



Seasons

Marshall County Conservation Quarterly Newsletter

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Summer 2024



Through Others' Eyes By Emily Herring, Director

One of my favorite musicians, Brandi Carlile, sings a song called The Mother. One of the lines states, "Oh, but all the wonders I have seen, I will see a second time, From inside of the ages through your eyes." Every time I hear this line, it hits all my feels! My life has blessed me with the opportunity to share my passion for the natural world with so many people. My friends, the public, and now my children, and I get to see these natural wonders over and over again.



As an early naturalist at Saylorville Lake, I taught low-income children from inner-city Des Moines. One day, we were in the nature center when a child screamed, "Deer," 20 kids scrambled to plaster themselves to the window. At first, I thought it was funny, such an extreme reaction to an ordinary deer. Then, it hit me; these kids probably had never seen a deer. Happiness, sadness, inspiration, and gratitude filled me. Happy that I was able to give them this experience. Sad, their exposure to the natural world was so limited at the age of seven. Inspired to know I could continue providing this

opportunity to the people around me. And gratitude in feeling purpose and knowing I was making a difference.

Not much has changed in my 20 years in the conservation field. I still never tire of showing young children harmless Daddy Longlegs; they are always fascinated by the spindly-legged creatures. One thing that has changed is that I now have children that I thoroughly, albeit sometimes against their will, have fully immersed in the

outside world. This spring, we have spent so much time outside; again, I see all the natural wonders through their eyes. The excitement they felt on the first spring hike in search of elusive Pasqueflowers, the joy on their faces when they found morel mushrooms, the awe of releasing a small bird that weighed less than an ounce after tagging it. All of them filled me up all over again with happiness, sadness, inspiration, and gratitude. Happy they have the opportunity to connect to the natural world. Sad that so many children and adults have lost this connection. Inspired to do more, educate more, get people outside more, and have people care more. And gratitude in knowing that I am still making a difference.

The purpose of writing this article is to encourage you to see the natural wonders through someone else's eyes. We often take for granted the natural things we see every day. But introducing someone to the natural world who has become disconnected or has never been able to connect is truly inspiring. And it is not hard! It could start with a simple walk

around your block. You could pull up the Merlin App in their backyard and show them all the birds that live within earshot. Grab a pair of binoculars and head to Grammer Grove to see how many different types of birds you can find. Walk the burn breaks of Marietta Sand Prairie to see all the different types of insects that call it home. Sit around a campfire at Timmons Grove and make s'mores. Go fishing at Green Castle. Play in the creek at Green Century Farm. Pack a pioneer picnic lunch and eat it at the Mormon Ridge Log Cabin. The opportunity to experience nature a second time through someone else's eyes is truly endless. And you will find it will hit all your feels!





Summer Camp Sessions Still Open

Cricket

June 18 - 20 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Ages 4 to out of kindergarten
& accompanying adult

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

Fee: \$20

Registration Deadline: June 7



Praying Mantis

July 23 - 24 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://bit.ly/48UQENo> or by taking a picture of this QR Code with your smartphone. Once registered, send payment to Marshall County Conservation at 2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158, or call or stop at the center to pay via credit card.

Annual Friends Members Meeting Thursday, June 27 6:00 p.m.

The Friends of Marshall County Conservation will host their annual Friends Member Meeting on June 27 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,

rsvp@friendsofmarshallcountyconservation.org, 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 20

Bob Dorr & Friends

Food Trucks

Clare's Tenderloins

Comal Kaxi

Lillie Mae



July 18

Awful Purdies

Food Trucks

Magoo's Pizza

Taco La Cruz

Sea Turtle

Ice Cream



August 15

Katie & The Honky Tonks

Food Trucks

Clare's Tenderloins

Pho Wheels & Sushi

Scratch Cupcakery



September 12

Joseph Huber

Food Trucks

Comal Kaxi

TBA

Lillie Mae

Lucky Wife Wine

Slushy



October 3

Royce Johns

Food Trucks

Clare's Tenderloins

Comal Kaxi

Ma Brown



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 their pursuit of a career in the natural resource field.

