



Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

AUTUMN 2017

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 to the east-south-east for the **Orionid Meteor Shower** to peak in the early morning hours between October 20 and 22. Best viewing will be from 2 a.m. till dawn. Watch for Mercury and Saturn 20-30m minutes after sunset between November 10 and 24 as

they move closer together low in the southwest. **Venus** is visible in the east-south-east at dawn. **Full Moon** is on the 3rd; **New Moon** on the 18th. December's **Full Moon** is on the 3rd and **New Moon** on the 18th. Look for **Mercury** and **Saturn** low in the southeast

about a half hour after sunset on December 1. The **Geminid Meteor Shower** peaks on the night of December 13-14. After 10 p.m. there is the possibility of seeing an average of a meteor a minute under a moonless sky. The **Winter Solstice** is on December 21 at 11:28 a.m. EST.

Shinrin-Yoku Forest

Hike

Saturday, October 14

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Led by Beth Jones, Forest Therapy Guide



*"In every walk
with nature one
receives far more
than he seeks."*

—John Muir

Slow down and immerse yourself in Nature. Shinrin-Yoku is a term that means “taking in the forest atmosphere” or “forest bathing.” Through a short (under ½ mile) hike led by a trained Forest Therapy Guide, you will experience the forest through a slow walk in a natural setting, interspersed with various invitations that will help you to fully experience your surroundings using all your senses. This will be a truly unique experience in the outdoors. Please bring a bottle of water for the hike.

Guides are trained by The Association of Nature and Forest Therapy, which was established in the U.S. in 2010 to help people build deep relationships with nature to improve wellness for people, wellness for the forests and wellness for the world. For more information on Shinrin-Yoku hikes and the health benefits of spending time in the outdoors, visit www.natureandforesttherapy.org



Fossils

Saturday, October 21

10-11:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Presented by: Jon D. Beam

Fossils are windows to the past and are fun to find. We'll start indoors with a presentation on fossils and fossil formation, then look specifically at fossils of Montour County. Before we make a trip to the Preserve's Fossil Pit, we will address tips on how to find fossils. Although no supplies are necessary, a mason's hammer can be useful to split rocks as well as small plastic bags to store fossils you find. This is a program for all ages. Dress for the weather and time outdoors.



Wildlife Art Expo

Saturday, Nov. 11

Noon to 4 p.m.

& Sunday, Nov. 12

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

Pennsylvania is home to a wide variety of wildlife, which in turn is the inspiration to wildlife artists. Join us to enjoy the skill of these artists as they display the wild outdoors captured in photos, oils, pen and ink, and wood. It might be a strutting turkey, a sun-dappled rainbow trout or a white-tailed buck slipping through an autumn forest. It could be a hawk riding a west wind or a colorful songbird picking berries from a bush. This is a great opportunity to get a close look at original art, meet the artists behind the creations and pick up a few ideas for your own artistic side.

Wings Over Water

Saturday, December 2

10-11:30 a.m.

Meet at Goose Cove

Overlook

Led by: Jon D. Beam



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



Happy Holidays



The staff of Montour Area Recreation Commission wishes everyone a safe and happy holiday season. We appreciate your support of the preserve and your attendance at programs. We look forward to seeing you at the preserve in the coming months.



RIVER TOWNS
RACE SERIES

Montour Area Recreation Commission

Bob Stoudt, Director

Jon Beam, Assistant Director

Dennis Piatt, Trail Maintenance
Technician

PO Box 456 Danville, PA 17821

Phone: 570-336-2060

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, 374 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 2018 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.

