

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

AUTUMN 2019

**SPECIAL
 POINTS OF
 INTEREST:**

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Nature Watch

As cooler temperatures arrive, many of our summer birds slip away to the south. Since they travel at night, we rarely see them, except when a large flock spends a day in our area before moving on.

From late October into November, **Red-tailed Hawks** are migrating. Look overhead on a warm autumn day for a "kettle" of redtails circling in a bubble of rising air. Other raptors also move through on their way south.

Look for the V's of wild **Canada Geese** as they migrate in November (except for resident



birds). You might also see the more wavy lines of **Snow Geese** passing overhead.

The yellow flowers of **witch Hazel** bloom near the middle of the

month in our forests.

Waterfowl migration extends from late October into December with changes in numbers and species almost daily during the peak.

Male **Great Horned Owls** establish territories in November and December. Listen for their "Who's awake? Me too" calls on autumn nights. Later in December look for the moth-like flight of **Short-eared Owls** over grassy fields just before sunset.

Sky Watch

Venus is quite bright but very low on the horizon after sunset in October. On the 3rd, the waxing crescent moon is just to the upper left of **Jupiter** in the southwest. Look to the east-south-east for the **Orionid Meteor Shower** to peak in the early morning hours of October 22. October's

Full Moon is on the 13th and **New Moon** on the 27th. **Venus** is low in the evening sky in early November and becomes higher throughout the month. A waxing crescent moon shines on either side of **Saturn** on November 1 and 2. **New Moon** is on the 12th; **Full Moon** on the 26th.

On December 6th, about 45 minutes after sunset, **Saturn, Venus** and **Jupiter** form a roughly diagonal line in the southwest. December's **Full Moon** is also on the 12th and **New Moon** the 26th. The **Gemini Meteor Shower** peaks in the early hours of the 14th with an average of up to a meteor per minute.



A NIGHT IN PENN'S WOODS



**Saturday, September 28
5:30-7 p.m.
Meet in Environmental Education
Center
Presented by: Fred Gast,
Avid Outdoorsman**

What might turn a great day in the woods into an unplanned night in the woods? Or worse! There have been many news stories lately of people who have found themselves unexpectedly outdoors overnight or for a few nights. Learn the statistics of what is most likely to go wrong to get you in such a situation and how to plan to avoid an uncomfortable and potentially life-threatening time outdoors. We'll also discuss how some simple gear can keep you warm and safe in an unexpected situation.

“Autumn is a
second spring
when every leaf is
a flower.”
— Albert Camus

COLORS OF AUTUMN HIKE

**Saturday, October 19
9-10:30 a.m.
Meet in Environmental Education
Center
Led by Jon D. Beam**



Pennsylvania's deciduous forests put on a colorful display each autumn. Every year the fall foliage is unique in its color. What will this year bring? Join us for a walk through the autumn woods as we enjoy a fall morning and discuss autumn's changes and the hows and whys of leaf change as trees prepare for the winter months.



NIGHT WINGS

**Friday, October 25
7-8 p.m.**

**Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Jon D. Beam**

Let's celebrate Bat Week, an international celebration of the role of bats in nature. Join us to explore the myths and misconceptions about bats. We'll discuss the role of bats in the environment and the current status of the bat population. We'll also take a closer look at some of Pennsylvania's bats and what you can do to help them. Come get batty with us!



WILDLIFE ART EXPO

**Saturday, Nov. 9
Noon to 4 p.m.
& Sunday, Nov. 10
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Environmental Education Center

The wide variety of Pennsylvania wildlife is inspiration for 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 or possibly an early Christmas present.

WINGS OVER WATER

**Saturday, November 23
and
December 7
9-10:30 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 the 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.





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 4th Monday of each month (except July) at 7:00 pm at the DRIVE conference room, Montour County building, 114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 103, Danville, PA 17821 – that are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.

Bob Stoudt, Director
Jon Beam, Assistant Director
Dennis Piatt, Trail Maintenance Technician
Lesley Yeich, Assistant Trail Maintenance Technician
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For more information about MARC Projects, visit: <http://montourrec.com/>

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://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 is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Saturday from mid-February through mid-November. It is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday – Friday during

the winter season (mid-November through mid-February). The building will be open at additional times for programs and special events.

