



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 39, Issue 1

Spring 2025



LOSST

By Emily Herring, Director

In every newsletter, I am tasked with writing about important things happening with Marshall County Conservation. Of all the newsletter articles that I have written in my young career as conservation director, this may be one of the most important so far. No pressure!

On March 4, unincorporated cities and rural residents of Marshall County will participate in a special election to vote for Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOSST). LOSST is a 1% tax charged on the same items charged a 6% sales tax. Hence, we pay 7% on purchases in Marshall County.

A few false rumors have been circulating about LOSST, and I want to clear the air before the vote. Many believe this is a new tax; however, it has been around since 1985, and it is not new to Marshall County and its communities. Currently, all the incorporated towns in Marshall County, including Marshalltown, have passed and are receiving funding from LOSST. Even the unincorporated communities of Marshall County previously voted and passed LOSST in 2015, and this vote is to renew that funding source. So, NO, your taxes will not be increasing with this vote.

Another rumor is that you will pay less taxes if LOSST doesn't pass. This is also false. LOSST will still be collected on purchases. However, instead of these funds going to county services, they will be distributed elsewhere. This vote ensures that rural voters decide that their tax dollars stay in the county and help with rural services.

Approximately 1.7 million dollars of LOSST funding goes to Marshall County every year. 50% of these funds go towards bridge, roadway, and culvert repairs. The remaining 50% is considered property tax relief and goes to county services provided by the conservation, sheriff, emergency management,



Picture By Vicki Otto

veterans affairs, treasurer, auditor, and other county departments. It is considered property tax relief because many of these services, like

road repairs, sheriff services, etc., are necessary, and if the funding doesn't come from LOSST, then it would need to come from property taxes. So, if LOSST doesn't pass, your property taxes may increase to cover these services.

You may be asking, why is this so important to Marshall County Conservation? If LOSST doesn't pass, hard decisions will need to be made on the priority of services offered in the county. Every dollar Marshall County Conservation receives from the taxpayer is given to us with the belief and trust that we will ensure those dollars are well spent. We stretch those dollars using grants and donations. We decrease costs by completing projects in-house if possible. Our hard-working staff works alongside volunteers to complete projects more quickly and save the county money. At the end of the day, we accomplish a lot with the little we are given. If LOSST doesn't pass, the little we receive will become smaller, and even though we will still go to work every day to make Marshall County Parks the jewels of this county, it will be much more difficult, and services could become more limited.

We understand that taxes are not the most enjoyable thing we spend our money on, but if you live in rural Marshall County, you have the opportunity on March 4th to decide what your taxes support. Please take the time to learn more about this upcoming special election and get out and vote!



Picture By Walt Huffaker

SCAN
FOR
MORE
INFO



Marshall County Conservation

Trees to Table Pancake Feed



March 1, 2025
7:00 to 10:00 am
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: 3 pancakes, 2 sausage links, locally harvested maple syrup, & a drink.

Advanced Tickets

\$6.00

At the Door

*\$7.00**

**while supplies last*

*Tickets can be purchased at
the Grimes Farm and
Conservation Center*

Sponsored by Noon Kiwanis

Spring Into Spring Break with Marshall County Conservation



Looking for spring break fun for your kids? Marshall County Conservation is offering three fun environmental education programs: Birding, a Wildlife Hike, and an Animal Meet & Greet. These programs are free, and each session lasts about 30 - 40 minutes. No pre-registration is required.

Birding

Tuesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm Shelter House

Join MCCB naturalist Emma Bruck for a short birding walk and a lesson in using binoculars!

Wildlife Walk

Wednesday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm Shelter House

Explore an Iowa woodland with MCCB naturalist Emma Bruck and learn what makes this woodland unique.

Animal Meet and Greet

Thursday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm Shelter House

Meet MCCB ambassador animals, an Ornate Box Turtle, Tiger Salamander, and Fox Snake!

SAVE THE DATE

The Grand Opening of the Green Castle Campground

THE EVENING OF
AUGUST 1

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Congrats to the 2025 Photo Contest Winners!

Native Wildlife

1st Place Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Maesa Groth

Honorable Mention Tammy Trusheim



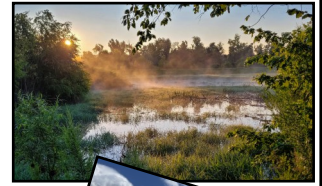
Scenic

1st Place Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Adyan Dinham

Honorable Mention Brookelyn

Schlawin



Outdoor Recreation

1st Place Brookelyn Schlawin

Honorable Mention Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Eric Nissen



Youth

1st Place Bailee Weston

Honorable Mention: Emerson Landas



Native Plants

1st Place Walt Huffaker

Honorable Mention Nancy Sebern

Honorable Mention Andy Spellman



Open Nature

1st Place Treavor Stamp

Honorable Mention Andy Spellman

Honorable Mention Brookelyn

Schlawin



Peoples' Choice

1st Place Tammy Backoff

Honorable Mention Gary Pusillo

Honorable Mention Adyen Dinham



Nature Art

July 31 - August 1 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Ages: 8 - 12

Registration Fee: \$35

Registration Deadline: July 18 by 4:00 pm



Weave your love for nature and art together with a nature art camp! MCCB staff and East Marshall School District art teacher Hallie Crouse are partnering to create a new art-based summer camp.



