

**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.

Sky Watch

On the nights of October 13-15, the Moon passes below the planets **Saturn and Jupiter**. Look to the east-south-east for the **Orionid Meteor Shower** to peak in the early morning hours of October 20-21. October's **New Moon** is on the 6th and **Full Moon** on the 20th.

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.



On December 4th, **Venus** is at its brightest as the evening star. December's **New Moon** the 4th; **Full Moon** is on the 18th. The **Geminid Meteor Shower** peaks in the early hours of the 14th with an average of up to a meteor per minute. Winter arrives at 8:59 a.m., the moment of the **Winter Solstice**.

Venus is low in the evening sky in early November and becomes higher throughout the month. Mercury shines below the moon in the dawn twilight on November 3. **New Moon** is on the 4th. About 4 a.m. on November 19 there will be a **partial lunar eclipse** of the full moon.

TREES OF AUTUMN HIKE

**Saturday, October 23
9-10:30 a.m.
Meet in the Environmental
Education Center
Led by Jon D. Beam, Naturalist**



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 color and drop as trees prepare for the winter months. This will be an easy walk with stops along the way. Dress for the weather.

*"How beautiful the
leaves grow old. How
full of light and color
are their last days." —*

John Burroughs



HOOT 'N' HOLLER

**Friday, November 5
7-8:30 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Jon D. Beam, Naturalist**

Owls are creatures of mystery and magic, both feared and revered by ancient cultures. Today these winged hunters of the night are still cloaked in mystery and superstition. Join us to explore the legend, lore and natural history of owls. We'll discuss adaptations, identification and behavior of local species. We'll spend time indoors, then step outside to try our hand at calling an owl. We'll hoot 'n' holler and listen to find out if any owls hoot back. Join us for a fun, family evening. Dress for time outdoors and an easy walk. We ask that you please wear a mask for the indoor portion of the program.



WILDLIFE ART EXPO

Saturday, Nov. 13

Noon to 4 p.m.

& Sunday, Nov. 14

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.

WATERBIRDS

Saturday, December 4

8:30-10:30 a.m.

**Meet at Goose Cove
Overlook**

Led by: Jon D. Beam



The annual autumn waterfowl migration is under way and Lake Chillisquaque is often a stop off point along the migration route. This presents a great opportunity to observe ducks, geese and other water birds while they visit at 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. Binoculars or a spotting scope and a field guide will be helpful, but we will have a scope to share.

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is a volunteer-led organization, committed to providing the best possible outdoor recreational facilities for the people of Montour County and the surrounding region. We live and work here and are dedicated to creating a great place to live, work, play, learn, and raise a family.

MARC's meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month (except July and December) at 7:00 pm in the Montour Preserve's Environmental Education Center auditorium (as allowed by COVID-19 meeting restrictions). For meeting agendas and more information, please visit: <https://montourec.com/marc-meeting-agendasminutes/>.



PO Box 456 Danville, PA 17821

Phone: 570-336-2060 | Email: RStoudt@MontourRec.com or JBeam@MontourRec.com
www.MontourRec.com

Pavilion Reservations

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is accepting reservations for pavilions at Montour Preserve. Fees are 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

Pavilions offer tables, electric, water, charcoal grills, and easy access to playground equipment and restrooms.

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.



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.