

THE CONSERVATOR

November, 2018

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Become a Member Today!

Wheeler Grove Conservation Area Dedication



Cal & Frankie Parrott at the Wheeler Grove Dedication Plaque

On October 21st Pottawattamie County Conservation held a dedication ceremony for our newest public area, the Wheeler Grove Conservation Area located near Carson, Iowa.

Wheeler Grove Conservation Area is a 247-acre property featuring remnant woodlands and savanna, reconstructed native grasslands, and a pond. This area is now open for public enjoyment due to the vision and generosity of Cal & Frankie Parrott. Their tireless work to restore and protect this land is awe inspiring.

[Click here to read more about their work with this land and the story behind it's dedication.](#)

The Parrott family worked closely with Pottawattamie County Conservation to ensure the continuation of their vision for generations to come. The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board would like to thank Cal & Frankie Parrott for their tremendous conservation efforts in Iowa.

Wheeler Grove Conservation Area is located at 43774 Boxelder Avenue, 3 miles east of Carson, Iowa on Highway 92.

A Pottawattamie County Almanac

Our monthly programming series, *A Pottawattamie County Almanac*, doesn't end when the weather gets cold. You still have events left to join before the end of the year and you won't want to miss out on these amazing topics.

This programming series is in its inaugural year and is guided by Aldo Leopold's iconic work, *A Sand County Almanac* & follows the natural rhythms and timings of Pottawattamie County's Midwestern setting. Activities



Program Director Ron Cisar

will provide students with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the natural world. Each program session will cover a seasonal topic & highlight upcoming natural events that occur in our region each month. Additionally, each session includes a discussion on essays and writings by Aldo Leopold that highlight the monthly focus.

These programs are designed for participants of all skill levels & from all walks of life. The cost is \$15.00 per person, per session & includes admission to the park. Space is limited & online pre-registration is highly recommended.

November 10th - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

November's program will focus on the topic "Waste Not, Want Not" with study centered on nature's recyclers.

Program Director Ron Cisar will also be presenting "Mother Nature's Calendar" which summarizes the natural events that occur in our region during the month of November. Following the classroom portion you will head outdoors on a guided "Signs of the Season" hike through the hills discovering the changes that have occurred in recent weeks as fall moves into winter.

[Click Here to Register for the November 10th Program](#)

December 15th - 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The final class of the year-long series will discuss "Animal Adaptations in Winter" including a discussion on winter bird feeding and the types of feeders and bird seed that will help attract a diversity of avian species to your backyard. Participants will then head outdoors for a winter hike into the woods looking for inspiration for their nature journals. This class will conclude with sharing the important contributions and words of wisdom of various important naturalists such as Jane Goodall, Sigurd Olson & Rachel Carson along with a very special Native American story about the earth.

[Click Here to Register for the December 15th Program](#)



Get to Know: Michelle Biodrowski, Naturalist

Pottawattamie County Conservation is excited to introduce you to the newest member of our Environmental Education Department, Michelle Biodrowski. Michelle is taking on the title of Naturalist for our county and will not only be assisting with all types of different programs she will also be designing & creating new adult education opportunities for area residents. Get to know the newest member of the team and make sure to say hello the next time you see her at one of your county parks.

Where did you work prior to joining the staff at Pottawattamie County?

I held a partnership position between the Conservation Districts of Iowa, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. With them I was a Private Lands Wetland Easement Specialist working with landowners who had federal wetland easements.

What are you looking forward to most in your new position with Pottawattamie County?

I am excited to share my passion for wildlife with children and adults alike to help them create positive memories and a deeper connection with nature.

Tell me about a project or accomplishment that you consider significant in your career.

Finally learning enough, and working with enough people, to become a resource for their questions about plants and wildlife. I in no way claim to be any type of expert, but I have had the opportunities to work with and learn from some wonderful people, and I love to share what I have learned with others. When someone comes to me with a question, thinking "Michelle would

probably know about..." it really makes me feel good and proud, regardless of whether or not I know the answer.

[There's More! Click Here to Read the Full Interview](#)

Narrows River Park Closing for the Season November 7th

Narrows River Park will close for the 2018 season on November 7th, 2018. We'd like to thank all the Narrows River Park guests, including our amazing concert series performing acts, for another great year of music, food, and fun. We're looking forward to seeing you all in April 2019!

