



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 37, Issue 1

Spring 2023



New Title, Same Person

By Emily Herring, Director

Several years back, Mike Stegmann, the retired director, asked me if I wanted to become a director someday. I didn't know the answer back then because the idea hadn't crossed my mind. I loved being the naturalist for Marshall County Conservation and had no intentions of going anywhere. I didn't need to become the director to make a difference in Marshall County, so did I really want to become the boss?!?!



However, as the years passed, the prospect was always in my mind. Having years to debate a career change has its blessings. In the past few years, I was given the opportunity to mentor under Mike. I sat in on budget meetings, wrote grants, reviewed contracts, and even dealt with conflicts, and I was amazed to find my passion for conservation growing. I realized I had more to give to Marshall County Conservation in a different capacity. When we received a REAP grant for \$893,000 for the Mann Wetlands and what had been a possibility would now be 216 acres of public land for everyone to enjoy, I knew that I wanted to make that leap. I had more to give. More ideas, more energy, and more passion for making Marshall County Conservation the best I can.

Skip forward a few months, and here I sit typing my first newsletter article as Director. I still have to catch myself from saying and writing naturalist. Everyone keeps asking me how it feels, and I can't stop saying, "I'm excited." Marshall County Conservation has so much potential. So many amazing parks, a passionate staff, and an awesome board, and it is exciting! It is humbling to realize that I get to be the leader and I'm grateful for the opportunity.

Marshall County Conservation has several projects underway, but it is important to focus on just one.



The Mann Wetlands Acquisition

This project began several years ago when Lawrence Mann approached Marshall County Conservation about purchasing his parents' bottomland ground just south of Albion on Hwy 330. Growing up he had spent a lot of time enjoying the land and what it had to offer and wanted to give others the opportunity to love the land as much as he had.

The Mann Family sold the land at a bargain rate to INHF to hold until Marshall County could raise the funds to purchase the property. Through grants, donations, and memorials, we were able to secure enough funds for the property to be transferred to Marshall County's ownership this past January.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank the donors for their support of this project: Marshall Tama Pheasants Forever (PF), Poweshiek PF, Mahaska PF, North Polk PF, Jasper County PF, North Butler PF, Warren County PF, Linn

County PF, Artis Wansley Estate, Friends of Marshall County Conservation, Marshalltown Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Russ Watt Memorial and Children, Jim Dworzak, National Turkey Federation, Dr. Wessel, Eleanor Handorf Trust, Franklin E. Polley Memorials, Howard Stegmann Memorials, and other anonymous donors.



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The next steps are the restoration and management of the property. Marshall County Conservation will work with the Fish and Wildlife Service to restore parts to shallow wetlands. We also have a forest management plan from IDNR, including crop tree release, tree plantings to replace dying ash and derecho-damaged trees, and native shrubs. Finally, our goal will be to restore the area to native prairie to provide habitat for many birds and animals requiring this unique habitat.

In the future, Marshall County will develop a parking lot and plans to install a shelter house with educational signage for those to stop at as they travel through the area.

The Mann Wetlands has so much potential and dare I say; we are excited about the future!



Summer

C

Crickets

June 13 - 15 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

June 20 - 22 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: May 26



Congrats to the Photo Contest Winners!

Native Wildlife

1st Place Gary Pusillo

Honorable Mention Delanie Halter

Honorable Mention Andy Spellman



Outdoor Recreation

1st Place Shelley Goecke

Honorable Mention Andy Spellman



Scenic

1st Place Gary Pusillo

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention De Turner



Youth

1st Place Gwen Wical

Honorable Mention: Gwen Wical



Native Plants

1st Place Andy Spelman

Honorable Mention Ed Siems

Honorable Mention Nancy Sebern



Open Nature

1st Place Kathy Ross

Honorable Mention Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention: Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention: Linda Eastman

Honorable Mention Ed Seims



Peoples' Choice

1st Place Gary Pusillo

Honorable Mention Lynn Mithcell



A

Acorns and Asters

June 27 - 29 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.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 9



M

Muskrats

July 12 - 14 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 than to spend your summer's day getting dirty, learning about rocks, and having fun while doing it!

