

# THE CONSERVATOR

May, 2018



THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Become a Member Today!

## Support the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation During Omaha Gives! on May 23rd

Show your support for conservation during Omaha's 6th annual 24-hour charitable challenge Omaha Gives! This 24-hour challenge is set for May 23rd, 2018 and the giving begins at midnight with a minimum \$10 donation. Participating non-profits compete in hourly drawings for prize money making your donations go further.

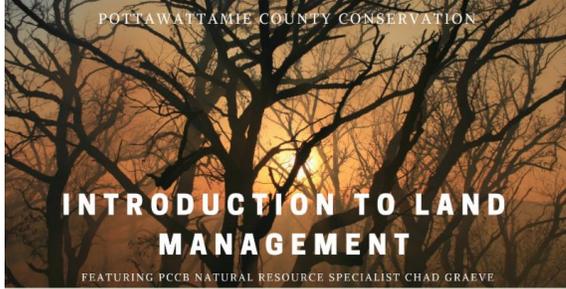
Visit [www.omahagives.org](http://www.omahagives.org) for more details or [CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR PROFILE](#).



# OMAHA GIVES!

### 2018 Introduction to Land Management Kicks Off May 26th

All members of the public including students, land owners, and anyone interested in learning more about our natural areas are invited to join us for our Introduction to Land Management program.



**INTRODUCTION TO LAND MANAGEMENT**

FEATURING PCCB NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST CHAD GRAEVE

SIX-CLASS SERIES PROVIDING THE BASIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TO MANAGE HEALTHY NATURAL AREAS

THE SERIES IS \$75/PERSON OR \$15/CLASS/PERSON

SERIES CLASS DATES:  
5/26, 6/23, 7/22, 8/28, 9/22, AND 10/27  
AT HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REGISTER, LOG ON TO  
WWW.POTTCCONSERVATION.COM OR CALL 712-545-3283



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.

This six-class series is designed to provide members of the public the basic knowledge and skills required to create and maintain a healthy environment in a Midwestern natural areas setting. The series will provide extensive hands-on experiences facilitated by natural resource professionals and experts from UN-Omaha, Creighton University, Pheasants Forever, Harrison County Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and the IaDNR.

The series is intended for people of all experience levels; those with little or no experience or little to no land should feel encouraged to attend. Attendees should note: the series will primarily take place outdoors in the Loess Hills of western Iowa and will, at times, require pedestrian travel over difficult terrain. Classes will meet at Hitchcock Nature

Center.

Series dates and topics include:

- May: Topic: Introduction to Hitchcock Nature Center, the Loess Hills, and the Guiding Principles;  
Instructor: Chad Graeve (PCCB)
- June: Topic: When and How to Control Noxious and Invasive Herbaceous Plants (a focus on Canada thistle [*C. arvensis*] and sweet clover [*M. alba* and *M. officinalis*])  
Instructors: Chad Graeve (PCCB) and Thad Pothast (Harrison County Weed Commissioner)
- July: Topic: Woody Invasives, Brush Management, and Timber Stand Improvement;  
Instructors: Chad Graeve (PCCB), Linsey Barney (IaDNR District Forester), and Scott Moats (The Nature Conservancy Director of Stewardship)
- Aug: Topic: Birds, Invertebrates, and Small Mammals of the Loess Hills and Prairies  
Instructors: Nic Salick (Pheasants Forever Biologist), Dr. Ted Burk (Creighton University), and Dr. Jeremy White (UN-Omaha)
- September: Topic: Seed Harvesting, Introduction to Prescribed Fire  
Instructor: Chad Graeve
- October: Topic: Prescribed Fire (cont.), Follow-Up on Canada Thistle, Putting It All Together  
Instructor: Chad Graeve

A few of last year's students had this to say about the class:

*"This is the most interesting and best-presented class I have attended since becoming a master naturalist three years ago."*

*"The quality of instruction is first rate, and the setting is perfect for those wanting to learn how to protect the environment of the Loess Hills."*

*"I enjoyed everything about the class. The beautiful location, the other class participants, all the instructors/experts sharing their knowledge, and all the great stuff I have learned. This has been so much fun."*

The fee for the entire six-class series is \$75.00; Individual classes can be attended for \$15.00 per class. Pre-registration is required. Due to the hands-on nature of the series, class sizes will be limited and early registration is required.

