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

June 2024 Bulletin

🎉 MFNC's 40th Anniversary Celebration 🎉

Join us for a special evening with **Michael Runtz** and **Roy MacGregor** as we celebrate the club's 40th Anniversary.

🗓️ **DATE**: Saturday September 7, 2024
📌 **LOCATION**: St. John Chrysostom Hall, 295 Albert Street, Arnprior
🎟️ **TICKETS**: Information on how to buy tickets is coming soon! Keep your eyes peeled for a special bulletin in August.

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

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JUNE MONTHLY MEETING
🌿PLANTS AS THEY APPEAR IN NATURE - TALK AND QUIZ with ELEANOR THOMSON🌿

Date: Wednesday June 5, 2024 @ 7 p.m.
Location: Arnprior Curling Club, 5 Galvin St., Arnprior

Description: Can you tell what plant the burs on your socks came from, or would you recognize a tree from seeing its flowers? Come test your knowledge of our local wildflowers and trees. Participants in Eleanor's quiz will be placed in small teams and will try to guess the plant using less commonly noticed features. A fun and challenging way to get to know more about the plants around us and learn to recognize them at different times of year.

Presenter bio: Eleanor's sense of belonging in the 'real world' and interest in natural history go back as far as she can remember. Growing up, she spent every weekend exploring and playing in the woods around their cabin, first in the Gatineau Hills, and then in the Madawaska Highlands where she still spends much of her time, exploring, observing, discovering and learning about whatever piques her interest. As an independent field botanist, she has performed numerous botanical field inventories and species at risk surveys, and currently is working at the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa herbarium.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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.

JUNE FIELD TRIPS

🦜Birding at Clay Bank with Ken Allison🦜

Date: Saturday June 1, 2024
Time: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (approx)
Location: Clay Bank Nature Park, 1511 White Lake Road, Arnprior
Registration: Members may register for this outing by emailing Janet at mfncfieldtrips@gmail.com by May 30, 2024.

Leader Bio: Ken has been interested in the natural world his whole life. He has been a birder for more than 5 decades but worked as a botanist for most of his career. He is also interested in many groups of insects, reptiles and amphibians etc.

Ken will lead the group through the park to listen and look for birds. Bring your ears, eyes and binoculars if you have them. While the walking is fairly easy, sometimes the path is muddy so please wear appropriate footwear.

🍓Nature's Apprentice Farm Tour with Alberto Suarez-Esteban🍓

Date: Friday June 21, 2024
Location: 112 Lynx Hollow Rd, Pakenham
More details to come.

🦜Birds and Dragons at Murphy's Point with Gillian Mastromatteo and Derek Dunnett🦜

Date: Saturday June 29, 2024
Location: Murphy's Point Provincial Park
More details to come.

JULY FIELD TRIPS

Odonates at Morris Island with Art Goldsmith - *More details to come*.
Fossil hunting arranged by Bonnechere Caves and Bonnechere Museum - *More details to come.*

MACNAMARA NATURE TRAIL UPDATE

If you follow our social media pages you have probably seen that the trail has been busy over the last month.

In May, volunteers have:
✅ Installed new boardwalk signs.
✅ Replaced 46 planks on the boardwalk.
✅ Removed 27 tires.

✨The club would like to take this opportunity to thank those who volunteered to help clean and repair the trail. It's because of you that we get to enjoy this little piece of nature! ✨

📢 The club has also begun installing metals posts for the new Points of Interest project on the trail. These points of interest will highlight special features along the Macnamara Trail and should be completed by the end of June. Stay tuned for more details!

THE CLUB WAS BUSY IN MAY

Check out some of the exciting stuff that happened last month!

NORTHERN MAP TURTLES with GREG BULTE

Would anyone have ever guessed that we would be hearing about turtle sex dolls at a monthly meeting? Or that a peckish loon would try to eat one? Well, if you attended last month's meeting you would have learned how useful these dolls were in learning about turtle's mating behaviours.

Greg gave a great talk on the ecology of Northern Map Turtles. Attendees learned that these turtles will continue to move over the winter, that the females will hide from the males after mating, and that they may have social lives!

Two 3D-printed female Northern Map Turtles. You can see one (live) male turtle behind the 3D-printed female on the right.

BIRDING IN PRESQU'ILE PROVINCIAL PARK with DOUG MCRAE

The Presqu'ile trip was a great success! Participants saw a total of 75 species. Some highlights of the trip included 11 species of warbler, a large flock of flying Whimbrel, and an orange-morph of a Scarlet Tanager.

Participants also had the honour of seeing two Piping Plovers at the park. One them was nesting and the other was foraging. The latter of which came right up to the group to say hello!

(top) Piping Plover
(middle) Scarlet Tanager, orange morph
(bottom) Marsh Wren

📷Erik Pohanka

📷 SIGHTINGS 📷

See what some members have been spotting over the last month in the area!

Blanding's Turtle

By: Janet McCullough
Where: Location withheld due to species status
When: April 27, 2024

Snowshoe Hare

By: Stephen Duff
Where: Sugar Bush Road
When: April 28, 2024

Nomad Bee

By: Alberto Suarez
Where: Pakenham
When: April 28, 2024

👀**Take a look at other sightings submitted by members here**

If you'd like to submit a sighting, please email John Lawrence at johndrlawrence8@gmail.com 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.

✅Do you use iNaturalist? Any observation within 30km of Arnprior will automatically link to the club.
✅Do you use eBird? Share any checklist completed within 30km of Arnprior with **mfncbirds** and we will automatically get your sightings!

FITZROY PROVINCIAL PARK BIOBLITZ
⚠VOLUNTEERS NEEDED⚠

Fitzroy Provincial Park is looking for people with some experience identifying flora and fauna who will contribute to the understanding of the park's biodiversity on **June 8 & 9**.

Park staff will be available to provide access to all areas of the park and maps will be available for participants.

At the conclusion of the Bioblitz on Sunday there will be ice cream, refreshments, and company at the Park Store. Observations can be recorded on iNaturalist or submitted to park staff in person or via email.

The park has free campsites for out-of-town participants.

If interested, you must RSVP with Josie Grenier, Park Superintendent at Josie.Grenier@ontario.ca to participate and to reserve a campsite.

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 Magoon 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!

- Maryse L.
- Patrick L.
- Susan N.

Check out our website and social media pages!

Noteworthy Dates in June

- May 26 - June 1: Black Birder's Week
- June 1-9: World Ocean Week
- June 3-7: Canadian Environment Week
- June 5: Clean Air Day
- June 3: International Trails Day
- June 5: World Environment Day
- June 8: World Ocean Day
- June 11: Canadian Rivers Day
- June 19-25: World Pollinator Day
- June 22: World Rainforest Day

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