



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 36, Issue 4

Winter 2022



Turning the Page

By Mike Stegmann, Director



“Tempus Fugit” was one of my father’s favorite sayings. Another was “Too old too soon, too smart too late.” When I was young, I would look at him like he’d lost his mind, pondering to myself, what in the **** is he talking about?

What do these sayings have to do with conservation? Perhaps nothing, perhaps everything. I once wrote an article for this newsletter referring to time and that it stops for nothing. We, as humans, have no concept of Mother Nature’s timeline. There is no beginning, and there is no end. We are just atom size dots along the way.

I use these sayings here as I turn the last page of this chapter in my life as I retire as director of the Marshall County Conservation Board. As the days and years have passed, I now know what those sayings mean. My dad passed this year at 95 and lived an incredible existence. Since I was a toddler watching birds out the window, he and my mother helped fuel my passion for my connection with conservation and natural resources, one of the reasons I chose this field of work. I know he shared this passion with the amount of time, many hours with me, that he spent in the “wilds” and operating a sporting goods store in the 1950s and early 1960s.

I dug out a copy of the article I wrote when I assumed the duties as a director in 2004. I made reference that it is a job not to be taken alone and that each board and staff member do their part to make up the whole. I appreciate the opportunity to have met many of the established goals and unmet needs first set with the MCCB’s conception in 1958. I am humbled by the support I have received from my

predecessors and staff whom I’ve had a chance to walk hand in hand with each endeavor through the years. I am equally appreciative to have had the chance to work under board members who gave us the flexibility and support to move forward in the direction we felt best for the advancement of MCCB operations during this time. That is exactly what has happened over the last 18 ½ years. Over that time, this organization’s presence in Marshall County has grown from 25 areas encompassing 1200 acres to 33 areas totaling 2862 acres for wildlife habitat and public recreational uses. With little or no state and federal presence, Marshall County Conservation is the primary provider of outdoor recreation opportunities in the county.

Before you are assembled, MCCB staff with more than 58 combined years of professional service with the Iowa County Conservation System. It is now the turn of this new generation of conservation leaders, the opportunity to accomplish the unmet needs of conservation and outdoor recreation in Marshall County. I have no concerns or reservations that this work will continue, without missing a step, toward the success of Marshall County Conservation.

Moving forward, there’s no turning back. I will pursue life aspirations that are still part of the natural resources. And as many retirees do, I will be spending as much time as possible with family, and I’ll see you in the fields, forests, lakes, marshes, rivers, and prairies, ...

As the sun sets in the west, I bid you farewell. I would be amiss if I didn’t share another of my father’s favorite sayings. Referring to time and taken from a song, “Enjoy yourself, it’s later than you think.” A corny song performed by today’s music standards but still more than relevant to everyone who has ever lived. If you’ve never heard it, look it up on YouTube.



Staying Informed

By Tami Krough, Administrative Assistant

Recently, a new website was launched for Marshall County. The new website is: <https://www.marshallcountya.gov>. With the new website, individuals are able to stay informed of county and conservation events and meetings through email notifications with a few simple steps:

1. Go to the following page: [Notify Me • Marshall County, IA • CivicEngage \(marshallcountya.gov\)](https://www.marshallcountya.gov/list.aspx)
<https://www.marshallcountya.gov/list.aspx>
2. Enter the email address you want to use for notifications.
3. Click the icon next to the List Name. Once the icon has a green check in it, you are subscribed.
4. You will receive an email confirming your subscriptions, follow the instructions in the email.

Different Subscription Areas:

- NOTIFY ME: This will subscribe you to the electronic version of the newsletter and it will be emailed to you. Click the icon next to the Conservation (list name). Once the icon has a green check in it, you are subscribed.
- AGENDA CENTER: You will be emailed the agenda for an upcoming meeting and informs you of when the meeting will happen.
- CALENDAR: You will be notified of upcoming events or if an event has been cancelled.

A SCARY SUCCESS!!!!

We would like to thank all of our supporters for the 2022 Park Apocalypse. Without your support, the event would not have been possible. Thank you!

DONORS

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Our apologies if we inadvertently missed someone.

