

THE CONSERVATOR

September, 2018

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



Become a Member Today!

Narrows River Park Update

After a brief closure we are happy to announce the Missouri River boat ramp at Narrows River Park is again open for use by park visitors. This season has been hard on our boat ramp and we thank you for understanding.

Thank you for your support!

Hitchcock Nature Center HawkWatch Begins September 1st

Hitchcock HawkWatch



September 1st marked the return of the annual Hitchcock HawkWatch at Hitchcock Nature Center. This dedicated team occupies our observation tower from September through mid-December scanning the skies for migrating raptors.

Our seasonal full-time Hawk Counter & our team of volunteers will be staffing the tower daily from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (weather dependent) through mid-December & park visitors are welcome to observe them while they conduct their important research.

We would like to welcome back our seasonal Hawk Counter. Bethany is a Missouri native, and earned her B.S. in Wildlife Management and Conservation from Missouri Western State University. Originally a botanist, she began her career in prairie reconstruction and invasive species management. After four years of volunteering at a banding station in St. Joseph, Missouri, she shifted her focus towards bird conservation and has hardly looked back. Over the last few years she has been involved in a number of bird conservation efforts including migrant monitoring, nest productivity research, and bird population surveys across the United States. She is thrilled to find herself back at Hitchcock Nature Center for a third season of hawk watching, and is looking forward to an excellent migration!

We are also on the lookout for birding enthusiasts to join this outstanding team as they count and document these passing raptors. You can be a part of this nationally recognized



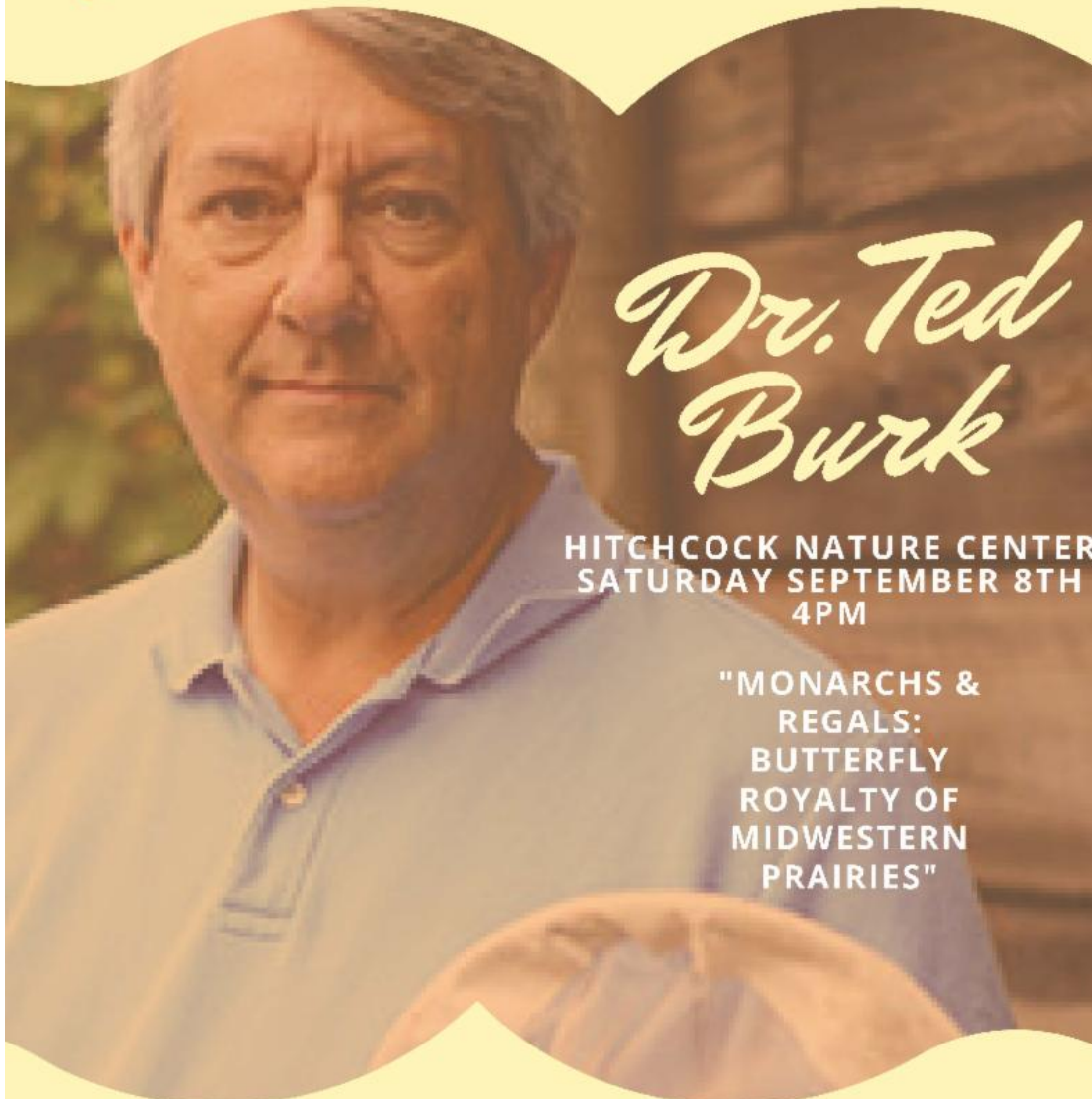
Loess Hills Nordic Ski Patrol at Hitchcock Nature Center

The Loess Hills Nordic Ski Patrol will be active, patrolling the trails at Hitchcock Nature Center this fall. These volunteers are part of the National Ski Patrol system whose purpose is to keep people who are participating in outdoor recreational activities safe.

