

THE CONSERVATOR

December, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

Park Admission Fees to Change January 1st, 2018

Beginning January 1st, 2018 daily use & permit fees will be increasing for visitors to all Pottawattamie County Conservation Parks including Hitchcock Nature Center in Honey Creek, Arrowhead Park in Neola, Botna Bend Park in Hancock, & Narrows River Park in Council Bluffs.

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

Annual permits have been replaced with membership to the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation. 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 additional benefits.

Annual Membership - \$20.00 each

- 1 annual permit to all PCCB County Parks
- ½ day boat or canoe rental at Arrowhead Park, Neola
- 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
- One additional annual permit
- A certificate for a one night cabin rental or two nights of RV camping.

Supporter Membership - \$100.00 each

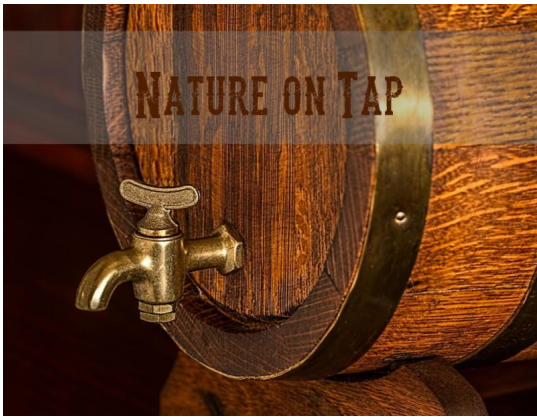
- Includes all Annual & Family Membership benefits
- Two tickets to the annual PCF auction & beer tasting
- Recognition at the annual PCF auction & beer tasting
- Recognition in our e-newsletter.

Memberships may still be purchased through staff at any of our parks, at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center, & through the mail. We will also begin offering our visitors the option to purchase memberships online beginning in January of 2018.

Annual permits purchased in 2017 will be honored through their current expiration date so any guest with a current permit will have continued access to our parks throughout this change. When your renewal date comes due you will be asked to purchase a membership.

For more information on the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation & our new membership program please visit www.pottcoconservation.com/support/pcf/.

Join us for Nature On Tap, December 16th at Hitchcock Nature Center



Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center for Nature on Tap, a 21 & over event on Saturday, December 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Register your team of up to 5 participants to try your hand at nature trivia and bring your thinking caps because there will be prizes up for grabs! Teams may consist of 2 to 5 people for a maximum of 12 teams. We reserve the right to combine smaller teams to maximize participation at this event. Pre-registration is required as space is limited.

Please note, participants must be age 21 & over to attend. Participants under 21 will not be admitted.

We have over \$500 in amazing prizes up for grabs at this fantastic event.

- A brewery tour for 10 with a tasting at the Nebraska Brewing Company
- Dinner for two at the Upstream Brewing Company
- Growler fills at Confluence Brewery & Fire Trucker Brewery
- Assorted prizes from West O Brewing, Glacial Till Winery, the Iowa Craft Beer Tent, the Nebraska Brewers Guild, Jackson Street Brewing, Breezy Hills Winery, Iowa Legendary Rye, & Denny's Pizza in Crescent.
- AND MORE!

Prizes are arriving daily so use the link below to register your team online. Please call 712-545-3283 for more information.

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Attendees must purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass or have a valid Pottawattamie Count Parks annual permit to attend this program. Daily entrance passes may be purchased at the front gate with exact change or a check and may be purchased the day of the event. Annual permits may be purchased for \$10.00 from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours. There is no additional fee to attend this program thanks to the support of the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation. Free will donations are encouraged and will support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County.

Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center Holiday Closures and Winter Hours

Winter weather brings some changes to our hours of operation at Hitchcock Nature Center. While the park remains open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.



throughout the season, we will be reducing the hours of operation at the Loess Hills Lodge from December 4th, 2017 through March 5th, 2018. This annual change is due to the reduction in visitors to the park during the weekday hours.

The Loess Hills Lodge will be open the following days and times from December 4th through March 5th.

