



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 35, Issue 2

Summer 2021



Escape to Your Parks By Michael Stegmann, Director

Increased park use has been consistent since March of 2020. The disruption Covid created in our society has created at least one plus in our eyes. It has caused people to reconnect to nature and outdoor recreation. They are seeking out the county parks and green spaces close to home.

Local kayak sales skyrocketed last year and continue this year. We saw this evidence at Sand Lake and Green Castle with paddlers taking advantage of these local bodies of water for an evening or short weekend float. Marshall County Conservation boat ramps on the Iowa River were busy with people exploring the waterways.

The Iowa DNR reported hunting and fishing license sales increased 30% last year, another indication people are searching out these types of individualized recreation, not to mention the empty shelves of fishing gear at local stores.

First come, first serve picnic shelters were busy in Marshall County Conservation areas. Families and friends found these structure a wonderful way to safely meet up outdoors.

As we wade into a second year of the pandemic, we hope that people continue to escape to the parks and reconnect with nature. We will begin slowly reopening some areas that have remained closed since last spring. We ask that you have patience with us as we work through the hurdles we may face in the upcoming months.

The GrimesFarm and Conservation Center will begin a soft reopening in June for preregistered summer camps with additional safety and social distancing measures implemented. Beginning July 1st the Conservation Center will have new hours open to the public, Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. We will not be reopening on Saturday mornings due to safety of volunteers staffing the reception desk. The center will be closed during private environmental programming and private rentals of



the center, to prevent interactions between guests and the public. Certain portions of the center will still be closed, due to the inability to safely sanitize the displays. This includes the educational display area and the library. The classroom will only be available for rentals.

We will again start taking reservations for private rentals of the GrimesFarm and Conservation Center classroom, amphitheater and the Grimes Farm Shelter. The Marshall County Conservation Board has made changes to the use policy and rental schedule to make the facility ready for reopening. For inquiries about the amphitheater or classroom rental please call 641-752-5490 on or after July 1, 2021. Gander Lookout Shelter House at Green Castle and the Shelter House located at the Grimes Farm will also be available for rentals on July 1, 2021. All other shelters are open air and are available on a first come first serve basis.

RENTAL FEES

GrimesFarm and Conservation Center:

- Classroom, restrooms, and kitchen - \$300
 - Amphitheater, classroom, restrooms, kitchen - \$450
- Hours of rental for both are 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. A \$200 deposit is required. A \$500 deposit is required if alcohol is present. Damage deposits are assessed to partially cover damage or loss of items.

Grimes Farm Shelter:

This shelter can either be reserve or used on a first come/first serve basis.

- Rent is \$10/hour up to 4 hours
- \$50 for 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

A \$50 refundable deposit is required to reserve the shelter. An additional \$10.00 fee is required if alcohol is present.

Gander Lookout at Green Castle Recreation Area:

- Rent is \$75 for 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- A \$100 refundable deposit is required to reserve the shelter. An additional \$10.00 fee is required if alcohol is present.

Rental agreement can be located at
<https://tinyurl.com/rm9t2ymf>



Summer

C

Crickets

Camp A **June 15 - 17** **9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Camp B **June 22 - 24** **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. Kiddos and adults will have hands-on outdoor fun as they learn about the different animal groups and creatures found in Iowa.

Fee: \$10 Registration Deadline: June 4

A

Acorns and Asters

July 13 - 15 **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: \$20 Registration Deadline: July 2

M

Muskrats

July 20 - 22 **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 getting dirty, learning about rocks, and having fun while doing it!

Fee: \$30 Registration Deadline: July 9

P

Praying Mantis

August 10 **3:00 p.m. - August 11 10:00 a.m.**

Overnight

Izaak Walton League

Out of 5th and 6th Grade & Accompanying Adult

Ready for a camp out? Come cook over the fire, pitch a tent, all while learning about basic survival skills. Due to Covid mitigation this camp will be an adult/youth camp out and each family will get their own tent.

Fee: \$30 Registration Deadline: July 23

How to Register:

Register online by following this link: <https://forms.gle/MiFvZqzg3W6uRGcF9> or taking a picture of this QR Code with your smart phone. Once registered, send payment to Marshall County Conservation at 2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158, or by calling or stopping out at the center to pay via credit card.



Family Fishing & Kayaking Events

Supported by the George H. W. Bush

Vamos A Pescar Education Fund

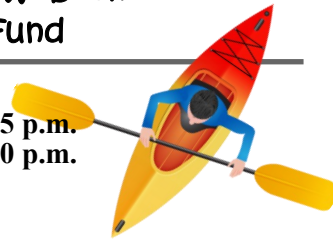
Family Kayaking at Sand Lake

July 8 **Session 1 - 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.**

Session 2 - 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Registration: Free

Deadline: July 2 by 4:00 p.m.



