

THE CONSERVATOR

August, 2016

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

Join Us For Our Annual Real Maple Syrup Pancake Feed at Botna Bend Park

What is better than pancakes fresh off the griddle? How about pancakes fresh off the griddle and topped with real, homemade maple syrup?



Join us August 20th from 8:30 am to 11:00 am as we enjoy the tasty treat that is real maple syrup. Each spring staff at Botna Bend Park collects gallons of sticky sap from the park's maple trees and boil it down to create their own dark brown maple syrup. Pancakes and syrup will be accompanied by sausage, orange juice, & coffee. There is no cost for this event, free will donations are accepted for the breakfast. While you are there make sure to purchase a raffle ticket to support Botna Bend's weekly kids' craft program.

There is no pre-registration required for this event. Breakfast will be served at Olsen Lodge starting at 8:30 am sharp. For more information please call the park office at 712-741-5465.

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center is for serious naturalists who seek to deepen commitment and engagement in citizen science, nature education, and conservation in Iowa's Loess Hills and surrounding ecosystems. Seasonal sessions of weekly workshops focus on a particular group of organisms in context of ecosystem, biotic community, and phenology. Our workshops are immersive, intensive, outdoors in all weather, and physically demanding. They are intended for adults who love nature and are committed to the study, conservation, and preservation of native ecosystems, and to educating others in this good work. In addition to seasonal in-the-field workshops, The Naturalist School members will have conservation and citizen science opportunities at Hitchcock Nature Center and other county conservation areas.



Photo by Robert Smith via www.newtreeschool.com

For more information & a schedule of events please visit <https://newtreeschool.wordpress.com/the-naturalist-school-at-hitchcock-nature-center/>

Night Sky Event & StarLab Planetarium Program to be Held at Hitchcock Nature Center



Photo Courtesy of NASA

The annual Perseid Meteor Shower is almost here! Every August the Earth passes through a cloud of debris left by the Swift-Tuttle comet which creates a natural fireworks show as small pieces of rock light up in our atmosphere. This annual event is one of the most popular meteor showers here in north America because it is visible from almost any vantage point.

This year there is a chance an even greater than normal number of meteors will blaze across the night sky because of our planet's position in the comet's debris field.

This year the meteors are visible between July 17th & August 24th but will peak the evening of August 12th and this is great news for those of you in the area because we will be hosting our annual Night Sky event here at Hitchcock Nature Center that very evening! Join us & area astronomers for this free program on Friday, August 12th from 8:30 pm to midnight at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs, binoculars, & don't forget the bug spray! Once it gets dark we will turn off the lights and watch for the celestial fireworks. There is no pre-registration required for this free, family event. While picnics are more than welcome we are asking that no alcohol be consumed at this public program. For more details please visit our [website](#) or call 712-545-3283.

After staying out late on Friday join us again on Saturday the 13th for another astronomy program, our StarLab! Due to the popularity of our July event we have scheduled a second round of programs on August 13th. Join us as we bring the night sky inside with this unique indoor planetarium. We will be offering 4 - 30 minute sessions and while our 10:30 am session is already full we still have spots in our 11:15 am, 1:00 pm, & 1:45 pm sessions. Pre-registration is required for this free, family event, register online today with the links below or visit our [website](#) for more details.

[Click here to register for the 11:15 am session](#)

[Click here to register for the 1:00 pm session](#)

[Click here to register for the 1:45 pm session](#)

We hope to see you at one of these exciting, free programs & remember to look to the skies this summer, you never know what you might see.

Fall 2016 Oak Sapling Sale

The Naturalist School, in collaboration with Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs, offers superior quality oak saplings grown from seed collected at Hitchcock Nature Center. Our fall 2016 sale features oaks known to the Omaha-Ponca as tashka-hi. Many of us know this vital and ancient oak as *Quercus macrocarpa*, the bur oak. This is the dominant oak at Hitchcock Nature Center and sustains countless creatures in every habitat. It can bring life and biodiversity to your big back yard, neighborhood, or acreage.

Each superior quality sapling is 12 - 18" tall and was grown in an advanced root production system, \$20.00 each. All proceeds will support The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center. To order please email Jack Phillips at newtreeschool@gmail.com. Orders must be received by August 15th. Saplings will be available for pickup at Hitchcock Nature Center.

For more details please visit:

<https://newtreeschool.wordpress.com/loess-hills-native-tree-sale/>

August Living Loess Tour to

Highlight Harrison County Historical Village & Welcome Center

Join us for the fourth Living Loess Saturday of 2016 on August 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. & experience the culture of the hills in a whole new way. Plan a visit to our featured attraction, the Harrison County Historical Village & Iowa Welcome Center. Join them and tour their museum and play Welcome Center Bingo as you look for items on display. Check out the Make a Block felt board and learn about quilt piecing as you design your own block. And visit with Fred Cooper as he demonstrates rope making techniques on a 100 year old rope making machine.



[Read More ...](#)

Upcoming Programs

KinderNature: Fish Fun

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 7th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Make a splash as we learn about fish and their underwater world. Explore fish parts and find out how they breathe and swim. Try your hand at mini-fishing too! [Read More ...](#)

Night Sky

8:30 p.m. to Midnight

Friday, August 12th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join area astronomers as they take in the majesty of the annual Perseid Meteor Shower. This year's shower will peak the evening of August 12th so come out to Hitchcock Nature Center and view up to 50 meteors an hour. [Read More ...](#)

August StarLab

10:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 1:00 p.m. & 1:45 p.m.

Saturday, August 13th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join area astronomers as they take in the majesty of the annual Perseid Meteor Shower. This year's shower will peak the evening of August 12th so come out to Hitchcock Nature Center and view up to 50 meteors an hour. [Read More ...](#)

August Hitch Hike

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 16th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Meet at the Old Lincoln Highway Deck at the Hitchcock Nature Center Campground to begin this walk down Hohneke Trail to Oak Avenue and Bunker Hill Loops. [Read More ...](#)

Real Maple Syrup Pancake Feed

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

Saturday, August 20th, 2016

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Grilled pancakes & sausage will be served with our homemade maple syrup along with coffee & orange juice from 8:30 to 1:00 a.m. so don't be late! [Read More ...](#)

Monarch Tagging

9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 10th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

How in the world do you tag a monarch butterfly? Find out at our annual Monarch Tagging program at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)


Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator
Pottawattamie County Conservation
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 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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