

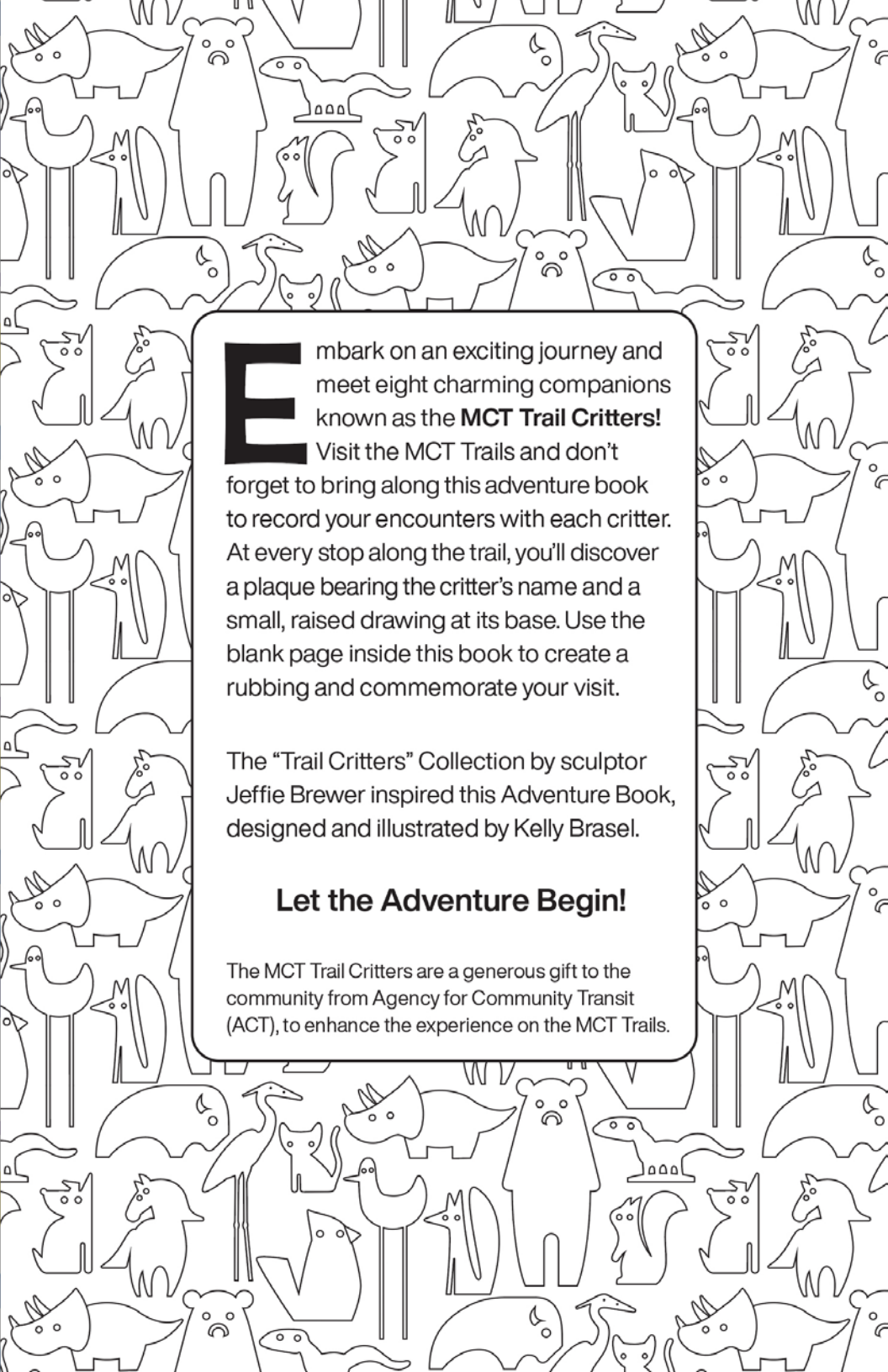
Trail Critters

A D V E N T U R E B O O K



MC TRAILS
Madison County Transit





Embark on an exciting journey and meet eight charming companions known as the **MCT Trail Critters!** Visit the MCT Trails and don't forget to bring along this adventure book to record your encounters with each critter. At every stop along the trail, you'll discover a plaque bearing the critter's name and a small, raised drawing at its base. Use the blank page inside this book to create a rubbing and commemorate your visit.

The "Trail Critters" Collection by sculptor Jeffie Brewer inspired this Adventure Book, designed and illustrated by Kelly Brasel.

Let the Adventure Begin!

The MCT Trail Critters are a generous gift to the community from Agency for Community Transit (ACT), to enhance the experience on the MCT Trails.