August 4

Session 1 - 5:00 - 6:15 p.m.

Session 2 - 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Registration: Free

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

Join us as we explore Sand Lake with kayaks. This family friendly event will 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 pre-registration is required, due to limited number of kayaks. Participants must be 10 years of age or older. Pre-registration is required.

Family Fishing and Free Lunch at Sand Lake

August 22 **12:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Registration: FREE

Deadline: August 13 by 4:00 p.m.

As we wrap up the summer, we would like to offer families one more opportunity to go fishing with us. Even if you have already participated in a previous event, we would love to get you back out by the water. Fishing and bait gear will be available for participants as well as education on the basics of fishing. A free meal will be provided to the first 100 people who pre-register. Pre-registration is required.



To register contact GrimesFarm and Conservation Center by calling

641-752-5490, email

mccb@marshallcountya.gov or text

only 641-758-9777.

Building Better Birders

Wednesday, July 7 **7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Grimes Farm, 2349 233rd St.

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: July 2 by 4:00 p.m.



Starting at 7:30 a.m. and running until 2:30 Marshall County Conservation will host birder Kelly McKay as he educates the public about the basics of birding. Join him for part or all of the day, as your schedule allows. **Pre-registrations is required, register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov, to text only 641-758-9777 by July 2.** The 'Building a Better Birder Workshops' are a series of local community scientist programs designed to create better bird identification skills and to promote local participation with community science projects. Funding for this workshop was provided by the Resource Enhancement Protection-Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). **Schedule for the Day at the Conservation Center**
7:30 - 10:30 a.m. - Bird Hike
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Birding Internationally Program
1 - 2:30 p.m. - Bird Hike



Nature Story Hour

This summer Nature Story Hour will begin to transition back into in-person programming. The first two sessions will still only be held in the Facebook Live format, as the center will not be open until July 1st. After that Story Hour will be held both in-person and Facebook Live. If weather allows sessions will be held outside in the Amphitheater. The program will include books, education program from the naturalist, suggested activity or craft to do as a family, and a walk. There is no charge for Story Hour.

June 3 - 10:00 a.m. Camouflage - Facebook Live Only
 June 17 - 10:00 a.m. Trees - Facebook Live Only
 July 1 - 10:00 a.m. Fireflies - Facebook Live & In-Person
 July 15 - 10:00 a.m. Stars - Facebook Live & In-Person
 August 5 - 10:00 a.m. Fish - Facebook Live & In-Person
 August 19 - 10:00 a.m. Cicadas - Facebook Live & In-Person

Make and Take: Pressed Clay Flower Wall Vase

Registration Deadline June 18
Kit Pick up week of June 28

This take and make activity combines many different mediums including clay, alcohol ink, and natural plant material to create a one of a kind wall vase. You will be provided with all the supplies you need to create a wall vase, as well as a step by step video showing how to create it. It will also open up the door to endless creative possibilities.

Pre-registration and payment of \$15.00 are required by June 18 before 4:00 p.m. to secure a limited number of available kits. Register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777. Supplies will be available for pick up the week of June 28th between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



Covid Mitigation Efforts During Environmental Education Programs

Following the Governor's and the Iowa Department of Health guidelines the following covid mitigation efforts will be put into place to help keep visitors and staff safe during the pandemic.

The center will be closed to the public, while programming is taking place. Please bring a mask when visiting the center as a mask will be required if 6 ft distancing is not possible, inside and outside the nature center. Program sizes have been reduced, so DO NOT wait to sign-up for limited spots. Hand sanitizer stations will be found throughout the center. Participants will, for the most part, have their own supplies. Supplies will be sanitized or quarantined between uses. The center facilities will be cleaned daily.

Live and Local

This years line up of concerts will start with a virtual concert by Billy Wilson. The July through September concerts can be viewed with Facebook Live or in-person at the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Checkout page five for more information.

Brown Bag Bunch

Brown Bags will begin being held in-person during the month of July. The month of June will be a video link program. If possible we will try to record the July and August programs to be available at a later date. All of these videos will be available on the Marshall County Conservation YouTube channel. Participants must pre-register to help us to stay within the Covid-19 mitigation protocol. **To register contact Grimes Farm and Conservation Center by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**

June - Name That Species, Insect Trivia (Virtual) Registration Deadline June 17 Program Release Date June 22



Next-up in the Nature Quiz series we will be testing your knowledge on Insects. Insects make up 90% of all species of creatures on Earth. We often overlook these amazing six legged creatures, but they are a vital part of

our ecosystem and we cannot live without them. Sign up today to receive a link to a video to see how well you know just a few of the insects that call Iowa home. 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.

