



RIVER TOWNS
RACE SERIES

Montour Preserve News

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Nature Watch
- Sky Watch
- Winter Programs
- Other Preserve Information.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Blood Moon 2

Groundhog 2

Winter Birds 3

Maple Sugar-
ing Open
House 3

Pancake
Breakfast 3

Wings Over
Water 4

Sugaring for
Schools 4

PA Master
Naturalist
Training 5

Pavilions 6

Visitors Cen-
ter Hours 6



Nature Watch

Leafless trees and a wintery landscape make January and February good months to look for winter raptors. Watch for Red-tailed Hawks perched along roadsides and American Kestrels on powerlines near open fields. Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks venture into backyards to visit bird feeders in search of feathery prey.

Feeders are busy this time of year as winter birds visit to supplement

their natural food supply. Watch for chickadees, cardinals, sparrows, juncos, goldfinches, blue jays and more.

Great Horned Owls are typically vocal in January as pairs call back and forth near dusk and dawn. Listen for the typical "Who's awake? Me too." pattern of hoots.

A walk through a snow-covered forest on a warm winter day might bring a surprise as black

specks on the snow appear to move. Take a closer look and you might see tiny insects known as Springtails. This name comes from the two prong-like extensions from the tip of their abdomen that the springtail tucks under its body and latches in place. When it wants to move quickly, it releases the prongs and goes catapulting into the air. Springtails live in our woodlands year round but are best seen on a background of white snow.



Sky Watch

The Quadrantid Meteor Shower peaks the night of January 3-4. On January 20-21 we will be treated to a **total lunar eclipse**. It begins at 9:36 p.m. EST on the 20th and ends at 2:48 a.m. on the 21st. January's **New Moon** is on the 5th with the **Full Moon** on the 21st.

In the pre-dawn sky of February 9, you can see **Saturn, Venus and Jupiter** as they form a diagonal line low in the southeastern sky. February's **New Moon** is on the 4th and **Full Moon** on the 19th.

On March 1, the waning crescent moon is just to the upper right of Saturn. On the 29th, it is to the lower left of Saturn. These two events occur in the early morning before sunrise. March's **New Moon** is on the 6th and **Full Moon** on the 20th. The spring equinox occurs on March 21 at 5:58 p.m. EDT.



Blood Moon: Lore & Science of A Lunar Eclipse

**Saturday, January 19
1-2 p.m.**

**Meet in Environmental
Education Center**

Presented by: Jon D. Beam

January 20 is the night of a lunar eclipse which can be seen from north central Pennsylvania. Although today we know why eclipses happen, it was not always so. As a result, there is a lot of folklore about eclipses. Join us as we explore the science and lore of eclipses. We'll also provide tips on observing tomorrow night's lunar eclipse.

*It is the life of
the crystal, the
architect of the
flake, the fire of
the frost, the
soul of the
sunbeam. This
crisp winter air is
full of it.*

John Burroughs

Lore, Legend & Natural History of Groundhogs

**Saturday, February 2
10-11 a.m.**

**Meet in Environmental
Education Center**

Presented by: Jon D. Beam



Today we celebrate groundhogs and their so-called ability to predict the weather. Pennsylvania, in particular, is known for this unique event. How did this get started and why ground hogs? How accurate are they at predicting the coming weather and why do we celebrate on this day? We'll explore these questions and look at the life history of a groundhog.

Winter Birds

Saturday, February 16

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 and surprise visitors. 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. We'll also introduce you to the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.



Maple Sugaring Open House

Sunday, March 3

Noon to 4 p.m.

Join us to explore this North American tradition. Learn some history of sugaring and follow the process from sap to syrup. 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. 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 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 9

8:30 to 11 a.m.

Environmental Education Center
Outdoor Demonstrations begin at
9:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.



Get an early start on today's maple sugaring events with a pancake and sausage breakfast at Montour Preserve. This is the second annual fundraiser breakfast at the preserve. Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, hot coffee, cocoa and juice. Bring your appetite for pancakes and sausage and sweet maple syrup to this annual fund-raiser. After breakfast, stroll through the winter woods to the preserve's sugar shack for the ongoing educational demonstrations that encompass many aspects of maple sugaring from its roots to the present day.

Online registration for the breakfast will be available in January. Check the preserve's website for more details as they become available: <https://montourpreserve.org/>

Spring Wings Over Water

**Saturday, March 23
9 to 11 a.m.
Meet at Goose Cove Overlook
Led by: Jon D. Beam**



Now that spring has officially arrived, it is time to look for birds migrating back north. Waterfowl are some of the early migrants, provided rivers and lakes are now ice-free. We'll take a look at these early birds on the lake from several locations. The morning will require some walking, so dress for the conditions. Binoculars will be helpful. In the event of a still frozen lake, we'll look for other returning bird migrants.



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, March 5 through March 15. 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 7, 2019.**

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 taping and identifying a maple tree in the winter. It then moves outdoors for a closer look at the process of turning maple sap into maple syrup.

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



PENNSYLVANIA Master Naturalist

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Training

Pennsylvania Master Naturalist, a nonprofit organization, is partnering with Montour Area Recreation Commission again in 2019 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.

In 2019, spring training at Montour Preserve will begin on April 2nd and run through June 18th. 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 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.

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

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



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. **A Safe and Happy Holidays to all!**



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.



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/>