Trail Critters



ADVENTURE BOOK

Madison County Transit Board of Trustees

Ron Jedda | Chairman

Chris Guy | Vice Chairman

Allen Adomite

Andy Economy

David Sherrill

Agency for Community Transit Board of Directors

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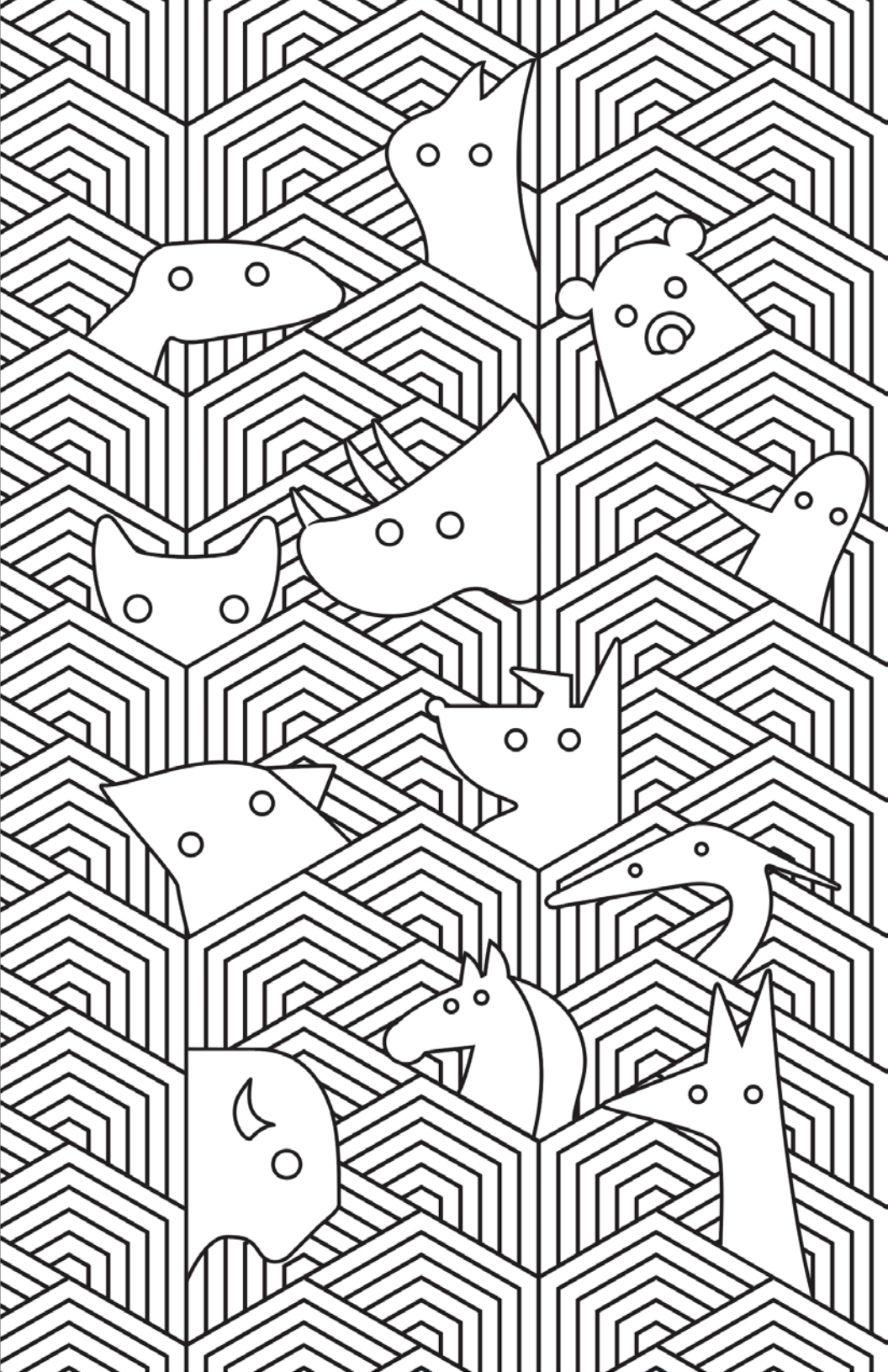
Chrissy Wiley

Diane Coppens

Angelia Gower

ACT Executive Director

SJ Morrison



Critter Credentials

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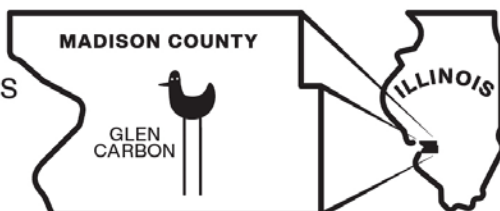
Cole: The Canary of the Coal Mines

Hometown

Glen Carbon, Illinois

Favorite Color

Pink!...(or coal black)