We want to welcome back Julie Stahl and Bill Carey to our summer field staff and welcome Greg Morris, Keresten Bobby, and James Lippe!

Julie Stahl

Hello, my name is Julie Stahl. This will be my seventh year working as a summer seasonal for the Marshall County Conservation. I truly love my summer job and working with the great staff here at Marshall County Conservation. I have learned many new things these past few years while working here. Last year, I got to experience banding geese for the first time. I enjoy fishing, camping, traveling, and spending time with my daughter. I hope to see you out this summer in our parks.



Bill Carey

Hi everyone, I am Bill, and I will return for my third summer as the Naturalist Intern! I like bird watching, hiking, and just being outside in general. I graduated from Iowa State this spring with a degree in Forestry, specializing in environmental education. I'm excited to use what I've learned in our programs and camps this summer!



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 own several rental properties that I currently manage. I am married to my wife, Mary, and we've been married 40 years. We have three grown children and have five grandkids. My hobbies are anything outdoors, especially fishing. We like to ride bikes on the local bike trails. Big Hawkeye, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Chicago Cubs baseball fan.



Keresten Bobby

Hi, my name is Keresten Bobby. I am an 8th-grade science teacher at B.R. Miller Middle School in Marshalltown. I attended Iowa State University, where I earned my B.S. in Biology, and Drake University, where I obtained an M.A.T. in Science Education. My fiancé and I consider ourselves hobby farmers. We own a small acreage outside of town, where we live with our 25 chickens, seven guinea pigs, and three dogs. I am excited to join the Marshall County Conservation team this summer!



James Lippe

Hi! My name is James, and I am a Junior studying Animal Ecology at Iowa State University. I want to become a fisheries biologist. I was born and raised in Iowa City and graduated from Iowa City High School in 2021. In my free time, I enjoy fishing and kayaking. Last summer, I worked as a fisheries technician for Iowa State and found some really cool fish species.



FREE FISHING DAYS JUNE 7, 8, & 9

The Iowa DNR is once again offering a free fishing weekend for Iowa residents June 7 - 9. No fishing license is required, but all size and catch limits apply.



Become a Monarch Tagger!

Thursday, August 22

6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Grimes Farm

Registration Fee: FREE

Registration Deadline: August 16 by 4:00 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers that want to learn how to tag monarchs each Fall. We currently have a couple of volunteers that help us tag monarchs each year but we are looking to expand our group. During this class we will teach techniques for catching monarchs, areas to tag, and how to tag monarchs. **To register please call 641-752-5490 or email mccb@marshallcountya.gov for limited spots.** All supplies will be provided.



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 6 - Recycling; Jenn Clemann, Marshall County Landfill
June 20 - Fish; Mrs. Beth Koester, Marshalltown Teacher
July 18 - Meteorology; Zane Satre, KCCI Meteorologist
August 1 - Felines; Marshalltown ARL
August 15 - Birding; Big Bluestem Audubon Society

Live and Local - Bob Dorr & Friends June 20, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center

Bob Dorr with his unmistakable lead vocals and Jeff Petersen on his 1968 Gibson Flying V guitar, lap steel guitar, and vocals as they 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.



Food Trucks: Comal Kaxi,
Clare's Tenderloins, & Lillie Mae



GREEN CASTLE RECREATION AREA

This summer, we will construct a campground at Green Castle Recreation Area. We wanted to inform you that, throughout the construction process, there may be temporary closures to the roads and shelters. Please refrain from going into construction areas. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Brown Bag

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

June - Master Gardeners

Monday, June 10 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: FREE
Registration Deadline: June 7 by 4:00 p.m.



Join Volunteers and the Program Coordinator from the Master Gardener program in Marshall County to learn about the Master Gardener training and the opportunities associated with it. Master Gardeners provide an excellent opportunity to get outside and connect with your community! **There is no fee for this program. However, pre-registration is required by June 7 before 4:00 p.m.**

July - Birding

Monday, July 22 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grammer Grove Recreation Area (2030 127th St. Liscomb)
Registration Fee: FREE
Registration Deadline: July 19 by 4:00 p.m.



