

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2018

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nature Watch
- Sky Watch
- Spring Programs
- Other Preserve Information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Birding Basics 2
- Wildflower Walk 2
- Geology of Susquehanna River 3
- What's Bugging Your Trees? 3
- Pond Critters 4
- Paddling at the Preserve 5
- Pavilions 6



Nature Watch

April brings color to our forests in the form of spring **woodland wildflowers**. They typically reach their peak by late April, fading before trees grow new leaves. Warmer temperatures and spring showers coax Trout Lily, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches, Wood Anemone, trilliums and others to rise above the forest floor.

Warming water temperatures prompt **Painted turtles** to sun themselves along pond edges in April.



Sky Watch

In the early morning hours of April 2, look in the south-southeast for **Saturn** and **Mars** very close together. Look for the **Lyrid Meteor Shower** to peak in the late night/early morning hours of April 22-23. **New Moon** occurs on April 15th and **Full**

Woodland warblers return or pass through beginning in late April and into May. Some will stay to nest while others continue moving north.

Adult **mayflies** emerge from streams and rivers, often in large numbers in May, providing food not only for fish, but also for predatory insects and insect-eating birds.

The snoring calls of **Pickereel Frogs** and the banjo-like *plunks* of **Green Frogs** appear in ponds by May. You might also hear the high

trills of **American Toads** often after a spring rain as they gather in ponds to mate and lay eggs.

June is **summer wildflower** time. Flowers bloom in field and edge habitats basking in the warm sun. Look for Brown-eyed Susan, Yarrow, Indian Paintbrush, Daisies, and Orange Hawkweed.

The insect season begins in June. **Fireflies** begin flashing their lanterns on summer evenings. **Mosquitoes** appear and, so too, do **dragonflies** along ponds.

and Full Moon on the 29th. Venus appears above a thin crescent moon on June 15 after sunset. Jupiter is high overhead through June. Venus climbs higher after sunset. June's **New Moon** is on the 13th and Full Moon on the 27th.

Moon on the 29th. May brings Venus shining brightly in the west-northwest less than an hour after sunset. From May 17-19 look in the western sky an hour after sunset to see a crescent moon moving through Gemini. May's new moon is on the 15th

BIRDING BASICS

**Saturday, April 7
8:30-10:30 a.m.
Meet in Environmental
Education Center
Presented by: Jon D. Beam**



If you have considered joining the ranks of bird watchers, but aren't sure how to begin or if you are a beginner who would like to improve your skills, then join us to learn some tips and techniques. We'll discuss basic gear, ten tips for better birding and tips for better bird identification. We'll also talk about birding in the digital age. We'll end the program with a walk outdoors to look at and identify birds.

"I am going to try to pay attention to the spring. I am going to look around at all the flowers, and look up at the hectic trees. I am going to close my eyes and listen."

—Anne Lamott

WOODLAND WILDFLOWER WALK



**Saturday, April 21
1:30-3 p.m.
Meet in Environmental Education
Center
Led by: Jon D. Beam**

The delicate beauty of spring woodland wildflowers brings a special touch to our woodlands. These early bloomers have some unique adaptations that allow them to sprout and bloom in a mad dash. These wildflowers are among the first signs that spring is truly here. Join us on an exploratory walk through the preserve's woodlands to discover the beauty, facts and folklore of spring wildflowers.

GEOLOGY OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

Saturday, April 28

1:30 -3 p.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Presented by: Fred Gast



The Susquehanna River has influenced many generations of people living in our area. The River supplies much of the fresh water to the Chesapeake Bay, flowing through three states. This river as we know it today was not always this way. It has changed much through time and has been greatly influence by the geology of the land. Join us to learn the fascinating story of how the Susquehanna River has been shaped and how it came to be as it is today.



WHAT'S BUGGING OUR TREES?

Sunday, April 29

2-3 p.m.

Environmental Education Center Auditorium

Presented by: Montour County Master Gardeners

Join Montour County Master Gardeners to learn about the latest invasive species, the Spotted Lantern Fly, and how you can help in limiting its spread through Pennsylvania. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your home gardening questions as well. Master Gardener volunteers support Penn State Extension's educational programs in consumer horticulture. They develop their horticultural expertise through participation in educational training classes conducted by Penn State University faculty and Extension staff.

POND CRITTERS

Saturday, June 9

9-10:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Center

Presented by: Jon D. Beam



Ponds are fascinating places. Below the water's surface is a world often unseen by most people. It is a fascinating world of insects, amphibians, reptiles and fish. Above the water of the pond is a world abuzz with life. Join us as we explore the waters of one of the preserve's ponds to examine what lives above and below the waters. We'll do some sampling and spend some time sorting through what we find. We'll discuss the different critters and talk about how they make their living. The program is for all ages, but best suited for ages 8 and older. Plan on getting muddy and wet.



Montour Preserve Address Change

Please note: Columbia-Montour County EMS has changed the street address of Montour Preserve. It is now 374 Preserve Road. We're still in the same place but with a new address.



PADDLING AT THE PRESERVE

There are several opportunities this spring and summer to paddle on Lake Chillisquaque, even if you don't own a canoe, kayak or stand-up paddle board.

Canoe Susquehanna LLC is offering a public guided paddling event at Montour Preserve's lake Chillisquaque on **Saturday, May 12** beginning at 1 p.m. Meet Allan, Betsy and Jeremy Quant near the boat ramp for up to three hours of paddling instruction, exploring the nooks and crannies of the Lake, & trying out new styles of paddling such as Stand Up Paddle-boards. Everything is included for just \$35 per person. (\$25 if you use your own gear.) *Proceeds benefit Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC).* Reservations are required. Trips include paddling equipment, entertaining instruction, shuttle in fun bus, digital download of trip pics, snacks, water, water blasters, dry bags, & lots of historical & natural history info.

Conditions may change a scheduled trip, so check our website's Calendar of Trips for up-to-date info. Go to PaddleHappy.com for more information. Email betsy@PaddleHappy.com or phone 570-524-7692 to reserve your water adventure. (gps meet location is 41.103483, -76.654574)

Cate and Ron of **Susquehanna Kayaks** are planning for sunny skies and warmer weather. They plan to set up a demo/rental activity and will be offering kayak and stand-up paddle board rentals and lessons at Montour Preserve's Lake Chillisquaque on the following dates:

Sunday, May 27

Saturday, June 9

Saturday, August 18

For more information, contact Cathy "Cate" Wenrich, Ron Kaiser or Gary Ballina at Susquehanna Kayaks: susquehannakayakssupboards@gmail.com.

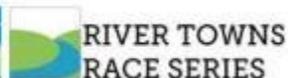
Pavilion Reservations

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.



Montour Area Recreation

Bob Stoudt, Director

Jon Beam, Assistant Director

Dennis Piatt, Trail Maintenance Technician

PO Box 456 Danville, PA 17821

Phone: 570-336-2060

Email: RStoudt@MontourRec.com

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