Strengths

Singing melodies, detecting carbon monoxide

Weaknesses

Sharing Glen Carbon Junction with other birds, likes to show off

Hobbies

Keeping an eye on the MCT Trails, karaoke, meeting up with other Trail Critters

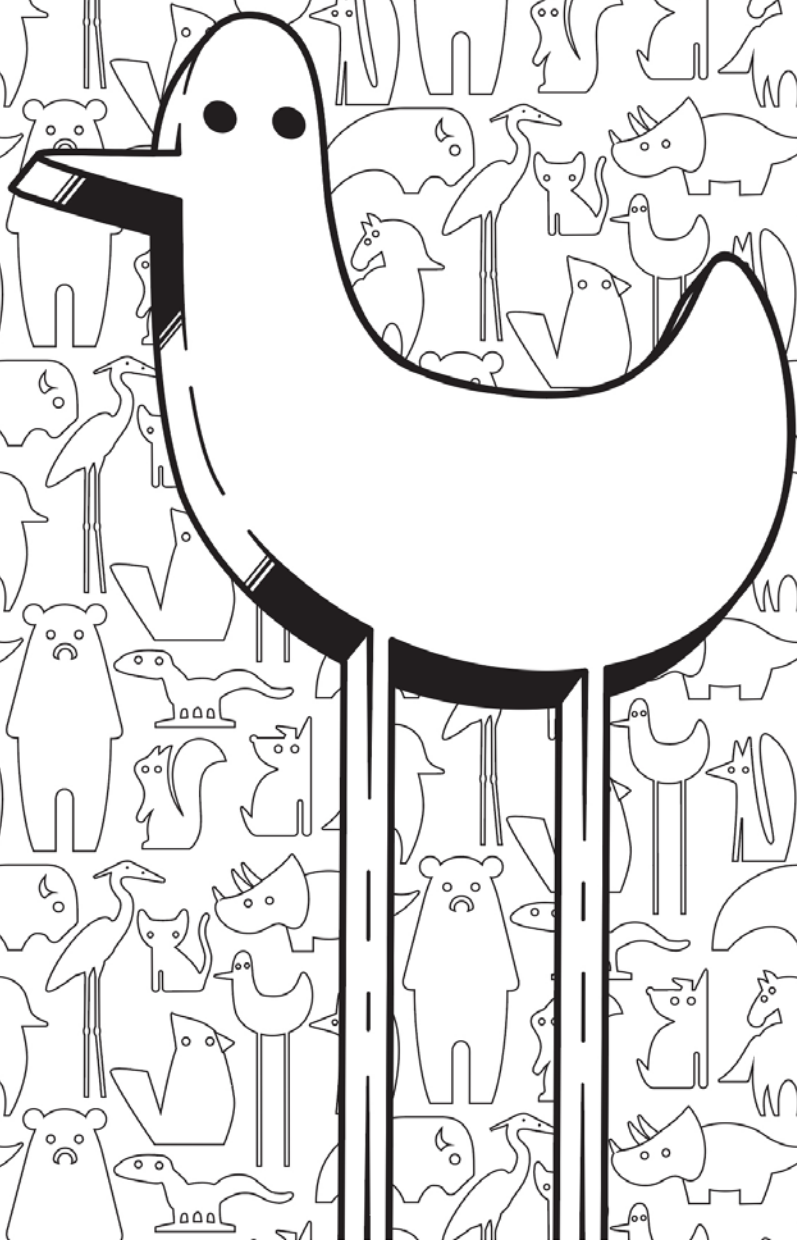
Location

Glen Carbon Junction along MCT Ronald J. Foster Heritage Trail at Main Street

Coordinates

38.746794, -89.987623

Cole



Critter Credentials

.....

