



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 36, Issue 4

Winter 2021

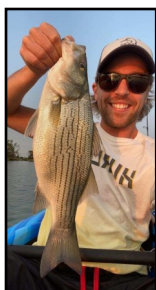


Sand Lake Addition

By Mike Stegmann, Director

Since 1998, Sand Lake Recreation Area has been a destination for residents and visitors to Marshall County for a variety of outdoor activities. Through the years, I have seen sailing, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, bird watching, and fishing in the park. Many people use it as a quick getaway to enjoy lunch or as therapy from the hustle and bustle of life to just sit and watch the wave action of the waters.

One of its main attractions is its fisheries, where many anglers have had much success through the years. Anglers can find many species of game fish. Some impressive fish have been caught out of Sand Lake including walleye, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black crappie and northern pike. The lake is stocked regularly with channel catfish and a variety of other species, and has been selected for eight years as an Iowa DNR Community Trout Stocking location. Every April and October roughly 2000 rainbow trout and a few brook trout are released in Sand Lake. This program allows people who enjoy trout fishing to be able to pursue this activity in one of their nearby county parks.



During the summer of 2021, an open air shelter was installed just west of the boat ramp area. The structure is made of all steel with a concrete floor and picnic tables for public use. A charcoal grill is provided for people who want to grill as they enjoy the outdoors. This amenity is a great attraction to a park that has had a significant uptick in visitation over the last several years.

Sand Lake did not miss the wrath of the 2020 derecho. No tree was left standing without damage: many damaged so badly they needed to be completely removed. Staff clean up efforts have been ongoing and replanting of trees began with the help from an Iowa DNR grant, which was secured for early fall of 2021. Sixty-five trees made up of 21 different

species have been planted in strategic locations to provide shade for park users and benefits to wildlife in the future as they mature.



A much awaited opportunity has been presented to the Marshall County Conservation Board (MCCB). In 2013, MCCB signed an agreement with neighboring landowners for a first right of refusal to purchase land adjacent to the park that will double the size of the park. Mining activities by Martin Marietta will soon end at their current location and they will vacate the property. MCCB is now working with landowners to purchase the land and is tasked with fundraising for the acquisition. A total of 98.34 acres will be acquired and will include approximately 52 acres of water.

This addition will increase boating, fishing, hiking and other day use activities at the park. The project cost is \$243,600. MCCB staff is currently submitting multiple grant requests to assist the cost of acquisition. However, we need community support to fill in gaps that grants will not fulfill.

If you have ever enjoyed the use of Sand Lake and shared the vision of expansion of the park, please consider making a cash contribution toward this effort. Your contribution is tax deductible and can be made to Marshall County Conservation Board - Sand Lake Addition. For your convenience, the form below can be included with your contribution. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 641-752-5490 or mccb@marshallcountya.gov.

If all goes as planned, the Sand Lake addition will be open for public use by fall of 2022.

The Sand Lake Addition

\$1000 _____ \$500 _____ \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ Other Amount \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____



Iowa's Walking Club

By Dana Bresler

Iowa's Walking Club sponsors walks and bike rides based on the concept of "volkssporting." Volkssporting, started in Germany, is a personal fitness and recreation program offering noncompetitive walks, hikes, and bike rides. You can participate in the sport at your own pace. Walking - also called "volksmarching" - is the most popular volkssporting activity.

Routes include historic and scenic sites. Trails are carefully laid out and marked with easy to follow directions and maps are provided. Trails are rated based upon the challenge the route presents and are vetted for security and safety.

Iowa's Walking Club is a non-profit run 100% by volunteers. The club was established in 1985 and has more than 150 members. We are associated with the American Volkssport Association (AVA) and the International Federation of Popular Sports (IVV).

Five and 10 kilometer walks are being developed featuring

Grimes Farm and will be available January 1, 2022.

For more information concerning Iowa's Walking Club visit their website at www.iowaswalkingclub.org



Derecho Community Forest Grant Received

By Emily Herring, Naturalist

This fall Marshall County Conservation Board applied for and received a Derecho Community Forest Grant offered through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to areas that had been affected by the August 2020 Derecho. One of our heavily hit parks was Sand Lake, which was also damaged during the 2018 Tornado. This summer, staff have spent a significant amount of time cleaning damaged trees, removing debris, and removing willows from along the shore line to prepare for a future tree planting. A tree planting plan was created and approved by our State Forester.

On September 21 through United Way's Day of Caring, we were lucky enough to have multiple Alliant Energy trucks and crews help us dig, plant, and cage 65 trees throughout Sand Lake. They made quick work of the project and we cannot thank them enough for their hard work!

The following week Boy Scout Troop 324 helped us wrap up the project by mulching the trees with wood chips provided by Alliant Energy.

We are so thankful for the community support and volunteer work that made this project possible. We know that their hard work will be appreciated by generations to come.





