



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer 2025



Your Walk In Nature By Emily Herring, Director

When was the last time you explored a new natural area? When did you last hear a new bird, photograph a new flower, or try a new fishing spot? When did you last approach nature with childlike wonder? Embracing passion, setting aside fears, and unleashing curiosity are experiences we often overlook. We tend to stick to our favorite places and become hesitant to step outside our comfort zones. Yet, there is so much to discover in nature, and nature offers us countless gifts.

I often take for granted how rich in habitats Marshall County truly is. Recently, Mark Proescholdt, an avid birder who has spent the last 40 years birdwatching in Marshall County, reminded me of this. His usual spot has always been Grammer Grove, and if you've participated in Hawk Watch there, you likely know Mark. This past winter, he was assigned Timmons Grove for the Christmas Bird Count, and he became intrigued by the area. Although he was familiar with it, he didn't realize all that the property had to offer until he began exploring.

For those who have not visited Timmons Grove, it consists of two parks: Timmons Grove South Recreation Area and Timmons Grove North Wildlife Management Area. Timmons South features a campground, a shower house, a large picnic shelter, a playground, and trails that wind through the Iowa River floodplain. Timmons North is a wildlife area where visitors can hunt mushrooms, turkeys, deer, and fish. Both areas boast mature river-bottom timber, where old oxbows wind through woodlands filled with oaks, walnuts, and a few sycamores, providing habitats for many unique species, including a large variety of birds. This variety continues to grow day by day.

This year, Mark and other dedicated birders in Marshall County have actively recorded the bird species they observe in Timmons Grove. They have been using a birding app called eBird to document all their findings. Created by the Cornell Lab, eBird has been around for a while and is free for anyone interested in learning about birds. Before they began logging their observations this year, only two bird species had been recorded in Timmons Grove. Now, if you visit the eBird website, you will find that 141 species have been discovered! Most impressively, Mark, a 40-year veteran birder, spotted a Yellow-throated Warbler for the first time in Marshall County. He believes this bird may be nesting in the old sycamores along the river bottom.

His story reminded me of other places in MCC areas that I still want to explore. I don't know about you, but it has been far too long since I immersed myself in exploring a new area with passion, a clear mind, and curiosity. John Muir once said, "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." If we are only wandering our old stomping grounds, are we truly getting all we can from our time in nature? If we open ourselves to new places, smells, sounds, and experiences, what will nature give us?

The best way to discover the beauty of nature is to explore one of MCC's 37 parks. I encourage you to choose a park you've never visited before and venture off the beaten path. If you're worried about getting lost, you can find maps of each park on the My County Parks website. Perhaps our paths will cross, and we can share our experiences and discuss what nature has given us that day.



This spring, the following birds were spotted at Timmons Grove and added to the eBird website: (Left to Right)
Yellow-Throated Warbler - Once disappeared from their northern range in the early 1900s, these warblers have been expanding north again since the 1940s and are commonly found in riverside sycamore groves.
Golden-winged Warbler - Their population has declined by 68% since the 1960s, placing them on a watch list as a species at risk of becoming threatened or extinct.
Prothonotary Warbler - These warblers are unique for nesting in cavities, preferring trees or nest boxes near standing water to reduce predation. **Pictures by Larry Reis, Winneshiek Naturalist**

Star Gazing with the Central Iowa Astronomers



Solar Picnic

Saturday, June 14 Noon
Handicove, Green Castle Recreation Area
2891 Green Castle Rd, Gilman

June features the longest days and shortest nights. So, rather than staying up to see the stars come out around 11 p.m., we invite you to join us at Handicove shelter at Green Castle for our annual Solar Picnic and have an up-close look at our nearest star, the Sun! Free grilled hot dogs, potato chips, and salad will be available while supplies last. Weather permitting, we will have a properly filtered telescope available for safely viewing sunspots and other features of the Sun's surface.

All Things Planetary

Friday, July 11 Dusk Approximately 9:00 p.m.
Observatory, Green Castle Recreation Area

Come and learn a little about the amazing worlds orbiting our Sun. Each one is unique and beautiful in its own way. When will they be visible this year, and how can I identify them? It's not as complicated as you might think. Let us show you how!

The Moon

Friday, August 8 Dusk Approximately 9:00 p.m.
Observatory, Green Castle Recreation Area

Why does its shape change every month? When can you see "The Man in the Moon"? And what about all those nicknames, such as "Honey Moon" and "Blue Moon", what do they mean? Join us and see!

Annual Friends Members Meeting Thursday, June 26 6:00 p.m.

