

THE CONSERVATOR

October, 2016

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

October 8th, a Full Day of Fun at Your County Parks!



October 8th is shaping up to be a very busy day for staff and volunteers here at Pottawattamie County Parks. With three major events going on at three of our parks we will certainly have our hands full and you have a chance to fill your day with fun!

Start your day off bright and early at Hitchcock Nature Center for the 12th Annual HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk. With registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. & the race getting started at 9:00 a.m. there is no sleeping in! This all ages event features a challenging 5K (3.1 mile) route through the wilds at Hitchcock Nature Center.

Terrain is challenging but the views are spectacular. Prizes are awarded for the top male & female finishers in each age group, 19 & Under, 20 -29, 30 - 39, 40 -49, 50 - 59, & 60 & over. All participants are also entered into a drawing for other prizes and there are post race snacks and beverages for everyone!

Registration is just \$25 for pre-registered participants or \$30 on the day of the race. [Download the registration flier here](#) and email it to Chad Kunze at chad.kunze@pottcounty-ia.gov or drop it off at the race. You can also register online at www.runsignup.com, online registrations do have a service charge making your registration fee \$28 before September 30th or \$33 October 1st thru 8th.

Once you finish up at Hitchcock around noon take a quick lunch break and head over to Botna Bend Park to be a part of Hancock Iowa's fall celebration, the Hancock Hallows Eve! Join in their disc golf tournament and compete against other area teams. Free rentals of discs & official score cards are available at the campground office, just have those score cards turned in by 8:00 p.m. for judging. Stop by our paddocks and visit with our elk herd then make your way over to the bison and see if you can spot our two newest arrivals, a white bison named Dee and our brand new bison calf who surprised us with it's late arrival at the end of September.

Then take a walk through our campground to view decorated campsites! There is no charge for any of the events at Botna Bend during the Hallows Eve celebration but a valid annual park permit or \$2.00 daily entrance pass is required. You can pay the \$2.00 fee at the front gate with cash or purchase that \$10.00 annual permit at the main park office. Events are also going on at Botna Burrow Farm so stop by and visit their garden and try your hand at cider pressing. Download the

event fliers below for more details!

[Hancock Hallows Eve Flier](#)

[Botna Bend Flier](#)

[Botna Burrow Flier](#)

For dinner make your way to Neola and stop by Arrowhead Park for their annual Chili Fest, a delicious way to end the day. This event will begin at 4:00 p.m. and end around 8:00 p.m. & will feature children's games & activities, pumpkin painting, hayrack rides, & of course several different types of chili along with crackers and drinks. There is no fee for this event, free will donations are accepted to support continued programming at Pottawattamie County Parks. A valid annual county parks permit is required or you can purchase a \$2.00 daily vehicle permit at the front gate with cash.



Surprise Bison Calf Born at Botna Bend Park

Staff and volunteers welcomed a new member to the Botna Bend family in September, a brand new bison calf. Bison usually calf in the spring so this little one was truly unexpected and a very welcome surprise. Born on September 14th the baby is doing very well & is very photogenic. Make sure and stop out to visit this fall.



Exploring Iowa's Splendid Natural Heritage with Dan Kaercher

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on Saturday November 5th for a special presentation by Dan Kaercher as he discusses the many wonders of the state of Iowa. The event kicks off at 5:00 p.m. at the Loess Hills Lodge & there is no fee to attend, free will donations will be accepted to support continued programming at your county parks. All attendees will need a valid annual park permit or will need to purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass to enter the park.



There's a widely held stereotype about Iowa being one big, flat, boring corn (or soybean) field. Don't believe it! While Iowa's lush cropland is a key feature of the state's natural landscape, there's so much more to explore in the state: the unique and dramatic Loess Hills that erupt from the western Iowa landscape alongside the broad Missouri River Valley ... the rumpled dolomite limestone terrain of northeast Iowa's un-glaciated "Little Switzerland" ... the woods and canyons of Iowa's many river meandering valleys ... Iowa's lakes and marshes, both natural and man-made ... the remaining tracts of billowing native prairies that greeted Iowa's first European settlers ... and the many attractions of the iconic Mississippi River in eastern Iowa. Learn some of the many ways you can experience firsthand Iowa's great outdoors on getaways to Iowa's state and county parks, preserves, forests, and other natural attractions, based on Dan's many years of traveling to every corner of Iowa as an author, magazine journalist and TV host! We'll have special ideas to share for colorful fall outings in the Hawkeye State as well.

Dan Kaercher is the retired founding editor-in-chief of Midwest Living Magazine and retired host of "Iowa's Simple Pleasures" and other travel-related programs aired on Iowa Public Television and other public television stations nationally. A native of Council Bluffs, he graduated from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, majoring in journalism. During his extensive, award-winning media career at Meredith Corporation in Des Moines, Dan served as a writer and editor for such publications as Better Homes and Gardens, WOOD magazine and BH&G Special Interest Publications. He spent 21 years as founding editor-in-chief of Midwest Living magazine, published by Meredith. The popular regional publication focuses primarily on travel, food, home and garden information for readers in the 12 Midwest states ranging from Nebraska to Ohio, Michigan to Kansas (with Iowa at the heart of it all). Dan also hosted Midwest Living Radio Magazine, which aired on more than 100 stations in the region. He is the author of three books about the Midwest and Iowa: Best of the Midwest, Taste of the Midwest, and Parklands of the Midwest. Long a popular public speaker, Dan now spends his time primarily in Urbandale and Spirit Lake with his wife, Julie, their two children and two grandchildren.

Upcoming Programs

12th Annual HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk

8:00 a.m. Race Check In

9:00 a.m. Race Begins

Saturday, October 8th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Take in the scenery of the Loess Hills as you run through woodlands, valleys, & prairies during the 12th Annual Hitchcock Nature Center HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk. [Read](#)

[More ...](#)

Chili Fest

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday October 8th, 2016

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Bring the whole family out and enjoy a warm bowl of chili in the crisp fall air at the annual Arrowhead Park Chili Fest. [Read More ...](#)

Hancock Hallows Eve at Botna Bend Park

All Day

Saturday, October 8th, 2016

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Head to Hancock, Iowa for a day full of fun during the Hancock Hallows Eve celebration.

[Read More ...](#)

KinderNature: Signs of Fall

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 9th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center

Celebrate the season and jump in the leaves as we explore the changing faces of fall. Hit the trails for a leaf hunt and find out how animals are keeping busy in the crisp autumn weather. [Read More ...](#)

Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, October 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our October Living Loess Tour featuring the Hitchcock Nature Center, Loess Hills Woodworks & Barb Gallaher Designs. [Read More ...](#)

Enchanted Forest

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 30th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Wear your costumes and bring little ones for a special themed trail at Hitchcock. Program will include pumpkin painting and carving, modern day apple bobbing, and refreshments.

[Read More ...](#)

Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator
Pottawattamie County Conservation
katherine.simmons@pottawattamie-county-ia.gov

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

Follow us on  **twitter**

FOLLOW US ON  **Pinterest**



[View on Instagram](#)

[Visit our blog](#)