



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 37, Issue 3

Fall 2022



MOTUS Wildlife Tracking

By Mike Stegmann, Director

Through my years of conservation work, one of my passions has been hands-on management of wildlife. These activities have included: managing Bluebird and Wood Duck nest boxes, electroshocking and surveying fish populations with the IDNR, and trapping wild turkeys for relocation. My favorite, though, has been the mark and recapture study method of individual animals.

I first learned of this wildlife management tool as a youth when I harvested a Mallard hen with a leg band. After writing a letter to the USFWS, I received information about the bird. It had been initially banded two years previously in January on its wintering grounds in southern Illinois. My first hands-on experience working with this method was at the University of Northern Iowa in Animal Behavior class. Where we captured soldier beetles, marked them with tiny dots of paint, and tracked their movements from one end of the campus to the other.



While working temporary positions with the IDNR early in my career. We would help capture Canada Geese and Wood Ducks for banding to monitor populations, harvest, migration, and longevity. I have continued to manage Wood Duck trap sites for the IDNR and assist with the round-up of geese for banding. Through the years, I have probably helped band a couple thousand birds.

The discovery of a few remarkable recoveries of these birds came from internet chat pages. One person posted that they had recovered a drake wood duck banded six years ago near Marshalltown, Iowa. The bird's age was intriguing but more so that the bird was harvested in central Virginia. Another story revealed a banded Canada Goose harvested just last fall near Marshalltown. This bird was banded near Marshalltown, so the distance traveled between points A and B was nominal. Interestingly, the bird was banded as young of the year in 2001. This bird had lived for 20 years.

Over the years, I've been fortunate to harvest quite a few leg-banded waterfowl. Some of these birds traveled great distances, and some lived a good number of years. While many birds are still banded with standard numbered leg bands, technology has kept pace with the mark and recapture study method. Now in some instances, birds are marked with a satellite transmitter that reveals the bird's location at any given time. This doesn't require the bird to be in hand to read numbers from a leg band. It now provides wildlife researchers with an incredible amount of data to determine what type of habitats are being most used and at what time of the year. This allows land managers to provide appropriate habitats for the different species.

Another relatively new tracking method, Motus Wildlife Tracking System, involves a specific type of chip attached to a bird's leg and a standard numbered leg band. These chips register when the bird flies past one of the many worldwide receiving towers. Marshall County hopes to get one of these receivers set up shortly. So marked migratory birds will reveal their presence in the county.



One such remarkable case showed the travels of a bird just last spring. Anna Buckardt Thomas, Avian Ecologist with the Iowa DNR, relayed the following story on July 21, 2022:

"I have a really cool Motus story to share with you that involves the stations at the Missouri River, Coralville, and Odessa Wildlife Units. Motus is immensely important in helping us understand the full annual cycle of birds; breeding, migration, and wintering periods. When I saw this detection of a Lesser Yellowlegs today, it made it super clear how important Iowa is to that full annual cycle story."

Continued on page 2

MOTUS (cont.)

"It may not seem like migration time, but some shorebirds that breed in the boreal forest and the arctic are already heading south, like this Lesser Yellowlegs. This bird was tagged on the wintering grounds in La Charca, Colombia, on April 19, 2022. Eighteen days later, it was detected at the Missouri River Unit for 10 minutes (an apparent short stopover). There were no detections from the breeding period, but yesterday (July 20, 2022), the bird was detected during its southern migration at a Southwestern Manitoba station 2.5 hours later at a station in central North Dakota for 41 minutes. It was traveling ~87 miles/hour. It took 6 hours and 55 minutes to get from North Dakota to the station at Hawkeye WMA (traveling ~82 miles/hour) and was detected there for 16 minutes. From there, it flew another 30 minutes at ~101 miles/hour to the Odessa station, where it was detected for 10 minutes. The fact that we detected this same individual Lesser Yellowlegs during spring and fall migration and at three different stations is amazing to me! Hopefully, the bird will be detected at more stations as it continues to make its way south, and we will learn more about this Species of Greatest Conservation Need."

After a recent check on this bird on the Motus website, it was detected in North Carolina on July 20, 2022.