The Friends of Marshall County Conservation will host their annual Friends Member Meeting on June 26 at 6:00 p.m. at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. The event will begin with a free meal of loose meat sandwiches, sides, desserts, and beverages. There will be a short presentation on Friends of MCCB projects and the election of new board members and officers.

If you are a paying member, would like to become a member, or would like to serve on the board of directors, we would love for you to attend the meeting. We ask that you RSVP by June 20 at 641-752-5490, <https://friendsofmarshallcountyconservation.org/rsvp/>, or register using the below QR Code.



FRIENDS OF
MARSHALL COUNTY
CONSERVATION



Live & Local Concerts

Free Live Music & Local Food Trucks

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater

June 19

Bob Dorr & Friends

Food Trucks:
Clare's Tenderloins
Comal Kaxi
Sno-2-Go
Pie Lady



July 17

Crowfoot Rakes

Food Trucks:
Kayella's Indian
Tacos
Magoo Pizza
Bakery 146



August 21

Standing Hampton

Food Trucks:
Kayella's Indian
Tacos
Flying Elbow
Sno-2-Go
Ma Browns



September 18

Royce Johns

Food Trucks:
Comal Kaxi
Clare's Tenderloins
Lillie Mae
Most Wanted Coffee



Meet Our Summer Staff

The summer staff are temporary positions with Marshall County Conservation and often fulfill college internship requirements. Many of the past summer staff have continued pursuing careers in the natural resource field.

We want to welcome back Greg Morris to our summer field staff and welcome Abby Kemp, Paige Martin, Brayden Fetch, and Kaleb Grant!

Greg Morris

My name is Greg Morris, and I was born and raised in Liscomb and Conrad. I worked at Lennox Industries in Marshalltown for 38 years and am semi-retired. I currently own and manage several rental properties. I am married to Mary, and we've been married for 40 years. We have three grown children and five grandkids. My hobbies are anything outdoors, especially fishing. We like to ride bikes on the local bike trails. I am a big Hawkeye, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Chicago Cubs baseball fan.



Brayden Fetch

Hello, my name is Brayden. I was born in Spokane, Washington. I was 7 years old when my family moved to Wyoming. As I got older, I got into hunting, fishing, and camping, and I absolutely love the great outdoors! Seven years later, I moved here to Marshalltown. It was a challenge in high school, but I passed with good grades. Then I found this job that I absolutely love! I look forward to more adventures!



Paige Martin

Hi! My name is Paige, and I will be one of the summer naturalists. I am going into my fourth and final year at Iowa State University, majoring in Forestry with an emphasis on environmental education. I love doing anything outside, but some of my favorite activities include hiking, kayaking, and fishing!



Abby Kemp

Hello, my name is Abby. I will be serving as a Naturalist Intern this summer. I will be a freshman at Iowa State University this fall. There, I plan on studying Agricultural Communications. I enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, kayaking, and working with flowers. I love to spend my free time outside and look forward to working with our environment this summer.



Kaleb Grant

My name is Kaleb Grant, and I grew up in the countryside of Gilman, graduating from East Marshall High School. I am currently pursuing my studies at Wartburg College, majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in Economics. In addition to my academic studies, I am part of the Wartburg Track and Field team. In my free time, I enjoy hunting and Fishing.



LEGO PEOPLE IN THE PARK

Will return July 2025, watch our Facebook page for more details.

www.facebook.com/MarshallCountyConservationBoard



SUMMER

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 held at the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater during the summer season. In 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:



- June 5** - Snakes: Naturalist and Creepy the fox snake
- June 19** - Flying Animals: Garry Brandenburg, Pilot
- July 3** - Solar Systems: Jim Bonser, Amateur Astronomers of Central Iowa
- July 17** - Dinosaurs: Emily Herring, MCCB Director
- August 7** - Skunks: Hardin County Naturalist & Flora the Skunk
- August 21** - Who Will Plant a Tree?: Tyler Renze, MCCB Natural Resource Manager

Live and Local
Matt Perkins Memorial Concert & Amphitheater Shade Dedication
- Bob Dorr & Friends
June 19, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Bob Dorr, with his unmistakable lead vocals, and Jeff Petersen, with his 1968 Gibson Flying V guitar, lap steel guitar, and vocals, will again take the stage at the Leonard Grimes Amphitheater. They will entertain you with their sound that can only be described as a blues/soul/rockabilly/reggae/creole/rhythm! Bob Dorr, a successful musician and radio host for over 40 years, has been inducted into Iowa's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Iowa's Blues Hall of Fame. Jeff Petersen is one of the Eastern Iowa Region's best guitar players and a founding member of The Blue Band. He has performed for over 40 years and has twice been inducted into Iowa's Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

At intermission we will dedicate the amphitheater shades to Matt Perkins and his love for music.