Summer

C

Cricket

June 17 - 19 at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

June 24 - 26 at 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Ages 4 to out of kindergarten

& accompanying adult

Let's play! Cricket camp is all about nature play and will have kiddos and adults having hands-on outdoor fun!

Fee: \$20

Registration Deadline: May 24



A

Acorns and Asters

July 8 - 10 at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm 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 7



M

Muskrats

July 16 - 18 at 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Izaak Walton League

Out of 3rd and 4th Grades

Ever want to travel back in time? Join us as we learn about fossils, rocks, soil, plants, and prehistoric creatures.

Fee: \$35

Registration Deadline: June 28



P

Praying Mantis (Uncle Ike's)

July 22 - 23 at 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: July 12



SUMMER SKILLS



Do you have a youth between 10 and 15 who is interested in increasing their outdoor skills? Join us for our Summer Skills courses, where they can learn to fish, archery, and/or canoe! Sign up for one or all sessions!

FISHING

Wednesday, July 30 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Green Castle Recreation Area

2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman

Ages: 10 - 15

Registration Fee: \$10

Registration Deadline: July 18

Summer is about having fun and getting outside. Join MCCB naturalists as they introduce your youth to fishing. They will learn about Iowa fish species, and the body parts of the fish, along with lots of fishing.



ARCHERY

Monday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Green Castle Recreation Area

2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman

Ages: 10 - 15

Registration Fee: \$10

Registration Deadline: July 18

Join MCCB naturalists as they introduce your youth to archery skills. Students will learn the basics of archery by focusing on form and safety. We'll cover eye dominance, archery safety rules, range rules, equipment, and proper shooting techniques using a compound bow.



CANOEING

Monday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sand Lake

2901 Main Street Road, Marshalltown

Ages: 10 - 15

Registration Fee: \$10

Registration Deadline: July 25

MCCB naturalists will be introducing your youth to canoeing, a great outdoor activity that can be enjoyed for the rest of their lives.

Participants will learn about types of canoes, equipment, and techniques and practice their new skills on the water.



How to Register for Summer Camp
Register online by following this:
<https://tinyurl.com/28mynkbw>
or by taking a picture of this QR Code with your smartphone. Once registered, you will be invoiced for the camp with instructions on how to pay.



How to Register for Summer Skills:
Register online by following this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4s23kk7e>
or by taking a picture of this QR Code with your smartphone. Once registered, you will be invoiced with instructions on how to pay for the class.

SPRING

Nature Story Hour

Nature Story Hour is held the first and third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. during the summer months at the Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at the Grimes Farm. In case of inclement weather, the program will be held inside the center. 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 and guests include:

May 1 - Clouds; Naturalist
May 15 - Spiders; Naturalist
June 5 - Snakes; Naturalist and Creepy the fox snake



Prairie Burn

An evening during the week of April 14th
Exact date TBD at 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@marshallcountya.gov to be put on the notification list.



FREE FISHING DAYS JUNE 6, 7, & 8

The Iowa DNR is once again offering a free fishing weekend for Iowa residents June 6-8. No fishing license is required, but all size and catch limits apply.



Volunteers Needed:

We need help maintaining and weeding the flowerbeds by the Nature Center at Grimes Farm. If interested, please get in touch with our offices at 641-752-5490 or mccb@marshallcountya.gov.



Brown Bag Bunch

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

March

Crops of Ancient Iowa
Tuesday, March 11, at 11:30 am- 12:30 pm
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: March 10 by 4:00 p.m.

Cherie Haury-Artz from the University of Iowa's Office of the State Archaeologist will discuss archaeological evidence for Iowa's first domesticated plants, which dates back about 4,000 years. What were people growing and where? Some of their staple crops might surprise you! This program explores the origins of plant domestication and the archaeological evidence for agriculture found in Iowa. The talk will be accompanied by a display of real and replica artifacts and samples of relevant plants.



April

Earth Day Wildflower Walk
Tuesday, April 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grammer Grove Recreational Area
2030 127th Street, Liscomb
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: April 17 by 4:00 p.m.

Slow down and smell the wildflowers! Join us on April 22 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 on Earth Day and enjoy these short-blossomed spring beauties. Participants can bring a sack lunch to enjoy before or after the program.



May

A Glimpse into Marshall County's Sky
Wednesday, May 7 at 11:30 am- 12:30 pm
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown
Registration Fee: Free
Deadline: May 2 by 4:00 p.m.

Marshall County Astronomer Jim Bonser will take you on a deep dive into Marshall County's day and nighttime skies. Join us on May 7 as Jim shares specular pictures he has taken while discussing how light pollution is impacting our night skies. If weather permits, a solar scope will be available to look at the surface of the sun!



