

THE CONSERVATOR

October, 2018



THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Become a Member Today!

The Pottawattamie Conservation Foundation Invites You To:

Go WILD for Conservation

6:00 P.M. OCTOBER 18TH, 2018



A NIGHT OF FUN, FOOD & BREW TASTING

\$50.00 Per Seat

\$450.00 For a Table of Ten

Try a number of beers paired with culinary creations while placing your bids during our silent auction. Live auction to follow. Casual attire. Other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available.

The Mid-America Center
1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs, IA

For More Information or to Reserve Your Tickets Online Please Visit

www.pottawattamieconservationfoundation.com

Or Call 712-328-5638



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 18th 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 Auction!

Single Seats: \$50.00 each

Table of Ten: \$450.00

Each ticket includes admission, beer tasting, appetizer buffet, souvenir mug, & bidder number.

[Click Here to Purchase Your Tickets Online Today!](#)

Tickets may also be purchased by contacting Sam Stivers, Administrative Director at 712-328-5638 or by email at sam.stivers@pottcounty-ia.gov.

Welcome Michelle Biodrowski, New

Environmental Education Naturalist



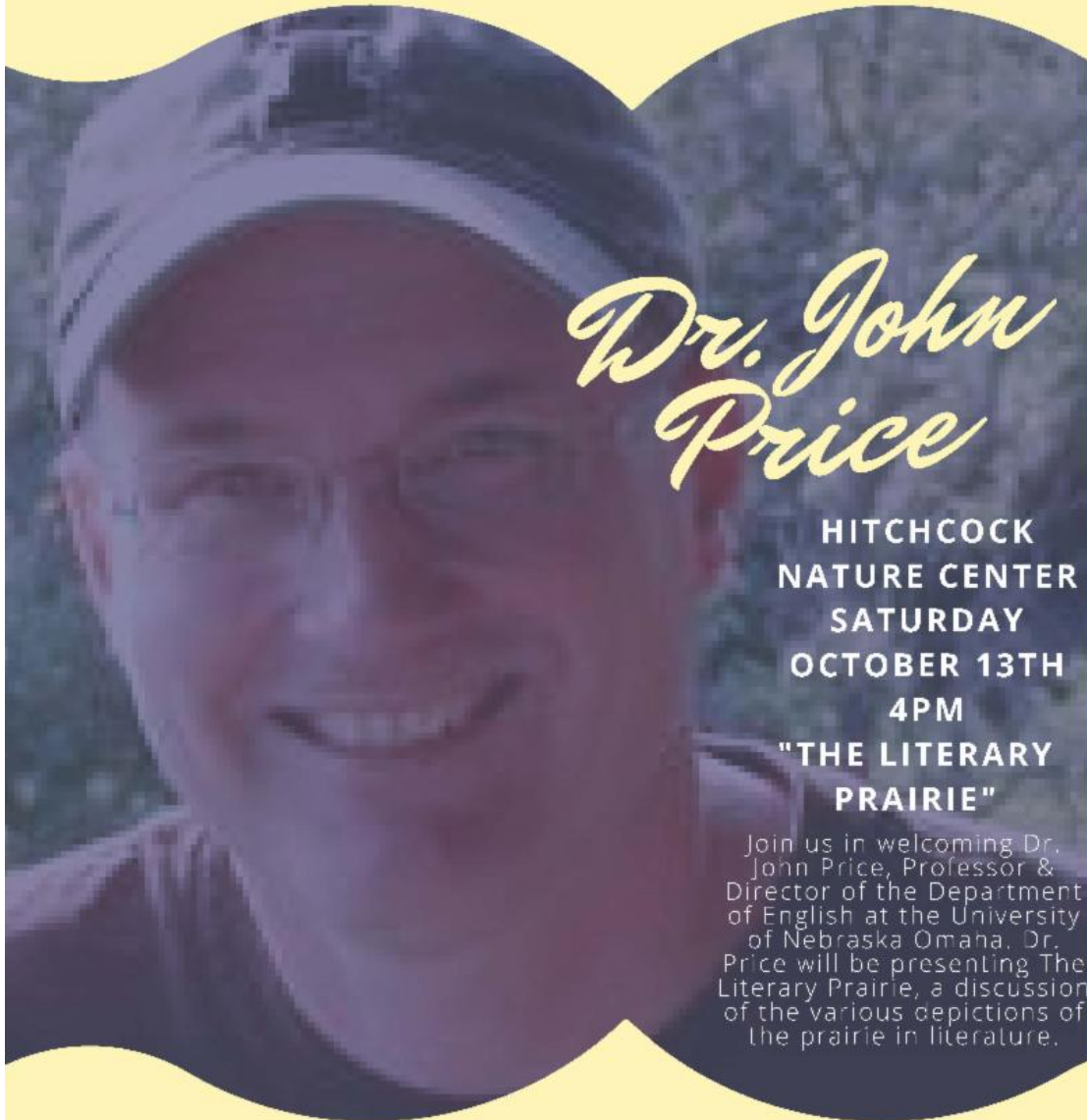
Pottawattamie County Conservation welcomed a brand new member of the team in September. Michelle Biodrowski will be taking on the position of Naturalist and will be managing many of our Adult Education programs throughout the year.