VOLUNTEERS

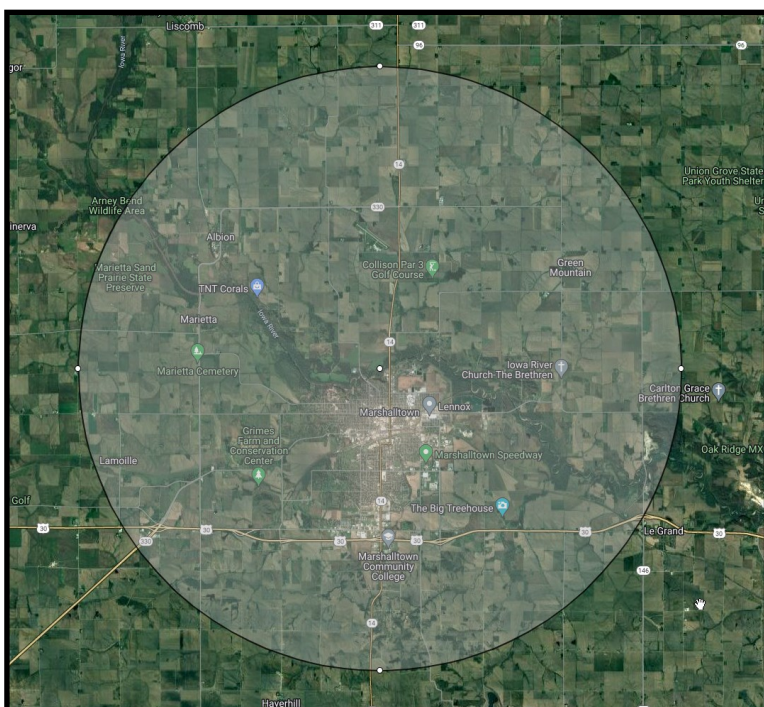


Christmas Bird Count

Monday, December 19 All Day
Throughout Marshall County Christmas Bird Area
(See Below Image)
Registration Fee: FREE
Deadline: December 15 by 4:00 p.m.

For 123 years, the Audubon Society has held Christmas Bird Counts across the United States. Data gathered from these counts are used to understand bird populations. This year we are bringing back a Marshall County Christmas Bird Count! During the Christmas Bird Count, groups are assigned an area that covers 15-mile radius. The group records as many different birds and their numbers. The species and numbers are then compiled and sent to the Audubon Society and documented. The count must happen around Christmas, and groups must pick a specific day on which they have 24 hours to record birds. The date we have selected is December 19. We have multiple bird experts and have divided the quadrant into multiple sections. There are a few ways to join and volunteer for birding for a day. 1. If you are an expert, you can help lead a group. 2. Even if you don't know birds, you can join an expert and learn your birds along the way. 3. If you have bird feeders at your home, you can watch and record the birds that come to your feeders. You do not have to dedicate 24 hours, you can give as much time as you would like. If you are interested in joining us for the bird count on December 19, please reach out to Emily Herring at 641-752-5490 or eherring@marshallcountytia.gov by December 15 at 4:00 p.m.

The map below shows you the regions we will be covering. This includes the towns of Marshalltown, Albion, Green Mountain, and Laurel.



Brown Bag Bunch

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

Erik Murry Presents

Iowa Rough-legged Hawk Project

Wednesday, December 14 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: December 9 by 4:00 p.m.

The Iowa Rough-legged Hawk Project, founded by Erik Murry, is the first project of its kind to research the arctic dwelling raptor in Eastern Iowa. The Rough-legged hawk



(*Buteo lagopus*) is an arctic nesting bird that uses Iowa's fragmented habitat to over-winter. With a diet of almost exclusively rodents, native grassland is extremely key in the survival of this species. In this program, Erik will talk about how his over-winter banding program functions, including how birds are caught, handled and banded. What data is being recorded will also be discussed, in addition to how it is used, as well as other projects Erik is a part of. This includes fall migration banding and Golden Eagle trapping and tracking!

Gaye and Kevin Arkema Presents

A Journey to Egypt

Wednesday, January 18 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GrimesFarm Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

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

Travel to Egypt with guest presenters Kevin and Gaye Arkema as they tell you about their journey to what many consider the cradle of civilization. We have all seen photos of pyramids, The Sphinx, and many other iconic locations in Egypt. Come listen and enjoy as they share their once-in-a-lifetime adventure.



Ty Smedes Presents

South Georgia Island - Nature's Masterpiece

Tuesday, February 14 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

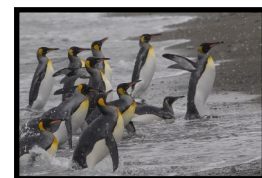
GrimesFarm Conservation Center

Registration Fee: FREE

Deadline: February 10 by 4:00 p.m.

In the Atlantic Ocean, nestled about halfway between the tips of South America and Africa, a 100-mile-long mountainous island towers above the sea.

Its beaches are a wildlife paradise, crowded with battling bull Elephants and Fur Seals, all vying for space with several species of penguins, which number in the hundreds of thousands! This British protectorate (former headquarters for the South Atlantic whaling fleet) is now managed as a pristine environment. Home to more than 100 million birds, including several species of Albatross, these protective measures are expected to push the population to 300 million birds. Come see and learn about this magical place as we ply the scenic bays aboard the Ortelius, an expedition ship built to navigate some of the roughest seas in the world.