Join Marshalltown Teacher, Keresten Bobby on July 22nd at 11:30 a.m. for a stroll in the park. Participants will leave behind stresses for a short hike through Grammer Grove to learn about different species of birds native to Iowa and hopefully catch sight of some of these species for bird watching. Bring your binoculars. If you don't have any, binoculars will be available. **There is no fee for this program. However, pre-registration is required by July 19 before 4:00 p.m.**

August - Tree ID Walk

Tuesday, August 6 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
Registration Fee: Free
Registration Deadline: August 2 by 4:00 p.m.



Join Bill Carey, Marshall County Conservation Intern, and Iowa State Forestry Graduate, for a morning at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center. Explore the park and learn about tree identification and native Iowa trees! **There is no fee for this program. However, pre-registration is required by August 2 before 4:00 p.m.**

Stream Study For Kids!

Friday, June 28 at 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.
Grammer Grove Recreation Area (2030 127th St, Liscomb)
Ages: 8 - 15
Registration Fee: FREE
Registration Deadline: June 21 by 4:00 p.m.

Join us as we explore the biodiversity of Iowa streams. Participants will be catching and identifying organisms from a stream at Grammer Grove to learn about local stream ecosystems and biodiversity. Equipment will be provided. Please come dressed to get wet and messy. **Register by calling 641-752-5490, email mccb@marshallcountytia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**



Kayaking

Join us as we explore Marshall County waters with kayaks. This family-friendly event is to encourage 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, email mccb@marshallcountvia.gov or text only 641-758-9777.**

Tuesday, June 18 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sand Lake - 2901 Main St. Rd.
Deadline: June 14 Fee: FREE

Tuesday, July 16 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Green Castle Rec. Area - 2891 Green Castle Rd., Gilman
Deadline: July 12 Fee: FREE

Tuesday, August 13 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Sand Lake - 2901 Main St. Rd.
Deadline: August 9 Fee: FREE



Live and Local - Awful Purdies

July 18 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center**

Awful Purdies is a Folk-Americana collective of five multi-instrumental women, powered by seamless harmonies, banjo, accordion, cello, guitar, mandolin, and bass. The sound is an earnest nod to traditional American music, folk, old country, bluegrass, honky tonk, and soul. The live performance experience is intimate, containing both humor and insight. On stage, Awful Purdies actively share gratitude and support of one another and take turns stepping up as lead singers and songwriters.



**Food Trucks: Taco La Cruz,
Magoo's Pizza, Sea Turtle
Ice Cream**

Sunrise Hike

Join Marshall County Conservation for a program that will encourage you to begin your morning 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 just 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 the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**

Friday, June 7 6:00 a.m.
Marietta Sand Prairie - 1744 Knapp Ave., Marshalltown
Wednesday, July 31 6:00 a.m.
Three Bridges - 2272 Three Bridges Rd., Marshalltown
Tuesday, August 6 6:00 a.m.
**Green Castle Recreation Area - 2891 Green Castle Rd, Gilman;
upper parking lot by Bison Display**

Live and Local - Katie & the Honky Tonks

August 15 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**Leonard Grimes Memorial Amphitheater
at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center**

Katie and the Honky Tonks is a powerful outlaw and classic country band that transports listeners to the golden age of country music. Fronted by the powerfully twangy vocals and guitar strumming of Katie Sires, the band provides heartbreaking melodies and authentic storytelling into every performance. Backed by Brian McCarty (Dry Run Creek) on bass guitar, Bryan Hendrickson (Dry Run Creek) on lead guitar/lap steel, and Luke Sires (Twins/Infamous) on drums. Their captivating performances have left audiences yearning for the nostalgia of true country music. Katie and the Honky Tonks aim to shine a light on the timeless sound that has shaped generations. Their music serves as a tribute to the legends of the past while breathing new life into the beloved genre.



**Food Trucks: Clare's
Tenderloins, Pho Wheels &
Sushi, Scratch Cupcakery**

Nocturnal Scavenger Hunt

Thursday, August 15 8:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm

Registration Fee: FREE

Registration Deadline: August 9 by 4:00 p.m.



