



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 38, Issue 3

Fall 2023



Let There Be Flush Toilets!

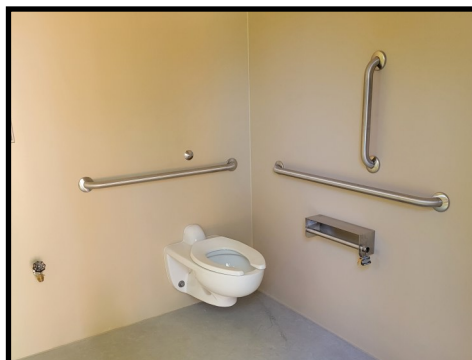
By Emily Herring, Director

I grew up in a camping family. Not a camper camping family, but a tent camping family. Many of our family vacations were spent in campgrounds across the Midwest. It was such a large part of my childhood and partially what led me into my profession. My dad was more, how do you say it, flexible when it came to latrines. On the other hand, my mom had pretty high standards regarding campground bathrooms (she would even bring her toilet paper!). Man, did she drill into me the importance of good bathroom facilities! Her favorite campgrounds were the ones with the cleanest and nicest bathrooms. I'm pretty sure she would be impressed with the newest addition to Timmons Grove South Campground.

On August 16, contractors arrived with 136,000 pounds of preconstructed concrete bathroom and shower facilities on two flatbed trailers. The four-stall family-style bathrooms were fully equipped with sinks, toilets, faucets, lights, hand driers, and shower stalls. Much of the electrical, water, and septic had already been installed and was ready for the building to be placed with a large crane. It took about 1 ½ hours for the crane to place the bathrooms on their footings. Almost an instant bathroom!

Contractors are currently working on hooking up the water, electric, and septic systems, but soon, Marshall County Conservation will have its first showers. This is just one small flush for mankind, one giant leap for Marshall County Conservation Board!

The shower house facility was made



possible through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the American Rescue Plan, Friends of Marshall County Conservation, and many other generous donors to the project.

This new addition is one of the many improvements planned at Timmons Grove. Last year, Marshall County Conservation, with the help of Alliant Energy and the Iowa DNR, planted over 70 trees and shrubs to add shade and beauty to the park. This also helped us to increase tree and wildlife diversity in the park.

Along with the shower house, there will be two accessible paved camp pads installed next to the shower house. We will also plan to rock all of the camping pads. Marshall County Conservation will install a kiosk where information about the campground, registration, events, and educational information will be posted. Soon at the entrance, you will find a new sign making Timmons Grove easier to see from the road. We will also install a new picnic table and grill at the boat ramp.

Once these projects are crossed off the list, we hope to increase the number of campsites at Timmons South. We know the new improvements will increase the use of the area, and we hope that by adding sites, we will have room for all who like to camp. We are also investigating the installation of a dump station at the park.

These projects, of course, will cost additional funds, which we are always searching for. Please contact us if you are interested in supporting this or any other project Marshall County Conservation is working on.

There is much work to be done, and we ask that you be patient with us as the work continues. We promise it will be worth it!

Arti and Red's Pond

By Emily Herring, Director

We are excited to announce the newest Marshall County Conservation area, Arti and Red's Pond. This spring, the Iowa DOT offered Marshall County Conservation the opportunity to purchase a small 2.5-acre pond located just off Highway 330 after the original landowners declined to repurchase the property.

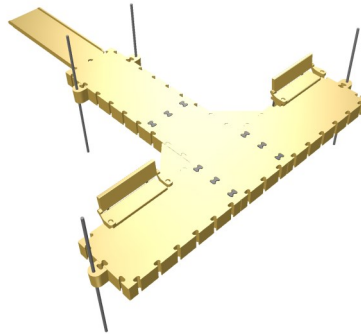
We were fortunate to have recently received a donation from the Arti and Red Wansley Memorial to be able to purchase the property. I was not lucky enough to have met the Wansleys, but after talking to those who knew them well, they believed the outdoors-loving couple would have loved to support this project.