Cory: The Calf at the Confluence

Hometown

Hartford, Illinois

Favorite Color

Lilac



Strengths

Leadership, good sense of direction

Weaknesses

Slow to adapt, buffalo chicken wings

Hobbies

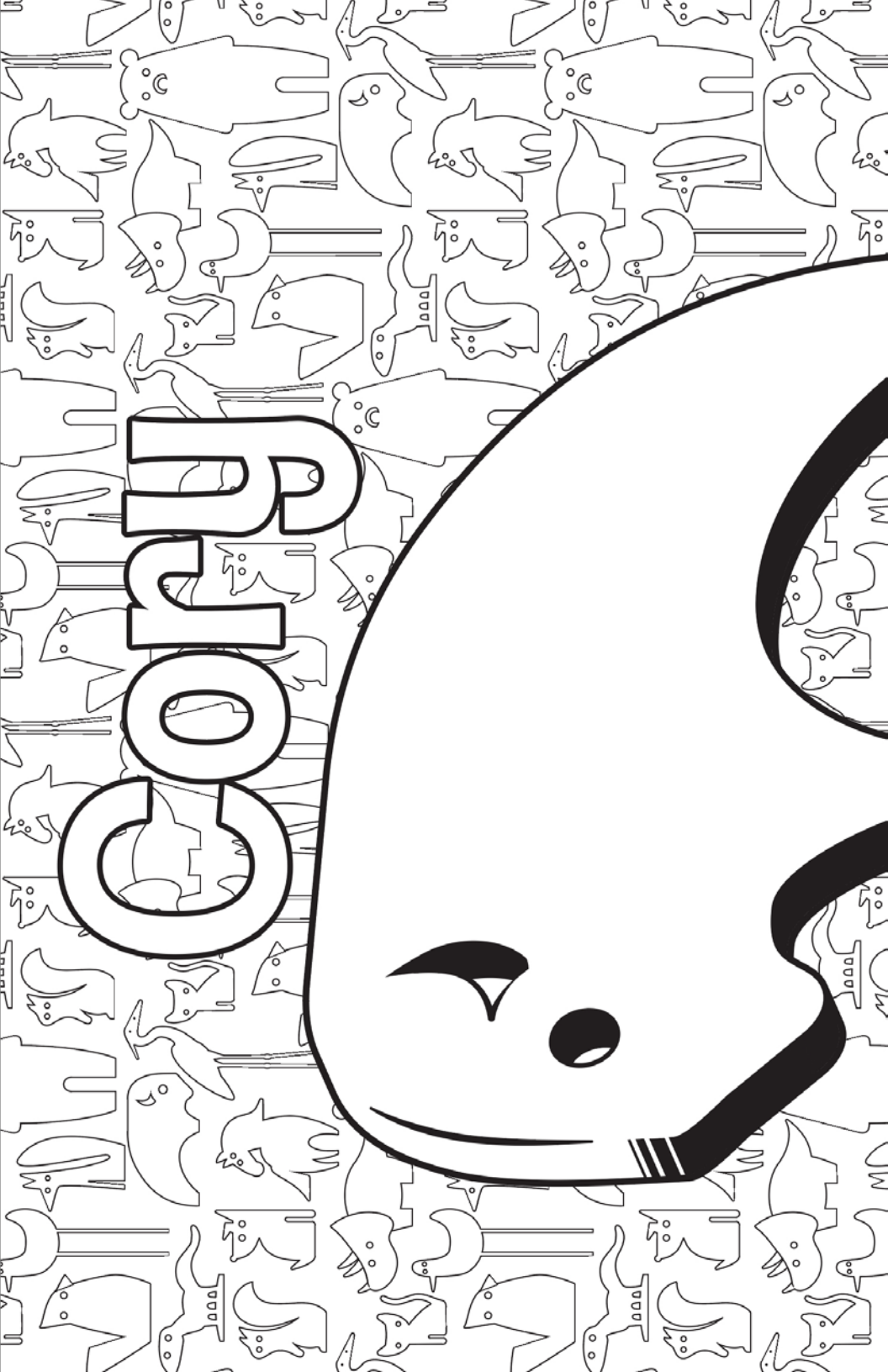
Roaming around new areas, visiting the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower, rolling in mud

Location

MCT Confluence Trail, near the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower and the Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

Coordinates

38.806181, -90.099232



Critter Credentials

.....

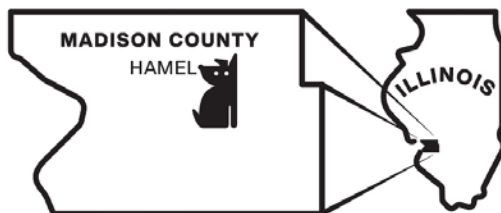
Harry: The Historic Highway Hound

Hometown

Hamel, Illinois

Favorite Color

Blue



Strengths

Guarding the trails, cleaning up after himself,
playing at the dog park

Weaknesses

Distracted by own tail, Route 66 history

Hobbies

Chasing Squeak, leashed walks on the MCT Trails

Location

MCT Quercus Grove Trail, alongside the
Hamel 66 dog park

Coordinates

38.882843, -89.851617

Harry



Critter Credentials

.....

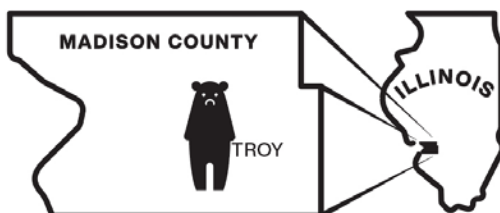
Jarvis: The Old Troy Bearer of Joy

Hometown

Troy, Illinois

Favorite Color

Aqua



Strengths

Snacking, causing a scene, life of the party

Weaknesses

Winter weather; sleeps a lot

Hobbies

Taking photos with fans, foraging for berries, patrolling the MCT Trails

Location

MCT Goshen Trail along Old Troy Road
near IL-162

Coordinates

38.740064, -89.928438

Jarvis



Critter Credentials

.....

