

April
2008



Wye Marsh Newsletter

Pitch-In Week & Earth Day

April 21st to the 27th of 2008 is the 42nd annual PITCH-IN CANADA WEEK. The campaign's theme is **OPERATION: Clean Sweep**. One of the main objectives that Wye Marsh would like to help accomplish this year is to clean up, restore and beautify the environment by clearing away litter and other garbage from a rural and wilderness area .

Tuesday, April 22nd

Join us on Earth Day for Team-up to Clean-up from 9:00 am to noon in partnership with Georgian Bay Islands National Park. Meet in the Wye Marsh parking lot at 9:00 am and travel to Ogden Beach Road together. A second screening of "Garbage", the movie, will be shown at 1:30 pm

Wednesday

A Vermi Composting workshop will take place with our resident red wigglers from 1 to 3 pm.

Friday through Sunday

Wye Marsh will be in the Kids Zone at the Green Living Show taking place at Exhibition Place. We will be presenting Reptile and Amphibian shows, giving talks about sustainable energy, and providing a craft for the children to build their own anemometer.



Photos are from last year's clean-up team



Inside this issue:

What's Happening at Wye Marsh	2
Monthly Photo Feature	3
Port McNicoll Lions Club Donation	3
GPS Workshops	3
Spring / Summer Bike Program	4
"September Woodlands" Print Winner	4
Spaghetti Dinner, Upcoming Events, Wish List	5

Tuesdays

Woodcarvers Meet

Thursdays

Wildflower Gardeners Meet

Always looking for new members



What's Happening This Spring



Active Family Challenge Walks

Are you and your family participating in the Simcoe County Active Family Challenge? If so, join us at Wye Marsh any Sunday morning in May for a free stroll on our trails. Present your May Action Tracker to the front desk upon arrival for your free pass to the trails and upon returning we will stamp your book. This exciting event for May is sponsored by Good for Life and many other local area sponsors. So come on out and enjoy all the sights and wildlife that Wye Marsh has to offer.

Date: Every Sunday in May

Time: 9:00 am to noon

Admission: Free admission upon presentation of your May Action Tracker booklet



Moonlight Owl Prowl

Experience nature as few people do... at night! Grab a flashlight and join a Wye Marsh naturalist in search of one of the most interesting and secretive creatures in the animal world: owls. Meet a live owl and participate in an owl survey using call response tapes. This evening show and walk will get you excited to look around in the dark!

Date: Saturday, April 19th

Cost: \$5.00 members & \$8.00 for non-members

Time: 7 to 9 pm

**Please call to pre-register
(705) 526-7809**



Doggie Days

Sunday, April 6th 1 to 3 pm

Environmental Movie Series

Saturday, April 5th at 1:30 pm

Tuesday, April 22nd at 1:30 pm

Falconry Workshop

Saturday, April 12th

GPS Workshops

Saturday, April 26th & Sunday, April 27th

From 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Something Wild at Wye Marsh During National Wildlife Week

National Wildlife Week was created in honour of one of Canada's most influential naturalists, the late Jack Miner. Established by an Act of Parliament in 1947, the week provides Canadians with an opportunity to celebrate wildlife and take action to protect wild plants and animals. Join Wye Marsh naturalists over the course of the week for a series of daily workshops to educate the public on how they can contribute. Workshops will be conducted on: Trumpeter Swan Update, Bees Please, Tracking Furry Critters, Trees That Please, Make Recycled Bird Feeder, and Habitat Management.

Date: Monday, April 7th to Sunday, April 13th

Cost: Included with general admission, free for Wye Marsh members

Times: 1 to 3 pm Monday to Friday and 2 to 4 pm Saturday and Sunday



Monthly Photo Feature

Meet "Cygnus" (#156) and his Dad! Cygnus was one of three wild Trumpeter Swan cygnets hatched and reared at the George Langman Memorial Wildlife Centre, outside Orillia, in 2007. His parents are seven-year-old reintroduced swans "Nessie" (#609) and "Heather" (#627).

Wye Marsh members Margaret Black and her daughter Emily have been monitoring Nessie and his family for the past five years, as off-site Wye Marsh volunteers. They have also adopted and named Nessie, Heather, their entire 2007 brood, and three other Trumpeters. To learn more about Nessie, Cygnus and Co., go to Margaret's website:

<http://sky.prohosting.com/mansterg/trumpeter/>

To learn about how you can adopt a swan go to:

http://www.wyemarsh.com/swan_adopt.html

Please feel free to submit your photos and each month Wye Marsh will choose one to include in our newsletter. Please provide your name, the location the photo was taken, and a short description. Send photos to marketing@wyemarsh.com and indicate as a submission for Wye Marsh Newsletters.