[Click Here to Register for All Six Sessions of Introduction to Land Management](#)

[Click Here to Register for the May Session of Introduction to Land Management](#)

College students can receive a discounted student rate for the series; please call 712-545-3283 for details or email [jeff.franco@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:jeff.franco@pottcounty-ia.gov). Student ID is required.

Please call 712-545-3283 for more information.

## Register Today for 2018 Summer Camp

Registration for Pottawattamie County Conservation's 2018 Summer Camps is now open!

Camps for children in Pre-K through 8th grade are being offered this year. Check out our website for details & online registration.

New For 2018! Pottawattamie County Conservation is partnering with the Southwest Iowa Transportation Association to provide transportation to our summer camps to and from centrally located pick-up spots in Pottawattamie County. For more information please email Rene Stroud, Naturalist at [rene.stroud@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:rene.stroud@pottcounty-ia.gov).

[Click Here For More Information on our 2018 Summer Camp Offerings](#)

PRESCHOOL AGES 3-5	ENTERING 1ST AND 2ND GRADE	ENTERING 3RD AND 4TH GRADE
<p><i>Fairies and Pirates</i> JUNE 11TH-15TH AUGUST 6TH-10TH \$15 PER CAMPER HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER 9AM-11AM</p> <p><i>Sign up for them all or just a few!</i> <b>Monday</b> - Fawn and the World of Animals <b>Tuesday</b> - Gruff and the Legends of the Neverbeast <b>Wednesday</b> - Silvermist and Iridessa Explore Sunshine and Water <b>Thursday</b> - Rosetta and Nature's Gardens <b>Friday</b> - Zarina the Pirate Fairy Adventure Through the Wilderness</p>	<p><i>Trolls</i> JUNE 19TH- 21ST \$75 PER CAMPER HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER 9AM-4PM</p> <p>Embark on a journey over the hills and under the tall trees as we learn about Hitchcock Nature Center's Fantastical Forest. Join our team and work together to discover a troll-iday every day in every way (spontaneous dance party included).</p> <p><i>Water Warriors</i> JULY 17TH-19TH \$75 PER CAMPER ARROWHEAD PARK 9AM-4PM</p> <p>From canoeing and paddle boats to fishing and dip netting we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!</p>	<p><i>The Last Rusty</i> JUNE 26TH-28TH \$75 PER CAMPER HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER 9AM-4PM</p> <p>Join the forces of the Dump Busters to track down and save the last Rusty as we thwart the environmental destroyers in our midst.</p> <p><i>Aquatic Adventures</i> JULY 31ST-AUGUST 2ND \$75 PER CAMPER ARROWHEAD PARK 9AM-4PM</p> <p>From canoeing to fishing we will tackle all the fun challenges water can bring our way!</p>
<b>REGISTER AT WWW.POTTCONSERVATION.COM</b>		
<p><i>Voyagers</i> JULY 10-12TH \$75 PER CAMPER July 10th Arrowhead Park 9am-4pm July 11th-12th 4pm-10am Botna Bend Park</p> <p>New this year! Join in as we learn all the skills of the great outdoors. We will try our hand at canoeing on the first day at Arrowhead Park, then learn how to pitch a tent and stay overnight at Botna Bend Park.</p> <p><i>Camper Vs. Wild</i> JULY 24TH-26TH \$75 PER CAMPER HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER 9AM-4PM</p> <p>Join in as we tackle the great outdoors. We will learn all the skills needed to master adventures in the wild.</p>	<p><i>Paddling Pioneers</i> JULY 11TH 9AM- JULY 12TH 4PM \$75 PER CAMPER BOTNA BEND OLD TOWN PARK</p> <p>Grab your sense of adventure and your sleeping bag as we canoe to Botna Bend Park for an overnight!</p> <p>Paddlers continue on to Old Town Park by canoe for a second day of adventure</p>	<p><i>Helping Hands Camp</i> JUNE 12TH-14TH \$30 PER CAMPER HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER 1PM-3PM</p> <p>A camp tailored to children with special needs and their guardians.</p> <p><i>Family Camp Out</i> AUGUST 11TH 3PM- AUGUST 12TH 10AM \$25 PER FAMILY HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER</p> <p>Want to camp but not sure where to start? We will provide meals, activities and most of the supplies. Registration is limited to 6 families.</p>

## May: A Full Month of Programming Fun at Your County Parks

May is shaping up to be an amazing month for Pottawattamie County Conservation staff & visitors. With 15 upcoming public programs there is sure to be something for everyone this month. Here are just a few things we have planned!