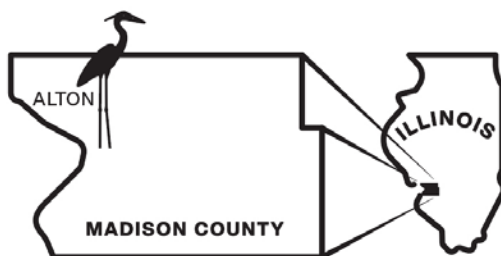
Marina: The Merry Muse of the Mississippi

Hometown

Alton, Illinois

Favorite Color

Yellow



Strengths

Fishing, being sociable

Weaknesses

Toe-touches, jealous of Piasa Bird's popularity

Hobbies

Wading in shallow water down by the river, motivational speaking, and visiting friends at the Alton Marina

Location

Riverbend Junction south of Alton on the MCT Confluence Trail

Coordinates

38.86073, -90.12776

Marina



Critter Credentials

.....

Mary: The Clever Cardinal with the Crimson Coat

Hometown

Maryville, Illinois

Favorite Color

Red



Strengths

Winning sports championships, devoted

Weaknesses

Fly balls, bragging about being the state bird, her own reflection

Hobbies

Watching baseball games, playing at Drost Park, flying over the MCT Trails

Location

MCT Schoolhouse Trail near Drost Park

Coordinates

38.72699, -89.948428

Mary



Critter Credentials

.....

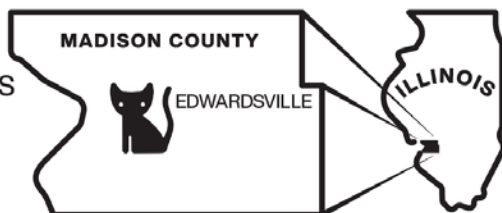
Newt: The Famous and Friendly Feline

Hometown

Edwardsville, Illinois

Favorite Color

Orange



Strengths

Very friendly, photogenic

Weaknesses

Dogs, catnip, laser pointers

Hobbies

Making new friends at Edwardsville Junction, exploring new places, getting head scratches

Location

Edwardsville Junction where the MCT Nature, MCT Nickel Plate, and MCT Goshen trails intersect

Coordinates

38.79516, -89.957459

Newt



Critter Credentials

.....

Radish : The Rad Purple Pony
Rooted in Kahok Pride

Hometown

Collinsville, Illinois

Favorite Color

Purple



Strengths

Speedy, loyal, great sense of smell

Weaknesses

Catsup, Mice...yikes!

Hobbies

Racing trailgoers to the Metro East Parks & Recreation District (MEPRD) parking lot, attending the Horseradish Festival, brushing her mane, horsing around

Location

MCT Schoolhouse Trail along Horseshoe Lake Road in Collinsville

Coordinates

38.690059, -90.02882

Radish



Critter Credentials

.....

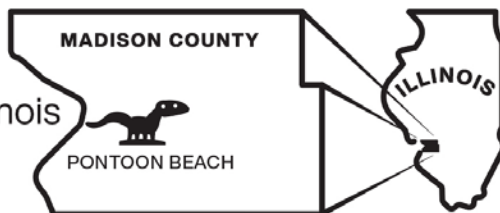
Sandy: The Spirited Salamander Sojourning in the Sand

Hometown

Pontoon Beach, Illinois

Favorite Color

Lime Green



Strengths

Crawling, laying low

Weaknesses

Snakes and coyotes, Poag melons

Hobbies

Assisting MCT passengers at the nearby bus stop, shedding skin, attending Party at the Beach, burrowing in the sandy soil of the American Bottoms

