

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2017

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Join us for one of a variety of programs this summer.

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Summer Nature Notes

The hotter days of summer slows the pace of nature but there is still a lot of activity, especially on a smaller scale. Patrolling **dragonflies** zoom along ponds, streams and wet meadows as they reach the peak of their activity. By late summer and into early fall, the largest dragonflies, Green Damers begin to migrate following ridges south through the state.



Butterflies feed actively during these warm days, mating and laying eggs. The first **Monarch butterflies** appear in July, their spectacular orange-and-black wings fluttering over fields. **Fireflies** or lightning bugs reach their peak of activity in July, flashing their signal lanterns after dark in an effort to attract a mate while fascinating children of all ages at the same time.

August brings a flurry of asters blooming as the first “wave” of **warblers** begins night flights south. **Barn Swallows** begin gathering in August in preparation for their early migration south for the winter. Shortening days in late August and September prompt shorebirds to make their way south also. Much less well-known is the nocturnal passage of many songbirds during September and October. These **night-flying birds** are sometimes silhouetted against the moon as they fly past on a clear night. Listen for their short nocturnal flight calls that indicate their flight. Watch the face of the full or nearly full moon with binoculars to see this unusual event.



Summer Sky Watch

July’s **New Moon** is on the 8th. **Full Moon** occurs on the 23rd. **Venus** gradually rises higher in the east before and during dawn. Look for the beautiful Milky Way pouring across the sky from high in the east.

August’s **Full Moon** is on the 7th. **New Moon** occurs on the 21st. The **Perseid Meteor Shower** peaks in the late hours of August 11 and early morning of August 12. You can expect to see meteors from late July through August, but the highest numbers will be during the peak. Unfortunately, a waning gibbous moon will light the sky

allowing us to see only the brightest meteors. On August 21, Pennsylvania will experience a **partial solar eclipse** visible between 2:30 and 2:45 p.m. For your safety, do not look directly at the sun.

Venus, Regulus, the thin **crescent Moon**, **Mars**, and **Mercury** stack up in a bunch low in the east in early dawn of September 18.

In September the **Full Moon** falls on the 5th. **New Moon** occurs on the 20th. The Autumnal Equinox occurs on the 22nd. **Venus** is firmly in place in the east as the morning star.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

RED CARPET MONARCH PROJECT

**Sunday, June 25
2-3:30 p.m.**

**Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Julia Marano**



Hosted by the Pollinator Friendly Garden Committee of the Penn State Master Gardeners of Montour County, guest speaker Julia Marano of the Monarch Red Carpet will talk about monarch pathways in the U.S. and present their project on how we can restore the habitat and population of the monarch butterfly.

“The summer night, is like a perfection of thought.”

— Wallace Stevens,
“The House Was Quiet and the World Was Calm”



WHAT IS UNDER OUR FEET

**Saturday, August 5
2-3 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Michael Hohl, Geotechnical Scientist**



Join us to learn about the fundamentals of geology and the general geology of Pennsylvania. During this program we will examine the layers of the earth found under us, how rocks formed, discuss common rocks and minerals found in the area, and how geology plays into our everyday lives. This should be a great program for the budding geologist.

PENNSYLVANIA HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE

**Saturday, August 12
9 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Environmental Education Center
Presented by: PA Game Commission Instructors**



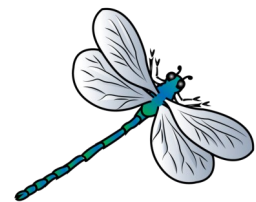
This course is designed to produce safe, responsible and knowledgeable hunters and trappers. It includes instruction in basic techniques plus a host of hunting, trapping and outdoor skills designed to enhance a new participant's knowledge and enjoyment of wildlife and our hunting and trapping heritage.

Beginning and experienced hunters and trappers are welcome. Participants must be at least 11 years of age to enroll in a course and must attend all three sessions to qualify for certification. Adults are encouraged to attend with their children.

Please register early because space in this course is limited. To register go to <http://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.

DAMSELS AND DRAGONS

**Saturday, August 26
10-11:30 a.m.
Meet in Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Jon D. Beam**



There are tales of old of dragons carrying off young damsels. Those are just stories, but dragons do exist along with damsels yet in the form of some very unique insects: damselflies and dragonflies. We'll begin indoors with a look at some natural history of these insects and their life cycles. Then we'll venture outdoors to take a look at dragonflies and damselflies in their native habitat. Binoculars will be helpful for damsel and dragon watching.

BUTTERFLY DAY

Sunday, September 10

2-3 p.m.

Environmental Education Center

**Presented by: Deb Steransky, Penn State Master Gardener &
PA Master Naturalist**

**Sponsored by the Central Susquehanna Chapter of the
North American Butterfly Association**



Monarch butterflies are one of nature's wonders. These small, fragile insects migrate thousands of miles every fall to their wintering grounds in Mexico. In this program, we will tell you about their life cycle and ways to help this endangered butterfly. You're invited to participate in the 21st annual "Symbolic Monarch Butterfly Migration" with students across North America. Over 60,000 students in the United States and Canada will create symbolic butterflies this fall and send them to Mexico for the winter. At the monarch sanctuaries in Mexico, children will protect the butterflies and send them north in the spring. The symbolic butterflies build bridges of communication between students in Mexico, the United States, and Canada. United by the monarch butterfly, children across North America learn authentic lessons of conservation, cooperation, and ambassadorship. Join the celebration!



AUTUMN EVENING WALK

Friday, September 22

7-8:30 p.m.

Meet at Environmental Education Center

Led by: Jon D. Beam, Assistant Director, MARC

Let's celebrate the first day of Autumn with a walk to observe and discuss seasonal changes. We'll look at what's blooming and what birds are still with us. We'll also look at signs of animal activity and discuss what animals are doing during the autumn months. This will be an easy walk at a reasonable pace. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Montour Preserve Website

Visit Montour Preserve's website maintained by the Montour Area Recreation Commission. Here you will find information about events at Montour Preserve, pavilion reservation information, some great photographs, volunteer and donation

information. Please visit the site at:

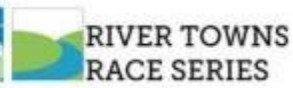
www.MontourPreserve.org.



Visitors Center Hours

Hours for the summer and fall months will be Monday—Saturday 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. The center will be closed on Sundays and holidays unless there is a scheduled program.





Montour Area Recreation Commission

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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 second Monday of each month (except July) at 7:00 pm at the Environmental Education Center of Montour Preserve at 700 Preserve Road, Danville – that are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.



Donations are still needed to help operate and maintain 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) will begin taking reservations for pavilions at Montour Preserve. Fees will be as follows:

Goose Cove #1 — \$100/day

Goose Cove #2 — \$75/day

or \$30/ half day

Goose Cove #3 — \$75/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.