

## DID YOU KNOW?

By Mike Stegmann

Information sent regularly through newsletters is one way people keep informed about the happenings of a given organization. "Seasons" is our opportunity to do that for you. The MCCB also prepares an annual report of the happenings and major accomplishments from the previous year. Timely news releases are also sent to the local media regarding projects and actions the board has taken. The MCCB staff has also been part of local television programming and radio spots targeted at enticing you to visit one of your 27 County parks or join MCCB sponsored activities or other outdoor recreation opportunities timely of the season.

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*The information continues throughout the newsletter so enjoy and read on.*

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As we welcome the fall of the year with this issue, several items are noteworthy. As you should have already heard, the newest addition for park visitors is the completion of the Mildred Hach Grimes Memorial Observation Tower. The structure has received a tremendous amount of use through its first summer of operation. As fall progresses, I encourage you to take time for a leisurely walk to get a bird's eye view of the fall Iowa landscape.

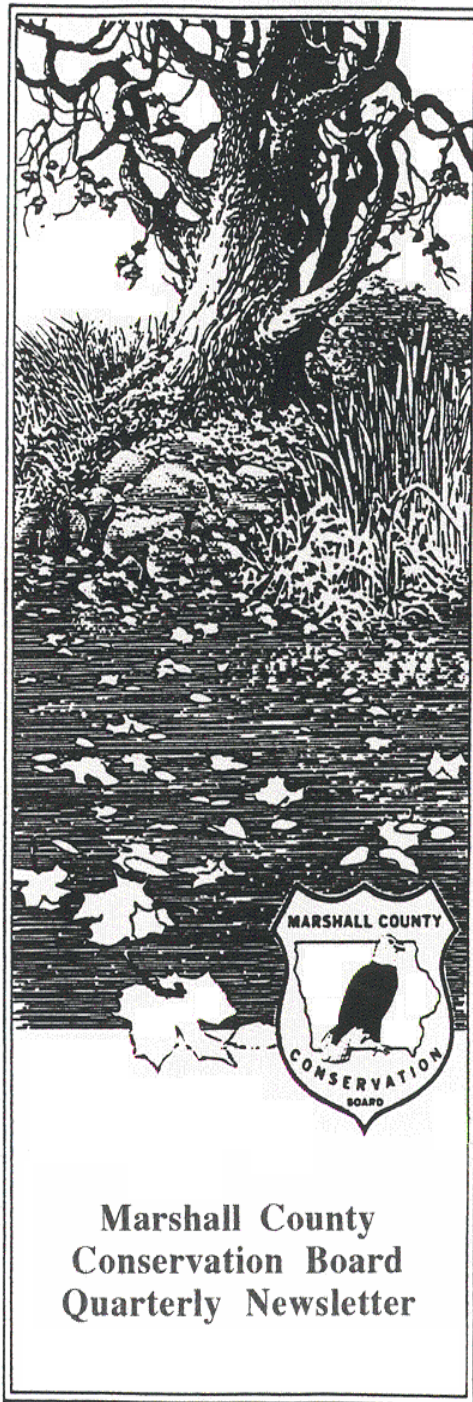
Although budget cuts have plagued us and summer help was scaled back, work continues to be accomplished. Trail work along the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail in the southwest portion of the county included tile cleanout in some of the soggy areas. This firmed up the trail surface and will allow for fall trips to this trail to view colors.

Renovation is planned for the Gander Lookout shelter house at Green Castle. This winter plans will be drawn up that will describe the effort in detail. The end result is targeted at having a more enclosed structure making it more user friendly throughout the year.

The fundraising for the trail connection between the Grimes Farm and the Highway 330 trail has been completed and the paper work stage is in full swing. Engineering is, for all practical purposes, complete and is now on the table for a fall bid letting and construction to commence next spring with a completion anticipated for fall 2011. This will create a contiguous, hard surface, multi-purpose trail of approximately 21 miles from Riverview Park in Marshalltown to Melbourne.

The information continues throughout the newsletter so enjoy and read on.

