

THE CONSERVATOR

August, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



[Visit Our Website](#)

Free Summer Concert & Free Food at Narrows River Park

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring family friendly music and fun with SkreTTa etc.! This all ages event will kick off at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 6th and will feature free dinner to the first 75 attendees! HyVee will be serving up complimentary hotdogs & chips so plan on dinner and a show at the park.

If you love fun you will love SkreTTa etc. Specializing in classic rock SkreTTa etc. performs original & cover rock music featuring hits from bands such as the Beatles, Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin, Collective Soul, AC/DC, Bad Company, & Tom Petty. Free will donations & tips are accepted & CDs may be available for sale.



Beyond the \$2 park entrance fee, there is no cost for this event thanks to the generous support of the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation. Free will donations are always accepted to support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County. Participants must have a valid Pottawattamie County Park annual permit or purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass to enter the park. Daily passes may be purchased with cash or check at the front entrance the day of the event. Annual permits may be purchased from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours.

2017 Programming Sponsored by the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation

Real Maple Syrup Pancake Feed at Botna Bend Park

Join us Saturday, August 19th from 8:30 till 11:00 a.m. at Botna Bend Park for our annual Real Maple Syrup Pancake Feed. Grilled



pancakes & sausage are served up with our homemade maple syrup. Free will donations are encouraged. [Read More ...](#)

Monarch Tagging Registration Now Open



Join us on Saturday, September 16th for a unique learning adventure. Discover more about monarch butterflies, their unusual lifestyle and life cycle, and their miraculous migration to Mexico. Learn how to catch and handle monarchs, determine gender and properly tag them in the wild as part of a national research project. All monarchs will be released to continue their migration once they are tagged.

All-Ages Monarch Tagging

We will be hosting three sessions of our all-ages event on Saturday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m. This family friendly program will begin with a short training & demonstration before participants are welcomed to explore the park in search of butterflies to tag.

[Click Here for More Information & to Register Online](#)

Children's Monarch Tagging

New for 2017, we will also be hosting three sessions of Children's Monarch Tagging on Saturday, September 16th at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m. This brand new event is designed for families with children 6 & under and will feature hands on activities, crafts, and learning as we explore the world of the monarch butterfly.

[Click Here for More Information & to Register Online](#)

You are welcome to bring your own butterfly net & we will have nets available for use in the park. We will also have a limited number of butterfly nets available for purchase in the gift shop. Please dress for the weather and don't forget the insect repellent, sunblock, & water as much of this program is outdoors.

There is no fee for this event beyond park entrance fees & free will donations will be accepted to support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County. All attendees will need a valid annual park permit or will need to purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass for admission to the park.

Pre-registration is required by September 6th as space is limited. Please call 712-328-5834 for more information. Due to the popularity of these programs we recommend early registration and remind you that walk in space may not be available on the day of the event. Thank you for understanding.

August 12th - A Full Day of Fun at

Hitchcock Nature Center

Looking for one last hurrah before returning to school? Look no farther than Hitchcock Nature Center! August 12th is shaping up to be an amazing day at the park - with 3 fun filled programs there is something for everyone! All three programs are free with paid park admission or with a valid annual park permit.

StarLab Indoor Planetarium

Join us in the morning for our StarLab Indoor Planetarium Program. Join us at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center as the night sky comes alive inside our exhibit gallery. Climb inside the Starlab to view the wonders of the night sky at one of three 30 minute sessions at either 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., or 12:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required for this program by Wednesday, August 9th as space is limited.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register Online](#)

Speaker Series: Land Ethics

Also being held on August 12th at 4:00 p.m. is the 5th session of our new 2017 Speaker Series. Join us as we welcome Thomas Dean for "Land Ethics". Thomas is a trained Land Ethic Leader through the Aldo Leopold Foundation & will be screening the Emmy Award-winning Aldo Leopold documentary "Green Fire". Following the film there will be a discussion about Leopold's land ethic. The 2017 Speaker Series is a new programming series designed for teens & adults to provide them with an opportunity to learn from and interact with various authorities in the fields of conservation & environmental science. Our August event will feature pork burgers provided by ELTEE Mangalista's LLC. Pre-registration is required for these events as space is limited and refreshments are served.

