

Fall 2017



Conservation Matters

Upcoming Event Highlights

**Loess Hills and Heritage Week,
September 23 thru
October 1st**

**Nature Fit Color
Hike, October 15th**

**Den Building,
November 18th**

**Volunteer
Opportunity
November 18th**

**Tiny Nature
Adventures,
First Wednesday of
each Month**

*More program
details and
contact
information
located in
newsletter.*

Mills County Conservation Board

Monarch Watch



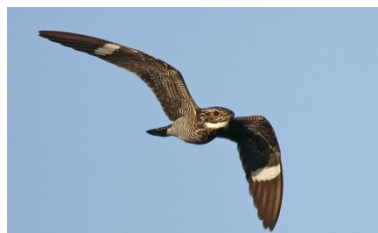
Monarch Watch is a nonprofit educational outreach program that focuses on the monarch butterfly, its habitat, and its spectacular fall migration. For the past two years Mills County Conservation has participated in tagging monarchs to aid in the research of their migration patterns and gather other valuable information. One aspect of the monarch research is placing tags on migrating

butterflies to increase our knowledge of the journey they make. In 2015, MCCB began tagging monarchs at several locations around Mills County.

On September 15, 2016 a male monarch was tagged at Pony Creek Park during a public program. This monarch was recovered over 1,800 miles away in Cerro Pelon, Mexico on January 16, 2017! MCCB has a goal of tagging 100 monarchs this year.

Mills County Neighbor

Common night hawks are found in Mills County throughout the summer months. During this time of year you may get lucky enough to spot a large group of them as they gather and begin their migration south. These medium-sized birds are easy to recognize in flight with their long slender wings and unique behaviors. During the morning and evening hours you will notice them flying in looping patterns as they catch insects in the air. These acrobatic birds can be found in both rural and urban habitats. Specialized feathers around the beak help guide insects into their gaping mouth. When a Common nighthawk lands it becomes nearly invisible because of its amazing camouflage. They put this camouflage to good use during nesting season. Eggs are laid on flat gravel areas or even bare roof tops, they do not make a nest! The female, the eggs, and the chicks rely solely on blending in with the surroundings for survival. During mating season you



can hear the male make a loud booming sound which is a result of air going through the primary feathers on the wing. Get out and enjoy the aerial show these beautiful birds put on while it lasts. They will be gone for the year in the blink of an eye!

Conservation Tip

Lindsey Huntsman, the summer Naturalist intern, did some research around the county to find out where people can take their recyclables. Here is a list of current available places to recycle in each town, where they are located, and what they accept ! Remember to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

Glenwood –

- Glenwood Redemption Center located at the Resource Center (214 Independence St.)
- Cans & plastic bottles must be bagged, Glass bottles must be boxed, \$0.05 for each qualifying recyclable
- Red River Waste Solutions trash removal offers recycling cans for plastics, paper, and cardboard, and glass separately for an additional cost

Malvern –

- Located at the city shop (1310 Main St.)
- Accepts cardboard, plastics 1-5, glass, metal, newspaper and magazines
- Also accepts glass bottles, plastic bottles, and pop cans for redemption
- Has a Glenwood Redemption Center bin available as well
- Malvern Residents only

Emerson –

- Located next to the fire station
- Accepts cardboard, plastics 1-5, glass, metal, and paper
- There is a gated area next to the trailer for can redemption
- Emerson Residents only

Henderson –

- No place is set up in town for recycling but the local trash removal (MTS Inc.) offers recycling cans that are picked up every two weeks
- Accepts paper, plastic, metal – no glass
- Henderson Residents only

Hastings –

- Located on the north edge of town next to the city building
- Accepts 1-2 plastics, paper, clear glass, aluminum and tin cans only
- Hastings Residents Only

Pacific Junction –

- Only available through certain trash companies

Silver City –

- Located on the southeast end of Main St. next to the legion
- Accepts Newspapers only
- Silver City Residents Only

Mineola –

- Only available through certain trash companies

Why is recycling important? According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency approximately 75% of the trash we throw away is recyclable. Waste has a huge negative impact on our natural environment. Harmful chemicals and greenhouse gasses are released from trash sitting in landfills due to lack of air circulation. Recycling helps decrease the pollution caused by waste. By making new products out of recycled items it reduces the need to use up valuable resources.

Grants and Donations

Bruce Sprain built and generously donated a unique bird feeding station that has been installed in front of Pony Creek Nature Center. The station is approximately 12 feet tall and holds four bird feeders. The height of the pole keeps feeders safe from deer, raccoons, and squirrels. The arms that hold bird feeders can be lowered to easily fill the feeders.

Bird feeders and a heated bird bath have been purchased with a grant from Iowa Ornithologists' Union. IOU has supported several bird watching projects here at Pony Creek Park and we are very grateful to them. Birds can be viewed while people enter the building, from the walk way of the deck and even from parked vehicles. Bird watching is a fun hobby that people of all ages can be involved in. Pony Creek is a great place to watch birds and this is a wonderful addition to the park.



2017 Loess Hills & Heritage Week: An Invitation

Western Iowa's Loess Hills & Heritage Planning Committee is pleased to announce that on August 24, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds proclaimed September 23 through October 1, 2017, Loess Hills and Heritage Week. The Committee, which represents public and private parks, conservation boards, and historical societies throughout Pottawattamie, Mills, Fremont, Harrison, Woodbury, Monona and Plymouth Counties, along with the Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) organization and Western Iowa Tourism, has been working with grassroots organizations in recent months to compile a long list of special activities and sites for visitors to experience the rare fall beauty and historic and cultural richness of the Hills. More information about Loess Hills Week and the Loess Hills themselves can be found at <http://www.visitloesshills.org/loess-hills--heritage-week.html>, or by simply Googling "Loess Hills and Heritage Week." That website also provides information on the special Loess Hills Poster Contest that is being offered for youth K-12.

