

HULLETT NEWS



FALL 2019

Board of Directors

Message from the Board

Hello FOH members:

This summer, much like those in the past has flown by. With extra help from our summer student positions and volunteers, we finished many priority jobs. FOH rebuilt the parking lot at 80602 Wildlife Line. We painted our privies to protect against mould, worked on timber removal across the marsh, sprayed many new and old stands of Phragmites and provided many quality interpretive programs. On top of this, staff also completed the Hullett User Guide for another year. We are very thankful for the funding from Canada Summer Jobs which provided some much needed extra hands around the marsh.

As we jump into the fall season, or more accurately named, hunting season, the FOH are increasingly busier as the number of users grows each day. We would like to remind all users to keep safe while hunting by following all Hullett, Provincial and Federal hunting regulations. It is important to consider that there are users within the marsh not there to hunt. We recommend that all users of Hullett Marsh wear bright colours to distinguish themselves while enjoying this space.

With that being said, Pheasant Challenge tickets are for sale at a variety of locations for \$10 each to support the release of Pheasants in 2020. Please see below for extra details.

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. We hope you enjoy your time here at Hullett Marsh.

Duane Inkpen
Chairman
Board of Directors



What's Inside?

Page 1

- Board of Directors Overview

Page 2

- Horse Access
- User Guide
- Pheasant Challenge

Page 3

- Summer Students
- Summer Events

Page 4

- Central Huron Donation Fund
- Phragmites Removal

Page 5

- Turtle Nesting
- Mallard Tubes

Page 6

- Youth Waterfowl Clinic
- Youth Pheasant Hunt
- Hunting Regulations

Page 7

- August Work Days
- Volunteering

Page 8

- 2020 Photo Contest
- Connect with Hullett
- Membership Form



Friends of Hullett

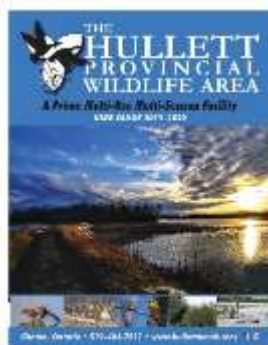
Horse Access

Hullett Marsh is a beautiful destination to enjoy a long walk with your equine best friend. As fall and winter are occurring, 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

Always a daunting task, our Recreation and Event Coordinator worked tirelessly this summer to produce the Hullett Marsh User Guide for 2019-2020. 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! Also to those who contributed in any way to the production: **Conrad Kuiper** for helping to edit many articles, **Jason Bayne & Chris Ambrose** for their article on Conservation and Hunting, **Heaven's Wildlife & Conrad Kuiper** for the use of their pictures, and finally all of our sponsors! Artech, Bayfield Berry Farm, Central Huron, Bluewater Taxidermy, MicroAge Basics, Kelly Auto Service, Nature's Nest, Nahuel Painting, Exeter Game Farm, Parker House Motel, Youth Pheasant Hunt of Huron Perth, Maelstrom Winery, Sommers Generators, Huron



Perth Crime Stoppers, 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 1000 pheasants within Zone B the marsh. This year is no different! 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 at seven locations of Ideal Supply, including Seaforth, Goderich, Wingham, St. Marys, Stratford, Exeter and Mitchell, plus Clinton Sporting Goods. You can also purchase tickets at the FOH office, open by chance, by calling us, or if you are buying 3 or more, through e-transfer and PayPal! The prizes are the same for this year.

First Place donated by **Clinton Sporting Goods** is a Savage 555 Over-Under 20ga. shotgun. Second is a Generac 2000W generator donated by **Ideal Supply**!

FOH welcomes all members to enjoy Pheasant hunting this year. Also remember if you find a banded bird to return the band to the office complex to win a prize if you purchased a pheasant challenge ticket!



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. Returning from last summer was our Recreation and Event Coordinator, Cassie Eveland. As well, Julia

Beaven joined us again as our Maintenance Supervisor. With having the extra help, we were able to focus on many priority jobs and tasks while connecting to 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 quality hikes every Wednesday, a hayride, private events and more. She designed and wrote the Hullett User Guide and coordinated our successful turtle nest protector project.

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.



Summer Events

This summer, our Recreation and Event Coordinator implemented a number of great events for the community. Each Wednesday morning a group of families came together to hike through the marsh while learning about the habitats and animals within. These Wednesday hikes brought in almost 100 visitors to the marsh. She also hosted a small private event for Sepoy Wiring where the group did a pond study and had a trapping demonstration.

