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Macnamara
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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

April 2026 Bulletin

MONTHLY MEETING

🌿🐿️ Desolation to Diversity, Four Decades of Lessons Learned Restoring the Land No one Wanted with Grant Dobson🐿️🌿

Date: Wednesday April 1 @ 7 p.m.
Location: Emmanuel Anglican Church 287 Harrington Street, Arnprior
Who: Members of MFNC, non-members may attend and make a $5 donation to the club.

Grant and his wife, Dorothy, own Connaught Nursery where they grow native plants and have created a haven for wildlife from a former gravel pit. Grant's vividly illustrated talk will cover practical lessons learned through four decades of habitat restoration at Connaught.

A lifetime resident of the Ottawa Valley, Grant's professional life as an horticulturist has often mingled with volunteer passions for outdoor education and ecological restoration. After university, and while working as a canoe ranger in Algonquin Park, he founded Connaught Nursery in the early 1980s. Alongside his wife, they have operated as a full time endeavour ever since. In recent years, they have devoted more time to propagating and reintroducing rare native plant species as well as

documenting and photographing the natural history of their rural land in Central Renfrew County.

If you can't make it in person you can join us via Zoom by clicking this link: https://zoom.us/j/4908487254.

Annual General Meeting

Hopefully you have heard that this year we are having our AGM as an independent virtual meeting. If you are a member in good standing you are welcome to attend and vote in our AGM. In order to conduct our club's business we need to have a quorum of our members so please make an effort and join us for the AGM.

The meeting will be on **March 30th at 7 pm**. We anticipate it will only take 30-60 minutes to complete.

In preparation for the meeting you can find the AGM reports from the executive here: mfnc.ca. Included on that page is the Zoom link you can use to join the meeting. We hope to see you all there.

FUTURE MEETINGS

May 5 - Alexa Goodman, Sustainability
June 3 - Audrey Armstrong and Willy Waterton, Orchid Quest: Searching for Bruce and Grey's 49 Orchid Species

Monthly meetings are always on the first Wednesday of the month (except for July and August) at the Emmanuel Anglican Church.

✨ SAVE THE DATE! ✨

MFNC's annual banquet will be held on **November 7, 2026** at the Fitzroy Community Centre.

🐢 MARCH FIELD TRIPS 🐢

April 10 - Joint OFNC/MFNC Outing, Woodcock Whirl in Kanata

April 19 - Herp Outing

May 1 - Visit to Innes Point Bird Observatory

More details to follow for all outings. Look out for an email from MFNC Outings!

🌲 TRAIL UPDATE 🌲

Our volunteers have been hard at work clearing branches and trees from the trail - we truly appreciate their dedication and hard work to keep our trail looking fresh 💪

It's that time of year when the trail may be icy so we suggest that you use ice cleats whenever possible to avoid slipping.

We hope you can get out, enjoy the trail and welcome the migratory birds that have started their journey back! 🦪

📸 SIGHTINGS 📸

If you'd like to submit a sighting, please click on the button below, it will bring you to a form where you can enter your sighting and include a photo.

Submit Sighting Here!

✅ 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!

IT'S TIME 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 and for a great price! ✨

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 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

Check out our website and social media pages!

Noteworthy Dates in April

- **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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