Nature Adventures for Students

Join us for a nature program in a flexible format designed for kindergarten through third-grade students. Programs will engage students with a story, craft, or activity and an outdoor fun component. There is no fee for this program. To register for Nature Adventures, please call 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777 by the registration deadline.

March - Habitats

Thursday, March 13 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: March 11 by 4:00 pm

What is a habitat? This month, we are diving into the animal and plant habitats of Iowa! We will explore Iowa's amazing habitats through hands-on activities and games.



April - Fish

Thursday, April 24 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Green Castle Recreation Area- Handi Cove Shelter House
2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: April 18 by 4:00 pm

Join us at Green Castle Recreation Area to learn all about fish! Students will learn about Iowa's different kinds of fish, fishing safety, and casting! No fishing license is needed under the age of 16; we provide the poles and bait.



May - Frogs

Thursday, May 29 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: May 23 by 4:00 pm

Put on your rain boots! This month, we are exploring wetlands to learn about frogs and tadpoles. We will be getting wet and muddy, dress appropriately!



Friends of Marshall County Conservation

The Friends of Marshall County Conservation meet on the third Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m. at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. If you are interested in



**FRIENDS OF
MARSHALL COUNTY
CONSERVATION**

serving on the
Friends Board,
come to a meeting
to learn more!

Earth Day Walk

Tuesday, April 22 at 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Grimes Farm Shelter House
2359 233rd Street, Marshalltown
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: April 17th by 4:00 p.m.

What better day to walk at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center than Earth Day? This program is a great way to connect with those around you who want to appreciate the Earth's beauty. So come for a relaxing walk at the Grimes Farm; bring your binoculars to look for birds or just to get some fresh air while strolling. MCCB staff will be present to answer any questions you might have. Participants will want to dress appropriately and wear sturdy footwear. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or texting 641-758-9777.



Sunrise Hikes

Join Marshall County Conservation for a program that will encourage you to begin your morning off with a hike through a county area. Research has shown that people who exercise in the morning are more active throughout the day. So come for a brisk hike; bring your binoculars to look for birds or to get some fresh air while strolling. MCCB staff will be present to answer any questions you might have. Participants will want to dress appropriately and wear sturdy footwear. There is no charge for this event. Register by calling the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or texting 641-758-9777.



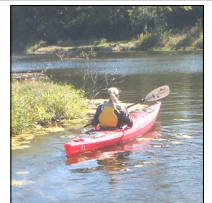
April 29 at 6:00 a.m. - Grimes Farm
Shelter House; 2359 233rd St. Marshalltown, IA 50158

May 21 at 6:00 a.m. - Green Castle Recreation Area
Upper Parking lot by Bison Display; 2891 Green Castle Rd.
Gilman, IA 50106

Kayaking

Wednesday, May 28 at 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Green Castle Recreation Area
2891 Green Castle Road, Gilman
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: May 23

Join us as we explore Green Castle with kayaks. This family-friendly event encourages 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, emailing mccb@marshallcountytia.gov, or texting only 641-758-9777.



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 19



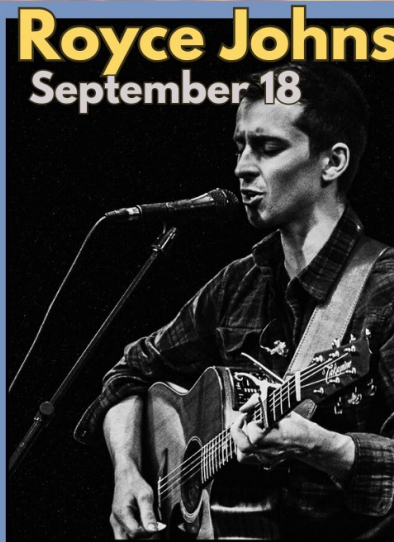
Crowfoot Rakes

July 17



Royce Johns

September 18



Standing Hampton

August 21



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

Thank You to Our Sponsors

**Matthew Perkin Memorial, Ann C. Keyser Charitable Trust
& supportive members of the Friends of Marshall County Conservation.**

SEASONS

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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Thank you!

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Sharon Depew, Irene & Gary Williams, Dianne Freiboth, Charlotte McGinty, Dena Graff, Carolyn Weir, Micki Stanley, Joyce & Rob Christensen

Bird Feeders

Evans McWilliams

Christmas Bird Count

Mike Stegmann, Mark Proescholdt, Evans McWilliams, Andy Spellman

Donations

Dave Perkins, Gary Fulton, Mindy Kunkel, Karen Anderson, Lamoille Church, James Dworzak, Jana Smith, Jerry Gaffney, Ronald Gamble, Helen Fiscus, Sharon Depew, Bill & Judy Bonzer, Iowa Valley Bicycle Club

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@marshallcountyia.gov

www.marshallcountyia.gov/501/conservation

Administration Office Hours

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

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