



Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2022

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Join us for explorations of nature indoors and out as the seasons change.
- This year marks the 50th anniversary of Montour Preserve.

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Nature Watch



April typically brings a magical happening to our forests: spring **woodland wildflowers**. They reach their peak between mid to late April, fading before trees grow 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 in early 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 **Pickerel 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** season. 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



On April 4 & 5, look for **Mars and Saturn** close to the right of Venus in the morning sky. **New Moons** are April 1st and 30th; **Full Moon** April 16th. The Lyrid Meteor Shower will be at its peak on the morning of April 22. Bright Venus and Jupiter will appear at their closest in the

morning Sky on April 30 and May 1.

May's **Full Moon** is on the 16th. It will provide a **total lunar eclipse** beginning at 10:28 p.m. on May 15 and lasting 84 minutes. Totality will be at 12:12 a.m. on May 16. **New Moon** will be on the 30th.

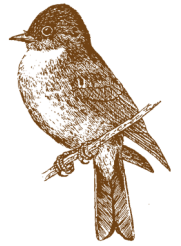
June's Full Moon is on the 13th and **New Moon** is on the 28th. This full moon is sometimes known as the Short-Night Moon because it is visible for the shortest time of any night of the year, lasting only 9 hours and 7 minutes compared to 15 hours and 48 minutes in December.

EARLY BIRD WALK

Saturday, April 16

8:30-10 a.m.

**Meet in Environmental Education Center
Led by: Jon Beam, Asst. Director/Naturalist
MARC**



With the change of seasons comes a change in the bird community. Winter migrants are returning to their summer nesting grounds. Join us as we search for early migrants and year-round resident birds. We'll walk one of the preserve's trails at an easy pace to look and listen for bird activity. Dress for the weather. Binoculars will be helpful.



BALD EAGLES OF MONTOUR PRESERVE

Saturday, April 30

9-10:30 a.m.

**Environmental Education Center
Led by: Jon Beam, Asst. Director/Naturalist MARC**

For a number of years, a pair of Bald Eagles has been nesting at Montour Preserve. Join us as we explore the history of these birds and the natural history of Bald Eagles in Pennsylvania. We will begin indoors with a short program and then go outdoors for a walk to one of the Preserve's observation blinds to look for the eagles and any other wildlife we might encounter.



SPRING BIRD WALK

Saturday, May 7

8:30-10 a.m.

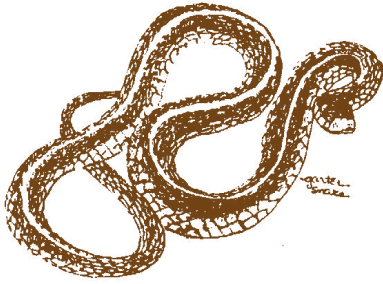
**Meet in Environmental Education Center
Led by: Jon Beam, Asst. Director/Naturalist MARC**

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.

"Blossom by blossom
the spring begins."
— *Algernon Charles
Swinburne*

"Spring unlocks the
flowers to paint the
laughing soil."

— *Bishop Reginald
Heber*



SNAKES OF PENNSYLVANIA

Saturday, May 14

1-2 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

**Presented by: Jacob Angstadt-Bennett,
Waterways Conservation Officer,
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission**

Curious about animals that slither on their bellies and stick their tongues out? Then join us for this look at PA snakes. Using live animals, the talk will cover the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. It will cover basic biology and habits of snakes as well as survival strategies. There could even be an opportunity to handle a live snake. This will be a fascinating program for all ages.

BASIC BOATING COURSE

Sunday, May 15

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

**Presented by: Jacob Angstadt-Bennett, Waterways Conservation Officer,
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission**



This course was developed to supply boaters with practical information so they can make better informed decisions on the water. It is taught by Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission employees and certified volunteer instructors. This course will be held indoors; there will no on-the-water activity.

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required for all operators of personal watercraft, regardless of age, and for boat operators born on or 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.

This course presents information on boating and water safety and contains six chapters followed by a 50-question multiple-choice test. A passing grade of 80% must be achieved. Instructors provide course materials to the students.

There is no fee to attend this course, but a \$10 fee will be charged for those wishing to receive a Boating Safety Education Certificate.

To register for this course, please email Bob Stoudt, MARC Director, at RStoudt@MontourRec.com. Please provide the student's name, age as of May 15, 2022, mailing address, phone number, email address, and parent/guardian's contact information (for students under 18).

To learn more about this course, please visit

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Boat/BoatingCourses/Pages/default.aspx>



FASCINATING FOSSILS
Saturday, June 4
9 – 10:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Jon Beam, Asst. Director/Naturalist MARC

Montour Preserve is known for its Fossil Pit and many people have spent time searching for fossils there. If you would like to learn more about how fossils are formed and the types of fossils at the Preserve, then join us for this informative program. We will start indoors with a short presentation on fossils. Following that, we will make our way to the fossil pit for a collecting session.

THE POWER OF POLLINATORS
Saturday, June 18
1– 4 p.m.

Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Penn State Extension Master Gardeners
of Montour County



Pollinators are of critical importance to our lives. We depend on them for countless vegetables, fruits and nuts. Unfortunately, pollinator populations are in decline. Join us for this fun and enlightening event on the “power of pollinators.” There will be several informative stations for children and adults to learn about the importance of pollinators. These will include crafts, a beekeeper showing how a bee hive works, a talk at the pollinator garden, a movie about pollinators and planting a pollinator plant. The Penn State Master Gardeners will also have volunteers available to answer any garden-related questions. Food trucks will be on site as well.



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Sunday, June 19
3–8 p.m.

Presented by: Montour Area Recreation Commission Staff

June 19 marks the anniversary of the day Montour Preserve was fully staffed and open to the public 50 years ago. MARC invites you to join us for a celebration of this past half-century. The day will include food, entertainment, and special guests. Additional details will be forthcoming in the near future. Watch the Montour Preserve’s Facebook page and website for more details as plans develop. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for part or all of the day.

Pavilion Reservations

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is accepting reservations for the 2022 season. Fees will be as follows: Goose Cove #1 — \$100/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

NOTE: The Goose Cove #2 pavilion is unavailable for reservation during the 2022 season because of planned construction activities.

Each pavilion (except the Goose Cove Overlook Pavilion) offers tables, electric, water, charcoal grill, and easy access to playground equipment and restroom facilities.

To review the online calendar of reservations, learn more about available facilities, and reserve a pavilion, please visit: <https://montourpreserve.org/pavilions/>.

As in the past, all pavilions are freely available for public use during the site's normal dawn-to-dark hours of operation on a first-come, first-served basis, unless previously reserved for use.

Visitors Center Hours

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is pleased to continue public access to the Montour Preserve Visitors' Center every day (including Saturdays and Sundays) from 8:00am – 4:00pm. The Environmental Education Center wing of the building may be open at other times during programs and special events.

Please Consider a Donation to Support the Preserve



The staff and volunteers of the Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) are working hard every day to care for the Montour Preserve and other parks and trails throughout Montour County. Please consider making a contribution in support of the Montour Preserve by visiting:

<https://montourpreserve.org/donate/>

The Montour Area Recreation Commission (MARC) is a volunteer-led organization, committed to providing the best possible outdoor recreational facilities and opportunities 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 meets at 7:00pm on the 4th Monday of each month (except no meeting in July or December) in the Montour Preserve's Environmental Education Center auditorium, 374 Preserve Rd, Danville, PA 17821.

MARC's meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Meetings are also available through the Zoom online meeting platform.

Montour Area Recreation Commission
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<https://MontourRec.com>