July - Birding International: Tales from a Sometimes Wannabe World Lister Grimes Farm Wednesday, July 7 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration Fee: FREE Deadline: July 2 by 4:00 p.m.

A part of the Building Better Birder series, join birder Kelly McKay, as he shares his birding experiences from trips all around the world. He will talk about the threats that are eliminating different natural habits globally for birds. As well as highlight the tremendous variety of birds species that are found in these far-flung locations, as well as many other wildlife species observed. This program was made possible by REAP.



August - Unique Fish of the Mississippi River



**Grimes Farm
 Tuesday, August 17
 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Registration Fee: FREE
 Deadline: August 13 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 seen. However, on August 17th 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. Program will be held outside, weather allowing.

Animal Squirt Gun Art

Tuesday, August 17

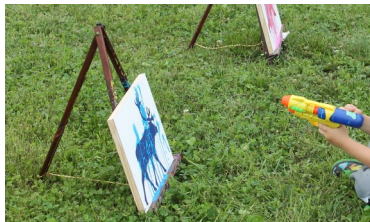
Session 1 - 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. (10 participants)

Session 2 - 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. (10 participants)

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Deadline: August 6 by 4:00 p.m.

Take aim and create a unique piece of art using squirt guns! Participants will pick out an animal for their art piece and then squirt different colors of paint on the canvas to produce a masterpiece. This session is for children of all ages, ages 16 and younger must be accompanied by an adult. **Register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 and pay the registration fee of \$15 by August 6 at 4:00 to reserve limited spots. Please identify what animal your child would like to use when registering.**



Nocturnal Scavenger Hunt



Thursday, August 19

Grimes Farm

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: August 13 by 4:00 p.m.

Grab your flashlight and family and head out to the Grimes Farm for a nocturnal scavenger hunt. Participants will sign up for a staggered start at the nature center beginning at 8:30 p.m. Families will begin the search using flashlights and observation skills while hiking the trails. Reflectors will lead participants on a hunt for prizes. This will be a great way to celebrate the final days of summer break and explore nature at night. **Groups can register by calling 641-752-5490. Participants must pre-register before August 13 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots. There is no charge for this event. Please bring your own flashlight(s) and wear sturdy shoes.**

Summer Activity Kit

Registration Deadline June 25

Kit Pick up week of July 12

This activity kit is full of fun activities all about summer, and a perfect way to explore nature. The kit will include crafts, games, outdoor exploration and more. Along with each kit, families will receive background information to learn more about the topics. 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@marshallcountya.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.

FREE FISHING DAYS

June 4, 5, & 6



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

PEOPLE IN THE PARK

Every day in the month of July, Marshall County Conservation will be posting a picture of a LEGO® person in one of our county parks. Head out to the park, find the LEGO person first, and turn it in for a chance to win a kayak. Sound easy... well maybe we left out the part where the picture wont be 100% focused or that it can be hidden in any of our 32 parks. Or that we may post the picture morning, noon or night, just to keep you on your toes.



Images will be posted starting July 1st, so this gives you 31 chances to win the kayak or one of the other five great prizes. Once you found your LEGO person and returned it to Grimes Farm Conservation Center, your name will be entered into a drawing, which will take place at the intermission of the Live and Local Concert - on August 19th. First name drawn gets the first pick of the prize. One entry per person. Once the LEGO person is turned in we will post a picture of where they were in our park. We set-up an example to show you what to expect.



Thank you Theisen's for the Kayak Donation!

Friends of Marshall County Conservation

Live & Local

Live Music & Local Food Trucks

Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
at the Grimes Farm Conservation Center

June 24 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm



October 6



In case of inclement weather watch the Marshall County Friends Facebook Page for location change or cancellation.

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.

Following the July 15th concert, the Friends of Marshall County Conservation will be holding their annual meeting. Paying members who attend the meeting will be registered to win door prizes and receive homemade ice cream. Not a member?!?! That's okay, you can register at the annual meeting. Hope to see you there!



SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Flower Bed Maintenance: Doni Sheldon, Marilyn Beard

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

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

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

email: mccb@marshallcountyia.gov
www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation
www.mycountyparks.com/County/Marshall.aspx
www.facebook.com/MarshallCountyConservationBoard

Conservation Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Board Members

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Snap a photo with your camera's phone to learn more about MCCB and visit our website.