Arti and Red's Pond is a beautiful pond that has bluegill, red-eared sunfish, crappie, and bass. It is a wonderful place for families to go fishing. The pond is surrounded

by restored prairie and is home to many types of insects, birds and amphibians. It is also located just off the Highway 330 Bike Trail.

Currently, we are working to make the area more accessible, including the installation of a parking area and gate access off 250th Street, and installing a sign to make the new area easy to find. There has been a trail mowed around the pond. This fall, Marshall County Conservation and the Friends of Marshall County Conservation will pursue funds to purchase two large floating docks with benches to place at the pond. If you have interest in supporting this project please feel free to contact me.

As soon as the parking lot is finished the area will be open to the public. We are excited to offer a new public area for all to enjoy.



Using Technology to Identify Species

By Emma Bruck, Naturalist

Do you wonder what vibrant flower is growing in a park? Are you ever curious about what bird is continuing to visit your feeder? Would you like to learn more about an insect residing in your garden? Fortunately, there are guides in most people's pockets! Thanks to technological advances, we can now identify unknown animals and plants with apps.

I recommend two apps to anyone who wants to learn to identify: Seek by iNaturalist and Merlin Bird ID. Both apps can be downloaded to your smartphone.



Seek by iNaturalist works great for all types of plants, insects, and most other wildlife. Using just an image, Seek will identify the species, providing you with a range map and background information on your species. In addition, they keep track of all your encounters for future use and help you become a citizen scientist!

The second app recommendation is Merlin Bird ID; this app is for all levels of birders. Merlin has three easy ways

to identify different bird species, including step-by-step, by bird song/call, or by an image. Step-by-step is a series of questions that will help Merlin provide a list of possible matches. Sounds ID listens to the birds around you and shows in real-time who is singing. The last way, Image ID, allows for a photo to be snapped or a past image from your camera roll to be uploaded and identified. Merlin assists you to become the best birder you can be!



Instead of questioning your natural discoveries, you can become confident in your findings! Helping you connect with the natural world and become a citizen scientist.





FALL

Nature Story Hour

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

September 7 - Pond Life
 September 21 - Rocks
 October 5 - Autumn Leaves
 October 19 - Bats

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



Live and Local - Duelling Fiddles + Band

Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
 Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
 at Grimes Farm

Food Vendors: Clare's Tenderloins, Comal Kaxi, and Lillie Mae Chocolates

Composed of violinists Hanna Wolle and Geneviève Salamone, the Duelling Fiddles are a sought-after entertainment duo based in Des Moines, Iowa. This time, they are joined by an all-star accompaniment to make up Duelling Fiddles + band. Listen to your favorite songs performed by Hanna and Geneviève on the violin as they are joined by four other incredible artists - Sara Routh on piano, Allegra Hernandez on guitar, Lani Eclatt on piano, and Steph Graph on bass. You won't want to miss this energetic group! This concert is **FREE** to the public, made possible by the Friends of Marshall County Conservation and the Ann C. Keyser Trust. Local food trucks will be in attendance. However, participants can bring their own snacks and beverages, if they choose.



Monarch Family Event

Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Grimes Farm Shelter House

Join us on September 6 at the Grimes Farm Shelter House to learn about the Monarchs' amazing migration 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!**



REAP Assembly Luncheon (Resource Enhancement and Protection)

Wednesday, September 13 at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: September 8 by 4:00 pm



Have you ever wanted to learn more about REAP? Residents from Marshall, Hardin, Tama and Poweshiek Counties are invited to gather for a REAP Assembly Luncheon on September 13 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. REAP Assemblies are locally led public meetings at which information is given out and ideas are taken in by the attending state officials. During the assembly, participants will learn about city and county projects supported by REAP. The group will divide up into counties and identify possible REAP projects, as well as review and recommend changes to REAP policies, programs, and funding. During this luncheon we will elect REAP representatives to attend the REAP Congress in January. A **FREE** lunch of deli sandwich, chips, fruit and lemonade will be provided with preregistration. Preregistration is not required, but strongly encourage to be guaranteed a lunch. **Register by calling Grimes Farm and Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountiia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**