This exemplifies how important local conservation efforts are in assisting worldwide research. Iowa stations have made 24 detections of 22 individual birds from 10 different species since August 2021.

To set up a Motus Station in Marshall County, \$5,000 is needed for equipment. If you are interested in contributing to enabling this, please get in touch with the MCCB at 641-752-5490 or email mccb@marshallcountya.gov for more information. For more information on MOTUS: <https://motus.org>.



The Iowa Honey Producers Association Youth Scholarship Program

The Iowa Honey Producers Association is proud to promote the wonders of beekeeping to the next generation of beekeepers. Through the IHPA Youth Scholarship Program, youth ages 13 to 16 (by November 1st of the current year) can apply for the opportunity to learn beekeeping from a local mentor. This is a great hands on experience. Young students will learn the skills needed to maintain their very own beehive! The beekeeping mentor will teach and guide participants in working with a live beehive which will be theirs to keep upon successful completion of the program. The deadline is **September 15th**, so check out the more information on the Iowa Honey Producers website at [www.https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org](https://www.iowahoneyproducers.org).

Selection Criteria

1. Youth must be the ages of 13 to 16 by November 1st of the current year.
2. Applicant must be currently enrolled in public, private, or home school.
3. Applicant must complete and return all paperwork, including permission and agreement form signed by parent or guardian.
4. The application with supporting documents, as well as the waiver/binder form must be submitted to the Youth Scholarship Coordinator no later than **September 30th** of the current year.
5. All applicants must be new to beekeeping, if immediate family members are beekeepers you will not be eligible to apply.

Selection Process

1. After all applications have been received, a selected committee will carefully consider each and select finalists.
2. Finalists will be contacted by phone on or before October 10. At this time, finalists will schedule a phone/zoom interview with the IHPA Youth Scholarship Committee.
3. Interviews will take place during the middle/end of October.
4. The Youth Beekeeping Scholarship Program Scholars will be announced during the IHPA Annual Meeting. At this time, they will have the opportunity to meet the scholarship recipients of the previous year.

All students (if selected) will receive: Standard bottom board w/entrance reducer, 2-hive bodies w/frames and foundation, 2-medium supers w/frames and foundation, telescoping cover w/inner cover, division board feeder, hive tool, smoker w/shield, bee brush, hooded jacket/veil, pair of leather gloves, appropriate nails for construction of hive bodies, as some assembly will be required (the exception to this is if the hive was donated to the program), free classes, and a mentor for a year!

Local youth, Nick Wise, received the scholarship this past year and has had an amazing experience learning about and raising bees!





FALL

Nature Story Hour

Nature Story Hour will be held during the fall months of September and October. It will be in-person and on Facebook Live starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater. The program will be held inside the center in case of inclement weather. The program will start with local celebrities reading a story book, an educational program by the naturalist about the topic, and an activity or craft. Each session will last about 30 - 40 minutes. Upcoming topics include:



September 1 - Snakes - Andrew Potter, Tourism Director with the Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce

September 15 - Canines - Erica Melcher, Animal Rescue League Marshalltown

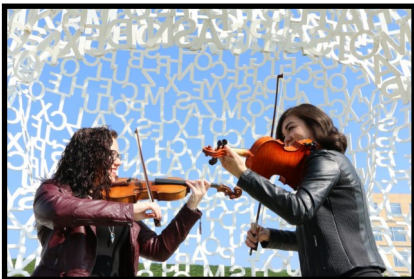
October 6 - Skulls - Pat Thompson, Marshall County Public Health Director

October 20 - Wildfires - Smokey the Bear

Nature Story Hour will return next Spring, starting in May and running through the month of October.

Live and Local - Dueling Fiddles

Thursday, September 15 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at Grimes Farm
Food Vendors: Clare's Tenderloins, Comal Kaxi, and Lillie Mae Chocolates



Comprised of violinists Geneviève Salamone and Hanna Wolle, the Dueling Fiddles are an entertainment duo that mix the rich sounds of the violin with layered accompaniment for energetic and engaging

performances. This Des Moines-based duo performs a wide range of repertoire, ranging from Celtic Rock to modern pop favorites that audiences of all ages will enjoy. Their love of sharing their music with others fuels their energy on stage, and they guarantee a show where fans will walk away having enjoyed the music, energy, and virtuosic talent of the Dueling Fiddles. <https://www.duelingfiddles.com/> This concert is **FREE** to the public made possible by the Friends of Marshall County Conservation. Local food trucks will be in attendance. However, participants can bring their own snacks and beverages.



