



# Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

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Fall 2020



## Weather

By Mike Stegmann, Director

In college, one of the subjects I studied was weather. This class taught us about current weather and geological climate history. The Earth's weather has fluctuated greatly over the last three billion years. With this fluctuation the Earth's atmosphere becomes unstable and produces very



violent and extreme weather events. The storm we experienced this summer falls into that magnitude of very violent and extreme weather.

Marshall County, among many other counties in the state, was declared a disaster and the county parks and wildlife areas were not spared this designation. Most damage included trees being blown down, snapped, or broken.

Unlike past storms that affected certain parks in one section of the county and not others, this storm was county wide and devastated all MCCB areas. This newsletter has reached you later than normal due to all available MCCB staff assisting with debris clean up. Due to limited resources, we are addressing clean up of one park at a time reopening each as it is cleared and deemed safe. Clean up will linger well into fall. We will get to each park in turn, and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we trudge through this tedious process. Once a park is reopened please still use caution and stay aware of your surroundings. **DO NOT** go under or near damaged trees. If you are in a park that has reopened and see a potentially hazardous tree that may have been missed, please let us know at 641-752-5490. If a park is still closed, please mind barricades and caution tape, they are in place for your safety.

As mentioned, this storm caused widespread damage and it will take some time to provide safe areas for recreation. If you would like to volunteer to assist with clean up please call the MCCB office at 641-752-5490. If you have a favorite area we have not yet gotten to or have other questions, please do not hesitate to call and ask. You can check the Marshall County Conservation Board Facebook page for periodic updates.

Concerns arise from this disaster not only for human habitation and recreation, but wildlife habitat as well. I am already thinking ahead as to where we need to replace trees that produce shade, wind protection, or food for wildlife as well as for people. This process will continue into next year and beyond. Some of the wildlife management areas will not be cleared of the fallen and damaged trees. Mother Nature will eventually reclaim the organic material to be recycled into food for future generations of trees. Hollow trees that stood for decades if not centuries are no longer standing. These trees harbored animals such as raccoons, owls, wood ducks, bluebirds and many more. This in itself supports the need for additional nest structures for cavity nesting animals. As we proceed to winter, now is the time to think about constructing and placing these structures for next spring's nesting season.



Just as we rebuild our homes and cities, Mother Nature will rebuild the forests over time. In our communities, however, we will see a significant decrease in shade trees. We hope that you consider planting a new shade tree in your yard. Make sure to look for different and diverse species to plant.



# We Love our Trees. Most of Us. For the Most Part.

By Joe Herring, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forester



I hesitate to even write this article, because I truly fear that the residents of Marshalltown may well be ready to give up on trees altogether. Two derechos, an F-3 tornado, a new disease on bur oaks, and lest we forget - a tiny, metallic-

green beetle (Emerald Ash Borer) that's being called "the most destructive tree pest in history in North America" which was ravaging neighborhoods throughout town when the latest storm hit. And all of this just in the past ten years.

But in spite of the tangled mess of branches and leaves, the devastation and destruction, the constant cleaning up of leaves, seeds, twigs, and insect droppings throughout the year: we love our trees. Most of us. For the most part.

So if you are looking for advice on replacing lost trees this fall or next spring, here's a quick list of some of my top choices for your yard or neighborhood. But first, a bit of advice: don't try to buy the biggest tree you can find. A tree needs to have a good root system above all else (actually, *below* all else) in order to grow and thrive. In my opinion, the best value is usually about a 5- or 6-foot tall, potted or burlapped tree with a big root system, thick basal trunk diameter, and a small-but-healthy, a small, but healthy, symmetrical top. You can often find or order them for less than \$200 at the local garden centers and they fit in your car or truck – no big machinery required. Honestly, the best trees I've ever planted were native, bareroot seedlings 3' tall or less and cost next to nothing. The smaller they are, the faster they take root, and in 15 years they'll have caught up to or exceeded the big expensive trees – hands down.

*Shade trees:* 1) Swamp white oak (Q. bicolor) 2) Northern red oak 3) Kentucky coffee tree (Espresso) 4) American elm (Prairie Expedition) 5) Hackberry (Prairie Pride)

*Small trees:* 1) Redbud 2) Serviceberry 3) Pagoda dogwood 4) Pink sparkles crabapple 5) Hop hornbeam.

*Evergreens/Windbreaks:* 1) Eastern red cedar 2) Norway spruce 3) E. White pine 4) Concolor fir 5) Techny arborvitae.