All submissions must be shrunk to 1MB or less. Thank you



Port McNicoll Lions Club Generous Donation

Wye Marsh gratefully accepts a \$5,000 cheque from the Port McNicoll Lions Club. This generous donation is targeted to pay for a much needed facelift to the cabins located next to the Visitor Centre. The buildings are used primarily to accommodate residential groups visiting the Marsh; however, they are also home to the children's day camp in the summer, special events year round and so much more.

Pictured from left to right are: John Lever, Joe Vaillancourt, Loretta Hamilton, Tom Fisher, Ray Mugford



GPS Workshops



The future has arrived! Now we can pass our high tech skills on to you. Global Positioning Systems allow a connection from the palm of your hand to satellites in space to navigate any point on our planet. Join us for a two-hour introduction to the basic functions of GPS navigation including understanding way-points, marking and entering way-points, Geo-caching, and following directional indicators. After a quick introductory lesson, we will send you on our GPS course, "Adventures in Conservation", highlighting lessons on sustainability and visiting the Marsh's most fascinating areas.

Date: Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th

Cost: General admission; pre-registration is recommended

Spring / Summer Bike Program

Come and join Wye Marsh staff for our weekly bike program for people ages 6 to adult. Don't own a bike? No problem! Bikes and helmets are provided for the program to those who need them through a grant from Active 2010, Communities in Action Fund. There is a nominal fee of \$2.00 per rental package.

SENIOR'S PROGRAM

Enjoy a leisurely ride on paved and hard packed trails.
Time: 1 to 3 pm every Thursday from May 22nd to August 28th
Register by calling Wye Marsh (705) 526-7809

ADVANCED PROGRAM

Learn how to ride off road on 22 km of Wye Marsh ski trails.
Meet in the Wye Marsh parking lot.
Time: 7 to 9 pm every Monday night from May 19th to September 1st
Register by calling Wye Marsh (705) 526-7809

FAMILY RIDES - Sundays 1 to 3 pm

Bring the whole family and enjoy a guided bike ride around your town and on Tay Shore Trail.

Pre-register for all family rides by calling Wye Marsh (705) 526-7809.



FAMILY RIDES SCHEDULE

Wye Marsh

May 18th, June 15th, July 13th, August 10th
Meet in Wye Marsh Parking lot

Port McNicoll

May 25th, June 29th, July 20th, August 17th
Meet at the Liquor store on Ney Avenue

Waubauskene

June 1st, June 22nd, August 3rd, August 24th
Meet at Coldwater Road by the old Foodland

Victoria Harbour

June 8th, July 6th, July 27th, August 31st
Meet at Albert Street Parkette across from Foodland Parking lot

Congratulations to Brian Hall of Barrie, ON
who won the wildlife print, "September Woodlands",
by Christine Marshall

**Other Christine Marshall prints available for purchase from
Wye Marsh gift shop, please call (705) 526-7809**



Garfield Dunlop Spaghetti Dinner



North Simcoe MPP Garfield Dunlop's Second Annual Spaghetti Dinner for Wye Marsh was a success. About 260 people attended the March 7th event, and it raised close to \$2000 for the centre. Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, employees, Phil's Catering, and Garfield Dunlop along with his fabulous team.

Foreground:

Bruce Stanton and daughter Lauren
Scott Warnock, Mayor of Tay serving

Background:

Jim Walden, Mayor of Georgian Bay
Township
Jim Downer, Mayor of Midland

Upcoming Events

Guided Canoes and Walks Every Saturday and Sunday Starting Victoria Day Weekend

Guided Canoes

Wye Marsh educators will lead groups through the marsh channels in a nine or seven-person canoe. Participants partake in light paddling while the guide navigates and points out some of the natural features of one of Nature's most productive ecosystems. No experience needed!

Guided Walks

Join experienced Wye Marsh Naturalists as they lead you through the trails and boardwalks of the Wye Marsh. Learn about the plant and animal hot spots and ask those nature questions that have always puzzled you. See reptiles and amphibians, watch birds, search for aquatic insects, or just enjoy the flowering plants.



Guided Canoes: 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 12:30 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:30 pm; can pre-register for guided canoes

Guided Walks: 10:00 am, 11:30 am, 1:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm

Wye Marsh Wish List

Wye Marsh is currently in need of:

- + Used sports equipment
- + Clean old towels, sheets, t-shirts
- + Hardware (nails, screws, etc.)
- + Costumes
- + Dresser
- + Energy-efficient, newer model fridge
- + Plastic hockey sticks, nets, helmets and goalie equipment
- + 3-prong extension cords
- + Rubbermaid Containers
- + Wood for construction—minimum 12" in length

In-kind receipts available for value of articles.