Brown Bag Bunch

To register for Brown Bags, call 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.

September

Iowa River Walk

Wednesday, September 14 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Forest Reserve Boat Ramp

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: September 9 by 4:00 p.m.

Meet naturalist Emily Herring at the Forest Reserve parking lot to explore the Iowa River. We will walk sandbars and low river areas and look for natural artifacts, including shells, rocks, teeth, and bones, as we learn about the creatures that inhabit the Iowa River and its history. Please wear shoes and clothes that can get muddy and wet. Also, this program will require the river levels to remain low. Once registered, we will keep you informed of any program changes or cancellations.



October

Marietta Sand Prairie Seed Collecting

Tuesday, October 4 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Marietta Sand Prairie

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: September 30 by 4:00 p.m.

Join Marshall County Conservation staff as you learn the different types of prairie plants and their seeds. Participants will hand-pick seeds from the prairie, which will be collected to redistribute later. We'll show how to harvest seeds; no experience is required. All equipment provided. Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes and bring a re-fillable water bottle.



November

Ty Smedes Presents South Georgia Island - Nature's Masterpiece

Tuesday, November 1 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: October 28 by 4:00 p.m.

In the Atlantic Ocean, nestled about halfway between the tips of South America and Africa, a 100-mile-long mountainous island towers above the sea. Its beaches are a wildlife paradise, crowded with battling bull Elephants and Fur Seals, all vying for space with several species of penguins, which number in the hundreds of thousands! This British protectorate (former headquarters for the South Atlantic whaling fleet) is now managed as a pristine environment. Home to more than 100 million birds, including several species of Albatross, these protective measures are expected to push the population to 300 million birds. Come see and learn about this magical place as we ply the scenic bays aboard the Ortelius, an expedition ship built to navigate some of the roughest seas in the world.



Brown Bags Continued page 4

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Brown Bag Bunch - continued

December

Erik Murry Presents Iowa Rough-legged Hawk Project

Wednesday, December 14 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
GrimesFarm Conservation Center
Registration Fee: FREE
Deadline: December 9 by 4:00 p.m.

The Iowa Rough-legged Hawk Project, founded by Erik Murry, is the first project of its kind to research the arctic dwelling raptor in Eastern Iowa. The Rough-legged hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) is an arctic nesting bird that uses Iowa's fragmented habitat to over-winter. With a diet of almost exclusively rodents, native grassland is extremely key in the survival of this species. In this program, Erik will talk about how his over-winter banding program functions, including how birds are caught, handled and banded. What data is being recorded will also be discussed, in addition to how it is used as well as other projects Erik is a part of. This includes fall migration banding and Golden Eagle trapping and tracking!



Monarch Family Event



Tuesday, September 13 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Shelter House

Join us on September 13 at the Grimes Farm Shelter House to learn about the amazing migration that Monarchs make during the fall months. The program will start at 5:30 p.m. with a short presentation about

monarchs and the tagging program. Following the program, nets will be available for families to catch monarchs to tag. Each person will also get a cookie, take home craft, and milkweed seed to plant to help Monarchs thrive while supplies last. No pre-registration is required, and the event is free.

AACI - Public Night at the Observatory

Dean Memorial Observatory
Green Castle Recreation Area

Friday, September 9 8:00 p.m.
Jupiter and Saturn Giants of the Solar System

Friday, October 14 7:00 p.m.
Orionid Meteor Shower

The Amateur Astronomers of Central Iowa invite the public for a telescopic view of the night sky. For more information, contact Jim Bonser at (641)751-8744 or visit their website <http://www.iowaastronomy.com>



