

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION
HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
NATURE CENTER

2022-2023 Fiscal Year Report

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center

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Cover photo: First Year Seminar students learn about native pollinators with Dr. Amy McElhinney and Cali Granger.



Late summer flowers in bloom at the North Woods section of the Nature Center.

The Year at a Glance

Mount Union Engagement

Number of UMU events: 75

Student Research Projects

Brumbaugh Scholars projects: 9

Independent research projects: 5

School & Organization Programs

Number of programs: 59

Total attendance: 2186

Community Programs and Events

Number of programs & events: 72

Total attendance: 1070

Service Projects

Number of projects: 3

Volunteers

Number of volunteers: 145

Number of volunteer hours: 1,377.5

Notable Accomplishments

Record high Brumbaugh Scholars cohort

Wetland project initiated

Volunteer engagement doubled

Requested program attendance increases 70%

Windmill water well repaired

New roof and sky lights on Visitors Center

The mission of the John T. Huston - Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center is to provide and support opportunities for enjoying and learning about our natural and cultural heritage.

Overview

This report summarizes the operations and outreach activities of the John T. Huston - Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center. The Nature Center facilitates activities in three main areas: education, research, and recreation. Educational programs are presented to school groups and the community, focusing on local natural and cultural resources present on the Nature Center property. Educational and recreational opportunities are also provided through the Nature Center's indoor exhibits, interpretive signage, and trails.

Additionally, the Nature Center staff are involved in academic support of Mount Union's students, supporting teaching activities, conducting and supporting research, volunteer recruitment and retention, facilitating service projects, and the maintenance and improvement of the Nature Center's facilities and grounds.



First modern-day documentation of a bobcat at the Nature Center captured on trail camera.

Staffing

The Nature Center staff included four full-time, on-site staff positions: Horticultural and Facility Coordinator, Cali Granger; Site Manager, Mike Greiner; Community Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator, Bonnie Twaddle; and Program Manager, Adam Zorn. The on-site staff were complimented by two full-time, on-campus staff and faculty positions: Sustainability Manager and Professor of Biology, Amy McElhinney, and Interim Nature Center Director, Lin Wu. University student employees during the fiscal year were Emily Becker, Michael Shields, and Ava Fornara.

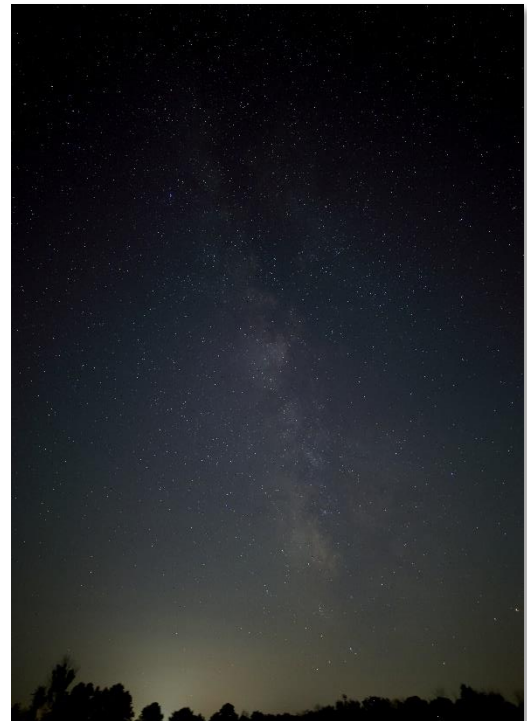
University Engagement

Brumbaugh Scholars Projects

The John T. Huston - Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center allocates resources from the Brumbaugh Endowment to foster summer research and scholarly activities among students, staff, and faculty that are related to the mission of the Nature Center, which is to “provide and support opportunities for enjoying and learning about our natural and cultural heritage.” Nine projects were selected for support in the summer of 2022. Project results were shared in a showcase event held at the Nature Center in October 2022.

2022 Brumbaugh Scholars projects:

- Chyenne Brammer: “Astronomy at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center”
- Mason Conn: “Relationship between Nematodes and Beech Leaf Disease”
- Ava Fornara: “Documenting Biodiversity of Breeding Birds at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center”
- Jessie Kasper: “Assessing the Elastic Modulus of the Multiflora Rose through Tensile Testing”
- Anthony Kemer: “Comparing the Effects of Aerators in the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center Ponds and Creating a Collection of Aquatic Insects for Use by the Nature Center”



The Milky Way photographed over the Nature Center by Chyenne Brammer.

