

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

AUTUMN 2016

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

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Nature Watch

The color change of leaves on **deciduous trees** is the highlight of October in Pennsylvania. This leaf change creates a visual splendor in Penn's Woods as trees make the transition to a dormant state for the winter. Each year brings a unique blend of colors, offering a brilliant end to a long and productive growing season. With over 100 species of trees native to Penn's Woods it's no wonder our forests display such a variety of colors.

From late October into November, **Red-tailed**

hawks are moving south. Look overhead on a warm autumn day for a "kettle" of redtails



circling in a bubble of rising air. Wild **Canada Geese** migrate in November (except for resident birds). **Witch Hazel** blooms near the middle of the month in our forests. Waterfowl migration peaks during late November into

mid-December and **Tundra Swans** often make a brief appearance.

Male **Great Horned Owls** begin to establish their territories in December. Listen for their "Who's awake? Me too" calls on frosty nights. Later this month look for the moth-like flight of **Short-eared Owls** over grassy fields just before sunset. Keep a close look out for a possible Arctic visitor, **Snowy Owl**. One could show up this winter.

Sky Watch

Look for the **Orionid Meteor Shower** to peak in the early morning hours of October 21st and possibly on the following morning or two. A waning gibbous moon will hinder observation somewhat. In Novem-

ber, **Venus** is visible at dusk all month. **Mars** is visible in the early evening above and left of Venus. **Saturn** is visible at dusk through November 20. **Full Moon** is on November 14; **New Moon** on the 29th. December's

Full Moon is on the 13th and **New Moon** on the 29th. The **Winter Solstice** is on December 21 at 5:44 a.m. EST. The **Geminid Meteor Shower** peaks on the evening of December 13 but, unfortunately, will be hidden by the full moon.

Autumn Walk



Autumn is upon us and with it come many changes. Join us for a walk on one of the preserve's trails to explore some of the changes that happen to flora and fauna as nature begins to

slow down. We'll look at plants, insects, birds and much more as we discuss how they cope with the changes of shorter days and cooling temperatures. Comfortable walking shoes and binoculars are suggested for the walk.

AUTUMN RAMBLE

Saturday, October 22

10-11:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Presented by:

Jon D. Beam

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

— William Cullen Bryant,
Indian Summer

Folk Music Concert

Armed with two guitars, claw-hammer banjo, a fiddle and baritone vocals, Jay Smar serves his audience an "acoustic buffet" of traditional American and original folk, old-time mountain music, bluegrass and gospel tunes. He is becoming increasingly well-known for his

preservation of coal mining songs of Northeast Pennsylvania. Join us for an enjoyable cultural and musical afternoon you won't forget. Note: Although the concert is free of charge, we would appreciate donations to help offset the cost of the concert.

JAY SMAR

IN CONCERT

Sunday, October 23

2-3:30 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

Presented by:

**Jay Smar,
Singer-Songwriter**



photo by Jacqueline Dormer of the Republican Newspaper

Autumn Birds

The fall bird migration began several months ago, but birds are still moving through. Raptors and waterfowl are good possibilities to observe this time of year. Join us for an autumn bird walk to explore resident birds as well as any migrants that might have stopped over or are pass-

ing through. We'll spend time walking the preserve trails and take a look at the lake for whatever birds happen to be there. Dress for the weather and plan for some easy walking. Binoculars and a field guide will be helpful if you have them.



Autumn Bird Walk

Saturday, Nov. 12

9:30-11 a.m.

**Meet in Environmental
Education Center**

Led by: Jon D. Beam



The annual autumn waterfowl migration is under way. This provides a great opportunity to observe ducks, geese and other wa-

Migrating Waterfowl

ter birds while they stop at lakes and ponds for a time before moving farther south for the winter. The program will begin on one corner of the lake and make our way to one or two additional sites. Dress for the weather and plan for some walking. Bring binoculars or a spotting scope and a field guide if available.

Wings Over Water

Saturday, December 10

10-11:30 a.m.

**Meet at Goose Cove
Overlook**

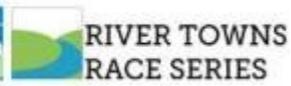
Led by: Jon D. Beam

Hunting Season

The annual hunting seasons are upon us. Just a reminder that Montour Preserve is

closed to hunting. The former PPL hunting land is still open for public hunting as well as nearby State Gamelands. Please hunt safely and re-

sponsibly. For more information on hunting in Pennsylvania, visit: <http://www.pgc.pa.gov>



Montour Area Recreation Commission

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For more information about MARC Projects, visit: <http://montourec.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 Montour Preserve, 700 Preserve Road, Danville. Meetings are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.

Pavilion Reservations

Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is now accepting reservations for the 2017 season.

Fees will be as follows:

Goose Cove #1 — \$100/day

Goose Cove #2 — \$75/day or \$30/ half day

Goose Cove #3 — \$75/day or \$30/ half 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://](http://MontourPreserve.org/pavilions/)

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.

Visitors Center Hours

The Montour Preserve Visitors' Center / Environmental Education Center is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Saturday from mid-February through mid-December. It is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday during the winter season (mid-December

through mid-February). The building will be open at additional times for programs and special events.

