

# THE CONSERVATOR

March, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

## Summer Nature Camp Registration is Now Open!

Registration for Pottawattamie County Conservation's 2017 Summer Nature Camps is now open. This year's camps offer programming for students from Pre-K through 8th grade. [Please click here for more information on how you can register for our 2017 Nature Camp Series.](#)

We are also excited to announce the creation of three brand new camps for 2017.

### **Camp 101 - Ages 3 through 7**

**June 3rd, 2017**

**9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

**\$15.00 per child, accompanying adults admitted free**

Designed as an introduction to Summer Nature Camp this 2 hour camp is for apprehensive young learners accompanied by an adult. Parents and guardians are invited to join in the fun as new campers will have the opportunity to meet our camp staff & experience what our summer nature camps are all about.

### **Helping Hands Camp - All Ages**

**July 5th through 7th, 2017**

**1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**\$30.00 per child, accompanying adults admitted free**

This brand new camp is designed for children of all ages who may have special needs that make attending traditional camp difficult. Parents, guardians or caregivers are invited to join their learners for this camp.

### **Family Camp Out - Families of All Types!**

**3:00 p.m. August 12th, 2017 through 10:00 a.m. August 13th**

**Free! Sponsored by the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation**

A guided overnight camping adventure at Hitchcock Nature Center for families that are new to the world of camping. Tents and food will be provided, all you need to bring is your overnight bag, a sleeping bag and a sense of adventure. Held the same night as our Night Sky Event campers will have the opportunity to join in the fun as we scan the skies for the Perseid Meteor Shower.

Space is limited in all camps and pre-registration is required. [Please click here to learn more about all of our Summer Nature Camps & register today!](#)



[Visit our Website for More Information](#)

## Help Pottawattamie County Conservation Design our New T-Shirts!

Pottawattamie County Conservation invites you to create and submit a design for an official Hitchcock Nature Center t-shirt. The winning design will be used on t-shirts that will be sold at the Loess Hills Lodge gift shop and at our parks around Pottawattamie County.

### Contest Rules:

- The design must include Pottawattamie County Conservation or Hitchcock Nature Center and use a maximum of 4 colors
- Please email a pdf of your design to [katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov)
- Submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th, 2017
- Designs will be judged by Pottawattamie County Conservation staff
- The winning design will be contacted directly and announced May 1st, 2017 by Pottawattamie County Conservation's Community Relations Coordinator via Facebook and on the Pottawattamie County Conservation Website.
- All designs submitted become the property of Pottawattamie County Conservation
- Pottawattamie County Conservation may alter your design to aid in production
- The winner will receive two free t-shirts, one annual Pottawattamie County Parks Permit & a 2 night cabin stay at Hitchcock Nature Center
- Designs must be wholly original and must not infringe upon copyright, trademark, or other proprietary or intellectual property
- Limit one entry per contestant

Please email a pdf of your design to [katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th. For more information please email [katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov) or call 712-545-3283.

Introduction to Land Management  
Program to be Held at Hitchcock

# Nature Center



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.

This six-class series will begin on Saturday, May 27th and will be held the 4th Saturday of the month, May through October. Class will be held 8:00 a.m. to noon each day, rain or shine.

This six-class series is designed to provide members of the public the

basic knowledge and skills required to create and maintain a healthy environment in a Midwestern natural areas setting. The series will provide extensive hands-on experiences facilitated by natural resource professionals in the areas of invasive and noxious weed control, brush management, timber stand improvement, seed harvesting, and the application of prescribed fire. Students will gain holistic and working knowledge of the tools and philosophies employed by the regional leaders at Pottawattamie County Conservation to manage county- and privately-owned lands including the safe operation of power tools (e.g. chainsaws and brush cutters), responsible herbicide application, working with the timing and rhythms of the land, prescribed fire ecology and theory, and the Natural Areas Management Program's "Guiding Principals".

Series topics & class dates:

- **May 27th:** Introduction to Hitchcock Nature Center, the Loess Hills, and the Guiding Principals
- **June 24th:** When and How to Control Noxious and Invasive Herbaceous Plants (a focus on Canada thistle [*C. arvensis*] and sweet clover [*M. alba* & *M. officinalis*])
- **July 22nd:** Woody Invasives, Brush Management, and Timber Stand Improvement
- **August 26th:** Birds, Invertebrates, and Small Mammals of the Loess Hills and Prairies
- **September 23rd:** Seed Harvesting, Introduction to Prescribed Fire
- **October 28th:** Prescribed Fire (cont.), Follow-Up on Canada Thistle, Putting it all Together

The fee for the entire six-class series is \$75.00; Individual classes can be attended for \$15.00 per class. Pre-registration is required. Due to the hands-on nature of the series, class sizes will be limited and early registration is required.

[Please visit our website for more information on this new programming series and registration details.](#)

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## New Adult Programming Opportunities in 2017

Adult learners are invited to join Pottawattamie County Conservation for some brand new educational opportunities. Here are a few that are coming up in March, April & May. [Don't forget to visit our website for even more programming opportunities in 2017.](#)

### The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center Spring Field Season:

This 7 session program is for those who seek to deepen awareness of, commitment to, and engagement in citizen science, nature education and conservation in Iowa's Loess Hills and the surrounding ecosystems. These workshops are intended for adults who love nature and are committed to the study, conservation, and preservation of native ecosystems.