# SEASONS



FALL 2010

Volume 25

Issue 3

# DEER, A RENEWABLE RESOURCE!

By Marty Malloy

Ready or not, it's fall again here in Marshall County and cool, nice days are in store. Fall is also the time to start thinking about all the hunting opportunities we have available in the county.

One thing we have been allowing, when it comes to hunting in Marshall County, is opening up some of our refuges to deer hunting. Timmons Grove(South), Grammer Grove, French Grove, Wickersham(West), Coppock Park, and Grimes Farm(North of Linn Creek) are all open for deer hunting with bow only during regular archery seasons beginning October 1. Please note that it is for "bow only". The reason for this is to assist the DNR in reducing the deer herds in certain areas.

Deer are smart animals, except the occasional ones that are caught hanging out in the middle of the road. They tend to herd up in areas where there is less hunting pressure on them, much like we would probably do if we were being chased. All the time conservation departments are getting criticized for having too many deer in this state, but the DNR is giving plenty of opportunities for people to harvest deer.

One problem is the deer have these large areas of

land which have no hunting pressure at all. The deer find those areas and reproduce to large herds in a matter of a few years. If you are one of those landowners who will not let people hunt

your ground maybe I can persuade you differently. Think of it this way, if the deer on these protected areas were not hunted for many years, the population will reach a level which makes all of the deer in the herd more vulnerable to disease.

In most natural settings, food source is one of the main things that regulate how big an animal's population can get. In Iowa, with the amount of corn and soybeans around, we have created one huge food plot for deer which would allow the deer to explode to an enormous population if we didn't hunt them, although if there were no hunting, disease would probably regulate them at some point.

I know that hunting of deer is just not accepted by everybody, but if you do not hunt and notice a large population of deer on your property, it would keep your population of deer healthier if you would

allow someone you know and trust to come in and hunt some of them. Keeping the deer population on your ground at a healthy balance will allow them to survive better in winters like we have been having the past few years. In my mind, seeing a deer harvested and used by the hunter is a better sight than a starving or sick deer roaming around the landscape. Like I said before, with the landscape we have in Iowa, deer should always flourish due to the amount of food source available.



So in the future if you know of family, friends, and neighbors that don't allow hunting, maybe approach them in a different way and tell them about the positives of hunting and keeping populations in balance. As changed as our natural landscape is, some things need human intervention to help keep things in balance. Here at Marshall County Conservation, we are trying to do our part by opening these refuges up to hunting while the deer populations are high and give people more outdoor recreational opportunities. Have a great fall and see you around in the parks.

## GREEN CASTLE UPDATES

By Jeremiah Manken

You may have noticed an area just northwest of the swan pen that has been bare ground. We are clearing this area to plant a small native prairie and to be able to see the lake from the roadway. Plans are to plant this area late this fall or early winter.

Trails have also been under construction. One area was raised and a culvert put in to allow water to go under the trail instead of over it. Another couple areas were leveled to allow for easier walking along the lake.

The bison are doing great and the young one has sure grown through the summer. If you haven't been out to see them lately, I encourage you to come out.

### ...and other happenings

With the unofficial last weekend of summer fast approaching, we can now look forward to wonderful fall weather. Soon we will have cool mornings and warm days and I for one can not wait. With the change of season we will once again start to see different patterns in wildlife. Already the squirrels are burying nuts in preparation for a long winter. Ducks and geese will soon be migrating through again, and deer will be going through rut.





Hunting seasons and fall go hand in hand. Squirrel and rabbit seasons are the first to open on September 4 followed by youth deer season opening on September 18. The youth deer season is a great time to introduce a young person in your life to hunting. They don't have to sit through the bitter cold and the deer can easily be patterned at this time. I do urge you to bring your bug spray. I have had the opportunity to get two different youths involved in this deer season and I think I enjoyed it more than they did. If you have a child in your life that has not



had the opportunity to be introduced into the outdoors, I suggest taking them out during one of these early seasons. It may just change their life.

