

THE CONSERVATOR

February, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



[Visit Our Website](#)

A Summer of Fun with Pottawattamie County Conservation

The Pottawattamie County Conservation Environmental Education Department is excited to announce our 2017 Summer Camp Series.

Registration for all summer camps will open on March 1st, 2017 & space is limited. Please visit our website for more details on available camps, pricing, & registration.

June 12-16 or June 31-August 4
Princes and Princesses
9am-11am
5 individual day camps themed around princes and princesses. Individual day sign up, sign up for them all or just a few!

June 20-22nd
Sign up for one or both to make a full day adventure
8am-12pm Nature Inside Out
12:30pm-4:30pm Super Heroes
July 25th-27th 8am-12pm Pirates!

June 27th-29th
Sign up for one or both to make a full day adventure
8am-12pm Nature Ninja's
12:30pm-4:30pm Fantastic Beasts
July 25th-27th 12:30pm-4:30pm Treasure Seekers

Preschoolers

Entering 1st & 2nd grade

Entering 3rd & 4th grade

Family Camp

Entering 5th & 6th grade

July 11-13
Survival 101
8am-4pm
From canoeing to fort building come learn skills to survive in the outdoors!

July 17th 9am – July 18th 12pm
July 20th 9am – July 21st 12pm
Overnight Escapades!
Grab your sense of adventure and your sleeping bag!

Entering 7th & 8th grade

Camp 101
June 3rd
9am-11am
For apprehensive children with an adult.

Helping Hands Camp
July 6th-8th
1pm-3pm
Geared towards kids with special needs with a guardian.

Family Camp Out
August 12th 3pm-August 13th 10am
Introduction to camping! Most supplies provided.

Help Pottawattamie County Conservation Design our New T-Shirts!

Pottawattamie County Conservation invites you to enter 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
- 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 by 5:00 p.m. on April 15th. For more information please email katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov or call 712-545-3283.

24th Annual Maple Tree Tap at Botna Bend Park

Spring is on the way and that means we are getting close to maple tree tapping time at Botna Bend Park!

Join us for the 24th annual Maple Tree Tap event on Saturday, March 4th at Botna Bend Park. This long running program keeps growing in popularity so we have increased to 3 sessions of our all ages program.

Pre-register for either the 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. session using the links below.



The all ages programs include a presentation on the process of tapping the trees then a trip out into the park for a practical demonstration of tapping techniques. Please meet at Olsen Lodge in the center of the park.

[Register online for the 9:00 a.m. session](#)

[Register online for the 10:00 a.m. session](#)

[Register online for the 11:00 a.m. session](#)

In addition to adding an additional all ages session we have also created the Children's Maple Tree Tap. This program is designed for families with children ages 7 & under as part of our monthly KinderNature programming series. Register for the 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. or the 11:00 a.m. session using the links below.

[Register online for the 9:00 a.m. session](#)

[Register online for the 10:00 a.m. session](#)

[Register online for the 11:00 a.m. session](#)

This program is geared toward younger learners with hands on activities and a craft designed to spark imagination & learning. Please meet at the craft house near Olsen Lodge in the center of the park.

There is no fee to attend either of these events. Participants are required to either have a valid Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit or purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass. Daily entrance passes may be purchased with cash or check at the front gate on the day of the event. Annual permits are available for \$10.00 and are valid for a full 12 months, pick one up from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours.

These popular programs will fill up fast so register today! Please call 712-545-3283 for more information.

Loess Hills Nature School: February Saunters Workshop

The Loess Hills Nature School is a nonprofit nature education consortium. Our supporting members include Loess Hills Alliance, Pottawattamie County Conservation, Tallgrass Prairie Oak Savanna Fire Science Consortium, and Golden Hills RC&D.

Our work is to help nature-lovers and professionals, through a consilience of ecology and creativity, to grow in awareness and intimacy with the natural world. We engage people from all walks of life in scientific inquiry, nature writing and literature, visual arts, and conservation of Loess Hills ecosystems. Our members become better naturalists, teachers, conservationists, land stewards, artists, writers, citizen scientists, story-tellers, wild philosophers, and conservation advocates.

[Click here for more information & programming dates.](#)



Pottawattamie County Conservation & Canfield's Partner to Offer Backpacking 101 Class at Hitchcock Nature Center

Pottawattamie County Conservation and the backpacking experts at Canfield's Sporting Goods and have teamed up to provide a 4-part series of classes 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 hand-on experience to plan and 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.

Students will gain the knowledge and skills related to:

- Equipment selection, operation, and repair
- Distance planning and fitness tips
- Meal planning and cooking
- Trail etiquette
- Leave No Trace ethics and principles
- Water treatments
- Bear Awareness
- Reading the weather
- The Unpredictable
- Finding a bathroom
- And several other valuable skills



Join us for this informative programming series. The first three classes will be held at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center from 1:00 to 5:00 pm on Saturday, April 15th, Saturday, April 29th, & Saturday, May 13th. The fourth class in the series will give you a chance to put what you have learned to the test with an overnight stay in the backwoods at Hitchcock Nature

Center on Saturday, May 27th.

The total cost for the entire 4-part series is \$30.00 per student and includes all instruction & park admission. Participants will need to provide their own equipment. Pre-registration is required for this programming series & no walk in participants will be admitted. [Please click here to register for this brand new program](#) or call 712-545-3283 for more information.

Pottawattamie County Conservation Receives Humanities Iowa Grant to Support 2017 Speaker Series

Pottawattamie County Conservation has been awarded nearly \$2,000 in a grant from Humanities Iowa, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in support of our brand new 2017 Speaker Series.

The 2017 Speaker Series is a new programming series designed for teens & adults to provide them with an opportunity to learn from and interact with various authorities in the fields of conservation & environmental science. Programs are free with paid park admission & 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 last approximately 1 hour & after the presentation attendees may enjoy conversation with the presenter, a book signing, & refreshments provided by local vendors.

2017 Speaker Series Programming:

Sunday, April 9th - Climate Change with Connie Mutel

Saturday, May 13th - Aldo Leopold with Ron Cisar

Saturday, June 10th - Prairie Flowers with Danuta Hutchins

Saturday, July 8th - Speaker & Topic TBA

Saturday, August 12th - Land Ethics with Thomas Dean

Saturday, September 9th - Lessons Learned from Prairie Restoration with Keith Summerville

Saturday, October 14th - Wild Edibles with Kelly Kindscher

[Click here to read more about this exciting program series.](#)

Upcoming Programs

Families Love Nature

3:30 to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 11th, 2017

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Get in the Valentine's Day spirit as you enjoy crafts, activities, guided hikes and much more as you and your family discover all kinds of things to love about nature! Pre-registration required. [Read More ...](#)

Sweethearts Love Nature

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 11th, 2017

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for a sweet time at Hitchcock Nature Center as we get ready for Valentine's Day and find romance in Iowa's Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

OWLS Program: Owls

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 18th

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 owl species of Iowa presented by a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. [Read More ...](#)

KinderNature: Who's Awake

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 18th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us in pursuit of the hoot & learn more about these unique birds, how they fly, hunt, live, & survive. [Read More ...](#)

February Guided Snowshoe or Winter Hike

1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 18th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Strap on some snowshoes & discover your own winter wonderland during the February Guided Snowshoe Hike at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

OWLS Program: Astronomy

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

Wednesday, February 22nd

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Area seniors are invited to join us for an introductory program on astronomy at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your lunch and get familiar with the night sky with help from a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. [Read More ...](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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