th
Wet N' Scaly
July 20th - July 24th
Owls are a Hoot
July 27th - July 31st
Biodiversity Bonanza
August 3rd - August 7th
Marsh Monster Mystery
August 10th - August 14th
Ultimate Survival
August 17th - August 21st
Miraculous Metamorphosis
August 24th - August 28th
Amazingly Adapted
August 31st - September 4th
The Great Migration

For more information contact our Camp Director at 705.526.7809 ext. 206 or email camp@wyemarsh.com.

Visit our website at www.wyemarsh.com to download & complete your registration form. Pre-Registration Required.

You Have a Choice



Sustainable Living

Wye Marsh Presents to the World Energy & You in Montreal

From May 10 to 13, 2009 Executive Director Laurie Schutt represented Wye Marsh at the 5th Annual World Environmental Education Congress in Montreal.

Laurie presented an abstract and poster about our new Energy & You Program implemented in the winter of 2009.

This world congress celebrates the courage, creativity, and successes of environmental educators working in diverse settings.

Participants work to further strengthen environmental education.

This poster outlines the goals, methods and outcomes of this sustainable living program designed for grade 6 to 8 students and was on display throughout the event.

Together, participants identified new and persistent challenges for taking their work further and sought to strengthen environmental education in our neighbourhoods, villages, cities, and regions—to better inhabit Earth, our common home.

In addition Laurie participated in an NGO forum and presented our environmental education programs to congress attendees. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Penetanguishene for partially sponsoring Laurie's trip to Montreal



Energy & You at James Keating Public School

Event Reminders

Saturday & Sunday Ecotours
Saturday Sunset Kayak Ecotours
Sunday Morning Canoe Ecotours

Thursday Nights Open Late Until 9:00pm
Beginning Thursday, May 21, 2009
Guided Walks & Kayaks 5:30pm & 7:00pm

Full Moon Walk & Canoe
Friday, June 5, 2009 at 8:00pm

Wye Marsh Nature Series: Paint Your Own Paddle
Saturday, June 6, 2009 at 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Falconry Workshop
Saturday, June 13, 2009 at 10:00am

Woodcarvers Meeting
Every Tuesday

Wildflower Gardeners Meeting
Every Thursday morning 10:00am - 12:00pm

Wye Marsh Partners with the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards



In February 2009, Kristin Brooks, a teacher at Penetanguishene Secondary School (PSS) approached Wye Marsh to be a partner in the first Outdoor Environmental Leadership Program (OELP) along with the twenty students who applied and were accepted into the program.

The goal of OELP is to give students a chance to partner with other facilities within the community and to gain invaluable hands-on experience within the environment.

"It was a natural fit to work with Wye Marsh", said Ms. Brooks, "as this program is designed to be environmentally focused, experiential education." This is the very reason Wye Marsh is here.

As per the OELP website (www.oelp.ca) this program is designed to present students with a blend of traditional academic studies and practical outdoor skills, promoting community-building in the classroom and offering students a more comprehensive portrait of the world around them.

This type of program is not new to Ontario, however it is new to the Midland- Penetanguishene area and only offered at PSS. The Ministry of Education will be making a decision in the near future regarding other similar programs called Specialist High Skills Majors. These could potentially include the health

care industry, trades (mechanical) as well as business and the arts.

Students in grade 10 are welcome to apply for one of twenty spots available in the OELP. The application is based predominately around the students' commitment to a long term goal in either education or environmental careers.

"Attendance plays a large role when selecting the students. We really look at their commitment to showing up and working together as a team." explains Ms. Brooks.

The team has been coming to Wye Marsh three days each week for the past four months and have been instrumental in assisting with general maintenance and operations.

Last week as Laurie Schutt, Executive Director gave them one last major project to work on together: re-designing the weathering yard (raptor display area) to make it visitor friendly and informative.



"This is a great opportunity for the students to continue working together as a team, be creative and really think about how to best utilize the space for the benefit of all."

For more information about this program and future programs please visit www.oelp.ca or contact Penetanguishene Secondary School and ask to speak with Kristin Brooks.

New! Late Night Thursdays!

*Starting May 21st on Thursday Nights
We're open 'til 9:00pm*

Enjoy an evening guided walk, kayak or canoe through Wye Marsh. The setting sun provides a perfect backdrop for this relaxing outing as you witness the spectacular changes in colour and wild life activities that occur as we move from day to night.



Wye Nature Workshop Series

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

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Cattail Basketry

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 705.526.7809 or email info@wyemarsh.com.

Marsh Matters

New Home & Adoption Program



Jane Little, Barry Godding & Jimmer

In 2007 two barn owls were adopted by Barry Godding and Jane Little who named them Lucy and Jimmer!

This spring, Lucy and Jimmer's dream came true, a home of their own. Thanks to Barry and Jane's donation a new owl barn was built and dedicated in memory of Jane's

father Tom Little. Here Jane and Barry visit Jimmer in her new home.

**"This OWL BARN
Is dedicated to the Memory of
Tom Little"**

Did you know Barn Owls...

Have the softest feathers of all birds?

Have very poor eyesight?

Can hear a mouse crawling on the ground in tall grass a field away?

Eat their own body weight every night?

Have totally silent flight?

Have a heart shaped face that is actually a facial disk of feathers that directs sound to their ears?

Have a "butterfly flight"?

Are almost extinct in Ontario?

Have the nick name "Ghost Owl"?

Come and learn more about Barn Owls and other Raptors at our weekly Birds of Prey Shows, or participate in a day long workshop once a month.

Visit our website at www.wyemarsh.com for future workshop dates.

Thank You

On Saturday, May 2nd the Wye Marsh Wildflower Gardener volunteers ran the first workshop in our twelve-month Wye Nature Series. Their efforts were warmly received by the participants and everyone had a great time. Collectively they provided valuable insight into the benefits of cultivating a wildflower garden and their slide-show presentation was inspirational to say the least! If you were unable to participate in this event, don't worry. The Wildflower Gardeners meet every Thursday morning from 10am-12noon. They are happy to welcome new volunteers and share their passion for gardening.



Moth Mullein
June-Oct



Black cohosh
Late July

✂ -----

Yes! I would like to Support BARN OWLS

Online at www.CanadaHelps.org

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

EN 05-09

Wye Marsh

16160 Hwy. 12, P.O. Box 100, Midland, L4R 4K6

Tel: (705) 526-7809, Fax: (705) 526-3294

Email: info@wyemarsh.com www.wyemarsh.com