



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue 1

Spring 2020



An Investment in Iowa

By Joe McGovern, President, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

“Ten years ago, Iowans voted to establish the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust. Funding that trust is no small investment, but I believe it’s one we need to make. We were given this beautiful land to work but also to

keep. And preserving what we’ve been given must be a responsibility of all Iowans.”



When Governor Kim Reynolds said those words in her Condition of the State Address on Jan. 14, I didn’t realize how much I had been waiting to hear them.

For more than a decade, INHF, its supporters and

partners have been working to fund the Trust, and this was the first time a governor had made funding the Trust a priority when laying out their legislative agenda. I want to thank Governor Reynolds for her leadership on the issue, for her vision for cleaner water, healthier land and expanded outdoor recreation opportunities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa.

As we enter a new decade, INHF will continue to work hard to protect and restore our land, water and wildlife. As Iowans, we have the opportunity to redefine conservation funding and how we value the natural world around us. How we treat the land is a reflection of how we treat ourselves and each other. This investment, almost \$200 million per year that will go toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in Iowa, is an investment in all Iowans — including the leaved, winged and finned variety — and a hopeful vision for the future.

I am grateful to those who have advocated for the Trust Fund for so long. There is reason to hope, but also much work to do. We need to continue to tell our legislators that funding the Trust is important to us. The sales tax increase

that will fund the Trust is part of a larger proposed tax reform package, the Invest in Iowa Act, which the legislature will debate throughout this legislative session.

While tax policy can change based on the desires of the legislative body from year to year, the Trust Fund is protected by the Iowa Constitution. Once funded, the Trust Fund will provide the permanent, reliable, substantial funding that is needed to protect our natural resources and provide Iowans with more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Most importantly, thank you! Your support and partnership makes this work possible. Together, we are making a difference that will have a profound positive impact on people’s lives today and for many decades to come.



Iowa
Natural Heritage
Foundation



FREE FISHING DAYS JUNE 5, 6, & 7

The Iowa DNR is once again offering a free fishing weekend for Iowa residents June 5-7. No fishing license is required but all size and catch limits apply.

Photo Contest Results

The Conservation Board's 19th annual photo contest was a big success. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter. First place winners received \$20 gift certificates. All the photos will be on display at the nature center through March. Now is the time to start watching for those great Marshall County photographic moments to enter in next year's contest.

Native Wildlife

1st Place Ed Siems
Honorable Mention Linda Eastman
Honorable Mention Ed Siems

Outdoor Recreation

1st Place Dianna Mick
Honorable Mention Vicky Otto
Honorable Mention Ed Siems

Scenic

1st Place Linda Eastman
Honorable Mention Sue Blaisdell
Honorable Mention Dianna Mick

Youth

1st Place Taven Varnum
Honorable Mention Lilliana Hauser

Native Plants

1st Place Kathy Ross
Honorable Mention Ed Siems
Honorable Mention Kathy Ross

Open Nature

1st Place Ed Siems
Honorable Mention Kathy Loving
Honorable Mention Linda Eastman



Youth Summer Camps Registration Form

Pre-registration and payment required. Please complete a separate registration form for each youth participant and submit with payment. *Youth's place will not be reserved until registration has been received.* **Make check payable to Marshall County Conservation.**

Youth's Name: _____

Goes by: _____

Age/Grade Completed: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Guardian's Name: _____

Email: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Alternative Phone: _____

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Allergies: _____

Camp Attending:

_____ Crickets (Nature Friends): Ages 4 to out of Kindergarten & accompanied by an adult Fee: \$20 (Deadline June 1)

Name of Accompanying Adult: _____

_____ Acorns and Asters (Uncle Ikes): Out of 1st and 2nd Grades Fee: \$25 (Deadline June 4)

_____ Muskrats (Uncle Ike's): Out of 3rd and 4th Fee: \$35 (Deadline July 9)

_____ Praying Mantis (Uncle Ike's): Out of 5th and 6th Fee: \$40 (Deadline July 24)

Join Marshall County Conservation and Noon Kiwanis

March 28 from 7:00 to 10:00 am.

at the Grimes Farm & Conservation Center

Trees to Table Pancake Feed



Ticket includes: 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, locally harvested maple syrup, & a drink.

