

THE CONSERVATOR

July, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

2017 Speaker Series Continues with "A New Garden Ethic" with Benjamin Vogt

Pottawattamie County Conservation is excited to host Benjamin Vogt PhD. - poet, author, teacher, gardener, & conservationist - as our guest speaker for the July installment of the 2017 Speaker Series. In preparation for our July event, Pottawattamie County Conservation's Kristen Bieret sat down with Benjamin to discuss Benjamin's background, inspiration, and his upcoming talk at Hitchcock Nature Center.

You are presenting at the speaker series coming up on July 8th. What are some highlights we can expect at your presentation?

It's a pretty deep, philosophical talk that - at least the last two times I've given it - has elicited tears in someone. We'll explore what's at stake in an era of prairie loss, climate change, and mass extinction, why we are so disconnected from these issues emotionally, and what we can and need to do as individuals and cities to bring back wildness into our daily lives. Certainly, it will have lots of ecological and psychological research alongside plenty of pictures.

Tell me a little about your background.

I come from a different route, but one that's surprisingly common - English degree to garden design. I have a BFA, MFA, and PhD in creative writing. One of the dissertations explored my relationship gardening with my mother when I was younger, and used a lot of landscape design history and environmental research. That, coupled with a new home and a blank slate for a garden ten years ago, and I was off. Now my 1/4 acre lot has over 5,000 square feet of gardens with only a few hundred square feet of lawn.

What sparked your interest in gardening and the natural world?

I could never pinpoint a moment, but wish I could. Maybe it's a dash of going to nurseries with my mother as a kid, playing with Texas horned lizards in a dry creek when we lived in Oklahoma, or the myriad lakes and woods of Minnesota where we moved to when I was ten. I think the overall spark was touching nature and playing outside. There's an entire world in taking a stick and poking the dirt, chucking rocks into water, or balancing a pine cone on your finger. I wish every new suburban development included the creation of a dense, wild park of several acres for families to get lost and then found in.

[Click Here to Read the Complete Interview](#)

[Click Here to Register for "A New Garden Ethic" on July 8th at 4:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Nature Center](#)

2017 SPEAKER SERIES: “A NEW GARDEN ETHIC”



Free Family Trivia Challenge to be Held at Arrowhead Park

Take a break from the heat of the day and bring the family out to Arrowhead Park for the first ever Family Trivia Challenge. Join us at 1:30 p.m. at Arrowhead Park in Neda for this fun, all ages event.

Register your family as a team and bring your thinking caps because there will be prizes! The trivia questions will all be nature themed so you can learn while you compete! Register your team of 2 to 6 participants online by Wednesday, July 19th as space is limited, pre-registration is REQUIRED. [Click here to register online in minutes](#) or call 712-545-3283 for more details.

There is no fee for this event, free-will donations will be accepted to support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County. All participants are required to have a valid Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit or purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass to enter the park. Daily passes may be purchased with cash or check at the front gate on the day of the event. Annual permits may be purchased from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours.

While this event is family friendly it is not pet friendly, please leave your canine friends at home. Service animals are always welcome.

2017 Programming Sponsored by the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation.

[Click Here to Register Online for the Free Family Trivia Challenge](#)



Free!

**NATURE TRIVIA
FAMILY EDITION**

**JULY 22ND
2PM-4PM
ARROWHEAD
PARK**

**REGISTER YOUR FAMILY TEAM AT:
WWW.POTTCONSERVATION.COM
QUESTIONS CALL: 712-545-3283**

The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or other legally protected status.

Upcoming Programs

2017 Speaker Series: "A New Garden Ethic" with Benjamin Vogt

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 8th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

This month features "A New Garden Ethic" presented by Benjamin Vogt. Benjamin will explore the role the average citizen can play in combating human-induced climate changes affecting wildlife at home and around the globe. [Read More ...](#)

July Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, July 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our June Living Loess Tour. The featured stop for our June tour is Loess Hills Lavender Farm. [Read More ...](#)

July Hitch Hike

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m. for the third hike of the 2017 Hitch Hike series. Hike out Fox Run Ridge to take in the stunning views of the Missouri River valley, beautiful prairie & pasture land, and catch a glimpse of our research plots. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management, July Session

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 22nd

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

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. [Read More ...](#)

Yoga in the Park

8:30 a.m.

Saturday, July 22nd

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us Saturday, July 22nd at 8:30 a.m. for an early morning yoga session and take in the beauty of Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

KinderNature: Wet Wilderness

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 22nd

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Take a voyage through a wet wilderness and discover unique and amazing creatures at KinderNature: Wet Wilderness on Saturday, July 22nd. [Read More ...](#)

Family Trivia Challenge

2:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 22nd

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Take a break from the heat of the day and bring the family out to Arrowhead Park for the first ever Family Trivia Challenge. Join us at 1:30 p.m. at Arrowhead Park in Neola for this fun, all ages event. [Read More ...](#)

Free Summer Concert Series Featuring SkreTTa etc.

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 6th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring Omaha band SkreTTa ect. Complimentary food provided to the first 75 guests by HyVee.

[Read More ...](#)


Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator
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STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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