*Trees to AVOID planting:* 1) Colorado blue spruce 2) Autumn blaze maple/red maples 3) Littleleaf lindens (Greenspire) 4) Scots pine 5) Austree willows or hybrid poplars

Many trees can do well in Iowa, but you still need to do some research on the individual tree you're considering to ensure that it will grow well and fit into your specific landscape. For more choices not listed here, I suggest obtaining "Shade Trees for Iowa" and "Small-Stature Trees for Iowa" (Ash Alternatives) prepared by the ISU Extension, FOR-406 and 405 available for free online or at the local Extension office.

And remember: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."  
- Nelson Henderson



## Archery Only Deer Hunting

Once again this fall the MCCB is allowing ARCHERY ONLY DEER HUNTING in select MCCB designated refuge areas. This special use has been reviewed annually by the MCCB as a request from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for nearly 20 years. It occurs in MCCB refuge areas that have large enough blocks of deer habitat and is compatible with other outdoor recreation uses that would not interfere with one another. Hunters are reminded to respect private property, neighboring public land, and remember that all deer hunting rules and regulations pertain to this special use. This includes regulations for tree stands:



- No trimming trees on public land
- No permanent tree stands are allowed
- Driving spikes, nails, pins or any other metal object into a tree on public land is prohibited.
- Tree stands may be left on public land seven days prior to until seven days after the final day of the season.



# MAPLE SYRUP

Maple syrup is now available for sale by curbside pickup. This service is available Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Please call 641-752-5490 to place your order. Payments can be made by credit/debit card or check, no cash sales.

Sizes available:  
50 ml. - \$3.00  
12 oz bottle - \$12.00  
500 ml. \$16.00



## Nature Story Hour

Nature Story Hour will continue to be held through the fall months via Facebook Live, instead of in person at the Conservation Center at Grimes Farm. The program will include a story book, education program from the naturalist about the topic, and a suggested activity or craft to do as a family. Each session will last about 20 minutes and viewers can type in questions to ask the naturalists about the topic of that day. These sessions will also coincide with our Nature Activity Kits. Read more about those on the next page. Log into Facebook on the following days and times to learn about fun nature topics and listen to a great book!



September 3 - 10:00 a.m. Monarchs  
September 17 - 10:00 a.m. Fall Colors  
October 1 - 10:00 a.m. Spiders  
October 15 - 10:00 a.m. Bats  
November 5 - 10:00 a.m. Animals Prepare for Winter  
November 19 - 10:00 a.m. Turkey  
December 3 - 10:00 a.m. Evergreen Trees

## Live and Local

Whether or not the fall concerts are safe and able to be held will be decided upon at the beginning of each month. Watch the MCCB Facebook or the Friends of MCCB Facebook page at the beginning of each month for future announcements.

If concerts will be held, they will be in the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Food trucks from central Iowa will also be on hand for supper options. In case of inclement weather, the concerts will be held at the county fairgrounds.

### Current Summer Concert Line-Up

~~Des Moines Dueling Fiddlers - September 17~~ **Postponed to 2021**  
Bob Dorr - October 7



## Brown Bag Bunch

Enjoy everything you love about Brown Bags from the comfort and safety of your own home. This fall our Brown Bags will be available in video format through YouTube. Fall Brown Bag videos will be available the third Tuesday of each month and will be approximately 30 minutes long. **Call 641-752-5490 or email [mccb@marshallcountyia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountyia.gov) to sign up to receive an email link to the video that you can watch anytime! Pre-registration deadline is the second Tuesday of every month.** This is a great option for assisted living and senior living facilities as well.

### September - Fresh Water Mussels of Iowa

Check out this video with naturalist Emily Herring as we explore some of Marshall County's waterways to find fresh water mussels. Fresh water mussels are considered the most endangered group of organisms in North America and there is more to them than what meets the eye. From cleaning our rivers to becoming our buttons, their presence on our rivers is more than most realize. So sign up and learn about these complicated creatures that dwell in our waters.

### October - Fall Colors

By the second week in October, Iowa's trees are putting on a grand show of fall colors. Take a walk with us in the Marshall County Parks as we talk about the fall colors of trees, how to identify different types of trees and the science behind the colors of fall. P.S. If you happened to have lost a tree or 10, with the derecho this past August, this video will also include some information about selecting the right tree species for your yard.

### November - Marshall County Conservation "Did You Know?"

Did you know that Marshall County Conservation has 31 parks? Did you know that we manage over 2,644 acres of land for both human and wildlife use? Did you know that our parks are home to endangered species like the Red-shouldered Hawk, threatened species like the Henslow's Sparrow and special concerned species like the Smooth Green Snake? Join the Marshall County staff for this Brown Bag video as we talk about some of the things that people don't know about our Marshall County Conservation parks. From unique features to rare wildlife, learn about what your county parks have to offer and then go out and explore!