Other hunting seasons will soon be opening as well. The new hunting and trapping regulations are out and the migratory bird regulations will soon be out. I suggest picking up a copy and read through it to refresh your memory. Fall is also a great time to get out for a hike in the cool weather. So I encourage you to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

## RETIREMENT

By Garry Brandenburg

Yes, I am retired...but some folks don't seem to think so. It has been 6 years and two months since I stepped down from my 32 year career with the MCCB. It was great. Thank you to all that made it possible. But no, I wouldn't do it again. Why? Because none of us has another 32 years to reinvest in the same career. There are only so many years in one's life to begin with. Retirement is a time to invest in other activities such as family and travel that will have long lasting values of their own.

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*...and I smile at the title behind my name now....'retired conservationist.'*

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I'm frequently asked this question: "How is retirement?" My answer is "somewhere between fantastic and stupendous." I have no timetable for tasks other than those I impose upon myself. And my attitude is if I don't get it done today, there is always tomorrow. I still enjoy hard work but at my pace this time.

As a farm boy growing up on a dairy farm, work of some kind was ALWAYS waiting. By the very nature of that environment, one learned to work, work or work, or you didn't eat! It was pretty simple, yet effective. Most farm kids learned to take great pride in working hard, doing their best. There was a subtle 'competition' to excel at school, at work and at play.

4-H activities were learning opportunities as I prepared Holstein cattle for the county fair and state fair. Those were payoffs for the huge amount of work associated with a dairy business.....stuffing green hay into the front end of a cow and shoveling processed brown hay from the back end. Milk from the bottom end was a much needed and saleable product that brought in the money to live on.



I'm still a strong advocate for good conservation causes in the nation, in Iowa and locally. I'm a strong advocate for science-based information that seeks the truth as the truth is...and not aspiring to any agenda political or other wastes of valuable time, money or resources. I support good practical and common sense stewardship practices for our air, water and soil.

My bowhunting endeavors have expanded since retirement. With time not being the issue it used to be, I have planned ahead each year for an adventure/hunt/travel to places like Montana, South Dakota, Arizona, Manitoba, Canada and South Africa. The mainstay for hunting remains whitetail deer in Marshall County; precisely because we have good numbers of deer and they are very close to home. Last year, I spent over 140 hours in tree-stands on both public and private lands waiting and watching for deer. Yes, I took several and helped reduce the doe deer population within Marshalltown. Archery elk bowhunting in the State of Montana will be my adventure this fall.

Flying remains one of my main avocations. Each takeoff in my co-owned Cessna lets me soar with the eagles and view the land from their perspective. It is relaxing to fly while everything on the ground gets smaller as my plane climbs to higher and higher altitudes.



And then I'm reminded of all the minutia of things working people, on the ground, go through that I don't have to go through anymore, and I smile at the title behind my name now....'retired conservationist.'

# SEASONS

Marshall County Conservation Board  
2349 - 233<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Marshalltown, IA 50158

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## THANK YOU!

**Collating Newsletter:** Edna Kirse, Bob Dunham, Dorothy Christensen, Kay Russell, Dena Graff, Delores York, Sharon Depew, Dianna Freiboth, Jan Neisess, Kayann Lowry; **Reception Desk:** Garry Brandenburg, Bev Sloppy, Linette Tuttle, Vivian LeVier, Ivadeen Proffitt, Julie Stahl, Jan Jensen, Janet Johnson, Delores York, Mary & Lawrence Stewart; **EE Programming:** Chelsea O'Connor, Carrie Barr, Karen Bach, Megan Pixler, Haley Stahl, John Hall, Deb Lewis, Rick, Cindy, & Trevor Stamp; **Maintenance:** Kathy Elliff, Karla Brannaman, Don Bogenrief, Rob Christensen; **Uncle Ike Day Camp:** Janey Swartz, Mona, Quinten, Haley, & Seth Kilborn, Emma Runquist; **Trust Account Donations:** Charles/Sharon Eckles, Elmer Kunkel memorial, Bob LeVier memorial, Tri County Bass Club for dock repair at Sand Lake; **Bike Trail Extension:** John/Kathleen Sievers, MechDyne, Rotary Club of Marshalltown, Donald Maze.