[Click Here for More Information or to Register Online](#)

Night Sky Event

Don't forget to finish your day with our annual Night Sky Event as we view the Perseid Meteor Shower from a Loess Hills ridgetop at Hitchcock Nature Center. This spectacular display of lights and falling meteors is an event you don't want to miss. Meet at the park entrance at 8:30 p.m. & bring your lawn chairs, blankets, binoculars & telescopes to view nature's fireworks. Picnic dinners are always a great idea and don't forget your bug spray! There is no pre-registration needed for this event.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

Don't forget all three of the above listed programs are free with paid park admission. Participants must purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass or have a valid Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit. Daily entrance passes may be purchased on the day of the event at the front gate for \$2.00 with cash or check & are good for the full day. You can also purchase a daily entrance pass or a \$10.00 annual permit at the Loess Hills Lodge during regular business hours.

For more information on these or any of our public programs please call 712-545-3283. See you at the park!

Pottawattamie County Conservation Presents

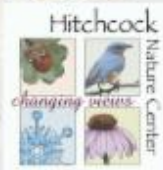
Homeschool in the Hills

September 26th

2pm-4pm



Hitchcock Nature Center
Loess Hills Lodge



Hitchcock Nature Center is located just North of the Crescent Skill Hills at 27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek, IA 51542

This free event, held in conjunction with the Loess Hills Heritage Week will feature a combination of self-guided activities such as scavenger hunts & nature challenges, along with activities guided by Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalists. Join in the fun as we hike, explore, & learn then meet up afterwards for refreshments and a chance to network & meet other homeschooling families. This event is perfect for homeschool students age 5 & up with a focus on elementary age learners.

More information at

www.pottcoconservation.com

This is a free program. However entrance fee is required by purchasing a daily permit for \$2 or an annual permit for \$10. These can be purchased at the gate or at the lodge on the day of the event or over the phone with a credit card by calling the number below.

Register now by emailing

Rene.Stroud@pottcounty-ia.gov or

by calling 712-242-1197

The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status

Upcoming Programs

The Naturalist School: Summer Field Season Session

Session #6 - Saturday, August 5th

Session #7 - Sunday, August 6th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center field season are for those who seek to deepen awareness of, commitment to, & engagement in citizen science, nature education, & conservation in Iowa's Loess Hills & the surrounding ecosystems. [Read More ...](#)

Free Summer Concert: SkreTTa etc.

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 6th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring family friendly music and fun with SkreTTa etc. & free food provided by HyVee! [Read More ...](#)

StarLab Indoor Planetarium

9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center as the night sky comes alive inside our exhibit gallery. Climb inside the Starlab to view the wonders of the night sky. [Read More ...](#)

2017 Speaker Series: "Land Ethics" with Thomas Dean

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for a screening the Emmy Award-winning Aldo Leopold documentary "Green Fire". Following the film there will be a discussion about Leopold's land ethic lead by Thomas Dean, a trained Land Ethic Leader. [Read More ...](#)

Night Sky Event

8:30 p.m. to Midnight

Sunday, August 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Take in the beauty of the annual Perseid meteor shower from a Loess Hills ridgetop at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

August Hitch Hike

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Explore the northern section of the park & view a remnant of the original Old Lincoln Highway on this guided hike through the Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

Real Maple Syrup Pancake Feed

8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 19th

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Join us for breakfast in the park. Grilled pancakes & sausage will be served with our homemade maple syrup along with coffee & orange juice for a free will donation. [Read More](#)

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KinderNature: Nature Rocks

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, August 19th

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Nature is awesome and so are rocks! Discover what makes Botna Bend Park rock as we explore rocks, the park, & so much more! [Read More ...](#)

August Living Loess Tour

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 19th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our August Living Loess Tour. The featured stop for our August tour is the Harrison County Historical Village and Iowa Welcome Center. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management August Session

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 26th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

All members of the public including students, land owners, and anyone interested in learning responsible land management practices are invited to join us for our new Introduction to Land Management program. [Read More ...](#)

Free Summer Concert Featuring Josh Lawler

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 3rd

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring singer/songwriter Josh Lawler with free food provided by HyVee! [Read More ...](#)

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center:

Late Summer Field Season

Session #1 - Sunday, August 13th

Session #2 - Saturday, August 19th

Session #3 - Sunday, August 27th

Session #4 - Saturday, September 2nd

Session #5 - Sunday, September 10th

Session #6 - Saturday, September 16th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for the August & September Late Summer Field Season of The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center. This 6 session field season will focus on the diverse ecosystem of Hitchcock Nature Center and cultivating attentiveness & mindfulness in nature. [Read More](#)

[...](#)

Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator
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STAY CONNECTED:



Hitchcock Nature Center



Arrowhead Park



Botna Bend Park



Narrows River Park

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