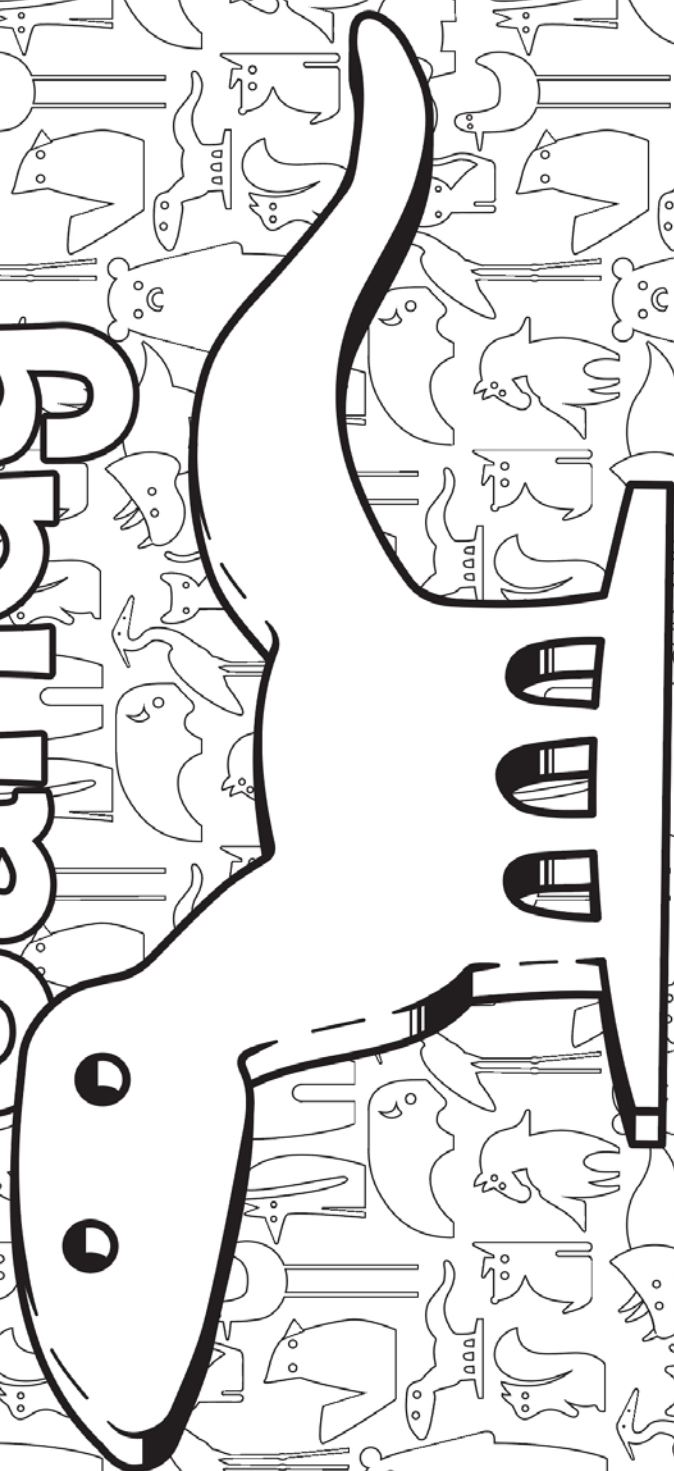
Location

MCT Nature Trail near Sand Road and Chain of Rocks Road intersection

Coordinates

38.76028, -90.024543

epures



Critter Credentials

.....

Squeak: The Squirrely Squire of Canteen Creek

Hometown

Troy, Illinois

Favorite Color

Pyrotechnic orange



Strengths

Energy, cracking nuts, climbing trees

Weaknesses

Nitpicking, darting into traffic, spices

Hobbies

Nut collecting, eating from bird feeders, spying on humans

Location

Yards away from the Loyet & Hickory Lake
Road intersection of the MCT Goshen Trail

Coordinates

38.706375, -89.928379

Squeak



Critter Credentials

.....

Steele : The Sly Sapphire Sentry Who Can't be Outfoxed

Hometown

Granite City, Illinois

Favorite Color

Blue



Strengths

Hunting, low-frequency hearing

Weaknesses

Early mornings, large groups

Hobbies

Working with steel, making silly noises, playing with friends

Location

MCT Nature Trail near Victory Drive and Terminal Avenue in Granite City

Coordinates

38.709543, -90.115805

Steele



Critter Credentials

.....

Tracy: The Tri-Cities Triceratops

Hometown

Granite City, Illinois

Favorite Color

Yellow



Strengths

Helpful in a move, very strong, counting by three

Weaknesses

Poor sense of smell, bad turn radius

Hobbies

Eating vegetables, watching meteor showers,
studying history, logistics

Location

MCT Confluence Trail, near MCT's Rivers Edge
Park & Ride lot, at America's Central Port