These dedicated volunteers are highly trained to assist in a variety of situations and we are grateful for their support. Watch for their recognizable grey uniforms on the trails. To learn more about the Loess Hills Nordic Patrol or to inquire about joining their ranks [click here to find them on Facebook.](#)

Pottawattamie County Conservation

FREE! Speaker Series Presents



*Dr. Ted
Burk*

HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH
4PM

"MONARCHS &
REGALS:
BUTTERFLY
ROYALTY OF
MIDWESTERN
PRAIRIES"

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.

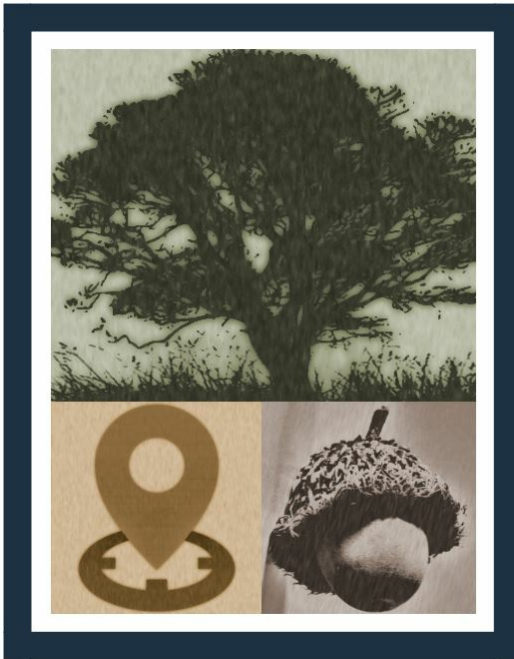
Volunteer Opportunity: Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project

Interested in volunteering at your county parks this fall? Join us on Saturday, September 22nd and be a part of the Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project. This new and unique project combines volunteerism with science as participants locate & evaluate oak trees throughout the park. This important work is aimed at helping us understand a new and devastating threat to Iowa's iconic bur oak trees.

This training session will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 22nd

& is open to participants of all skill levels interested in participating.

We are requesting pre-registration for this event to assist staff in creating the needed participant materials in advance. For registration links and more information please visit www.pottcoconservation.com.





Native Earth Skills

WITH
DUSTIN CLAYTON
AT HITCHCOCK NATURE CENTER

Saturday, September 29th from 12 pm to 3 pm
Saturday, October 27th from 1 pm to 3 pm
Saturday, November 3rd from 1 pm to 3 pm

**EXPERIENCE THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF NATIVE PEOPLES OF
THE MIDWEST THROUGH A WALKING LECTURE
AND SKILLS DEMONSTRATION BY DUSTIN CLAYTON.**

\$10/Person/Session - Online Registration Required
For more information or to register, log on to
www.pottcoservation.com

*The Pottawattamie County Conservation Board does not discriminate on the basis of race,
color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, or other
legally protected status.*

Upcoming Programs

A Pottawattamie County Almanac: September Session

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

Saturday, September 8th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

A Pottawattamie County Almanac, instructed by Ron Cisar, is a monthly series of classes inspired and guided by Leopold's best known work, his lasting legacy, and his challenge to future generations. [Read More ...](#)

Hunter Education Field Day

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 8th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us at Hitchcock Nature Center for an IaDNR certified Hunter Education Field Day course. This event is offered in partnership with Pottawattamie County Pheasants Forever. [Read More ...](#)

Monarchs & Regals: Butterfly Royalty of Midwestern Prairies

4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 8th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us in welcoming Dr. Ted Burk as we dive into the world of two of the most iconic Midwestern butterflies. This presentation, Monarchs & Regals: Butterfly Royalty of Midwestern Prairie will discuss the world of these amazing insects & their place in a prairie ecosystem. [Read More ...](#)

Backpacking 101

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Friday, September 14th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join experienced educator Laura Friesell & Pottawattamie County Conservation for a 4-part series of classes designed for hikers and outdoor enthusiasts with limited backpacking experience. [Read More ...](#)

Monarch Tagging

9:30, 10:30, & 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

How in the world do you tag a monarch butterfly? Find out at our all-ages Monarch Tagging program at Hitchcock Nature Center. [Read More ...](#)

September Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, September 15th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

And various partner businesses

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our September 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 ...](#)

September Hitch Hike

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 18th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Explore the western most regions at Hitchcock Nature Center during the final Hitch Hike of the 2018 season. [Read More ...](#)

Introduction to Land Management: September Session

8:00 a.m. to Noon

Saturday, September 22nd

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. [Read More ...](#)

Hitchcock Oak Inventory Project September Training

12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22nd

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join this unique citizen science project aimed at protecting the iconic bur oak trees of Iowa's prairies. [Read More ...](#)

Native Prairie Seed Collection

5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 24th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Help conserve and restore one of North America's most endangered ecosystems during Loess Hills and Heritage Week. [Read More ...](#)

Homeschool in the Hills: Fall Field Day

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

Tuesday, September 25th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us on September 25th for "Fall Field Day" and explore autumnal changes occurring throughout the different habitats at the park as nature prepares for winter's sleep. [Read More ...](#)

Hitchcock Insect Club Meeting

5:30 p.m. Pre-Meeting Hike

6:30 p.m. Meeting

Thursday, September 27th

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun with the new Hitchcock Nature Center Insect Club at their fifth & final meeting of the 2018 season. [Read More ...](#)

Native Earth Skills

12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 29th

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's and western Iowa's native cultures. [Read More ...](#)

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


Visit Our Website

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