

THE CONSERVATOR

March, 2018

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

2018 Summer Camp Registration Now Open

Registration for Pottawattamie County Conservation's 2018 Summer Camps is now open!

Camps for children in Pre-K through 8th grade are being offered this year. Check out our website for details & online registration. We can't wait to see you at the park this summer!

[Click Here For More Information on our 2018 Summer Camp Offerings](#)

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5

Fairies and Pirates

JUNE 11TH-15TH

AUGUST 6TH-10TH

\$15 PER CAMP

HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

9AM-11AM

Sign up for them all or just a few!

Monday- Fawn and the World of Animals

Tuesday- Gruff and the Legends of the Neverbeast

Wednesday- Silvermist and

Iridessa Explore Sunshine and Water

Thursday- Rosetta and Nature's Gardens

Friday- Zarina the Pirate Fairy Adventure Through the Wilderness

ENTERING 1ST AND 2ND GRADE

Trolls

JUNE 19TH-21ST

\$75 PER CAMPER

HITCHCOCK

NATURE CENTER

9AM-4PM

Embark on a journey over the hills and under the tall trees as we learn about Hitchcock Nature Center's Fantastical Forest. Join our team and work together to discover a troll-iday every day in every way (spontaneous dance party included).

From canoeing and paddle boats to fishing and dip netting we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!

Water Warriors

JULY 17TH-19TH

\$75 PER CAMPER

ARROWHEAD PARK

9AM-4PM

ENTERING 3RD AND 4TH GRADE

The Last Rusty

JUNE 26TH-28TH

\$75 PER CAMPER

HITCHCOCK

NATURE CENTER

9AM-4PM

Join the forces of the Dump Busters to track down and save the last Rusty as we thwart the environmental destroyers in our midst.

Aquatic Adventures

JULY 31ST-AUGUST 2ND

\$75 PER CAMPER

ARROWHEAD PARK

9AM-4PM

From canoeing to fishing we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!

REGISTER AT WWW.POTTACOCONSERVATION.COM

ENTERING 5TH AND 6TH GRADE

Voyagers

JULY 10-12TH

\$75 PER CAMPER

July 10th

Arrowhead Park

9am-4pm

July 11th-12th

4pm-10am

Botna Bend Park

New this year! Join in as we learn all the skills of the great outdoors. We will try our hand at canoeing on the first day at Arrowhead Park, then learn how to pitch a tent and stay overnight at Botna Bend Park.

Camper Vs. Wild

Join in as we tackle the great outdoors. We will learn all the skills needed to master adventures in the wild.

JULY 24TH-26TH

\$75 PER CAMPER

HITCHCOCK

NATURE CENTER

9AM-4PM

ENTERING 7TH AND 8TH GRADE

Paddling Pioneers

JULY 11TH 9AM-

JULY 12TH 4PM

\$75 PER CAMPER

BOTNA BEND

OLD TOWN PARK

Grab your sense of adventure and your sleeping bag as we canoe to Botna Bend Park for an overnight!

Paddlers continue on to Old Town Park by canoe for a second day of adventure

FAMILY CAMPS

Helping Hands Camp

JUNE 12TH-14TH

\$30 PER CAMPER

HITCHCOCK

NATURE CENTER

1PM-3PM

A camp tailored to children with special needs and their guardians.

Family Camp Out

AUGUST 11TH 3PM-

AUGUST 12TH 10AM

\$25 PER FAMILY

HITCHCOCK

NATURE CENTER

Want to camp but not sure where to start? We will provide meals, activities and most of the supplies. Registration is limited to 6 families.



April Programs to Highlight Earth Day and Volunteering

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on Saturday, April 21st for two programs aimed at making every day Earth Day.

Earth Day Birthday kicks off that morning at 10:00 a.m. This fun, family program will feature upcycled crafts, a recycling relay, and more.

[Click here for more information or to pre-register for this event.](#)



Have a love of the outdoors? Connect with like-minded individuals and volunteer your time to support Hitchcock Nature Center all at the same time during the **Prairie Rescue Single Mingle**. This event begins with education & active prairie restoration followed by a social hour to mix, mingle, and network more with your fellow participants. This event is for participants age 18 & over only.

[Click here for more information or to pre-register for this event.](#)

New 2018 Park Entrance Fees & Membership Program

Daily entrance passes have increased to \$3.00 per vehicle & are still be available for purchase with exact change or check at the main gate of each park.

We have replaced our 12-month annual permits with a membership to the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation (PCF). Your new membership options support PCF's continued mission "To support conservation of natural resources through public education and to provide funding for preservation of land for habitat and public enjoyment". Three membership levels have been created for our visitors & each come with our 12-month admission permit along with some great additional benefits. Each membership level pays for itself and then some!

Annual Membership - \$20.00 each

- 1 annual permit to all PCCB County Parks (\$10 Value)
- ½ day boat or canoe rental at Arrowhead Park, Neola (\$20 Value)
- A subscription to our monthly e-newsletter
- Email notification of exclusive members only events
- Discounted admission to ANCA parks including Fontenelle Forest
- A 10% discount on gift shop merchandise at the Loess Hills Lodge

Family Membership - \$50.00 each

- Includes all of the Annual Membership benefits (\$30 Value)
- One additional annual permit (\$10 Value)

- A certificate for a one night cabin rental or two nights of RV camping. (\$51.50 Value)

Supporter Membership - \$100.00 each

- Includes all Annual & Family Membership benefits (\$91.50 Value)
- Two tickets to the annual PCF auction & beer tasting (\$100 Value)
- Recognition at the annual PCF auction & beer tasting
- Recognition in our e-newsletter.