### **Iowa's Native Bees - Saturday, May 5th 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.**

Visit with entomologist Randall Cass and learn more about Iowa's unique native bee species, the Iowa State Extension Office's important research on these amazing insects, and discover all the ways native pollinators impact the economy and ecology of the state of Iowa. Free with park admission, no pre-registration necessary. [Read More ...](#)

### **Mystery Cache - Saturday, May 12th 9:00 a.m.**

Register your team of up to 8 for this fun, all ages event on Saturday, May 12th. Learn how to use a GPS unit and then hit the trails on to seek out caches and solve puzzles. Family teams will be assigned staggered start times and each group will learn how to use a GPS unit to navigate to various locations where you will discover puzzles, mysteries, & problems to solve in order to find the location of your next GPS destination. Free with park admission, pre-registration is required.

[Read More ...](#)

### **OWLS Program: Owls of Iowa - Tuesday, May 15th 12:00 p.m.**

Area seniors are invited to join us for a special program on the owl species of Iowa at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your lunch and learn more about these amazing birds with help from a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist.

[Read More ...](#)



### **Guided Night Hike: Night Out With Nightjars - Thurs. May 24th 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center for a 15 & over guided night hike as we explore Hitchcock Nature Center and the Loess Hills in the dark in search of nightjars. Pheasants Forever biologist & experienced birder Nic Salick will be introducing attendees to the nightjar, a family of nocturnal, ground nesting birds with distinct habits & calls. \$10.00 per person, pre-registration required.

[Read More ...](#)

And that's just the tip of the iceberg! Check out the full programming list at the end of the newsletter for even more fun during the month of May.

### **The Art of Conservation: A Visit with Ding Darling at Hitchcock Nature Center, May 18th**

Pottawattamie County Conservation has received funding from Humanities Iowa, a private, non-profit state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, to host "The Art of Conservation: A Visit with Ding Darling" at Hitchcock Nature Center on Friday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. A cultural resource for Iowans since 1971, Humanities Iowa offers many cultural and historical programs and grants to Iowa's communities.

Join us as history comes alive at Hitchcock Nature Center in this 45-minute presentation. Jay N. "Ding"

Darling visits with the audience, as an old friend, in his office at the *Des Moines Register*. Beginning with his early years in Sioux City he recalls his remarkable life. His story includes two Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoons for the Register and a remarkable career as a nationally known conservationist.

This program is being presented as part of our adult educational programming, we request that all participants be age 14 & over.

This program is free with park admission but pre-registration is required as space is limited. Please register online in minutes using the link below. Call 712-545-3283 for more information on this program.

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION AND  
HUMANITIES IOWA PRESENT

## THE ART OF CONSERVATION: A VISIT WITH DING DARLING

Friday May 18th at 7pm  
Hitchcock Nature Center

Join us as history comes alive at Hitchcock Nature Center in this 45-minute presentation, Jay N. "Ding" Darling visits with the audience, as an old friend, in his 11th office at the *Des Moines Register*. Beginning with his early years in Sioux City he recalls his remarkable life. His story includes two Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoons for the Register and a remarkable career as a nationally known conservationist.

Pre-registration is required at  
[www.pottcoconservation.com](http://www.pottcoconservation.com)  
Entrance fee is required.  
Free-will donations are encouraged.

This program is part of the Democracy and the Informed Citizen Initiative, administered by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The initiative seeks to deepen the public's knowledge and appreciation of the vital connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry.

We thank The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their generous support of this initiative and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership.

## Celebrate Mothers Day Weekend with Two Different Birding Events

### Mother's Day Birding Tea: A Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation Members Only Event

Join us for our very first Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation members only event, the Mother's Day Birding Tea, on May 12th at 2:00 p.m. at Hitchcock Nature Center.

Celebrate Mother's Day with a special person as we enjoy an outdoor tea party with an introductory birding lesson. This event is perfect for beginning birders who are looking to get better acquainted with commonly spotted birds in western Iowa & eastern Nebraska.

This program can accommodate people of all experience levels but is intended for beginning birders with limited or no field experience. Attendees may wish to bring binoculars to use in class.

The fee for this program is \$5.00 per person & includes tea, snacks & the birding class. This program is for members of the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation only, members may bring 1 guest.

Pre-registration is required to attend this event, please register via email to Kristen Bieret, Naturalist at [kristen.bieret@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:kristen.bieret@pottcounty-ia.gov).