### December - Forever Green Trees

'Tis the season for evergreen trees, however most people do not know the difference between a Pine, Spruce, or a Fir. This video will talk about the different kinds of evergreens and how to identify them. State District Forester Joe Herring will also discuss what type of evergreens grow best in your area if you are thinking about planting one next spring. Last but not least, learn about why choosing live Christmas Trees are good for the environment and fill your home with the fresh evergreen scent.

# Adult Take and Make

## Canvas Art

Learn how to canvas paint with medium bodied acrylics to create an 11" x 14" night time scene. Each tote with contain all materials needed to create your masterpiece including: paint, brushes, canvas, as well as information on where to locate an instructional video. All artistic levels are welcome!

**Participants must register by calling 641-752-5490, email [mccb@marshallcountvia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountvia.gov), or text only 641-758-9777 and pay the fee of \$25 by September 25. Totes will be picked up the week of October 5 through October 9 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. There will be a limited number of totes.**



## Fall Monogram Door Décor



Looking for a fun fall themed decoration to adorn your door? Sign up today to get enrolled in this fun make and take craft through Marshall County Conservation.

This class will include all the materials to make a personalized door hanger decoration (excluding a hot glue gun). Materials will include: wooden letter frame, tree cookies, ribbon, fall decorations, and wire. When registering, select the letter you would like for your home and pay for the class (via mailed in check or credit card over the phone). Included in your supplies will be a

link to a YouTube video that will show you step-by-step directions on how to assemble your door hanger.

**Pre-registration and payment of \$30.00 is required to secure limited spots by September 25 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email [mccb@marshallcountvia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountvia.gov), or text only 641-758-9777. Pick up of supplies will need to be scheduled the week of October 12 through October 16 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

## Porch Pumpkins

When nature gives you a derecho and blows down hundreds of trees, you make tree stump pumpkins! This craft will include everything you need (except for a hot glue gun and scissors) and instructions to make three pumpkins that will playfully adorn your front step this fall. Once you have registered and paid for the class (via mailed in check or credit card over the phone) participants will select a time for curbside pick-up of your pumpkin supplies at the Grimes Farm Nature Center.

Included in your supplies will be a link to a YouTube video that will show you step-by-step directions on how to assemble and decorate your pumpkins. The added bonus is you can create your pumpkins any time that works best for you.

**Pre-registration and payment of \$30.00 is required to secure limited spots by October 2 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email [mccb@marshallcountvia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountvia.gov), or text only 641-758-9777. Pick up of supplies will need to be scheduled the week of October 12 through 16 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



## Wreath Making

Kick off the holiday season by creating an evergreen wreath for your front door with Marshall County Conservation Naturalist Emily Herring. Unlike previous years, this wreath making class will be a take to make class. Once you have registered and paid for the class (via mailed in check or credit card over the phone) participants will select a time for curbside pick-up of your wreath making supplies at the Grimes Farm Nature Center. Supplies will include everything to create an evergreen wreath with bow. Included in your supplies will be a link to a YouTube video that will show you step-by-step directions on how to assemble your wreath, participants will also learn about the history of wreaths, common types of evergreen found in Iowa, and how to properly harvest evergreen from trees. **Pre-registration and payment of \$25.00 is required to secure limited spots by November 20 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email [mccb@marshallcountvia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountvia.gov), or text only 641-758-9777. Pick up of supplies will need to be scheduled the week of November 30 through December 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



## Nature Activity Kits

Looking for a fun way to learn more about science and exploring nature? Each month the naturalist will prepare family and youth activities related to the seasonal topic. Activities will include crafts, games, outdoor exploration and more. Along with each kit, families will receive background information to learn more about the topic and one Facebook Live Nature Story will be related to the topic.

**Families need to pre-register and make payment of \$10.00 per month or \$35.00 for the months of September - December (4 Nature Activity Kits) to secure limited spots. Each kit provides a craft set for one child. Each additional craft set needed will cost an additional \$5.00 per monthly box. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email [mccb@marshallcountvia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountvia.gov), or text only 641-758-9777. Topics, Registration deadlines and pick up dates are as follows:**