If we have inadvertently missed someone, our thanks to you too.

### MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

M - F 8:00 - 4:30

### CONSERVATION CENTER HOURS

M - F 8:30 - 4:00 Saturday 9:00 - Noon

(641) 752-5490

Email: [mccb@co.marshall.ia.us](mailto:mccb@co.marshall.ia.us)

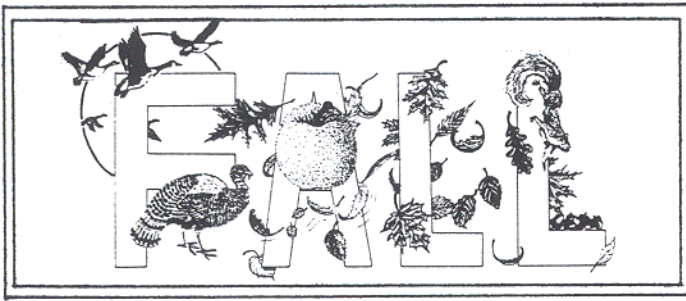
Web Site: [www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation](http://www.co.marshall.ia.us/departments/conservation)

### BOARD MEMBERS

James Fitz                      Ray Helland  
Jeffrey Mathis                 Julie Stahl  
Jerry Gaffney

### STAFF

Mike Stegmann	Director
Diane Pixler	Naturalist
Ruth Pearson	Adm. Assistant
Marty Malloy	Maintenance Supervisor
Jeremiah Manken	Maintenance Technician



## **PRAIRIE HERITAGE DAY**

**Saturday, September 25  
2 – 5 p.m.**

**Grimes Farm (2359 233<sup>rd</sup> St.)**

Celebrate Oktoberfest and participate in pioneer crafts and skills: candle dipping, rope making, cider pressing, buffalo chip throw and more.



## **NATURE STORY HOUR**

**September 1 & 15                      10:00 a.m.**

**October 6 & 20**

**November 3 & 17**

**Grimes Farm & Conservation Center  
(2359 - 233<sup>rd</sup> St.)**

Preschoolers & their adult(s) are invited to listen to fun nature stories, take a walk, and explore nature's wonders. Join us on the first and third Wednesdays each month.

## **CANOE/KAYAK & COOK**

**Saturday, September 11**

**Furrow Access to Three Bridges**

Enjoy a short float on the Iowa River by canoe or kayak followed by an outdoor cooking demonstration at Three Bridges.

**Pre-registration is required by Friday, September 3** by calling 752-5490. Bring your own canoe or kayak or reserve through us (single kayak \$22.50, double kayak or canoe \$27). Cost for cooking demo is \$4 per person.



## **MONARCH TAGGING**

**Tuesday, September 14**

**6:00-7:00 p.m.**

**Grimes Farm & Conservation Center**

Where do monarch butterflies go in winter? Through the Monarch Watch tagging program many discoveries about monarchs are made. Help us tag monarchs. Bring a net if you have one. Some nets available.



## **STAR GAZING**

**Sept. 17 - Moon:            8 p.m. Program  
   9 p.m. viewing**



**Oct. 8 – Hercules Highlights**

**Half hour after sunset**

**Dean Memorial Observatory, Green Castle**

The Amateur Astronomers of Central Iowa (AACI) invite the public for a telescopic view of the night sky. For information contact Jim Bonser at 641/751-8744.

## **BROWN BAG BUNCH**

Bring your lunch or snack and a lawn chair and join the naturalist for an informal program or leisurely walk.



