

THE CONSERVATOR

May, 2017



THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



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Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation Endowment News

The Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation has announced a new partnership with the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation. Through this new partnership we have created an endowment fund to help support conservation efforts in Pottawattamie County.

Since its creation in 1993 the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation has raised funds to help support the efforts of the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board & its staff. PCF directly sponsors public programming, field trip programming, land stewardship projects, land acquisition and much more. The creation of this new endowment fund is an investment in the future of conservation projects and in Pottawattamie County while providing excellent tax incentives for contributing members of the public.

[Click here to read more about this new partnership in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil.](#)

[Click here to learn more about the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation & become a member today.](#)

Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation to Participate in 5th Annual Omaha Gives! Event

The Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation is excited to participate in the 5th annual Omaha Gives/Pottawattamie Gives! This annual 24 hour giving holiday is sponsored by American National Bank, and in partnership with the Omaha Community Foundation & the Pottawattamie County Community Foundation.

Since beginning in 2013, Omaha Gives! has grown to become the 7th largest giving holiday in the country. It has become an annual tradition in the metro area, raising funds for area non-profits and inspiring a sense of community throughout the Omaha/Council Bluffs metro. With hundreds of non-profits to choose from and a minimum

donation of only \$10.00 it's easy to make a difference!

Each donation gives the non-profit of your choice a chance to earn hourly "bonus dollars" to support their work giving your donation the chance to do even more good! Additionally, the Iowa West Foundation has generously provided up to \$20,000 in Challenge Funds for non-profit organizations providing services to Pottawattamie County. Every donation you make to PCF earns us a share of these Challenge Funds.

Join us on May 24th from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. by logging on to www.omahagives.org to make your online donation. Every donation counts so mark your calendars and get ready to make a difference.



[Click here to learn more about Omaha Gives! and the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation.](#)



Register Online for Summer Nature Camps



Registration for Pottawattamie County Conservation's 2017 Summer Nature Camps is open. This year's camps offer programming for students from Pre-K through 8th grade with a variety of outdoor experiences. [Please click here for more information on how you can register for our 2017 Nature Camp Series.](#)

[Visit our Website for More Information](#)

Hitchcock Nature Center

T-Shirt Design

Contest



Help Hitchcock Nature Center & Pottawattamie County Conservation design our new t-shirt!

Submit original designs in pdf format to
katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov
by 5:00 p.m. May 15th, 2017.

Please visit www.pottcoconservation.com for full contest rules

Living Loess & Harvest Spoon Tours to Kick Off 2017 Seasons in May



The Harvest Spoon Tour will be kicking off its 2017 season on Saturday, May 6th, join us and experience Iowa's picture perfect Loess Hills. Drive the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway and visit all 7 partner businesses between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on the first

Saturday of the month in May and October and celebrate the food and culture of western Iowa. Learn more at www.theharvestspoon.com or on [Facebook](#).

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on the 2017 Living Loess Tour. Join all of our partner businesses from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month, May through October, to experience Iowa's Loess Hills. Each of our partner businesses will be open and each month we will feature a new attraction offering a unique perspective & experience for visitors of all ages. Watch artists in action, visit working farms, and take in the beauty and history of the Loess Hills. Learn more at www.livingloess.org or on [Facebook](#).



Road Closure Creates Detour to Hitchcock Nature Center

Beginning April 10th, 2017 a bridge closure on Highway L20, the Old Lincoln Highway began impacting travel in rural Pottawattamie County. Fans of Hitchcock Nature Center may recognize this as the road connecting our park to the town of Crescent. Highway L20 is the corridor most of our traffic from the south travels on their way to the park from cities to the south such as Omaha and Council Bluffs. We've been told that this road will be closed from April 10th through an unspecified date in early June, weather dependent of course. This closure is for the construction of a new bridge and while we are excited about the improvements we recognize the difficulty this will pose for many of our campers, program attendees, runners, hikers, and all of our guests to the

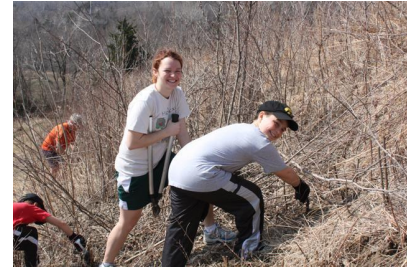
park.

To help with the travel changes we have put together a couple of detour options for you as you travel to the park this spring. With a little planning and extra time allowance you should have no trouble reaching us for programs and fun between now and June.