Grab your flashlight and family and head out 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 9 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 the Conservation Center at 641-752-5490, emailing mccb@marshallcountvia.gov, or text only 641-758-9777.**

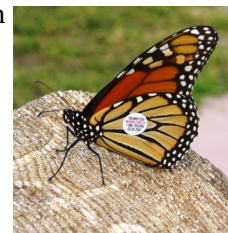
Monarch Tagging

Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Grimes Farm Shelter House

Registration Fee: FREE

Join us on September 10 at the Grimes Farm Shelter House to learn about the Monarchs' amazing 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. Each person will also get a cookie, take-home craft, and milkweed seed to plant to help Monarchs thrive while supplies last. No pre-registration is required, and the event is FREE!



Start of Summer on the Trails Family Fun Ride

Stamp hunt & **RAFFLE PRIZES**

4:30-8:00 pm

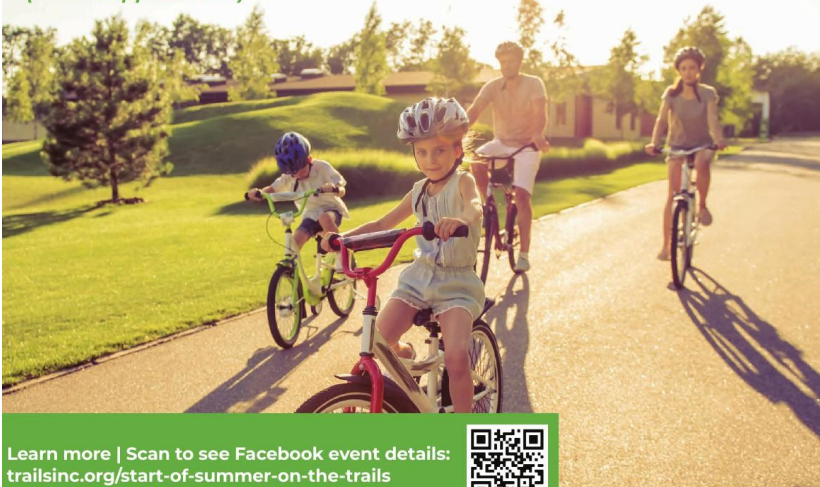
FREE pork burgers

5-6:30 pm Courtesy of JBS and the Pork Producers

FREE funnel cakes

5-6:30 pm Served by the Kiwanis Matins

(while supplies last!)



Learn more | Scan to see Facebook event details:
trailsinc.org/start-of-summer-on-the-trails



Thursday, May 30th 4:30 - 8 pm

Start at the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center
(or better yet, bike there!)

TRAILS
inc.

STAR GAZING WITH THE CENTRAL IOWA ASTRONOMERS

Solar Picnic

Saturday, June 22 Noon

Gander Lookout, Green Castle Recreation Area
2891 Green Castle Rd, Gilman

This will be a potluck picnic. Bring a covered dish to share. We will hopefully be looking at the sun through our solar filters. For more information, contact Jim Bonser at (641)751-8744.

Shoot the Milky Way With Your Phone

Friday, July 12 Dusk Approximately 8:30 p.m.

Observatory, Green Castle Recreation Area

Bring your cell phones, tripod and holder if you have one and we will try to get pictures of the Milky Way or star trails For more information, contact Jim Bonser at (641) 751-8744.

General Observing

Friday, August 9 Dusk
Approximately 8:20
p.m.

Observatory, Green
Castle Recreation Area



Mann Wetlands Dedication

Saturday, July 20 at 10:00 a.m.

Come explore and celebrate the Mann Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, which protects 216 acres of wetland and riparian habitat south of Albion on the Iowa River.

A short dedication ceremony and recognition of special supporters at 10:00 a.m., followed by a guided hike of the area to discuss the restoration process. Weather and ground conditions permitting. Maps will be available for those who want to hike the area on their own. There are limited mowed areas and no trails at the site.

In case of inclement weather, the dedication will take place at the Grimes Farm, 2359 233rd Street, Marshalltown.