**Wednesday, Sept. 29**

**10:00 a.m. – Noon  
Grammer Grove**



**Hawk Watch**

**(Bring chair & binoculars)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 12**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Grimes Farm**

**Observation Tower  
Hike/ Wagon Ride**

**Thursday, Nov. 4**

**11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Grimes Farm**

**Monarch Migration**

## **IOWATER SNAPSHOT**

**Saturday, October 2**

**9 a.m. - Noon**

**Various sites in Marshall County**

Help us take a “snapshot” in time of water quality in the Central Iowa River watershed. You can assist IOWATER trained volunteers in sampling creeks that feed into the Iowa River; no previous experience is necessary. All monitoring kits will be provided. **Pre-register by September 27 by calling 752-5490.**

## **HALLOWEEN HIKE**

**Saturday October 23**

**Evening**

**Grimes Farm (2359 233<sup>rd</sup> Street)**

“The Return of the Retaw” is the theme of this year’s hike. Discover how the misuse of a natural resource could come back to haunt us.

**Reservations are required** for this entertaining and educational 45-minute hike. **Call 752-5490 beginning October 1.** All children must be accompanied by an adult. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact us as soon as possible.



## UNCLE IKE NATURE PROGRAM

(Grades 1-5, Family members welcome)

Celebrate 27 years with Uncle Ikes! This award-winning program is FREE and is co-sponsored by the MCCB and the Izaak Walton League to provide enjoyable environmental learning experiences. "Exciting Cycles of Nature" is the theme for this year's program that meets monthly October – April.

### "Let the Cycle Begin"

**Saturday, October 9 9 – 11 a.m.**

Grimes Farm (2359 233rd Street, Marshalltown)  
Kick off the new year of Uncle Ikes with a family bike ride on the Linn Creek Bike trail followed by games & refreshments. Bring your bikes and helmets and meet at the Grimes Farm picnic shelter. **Pre-register by Wednesday, October 6** by calling 752-5490.

### "Dig This Cycle"

**Saturday, November 13 9 – 11 a.m.**

GrimesFarm & Conservation Center  
(2359 233<sup>rd</sup> St.)  
Discover one of the creatures that helps create good topsoil, recycles leaves in your yard, and makes miniature mud pies. Build a home for this special creature and also sample "dirt" dessert.

## JUNIOR CONSERVATIONIST

(Grades 6 – 8)

**Third Wednesday of the month at GrimesFarm & Conservation Center unless otherwise noted\*  
2:45-5:00 p.m.**

Please call 752-5490 for permission slip and to register.

### "Picnic SmARTs"

**September 15 & 22\***

We'll kick off the year by painting picnic table murals with the help of Marshalltown Community College art students.

### "Reach Out"

**October 20**

Help us determine ways our group can make an impact in our community. Share your ideas of fun ways to make a difference.

### "Shop 'n' Save the Earth"

**November 10\***

Does what you eat or wear have an impact on the Earth? Join us for a scavenger hunt with an environmental twist.



## 2010-2011 PHOTO CONTEST

Picture the striking contrast of sunlight beaming through towering clouds of a thunderstorm, the shocked expression of a toddler catching their first fish, or wood duck ducklings emerging from a nest box. Each of these scenes last but a few brief moments. We have all been in the right place at the right time only to say "wish I had my camera." Well for those of you who did have camera in hand and captured that moment here is your chance to show it off. The MCCB is holding its tenth annual natural resource/conservation photo contest. **The entry deadline is February 4, 2011.** A contest rule sheet may be picked up at the nature center or is available at our website.

## WANTED: APPLES



Each year at Prairie Heritage Day, volunteers demonstrate how apple cider is pressed and give out free samples of the sweet refreshment. Many bushels of apples are needed to provide for the large crowd expected at the popular Prairie Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, September 25 at the GrimesFarm.

Do you have surplus apples to donate for this special event? If so, I can arrange for volunteers to pick them. Please contact Diane Pixler at 752-5490 if you can help us. Thanks.

## HELP WANTED

Volunteering can be a fun activity for you or your family.

We will be holding **Prairie Heritage Day** in conjunction with Marshalltown's Oktoberfest on September 25 from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the GrimesFarm. Would you like to help with a pioneer times activity?

This year we will also be doing the **Halloween Hike**, the date is October 23 with the first hike starting at 6:00 p.m. Both of these activities require a lot of volunteers to be successful.

**Don't miss the fun! Call 752-5490 as soon as possible.**