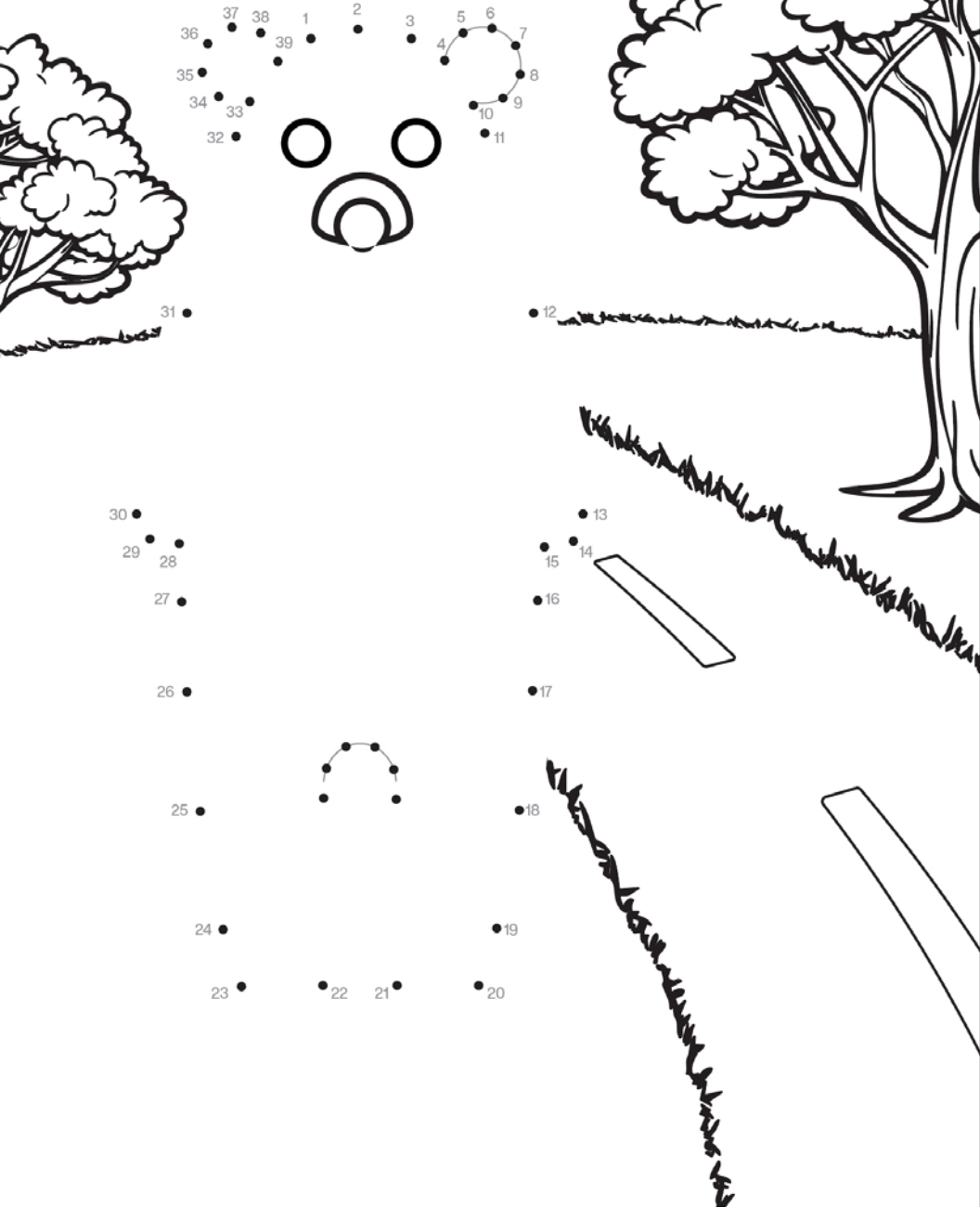
Coordinates

38.716944 , -90.160833



Connect the Dots!

Which Trail Critter is made of steel,
painted teal, and kind of a big-deal?



Seek & Find (&Color!)

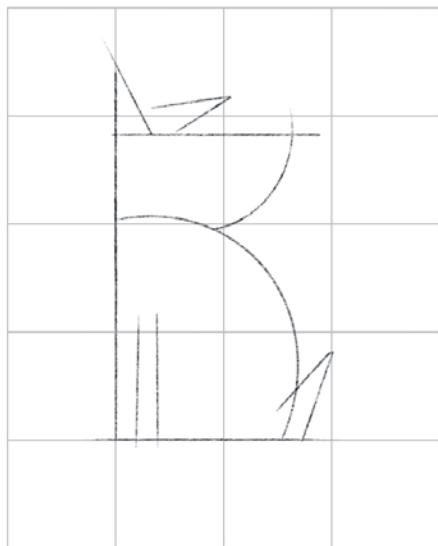
Find all of the MCT Trails Trail Critters, then color and/or draw your own little pictures!



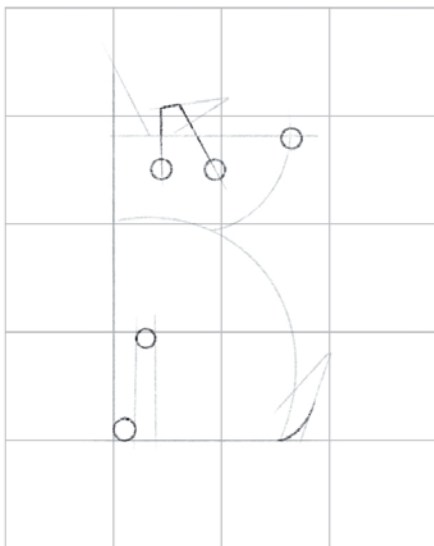
Learn to Draw Harry!

Hint: Look at the grid to see where lines and shapes go in each box!

Lightly sketch in some shapes.



