

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

FEBRUARY 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Join a nationwide effort to count birds in February during the Great Backyard Bird Count.
- Maple sugaring time is coming soon. Plan to visit for this family-favorite program.
- Ever experienced the sound and dance of a Timberdoodle? Join us in March for a unique experience.

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GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

From February 12-15, you can be a citizen scientist and collect data on wild birds. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society as the first online citizen-

science project to gather and display data on birds in near real-time.

Now you can contribute your observations. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one or more days during the count period. You can count from the comfort of your home by watching



feeder birds, your backyard or favorite birding site. Or consider joining us at Montour Preserve for one of the following GBBC programs:

The Great Backyard Bird Count and You

Friday, Feb. 12

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

After a brief introduction to GBBC, we'll discuss basic bird identification techniques, and look at common winter feeder birds. Then we'll put these skills to work counting birds at the Visitors Center bird feeding area. We'll wrap up the program by entering the data into the GBBC online database. The program will give you all the information you need to do your own count and help us with ours. It will also give you some basic bird identification skills. Bring binoculars if you have them.

The Great Backyard Bird Count Bird Walk

Saturday, Feb. 13

10-11:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

We'll start with a brief introduction to what GBBC is, discuss basic bird identification techniques, and look at common winter birds. Then we'll put these skills to work counting birds on a walk along one of the preserve's trails. We'll wrap up the program by entering the data into the GBBC online database. The program will give you all the information you need to do your own count and help us with ours. It will also give you some basic bird identification skills. Bring binoculars if you have them and dress for time outdoors.

Montour Preserve Website

Montour Preserve now has a new website maintained by the Montour Area Recreation Commission. Here you will find information about events at Montour Preserve, pavilion reservation information, some great photographs, volunteer and donation information. Please visit the site at:

www.MontourPreserve.org.



More GBBC

The Great Backyard Bird Count for Kids

Saturday, Feb, 13

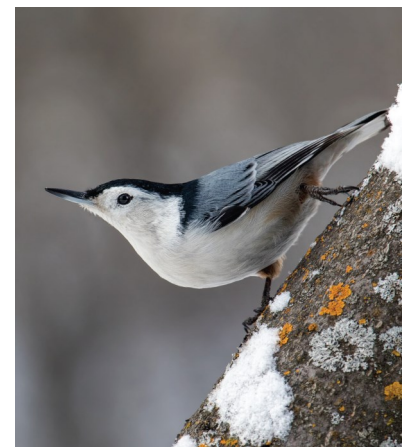
1-2 p.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

We'll explain what counting birds for the GBBC is all about and discuss basic bird identification. We'll look at common winter backyard birds and learn how to use binoculars. Then we'll spend time at the Visitors Center bird feeding area counting birds. We'll finish the program by entering the data into the GBBC online database. If you want to learn about birds and how to collect data like a scientist, then this program is for you. Bring binoculars if you have them. If not, we have some to loan.

**How many birds
will you find?**

19th Annual
Great Backyard Bird Count
February 12–15, 2016



“Those little nimble musicians of the air, that warble forth their curious ditties, with which nature hath furnished them to the shame of art.”

— Izaak Walton

Maple Sugaring

MAPLE SUGARING OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, Feb. 27

Noon to 4 p.m.

and

Sunday, March 6

Noon to 4 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

Presented by: MARC Staff & Volunteers

Programs begin on the hour (noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.) in our Environmental Education Center with a talk and film featuring the natural and cultural history of making maple sugar. Afterward, a short walk through Goose Woods takes you to the Sugar Shack to experience the sights, sounds and scents of maple sugaring. Join us for this family experience and follow the sugaring process from sap to syrup. Plan to arrive on the hour at the Environmental Education Center auditorium to enjoy the entire sugaring program. Outdoor demonstrations end at 4 p.m. Maple products will be available for purchase at the Sugar Shack. For your comfort, we suggest you dress for the weather and a short walk outdoors.



MAPLE SUGARING PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

Maple sugaring programs will be offered for schools Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 23 through March 11. Schools and home school groups can schedule a program by contacting Jon Beam at: JBeam@MontourRec.com or by calling (570) 772-4021. Please provide your name and school, number and grade(s) of students, anticipated time of arrival and contact phone number. Each maple sugaring program lasts approximately two hours. Program participants should be kindergarten age or older. Minimum group size is 10. Dress for the weather and time indoors and out.

TIMBERDOODLE TIME

Friday, March 18

7-8:30 p.m.

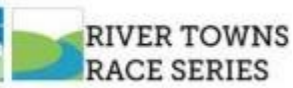
Meet in Environmental
Education Center

Presented by: Jon D. Beam,
Asst. Director, MARC

It's time for a little song and dance and you're invited to come watch and listen. This performance is unlike any you might have experienced before. It is the unique courtship ritual of the timberdoodle (a.k.a. the American woodcock). An indoor talk will focus on the natural history and behavior of this unusual bird. Afterward, we

will go outdoors to watch and hear the ancient song and dance of the "timberdoodle." Then it's back inside to wrap up with information on woodcock conservation issues. Dress for the weather and be prepared to spend some time outdoors.





Montour Area Recreation Commission

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For more information about MARC

Projects, visit: <http://montourrec.com/>

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is a group of mostly volunteers, committed to providing the best possible recreation facilities for the people of Montour County and the area serviced by the Danville Area School District (DASD). We are people who live and work here and recognize the vast resources the area has to offer. We are interested in helping to create a great place to live, work and raise a family. We hold monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month (except July) at 7:00 pm at the Environmental Education Center of Montour Preserve at 700 Preserve Road, Danville – that are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.



Donations are still needed to help operate and maintain Montour Preserve. To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.CSGiving.org. Look for the “Montour Area Recreation Commission – Montour Preserve Fund.”

Pavilion Reservations

Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) will begin taking reservations for pavilions at Montour Preserve. Fees will be as follows:

Goose Cove #1 — \$100/day

Goose Cove #2 — \$75/day

or \$30/ half day

Goose Cove #3 — \$75/day

Goose Cove Overlook — \$75/day or \$30/ half day

Heron Cove A — \$100/day

Heron Cove B — \$75/day

Each pavilion offers tables, electric, water, charcoal grill and easy access to playground equipment and restroom facilities.

To reserve a pavilion visit: <http://MontourPreserve.org/pavilions/> to review the online

calendar of reservations for available dates. Contact MARC at (570) 336-2060 or Support@MontourPreserve.org to schedule your reservation.

As in the past, if a pavilion is not reserved for a specific day and time, it is available on a first come first served basis.