Kayaking

Final two kayaking events for 2022! Join us as we explore Marshall County waters with kayaks at Green Castle Recreational Area - 2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman. This family-friendly event is to encourage participants to learn the basics of kayaking and how to be safe on Iowa's waters. There is no fee for this program. However, you must pre-register to reserve limited spots. **To register, contact GrimesFarm and Conservation Center by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**



Tuesday, September 20 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Deadline: September 16 Fee: FREE

Wednesday, October 12 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Deadline: October 7 Fee: FREE

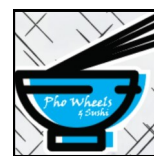
Live and Local - William Elliott Whitmore

Thursday, October 6 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at Grimes Farm
Food Vendors: Clare's Tenderloin, Magoos Pizza, Pho Wheel & Sushi, and Sweet Smells by Mel

A man armed only with a banjo and a bass drum can be a formidable force, especially if his name is William Elliott Whitmore. With his powerful voice and honest approach, Whitmore comes from the land, growing up on a family farm in Lee County, Iowa. Whitmore has consistently carved his own path, honoring the longstanding tradition of folk music throughout his nearly 20-year career while always allowing his blues, soul, and punk rock influences to shine through.

William Elliott Whitmore has been back and forth across the United States and to cities around the world. He's toured with such diverse acts as Frank Turner, Trampled by Turtles, Clutch, and Chris Cornell, to name a few. He's appeared on some of the biggest stages around the world, including Stagecoach Fest, Byron Bluesfest (Australia), and End of the Road Fest (UK).

Local food trucks will be in attendance. However, participants can bring their own snacks and beverages. This event is FREE and open to the public, thanks to our sponsors--the Ann C. Keyser Trust and supportive members of the Friends of Marshall County Conservation.



Zombie Run

Saturday, October 22 6:00 p.m.
Grimes Farm
Registration Fee: \$30.00
Deadline - October 3 by 4:00 p.m.

The Park Apocalypse has begun, and Grimes Farm will be infested with Zombies on October 22, 2022. Put on your running shoes for this spine-tingling 5K with registration beginning at 6:00 p.m. and a staggered race start beginning at 6:30. Runners will brave the oncoming night and undead creatures lurking the trails, which will try to steal their brains (also known as flags, from the flag football belts). If runners cross the finish line with flags, they have avoided lively decompositions and declared a survivor. Those with no flags, their future is no guarantee and deemed infected. Runners can register on-line at Eventbrite. Registration fee is \$30 and includes: swag item, finisher medal, walking "dead" taco meal, zombie antidote (Gatorade), and zombie cookie. Registration Deadline is October 3. Day of the race registration is welcomed; however medal and swag item and meal will not be guaranteed. If running is not your thing and you would like to sacrifice your brain and evening and become a Zombie on the trail or another volunteer, please contact Emily Herring at eherring@marshallcountytia.gov or at 641-844-2833. Income made from the Zombie Run will be put back into the trails at the GrimesFarm.



Scan the QR
code to register

Soap Making 101

Thursday, November 17 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
GrimesFarm Conservation Center
Registration Fee: \$40.00
Deadline: November 4 by 4:00 p.m.

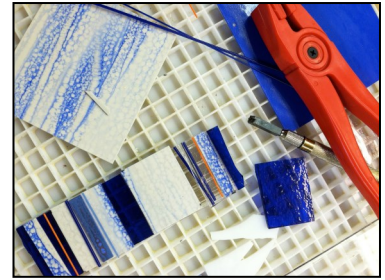
Explore the art and science of making handcrafted soap from scratch with Ann Staudt of Siberian Soap Co.! Using the centuries-old-cold-process soap-making technique, students will combine plant-based oils and lye to create soaps that are mild, moisturizing, and eco-friendly. This workshop is very hands-on, with each participant making and taking home 1 pound of their own custom batch of herbal handcrafted soap. All participants require long sleeves, long pants, and closed-toe shoes. Please bring an old towel or blanket to insulate your finished soap. Open to age 16+; younger students must have advance permission from the instructor. **Pre-registration and payment of \$40.00 are required to secure limited spots by November 4 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



Glass Fusing: Suncatcher/Tile

Monday, November 21 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Monday, December 5 6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: \$40 (each additional tile \$25)
Deadline: November 16 by 4:00 p.m.