Sessions are offered April 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th, May 6th & 13th. Pre-registration for these events is required as space is limited. Participants are invited to register for all 7 sessions for a fee of \$85.00 per student or you can attend individual sessions for \$20.00 per student per session. [Click here for more information ...](#)

### 2017 Speaker Series:

This new programming series is designed to provide teens and adults the opportunity to learn from

and interact with various authorities in the fields of conservation and environmental science. Programs are free thanks to the generous support of the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation. Participants will need either a valid \$10.00 Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit or will need to purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass. Programs will be held at Hitchcock Nature Center on April 9th and then on the second Saturday of the month, May through October. Each program will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will last approximately 1 hour. After the presentation attendees may enjoy conversation with the presenter, a book signing, and refreshments provided by local vendors. We kick off the season on April 9th with "Climate Change" presented by author Cornelia Mutel. Space is limited so pre-registration is recommended. [Click here for more information ...](#)

### **Backpacking 101:**

This brand new 4 - part series of classes is designed for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts with limited backpacking experience. The series will cover everything from basic skills (e.g. trip planning and fitness) to more advanced skills (e.g. off-trail travel and reading the weather) and will benefit even moderately experienced backpackers. By the end of the series, students will have acquired the knowledge, skills and hands-on experience to plan & execute memorable backcountry trips in a variety of settings. The series will provide a strong foundation upon which more advanced backpacking skills can be built and will culminate in a guided overnight backpacking trip at Hitchcock Nature Center's backcountry campsites. Classes will be held the Loess Hills Lodge on April 15th, 29th, & May 13th, The 4th session will be held May 27th and will be a guided overnight stay at a backcountry campsite at Hitchcock Nature Center. Cost for this class is \$30.00 per person and pre-registration is required. [Click here for more information ...](#)

### **Birding 101:**

Join experienced birders Nic Salick, Jason Andersen, and Michelle Biodrowski for a beginning birding class May 20th. Birding 101 will include a classroom and field session and will provide the knowledge and skills for amateur and beginning birders to accurately identify common and notable species found throughout the midwest. Learn to identify song birds and passerines from field marks, song and behavior at Hitchcock Nature Center. The fee for this program is \$15.00 per person & includes a copy of the Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. [Click here for more information ...](#)

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Pottawattamie County Conservation Presents

# NARROWS RIVER PARK

FREE

## Summer Concert Series

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

4pm

**Hy-Vee**

Free dinner provided by  
Hy-Vee for the first 75  
attendees at each event



Cheese sampling as  
supplies last

Free-will donations are  
encouraged

May 7th

Master Singers

[www.mastersingersomaha.com](http://www.mastersingersomaha.com)

June 4th

Outlaw Road Band

[www.outlawroadband.com](http://www.outlawroadband.com)

July 2nd

Chad Elliot

[www.chadelliott.net](http://www.chadelliott.net)

August 6th

Element Variety Band

[www.elementbandrocks.com](http://www.elementbandrocks.com)

September 3rd

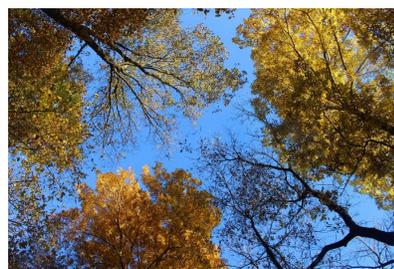
Josh Lawler

[joshlawler.com](http://joshlawler.com)

## Plant Some Shade Residential Tree Program

MidAmerican Energy Company customers in Iowa are again eligible to purchase trees through the Plant Some Shade 2017 Residential Tree Program.

Plant Some Shade is a partnership initiative to aid long-term energy and natural resource conservation. The program is funded by MidAmerica Energy and administered by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, City of Council Bluffs Parks and Recreation, Council Bluffs Trees Forever, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources - Bureau of Forestry.



Advance orders for Plant Some Shade are required & order forms may be picked up in person at the Council Bluffs Parks & Recreation office or you can [download your application here](#). Tree purchase is limited to two trees per MidAmerica Energy customer's household to ensure all customers have an opportunity to purchase trees and the cost is \$30.00 per tree. Trees must be picked up between 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. on Saturday April 29th at the Harrah's parking lot in Council Bluffs.

[Click here for more information & to download your order form.](#)

## Upcoming Programs

### **OWLS Program: Birds & Butterflies**

**12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 22nd**

**The Center, Council Bluffs**

Area seniors are invited to bring their lunch and join us at The Center in Council Bluffs for a discussion of the birds and butterflies of Iowa presented by a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. [Read More ...](#)

### **The Naturalist School Pre-session Workshop: Loess Hills Ecology**

**9:00 a.m to Noon**

**Saturday, March 25th**

**Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Join us for the pre-session workshop, Loess Hills Ecology. This rugged hike and field study with Jack Phillips is designed as an introduction to the 2017 spring field season of the Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

### **OWLS Program: Monarchs**

**12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 29th**

**Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Area seniors are invited to join us for a special program on the monarch butterfly at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your lunch and get to know this fascinating insect with help from a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. [Read More ...](#)

### **The Naturalist School Spring Field Season: Session #1**

**8:00 a.m. to Noon**

**Saturday, April 1st**

**Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Join us for the first session of the 2017 spring field season of The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator  
Pottawattamie County Conservation  
[katherine.simmons@pcccounty-ia.gov](mailto:katherine.simmons@pcccounty-ia.gov)

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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