*Advanced Tickets \$6.00 At the Door \$7.00** while supplies last*

Tickets can be purchased at the Conservation Center, Board of Supervisors' office at Great Western Bank on Main Street, or Commerce office in the Fisher Community Center

MASTER CONSERVATIONIST PROGRAM

Starting April 23rd 5:30pm

**Hosted by Marshall County Extension and Outreach
and Marshall County Conservation**



The Master Conservationist Program is working to "Plant the Seeds of Conservation" in Iowa through an intensive educational curriculum that blends online lessons with in-person field experiences with local conservation leaders and passionate citizens.

When: Thursdays from April 23rd - May 28th at 5:30pm

Location(s): Various locations throughout Marshall County

Fee: \$50

Registration: Submit registration information and payment checks payable to Marshall County ISU Extension to 2608 S 2nd St, Suite E Marshalltown, Iowa 50158 **Deadline: Friday, April 17th**

Questions: Chelsea Martens at the Marshall County ISU Extension and Outreach Office at 641-752-1551 or Chelsea@iastate.edu



SPRING

Nature Story Hour

March 5 & 19 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

April 2 & 16

May 7 & 21

**GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
2359 233rd St.**



Special Story Hour Sessions

March 19 – Maple Syrup - Enjoy books, watch maple syrup being made, and enjoy a sweet treat.

April 2 - Migration - After storytime, we will head outside with binoculars and see what migrating birds we can find.

May 21 – Hummingbirds – Come learn about this little bird through books and paint a hummingbird perch for your own back yard.

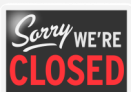
Preschoolers and their adult(s) are invited to listen to fun nature stories, take a walk and explore nature's wonders. Join us on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Brown Bag - Maple Syrup

Tuesday, March 10 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grammer Grove and GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
2030 127th St., Liscomb and 2349 233rd St., Marshalltown
Registration: Fee - FREE
Deadline: March 6 by 4:00 p.m.



Maple syrup season is here! Join MCCC to learn more about the maple syrup production happening in the county. The program will start at Grammer Grove at 10:30 a.m. where staff will demonstrate the collection of sap and tapping of trees. At 11:30 a.m. a program at the GrimesFarm and Conservation Center will begin discussing the making of syrup and participants will enjoy a sweet treat. Participants can choose to attend all or part of the program. There is no fee for this program, however we request that **participants pre-register before March 6 by calling the GrimesFarm and Conservation Center at (641)752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



**GrimesFarm and Conservation
Center will be closed:
Monday, May 25th for Memorial Day**

History on the 3rd Thursday The History of Maple Syrup From Tree to Table

Thursday, March 19 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
2359 233rd St.

In the collaboration with the Historical Society of Marshall County, learn how maple syrup originated with the Native Americans to current production with Marshall County Conservation. Participants will enjoy a sweet treat.



Woodcock Walk

Wednesday, March 25 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Marietta Sand Prairie
1744 Knapp Ave., Albion

Join MCCC Director Mike Stegmann in an attempt to find and view American Woodcock males performing their courtship flight. Also known as Timberdoodles, these shorebirds are frequently found in upland and forested areas. Please meet in the main parking lot on Knapp Ave for a short walk into the prairie. Bring a folding chair to sit and watch.



Trees to Table Pancake Feed

Saturday, March 28 7:00 - 10:00 a.m.
GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
2359 233rd St.

**Tickets: \$6/in advance
\$7/at door while supplies last**

Join Marshall County Conservation and the Noon Kiwanis as we celebrate maple sugaring season with a pancake fundraiser. Come to learn about the making of syrup and enjoy a stack of flapjacks topped with real maple syrup. From trees at Grammer Grove to the tables of the Conservation Center, this sweet treat cannot be beat.



Ticket includes: Three pancakes, two sausage links, locally harvested maple syrup and a drink.

Tickets can be purchased at the GrimesFarm and Conservation Center, Marshall County Board of Supervisors' office at the Great Western Bank on Main Street, or the Chamber of Commerce office at the Fisher Community Center. Any questions please call (641)752-5490.

Hunter Safety



Completion of a Hunter Safety course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1972 who wishes to purchase a hunting license. Must be 12 or older.

Hunter Safety Field Day (Online course + field day)
Wednesday, April 8 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
GrimesFarm & Conservation Center

Participants must register on line at:
www.iowadnr.gov/huntered before April 6th and must complete the online course before attending class. Participants must print off and bring an online course certificate of completion to the field day course to attend class.