Kayaking

Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 Green Castle Recreation Area
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: September 15 by 4:00 pm



Our final kayaking event for 2023! Join us as we explore Marshall County waters with kayaks at Green Castle Recreational Area - 2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman. This family-friendly event encourages 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. **Register by calling Grimes Farm and Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountiia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777 by September 15.**

Canoeing

Wednesday, September 27 at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Green Castle Recreation Area

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: September 22 by 4:00 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to try canoeing? Join us on September 27 at Green Castle Recreation Area to learn the basics of canoeing. This is a family friendly event. You will need a partner to register and children can sit on the bottom of the canoe. There is no fee for this program. However, you must pre-register to reserve limited spots. **Register by calling GrimesFarm and Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



Brown Bag Bunch

September

Behind the Scenes of Beekeeping

Tuesday, September 5 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: September 1 by 4:00 p.m.

Join Jim and Penny Dolezal as they discuss the behind-the-scenes of beekeeping. They own and run their own business, Dolezal Honey Bees, in Tama County. They will be discussing how they got started and what is needed to start beekeeping. Also, the different breeds of bees and what is in the hives you see in the field. **There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by September 1 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**



October

Change of Season Walk

Tuesday, October 24 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Grammer Grove Recreational Area

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: October 18 by 4:00 pm

Join us on October 24 at Grammer Grove for a change of season walk. Autumn is a time of transition and preparation. We will explore Grammer Grove and enjoy all the season of fall has to offer. **There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by October 18 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**



Brown Bag Bunch - continued

Gym-N-Eats

Wednesday, November 8 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: November 2nd by 4:00 p.m.

After moving back home to Iowa in October 2017 and helping on the family farm, Shelby Smith was encouraged by her dad to find an obscure niche other than the traditional farming markets of corn and soybeans. On January 1, 2018, she landed on crickets. By January 10, she had ordered her first 10,000 crickets; the rest is history. Join us to learn about this environmentally conscious high protein source food. **There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by November 2 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**



December

Winter Preparation

Tuesday, December 5 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

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

It's that time of year again for animals to get ready for winter. Join us at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center as the naturalist discusses how animals prepare for the cold and where animals go in the wintertime. **There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by November 30 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**



Nature Pop-Art

Wednesday, October 11 at 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: \$25.00

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

Join us for this fun all-ages nature art activity! Using a scraper technique and a frame you will learn how to create a one-of-a-kind masterpiece with a 3D effect. **The cost for this program is \$25, registration is required by October 4 before 4:00 p.m. for limited spots. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.**



Zombie Run

Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m.
Grimes Farm
Registration Fee: \$30.00
Deadline: October 6 by 4:00 p.m.

The Park Apocalypse has begun, and Grimes Farm will be infested with Zombies on October 21, 2023. 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 are declared a survivor. Those with no flags, their future is not guaranteed, and they are deemed infected. Runners can register online 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 6. Day of the race registration is welcomed; however, medal, swag item, and meal are guaranteed to the first 100 runners. 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@marshallcountvia.gov or at 641-844-2833. Income from the Zombie Run will be put back into the trails at the Grimes Farm.



Scan the QR
code to register

Geocaching for Candy!

Thursday, October 26 at 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Shelter House
Registration Fee: \$10 per group
Deadline: October 23 by 4:00 p.m.

Families will learn how to use handheld GPS units, then using coordinates will search the Grimes Farm for hidden candy! Bring a bag for your finds and feel free to dress up! There is a \$10 registration fee for this program. Preregistration is required by October 23 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.



Marshall County Conservation offices will be closed:

- Friday, November 10 in observance of Veteran's Day
- Thursday, November 23 and
Friday, November 24 for Thanksgiving

Nature Adventures

Animal Voices

Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: FREE
Deadline: November 8 by 4:00 p.m.