- Ryan Meister, Jr.: “Discovering Elastic Modulus of Multiflora Rose Through Compressive Testing”
- Elizabeth Regovich: “The 2022 Spread of Invasive Jumping Worms (Family Megascolecidae) at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center”
- Sarah Stanton: “Summer 2022 Fungi at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center: An Artistic Exploration”
- Breanne Welsh: “Assessing the Mechanical Properties of Multiflora Rose Stems: Bending Elastic Modulus”



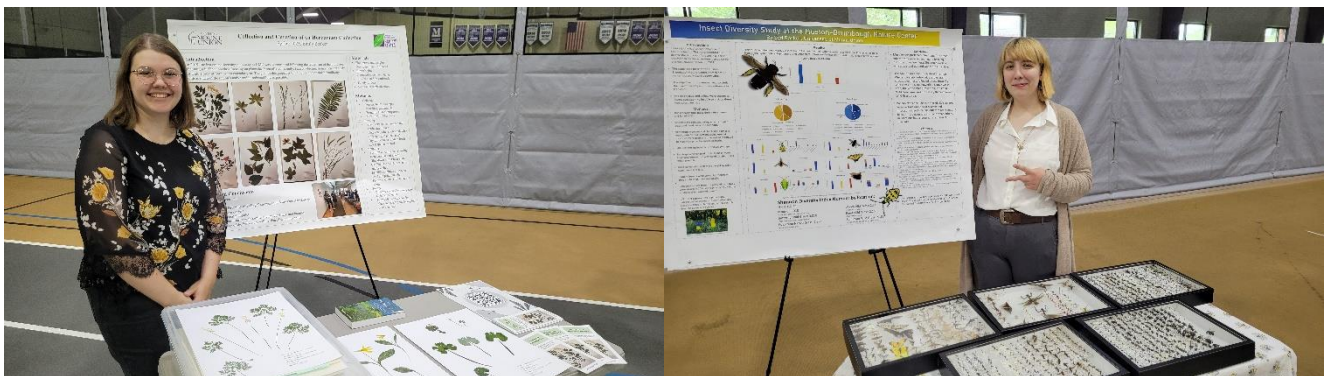
Anthony Kemer '23 sampling a Nature Center pond for his summer 2022 Brumbaugh Scholars research.

Independent Student Research

In addition to the Brumbaugh Scholars program, Mount Union students traditionally use the Nature Center for BIO 405 projects and other academic research during the year. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the following students completed research at the Nature Center:

- Emily Becker: “Collection and Curation of an Herbarium Collection”
- Anthony Kemer: “Hydraulic Conductivity at a Proposed Nature Center Wetland Site”
- Ian Lucic: “Hydraulic Conductivity at a Proposed Nature Center Wetland Site”
- Jake Visintine: “Hydraulic Conductivity at a Proposed Nature Center Wetland Site”
- Syd Parker: “Insect Diversity Study at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center”

Emily Becker and Syd Parker were selected to participate in the poster session at Mount Union’s SCHOLAR Day on April 25, 2022.



Emily Becker (left) and Syd Parker (right) present their research at Mount Union's SCHOLAR DAY on April 25, 2022.

University Events

Nature Center staff participated in campus events and hosted University groups throughout the fiscal year. Nature Center staff/facilities were a part of 75 University of Mount Union events and activities. A large portion of the activities were facilities reservations by 11 different offices/departments/academic programs and 6 different student groups.

Center for Student Success
 College of Arts and Humanities
 Department of Literature and
 Communication Arts
 Honors Program
 Nursing Program
 Office of Alumni
 Office of Information Technology
 Residence Life
 School of Business
 School of Engineering

Alpha Pi Omega
 Alpha Tau Omega
 Delta Sigma Tau
 Green Raiders
 Raider Guides
 UMU Cheer and Dance Team

A variety of courses were facilitated using Nature Center facilities and/or the property including BIO 141, BIO 220, BIO 230, BIO 240, BIO 321, ENV 190, ENV 210, ENV350, SUS 100, ECE 360, ECE 440, Dr. McElhinney's FYS class, and Dr. Tascone's fiction writing class.

In addition to on-site events, the Nature Center staff participated in Preview, RaiderFest, New Staff Orientation, and supported several Green Raiders events on campus.

North Woods Wetland Project

Nature Center staff, in consultation with M.A.D. Scientist Associates, began planning a wetland construction project in June 2022. Approximately 7 acres of land between Daniel Street and the woodlot of the North Woods section of the Nature Center are planned to be transitioned from agricultural field to wetland and upland field habitats. The project is designed to physically and aesthetically connect the North Woods section to the main preserve at the Nature Center, restore some of the original hydrology of the landscape, mitigate the effects of erosion in the field and the stream bank in the adjacent



Conceptual wetland design for the North Woods Wetland Project started in June 2022.

woodlot, and create endless opportunities for research and observational studies in a new habitat at the Nature Center.