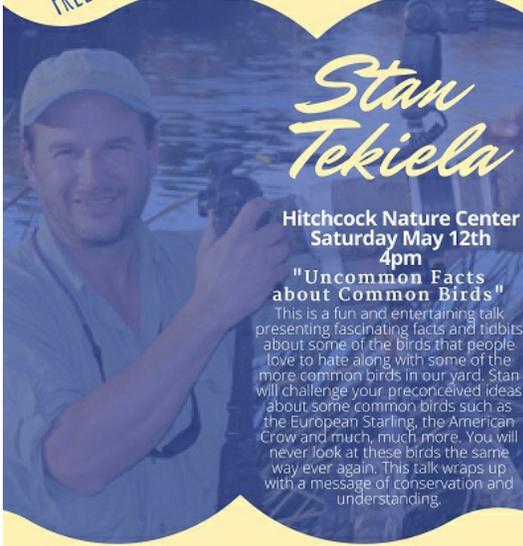
### 2018 Speaker Series: Uncommon Facts About Common Birds

Join us for the first installment of the 2018 Speaker Series on May 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Join us in welcoming noted naturalist, wildlife photographer, & author Stan Tekiela as we kick off

**Pottawattamie County Conservation**

**FREE! Speaker Series Presents**



*Stan  
Tekiela*

**Hitchcock Nature Center  
Saturday May 12th  
4pm**

**"Uncommon Facts  
about Common Birds"**

This is a fun and entertaining talk presenting fascinating facts and tidbits about some of the birds that people love to hate along with some of the more common birds in our yard. Stan will challenge your preconceived ideas about some common birds such as the European Starling, the American Crow and much, much more. You will never look at these birds the same way ever again. This talk wraps up with a message of conservation and understanding.

Please register at [www.pottcoconservation.com](http://www.pottcoconservation.com)  
or by calling 712-545-3283  
Free-will donations encouraged.  
Entrance fee is required.

the 2018 Speaker Series with "Uncommon Facts About Common Birds". This fun & informative speaker event will present fascinating facts & information about some of the birds commonly spotted in your yards including those birds that people love to hate. Stan will challenge your preconceived ideas about birds such as the European starling, the American crow, & much more.

The 2018 Speaker Series is a programming series designed for teens and adults to provide them with an opportunity to learn from and interact with various authorities in the fields of conservation and environmental science. Programs are free with paid park admission and will be held at Hitchcock Nature Center on the second Saturday of the month, May through October. Each program will begin at 4:00 p.m. and will last approximately 1 hour. After the presentation attendees may enjoy conversation with the presenter, a book signing, and refreshments provided by local vendors.

Space is limited so pre-registration is recommended for these events. Please use the

link below to register online in minutes. This program is being presented as part of our adult educational programming, we ask that all participants be age 14 & over please. For more information please call 712-545-3283.

[Click Here to Register Online](#)

Pottawattamie County Conservation Presents

# NARROWS RIVER PARK

FREE

## Summer Concert Series

FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

**Free-will  
donations are  
encouraged.  
Entrance fee is  
required.**

June 3rd

Josh Lawler

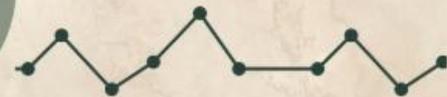
[www.joshlawler.com](http://www.joshlawler.com)



July 1st

Come Together  
Band

[www.cometogether-band.com](http://www.cometogether-band.com)



August 5

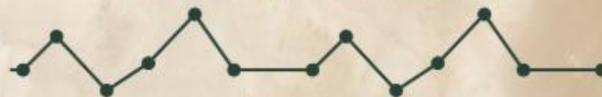
Skretta Etc.

[www.facebook.com/skrettamusic/](http://www.facebook.com/skrettamusic/)



September 2nd  
Towne

[www.townemusic.com](http://www.townemusic.com)



### Upcoming Programs

#### May Harvest Spoon Tour

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 5th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

## **Partner Businesses Throughout the Loess Hills**

Join Hitchcock Nature Center & other area entities for the first Harvest Spoon Saturday of 2018 & travel through Iowa's picture perfect Loess Hills as we celebrate the food & culture of western Iowa. [Read More ...](#)

### **Iowa's Native Bees**

10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 5th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on Saturday, May 5th as we welcome entomologist Randall Cass who will be presenting at 10:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. on Iowa's many native bee species and the important research of the Iowa State Extension Office. [Read More ...](#)