Art in the Park - Canvas

Thursday, April 9 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
Registration: Fee - \$25
Deadline - April 3 by 4:00 p.m.

We will explore canvas painting with medium bodied acrylics to create an 11" x 14" night time canvas scene. All artistic levels are welcome! Please dress in clothes that can get paint on them. Participants must **pre-register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 and pay the fee of \$25 by April 3. Space is limited.**



Brown Bag - Unique Fish of the Mississippi River

Friday, April 10 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
GrimesFarm & Conservation Center
Registration: Fee - FREE
Deadline - April 3 by 4:00 p.m.



Lamprey, eel, paddlefish, oh my! The mighty Mississippi has many unique fish that call it home. Many of these fish people have never been seen. However, on April 10th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Denny Weiss, who is now retired from the Iowa DNR

after doing fish research for over 35 years, will have real specimens on hand to share his extensive knowledge of these peculiar and prehistoric fish, life on the Mississippi and commercial fishing. **Participants must pre-register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or text only 641-758-9777 by April 3.**

Prairie Burn

An evening during the week of April 13th
Exact date TBD 7:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm - 2359 233rd St.



Come watch prairie management in action. Spectacular views are expected as the fire lights up the night sky. The exact date for this program is dependent on weather conditions and will be determined on short notice. Listen to KDAO and KFJB and watch our Facebook page for updates. **Call our office at (641) 752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 to be put on the notification list.**

Sand Lake Trout Release

Saturday, April 25 11:00 a.m.
Sand Lake Recreation Area - 2901 E. Main St. Rd.

This is a FUN event with limited prizes available. 1800 rainbow trout and 200 brook trout will be released. The brook trout caught can be turned in for prizes. This event is a great way to introduce new anglers to the joys of fishing.

This event is FREE, but anglers must be properly licensed, and bring their own fishing equipment. For a complete list of derby rules, go to www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation and click on Events/Programs and then the Sand Lake Trout Release.

Master Conservationist

Every Thursday, April 23 - May 28 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Various Locations

The Master Conservationist Program is a collaborative program offered by ISU Extension and Outreach, Marshall County Conservation, conservation leaders and professionals. The intensive blended online and in-person curriculum is developed to equip Iowans interested in natural resource conservation with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about natural resources and to become local leaders and educators. Master Conservationists are individuals that share an interest in the sustainability of Iowa's natural resources and in becoming better stewards of those resources.

The curriculum is structured into four modules that combine technical information presented and curated by Iowa State University researchers and educators with in-person sessions led by local conservation leaders, practitioners, and experts. Participants will learn about Iowa's Forests, Geology and Landforms, Aquatic Systems, Prairies, and Conservation Programs. See page 3 for more information and how to register.



Warbler Walk

Saturday, May 9
Grammer Grove
2030 127th St., Liscomb

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Migration in spring time can be some of the most fascinating times for birders. Join MCCB Director Mike Stegmann for a walk through Grammer Grove. Bring a sack lunch to eat at the upper shelter then take a short walk to discover neotropical migrating birds as they find their way back from wintering grounds in South America.

Brown Bag - Backpacking the Wilderness

Tuesday, May 19 **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Registration: Fee - None
Deadline - May 15 by 4:00 p.m.



"Nothing is more liberating than carrying everything you need to survive in the wilderness on your back. That is why I backpack, along with about 500 other reasons!" From my first backing adventure in Glacier National Park, to my most recent escapade with six other women to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area in Colorado, each adventure has taught me a lesson and has left me wanting more. So join me, Emily Herring, Naturalist, to enjoy funny stories, beautiful pictures, and learn the basics behind backpacking. Maybe this program will inspire you to try a backpacking adventure. There is no fee for this event, however, **pre-registration is required by May 15 before 4:00 p.m. by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490.**

Totem Bird Houses

May 19, 20, & 21 **5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Registration: Fee - \$50
Deadline - May 8 by 4:00 p.m.

