

THE CONSERVATOR

October, 2017

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Visit Our Website

Annual Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation Go Wild For Conservation Fundraiser Coming up October 19th



Auction!

It's time to "Go Wild for Conservation" and support the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation! Support land stewardship, environmental education & low impact recreation in Pottawattamie County at the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation's annual Go Wild for Conservation beer tasting & auction fundraiser.

Join us October 19th at the Mid-America Center & enjoy a number of specialty brews with custom food pairings as you view dozens of silent auction items. Then, settle in for the main event ... the Live

Tickets are on sale now! Single seats are \$50.00 each or purchase a table of 10 for \$450.00. Each ticket includes our signature beer tasting with a souvenir mug, non-alcoholic beverages, food, and a bidder number for the live and silent auctions. For additional information please call 712-328-5638.

We already have some great items that will be up for grabs in our Live Auction including:

- A one week stay in Captiva Island, FL
- An interactive cooking class
- One day use of Porsche 911 with driving instruction and unlimited driving time laps at Raceway Park
- A lake house get-away at beautiful Lake Panorama
- A licensed basketball autographed by the ISU coach & two tickets to an October football game
- A weekend of camping at a Pottawattamie County park with a 30' camping trailer & food provided
- A new fishing kayak with 1 hour paddling lesson
- And much more!

Auction items are arriving daily so look for this list to grow. If you would like to donate an item or a service in support of our auction please contact Sam Stivers at 712-328-5638.

[Click here for more information and to purchase your tickets online.](#)

Kelly Kindscher to Present "Wild Edibles" at Hitchcock Nature Center

**Pottawattamie County Conservation
Speaker Series Presents**

*Kelly
Kindscher*


HITCHCOCK NATURE
CENTER
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14TH
4PM
WILD EDIBLES
JOIN KELLY KINDSCHER,
PROFESSOR, AUTHOR, AND
SENIOR SCIENTIST WITH
THE KANSAS BIOLOGICAL
SURVEY AS HE DISCUSSES
THE WORLD OF WILD
EDIBLES.

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY:

EXILE
BREWING COMPANY

**3 Bee
Farms**

Please register at www.pottcoconservation.com
or by calling 712-545-3283.
Free-will donations encouraged.

 **Humanities Iowa**
This program is supported by Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The views and opinions expressed by this program do not necessarily reflect those of Humanities Iowa or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center on Saturday, October 14th at 4:00 for the final edition of the 2017 Speaker Series. This month we will be hosting Kelly Kindscher, professor, author, and Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey who will be presenting on edible wild plants and their uses.

After the presentation attendees may enjoy conversation with the presenter, a book signing, and refreshments provided by local vendors. Space is limited at these events and refreshments are served so we ask that you pre-register and reserve your spot in advance. [Click here to register online in minutes](#) or give us a call at 712-328-5834.

Attendees must purchase a \$2.00 per vehicle daily entrance pass or have a valid Pottawattamie County Parks annual permit to attend this program. Daily entrance passes may be purchased with exact change or check at the front gate and may be purchased the day of the event. Annual permits may be purchased for \$10.00 from staff at any of our parks or at the Loess Hills

Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center during regular business hours. There is no additional fee to attend this event, free will donations are encouraged and will support continued programming opportunities in Pottawattamie County.



Enjoy Autumn at Your County Parks!

Pottawattamie County Conservation is has a fun filled October planned and we'd love to have you join us. With 16 public programs planned we have something for everyone.

Families can join in the fun and enjoy the season at the Arrowhead Park Annual Chili Fest, All Hallows Eve at Botna Bend Park, or at Nature's Harvest at

Hitchcock Nature Center. Seniors & adult learners have multiple opportunities as well including Birding 201, OWLS (Older, Wiser, Learning, Seniors), our October Speaker Series event, and even a Guided Night Hike.

Check out our full programming list below or visit our website at www.pottcoconservation.com for a full calendar of events.

Hitchcock Nature Center Welcomes the Loess Hills Nordic Patrol

Hitchcock Nature Center is proud to announce a partnership with one of the National Ski Patrol's newest chapters, the Loess Hills Nordic Patrol, a highly trained, volunteer, and non-profit organization formally affiliated with

LOESS HILLS NORDIC PATROL



the National Ski Patrol.

The Loess Hills Nordic Patrol formed in 2016 and bases their operations at Hitchcock Nature Center. Nordic Patrollers possess extensive training and experience in first aid, search and rescue operations, outdoor emergency care, coordinating emergency evacuations, trail maintenance, and many others areas of focus. Their primary role at Hitchcock Nature Center is to ensure the safety of park visitors. they are available to assist park visitors in a variety of emergency situations and their familiarity with the park makes them valuable ambassadors for Hitchcock Nature Center, its history, and its mission.

Nordic Patrollers work closely with Hitchcock Nature Center rangers and staff and have become a valuable member of the Hitchcock Nature Center team; you'll often times find them assisting with some of Hitchcock's larger public events. You can recognize them on the trails or in the parking lot by their uniform pictured below. Patrollers often work in pairs and are in radio contact with park rangers so they are the perfect people to ask if you get into a sticky situation. They're here to assist so please don't hesitate to use their services.