The Loess Hills region includes some of Iowa's most precious cultural, historic and natural resources. This unique geological formation spans seven counties along Iowa's western edge and into counties of northern Missouri, and is found in similar form in only one other place in the world: the Yellow River Region in China. The distinctive geological and topographic features of the hills, the extensive natural grasslands and forests and the many archaeological sites there create a treasure for the region. Loess Hills Week will be an opportunity to experience and enjoy these hills, and to learn more about them and their special plants, animals, geology and pioneer and Native American history. We invite communities, organizations and individuals to join us in this

Upcoming Public Programs

Loess Hills and Heritage Week- Mills Co. Events:

John Liu Presentation

Date: Thursday, September 28

Time: 9:45am-11:15am

Location: Malvern

"Painted Loess Hills" Art Show

Host: Project Art Church

Location: 201 E. 4th Street Malvern, IA

Date: Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, October 1, and otherwise by appointment

Time: 10am-4pm

Contact: Zack Jones

Email: zipaintings@gmail.com

Phone: 480.628.9234

Loess Hills Bus Tour

Date: Saturday, September 30

Time: 1:00pm

Sites include Glenwood Museum, Chief Waubonsie site, Todd house, Hunter School, and Loess Hills Music Festival at Green Hollow Center near Thurman. Featuring Bill Blackburn and John Liu.

Check out the website, www.visitloesshills.org, for more information on these events.

Nature Fit Color Hike- October 15th @ 1:00 pm

Join the MCCB Naturalist for a hike up into the beautiful Loess Hills to enjoy the fall colors and get a nice workout at the same time. West Oak Forest is located at 55877 195th St. Please bring water and wear sturdy shoes!

Den Building- November 18th @ 1:00 pm

Come build a den with us! We will be learning about the dens local wildlife make and then use our imaginations to create dens of our own. Dress appropriately to be exploring the woodland! Pre-registration is greatly appreciated for planning purposes. Call 712-527-9685 or email millsccbia@hotmail.com! Program will be at Pony Creek Park, 56235 Deacon Road.

Pony Creek Nature Center

56235 Deacon Road

Pacific Junction, IA 51561

712-527-9685

Monday thru Friday

9:00am- 3:00 pm



Tiny Nature Adventures: The first Wednesday of each month, 10:00-11:00 am. Nature themed activities for children 3-5 years old. Adult must stay with child and pre-registration is **REQUIRED**, call 712-527-9685. We will be outdoors when weather allows so dress accordingly!

September 6th, October 11th, November 1st

Volunteer Opportunity- November 18th @10:00am

Join MCCB staff at Pony Creek Park as we wage war on the invasive bush honeysuckle and autumn olive that is quickly taking over the native woodland plants. Please bring work gloves and if available and tree loppers. We will be working in the Loess Hills so wear appropriate foot wear to safely navigate the terrain. Jobs will include, cutting down bushes with loppers, dragging bushes to piles, and applying herbicide to cut stumps. Everyone is welcome!

Pre-registration contact information:

Phone: 712-527-9685

Email: millsccbia@hotmail.com

Pre-registering helps us plan accordingly for programs.

Contact information

Mills County
Conservation
Pony Creek Park
56235 Deacon Rd
Pacific Junction, IA 51561

PHONE:
(712) 527-9685

E-MAIL:
millscobia@hotmail.com

Website:
mccb.millscoia.us



Mills County Conservation Board:

MCCB Staff:

Jerad Getter, Director
Dessa Montgomery, Naturalist
Zach Kohlhoff, Specialist
Jesse Ayers, Technician

MCCB Board Members:

Jan Faraci, Mineola
George Marshall, Malvern
Lana White, Hastings
Kreg Kinzle, Glenwood
Ted Golka, Glenwood



The Mills County Conservation Board is committed to providing the citizens of Mills County with quality outdoor recreation areas and opportunities for environmental education experiences. Please take advantage of these services and visit the nearly 1,800 acres of public land available!

CONSERVATION MATTERS
MILLS COUNTY CONSERVATION
56235 DEACON RD
PACIFIC JUNCTION, IA 51561

Fall 2017

West Oak Forest

308 acres in the Loess Hills consisting of woodlands and prairie, open for hiking and nature viewing.

Pony Creek Park

83 acres of woodland and small prairie remnants in the Loess Hills. This park provides two open shelters, 3 pit latrines, 6 electrical camping sites, primitive camping sites, playground, hiking trails, a scenic overlook and the Pony Creek Nature Center.

Mile Hill Lake

39 acres of woodlands with a 10 acre fishing lake. Provides a boat ramp, hiking trails, scenic overlook and is open to public hunting.

Glenwood Archaeological State Preserve/ Foothills Park 906 acres of hay field/ag land, reconstructed prairie, and woodlands. Rich archaeological significance, paved trails, fruit trees, great birding location.

Kenny's Woods

20 acres of woodland, open for nature viewing.

Fisher Wildlife Area

20 acres of reconstructed prairie, woodlands, and the River. Paddlers access ramp with parking area, open to public hunting

Ray Thomas Wildlife Pres.

90 acres open for passive use ONLY, reconstructed prairie, cropland, woodland, creek

Washburn Landing

Canoe/kayak access ramp with parking area. Access from east side of the river.

Lake George Park

11 acres, picnic shelter, grill and two acre pond

Indian Creek Greenbelt Area

17 acres reconstructed prairie, creek access, fruit trees

Wabash Trace Nature Trail

25 miles of biking/hiking trail. Former railroad corridor with limestone surface with access points in Malvern, Silver City, Mineola.