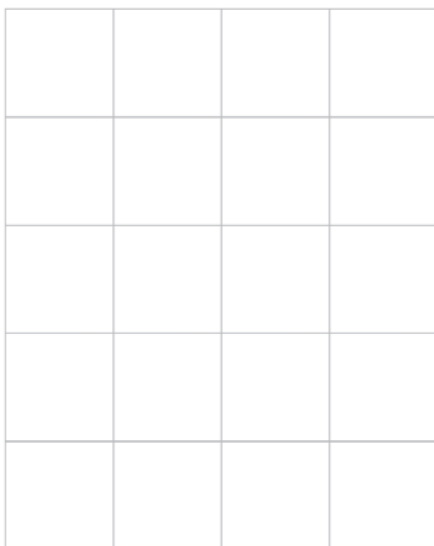
Add some details.



Erase extra lines and refine shapes.



Practice here!



Word Search

B S J N Z R V A B O D M M V M E P R W M B A I
S S I T I M A D H N X S W R O Y V O C D L A G
S M T L X C R D I A G U A U N D V L H S U H X
Q K A E V N K V I L R N L N A N D L W C F E L
K U Q D E E E E R S I R K E R A E E S H F R Y
Y H E U I L R M L I H I Y H C S H R I O D I T
Q U N R R S E C A P D S E S H H S B V O N T I
J C Y I C Q O A R R L E R O V E R L R L E A N
C O N F L U E N C E I A U G A L E A A H B G U
M Y R O C E S G C V E N T E L M T D J O R E M
A J O K O A A G T O I K A E L E A E N U E A M
R M A O L K W T R R U E N U E T W F E S V H O
Y M I L E S A Y G O A N R D Y H X K W E I P C
K E L C Y C I B S B V C T Y D V E U T Z R A E
G E P A M F A M I L Y E Y Y L C T E S N U S Y
S L S L I A R T K C U A P C R I T T E R S H G

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden ← → ↑ ↓ or ↘.

BICYCLE
BLUFF
COLE
COMMUNITY
CONFLUENCE
CORY
CRITTERS
FAMILY
GOSHEN
HARRY
HELMET
HERITAGE
JARVIS

MADISON COUNTY
MAP
MARINA
MARY
MILES
MONARCH VALLEY
NATURE
NEWT
NICKEL PLATE
QUERCUS GROVE
RADISH
RIDE
RIVERBEND

ROLLERBLADE
RUN
SANDY
SCHOOLHOUSE
SILVER CREEK
SQUEAK
STEELE
SUNRISE
SUNSET
TRACY
TRAILS
WALK
WATERSHED

Cole

Lay this page over Cole's rubbing plate, lightly rub the paper with the flat side of a pencil or crayon, and watch as a critter appears!

Cory

Lay this page over Cory's rubbing plate, lightly rub the paper with the flat side of a pencil or crayon, and watch as a critter appears!

Harry

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Newt

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Radish

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Sandy

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Squeak

Lay this page over Squeak's rubbing plate, lightly rub the paper with the flat side of a pencil or crayon, and watch as a critter appears!

Steele

Lay this page over Steele's rubbing plate, lightly rub the paper with the flat side of a pencil or crayon, and watch as a critter appears!

Tracy

Lay this page over Tracy's rubbing plate, lightly rub the paper with the flat side of a pencil or crayon, and watch as a critter appears!



About the Artist

The son of eccentric East Texas junk yard owners, Jeffie Brewer spent his childhood developing an array of industrial skills, a knack for drawing and an eye for finding beauty in the mundane. Since his inaugural solo exhibition in 1998, his creations have graced public spaces, galleries, museums and private and corporate collections from North America to Central America, Europe, and Asia.

Jeffie has dedicated his life to art, fun and beauty. After earning an MFA, an MA, and a BFA across various disciplines, Jeffie embarked on a 20-year stint as a professor of art. From those years molding young minds to working as an illustrator at an ad agency to owning a design and fabrication company to building his own house, Jeffie continues to discover the extraordinary in the everyday.

jeffiebrewer.com

facebook.com/jeffiebrewer

Instagram.com/jeffie_brewer





About the MCT Trails

Beginning in 1993, Madison County Transit (MCT) began acquiring and converting former railroad corridors into scenic bikeways. Today, these bikeways are known as the MCT Trails and form one of the most extensive and interconnected trail systems in the country. Mile after mile, the MCT Trails are enhancing the quality of life, promoting wellness, improving property values, and serving as a tourism magnet in the 20 communities they traverse. Spanning more than 138 miles, and a diverse array of natural surroundings, the MCT Trails have transformed Madison County into a haven for bicyclists, runners, walkers, fitness enthusiasts, and nature lovers.

Happy Trails!

MCTtrails.org | trails@mct.org

618-797-4600 |  