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Promoting the appreciation, understanding, and preservation of nature in the Ottawa Valley since 1984

May 2024 Bulletin

🎊 MFNC's 40th Anniversary Gala 🎊

🗓️ **Save the date**: Saturday September 7, 2024

Please join us in celebrating the club's 40th anniversary with an evening of food, drinks, memories and TWO guest speakers!

➡️ Do you have any fond memories or photos of the club? Send them to John at johndrlawrence8@gmail.com

More details on the gala and where to purchase tickets coming soon!

MAY MONTHLY MEETING
🐢 A Peek into the Underwater Life of Northern Map Turtles with Dr. Greg Bulté 🐢

When: Wednesday May 1, 2024 at 7p.m.
Where: Arnprior Curling Club, 5 Galvin St., Arnprior

Description: Observing the underwater life of freshwater turtles in the wild is not easy. In the last few years, Greg has used various gadgets to peek under the surface of Opinicon Lake hoping to better understand the reproductive, social, and overwintering behaviours of the Northern Map Turtle. As it is often the case in science, this pursuit

left him with more questions than answers, but he did get some cool images along the way! Join us as Greg shares some interesting photos and ponders why Northern Map Turtles behave the way they do.

Presenter Bio: Greg is a biology instructor at Carleton University where he teaches courses about ecology and evolution. He has studied Northern Map Turtles for almost 20 years, examining their behaviours over time. In his spare time, he frolics in the woods and ponds surrounding his cabin and whittle.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 5 - Plant Quiz with Eleanor Thomson
October 2 - Jeff Skevington, topic TBD
November 6 - Invasive Crayfish with Premek Hamr
November 8 (Banquet) - The Condor's Feather and their journey to South America with Paula and Michael Webster

Monthly meetings are always on the first Wednesday of the month (except for July and August) at the Arnprior Curling Club.

MAY FIELD TRIPS

🐓Birding in Presqu'ile Provincial Park with Doug McRae🐓

When: Saturday May 18, 7am to mid-afternoon
Where: Presqu'ile Provincial Park - Beach 1 parking lot. An Ontario Parks Day Pass is required to enter the park for $20 and can be purchased here.
Who: Members only, registration required. Members may register for this outing starting April 25 at 8am by emailing Janet at mfncfieldtrips@gmail.com.

Things to know:
👕 Wear weather-appropriate clothing which may include a hat, sunscreen (or sun-protective clothing), and waterproof footwear.
🥪 Bring a lunch, snacks and water as there will be no opportunity to obtain food during the trip.
🔭 Don't forget your binoculars, scope and/or camera to capture the day!

Description: Doug will be covering many areas in the park starting with the beach and covering a number of other habitats in the park. You can expect to see shorebirds, gulls, sparrows and warblers during this peak migration time.

Presenter Bio: Doug has been fortunate to turn his lifelong fascination with nature into an exciting and varied career involving research studies, biological inventories, guiding, consulting, and education. His work has involved extensive international travel, especially during his 20 years as a senior guide with North America's top-ranked bird tour company, Field Guides Inc.

Doug has published extensively in newspapers, scientific, and popular journals, and currently authors the Weekly Bird Report for the Presqu'ile area. He was a founding member of the Ontario Field Ornithologists and the Ontario Bird Records Committee and has served on the Board of several conservation organization. Presently he is a Director of the Lone Pine Land Trust, a local group that acquires and manages land within the Cold Creek watershed.

FUTURE TRIPS

June 1 - Birding Claybank with Ken Allison. Further details to come.

MACNAMARA TRAIL UPDATE

✅The trail has been cleared of all fallen trees and is in great condition to hike and explore.
✅ Bird feeders have been taken down for the season.
🚭 No smoking sign has been posted at the entrance of the trail.