Food Trucks: Comal Kaxi, Clare's Tenderloins, Sno-2-Go, & Pie Lady



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.



Brown Bag

Register for Brown Bags by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.

June - Bats of Iowa

Thursday, June 12, at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
 Registration Fee: Free
 Deadline June 10 by 4:00 p.m.



Few animals are subject to as much bad press as bats! Come learn from Poweshiek County Naturalist Amy Andrews Durbin to separate myth from facts about some of Iowa's tiniest mammals. We'll discuss which bats are found in Iowa (spoiler alert: no vampire bats!), their contribution to our ecosystems, and their incredible adaptations. And yes, we'll touch on why people find them to be so scary.

July - Why Native Plantings Matter to All of Life

Monday, July 21, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
 Registration Fee: Free
 Registration Deadline: July 16 by 4:00 p.m.



Jim Kessler, a retired Iowa Valley Community College professor, is presenting on Why Native Plantings Matter to All of Life. Come learn the importance of native planting and how to start implementing native plants into your landscape.

August - Wildlife and Tree Interactions

Wednesday, August 13, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
 Registration Fee: Free
 Registration Deadline: August 8 by 4:00 p.m.

Join Paige Martin, Marshall County Conservation Intern, at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center for a guided hike. Learn how to identify trees that could be in your backyard and the qualities that make them essential for wildlife in their environment!



Wetland Study

Wednesday, June 11 at 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 Grimes Farm Shelter, 2349 233rd St, Marsthalton
 Ages: 8 - 12
 Registration Fee: FREE
 Registration Deadline: June 9 by 4:00 p.m.

A wetland is an amazing habitat full of animals. Kids will learn about amphibians and use nets to explore and discover wetland life. Dress to get wet and muddy; wear secure shoes (no flip-flops). Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.



Kayaking

Join us as we explore Marshall County waters 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. **Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.**

Wednesday, June 11 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sand Lake - 2901 Main St. Rd.
Deadline: June 6 Fee: FREE

Tuesday, July 15 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Green Castle Rec. Area - 2891 Green Castle Rd., Gilman
Deadline: July 12 Fee: FREE

Tuesday, August 12 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sand Lake - 2901 Main St. Rd.
Deadline: August 9 Fee: FREE



Live and Local - Crowfoot Rakes July 17 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

A five-piece outfit from Des Moines that plays high-energy Celtic-style folk music with a strong respect for their midwestern roots. They are all multi-instrumentalists who play instruments ranging from the "standard" fiddle, banjo, and accordion to Celtic folk instruments, including the Irish Bouzouki, Pennywhistle, and the Uilleann pipes. They have played in festivals throughout Iowa, including the Iowa Irish Fest, the Lawler Irish Fest, and the Des Moines Porchfest.

Food Trucks: Kayella's Indian Tacos, Magoo Pizza, & Bakery 146



Sunrise Hikes

Join Marshall County Conservation for a program that encourages you to begin your morning by hiking 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 leisurely. 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 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.**

Thursday, June 12 6:00 a.m.
Iowa River WMA - 2503 Sand Rd, Marshalltown

Tuesday, July 29 6:00 a.m.
Grammer Grove - 2030 127th St, Liscomb

Tuesday, August 5 6:00 a.m.
Marietta Sand Prairie - 1744 Knapp Ave, Marshalltown

Live and Local - Standing Hampton August 21 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Standing Hampton is a rock band that has been entertaining 70s and 80s classic rock fans in the Midwest for over 22 years. They are known for their high-powered tribute to rock icons and have played countless festivals, town celebrations, casinos, and clubs. Four of the members have formed the nucleus of the group for two-plus decades. Wife/husband, vocalist/drummer Nancy & Tony Benson, guitar/vocalist Devon Miller, business manager/keyboard player, Jon Douglas Dixon, who is an inductee of the Iowa Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Standing Hampton plays some fantastic music that people like to hear, and they're good at it.

Food Trucks: Kayella's Indian Tacos, Flying Elbow, Sno-2-Go, & Ma Browns



Nocturnal Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, August 21 8:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm
Registration Fee: FREE
Registration Deadline: August 14 by 4:00 p.m.



