

# THE CONSERVATOR

## September, 2016

THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER FROM POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY CONSERVATION



[Visit Our Website](#)

## Go Wild For Conservation Beer Tasting & Fundraiser Coming up on September 15th

Join us at the Mid-America Center on Thursday, September 15th & Go Wild For Conservation!

Tickets are still available for this annual event and fundraiser & can be purchased by calling Sam Stivers, Administrative Director at 712-328-5638 or you can purchase them online today!

[Click here to view our 2016 auction items.](#)

[Click here to reserve your tickets online.](#)



## The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center Preparing for Fall Sessions



The Naturalist School at HNC is for serious naturalists who seek to deepen commitment and engagement in citizen science, nature education, and conservation in Iowa's Loess Hills and surrounding ecosystems. Seasonal sessions of weekly workshops focus on a particular group of organisms in context of ecosystem, biotic community, and phenology.

Our workshops are immersive, intensive, outdoors in all weather, and physically demanding. They are intended for adults who love nature and are committed to the study, conservation, and preservation of native ecosystems, and to educating others in this good work. In addition to seasonal in-the-field workshops, TNS members will have conservation and citizen science opportunities at Hitchcock Nature Center and other county conservation areas. [Click here for more information on The Naturalist School at Hitchcock Nature Center.](#)

### **Early Fall 2016 Session**

All workshops will be held outdoors. Pre-registration is required and enrollment will be limited to 12 participants. To register for The Naturalist School and for the September Session, contact Jack Phillips at [newtreeschool@gmail.com](mailto:newtreeschool@gmail.com). Tuition is \$75 for the Early Fall session. Workshops can be taken individually for \$25 as space allows.

Session faculty: Michelle Biodrowski (avian ecology), Katie Thompson (mycology), Jack Phillips (philosophy and woodland ecology), Jason Andersen (avian ecology), Sarah Berkeley (visual arts), Lindsay Brown (avian ecology), and Chad Graeve (conservation ecology). A syllabus will be provided at the beginning of the session. [See faculty bios here.](#)

#### Citizen Science Workshops

These workshops will combine field identification & biotic surveys in a variety of habitats at Hitchcock Nature Center.

Saturday, September 3rd 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 10th 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, September 11th 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 17th 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Saturday, September 24th 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### Sunday Saunters

These workshops will explore the writings of Henry David Thoreau and the discipline of Sauntering. These are outdoor sessions that will include walking in silence and quiet conversation in rugged terrain. Meet on the deck on the west side of the Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center.

Sunday, September 4th 8:00 am to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 18th 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, September 25th 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

## Prairie Reading & Native Seed Collecting Event to be Held at Farm Creek Public Wildlife Area

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**  
**5:30pm-7:30pm**  
**Farm Creek Public Wildlife Area**

Join us at this free event to learn about the importance of prairies in our landscape and help collect seed to grow more prairies in the region. Golden Hills RC&D, in partnership with Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, will host a free public event to celebrate Iowa Prairie Heritage Week.

Author John Price will inspire participants with a reading about prairies. Chad Graeve, Natural Resource Specialist with Pottawattamie County Conservation Board, will discuss the history of the land at Farm Creek and lead a brief training about prairie seed collection, and attendees will be free to roam the prairie and collect seeds. Harvested seed will be used by the conservation board for prairie restoration and reconstruction projects in Pottawattamie County.

Iowa Prairie Heritage Week is September 11-17. Events are being organized across the state to recognize and celebrate this history of prairies and their continued legacy in Iowa. To learn more, visit [www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org).

For more information about this event, contact Lance Brisbois, Project Coordinator at Golden Hills RC&D: [lance@goldenhillsrcd.org](mailto:lance@goldenhillsrcd.org) or 712-482-3029. If there is rain that evening, the event will be cancelled. [Click here for more information.](#)

Farm Creek Public Wildlife Area is a 320 acre wildlife area with public hunting and fishing. The area consists of over 200 acres of native prairie reconstructions, two hardwood tree plantings, and two ponds

Directions: From the junction of Highways 59 and 92 in Carson, go east five miles on Highway 92 to 460th St. Turn right (south) one mile to Chestnut Road, take a left (east) and find the parking area on the right (south) side of the road at Riepe Pond. If lot is full, park along the south side of the road.

## Run the Hills at Hitchcock Nature Center

Registration is now open for two exciting trail running experiences through the Loess Hills at Hitchcock Nature Center.

### HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk

Join us October 8th for the annual HawkWatch 5K Trail Run & Walk. This event is fun for all ages & features a challenging 5K route through the hills. Pre-registration is required by September 30th so don't delay. [Click here for details & to register.](#)

### The Hitchcock Experience

Join the GOATZ for their Second Annual Hitchcock Experience 13.1, 50 & 100 mile endurance race held at Hitchcock Nature Center December 10th & 11th. The 13.1 mile half marathon is full but space is still available for the 50 & 100 mile races. This ultra run is a true test of your skills through the unique terrain of Iowa's Loess Hills. [Click here for details & to register.](#)



## September 10th Monarch Tagging is FULL!

We are happy to announce that our September 10th Monarch Tagging event at Hitchcock Nature Center is full! Waitlists for all three sessions are active & you can add your name to those on our website.

The Loess Hills Lodge gift shop will be selling additional monarch tagging kits during the month of September. The kits are \$5.00 each & contain information on the Monarch Watch program & 5 monarch tags for home use.

Thank you to everyone who has pre-registered for this exciting event.

## Upcoming Programs

### **Monarch Tagging**

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

**Saturday, September 10th, 2016**

**Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Event full! Register for the waitlist online & learn more about the magnificent monarch and it's epic journey to Mexico. [Read More ...](#)

### **KinderNature: Soaring Wings**

**1:30 to 2:30 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 11th, 2016**

**Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek**

Keep your eyes on the skies as we search for soaring raptors on their way south for the winter. Practice using binoculars and find out your wingspan as we discover the exciting life of eagles, hawks, falcons and vultures and what makes each unique. [Read More ...](#)

### **Go Wild For Conservation Beer Tasting & Auction**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, September 15th, 2016**

## 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 ...](#)

## September Living Loess Tour

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

Saturday, September 17th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Connect with the culture of the Loess Hills on our September Living Loess Tour featuring Sawmill Hollow Family Farm in Missouri Valley, Iowa. [Read More ...](#)

## September Hitch Hike

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 20th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for the conclusion of this summer series. This hike is a challenging one that includes exploring more remote areas of the preserve and the Loess Hills up close. We will walk through Wildwood Trail out west to reach our destination- a scenic overlook of the Missouri River Valley. [Read More ...](#)

## October Harvest SpoonTour

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

Saturday, September 17th, 2016

Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek

Join us for the second Harvest Spoon Saturday of 2016 & travel through Iowa's picture perfect Loess Hills. Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as we celebrate the food and culture of western Iowa. Visit all 5 partner businesses along the Harvest Spoon route for a variety of experiences. [Read More ...](#)


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

Follow us on  twitter

FOLLOW US ON  Pinterest

 View on Instagram

Visit our blog