Friday & Saturday - 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Monday through Thursday

The holiday season also adds additional closures to the Loess Hills Lodge calendar. The Loess Hills Lodge will be observing the following closures during the month of December.

Sunday, December 24th - We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 29th.

Sunday, December 31st - We will re-open at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, January 5th, 2018

Hitchcock Nature Center's Holiday Open House

Friday, December 15th 9am-5pm
Saturday, December 16th 9am-5pm
Sunday, December 17th 1pm-5pm

WARM DRINKS+ COLORING CONTEST +GIFT SHOP DEALS

Saturday Special Programs

10am Winter Wonders Children's Program

11am Fireside Stories

*This is a free event with paid park admission.
Free-will donations are encouraged.*



December 9th & 10th



Hitchcock Nature Center will be a hub of activity on December 9th & 10th during the 3rd annual Hitchcock Experience.

This "Ultra-Run" organized by the Greater Omaha Area Trail Runners (G.O.A.T.z.) features a 13.1 mile, a 50 mile, & 100 mile race through the Loess Hills at Hitchcock Nature Center. This annual event attracts runners from all over the world who come to test their skills on Western Iowa's unique terrain.

During these days traffic to and from the park will be heavier than usual & parking may be difficult. We will not be closing the park to our regular visitors but we do ask that you be aware of the event & plan for larger than normal crowds should you decide to visit during this time. Our Hitchcock Experience participants will have the right of way on all trails during this event. Regular park visitors & hikers are asked to stand aside and make way for the runners throughout the event.

[Click here for more information on this annual event.](#)

Guided Snowshoe Hike Registration to Open January 2nd, 2018

Mark your calendars for Hitchcock Nature Center's annual Guided Snowshoe Hikes! This free and fun program includes your snowshoe rental, a lesson on usage, and a guided hike to practice your new skills.

2018 will see a change to the program: In addition to our ever popular 12 & over program, we have also decided to create a new Family Snowshoe Hike for families with children age's 5 to 11.

Saturday, January 27th, 2018

Family Snowshoe Hike - 1:00 p.m.

Guided Snowshoe Hike - 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 24th, 2018

Family Snowshoe Hike - 1:00 p.m.

Guided Snowshoe Hike - 3:00 p.m.

Registration for both dates will open January 2nd, 2018 & pre-registration is required as space is limited. Pre-registration will be available through our website beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018. Please visit

www.pottcoconservation.com for more information.



PLEASE NOTE: Snowshoeing requires at least 4 to 6 inches of snow, if there isn't enough snow we will still be holding an indoor snowshoe tutorial and a guided winter hike if trail conditions allow.

Attendees must purchase a \$3.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass or have a valid Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation membership or permit to attend this program. Daily entrance passes may be purchased with exact change or check at the front gate and may be purchased the day of the event. PCF annual memberships may be purchased for \$20.00 from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours. There is no additional fee to attend this program, free will donations are encouraged and will support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County.

While this event is family friendly it is not pet friendly, please leave your canine friends at

home. Service animals are always welcome.

2018 Programming Sponsored by the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation

Upcoming Programs

Holiday Open House

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 15th

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 16th

1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 17th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at the Loess Hills Lodge for some family fun including refreshments, gift shop discounts, family activities & holiday cheer as we celebrate winter at the park.

[Read More ...](#)

Winter Wonders Children's Program

10:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 16th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Children of all ages are invited to attend this event and enjoy a variety of hands on activities and learning as we discover all the ways animals prepare for winter. Don't forget to stay after the program concludes for story time & enjoy all the other activities our Holiday Open

House has to offer.. [Read More ...](#)

Hitchcock Experience

Saturday, December 9th - Sunday December 10th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join the Greater Omaha Area Trail Runners (The G.O.A.T.z) for the 3rd annual Hitchcock Experience. This unique endurance run features a 100 mile, 50 mile, & 13.1 mile race through Iowa's Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

Nature on Tap

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 16th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Register your team of up to 5 participants to try your hand at nature trivia and bring your thinking caps because there will be prizes up for grabs! [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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