Mount Union students have taken part in several aspects of the site analysis phase of the project since September 2022. Dr. Lin Wu and Dr. Karyn Collie utilized the site for plant surveys with students in BIO 141 (Diversity of Life). After the existing corn crop was harvested, civil engineering students in Dr. Hans Tritico's ECE 440 course (Sustainable Infrastructure Design) completed a thorough topographic survey of the 7-acre site, soil sampling and analysis of soil types in the proposed wetland areas, and infiltration testing of the soil of the proposed wetland areas. Soil analysis and infiltration testing were important to determine the feasibility of the soil to hold water for slow discharge into a nearby stream or the water table below the site, which are critical functions of wetlands. The data collected by Mount Union students during the Fall 2022 semester was used to inform the wetland restoration professionals at M.A.D. Scientist Associates during the initial landscape design phase.



University of Mount Union civil engineering students (ECE 440: Sustainable Infrastructure Design) conduct infiltration tests at the surface and 1-meter depth with an infiltrometer to ensure the permeability of the soil is suitable for the creation of a wetland.

During the Spring 2023 semester, Dr. Mark McNaught's ENV 350 course (Case Studies) utilized the project to explore wetland function and the habitats associated with wetland environments. Their classwork included landscape design to identify where plant species communities should be located upon completion of the construction phase of the project. Dr. Hans Tritico's ECE 360 course (Water Resource Engineering) used initial site data from the previous fall and design requests from the Nature Center staff to create the grading plan for

the wetland construction. Their data, drawings, and reports were used by M.A.D. Scientist to better refine the technical drawings and specifications of the project's grading plan which defines precisely where each wetland basin will be located in the project area.

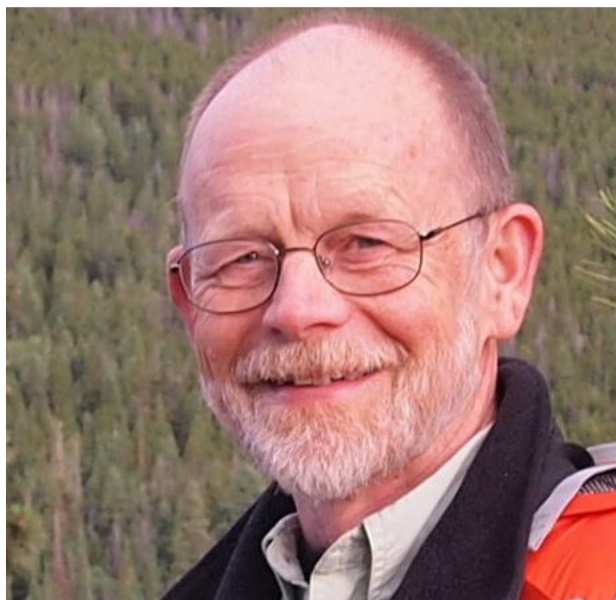
The wetland project spawned a handful of research projects in the first half of 2023. Three students completed SCE (Senior Culminating Experience) projects focused on the various hydrological aspects of the project area. In May 2023, Nicholas Anna began a vegetation survey of the project area. The survey was part of Nicholas's Brumbaugh Scholars research project during the summer of 2023. His survey work helped to inform Nature Center staff and M.A.D. Scientist of the existing plant communities in and adjacent to the project area. This information was used to start creating a revegetation plan for the area.

As the project moves into the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Nature Center expects additional involvement from faculty and students. Mount Union students are getting practical, hands-on experience to enhance their classroom lessons, and will continue to be an important part of the work completed through the construction, planting, and monitoring phases of the project.

Research Reserve Dedication

Dr. Charles McClaugherty, professor emeritus in the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Mount Union, was honored with a dedication and naming of the Dr. Charles McClaugherty III Research Reserve on November 13, 2022. Dr. McClaugherty was a professor and director of the Nature Center for 30+ years at Mount Union. The Research Reserve was dedicated in honor of Dr. McClaugherty's years of service as a professor and mentor at Mount Union, and his continuing legacy as an educator of the sciences and environmental education.

The Dr. Charles McClaugherty III Research Reserve is nearly 100 acres of forest and agricultural land situated adjacent to the main Nature Center property. Four natural vernal pools, steep-sided stream valleys, and mixed-aged hardwood forest are highlights of the ecological resources present. This area is closed to public access which allows for additional study opportunities with limited disturbance. Mount Union students have completed several research projects on the site including inventories of birds, snakes, mollusks, fungi, as well as investigations in sedimentology, organic agriculture, vernal pool hydrology, and astronomy.