The FOH also participated in many community events this year with our props and user guides being featured at both the **Ontario Fur Managers Federation** AGM and Convention in Goderich and the Bayfield Fair. We were also present at the annual Ausable Bayfield Turtle Release in partnership with Huron Stewardship Council to talk to people about our turtle nest protector project.

To finish the season, FOH hosted another hayride. This year we had one ride at 6 PM with 17 riders and despite the bugs, it was very successful! During this hayride, riders had the chance to view various birds, mammals and plants, while learning about the history of Hullett Marsh and its partners.

With new equipment purchased through the financial support of **TD Friends of the Environment**, we are hoping to continue to provide volunteer lead interpretive events. If you are a volunteer who would like to lead events during the fall and winter seasons, please contact FOH staff by email at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca.



Central Huron Donation Fund



This year, FOH was able to once again put an application in for various funding tasks with Central Huron. This year we targeted

three areas within our Central Huron Donation Fund application.

Funding covered costs associated with our User Guide; covering the production of 2,000 additional user guides. It also covered interpretive equipment which was used many times this summer including: multiple pairs of binoculars, pocket microscopes, butterfly nets, bug jars and special pond study nets.

Lastly, this funding supported an additional iPad for office and field work. Since the purchase of our first iPad last year, we have found this to be an invaluable tool for communication, photography and documenting work in the field.

We are excited to find even more uses for these tablets around the marsh! FOH would like to sincerely thank **Central Huron** for their generous contribution to Hullett Marsh and the positive impact it has made on our community.



Phragmites Removal

Phragmites or Common Reed is an invasive wetland species that has established in the marsh. First



found in the early 2000's, this aggressive perennial can spread rapidly throughout an area causing native species to be out-competed for water and nutrients.

With the financial support from **Huron Clean Water Project** and **Ducks Unlimited Canada**, FOH has been able to work with **Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority** (ABCA) to control Phragmites stands for the third year in a row. From August 14th to 15th, FOH staff and ABCA staff located and sprayed approximately 94 Phragmites stands were sprayed in 2019. Over the past three years, 128 Phragmites stands have been controlled by FOH. Since Phragmites cannot be sprayed if the plant is in the water, not all stands are able to be sprayed within the HPWA.

FOH would like to thank **Huron Clean Water Project** and **Ducks Unlimited** for their financial support,



along with ABCA with continued support and assistance in controlling Phragmites stands within the HPWA.

Friends of Hullett

Turtle Nesting

In our Spring edition of our newsletter, FOH was in search for volunteers to help with monitoring the marsh for turtles laying eggs. With this call for assistance, many people stepped up to help in the search for turtle nests.



This year, turtle nesting began late June. FOH began to place nest protectors on June 17th. With the help of our volunteers, all boxes were placed on nests 7 days after the first box placement. Unfortunately, due to human interaction and loose gravel, two turtle nesting sites were predated.

On September 12th, after a much needed rain, young turtles began to dig themselves out of the nesting sites. All turtle nest protectors were removed from the marsh as of September 16th with many sites showing signs that young turtles have hatched and left the nest.

FOH would like to thank **Huron Fish and Game, St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Clinton, plus our turtle volunteers** for all their hard work and contribution to this project. Without your support, we would not be able to make this project a success!

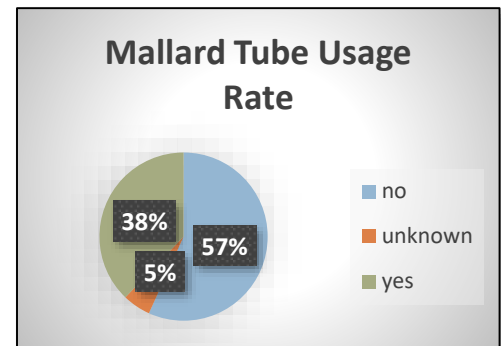


Mallard Tubes

As many of you are familiar, FOH has a variety of different nesting programs occurring within the marsh. One of which is our Mallard Tube nesting program.

As mentioned in Spring 2019 newsletter, any tubes that weren't used over the last three nesting seasons would not be installed for the 2019 season. With a decrease in the amount of tubes installed within the marsh, an increase in usage was observed.

