



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

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Spring 2021



Moving Forward

By Mike Stegmann, Director

As we move forward into 2021, many hope much of last year will disappear from their memories. Marshall County Conservation continues to face the challenges of 2020, including the Derecho cleanup and repairs to areas and amenities that occurred during the disaster. In addition, COVID-19 precautions continue to determine the way public programming is conducted.

As we look forward to the new year like many. Marshall County Conservation Board and staff continue to move forward with our purpose “to acquire, develop, maintain, and make available to the inhabitants of the county, public museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreational center, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, and to promote and preserve the health and general welfare to the people, to encourage the orderly development and conservation of natural resources, and to cultivate good citizenship by providing adequate programs of public recreation.” This is an excerpt from Iowa Code Chapter 350 and is the basic guideline under which all County Conservation Boards in Iowa operate.



One project that Marshall County Conservation is moving forward on is the purchase of a new open air shelter house that will be installed this year at Sand Lake. It will be located just west of the boat ramp parking lot. Additionally, new

playground equipment is also on hand awaiting installation at Grammer Grove. These projects will add new infrastructure to our parks and attract families to enjoy our natural areas. Both of these projects began last year prior to the derecho. However, once the storm hit, all hands were needed to make our heavily used areas safe again for the public. We look forward to seeing their completion this year.

Currently Marshall County Conservation is making plans for significant improvements to the camping facilities at Timmons Grove. Several years ago upgrades were made to the electrical capacity for RV units. Around the same time rural water was installed for campground use. In 2012 new playground equipment replaced old dilapidated equipment

at Timmons Grove. These well received additions to the campground now support plans being made to construct a new shower house building that would provide four handicapped accessible restrooms that each feature a flush toilet, shower and sink. Presently, only a single port-a-potty is available for toilet access for campers and daytime park users. Through the years numerous visits with park users have yielded suggestions and support for this project. Timmons has long been a well-used area for residents and visitors to Marshall County. It is anticipated that park and camping use will significantly increase as a result of the completion of the shower house. This has been in the long range plans of Marshall County Conservation for many years and this year the County has the opportunity to move forward with it.



Late in 2020

Marshall County Conservation contracted with Clapsaddle-Garber Associates Inc. to plan and design the site layout. The prefabricated modular building will sit near where the current camping registration kiosk is located with a septic system in the open field to the west. Preliminary cost estimates to complete the project total \$330,000.00. We are now collaborating with Region 6 Planning, to prepare grant requests that will help pay for the project. A Land & Water Conservation Fund grant being applied for this spring would potentially pay up to 45% of the cost, with the bulk of the remaining 55% being provided through other grants and donations. A portion of past camping receipts will also cover some of the expense.

Donations are needed to help with these projects. If you are interested in helping, please contact Marshall County Conservation offices for more information, or mail a tax deductible donation to MCCB, 2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown Iowa, 50158.

As we put 2020 behind us, we look forward to the projects that we have underway and to people enjoying our natural areas here in Marshall County.



Nature Story Hour

Nature Story Hour will continue to be held through the spring months via Facebook Live, instead of in person at the Conservation Center at Grimes Farm. The program will include a story book, education program 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 naturalist 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!

March 4 - 10:00 a.m. Tracks

March 18 - 10:00 a.m. Migration

April 1 - 10:00 a.m. Mushrooms

April 15 - 10:00 a.m. Rain

May 6 - 10:00 a.m. Frogs

May 20 - 10:00 a.m. Seeds

Congrats to Photo Contest Winners!



Native Wildlife

1st Place Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention William Williamson

Honorable Mention Dianna Mick

Outdoor Recreation

1st Place Cheri Nason

Honorable Mention Carolyn Parry Weir

Honorable Mention Gary Pusillo

Scenic

1st Place Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention Carolyn Parry Weir

Youth

1st Place Taven Varum

Native Plants

1st Place Carolyn Parry Weir

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention Gary Pusillo

Honorable Mention Dianna Mick

Open Nature

1st Place Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Amy Snyder

Honorable Mention Nancy Sebern

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Peoples' Choice

1st Place William Williamson

Honorable Mention Amy Snyder

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Brown Bag Bunch

Enjoy everything you love about Brown Bags from the comfort and safety of your own home. This spring our Brown Bags will be available in video format through YouTube. Spring 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@marshallcountvia.gov to sign up to receive an email link to the video that you can watch anytime! This is a great option for assisted living and senior living facilities as well.

