

# HULLETT NEWS



FALL 2020



## Board of Directors

### *Message from the Board*

#### Hello FOH members:

This summer has been one of the most productive summers, despite organizing around a world-wide pandemic. We thank all our users and volunteers for their patience as we navigate around a new way of living. By the middle of July, we began accepting small numbers of volunteers in their family units and have greatly appreciated the help and understanding of new protocols.

Many priority tasks have been accomplished this year such as: rebuilding parking lot 40589 Conservation Road, repainting of our privies for added protection against mould, phragmites spraying both old and new stands, timber removal across the marsh and general property maintenance. None of this would have been possible without the help of our two hired summer students with funding provided by Canada Summer Jobs.

With these summer jobs coming to an end and hunting season beginning, we would like to remind hunters and users to have additional patience during this truly unknown time. As a community we are still working through a difficult time in history and need to work together to better ourselves. **Our office complex located at 41378 Hydro Line Rd. will be CLOSED to public visitors for the time being. FOH staff are only a phone call or email away to assist you. You can make an appointment for an outdoor meeting by emailing Scott or Alex.**

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please let staff know by emailing [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca). We hope you enjoy your time here at Hullett Marsh.

Duane Inkpen  
*Chairman*  
*Board of Directors*

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# Friends of Hullett

## Horse Access

Hullett Marsh is a beautiful destination to enjoy a long walk with your equine best friend. During fall and winter, restrictions are in place for equine riders to protect the integrity of our marsh and dyke systems.

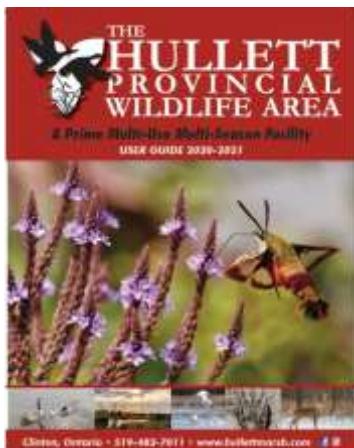


From October 1 to May 1, horse access is **prohibited in Zone A**. Zone B is still open to riders. Please abide by the set rules and regulations to help maintain the HPWA and reduce wearing of the trails and dyke systems.

## User Guide

Our 2020-2021 User Guide is complete and as always, was no easy task. This year our Recreation and Event Coordinator worked hard to ensure our users are well informed through various articles highlighting COVID-19 protocols, hunting regulations and more. Without the help of many, the User Guide would not be able to happen. A huge thank you goes to **Blyth Printers** for the design, consistent editing, and endless amount of help! A large thank you goes to **Conrad Kuiper** for the use of his pictures, and finally all of our sponsors! Clinton Sporting Goods, Artech, Bayfield Berry Farm, Dale Group, Central Huron, Bluewater Taxidermy, MicroAge Basics, Kelly Auto Service, Nature's Nest, Nahuel Painting, Exeter Game Farm, Parker House Motel, Ducks Unlimited Hunt of Huron Perth, Sommers Generators, Huron Perth Crime Stoppers, China Palace, Huron Fish and Game Club, Ideal Supply and Clinton Sporting Goods!

All those listed above are the support and backbone to providing our users with quality content and a great user guide!



## Pheasant Challenge

Each year, FOH sells Pheasant Challenge tickets to support the release of pheasants within Zone B. This year we were able to raise the funds to release 920 pheasants! Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at a variety of locations. Our major sponsors for this event include **Ideal Supply** and **Clinton Sporting Goods**.

Tickets can be purchased multiple ways!

1. Ideal Supply locations: Seaforth, Goderich, Wingham, St. Mary's, Stratford, Exeter and Mitchell.
2. Clinton Sporting Goods. 519-606-3006
3. With credit card by calling the FOH office 519-482-7011.
4. Through PayPal (link is on the homepage of the website) **\*Must purchase at least 3 tickets\***
5. Through e-transfer [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca) **\*Must purchase at least 3 tickets\***

The prizes once again remain the same for this year! First Place, donated by **Clinton Sporting Goods**, is a Savage 555 Over-Under 20ga. shotgun. Second Place is a Generac 2000W generator, donated by **Ideal Supply**!