Nature Story Hour

Nature Story Hour will be held during the winter months via Facebook Live at 10:00 a.m. The programs will be recorded and be available on Facebook. The program will include a story book, educational program from the Naturalist about the topic, and a suggested activity or craft. Each session will last about 20 minutes. These sessions will also coincide with our Nature Activity Kits. Read more about those on the next page.

December 2 - Cardinals
 December 16 - Fox
 January 6 - Winter
 January 20 - Penguins
 February 3 - Ground Hogs
 February 17 - Oak Trees
 March 3 - Nature's ABC
 March 17 - Packs



Annual Photo Contest

Deadline: January 31 at midnight.

- **All entries must be emailed** to mccb@marshallcountytia.gov titled Photo Contest, by Monday, January 31 at midnight. In the body of your email state the category for the photograph(s), your name, address, brief description of the photo (if you have multiples) and phone number. No photos will be accepted in person.
- Photographs will be judged the week of February 7, for the categories listed below.
- Categories: Scenic (Natural Resources), Native Wildlife, Native Plants, Open Nature, and Outdoor Recreation. Winners of each category will receive a \$20 gift certificate. For more information on the categories: <http://www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation/photo-contest-2>
- The week of February 7 through February 14, all photographs received will be posted on Facebook. The photograph that gets the most likes for Peoples' Choice will win a \$20 gift certificate.
- There will be no chili supper, therefore all certificates will be mailed to winners.



Brown Bag Bunch

January - Ice Fishing Clinic
Green Castle Gander Lookout Shelter
Friday, January 14 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: January 7

Got the day off of school? Never been ice fishing before? A pro and just want to go fishing? Whatever the reason might be, join us for an Ice Fishing Clinic at Green Castle Park on January 15 starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the Gander Lookout Shelter to learn the basics of ice fishing, get setup with gear to try your hand at fishing and then go fishing. The clinic will end with hot cocoa and cookies. Participants should dress for the weather. There is no charge for this event however, participants must pre-register to secure limited number of fishing poles.

Register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 by January 7.



February - Name That Plant (Virtual)

Registration Deadline: February 4

Program Release Date: February 15

The final video in the Nature Quiz series we will be testing your knowledge on plants and trees found in Iowa. Iowa's flora can vary greatly in shape, size, color and location. Check out this video to test your knowledge on plants. This Brown Bag is the final video of a four part series that quiz you on the different species of plants and animals that are found in Iowa. If you would like to check out the other Brown Bag videos, they are available on the Marshall County Conservation YouTube Channel. Call 641-752-5490 or email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov to sign up to receive an email link to the video that you can watch anytime! Pre-registration deadline is February 4.



What's local, delicious, supports environmental education, and is the perfect Christmas gift?!?

Marshall County Maple Syrup!

Marshall County Conservation has a limited amount of Maple syrup available for sale at the GrimesFarm and Conservation Center from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. 50 ml are \$3, 12oz bottles are \$12, and 16oz bottles are \$16. Stop out and pick some up today, while supplies last!



Adult Take and Make

Bird House Building

Registration Deadline January 14

Kit Pick up week of January 24

Registration Fee: \$15.00

Think spring and make a difference for wildlife! Join us as we talk about the importance of providing nesting structures for cavity nesters here in the state of Iowa, what to consider when putting up nesting structures, and the many different animals that call them home. We will also show viewers how to construct nest boxes. Participants can register and will receive a link to watch the video. Along with the link you also have the option to purchase a Bluebird House Kit or a Wren House Kit for **\$15.00 per nest box**. Most supplies to build a nesting box will be included, excluding a hammer and light earth toned paint. **Pre-registration and payment of \$15 is required to secure limited kits by January 14 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.** Pick up of supplies will need to be scheduled the week of January 24 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Button Tree Art (Mixed medium)

Registration Deadline February 11

Kit Pick up week of February 21

Registration Fee: \$25.00

Learn how to create a mixed medium master piece with acrylic paint and buttons. All ages and artistic abilities are welcome. All supplies will be provided. **Pre-registration and payment of \$25 is required to secure limited kits by February 11 before 4:00 p.m. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.** Pick up of supplies will need to be scheduled the week of February 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Shoes and Soup

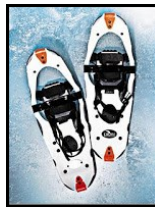
Wednesday, February 16 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.

Registration: Fee - \$12/person

Deadline: February 11 by 4:00 p.m.