March - Name That Species - Bird Trivia

Registration Deadline March 5

Program Release date March 16



Do you consider yourself an ornithologist? Or maybe you just dabble in backyard bird watching? Well, this brown bag is perfect and fun for you! This program will quiz your skills on bird identification and trivia. Learn about some of the common birds that call Iowa home, as well as some of the less

common species too. Let's see just how much of a bird expert you really are! This Brown Bag will be a part of a quarterly series of Brown Bags that quiz you on the different species of plants and animals that are found in Iowa.

April - Managing Prairie with Fire

Registration Deadline April 9

Program Release date April 20, weather dependent

One of the best management tools for prairies is the use of prescribed fire. For hundreds of years, Native Americans have practiced "cultural burning" to manage the landscape to promote healthy vegetation, provide food for herd wildlife, and more.

Today we still see these benefits when we conduct a controlled burn. Fire helps us to prevent the

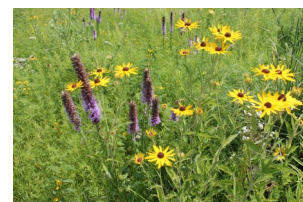
encroachment of woody species, provides a more open habitat for certain animal species, and encourages the growth of native plant species. On this Brown Bag, you will join Marshall County Staff on a controlled burn. Learn about what we do to prepare for prairie burns, the supplies and steps needed to safely complete a controlled fire, and why we use fire as an important management tool.



May - Wildflowers

Registration Deadline May 7

Program Release date May 18



May is a perfect time to learn about wildflowers. Join naturalist Emily Herring via video as she explores the many different species of spring ephemerals that grow in Iowa's woodlands. This short video is a great way to learn a little bit about the

natural history of the early wildflowers and get you prepared to explore Iowa's woodlands this spring.

Adult Take and Make

Easy Yard Yahtzee Dice

Registration Deadline March 19
Kit Pick up March 29

Are you dreaming of warmer camping weather!?!?! Well, we sure are! Here is an easy take and make project to get you ready for the summer camping



season. Participants will receive all the supplies and equipment to make these yard dice, along with instructions on how to make them. The kit will also include a bucket to storage and roll your dice. With a few simple steps, you'll be ready for summer! Yahtzee!! Pre-registration and payment of \$15.00 are required by March 19 before 4:00 p.m. to secure a limited number of available kits. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777. Supplies will be available for pick up the week of March 29th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Botanical Mixed Media Cards

Registration Deadline April 16
Kit Pick up week of April 26



What better way to show those around you that you care, than a sweet note written on a hand-painted card created by you. This take and make kit will provide you with watercolors, waterproof marker, brushes, and paper to make a dozen botanical mixed media cards. Using easy techniques, step-by-

step video instruction, and your own creativity you will be able to create beautiful personal art pieces. This program is great for beginners. Pre-registration and payment of \$30.00 are required by April 16 before 4:00 p.m. to secure a limited number of available kits. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-752-9777. Pick up of supplies will be the week of April 26 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Bird House Planter

Registration Deadline May 7
Kit Pick up week of May 24

Spring has sprung and it is time to plant flowers! This take and make activity kit provides you with supplies you will need to create a birdhouse flower planter that can either



be hung or set in your backyard to usher in the summer months. Supplies include: pre-cut lumber, screws, and hanger. You will need to have access to a hand drill, paint if you would like to paint your planter, and of course soil and plants of your choosing. Add a touch of natural beauty to your backyard with this fun take and make project. Pre-registration and payment of \$10 are required by May 7 before 4:00 p.m. to secure a limited number of kits. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-752-9777. Pick up of supplies will be the week of May 24 during the hours of 8:30 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 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, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777. Topics, registration deadlines, and pick up dates are as follows:

March - Making Tracks
Registration Deadline March 5
Kit pick up the week of March 15



April - Fun Fungi
Registration Deadline April 2
Kit pick up the week of April 12



May - Frogs
Registration Deadline May 7
Kit pick up the week of May 17



Summer Camp
Programming will be
announced in the
summer newsletter that
will be mailed out the middle of
May. Also watch Facebook for
more summer activities!

FREE FISHING DAYS
JUNE 4, 5, & 6



The Iowa DNR is once again offering a free fishing weekend for Iowa residents June 4-6. No fishing license is required, but all size and catch limits apply.

SEASONS

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

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Permit No. 159



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Thank you!

Programming

Carrie Barr, Craig Swartz

Timber Stand Work

Bob Hibbs

Donations

Sherry Folks, Artis Wansley Estate, Gary Fulton

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

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

2349 - 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-5490

mccb@marshallcountyyia.gov

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

Administration Office Hours

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

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Maintenance Technician
Administrative Assistant



QR code for
MCCB website.