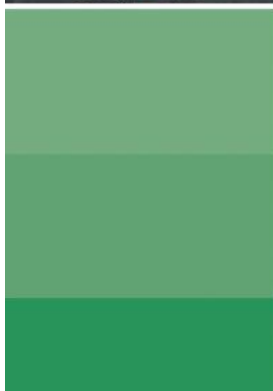
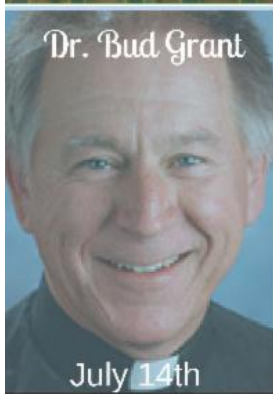
Memberships may still be purchased through staff at any of our parks, at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center, & through the mail. Memberships are also available for purchase online at www.pottawattamieconservationfoundation.com. Purchase your membership online and all materials will be mailed to you within 10 business days.

For more information on the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation & our new membership program please visit www.pottawattamieconservationfoundation.com.

Fill Out Our 2017 Programming Survey and Help Us Grow

Feedback is an important tool for our Naturalists as they look for ways to improve and grow our public programming opportunities in your county parks. Please click the link below and help us as we prepare for a new season of fun in 2018.

[Click Here to Fill Out Our Survey](#)



Pottawattamie County Conservation Presents Hitchcock Nature Center's 2018 Speaker Series

4pm



Please pre-register at
www.pottcoconservation.com

Free-will donations encouraged.
Entrance fee required.



Landowner Legacy Night

An Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation & Pottawattamie County Conservation Event

At some point, we all need to decide what to do with the land we own. Whether you own productive or natural land, or a combination of both, your situation is unique and has a special significance to your family and your community. When the time comes, making an informed decision about the legacy of your land may be more complicated than you first expected.

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Pottawattamie County Conservation are working together to host our first *Landowner Legacy Night* where landowner's can learn more about the options available for protecting and passing on their land to future generations. This event will be held at Hitchcock Nature Center in early April and will address a variety of land legacy and protection

options.

- How to inform & involve loved ones
- Land stewardship options
- Estate & financial planning
- Understanding your tax advantages
- Cropland restoration & protection
- Private land conservation easements
- Involving a conservation entity in your decision

The *Landowner Legacy Night* will provide a group panel discussion with resource professionals followed by a breakout session where landowners may spend one-on-one time with individual professionals that can address their unique situations. Landowners who've been in your shoes will also be on-hand to discuss their experiences with making their own land-legacy decisions.

Whether your decision is next year or decades away, this event will offer something for every landowner. There is no cost to attend the event, and light refreshments will be provided. The early April date is not yet finalized but will occur on either Tuesday April 3rd or Tuesday April 10th at 6:30 p.m. The finalized date will be posted at www.pottcoconservation.com soon so watch for updates!

Register for the Pottawattamie County Almanac Free Introductory Session on March 10th

This free program is designed to introduce the public to our new program, A Pottawattamie County Almanac. Based on the Aldo Leopold classic *A Sand County Almanac* & instructed by Ron Cisar, this free intro class kicks off a 10-month series of classes inspired and guided by Leopold's best-known work, his lasting legacy, and his challenge to generations.

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



Journey with legends through the rhythms of a Midwestern landscape.

At **Hitchcock Nature Center**
8AM - Noon
The second Saturday of every month,
March through December.

\$15 per session or \$75 for the series.

Register online at www.pottcoconservation.com.

Questions? Go online or call 712-545-3283.

Spring Hours at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center

The Loess Hills Lodge will be moving to spring hours beginning March 6th, 2018 & ending December 3rd, 2018. During this time the Loess Hills Lodge will be observing the following business hours.

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Tuesday through Saturday
1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Sunday
CLOSED - Monday

The Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center will be closed Sunday, April 1st.

Upcoming Programs

A Pottawattamie County Almanac - Free Intro. Session

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Saturday, March 10th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join as we kick off a brand new programming series combining citizen science, nature learning, philosophy, conservation & more. [Read More ...](#)

Native Gardening: Plants for Pollinators

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 17th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join author, poet, & conservationist Benjamin Vogt for a series of classes designed to help you plan, plant, and cultivate your own native garden. [Read More ...](#)

A Pottawattamie County Almanac: March Session

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

Saturday, March 24th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Activities will provide students with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world around them and will include guided hikes, aquatic studies, and more.. [Read More ...](#)

RESCHEDULED

Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project February Training

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, March 24th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

The February training session will introduce new volunteers to the program including the project & field data collection app, oak ecology, & oak fire wounds. [Read More ...](#)

Hunter Education Field Day

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 24th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on Saturday, March 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for an IDNR certified Hunter Education Field Day course. [Read More ...](#)

Homeschool in the Hills: Spring Fling

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. - Morning Session

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. - Afternoon Session

Tuesday, April 3rd

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Area homeschool students are invited to explore how nature wakes up from winter's slumber during this exciting season of change at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator
Pottawattamie County Conservation
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STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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[Visit our blog](#)