

**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 slow 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 Moons** are on the 2nd and 31st. **Full Moon** occurs on the 16th. **Venus** drops too low in the dawn sky to see after the first week of the month. **Saturn** is at opposition on July 9 and will be visible all night long under a clear sky. A waxing gibbous moon is close to Saturn on July 15. **Jupiter** is visible in the south-southeast at dark at the beginning of the month and in the south by the end. The **Delta Aquariid Meteor Shower** extends from July 12 through August 23 peaking in the early morning hours of July 28. Early dawn hours are best for viewing this shower.



"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color."

—Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

August's **Full Moon** is on the 15th. **New Moon** occurs on the 30th. The **Perseid Meteor Shower** peaks in the late hours of August 12 and early morning of August 13. You can expect to see meteors from late July through August, but the highest numbers will be during the peak. Watch from 11 p.m. until dawn for an average of a meteor a minute. **Mercury** appears at dawn about August 3 and brightens as the month progresses until it is lost in the sun on August 26. **Jupiter** is high at dusk and stays visible all evening throughout the month. **Saturn** becomes visible later in the night than Jupiter but stays visible longer throughout the month.

In September the **Full Moon** falls on the 14th. **New Moon** occurs on the 28th. The Autumnal Equinox falls on the 23rd at 3:50 a.m. EDT and autumn begins. **Venus** becomes the Evening Star beginning September 18th. **Jupiter** is still visible after dusk in the southwest sky. **Saturn** appears at dusk with Jupiter in the south-southwest.

— Maori proverb



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



LYME DISEASE

Wednesday, July 17
7-8 p.m.

Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Ali Wood, R.N. | CHN/Population Health Nurse

Lyme disease is a growing threat to anyone who spends time outdoors. It can cause serious health effects, especially if undiagnosed. Join us to learn what Lyme disease is and how we contract it. You will also learn important tips and techniques for reducing the chances of contracting Lyme disease.

NIGHT SKY/WEATHER PHOTOGRAPHY

**Tuesday, July 30
9 p.m.**

**Meet at Heron Cove Pavilion A
Presented by: Shane Kieffer, PA Master
Naturalist & Photographer**



Have you ever wanted to learn the ins and outs of taking night sky shots and lightning photos? Join us to learn some tips and techniques from local photographer Shane Kieffer at this late night workshop. The weather that evening will determine the focus of the workshop, but it will either be learning the proper techniques for photographing stars or for photographing lightning and dramatic cloud formations. Registration is required, please email srk017@bucknell.edu to sign up. Digital camera needed! Tripod preferred, but not necessary.



PENNSYLVANIA HUNTER-TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE

**Saturday, August 10
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. Bring a bag lunch.

Please register early because space in this course is limited. To register go to <https://www.register-ed.com/events/view/140274>. There is a home-study portion of the course that must be completed before the classroom session.

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.

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.



Bob Stoudt, Director
Jon Beam, Assistant Director
Dennis Piatt, Trail Maintenance Technician
Lesley Yeich, Assistant Trail Maintenance Technician
PO Box 456 Danville, PA 17821
Phone: 570-336-2060

For more information about MARC Projects, visit: <http://montourec.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 4th Monday of each month (except July) at 7:00 pm at the DRIVE conference room, Montour County building, 114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 103, Danville, PA 17821 – that are open to anyone and we are always looking for new ideas and perspectives.