📸 If you spot anything interesting while out on the trail, don't forget to send your sightings to Roger at memberships@mfnc.ca.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

🦺 **May 5, 2024 8am-3pm - Board Replacement on Boardwalk**
We are looking for 4-6 volunteers to replace about 40 boards on the boardwalk.
➡️ We are also looking for anyone with **wheelbarrows** to help with the repair.
Volunteers should be prepared to lift heavy objects.

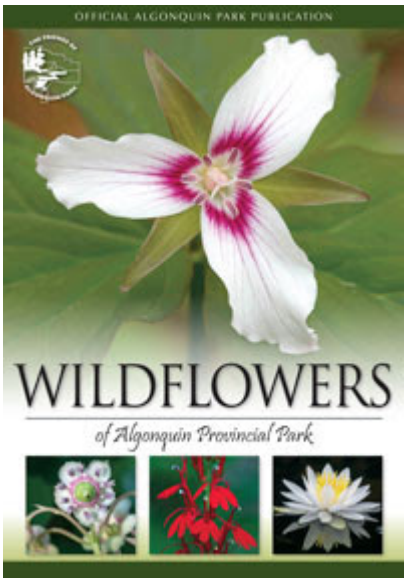
If interested, please email your availability to Barry at bgoody@sympatico.ca

THE CLUB WAS BUSY IN APRIL

See below for some of the interesting events that took place!

SPRING EPHEMERALS with MICHAEL RUNTZ

Michael gave a wonderful talk on wildflowers; entertaining his spectators with the pollinating process for each plant. His presentation included photos that can only be described as stupendous!



Participants had the opportunity to purchase Michael's book titled "Wildflowers of Algonquin Provincial Park". If you are interested in purchasing this book and were unable to make it to the meeting, you can purchase it by clicking on this link.

SALAMANDER OUTING with ELEANOR THOMSON

Participants had the privilege of seeing several salamanders, including some with interesting features!

They saw several Spotted Salamanders, a couple Blue-spotted Salamanders, a Red Eft, an adult Red-spotted Newt, a Four-Toed Salamander, and an Eastern Red-backed Salamander.

📷 SIGHTINGS 📷

Spring is upon us! Check out some of the interesting sightings submitted by members below.

Porcupine

By: Grant Smith
Where: Carp River Conservation Area
When: April 1, 2024

Canada Lynx

By: Larry's Trail Camera c/o Stephen Duff
Where: North Pakenham
When: March 27, 2024

Spring peeper

By: Linda Sewell
Where: Carp Road, North of Kinburn Side Road
When: March 13, 2024

Snow Goose (Blue morph)

By: Ritchie Lawrence
Where: Dunrobin Shores, Ottawa River
When: March 14, 2024

Evening Grosbeak (Gynandromorph)

By: Michael Runtz
Where: Algonquin Park
When: March 16, 2024

One bird with male and female characteristics. Female side on its left, and male side on its right.

Take a look at other sightings submitted by members in April here

If you'd like to submit a sighting, please email Roger at memberships@mfnc.ca with a photo and/or details of your sighting, including date and species information.
Note: Sightings may be posted on our website unless you indicate otherwise.

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Every membership counts!

✨As a member you have special access to presentations and field trips by experts in a wide range of natural history topics ✨

COST
Individual: $25
Family: $30

Renew your membership by clicking here

Not sure if your membership is current? Check with Roger at memberships@mfnc.ca

Prefer to pay by cheque? Download this form, fill it out, and mail it in to Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club P.O. Box 391 Arnprior, ON K7S 3L9

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

- Larisa W.
- Debbie F.
- Richard B.
- David L.
- Jane N.

Noteworthy Dates in May

- International Compost Awareness Month
- First week of May is Compost Awareness Week
- May 11 - World Migratory Bird Day
- May 17 - Endangered Species Day
- May 20 - World Bee Day
- May 22 - International Day for Biological Diversity
- May 23 - World Turtle Day
- May 27 - Rachel Carson Day

Check out our website and social media pages!

Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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