Dr. Charles McClaugherty III, Professor Emeritus and first director of the Nature Center

Community Engagement

Volunteers

Nature Center volunteers assist in a variety of ways that support the maintenance of a beautiful facility and grounds and high-quality educational programs. One hundred and forty-five people donated their time and talents to support the Nature Center's mission over the past fiscal year accounting for at least 1,377 hours of service.

Volunteer service in support of facilities and grounds maintenance cover a wide variety of tasks. Litter control, invasive plant removal, and Adopt-a-Trail volunteers are an important component of the Nature Center's trail maintenance efforts. Several cultivated gardens and flowerbeds are maintained with the assistance of volunteers to keep these areas looking attractive to visitors and wildlife alike.

Program volunteers take on many roles too. Volunteers help with special events like the Holiday Open house and facilitate special interest programs like acoustic music jams and fiber arts gatherings which diversifies the audiences attracted to the Nature Center. Many of the formal education programs facilitated for school-aged audiences are possible thanks to dedicated volunteers passionate about helping students learn. Volunteer trail guides and Children's Hands-on Gardening volunteers are required to enable Nature Center staff to accommodate dozens of children on a field trip to the Nature Center and maintain a high-quality learning experience.

We are very thankful for the time and talent of each of our volunteers.



Mary Lindsay, Volunteer of the Year 2022, accepts her award from the Nature Center's Cali Granger.



Participants in Acoustic Music Jam play during the annual Holiday Celebration Open House, December 2022.

School and Organization Programs

A total of 25 schools and community organizations requested educational programs and experiences from the Nature Center. Students from Alliance City Schools, Marlinton, United Local, Salem City Schools, Regina Coeli School, Small World Montessori School, Southgate Elementary, and Heritage Christian School represented twelve different pre-K to 5th grade school groups requesting programs. Programs were facilitated via guided walk to cover grade-level appropriate science content such as seasons, habitats, life cycles, food chains/webs, symbiotic relationships, and erosion.

Alliance City Schools and Regina Coeli School 3rd and 4th grade students participated in the 19th year of the “Children’s Hands-on Gardening” program series. Students make four visits - two as 3rd graders and two as 4th graders - to see the processes of germination, plant growth, pollination, harvesting, and decomposition across one growing season. The curriculum aligns with current science and math standards for 3rd and 4th grade.

Other schools participating in requested programs included multiple disabilities classes from Minerva Middle School and Glen Oak High School and the environmental science class from Salem High School.



Students found a caterpillar in the Children’s Garden at the Nature Center.

Off-site programming was provided to 5th grade students at United Local and students participating in Alliance City Schools’ Summer Explorers program.

In addition to schools, several community organizations requested programs for their members. Programs facilitated by Nature Center staff were provided to East Rochester Garden Club, Rotary Club of Louisville, Rotary Club of Alliance, Louisville Library, Daughters of the American Revolution, two Brownie troops, First Baptist Church of Alliance, Stark County Master Gardeners, Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists, and Mount Union Women.

The 2022-2023 fiscal year saw participant numbers for requested programs increase by nearly 1,000 participants over the previous year.

Community Programs and Events

Seventy-two community education programs and events were facilitated by Nature Center staff. Many programs were focused on wildlife, plants, and other natural resource topics. Other program topics included gardening, self-care, and maple sugaring. A series of spring bird walks was facilitated by Nature Center staff in partnership with Stark Parks for the 9th year on the Nickelplate Trail in Louisville, OH.



An audience enjoyed an evening presentation of the animated film "The Croods" in the Nature Center's pavilion.

Educational and recreational events facilitated or hosted by the Nature Center included a variety of citizen science events like the Great Backyard Bird Count and bioblitzes, summer research showcase highlighting Mount Union student research, 21st annual photography contest, and 6th annual holiday celebration open house. A movie night in the pavilion and two canoe trips to local reservoirs were also facilitated.

Volunteer-led programs like Acoustic Music Jam and Wild & Wooly were monthly offerings throughout the year. The music jam has been a long-standing event led for the past several years by Ann Hendel. Wild & Wooly was new for the past year and initiated by Kim Anderson and friends from the Canton Fiber Arts Guild.

Community programs and events are promoted through a newsletter published and distributed three times each year to nearly 1,900 postal addresses and over 1,000 email addresses. Additional outlets include UMU Today emails, printed flyers, and social media.