COPS & BOBBERS



PRIZES!
SNACKS!
FUN!

**Saturday, June 8th
2pm-4pm at Sand Lake**

THE MARSHALLTOWN POLICE
DEPARTMENT, DNR AND MARSHALL
COUNTY CONSERVATION INVITE YOU TO
COME FISH WITH THEM DURING THE
FREE FISHING WEEKEND.



DNR

PEOPLE IN THE PARK

Magical Marshall County Parks

People in the Park will return to Marshall County Parks this July. The year 2024 will be known as Lego® Magical Marshall County Parks Edition. Starting July 1st and every day in July, Marshall County Conservation will post a picture of a LEGO® Magical minifigure in one of our county parks on Facebook and Instagram. Head out to the park, find the LEGO® Magical minifigure first, and turn it in for a chance to win a kayak.

Sounds easy... Well, maybe we left out the part about the picture not being 100% focused, or that it can be hidden in any one of our 37 areas.

Or we may post the picture morning, noon, or night to keep you on your toes.

Images will be posted starting July 1st, giving you 31 chances to win the kayak or one of the other great prizes. Once you find your LEGO® Magical Minifigure and return it to Grimes Farm Conservation Center, your name will be entered into a drawing, which will take place at the intermission of the Live and Local Concert on August 15th. The first name drawn gets the first pick of the prize. One entry per person. Once the LEGO® minifigure is turned in, we will post a picture of where they were in our park. We set up an example to show you what to expect. Best wishes on your magical adventure!



Special thanks to our sponsor Theisen's!

THEY'RE BAAA-AACK!!!

SAVE THE DATE

FOR THE PARK APOCALYPSE

OCTOBER 19, 2024

Ready for a scary good time?!?! The zombies will return to the Grimes Farm and Conservation Center on October 19. 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

Marshall County Conservation Board
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Marshalltown, IA 50158
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Thank You!

Newsletter Collation: Kathy Sievers, Dianna Mick, Sharon Depew, Dianne Freiboth, Charlotte McGinty, Joan Studts, Irene and Gary Williams, Micki Stanley

Donations: Friends of Marshall County Conservation, Twentieth Century Club, Amy Gage, SAF

Pancake Breakfast: Morning Kiwanas, Bob Backes, Ken Lyons, Lanny Nuese, Jeff Kooser, Case Hegeman, Katie Fink, Brad Rahmiller, Tina Nelson, Aktion Club, Danny Nelson, Steve and Sheila Armstrong, Tom & Cindy Mack

Park Care: Steve Mraz, Sue Blaisdell, Rob & Joyce Christensen, ISU Forestry, ISU Animal Ecology

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

Tree Planting at Mann Wetlands: Bob Backes, Ken Lyons, Lanny Nuese, Yahel Ramirez Garcia, Ashley Kong, Pway Kham, Harvey Whitmore, Micah Tupper, Kailer Wahl, Tate Williams, Elliot Young, Collins Grant, Ailyn Pappas, Abel Stevenson, Naysa Rottink, Brant Coleman, Vanessa Engle

Newsletter Editing: Bren Lee

Give Back Day: Austin Pansegrau, Ethan Misen, Bryer Cline, Wyatt Stalzer, Cody Weaver, Kaden Good, Brody Roads, Riley Anderson, James Wenner, Matthew Wenner, Alex Clover, Sara Weitzell, Sydney Hull, Saydee Braye, Landon Wegner, Emma Sanders, Ryan Hull, Delaney Ryan, Cam Baker

Grant Writing: Katie Fink

Nature Center Volunteers: Evans McWilliams, Grace Kipanze

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

MARSHALL COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

2349 233rd Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158
(641) 752-5490

mccb@marshallcountyyia.gov
www.marshallcountyyia.gov

www.mycountyparks.com/County/Marshall.aspx
www.facebook.com/MarshallCountyConservationBoard

Conservation Office Hours

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

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Greg Morris	Summer Field Intern
James Lippe	Summer Field Intern
Keresten Bobby	STEM Externship EE



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