In 2019, a total of 37 Mallard



Tubes were installed in the marsh. A total of 38% of the 37 tubes installed were used by Mallards; 30% of the 37 tubes showed evidence of a successful hatch. The numbers collected this year are the best usage rate and success rate FOH has seen.

FOH would like to thank all the volunteers, including the Youth Waterfowl Clinic participants, who took the time to assist in the collection of Mallard Tubes during the 2019 nesting season. For those who wish to volunteer their time to stuff and reinstall Mallard Tubes, keep an eye on your email for upcoming work days and volunteer opportunities.



Friends of Hullett

Youth Waterfowl Clinic



In September, Friends of Hullett hosts their Annual Youth Waterfowl Clinic. 2019 marks the 4th year for the event. 10 youth participants are

provided the experience promoting youth waterfowl hunting. This event is built to celebrate **National Hunting, Trapping and Fishing Heritage Day**, held on September 21, 2019.

Similar to last year, the clinic is run over 2 weekends. September 14th, youth participants were provided with an opportunity to learn about Hullett Marsh's Wood Duck and Mallard nesting programs. Youth gathered at the Hullett office to learn what to look for in a nesting structure and how to determine a successful hatch. Youth then assisted FOH staff and volunteers with collecting B Zone Mallard Tubes and inspect Duck Boxes.

September 20th and 21st, youth are paired with mentors guiding them through their hunting experience. Firearm safety, ethics, waterfowl ID, decoy placement, concealment, calling and cleaning were topics that the youth learned about over these two days. This year's hunt proved to be successful, with 39 waterfowl harvested including 1 Canada Goose and 5 different duck species.

We would like to extend out a big thank you to all the **organizations, volunteers, mentors, parents and youth** for the support for this year's event. Without the support, this event would not be possible.



Youth Pheasant Hunt

Each year, Hullett Marsh plays the host property for the annual **Huron-Perth Youth Pheasant Hunt**. This hunt is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 15. This year's hunt will take place on:

November 16th, 2019

For more information on how to get involved, or to register a youth, please visit their website at:

<http://www.loop-perthhuron.ca/youth.html>



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 Primer- NEW

FOH would like wish all hunters a happy and safe hunting season!



August Work Days

Getting prepared for the upcoming hunting season is a difficult task to do with just our staff, the FOH each year depends on our volunteers to help us prepare. To ensure all tasks are completed prior to hunting season, FOH hosts volunteer work days.

This year we hosted two work days with a total of 4 volunteers helping us prepare. Tasks completed in these work days include the marking and pruning access trails to hunting stakes, including Handicap blinds. This provides easier access to all hunters throughout the hunting season. We were fortunate enough to have one volunteer collect Mallard Tubes to complete the fall collection in A Zone.



The past two years we have seen a decrease in waterfowl hunters helping with these volunteering tasks. If you hunt within Hullett, we ask you to consider spending some time volunteering with us to benefit your experience while hunting. You will also be able to scout out the area and see what is happening with waterfowl in the area! If you wish to volunteer for future workdays, please keep an eye on your email, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Volunteering

With only two staff members and a 5,400-acre property **volunteer efforts** are the backbone of various tasks that manage and maintain Hullett Marsh's infrastructure, programs and habitat.

Volunteer Rewards:

- High school students can obtain their "community hours"
- Hikers can improve the trails they hike
- Hunters can help with waterfowl nesting structures and get in some scouting
- Photographers may get the perfect photo while out in the field
- Physical activity

New for 2019:

- Thanks to funding from TD Friends of the Environment, we will purchase hiking poles and snow shoes for volunteer led hikes
- **We need hike leaders...could this be you?**

Whether you can donate an hour or a day of your time, volunteers are welcome on any day of the week!

If you are interested in volunteering or organizing a volunteer day for a group, please email Friends of Hullett at fohoffice@tcc.on.ca or call us at 519-482-7011.

FOH would like to thank **TD Friends of the Environment** for their contributions to help continue to make Hullett Marsh a hidden gem.



2020 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

Guidelines:

- Must be in Hullett Marsh
- Depict safe practices
- Not contain gore
- Contain the name of the person entering the photo contest as the title (Example: John_Smith_1.jpg)

Photo Contest deadline is

March 31st, 2020.

2019 Winners



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