[Click here to read about possible detour routes to the park this spring.](#)

Volunteer Field Day & Prairie Rescue Single Mingle Rescheduled Due to Weather

The downside of holding outdoor programming is the fickle nature of Midwestern weather. Due to rain we have chosen to reschedule our two April volunteer events, the Volunteer Field Day & the Prairie Rescue Single Mingle. We appreciate your understanding of the circumstances and look forward to seeing you on May 13th!



We kick off Saturday, May 13th with our all-ages Volunteer Field Day from 8:00 a.m. to noon. This event is perfect for participants of all ages and experience levels including families, civic groups, & individuals looking for a way to give back. [Click here to register online for this event.](#)

From 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on May 13th we invite adults, 18 & over, with a love of nature to join us for the Prairie Rescue Single Mingle. This fun event will combine a love of the outdoors and volunteering with a chance to mix and mingle with other like-minded single adults as you volunteer. [Click here to register online for this event.](#)

Both events will consist of a training session and volunteer hours in the field and a chance to participate in active prairie restoration. Staff will provide tools for use but feel free to bring bow saws or loppers if you have them. Please bring gloves, water, and dress for the weather. Both events will require hiking & participants must have the ability to navigate uneven terrain.

There is no fee for these events and participants do not need to pay the \$2.00 per vehicle daily fee or have an annual park permit. We appreciate your support! To ensure proper staffing and supplies we are asking you to register in advance for this event.



Upcoming Programs

KinderNature: May Flowers

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 6th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

April showers bring May flowers! Children ages 3 to 5 are invited to join us as we discover the world of plants and embark on a floral expedition.

[Read More ...](#)

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center

Session #6 - May 6th

Session #7 - May 13th

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

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center field sessions are for those who seek to deepen awareness of, commitment to, and engagement in citizen science, nature education and conservation in Iowa's Loess Hills and the surrounding ecosystems. [Read More ...](#)

Summer Concert Series Featuring The MasterSingers

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 7th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for a free outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring the Omaha MasterSingers with complimentary food provided to the first 75 guests by

HyVee & cheese samples from Doe's & Diva's Dairy while supplies last. [Read More ...](#)

Volunteer Field Day - Reschedule

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

Saturday, May 13th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join Pottawattamie County Conservation staff as we hit the trails at Hitchcock Nature Center for a day of volunteer service. Get ready to make a difference! [Read More ...](#)

Prairie Rescue Single Mingle - Reschedule

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 13th

Hitchcock Nature Center

Single adults, 18 & over are invited to join Hitchcock Nature Center staff for this brand new event aimed at connecting conservation minded individuals through volunteering and their love of the outdoors. [Read More ...](#)

2017 Speaker Series: "Aldo Leopold" with Ron Cisar

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 13th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Help us welcome Ron Cisar to Hitchcock Nature Center and discover the work of Iowa native Aldo Leopold; author, educator, conservationist, & philosopher. Join us as we discover the land ethics of this pioneer and discover his life story. [Read More ...](#)

May Hitch Hike

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 16th

Hitchcock Nature Center

Enjoy a guided hike through a section of the Loess Hills not normally open to the public and learn more about the plants, animals, and history of the prairie. [Read More ...](#)

Birding 101

7:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 20th

Hitchcock Nature Center

Join experienced birders Nic Salick, Jason Andersen, and Michelle Biodrowski for a beginning birding class that will provide the knowledge and skills for amateur and beginning birders to accurately identify common and notable species found throughout the Midwest. [Read More ...](#)

Outdoor & Landscape Photography

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

Saturday, May 20th

Hitchcock Nature Center

Pottawattamie County Conservation and the photography professionals at Rockbrook Camera have teamed up to offer this special, 2-class workshop focused on outdoor and landscape photography. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management

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

6 - Class Series Begins May 27th

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. This six-class series will be held the 4th Saturday of the month, May through October. Class will be held 8:00 a.m. to noon each day, rain or shine. [Read More ...](#)

OWLS Program: Turtles

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 31st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Area seniors are invited to join us for a special program on Iowa's native turtles at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your lunch and learn more about one of Iowa's favorite cold-blooded residents with help from a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist. [Read More ...](#)

Kid's Fishing Derby

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 1st

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Bring the entire family to Arrowhead Park for an afternoon of outdoor fun! No fishing license is needed and prizes will be awarded to all participants. Must be under 16 years of age to participate. [Read More ...](#)

Summer Concert Series Featuring the Outlaw Road Band

6:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 4th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring the Outlaw Road Band with complimentary food provided to the first 75 guests by HyVee and cheese samples from Doe's and Diva's dairy while supplies last. [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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