



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nature Watch
- Sky Watch
- Winter Programs
- Additional Preserve Information

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Nature Watch

Listen for **Great Horned Owls** calling after dark. The unmistakable hoots of their “Who’s awake? Me too” calls carry through the winter forest. By mid to late February, Great Horned Owl females will begin nesting.

January and February are good times to watch for winter raptors. **Red-tailed Hawks** and **American Kestrels** hunt over open fields as do visiting **Rough-legged Hawks**. Smaller birds visit feeders on a regular basis this time of year and can attract accipiters. Both **Sharp-shinned** and

Cooper’s Hawks specialize in catching and eating smaller birds. The concentration of birds at winter feeders provides good opportunities for food when it is most scarce and these two accipiters take advantage of the situation.

On warmer days during the winter, if you are walking through a snow-covered forest, take a close look at any black specks on the snow to see if they move. If so, you have discovered **Snow Fleas**. These tiny insects are not fleas at all, but insects called



Springtails. This name comes from the two prong-like extensions from the tip of their abdomen that they can tuck under their body and latch in place. When they want to move quickly, they release the prongs and go catapulting into the air. Although they live in our woodlands year round, they are best seen on a background of white snow.

Sky Watch



Look for the **Quadrantid Meteor Shower** to peak in the early morning

hours of January 3. January’s **Full Moons** occur on Jan. 1 and 31; **New Moon** on the 16th. Look in the southeastern sky before and during dawn on Jan. 6 to see bright **Jupiter** and dimmer **Mars** pass each other. They remain very close to one another on the

following morning. On the morning of Jan. 31 we are treated to a partial **lunar eclipse**. February’s **New Moon** will be on the 15th. March’s **Full Moons** occur on the 1st and 31st. **New Moon** occurs on the 17th. The **Spring Equinox** is on March 20th at 12:15 p.m. EDT.



Stars of Winter

Saturday, January 13

7-8:30 p.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Presented by: Jon D. Beam

Typically, winter skies offer a wonderful opportunity to view the night sky. Cold nights often bring clear viewing conditions. We'll start indoors with some tips about finding your way around the winter sky and how to identify star patterns. We'll also offer some folklore of the constellations. If weather conditions permit, we'll step outside and take a closer look at the night sky and the star patterns we can see. Plan for time outdoors and dress warmly.

He who marvels at the beauty of the world in summer will find equal cause for wonder and admiration in winter.... In winter the stars seem to have rekindled their fires, the moon achieves a fuller triumph, and the heavens wear a look of a more exalted simplicity.

~John Burroughs, "The Snow-Walkers," 1866

A Winter Wandering

Saturday, January 27

10-11:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center

Led by: Jon D. Beam



Winter is a quieter time when plants and animals avoid the cold, snow and ice. And, yet, if you look closely you can find signs of animal activity and plant life. Join us for a leisurely walk through the preserve as we search for signs of plant and animal life. We'll discuss how animals and plants adapt to winter conditions when food is scarce and temperatures are low. Dress for the weather and time outdoors. Bring binoculars if you want.

Winter Birds

Saturday, February 10
10-11:30 a.m.

Meet in Environmental Education Center
Presented by: Jon D. Beam



If you enjoy feeding birds during the winter months but have trouble identifying those feathery friends, then join us for a look at winter birds. We'll discuss identification of common feeder birds and confusing look-alikes as well as surprise visitors. We'll share tips on keeping track of your feeder visitors and how you can contribute to a nationwide survey. We'll also touch on feeding winter birds. We will spend some time looking at birds visiting feeders here at the preserve. Binoculars will be helpful but are not required.



Maple Sugaring Open House

Saturday, Feb. 24
Noon to 4 p.m.
and
Sunday, March 4

Noon to 4 p.m.
Environmental Education Center

Maple sugaring is a truly North American tradition and has been a long tradition at Montour Preserve. Join us to learn some history of sugaring and follow the process from sap to syrup in this interesting family experience. Programs begin in our Environmental Education Center on the hour (noon, 1, 2 and 3 p.m.) with a talk and film featuring the natural and cultural history of making maple sugar. Afterward, a short walk through Goose Woods takes you to the Sugar Shack to experience the sights, sounds and scents of maple sugaring. Scouts, 4-H and other groups are welcome to attend either day. Outdoor demonstrations end at 4 p.m. Maple products will be available for purchase at the Sugar Shack. For your comfort, we suggest you dress for the weather and time outdoors.



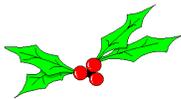
MAPLE SUGARING PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS

We offer two-hour educational, hands-on maple sugaring programs for schools, home schoolers and special interest groups. These programs can be scheduled Tuesday through Friday, Feb. 27 through March 9. To schedule a program, contact Jon Beam at jbeam@MontourRec.com.

Please provide your name and school, number and grade(s) of students, anticipated time of arrival and contact phone number. **Registration begins January 8, 2018.**

Each maple sugaring program lasts approximately two hours beginning in the Environmental Education Center with an introduction to the cultural and natural history of maple sugaring, the process of tree tapping and identifying a maple tree in the winter.

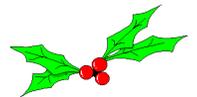
Program participants should be kindergarten age or older. Minimum group size is 10. Dress for the weather and time indoors and out.



The staff of Montour Area Recreation Commission wishes to thank the many volunteers, supporters and visitors for their time, effort, donations and kind thoughts.

Without you Montour Preserve would not be what it is today. We hope your holidays will be filled with the warmth of family and friends, good cheer and good health.

Happy Holidays to all!



PENNSYLVANIA
Master Naturalist

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Training

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist, a nonprofit organization, is partnering with Montour Area Recreation Commission again in 2018 to train citizen volunteers in natural resource education and conservation. Adults interested in natural history and dedicating time each year to natural resource education and conservation are encouraged to apply. The deadline to apply for spring training is January 1, 2017. In 2018, spring training at Montour Preserve will begin on April 3rd and run through June 19th. The training schedule along with an application and additional information about the training is available on Pennsylvania Master Naturalist's website at:

https://pamasternaturalist.org/become_a_master_naturalist/training-details/

For additional information or questions, please contact Michele Richards at michele@pamasternaturalist.org or (570)441-3364.

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.

Visitors Center Hours

The Montour Preserve Visitors' Center / Environmental Education Center is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Saturday from mid-February through mid-December. It is open 8:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Friday during the winter season (late November through late February). The building will be open at additional times for programs and special events.



Bob Stoudt, Director

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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 in the DRIVE conference room, Montour County building, 114 Woodbine Lane, Suite 103, Danville. Our 2018 meeting dates will be: 1/22, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, 5/21, 6/25, 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, 11/19 and 12/17. All meetings begin at 7:00pm and public input is welcome.