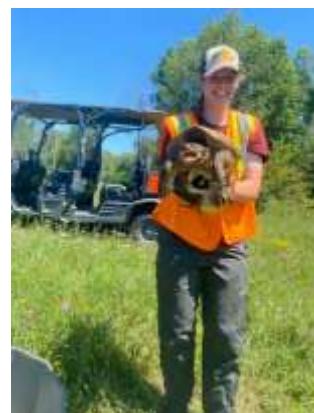
FOH welcomes all members to enjoy pheasant hunting this year. Also remember if you harvest a banded bird to please contact **staff at 519-482-7011 to make an appointment to claim your prize.**



# Friends of Hullett

## Summer Students

With thanks to **Canada Summer Jobs**, Hullett Marsh was able to hire two summer students for June, July and August. For their third years at Hullett Marsh, Cassie Eveland returned as our Recreation and Event Coordinator, and Julia Beaven as our Maintenance Supervisor. With having the extra help, we were able to focus on many priority jobs and tasks while connecting with the Central Huron community through various events.



Julia worked hard every single day on upkeep of the marsh including weed whacking, clearing water structures, dyke maintenance and timber removal, agricultural accesses, turtle nest protectors, mallard tubes, volunteer coordination, painting and more. The marsh has never looked so good thanks to her dedication and passion for this amazing place.

Cassie's focus for this summer included providing hikes for day cares and spending Thursdays with the day camp Seeds Rooted in Youth. She designed and wrote the Hullett User Guide and coordinated our successful turtle nest protector project while also assisting Julia in various daily tasks.

Without this funding and the help of these two women, the marsh would be much further behind than it is currently. Having them here allowed for double the amount of work to get done and their hard work can be seen across the marsh.



FOH would like to thank both Cassie and Julia for their contribution to FOH throughout the summer. Their hard work and dedication to their contracts have made Hullett a better place.

## Seeds Rooted in Youth

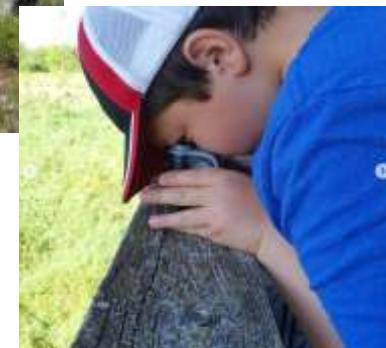


This summer for the month of August, Hullett Marsh welcomed a day camp to use our property twice a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays. During this

time, students between the ages of 7-12 enjoyed endless amount of fun and learning throughout the marsh. Thursday's they were ever joined by our Recreation and Event Coordinator for additional exploration learning.

Students got up close and personal with our ponds and our native grasslands to find mysteries such as leeches, frogs, minnows, grasshoppers,

praying mantis, wildflowers and more! We are extremely grateful to have such a beautiful property that we can share, learn, and grow the future generation with!



# Friends of Hullett

## Central Huron Donation Fund

We often get multiple opportunities a year to apply for funding through various programs. One program that we apply to every year is the **Central Huron Donation Fund**. In previous years we have received funding for interpretive equipment, iPads, additional user guides, privy replacement, and more. This year, we went a different path and reached out on social media to the Hullett Users to hear their ideas. With multiple responses, FOH staff focused on a request that we deemed a top priority.



I don't think you can ever go wrong with land acquisition and habitat enhancement. I'd say some invasive species control of autumn olive and glossy buckthorn would be top of my list. ❤️

2w 7 likes Reply



Some more native plants(the more rare ones). I have a few I've never noticed at the marsh that are beneficial to wildlife. More beneficial insects equals less pest and more food for wildlife up the line.

Like · Reply · Message · 2w



We heard the input from our users and agreed the most effective way to accomplish these goals is to seek funding for additional habitat mowing. Along with this, we also asked for funding for additional copies of our user guide.