Michelle attended school at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where she earned a Bachelors Degree in Environmental Science & a Masters Degree in Biology. Previously employed in a partnership position with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Natural Resources Conservation Services working in wetlands she is looking forward to new experiences with

Pottawattamie County Conservation. Originally from Omaha she now calls Iowa home. She enjoys birding, rock climbing, Jalapeno pineapple pizza & is an amateur native plant propagator.

Watch for a full interview with her coming in November! Welcome to the team Michelle!

Pottawattamie County Conservation Speaker Series Presents



*Dr. John
Price*

HITCHCOCK
NATURE CENTER
SATURDAY
OCTOBER 13TH
4PM
"THE LITERARY
PRAIRIE"

Join us in welcoming Dr. John Price, Professor & Director of the Department of English at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Dr. Price will be presenting *The Literary Prairie*, a discussion of the various depictions of the prairie in literature.

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.

Get to Know: Bethany Thornton, Hawk Counter

During the HawkWatch season the tower at Hitchcock Nature Center becomes an office for our only full time, paid HawkWatch employee. This year we are so please to welcome back Bethany Thornton for her third season filling this position. We have gotten to know this dedicated biologist over the past three seasons and thought our guests might like to meet her as well. I sat down with Bethany to get the scoop just for you.

What inspired you to go into research biology & specifically study raptors?

You know, I never went into biology or science



thinking I had to do something specific. I've always just tried to be well rounded in my education and experiences so I could take opportunities as they came up. My goal was to do whatever good I could in whatever position I held, and that would be how I could continually contribute to conservation. I was originally more focused on land management and habitat restoration, because I liked the "big picture" approach they took to conservation. I was really interested in botany and reconstructing native prairies. But I've always been involved with birds, either through volunteer work or just birding for my own enjoyment. When that first job opened up for me to work exclusively with birds, I took it without a second thought, and I really haven't looked back.

What is the most fulfilling aspect of your fieldwork?

What isn't fulfilling about this work? I can't really quantify just how meaningful this work is to me. Whether I'm digging postholes for signs or performing blood draws on potentially contaminated animals or

counting birds from a 45-foot tall tower, every day of my job is spent promoting science and conservation. I get to meet and work with passionate people, and we're all just out here trying to be good stewards of our natural resources and leave the earth a little better than we found it. It's just fantastic. I can't imagine doing anything else with my life.

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

Narrows River Park Closing for the Season November 1st

Narrows River Park will close for the 2018 season on November 1st, 2018. This date is projected and subject to change based on the weather & river conditions during the month of October.

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

Fall Family Programming at Your County Parks!

Autumn is a terrific time to get outdoors and enjoy nature. Pottawattamie County Conservation has lined up a terrific month of programming designed to help families head outdoors and have some fun. Here is a quick list of a few, family fun programs to add to your calendars today!



