



Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Join us for explorations of nature indoors and out as the seasons change.
- If you enjoy wildlife there are some upcoming programs you might enjoy.

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Nature Watch



April typically brings a magical happening to our forests: spring **woodland wildflowers**. They usually reach their peak by late April, fading before trees grow new leaves. Each year is very different as snow melts and the sun warms the soil to 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. Watch for the cold tolerant **garter snakes**, also.

Woodland warblers return or pass through beginning as early as mid-April and into May. Some will nest here while others continue moving north.

Insects begin hatching and emerging, providing food for fish and also for predatory insects and insect-eating birds.

The snoring calls of **Pickereel Frogs** and the banjo-like *plunks* of **Green Frogs** issue from 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 the start of **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 Hawkweeds.

Fireflies begin flashing their lanterns on June evenings. **Mosquitoes** appear and, so too, do **dragonflies** and damselflies along ponds.

Sky Watch



Venus is low in the eastern sky at dawn in April. New Moon is April 5th; **Full Moon** April 19th. Mars appears in the west after twilight. The Lyrid Meteor Shower is on the night of April 21-22 but the recent full moon interferes somewhat with viewing. In May, Venus rises

about an hour before sunrise all month. On May 2nd try to find a very thin crescent moon near Venus. Mars appears in the dusk after sunset and sets 2-3 hours later. The Eta Aquariid Meteor Shower can provide some spectacular fireballs. Look to the east 2-3 hours be-

fore dawn on May 6. May's New Moon is on the 4th and Full Moon on the 18th. Venus is the morning star in June, rising about an hour before the sun. Jupiter rises in the east after sunset earlier each day as the month progresses. New Moon is on the 3rd and Full Moon on the 17th.



TIMBERDOODLE TIME

Saturday, March 30

7-8:30 p.m.

**Meet in Environmental
Education Center**

Presented by: Jon Beam, Assistant Director MARC

You're invited for a little song and dance in a performance unlike any you might have experienced before: the unique courtship ritual of the American woodcock. An indoor talk will focus on the natural history and behavior of this unusual bird. Afterward, we'll go outdoors to look and listen for the ancient song and dance of the "timberdoodle." Dress for the weather and be prepared to spend some time outdoors.

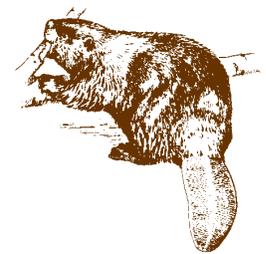
MAMMALS OF PENNSYLVANIA

Saturday, April 20

10-11 am.

Environmental Education Center

**Presented by: Ron Beach, Artist & Out-
doorsman**



How many mammals are found in PA? Do any mammals fly? Can mammals be found in water? Join us for a presentation that will feature skulls from some of our state mammals followed by a slide presentation on some common species of mammals. This will be a great program for children as well as adults.

"At last came the golden month of the wild folk — honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year."

— Samuel Scoville Jr., Wild Folk



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Thursday, April 25

6-7:30 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

**Presented by: Jared Turner, State Game
Warden**

A deadly disease is affecting white-tailed deer in Pennsylvania. Join us to learn where it has been found, the symptoms and severity of the disease and its impact on statewide deer hunting.

SPRING BIRD WALK

**Saturday, May 4
8:30-10 a.m.**

**Meet in Environmental Education Center
Led by: Jon Beam, Assistant Director MARC**



Many of our summer resident birds have returned and are getting ready to nest and raise young. Some more northern birds are still passing through. Join us as we venture out on preserve trails to look and listen for a variety of spring birds. Dress for the weather, some walking and bring binoculars if you have them.



HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE

Saturday, May 18

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Environmental Education Center
Organized by: Derek Spitler, HTE Instructor**

This course is designed to produce safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters and trappers. It includes instruction in basic techniques plus a host of hunting, trapping and outdoor skills designed to enhance a new participant's knowledge and enjoyment of wildlife and our hunting and trapping heritage. Participants must be at least 11 years of age to enroll in a course. Please register early because space in this course is limited. To register go to www.pgc.state.pa.us/ and find the hunter education calendar. There is a home-study portion of the course that must be completed before the classroom session. Please bring a lunch.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD

**Saturday, June 8
11 a.m.-Noon**

**Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Carol Burke, PA Master Gardener**



Not all insects with pretty wings are good insects. While butterflies and moths are a sight to behold and enjoy, there is one colorful insect that is invading Pennsylvania. Join us to learn about pollinator gardening and plants that attract butterflies and bees. Then learn about the Spotted Lanternfly and the potential damage it will do when it reaches us. If there is some interest, we can walk outside to the butterfly garden.

BASIC BOATING COURSE

Sunday, June 9

9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

Presented by: WCO Jacob Bennett



The PA Fish & Boat Commission's PA Basic Boating Course was developed to supply boaters with practical information so they can make better informed decisions on the water. Instructors provide students with information to help them reduce the risk of injury and conflict on the water. Boating Safety Education Certificates are required for all operators of personal watercraft, regardless of age, and for boat operators born after January 1, 1982 that operate motorboats of more than 25 horsepower. Students who successfully complete this course may apply for a Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the Commission. **Pre-registration required. Contact: RStoudt@MontourRec.com or 570-336-2060.**



NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday, June 15

1-4 p.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Led by: Shane Kiefer, Photographer

Nature and photography just go together. And what better place to take your camera than Montour Preserve? If you have ever wanted to learn more about how best to take nature photos, then join us for a fun and informative afternoon with your camera. No matter whether you want to photograph quickly-moving wildlife, get up close and personal with insects, or capture the natural beauty of landscapes, this workshop will provide something for you. Join area photographer Shane Kiefer to learn more about your camera settings, the natural world around you, and how to better utilize your camera in nature. The workshop is ideal for aspiring amateur photographers or young photographers interested in the environment. DSLR cameras are preferred, but we can accommodate any type of camera. **Pre-registration is recommended**, email srk017@bucknell.edu to sign up.

COYOTES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Wednesday, June 26

6-7:30 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

Presented by: Jared Turner, State Game Warden



Coyotes are elusive and adaptive creatures. They have been in Pennsylvania for many years now. Unfortunately, they often have a bad reputation. Join us to learn about the natural history of coyotes and the real facts about coyotes and how they impact the environment.

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 third Monday of each month (except July & December) at 7:00 pm. All meetings will begin at 7:00pm in the DRIVE conference room, 17 Woodbine Lane, Danville.

Meetings are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.



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Donations are always welcome to help defray operating and maintenance costs at Montour Preserve. To make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit www.CSGiving.org. Look for the "Montour Area Recreation Commission – Montour Preserve Fund."



Pavilion Reservations

Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is now accepting reservations for the 2019 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.