Welcome Loess Hills Nordic Patrol!

To learn more about the Loess Hills Nordic Patrol, [visit their Facebook page here.](#)



Narrows River Park Closing for the Season October 31st

Fall is here and that means we are getting to the end of the season for Narrows River Park. We are currently planning on remaining open through the end of October if the weather holds with a planned season opening date of April 1st, 2018.

These dates are subject to change and are weather dependent. If Mother Nature has other plans we will post that information as soon as it is available to our Facebook page.

[Click here to follow us on Facebook for all the latest park news.](#)

Hitchcock Hawkwatch

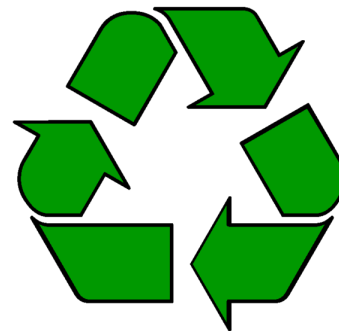


Make sure to stop by & visit with our HawkWatch staff and volunteers as they search the skies for migrating raptors from the observation tower at Hitchcock Nature Center.

Recycling Bins Coming to Your County Parks

We're excited to announce our new and improved recycling system at three of your county parks made possible through the IaDNR Solid Waste Alternatives Program!

These large recycling bins will be stationed at Arrowhead Park, Botna Bend Park, and Hitchcock Nature Center year-round and will provide park visitors, campers, and area residents with a convenient location to deposit their materials for recycling. These bins will make their appearance soon!



This statement was prepared with the support of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Agreement Number 18-G550-03. However, any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of IDNR.

Upcoming Programs

Harvest Spoon Tour

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

Saturday, October 7th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Celebrate the food and culture of western Iowa as you visit all 5 partner businesses along the Harvest Spoon route for a variety of experiences. [Read More ...](#)

Bird Banding Demonstration

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 7th

Saturday, November 4th

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 ...](#)

Iowa Honey Queen

Saturday, October 7th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join 2017 Iowa Honey Queen Carly Raye Vannoy for an informative presentation on Saturday, October 7th at 3:00 p.m.

[Read More ...](#)

Arrowhead Park Annual Chili Fest

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 7th

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Join us for games & activities, pumpkin painting, hayrack rides, trick or treating, & of course, chili. [Read More ...](#)

The Naturalist School at HNC: Fall Field Session

8:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 8th

Saturday, October 21st

Sunday, October 29th

Saturday, November 4th

Join us for the Fall Field Season of The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center. This 4 session field season will focus on the diverse ecosystem of Hitchcock Nature Center and cultivating attentiveness & mindfulness in nature.

[Read More ...](#)

Birding 201 With Nic Salick

7:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 14th

Macedonia City Hall, Macedonia

Join Pheasants Forever biologist and experienced birder Nic Salick for a classroom and field session designed to provide more advanced knowledge and skills for birders already possessing some experience with identifying birds. [Read More ...](#)

13th Annual HawkWatch 5K Trail Run/Walk

7:00 a.m. Race Check In, 9:00 a.m. Race Begins

Saturday, October 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Take in the scenery of the Loess Hills as you run through woodlands, valleys, & prairies during this all ages trail run & walk. [Read More ...](#)

Landscape Photo Walk Class

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, October 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

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 ...](#)

2017 Speaker Series: "Wild Edibles" with Kelly Kindscher

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join Kelly Kindscher, professor, author, and Senior Scientist with the Kansas Biological Survey as he helps us discover the world of wild edibles. [Read More ...](#)

Go Wild for Conservation Beer Tasting & Auction

6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 19th

Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs

Support land stewardship, environmental education & low impact recreation in Pottawattamie County at the Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation's annual Go Wild for Conservation beer tasting & auction fundraiser. [Read More ...](#)

All Hallows Eve at Botna Bend

6:30 p.m. Friday, October 20th

10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, October 21st

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Join us at Botna Bend Park for a two night celebration full of fun for the whole family!

[Read More ...](#)

Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, October 21st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our October Living Loess Tour. [Read More ...](#)

Nature's Harvest

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at the park for some family fun including guided hikes, games, scavenger hunts,

refreshments, campground trick or treating & hayrack rides. [Read More ...](#)

Guided Night Hike

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 21st

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Adults, 18& over are invited to join us for a guided night hike as we explore Hitchcock Nature Center and the Loess Hills in the dark. [Read More ...](#)

OWLS Program: Raptors

11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 25th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Area seniors are invited to join us for a special presentation on raptor species of Iowa. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management: Prescribed Fire

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, October 28th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for our final session as we continue our discussion on prescribed fire, followup on Canada Thistle, and discuss putting together the lessons learned over the season's programming. [Read More ...](#)

KinderNature: Habitat Detectives

10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, October 28th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Discover the world of animal habitats and learn what different types of animals need to survive and discover the special places they call home. [Read More ...](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED:

 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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