All Hallows Eve

October 12th & 13th at Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Activities include campfire stories, face painting, kid's crafts, trick or treating, movie night & more!

[Read More](#)

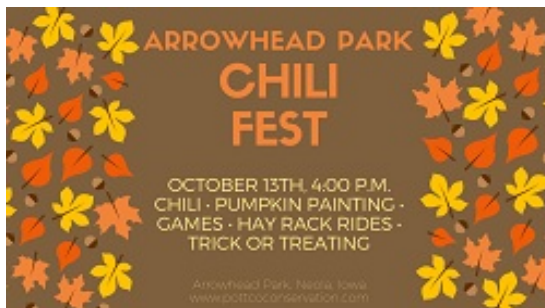
Natural Connections

October 13th at Arrowhead Park,

Neola

Activities include a guided story hike, guided outdoor activities, & cold weather gear distribution.

[Read More](#)



Chili Fest

October 13th at Arrowhead Park, Neola

Activities include pumpkin decorating, games, trick or treating, hayrack ride, and chili tasting.

[Read More](#)

Fall Festival

October 20th at Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Activities include a guided mystery hike, family games, trick or treating, pumpkin decorating, & hayrack ride.

[Read More](#)



Upcoming Programs

Bird Banding Demonstration

Saturday, October 6th - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 3rd - 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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 ...](#)

Harvest Spoon Tour

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

Saturday, October 6th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

And Various Partner Businesses

Celebrate the food and culture of western Iowa with activities, crafts, tastings and more during the October Harvest Spoon Tour. [Read More ...](#)

2018 Summer Concert Series: Happy Together

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 7th

Narrows River Park, Council Bluffs

Join us for an outdoor concert set against the stunning Missouri River featuring Omaha band Happy Together as we bring our 2018 Summer Concert Series to an end. [Read More ...](#)

All Hallows Eve

Friday, October 12th - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday October 13th - 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Botna Bend Park, Hancock

Join us at Botna Bend Park for a two day celebration full of fun activities for the whole family! [Read More ...](#)

A Pottawattamie County Almanac: October Session

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

Saturday, October 13th

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 ...](#)

Natural Connections

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Families looking to increase their knowledge & discover new ways to get outdoors are invited to join us for a fun afternoon at Arrowhead Park. [Read More ...](#)

The Literary Prairie

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us in welcoming Dr. John Price, Professor & Director of the Department of English at the University of Nebraska Omaha. Dr. Price will be discussing the various depictions of the prairie in literature. [Read More ...](#)

Chili Fest

4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13th

Arrowhead Park, Neola

Bring the whole family out and enjoy a warm bowl of chili, trick or treating, and other activities in the crisp fall air during this annual fall tradition. [Read More ...](#)

Rescheduled - September Hitch Hike

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 16th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for our last guided hike of the 2018 season and take in the views from Hitchcock's western most trails. [Read More ...](#)

Go Wild For Conservation Beer Tasting & Auction

6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 18th

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 ...](#)

Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, October 20th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

And Various Partner Businesses

Join us for the final Living Loess Tour of the 2018 season and take in the beauty, culture, artistry, and color of the Loess Hills. [Read More ...](#)

Fall Festival

4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 20th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

This fun family event will feature a guided mystery hike, family games, pumpkin decorating, & treats. [Read More ...](#)

Adult Guided Night Hike

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 20th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

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

HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk

1:00 Check-In

2:00 Race

Sunday, October 21st

Hitchcock Nature Center

Take in the scenery of the Loess Hills as you run through woodlands, valleys, & prairies during the 14th Annual Hitchcock Nature Center HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management

Saturday, October 27th

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

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

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. [Read More ...](#)

Native Earth Skills

Saturday, October 27th - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 3rd - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

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 ...](#)

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

Visit Our Website


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

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 Hitchcock Nature Center  Arrowhead Park  Botna Bend Park  Narrows River Park

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