Fee: \$35

Registration Deadline: June 23



P

Praying Mantis (Uncle Ike's)

July 18 - 19 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m.

(overnight)

Izaak Walton League

Out of 5th and 6th Grade

Ready for a campout? Come learn how to cook over the fire and pitch a tent, all while learning the basics of survival.

Fee: \$45

Registration Deadline: June 30



How to Register:

Register online by following this link: <https://rb.gy/8rqra2> or taking a picture of this QR Code with your smartphone. Once registered, send payment to Marshall County Conservation at 2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158, or call or stop at the center to pay via credit card.

Friends of Marshall County Conservation

Live & Local

Live Music & Local Food Trucks
Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

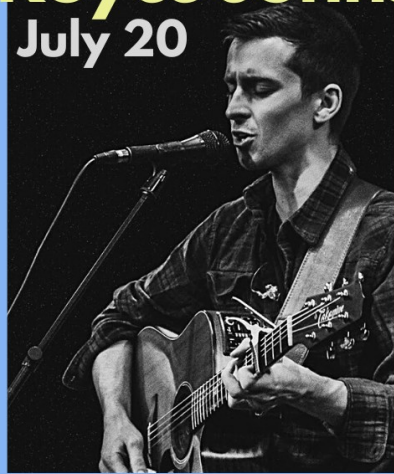
Bob Dorr

June 15



Royce Johns

July 20



Flash in a Pan

August 10



Dueling Fiddles

Dueling Fiddles + Band

September 14



Watch the Marshall County Friends Facebook Page for location changes or cancellations in case of inclement weather.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

Ann C. Keyser Charitable Trust & supportive members of the Friends of Marshall County Conservation.

SPRING

Welcome Emma Bruck

My name is Emma Bruck, I am the new Naturalist for the Marshall County Conservation Board. I am originally from Johnston, Iowa and I now reside in Tama County. I am a recent graduate from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Global Resource Systems and Environmental Studies as well as a minor in Sustainability.

I enjoy teaching a variety of topics to all age groups. My goal is to connect individuals to the outdoors and get people involved and passionate about conservation. My favorite programs to lead are outdoor hikes highlighting Iowa's wildlife, pond studies, and story hour.

I have always had a passion for conservation and protecting our vital natural resources and the environment. I believe that conservation can only be achieved through continued education and outreach throughout our communities, which is why I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of the amazing Marshall County Conservation team!



Nature Story Hour

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater at the Grimes Farm

Nature Story Hour will be in-person and also held via Facebook Live during the summer season 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 storybook, 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:

May 4 10:00 a.m. - Bird Beaks

May 18 10:00 a.m. - Toads

June 1 10:00 a.m. - Opossum

June 15 10:00 a.m. - Nature Photography



Iowa Taxidermy Show

Saturday, March 18 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Meskwaki Convention Center
1504 305th Street, Tama, IA



View amazing bird, mammal, reptile, and fish mounts from taxidermists across the Midwest.

Brown Bag Bunch

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

March

Trees for Iowa, Trees for People

Tuesday, March 21 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: March 17 by 4:00 p.m.



Should you plant a tree? The answer is yes! Join district forester Joe Herring as he talks about the history of tree loss in Iowa and Marshall County. He will discuss the scientific benefits of planting trees and their financial effects. He will also cover which kind of tree to select, how to shop for a tree and show proper tree planting to help guarantee your tree's best success.

April

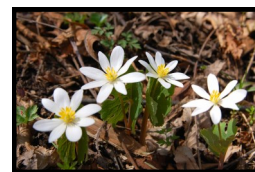
Spring Ephemeral Walk

Tuesday, April 25 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Grammer Grove Recreational Area
2030 127th Street, Liscomb**

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: April 21 by 4:00 p.m.



Join us on April 25 at Grammer Grove for a walk to learn about spring ephemerals. Ephemeral means "lasting a short time" and is a common term for the wildflowers that bloom in Iowa's spring woodlands. We will explore Grammer Grove and enjoy these short blossomed spring beauties. Participants can bring a sack lunch to enjoy before or after the program.