**September - Monarchs**  
Registration Deadline September 18  
Kit pick up the week of September 28

**October - Spiders**  
Registration Deadline October 9  
Kit pick up the week of October 19

**November - Animals Prepare for Winter**  
Registration Deadline November 6  
Kit pick up the week of November 16

**December - Oh Christmas Tree**  
Registration Deadline December 4  
Kit pick up the week of December 14



# Welcome, Alan Naughton!



Born and raised in Marshalltown Iowa in 1983 by Richard and Michelle Naughton. I have two older brothers Kris and Scott. We lived on an acreage in the middle of town so there was always something to do. I would earn extra money by doing extra chores around the yard. I hated doing yard work, but I became accustomed to it. During high school I kept myself busy by playing soccer, fishing in my free time, and hunting. In order

to fund my free time adventures I would work for my parents at ServiceMaster of Marshalltown. I was also involved in Boy Scouts and stayed until first class. If Mom and Dad couldn't find me, all they had to do was whistle for me outside and I would come running. I graduated from Marshalltown High in 2002.

After graduating, I moved to Cedar Falls and obtained my Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management all while working at Olive Garden as an assistant kitchen manager. After I graduated I moved to Kansas City for a year and was able to experience big city life and would hate to live in a big city again. After that experience I moved to Storm Lake, IA and worked as an Area Manager for three years for ServiceMaster by Rice. Great fishing!

Then I moved back to my home town to marry my BEAUTIFUL wife Christy Stockner and work with my brother Kris (who now owns ServiceMaster of Marshalltown), as a Production Manager. In 2015 Christy and I were blessed with our first daughter Scarlett Rose and in 2017 we were blessed with our twin girls Ivy Michele and Estelle Christine. These three young girls keep us very busy! When Scarlett was born I became a stay a home dad and worked seasonally for Marshall County Conservation and the Iowa Veteran's Home. Christy and I are still married, Scarlett is now 5, the twins are 3, and I am now in my dream job at Marshall County Conservation!



## The Nature Center

As the COVID-19 restrictions continue, the Nature Center at Grimes Farm will remain closed through fall. The MCCB does not want to promote any gatherings of the public which may pose a threat to the spread of the virus. We hope to be able to reopen the Nature Center as soon as possible. Please be patient with us as we try to protect the public and our staff.

"Only the mountain has lived long enough to listen objectively to the howl of the wolf."  
- Aldo Leopold



## Photo Contest

Now is a great time to get out and capture some beautiful images!

All entries are due by noon Friday, January 29, 2021!

Categories include: Scenic (Natural Resources), Native Wildlife, Native Plants, Open Nature, and Outdoor Recreation.



For contest details call (641)752-5490 or visit [www.co.marshall.ia.us](http://www.co.marshall.ia.us) click on Departments then Conservation Board and then Annual Photo Contest. Winners of each category will receive a \$20 gift certificate. We will be changing the submittal process this year, stay tuned to the next newsletter for more instructions.

## The County Conservation Offices will be closed:

- Monday, September 7 for Labor Day
- Wednesday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving

# SEASONS

**Marshall County Conservation Board**  
**2349 - 233rd Street**  
**Marshalltown, IA 50158**  
**Return Service Requested**

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*Thank You*

**Derecho Storm Damage:** Olivia & Lane VanderHart, Sara Rueger, Joe Herring, Marshalltown Bike Club, Jarret Heil, Ashley Hinson, Jimmy Peacock, and Allie Berding

**Programming:** Carrie Barr

**Playscape Flower Beds:** The Marshalltown Garden Club

**Bluebird Boxes:** Darrell & Jolene Jebson

**Flowerbed Maintenance:** Gary Fulton

**General Maintenance:** Jenny Bledsoe

**Summer Camp:** Marvis Drew, Friends of Marshall County Conservation

**Marietta Sand Prairie Invasive Plant Removal:** Erik Drogemuller, Lura Parrent, Christopher Schminke, Andrina Helgersen; Alex Anderson

**Donations:** Joyce & Rob Christensen, Margaret Kroener, Lauri Riss

If we inadvertently missed someone, our thanks to you also.



Help us keep costs down and save resources. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically rather than having it mailed, please send an email to [mccb@marshallcountyia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountyia.gov). Also the electronic version is in color!

## MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158  
(641) 752-5490  
[mccb@marshallcountyia.gov](mailto:mccb@marshallcountyia.gov)  
[www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation](http://www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation)

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### Board Members

Rich Naughton  
Pam Paone  
Steve Armstrong  
Tom Deimerly  
Tom Mack



QR code for  
MCCB website.

### Staff

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Mike Stegmann   | Director                    |
| Emily Herring   | Naturalist                  |
| Jeremiah Manken | Operations Sup./Park Ranger |
| Tyler Renze     | Maintenance Technician      |
| Alan Naughton   | Maintenance Technician      |
| Tami Krough     | Administrative Assistant    |

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