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# Macnamara FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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

## April 2025 Bulletin

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## APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

## From Bites to Burden: Mosquitoes and Their Diseases in the Ottawa Valley with Marc Avramov

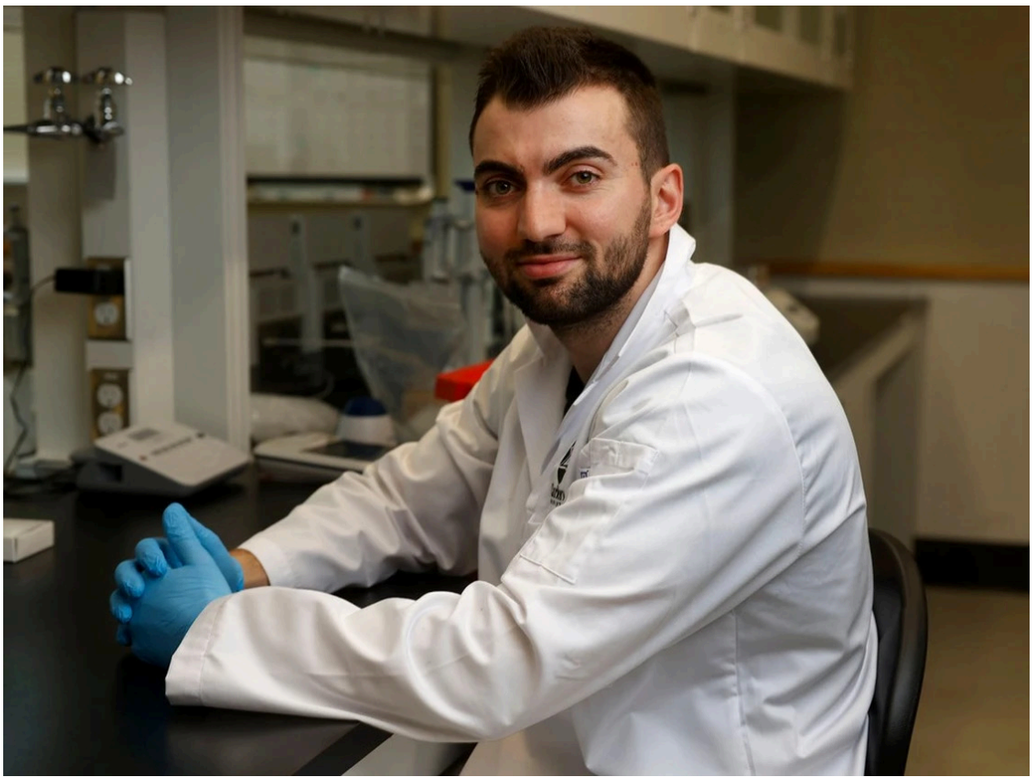
**Date**: Wednesday April 2 @ 7 p.m.
**Location**: Arnprior Curling Club, 5 Galvin St., Arnprior

Mosquito-borne pathogens are a leading cause of infectious diseases worldwide. To understand the factors associated with pathogen spread, we must first tease out what drives certain species to be present and proliferate in natural, urban, and rural localities, especially in the context of environmental change.

This talk will go over how mosquitoes transmit diseases, how we monitor them, current control programs, and how we can protect ourselves from these pests. Most importantly, we will discuss the complex yet fascinating interplay between their breeding habitats, feeding preferences, and pathogen transmission.

After working for two years (2019-2020) as a COOP student in mosquito-borne disease surveillance with the Public Health Agency of Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Marc jumped right into grad school in 2021 to study these pesky insects. Supervised by Dr. Catherine Cullingham (Carleton University), Antoinette Ludwig (Public Health Agency of Canada), and Dr. Lapen (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), his PhD work revolves around understanding the factors associated with mosquito-borne disease presence in urban, rural, and natural environments, with focus in eastern Ontario. He employs a multidisciplinary approach, utilizing landscape genomics, vector ecology, and geographical information system tools to unveil habitat and climatic conditions linked mosquito abundance and mosquito pathogen transmission. By studying the relationships between vector/host interactions and pathogen activity, Marc aims to create tools to help better track and predict mosquito, and therefore, disease hotspots.

If you can't make it in person - it's better in person, trust us, we have snacks 🍪 - you can join us via Zoom at https://zoom.us/j/4908487254.



## FUTURE MEETINGS

**May 7** - Ken Allison, Butterflies of the Ottawa Valley
**June 4** - Alexa Goodman, Environmental Sustainability

## APRIL FIELD TRIPS

🌲 Joint OFNC-MFNC Woodlot Exploration with Owen Clarkin 🌲

**Date**: Sunday April 13, 2025 @ 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.
**Location**: Private Woodlot in Cornwall

Please join us for an exploration of an 80-acre mature hardwood private forest near Cornwall with one of our favourite leaders. Trees and woody plants will be Owen's focus, but we certainly won't ignore other spring plants, lichen, birds etc. The terrain is flat but wet areas will require boots and walking poles may be a good idea for those who are unsteady on soft ground.

Bring a lunch or snacks to eat on the go. There is a conservation area close by for those who may want an early start to their day or to continue on after the outing. There are also nearby restaurants to enjoy after the outing, if you choose.

The exact address and parking information will be emailed to registered participants. As with all outings for both clubs, a waiver of liability will be required to be signed at the outing. **Registration will be open as of April 1**. No registrations will be accepted prior to that date. Participation numbers will be limited so please register promptly at mfncfieldtrips@gmail.com Please include the full names of all members in your household who will be attending no later than Thursday April 10.

# MACNAMARA NATURE TRAIL UPDATES

🍇 Although winter is trying to stick around this weekend, spring is certainly upon us. We hope that you get out to the trail and enjoy the migrants that have already arrived!

⚠️ The trail can be icy at this time of year so please be cautious and wear cleats or boot spikes to minimize slipping. Some areas may also be flooded, if you're unsure the depth of water, you should avoid that area altogether.

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## 📸 SIGHTINGS 📸

If you'd like to submit a sighting, please respond to this email 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!

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## ✨ WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS! ✨

- Bev B.
- Scott F.
- Lana C.
- Avalee Fawcett
- Caroline S.
- Leslie P.
- Larry P.

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## DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Every membership counts! Memberships are due January 1.

✨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 on the button below.**

Renew Your Membership

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

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## Check out our website and social media pages!

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## Noteworthy Dates in March

**April 3**: World Aquatic Animal Day
**April 7**: International Beaver Day
**April 17**: Bat Appreciation Day
**April 22**: Earth Day
**April 26**: Arbor Day

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Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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