May

Study Abroad: Uganda, Netherlands, and Costa Rica

Tuesday, May 23 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: May 19 by 4:00 p.m.



Join Marshall County naturalist Emma Bruck as she discusses her international experience during her time at Iowa State University. Participants will learn about natural resources, agricultural and food system in Uganda, the Netherlands, and Costa Rica. She will compare and contrast differences between countries around the world.

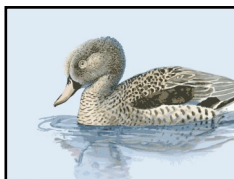
FREE FISHING DAYS JUNE 2, 3, & 4

The Iowa DNR is once again offering a free fishing weekend for Iowa residents June 2 - 4. No fishing license is required, but all size and catch limits apply.



Waterfowl Watch

Saturday, April 8 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Meet at the Grimes Farm Parking Area
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA
50158
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: March 31 by 4:00 p.m.



Join retired MCCB Director Mike Stegmann as we scan the water for returning ducks and geese with spotting scopes. Bring additional binoculars or spotting scopes if you have them. Please meet in the main parking lot at the Grimes Farm, and we will carpool to Hendrickson Marsh and Colo Bogs. **Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-752-9777.**

Prairie Burn

An evening during the week of April 16th
Exact date TBD 7:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm - 2359 233rd Street, Marshalltown

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



Hike for Health

Wednesday, May 10 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA
50158
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: May 5 by 4:00 p.m.



Why walk the indoors when you can enjoy the great outdoors? Hike along with this friendly group of nature lovers who walk the trails for exercise and fun. While hiking, a naturalist will discuss natural resource and wildlife topics that are in season! **Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-752-9777.**

Happy Earth Day!



Want to do something that helps the planet, is delicious, and benefits Marshall County Conservation for Earth Day? Again this year, we will offer a free ice cream cone gift certificate to every participant that helps us clean up the county conservation parks! So grab some family and friends, head out to one of the 33 Marshall County Conservation Parks and collect as much garbage as you can. Before you leave the park, take a picture of your group with the trash bags by the park sign. Then bring the trash and your picture to the Grimes Farm Conservation Center Monday, April 24 through Friday, April 28, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. to receive your gift certificate.

Mother's Day Stepping Stones

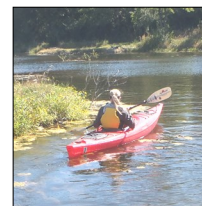
Thursday, May 3 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Sugar Shack
Registration Fee: \$15.00
Deadline: April 28 by 4:00 p.m.



Head out to the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center the evening of May 3rd for a stepping stone creation class. If you are a youngin' looking for a perfect Mother's Day gift or a person young of heart, this class will give you tools and supplies to create and decorate a heart shaped stepping stone. Participants can also bring decorating materials from home to create their one of a kind stone. Youth under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. **Pre-registration and payment required. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490 or emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov.**

Kayaking

Wednesday, May 31 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Green Castle Recreation Area
2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: May 26 by 4:00 p.m.



Join us as we explore Green Castle with kayaks. 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 Grimes Farm and Conservation Center by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**



IOWA PROJECT A.W.A.R.E.
A Watershed Awareness River Expedition

DON'T WAIT REGISTER MARCH 13 AT 7:00 A.M.

Iowa Project AWARE is heading to the Iowa River this summer! From July 9-14, hundreds of volunteers from across the nation will embark on the six day, five night river cleanup adventure down sixty-five miles of the Iowa River from Marshalltown to Koszta. Registration is required to participate. Due to resource and space restrictions, participant numbers will be limited. Organizers expect a sellout, potentially within a matter of days, and interested participants are advised to register early. Online registration will be available starting at 7:00 a.m., Monday, March 13. For more information about Iowa Project AWARE, or to register for the event visit www.iowaprojectaware.org.

SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Thank you!

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Newsletter Editing

Bren Lee

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



MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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

mccb@marshallcountya.gov

www.marshallcountya.gov/501/conservation

Administration Office Hours

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

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