[Click Here to Follow Us on Facebook for Current Park News & Updates](#)

Loess Hills Lodge Winter Hours, Holiday Closures, & Trails Closure

Beginning December 1st, 2018 the Loess Hills Lodge Interpretive Gallery & Welcome Desk at Hitchcock Nature Center will begin observing their winter hours:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Friday & Saturday

1:00 to 5:00 p.m. - Sunday

Closed Monday through Thursday

The holidays will also bring additional closures to the Loess Hills Lodge gallery as our staff & volunteers spend time with family & friends. The Loess Hills Lodge gallery will be closed the following days in November.

Monday, November 12th - Veteran's Day (observed)

Thursday, November 22nd - Thanksgiving

Friday, November 23rd - Thanksgiving

Additional holiday closures may be added during the month. All holiday closures as well as closures due to inclement weather will be posted to our Facebook page as soon as they are known, [Click Here to Follow Hitchcock Nature Center on Facebook](#).

Hitchcock Nature Center's trails, outdoor public spaces, & campground remain open during all of the above noted closures. Park hours are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily throughout the winter.

Hitchcock Nature Center Trails Closure:

All trails at Hitchcock Nature Center will be closed to hikers & park visitors December 1st through 5th during shotgun season. During this time only pre-registered hunters will be permitted access to the trails network and we ask that all park visitors abide by this restriction for their safety.

The Loess Hills Lodge exhibit gallery, observation tower & deck, playground, & campground will all be open regular business hours during this time.

We apologize for the inconvenience & appreciate your understanding.

Hitchcock Nature Center Volunteers Recognized by the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail

Hitchcock Nature Center volunteers logging at least 50 hours of volunteer service during the 2017/2018 fiscal year were submitted to the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Center for recognition in their annual report. Their names will also be included in the the Center's 2018 Annual Report for their outstanding contributions to Hitchcock Nature Center and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

Volunteers recognized by they Lewis & Clark National Historic Trial are:

Connie Osler - Welcome Desk & Environmental Education
Janice Salz - Welcome Desk & Environmental Education
Heidi Swanson - Welcome Desk & HawkWatch
Dorie Stone - Welcome Desk & Environmental Education
Westy Nelson - Welcome Desk & Environmental Education
Ralph Wright - Welcome Desk & Environmental Education
Elliott Bedows - HawkWatch
Jenny Janes - HawkWatch
Clem Klaphake - HawkWatch
Abbe Richardson - HawkWatch
Bob Wells - HawkWatch
Jim Hendricks - Campground Host
Joni Hendricks - Campground Host
Patricia Slatin - Natural Areas Management & HawkWatch
Pat Prine - Campground Host



We would like to recognize the above volunteers for their efforts & generosity, you are appreciated beyond measure. We would also like to thank each and every one of our volunteers at all of our parks. Volunteers are an integral part of every success at the parks, they provide support to our visitors, assist with programming, perform maintenance, donate their skills & time every day of the year.

We thank you for your continued support of Pottawattamie County Conservation.

Upcoming Programs

A Pottawattamie County Almanac: November Session

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

Saturday, October 10th

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 ...](#)

HawkWatch Eagle Migration

1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 17th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for this annual program & learn more about migrating bald eagles & our nationally recognized HawkWatch program. [Read More ...](#)

Family Guided Night Hike

6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 17th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Designed for families with children this short hike will explore animal adaptations and the five senses in the great outdoors. [Read More ...](#)

Hitchcock Nature Center Trails Closure

December 1st - 5th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

All trails at Hitchcock Nature Center will be closed to hikers & park visitors December 1st

through 5th during shotgun season. [Read More ...](#)

Bird Banding Demonstration

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 1st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Come get a "bird's eye" view of our fine-feathered friends as you join volunteers for a live songbird banding at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

The Hitchcock Experience

December 8th & 9th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join the Greater Omaha Area Trail Runners (The G.O.A.T.z) for the 4th annual Hitchcock Experience at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

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

Visit Our Website

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STAY CONNECTED:

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