### **Native Earth Skills: Spring Edition**

1:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 5th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join Naturalist & experienced Native Earth Skills practitioner Dustin Clayton as he discusses and demonstrates common skills and techniques of eastern Nebraska and western Iowa's native cultures. [Read More ...](#)

### **Native Gardening: Winter Weather Habitat**

#### **RESCHEDULED**

2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 6th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

This class will consider planting and design strategies that you can employ in spring that will create a habitat throughout the winter months. We will cover both the ornamental and practical benefits of specific native forbs, grasses, and woody plants in the cold season. [Read More ...](#)

### **A Pottawattamie County Almanac: May Session**

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

Saturday, May 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center for a new program guided by Aldo Leopold's classic work, A Sand County Almanac. [Read More ...](#)

### **Mystery Cache**

9:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Register your team of up to 8 for this fun, all ages event on Saturday, May 12th. Learn how to use a GPS unit and then hit the trails on to seek out caches and solve puzzles. [Read More ...](#)

### **Mother's Day Birding Tea**

2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Celebrate Mother's Day with a special person as we enjoy an outdoor tea party with an introductory birding lesson. This event is perfect for beginning birders who are looking to get better acquainted with commonly spotted birds in western Iowa & eastern Nebraska. [Read More ...](#)

## **2018 Speaker Series: Uncommon Facts About Common Birds**

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 12th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us in welcoming noted naturalist, wildlife photographer, & author Stan Tekiela as we kick off the 2018 Speaker Series. This fun & informative speaker event will present fascinating facts & information about some of the birds commonly spotted in your yards.

[Read More ...](#)

## **OWLS Program: Owls of Iowa**

12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Area seniors are invited to join us for a special program on the owl species of Iowa at Hitchcock Nature Center. Bring your lunch and learn more about these amazing birds with help from a Pottawattamie County Conservation Naturalist.

[Read More ...](#)

## **May Hitch Hike**

7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

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 ...](#)

## **The Art of Conservation: A Visit With Ding Darling**

7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us as history comes alive at Hitchcock Nature Center in this 45-minute presentation Jay N. "Ding" Darling visits with the audience, as an old friend, in his office at the Des Moines Register. [Read More ...](#)

## **Beginning Birding**

7:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 19th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join Pheasants Forever biologist & experienced birder Nic Salick for a beginning birding class. [Read More ...](#)

## **May Living Loess Tour**

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

Saturday, May 19th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

And various partner businesses

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our May 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 the culture of Iowa's Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

## **Insect Club Meeting**

6:00 p.m. Pre-Meeting Hike

7:00 p.m. Meeting

Thursday, May 24th

### **Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun with the new Hitchcock Nature Center Insect Club at their first meeting of the season, May 24th. [Read More ...](#)

### **Guided Night Hike: Night Out with Nightjars**

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 24th

### **Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on for a guided night hike as we explore Hitchcock Nature Center and the Loess Hills in the dark in search of nightjars. [Read More ...](#)

### **Introduction to Land Management - May Session**

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

Saturday, May 26th

### **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 Introduction to Land Management program. [Read More ...](#)

### **Jennifer Pharr Davis: The Pursuit of Endurance**

7:00 p.m.

Friday, June 1st

### **Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Join us in welcoming hiker, author, speaker, & National Geographic Adventurer of the Year Jennifer Pharr Davis as she speaks about her adventures on the Appalachian Trail and her latest book, "The Pursuit of Endurance: Harnessing the Record Breaking Power of Strength and Resilience". [Read More ...](#)

### **Kid's Fishing Derby**

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, June 2nd

### **Arrowhead Park, Neola**

Bring the entire family to Arrowhead Park for an afternoon of outdoor fun, fishing & prizes as kids fish the lake in search of "the big one" at this annual tradition. [Read More ...](#)

### **2018 Summer Concert Series: Josh Lawler**

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 3rd

### **Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs**

We kick off the Summer Concert Series with a big welcome back to our friend Josh Lawler. Josh is singer songwriter from Omaha with an eclectic style sure to appeal to music lovers. [Read More ...](#)

### **Homeschool in the Hills: Summer Soiree**

10:00 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5th

### **Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Area homeschool families are invited to join us at the park for a summertime field trip as we discover the plants and animals that are so active during this season of growth. [Read More ...](#)

[Click Here for More Upcoming Programs & Events](#)

Visit Our Website

Kate Simmons, Community Relations Coordinator  
Pottawattamie County Conservation  
[katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov](mailto:katherine.simmons@pottcounty-ia.gov)

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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