Just in time for spring, we are offering a garden art program for all artistic levels. Join MCCB staff as participants design and paint beautiful Bird House Garden Totems to add a splash of color to your yard. The first night participants will design and begin painting their totems. The following two days 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. the nature center will be open for participants to come and finish painting their totems. All supplies are included, including lumber to install the bird house totem in your garden. Youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. **Pre-registration and payment is required to secure limited spots by May 8 before 4:00 p.m. by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**



Stargazing

Friday, May 8 **7:30 p.m.**
Dean Memorial Observatory
Green Castle Recreation Area (2891 Green Castle Rd)

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



Summer



Crickets (Nature Friends)

June 16 - 18 **9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Ages 4 to out of Kindergarten & accompanying adult

Let's Play! Crickets camp is all about nature play and will have kiddos and adults having hands-on outdoor fun!

Fee: \$20 **Registration Deadline: June 1**
Registration form and payment due

A

Acorns and Asters (Uncle Ikes)

June 23 - 25 **8:30 - 11:30 a.m.**
GrimesFarm and Conservation Center
Out of 1st or 2nd Grade

All about aquatic fun! Kids will spend their time getting muddy and wet, while learning about the watery world around them.

Fee: \$25 **Registration Deadline: June 4**
Registration form and payment due

M

Muskrats (Uncle Ike's)

July 28 - 30 **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**
Izaak Walton League
Out of 3rd and 4th Grades

A little dirt never hurt anyone! What better way to spend your summer's day than getting dirty, exploring a little nature, and having fun while doing it!

Fee: \$35 **Registration Deadline: July 9**
Registration form and payment due

P

Praying Mantis (Uncle Ike's)

August 4 - 5 **3:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. (overnight)**
Izaak Walton League
Out of 5th and 6th Grade

Ready for a camp out? Come learn how to cook over the fire and pitch a tent, all while exploring what the natural world has to offer.

Fee: \$40 **Registration Deadline: July 24**
Registration form and payment due

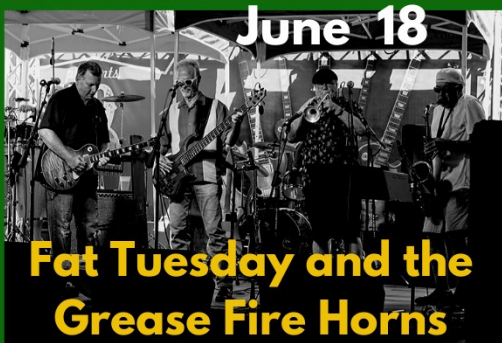
Friends of Marshall County Conservation

Live & Local

Live Music & Local Food Trucks

**Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center**

June 18



**Fat Tuesday and the
Grease Fire Horns**

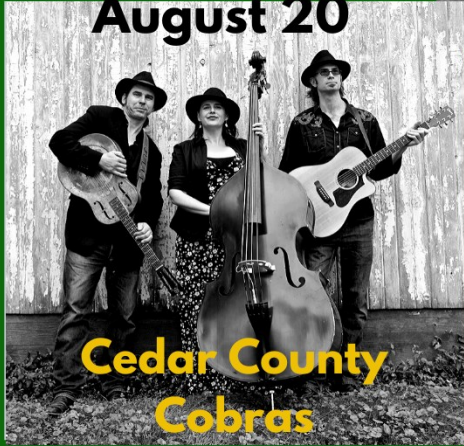
5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

July 16



Neil Hewitt

August 20



**Cedar County
Cobras**

September 17



**DSM Dueling
Fiddlers**

October 7



Bob Dorr

**In case of inclement
weather the
concerts will be held
at the County Fair
Grounds.**

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Ann C. Keyser Charitable Trust, Community Foundation/Cessord Family Fund, Laurel United Methodist Women, Lennox Manufacturing, Inc., M. Gervich & Sons, Inc., Mechdyne Corporation, Smokin' G's, Emerson Process Management, and supportive members of the Friends of Marshall County Conservation.

SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board
2349 - 233rd Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158

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Center Returns to Regular Hours

The Grimes Farm & Conservation Center will
open on Saturdays starting in April through October.

Week day hours will be Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

On Saturdays the center will be open from
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thank you!

Newsletter Collation: Marvis Drew, Bob Dunham, Dianna Freiboth, Charlotte McGinty, Kristi Cameron, Rob & Joyce Christensen, Irene & Gary Williams, Dena Graff

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Photo Reception/Chili Supper: Steve & Sheila Armstrong, Pam & Ed Paone, Janet Stegmann

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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 email to 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

www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation

Conservation Center Hours

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

Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Board Members

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Steve Armstrong

Pam Paone

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QR code for
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