**For 2020 we received \$1,700 to purchase an additional 2,000 user guides, as well as \$1,000 for an additional 5 hours of habitat mowing with a focus on invasive species such as knapweed, buckthorn and autumn olive.**

We are extremely lucky to have a supportive municipality who sees the importance of Hullett Marsh to our community. We appreciate all the help Central Huron provides to the marsh and know this gem of Huron County would not be as successful without them.



## Turtle Nesting Program

2020 marks the second year FOH has run our turtle nest protector program and it went swimmingly (most of the time). Our turtle nesting program began in 2018 when we received funding from Huron Fish and Game Club to support this project. That winter, 20 protectors were built thanks to the help of a local school. At the start of 2019, the Midland Painted Turtle was added to the Species at Risk list meaning all 8 Ontario turtle species were now species at risk. Each year, staff spend their time finding nesting turtles and covering their nests with a protector to help the defenseless eggs against raccoons, foxes, skunks, and even humans.



This year, we are excited to announce that we have covered our very first Midland Painted Turtle nest. The other 16 boxes are covering Common Snapping Turtle nests.

However, this year has not been easy on our turtles. Destruction of our boxes is ongoing. From humans upturning the boxes, moving them, or destroying them, our turtle nest protector project needs the continued



support from the public. This year, we even purchased 50 signs to be added to the boxes from Consolidated Signs in Crediton, and yet people still chose to vandalize these harmless boxes.

The turtles need our help to remain in stable populations. Slow down on the roads, help turtles cross the roads safely and consider volunteering with our program next June. If you want more information, email [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca)!

# Friends of Hullett

## Mallard Tubes

The mallard tube program was first started in 2004 at Hullett Marsh. In that time, the program has been refined and improved in order to ensure maximum usage and success so that we can continue to maintain a healthy population of waterfowl in the marsh.

During the 2020 breeding season, 37 mallard tubes were installed in the marsh the same as the year prior. Of these 37 tubes,

**46% were used by mallards.** This is an impressive increase over the 38% that were used by mallards last

year. Of these used tubes, **43% of them contained successful nests.** This is another increase over last years' number of 30% success.

With the continued help and support of our wonderful volunteers, we can continue to maintain and monitor our various nesting programs. These programs provide us with invaluable data which, in turn will lead us to greater nesting success and more birds in the marsh.



If you are interested in volunteering to assist with one of our nesting programs, please contact us at [foohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:foohoffice@tcc.on.ca) for further details.

## Phragmites Removal

This year, Hullett Marsh once again received funding from the **Huron Clean Water Project** as well as from **Ducks Unlimited** to help control the stands of Phragmites present in the marsh.

**Jeff Van Niekerk of Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority** was on hand to help staff with this years spraying efforts. Thanks to low water levels and nice weather, great progress was made and sites that had never been sprayed were able to be reached.

This year spraying took place in late August and early September. Due to the ideal conditions that were present, **114 stands** have been sprayed to date.

We would like to thank the Huron Clean Water Project, Ducks Unlimited and ABCA for their continued support on this project and helping to keep the Hullett Marsh ecosystem balanced and healthy.



# Friends of Hullett

## Youth Waterfowl Clinic

Hullett Marsh has worked extremely hard for years to produce an amazing YWC where kids can be mentored

by waterfowl hunters to hunt on Heritage Day. However, due to COVID-19 the 2020 YWC was cancelled. We hope that next year we get to see once again, everyone out for such an amazing event for our youth.



## COVID-19 Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to all users of Hullett Marsh that although things are getting better in Ontario, we are not out of the woods yet. Friends of Hullett would like to remind all of its users to make sure that they are following provincial guidelines for social distancing. We would hate to have another situation where we would need to close Hullett.

**Let's continue to work together to keep Hullett safe, healthy and open!**



## Hunting Regulations

Before hunting in Hullett, please ensure you have read all **Federal, Provincial** and **Hullett** hunting regulations. We want to ensure the safety of all Hullett users this hunting season.