Wood Burned Charcuterie Board

Thursday, January 12 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.
Registration Fee: \$25
Deadline: January 6

We have discovered an easy way to wood burn! Participants will learn step-by-step instructions on creating a stencil, using a heat gun, and the chemical reaction needed to create a unique charcuterie board to take home or give to someone they love. **Participants must pre-register and pay a \$25.00 registration fee before January 6 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots.** Once registered, participants will be contacted to decide on the stencil they would like created for their board. To register, call 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov or text only 641-758-9777.



Christmas Trees For Sale

The Izaak Walton League will be selling Christmas Trees:

December 3, 4, 10, 11
from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

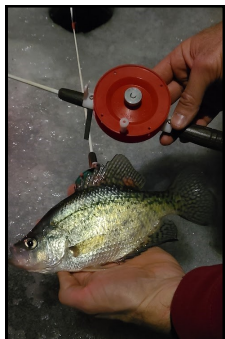
The price is \$50.00 per tree.
2601 Smith Ave, Marshalltown



Ice Fishing Clinic

Saturday, January 21 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Green Castle Recreation Area - Gander Lookout Shelter
2891 Green Castle Rd., Gilman
Registration Fee: FREE
Deadline: January 16

Tired of being stuck inside? 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 21 starting at 10:00 a.m. Participants will meet at the Gander Lookout Shelter to learn the basics of ice fishing, get set up 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 a limited number of fishing poles. **Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777 by January 16.**



Annual Photo Contest

Deadline: January 31 at midnight.



- All entries must be emailed** to mccb@marshallcountya.gov titled Photo Contest, by Tuesday, 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, and phone number. No photos will be accepted in person.
- Photographs will be judged the week of February 5, 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: <https://www.marshallcountya.gov/510/Annual-Photo-Contest>
- The week of February 5 through February 11, 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.

Shoes and Soup

Thursday, February 9 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.
Registration: Fee - \$12/person
Deadline: February 3 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 a \$12.00 registration fee before February 3 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots.** To register, call 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountya.gov or text only 641-758-9777.



Serendipity Scarf

Saturday, February 18 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.

Registration: Fee - \$50

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

Serendipity dyeing! Learn to dye silk scarves and cotton fabric with a huge variety of easy-to-obtain dye materials. This method is incredibly easy – it just takes a little time and patience. We will use fresh garden flowers, herbs, and leaves, as well as a variety of easy-to-obtain dyestuffs (copper pennies, spent teabags, berries, kitchen spices, and much more). The results are always

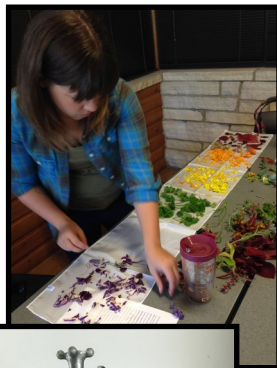
varied and completely unique! All dye materials will be supplied. You will create and take home your own custom dyed 11x60 inch silk scarf and one fat quarter of cotton fabric. 1.5-2 hours

Participants must pre-register and pay \$50.00 registration fee before

February 6 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots. To

register call 641-752-5490,

email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.



Antler Scoring

Wednesday, February 22 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm Nature Center, 2349 233rd St.

Registration: Fee - FREE

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

Curious about what those antlers score! Bring in newly harvested or old whitetail deer antlers to be measured by an official scorer. Watch and learn the general guidelines for antler measuring and work one-on-one with a scorer to find out if you have a set of trophy-caliber antlers. **Participants must pre-register before**

February 17 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots. To

register call 641-752-5490,

email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov

or text only 641-758-9777.



Our offices will be closed for Holidays and Trainings:

- December 26
- January 2 and 16
- February 20



Trees to Table

Pancake Feed

Saturday, March 4

7:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm & Conservation Center

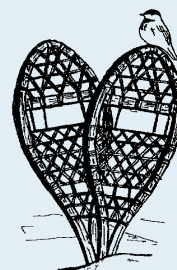
Join Marshall County Conservation as we celebrate maple sugaring season with a pancake fundraiser. Come to learn about the making of syrup and enjoy a stack of flap jacks topped with real maple syrup. From trees at Grammer Grove to the tables of the Conservation Center, this sweet treat cannot be beat.

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

Tickets can be purchased at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. \$6.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Any questions please call (641) 752-5490.

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.



SEASONS

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

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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, Kayann Lowry, Carolyn Weir, Kristi Cameron

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@marshallcountyyia.gov

www.marshallcountyyia.gov

Office Hours

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

Nature Center Hours

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

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Mike Stegmann

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Maintenance Technician

Maintenance Technician

Administrative Assistant