

*Important  
Dates:*

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**Monarch  
Tagging**

September 18<sup>th</sup>  
September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Seed Harvest/  
Full Moon Hike**

October 13<sup>th</sup>

**Owl Prowl**

November 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Tiny Nature  
Adventures**

September 4<sup>th</sup>  
October 2<sup>nd</sup>  
November 6<sup>th</sup>

**Full Moons**

September 14<sup>th</sup>  
October 13<sup>th</sup>  
November 12<sup>th</sup>

**First day of  
Autumn**

September 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Mills County Conservation Board*

## Conservation Technician

Mills County Conservation had to say good bye to our Conservation Technician, Jesse Ayers, as he took a new position closer to his hometown and family. Jesse worked hard maintaining your county parks for 5 years and was always willing to help anywhere he was needed. Now it is time to welcome our new Conservation Technician, Chase Brumm! Chase graduated from Central College with a degree in Environmental Studies and is eager to put his knowledge and work experience to use. He grew up in the small town of Stacyville, Iowa near Mason City. When Chase is not working, he likes to stay active mountain biking, running, and hiking. If you see Chase at one of the parks feel free to stop and visit, he is looking forward to meeting new people and get to know more about Mills County.

## Cabins

Your Mills County Parks are continuing to grow with the addition of three cabins at Pony Creek Park. Golden Hills RC &D was awarded a grant from the Iowa West Foundation in the amount of \$350,000 that is directed at the Loess Hills Missouri River Region Cabin Initiative. This is a partnership between Harrison, Mills and Pottawattamie county conservation boards to add cabins and fill a lodging need in our area that is not being met. Cabins will have a kitchen, bathroom, and sleeping accommodations for 10-12 people. Ground breaking for this exciting project is planned for this fall.

## Donations

Jason Henderson volunteered nearly 20 hours of his time to overhaul the fishing poles that we use for numerous school and public fishing programs. His time and work are greatly appreciated and helped make the spring fieldtrips and summer fishing programs a success. Lyle Alley donated a deer head to be displayed in the Nature Center, it was a nice addition to the classroom space.

## Park Updates



With the help from local grant money some new things have been happening at Pony Creek Park. The old metal shelter on the south side of the park was replaced by a beautiful wooden one. As with all the MCCB picnic shelters this one can be reserved for \$25, just give us a call if you would like to schedule your next get together at one of the parks.



Another fun addition to the park is a new 180-gallon turtle tank in the nature center gallery. Visitors of all ages have enjoyed watching the Painted turtles, Tiny and Poppy, as they climb out onto their "land area" and slide back into the water when its time to go swimming.

## Mills County Neighbor

Wolf spiders are one of our many arachnids found in Mills County and across the country. Scientists have identified 125 different species of them. They range in size from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 2 inches long and are covered in bristly hair. These special spiders are active at night with three rows of eyes that can see in four directions at one time to help with hunting their prey. If you shine a flash light around your yard wolf spiders are fun to spot with their glowing eyes. These furry friends live under rocks, logs, leaves and dig tunnels into the ground; basically, anywhere there are insects to eat there will be wolf spiders there to eat them. During this time of the year as temperatures begin to drop, they will often seek warmer places inside homes and outbuildings. Wolf spiders are not aggressive and will not bite unless frightened or provoked. Although the bite is not deadly, it can be very painful, and some allergic reactions can occur that need medical attention.

Female wolf spiders are excellent mothers. They build a silk sac with approximately 100 eggs in and then carries it on her abdomen to keep it safe. When the spiderlings are ready to hatch she rips off the top of the egg sac and they crawl onto her back, where they will stay until they are big enough to venture out on their own.



## Upcoming Public Programs

### **Monarch Tagging Opportunities:**

Monarch tagging is an important step in the ongoing research of these vulnerable butterflies. Long pants and sturdy shoes are recommended. We will meet at Foothills Park on the Glenwood State Archaeological State Preserve, 59069 Levi Road.

Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 1:00 pm

Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm

Depending on migration times, there might be more added. Check the Mills County Conservation Facebook page or call to check.

### **Prairie Seed Harvest and Full Moon Hike- October 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm**

Join the Naturalist for a hike around reconstructed prairie sites at Foothills Park to harvest native prairie seeds and enjoy the Full Moon rise. Long pants, sturdy shoes and water are recommended.

### **Owl Prowl- November 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

A short presentation about are local owls will be held inside the Nature Center followed by a prowl along the trails of Pony Creek Park to look for live owls. Weather appropriate shoes and clothing are recommended for the hike. Pre-registration is required, please call or email.

### **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! Pony Creek Nature Center, 56235 Deacon Road.

September 4<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Pre-registration contact information:**

**Phone: 712-527-9685**

**Email: [millsccbia@hotmail.com](mailto:millsccbia@hotmail.com)**

**Pre-registering helps us plan  
accordingly for programs.**



**Pony Creek Nature Center  
56235 Deacon Road  
Pacific Junction, IA**

**712-527-9685**

**Hours: Monday thru Friday  
9:00am to 3:00 pm**

**Enjoy the fall weather and beautiful  
colors at YOUR Mills County Parks!**