[\*\*Federal Regulations\*\*](#)

[\*\*Provincial Regulations\*\*](#)

[\*\*Hullett Regulations\*\*](#)

[\*\*Hunting at Hullett Tip Sheet- NEW\*\*](#)

## Species Profile: European Gypsy Moth *Lymantria dispar*

Huron County is no stranger to invasive species, they have been threatening our native populations since European settlers reached what is now Canada. They can have devastating implications on our environment, and the Gypsy Moth is no exception. However, their history and abundance in North America may surprise you.

Gypsy Moths have been in North America since the



*Photo Credits: City of London*

1860's and their populations change each year, fluctuating annually depending on local conditions. When there is an outbreak year, the damage is extremely noticeable as these caterpillar's defoliate

hardwood species including: maple, oak, birch, poplar, and willow. With defoliated trees also comes caterpillars appearing everywhere, and frass falling from trees.

It has been a long time since these moths have been introduced to our area, however 2020 has been declared as an outbreak season as those around Southern Ontario struggle to ensure the health of their established trees. Hullett Marsh is extremely lucky to have seen very little impact from Gypsy Moths, but landowners surrounding Hullett have not been as lucky.

If you are experiencing an outbreak, there are many steps that can be taken. During the spring, as caterpillars



*Photo Credits – City of London*

emerge from their eggs, pesticides can be professionally sprayed to limit the destruction. In late summer, egg masses can be controlled through manual removal and then burning egg sacks or soaking them in soapy water. It is important to consider that even if the caterpillars defoliate your tree, if it is healthy and well established, your tree will survive and even reproduce new leaves later in the summer. If you see Gypsy Moths, you can also report them to the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711 or email info@invadingspecies.com.

# Friends of Hullett

## Opening Day Changes

**1) The Zone A opening day draw will be held, with some modifications due to Covid-19**

**A)** FOH staff or approved volunteers will be the only people to handle FOH materials. The draw for the selection order of hunting stakes will be conducted by FOH staff or approved volunteers at 12pm noon on Friday September 25 before opener. FOH staff or approved volunteers will randomly pull chips for each corresponding vehicle in line. Once all vehicles have been assigned a chip they will commence calling individual vehicle owners based on their corresponding chip. The draw will start with chip #1 and continue until all vehicles in the draw have been called forward for their blind selection.

**B)** Any remaining blinds can be issued **after the draw until 8PM or Saturday morning commencing at 4:30AM** on a first come first served basis.

**C)** Hunters will fill out the harvest card and place it in the window of their vehicle as in past years. Hunters will provide FOH with contact information which FOH will log on a premade card. This contact card will be placed on the stake number board in place of the "card" (example - Costco or Air Miles Cards).

**D)** Hunters will present harvested birds to FOH staff or approved volunteers and provide harvest data as in past years. FOH staff or approved volunteers will collect this information while respecting social distancing guidelines. FOH staff or approved volunteers will not handle birds or identify young of the year birds.

**2)** FOH staff will set up the FOH trailer and install a physical barrier to create separation between FOH staff or approved volunteers and property users. Only FOH Staff or approved volunteers will be allowed behind the barrier, with no more than 1 person at one time in the restricted area, and while respecting social distancing guidelines. Existing sanitation and cleaning procedures will be followed.

**3)** For all other information regarding Covid-19 policies, memberships renewals and fundraiser draws please go to our website.

**Please note – these procedures are subject to change based on guidelines provided by our Provincial and Local Health Authorities**

## 2021 Photo Contest

Once again Hullett Marsh is requesting our users to submit their photos for a chance to be on the cover of our 2020-2021 Hullett Marsh User Guide. Follow our simple guideline and submit your photos with the best quality possible to [fohoffice@tcc.on.ca](mailto:fohoffice@tcc.on.ca)

### Guidelines:

- Must be in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Contain **no** graphic content (blood, gore, etc)
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest as the title (Example: John\_Smith\_1.jpg)

**Photo Contest deadline is**

**March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.**



## Connect with Hullett

Hullett Marsh has prided itself on up keeping various forms of Social Media and other ways to communicate with our users. Stay up to date by checking our website, Facebook, and Instagram pages! To be linked directly to these pages, press CTRL and click on the links in the footer of each page. Also consider becoming a member to receive Newsletters and other updates throughout the year!

## **FOH Membership Form**