Grab your flashlight and family and head to the Grimes Farm for a nocturnal scavenger hunt. Families will begin the search using flashlights and observation skills while hiking the trails. Reflectors will lead participants on a hunt for prizes. This is a great way to celebrate the final days of summer break and explore nature at night. **Participants must pre-register before August 14 at 4:00 p.m. to reserve limited spots. There is no charge for this event. Please bring your flashlight(s) and wear sturdy shoes. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.**

Monarch Tagging

Tuesday, September 9 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm Shelter House
Registration Fee: FREE

Join us on September 9 at the Grimes Farm Shelter House to learn about the Monarchs' remarkable migration during the fall months. The program will start at 5:30 p.m. with a short presentation about Monarchs and the tagging program. Following the program, nets will be available for families to catch Monarchs to tag. There will be milkweed seeds available to anyone who wants to plant them to help Monarchs thrive while supplies last. No pre-registration is required, and the event is FREE!



Trees Forever Stewards of the Beautiful Land Series

Register for the Stewards of the Beautiful Land Series by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.

June: Invasive Species Removal

Monday, June 23 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Grammer Grove Recreation Area- 2030 127th St., Liscomb

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: June 18 by 4:00 p.m.

This will be a hands-on participation session. After an introduction to invasive species identification and removal techniques, participants will have the opportunity to remove invasive species in the wilderness area using the proper tools.

July: Roadsides at Work

Tuesday, July 29 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: July 24 by 4:00 p.m.

Iowa has over 700,000 miles of roadsides, many of which are planted with low-quality brome or Indian grass or, worse, choked with invasive species. Learn from Marshall County Natural Resource Manager Tyler Renze what a roadside manager does and how he advocates for native plantings on our roadsides.

August: Summer Prairie Hike

Wednesday, August 20 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Marietta Sand Prairie - 1744 Knap Ave. Marshalltown, IA

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: August 15 by 4:00 p.m.

Join Marshall County Naturalist, Emma Bruck, and Natural Resource Manager, Tyler Renze, for a fun evening exploring one of Marshall County's largest prairies. Join us for a prairie hike to appreciate the blooming flora in Marietta Sand Prairie. Don't miss this opportunity to see what is blooming, learn how to identify prairie flora, and learn about management techniques.

September: Tree ID Walk

Wednesday, September 10 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Grammer Grove Recreation Area - 2030 127th St.,

Liscomb

Registration Fee: Free

Deadline: September 5 by 4:00 p.m.

We're talking trees! Join Iowa DNR District Forester, Joe Herring, for an evening walk around Grammer Grove Recreation Area looking at trees. Don't miss this chance to learn about Iowa's tree species, how to identify them, and to learn from a tree expert!



Summer Camp Sessions Still Open

Praying Mantis

July 22 - 23 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



How to Register for Summer Camp

Register online by following this link:

<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.



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 p.m.



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. Register by calling 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountya.gov or texting only 641-758-9777.



GREEN CASTLE CAMPGROUND GRAND OPENING AUGUST 1, 2025

Enjoy a beautiful night of food, live music, and fun games as we celebrate the grand opening of Green Castle Campground!

Ribbon Cutting 5:45 p.m.

Freewill Donation Hot Dog Bar 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Family Yard Games 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

S'mores 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Live Music by Buzz Owens 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Green Castle Recreation Area
2891 Green Castle Road - Gilman, Iowa



THEY'RE BAAA-AACK!!!

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE PARK APOCALYPSE

OCTOBER 18, 2025

Ready for a scary good time?!?! The zombies will return to the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center on October 18. Join fellow runners and walkers during the Park Apocalypse 5k run/walk as you avoid getting your brains eaten by the zombies! Mark your calendars and watch future newsletters for registration information.



SEASONS

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Thank You!

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Donations: Marshalltown Garden Club, Kay Russell Memorial, Don Hayes, Delbert Kellogg, Family Campers & RVers, Ross and Beverly Iverson

Pancake Breakfast: Morning Kiwanis, Bob Backes, Pam and Ed Paone, Jeff Kooser, Ken Lyons, Case Hegeman, Katie Fink, Brad Rahmiller, Aktion Club, Tom & Cindy Mack, Denny Bruck, Issak Bruck, Bren Lee

Park Care: Steve Mraz, Sue Blaisdell, Rob & Joyce Christensen, State Center Cub Scout Pack and Scouts 311, Give Back Day - East Marshall High School

Trail Care: Merle Stubbs, Randy Stubbs, Rhodes Engagement Committee

Flower Bed Maintenance: Doni Sheldon, Marilyn Beard, Marshall County Master Gardeners

Newsletter Editing: Bren Lee

Nature Center Volunteers: Evans McWilliams

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@marshallcountya.gov and information will be sent on how to register for the electronic version.

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158
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mccb@marshallcountya.gov
www.marshallcountya.gov

www.mycountyparks.com/County/Marshall.aspx
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Conservation Office Hours

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

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