Bundle up and join naturalist Emily Herring as we brave the cold and spend the evening snowshoeing the trails of Grimes Farm. The full moon will illuminate the winter trails as we explore and take in the peaceful beauty that winter has to offer. The evening will consist of a brief snowshoeing tutorial, followed by time to explore Grimes Farm on your own. Complete the evening with a warm bowl of soup at the conservation center. Participants must weigh 40 lbs or more and anyone under the age of 18 must have an accompanying adult. Registration fee includes: snowshoes, instruction, and soup supper. Covid precautions will be taken. **Participants must pre-register and pay \$12.00 registration fee before February 11 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots. To register call 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**



Building Better Birders

Building Better Birders - The Ultimate Winter Bird Survey: Summary of the First Ever Christmas Bird Count Marathon

Tuesday, January 18 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: January 14 by 4:00 p.m.

Marshall County Conservation will host birder Kelly McKay as he gives a presentation on the overview and history of the Christmas Bird Counting Program. He will describe the successful completion of the first CBC Marathon by discussing each individual count and highlighting noteworthy birds identified.

Building Better Birders - Owl Prowl

Tuesday, January 18 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: January 14 by 4:00 p.m.

Following the Ultimate Winter Bird Survey program, participants can join Kelly McKay as he leads a hike in search of different types of owls at the Grimes Farm. Remember to dress for the weather.

Pre-registration is required for the Building Better Birder events, register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 by January 14. 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).



Christmas Trees For Sale

The Izaak Walton League will be selling Christmas Trees:

November 26, 27, 28

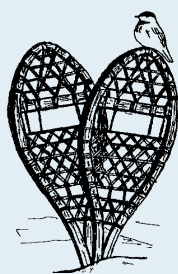
December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19
from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

The price is \$50.00 per tree.



Snowshoe Rental

Chase away the winter blues by getting outside! The Marshall County Conservation Board has snowshoes available for rent at \$5 a day plus a \$50 deposit per set. A waiver of liability must be signed. The deposit will be returned when the equipment is returned in good condition within 72 hours. The Marshall County Conservation Board offers many trails where snowshoes are allowed including: Grimes Farm, Green Castle, Timmons Grove, and Grammer Grove. During Marshall County Conservation Board sponsored events, the equipment will be available for use at no charge.



Nature Activity Kits

Looking for a fun way to learn more about science and explore 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, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777. Topics, Registration deadlines and pick up dates are as follows:

December - Song Birds
Registration Deadline December 3
Kit pick up the week of December 13



January - Winter
Registration Deadline January 7
Kit pick up the week of January 17



February - Trees
Registration Deadline February 4
Kit pick up the week of February 14



Reduce, Reuse and Recycle this holiday season:

- Limit the number of gifts you buy per person.
- Use last year's Christmas cards as gift tags.
- Cut paper shopping bags and stamp them with a Christmas pattern to use for wrapping paper.
- Buy experiences, not stuff.
- Use newspaper or the comic section as wrapping paper.



Master Gardener Program

www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener

Join Iowa State Extension this winter for a variety of webinars that will expand your knowledge and allow you to connect with experts from across the field. All events are free and open to the public, but registration is required. If interested contacted the Marshall County Extension Office at (641) 752-1551.

December 2021

Exploring the Life of Iowa's Bumble Bees

with Sarah Nizzi

December 8, 7-8 p.m.

Beekeeping 101 with Randall Cass

December 13, 7-8 p.m.

Monarch Habitat in the Home Garden & Landscape

with Donald Lewis

December 21, 6-7 p.m.

January 2022

Planting Design Tips with Lisa Nunamaker

January 4, 6-7 p.m.

Planting Design Models with Lisa Nunamaker

January 11, 6-7 p.m.

Planting Design Graphics with Lisa Nunamaker

January 18, 6-7 p.m.

February 2022

Houseplant Propagation with Aaron Steil

February 1, 7-8 p.m.

Advance Seed Starting with Cindy Haynes

February 16, 6-7 p.m.

March 2022

Grafting Biology & Techniques with Grant Thompson

& Patrick O'Mally

March 2, 6-7 p.m.

Starting a Cutting Garden with Cindy Haynes

March 8, 7-8 p.m.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach



Our offices will be closed:

- Friday, December 24
- Monday, January 17
- Monday, February 21



SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Thank you!

Programming

Carrie Barr

Sand Lake Tree Planting

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Park Maintenance

Doni Sheldon & Marilyn Beard, Joyce & Rob Christensen, The Marshalltown Garden Club

Monarch Tagging

Dena Graff, Jack & Linda Mackin

Newsletter Collation

Kathy Sievers, Irene & Gary Williams, Joan Studts, Dianne Freiboth, Charlotte McGinty, Jack & Linda Mackin, Bob Dunham, Dena Graft, Micki Stanley, and Kayann Lowry

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

mccb@marshallcountyia.gov
www.marshallcountyia.gov

Office Hours

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

Nature Center Hours

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

Board Members

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Pam Paone

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Tom Deimerly

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Emily Herring

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Maint. Sup./Park Ranger

Maintenance Technician

Maintenance Technician

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