Join us at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center for a nature program delivered in a flexible format specially designed for kindergarten through third-grade students. We will explore the theme of Animal Voices and learn about the sounds animals make and why. Programs will engage students with a story, craft, or activity and an outdoor fun component. There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by November 8 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.



Hibernation

Wednesday, December 13 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: FREE
Deadline: December 6 by 4:00 p.m.

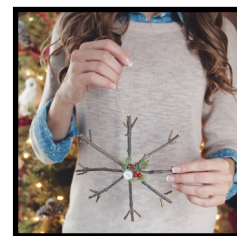
Join us at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center for a nature program delivered in a flexible format specially designed for kindergarten through third-grade students. We will explore the theme of Hibernation and discuss why some animals sleep all winter long, and other do not. Programs will engage students with a story, craft, or activity and an outdoor fun component. There is no fee for this program. However, preregistration is required by December 6 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.



Natural Holiday Ornaments

Saturday, December 9 at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: \$15.00
Deadline: December 1 by 4:00 p.m.

Head out to the Grimes Farm Conservation Center on December 9th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for a good dose of holiday cheer! Participants of all ages will create multiple ornaments made from natural materials including Evergreen Salt Dough Ornaments, Tree Cookie Holiday Ornaments, and more. The \$15 registration fee will include all materials needed for the class. Participants must pre-register and pay the program fee before December 1. Register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.



STAR GAZING WITH THE CENTRAL IOWA ASTRONOMERS

Bring Your Own Binoculars

Friday, September 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Dean Memorial Observatory, Green Castle

Bring your binoculars and we will help you find objects in the dark sky. If you don't have any some of the members will bring theirs that you can borrow.

Friday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Preparing for an Eclipse

Dean Memorial Observatory, Green Castle

Preparing to view the partial eclipse of October 18th. Bring your binoculars if you have them, and we will guide you on a tour of the splendid deep sky objects in the Milky Way such as the Omega Nebula, Eagle Nebula and the open Wild Duck Cluster. The club will have telescopes set up to view these as well.

Friday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

Mission to Mars

Masonic Temple in Marshalltown

Join us for a talk on NASA's current missions on Mars, including Perseverance, Curiosity and Ingenuity.

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.



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 21, 2023

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.



Special thanks to the Catholic Heart Workcamp for volunteering for Marshall County Conservation this July! We received a huge helping hand from 32 volunteers. These amazing youth and adults volunteered 366 hours in our parks, staining, painting, caging trees, weeding, picking up litter, and building stairs.



Photo Contest

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

All entries are due by midnight Wednesday, January 31, 2024!

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



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



Monarchs Wanted:

We are looking for Monarchs to tag. If you get large groups of Monarchs roosting in your trees, please call us at 641-752-5490 or text 641-758-9777.

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.

"I'll Be Back"
July 2024



SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
Return Service Requested

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Playscape Flower Beds: The Marshalltown Garden Club

Flowerbed Maintenance: Doni Sheldon, Marilyn Beard, Gary Fulton, Shelly Applegate, Nancy Seburn

Tree Planting and Park Maintenance: Trish Slifer, Mark Huss, Jacob Jackson, Bear Huss, Cayden Slifer, Merle Stubbs, Randy Stubbs, Roger Heatwole, Rob and Joyce Christensen, Catholic Heart Work Camp, Tom Jasper

People in the Park: Theisen's

Donations: David Perkins, Rod Bailey, Amber Devick, Paul Maytag, Dick Warden Memorial, Marshalltown Bike Club

Newsletter Editing: Bren Lee

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@marshallcountya.gov. Also the electronic version is in color!

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-5490
mccb@marshallcountya.gov
www.marshallcountya.gov

Office Hours

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

Nature Center Hours

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

Board Members

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Jeremiah Manken	Operations Sup./Park Ranger
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