Create a colorful work of art in glass! In this class, Rhonda Scott will teach you how to safely cut and grind glass, explore colors and patterns, and design your suncatcher. Your creation will be fired between class sessions. In the first session, you will design and create your suncatcher. You will return to the second session to collect your suncatcher after firing and share with others your results. All materials and supplies will be included. **Pre-registration and payment of \$40.00 are required to secure limited spots by November 16 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



Wreath Making

Thursday, December 1 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: \$30.00
Deadline: November 18 by 4:00 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season by creating an evergreen wreath for your front door with Marshall County Conservation Naturalist Emily Herring. During wreath construction, participants will also learn about the history of wreaths, common types of evergreen found in Iowa, and how to properly harvest evergreen from trees. We ask that kids under 14 have an adult present to help them complete the wreath. At the end of the session, participants will take home a wreath that will serve as a warm welcome to anyone who knocks on their front door this winter! **Pre-registration and payment of \$30.00 are required to secure limited spots by November 18 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



The County Conservation Offices will be closed:

- Friday, November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for Thanksgiving

MARSHALLTOWN COMMUNITY THEATRE
IN COOPERATION WITH THE MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
PRESENTS

Tickets
\$15

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow

BY PETER BLOEDEL AND HANS BLOEDEL

Grimes Farm

Sept 22-24
& 29-30

2349 233rd St, Marshalltown

7:30

If running is not your thing and you would like to sacrifice your brain and evening and become a Zombie on the trail or another volunteer, please contact Emily Herring at eherring@marshallcountytia.gov or at 641-752-5490. Income made from the Zombie Run will be put back into the trails at the Grimes Farm.

PARK APOCALYPSE ZOMBIE RUN

OCTOBER 22, 2022

REGISTRATION 6:00 P.M.

RACE STARTS 6:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION
ONLINE AT
EVENTBRITE

REGISTRATION FEE
OF \$30 INCLUDES:

SWAG ITEM

MEDAL

MEAL

For more information about the Zombie Run check out page 5 of this newsletter.

CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP



Special thanks to the Catholic Heart Workcamp for volunteering for Marshall County Conservation this July! We kept the youth and leader busy with wood chipping trees, restringing fishing poles, staining, working on the nature playscape, and helping teach local children to fish! They accomplished so much, and we are grateful for all their hard work!

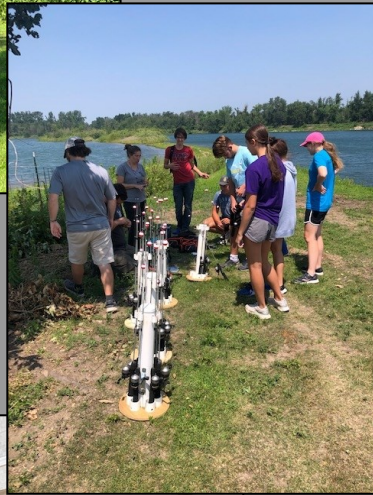


Photo Contest

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

All entries are due by midnight
Tuesday, January 31, 2023!

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

For contest details call
(641)752-5490 or visit
www.marshallcountya.gov
click on Departments, then
Conservation Board, and then
Annual Photo Contest. Winners
of each category will receive a
\$20 gift certificate.



*THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
HELPED MAKE PEOPLE IN THE PARK
A HUGE SUCCESS! THANK YOU TO
OUR DONOR THEISEN'S. ALSO THANK
YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN
THE SEARCH FOR LEGO PEOPLE.*



SEASONS

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Playscape Flower Beds: The Marshalltown Garden Club

Flowerbed Maintenance: Doni Sheldon, Marilyn Beard, Gary Fulton

Tree Planting and Park Maintenance: Vania Madrigal, Kristin Stuchis, Rachel Longstreet, Bianca Cook, Angela Corte-Curiel, Erin Carpenter

Legos in the Park: Theisens

Donations: Marilyn Rhodes Memorial, Marty Hathaway Memorial, Richard "Butch" Krough Memorial

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. Also the electronic version is in color!

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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mccb@marshallcountyia.gov
www.marshallcountyia.gov

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

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