The Huston Cabin decorated in fresh, natural greens for the Holiday Celebration Open House in December 2022. The cabin remains open to visitors for two weeks for a beautiful, rustic location for holiday-themed family photos. The one-day event attracts an average of 100 participants each year.

Facilities and Grounds

Visitors Center

The Visitors Center is open to the public and staffed all throughout the year. Summer hours are in place from April through October (9am to 4pm on Tuesday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday). Winter hours are in place from November through March (9am to 4pm on Tuesday through Friday, 1pm to 5pm on Sunday). The Visitors Center is closed to the public on Mondays, but staff is present to answer phone calls, work on projects, and prepare for the coming week.

The Visitors Center is the hub of activities for visitors and program participants. Just over two thousand non-program/event visitors entered the facility on weekend days during the last fiscal year.

The Visitors Center interior received a full professional floor stripping and resealing to keep the floors looking clean and to protect them from thousands of wet, muddy, or otherwise dirty footsteps received each year. The exterior of the building received a new roof and skylights to protect it from wind, rain, and snow.

Gardens

Gardening projects and improvements were made in several areas around the Visitors Center and grounds. The Children's Garden was planted and maintained with succession planting and square-foot gardening methods. New trellis methods were incorporated to improve tomato growth, increase air flow and light, provide structure, and utilize more vertical space in the garden beds. The three trellis styles implemented were hog panel fencing, the Florida weave, and vertical string trellis. The trellises were made using materials already on site, which limited the need to purchase new materials.



The windmill at the North Woods was repaired by Nature Center staff to provide water to the holding tanks at the Children's Garden. Some special tools and lots of physical labor were employed to remove 120 feet of well pipe from the base of the windmill. The pump at the bottom of the well was replaced and the well pipe was carefully lowered back into the well casing before reassembling the above-ground components to the windmill. Once complete, the windmill was effectively pumping water from the well and transferring the water to the holding tanks through the power of the wind!

Pollinator plantings were continued this past year. This was the second year for the sunflower patch planted in the North Woods area. The sunflowers provide food resources to birds and

pollinators, nesting habitat, and beauty for the public. New pollinator plants were established in the main parking lot of the Nature Center. Three dead/damaged large trees were cut down and the stumps were left to provide nesting habitat for native solitary bees. A mix of annuals and perennials were planted around the stumps to provide food resources for pollinators. With nearby food resources, native bees should begin to utilize the stumps for habitat. The goal is to add more native Ohio perennials around these stumps, with different bloom times, to improve the appearance of the site and educate the public on how to provide habitat for pollinators.

The formal flower beds around the Visitors Center were maintained and planted with more native plants. Thinning the plant density of these beds was completed to allow for new plant species to be added next year. Removed plants were planted in other areas around the Nature Center including around kiosk signs, the labyrinth, other flower beds, or were placed in a holding bed to be transplanted later.

The herb garden, located near the cabin in the barnyard area, was overhauled and reimagined with four new themes, one for each of the flower beds. Each theme was chosen to incorporate more education and interaction for the public. The themes highlight the five senses and add an historical/cultural aspect.

- The color and sound garden: this garden is a mix of annuals and perennials that were included to provide all the colors of the rainbow all summer long. This garden allows visitors to use their eyes and ears to gain enjoyment, as they look at all the colors and listen for the many pollinators that visit the flowers.
- The cooking garden: the plants included in this garden are all commonly used, aromatic cooking herbs. The public can enjoy this garden through sample tasting the leaves of the plants or by rubbing the leaves together to enjoy their smell.
- The touch and texture garden: this garden includes many perennial and annual plants that have unique and interesting textures/shapes. These plants can be touched to feel their squishy, fuzzy, and/or rough leaf surfaces and flower structures.
- The medicinal garden: this garden is made up of perennial plants that have been used historically for medicinal purposes to treat minor health ailments like headaches and nausea. With the herb garden being in proximity to the cabin, it seemed fitting to include plants that the Huston family could have used to treat common ailments.



Trails

The Nature Center maintains nearly four miles of trails for visitors, schools, and University classes to explore. A lot of work goes into maintaining the trail system annually to provide access to the facilities and grounds. Fallen trees are cleared in a timely manner, vegetation is trimmed back from the trails throughout the growing season, trail surfaces are maintained to alleviate erosion or excessively muddy areas, and bridges and boardwalks are under constant repair.

Several severe storms in February, March, April, and June 2023 resulted in considerable damage to the Nature Center's trail system. Uprooted trees damaged trail surfaces, fallen trees blocked trail access, and the boardwalk sections of the Huston Farm Trail experienced repeated structural damage from falling trees during each of the storms. The fence around the bird observatory was the target of a large tree during a storm as well.

After each storm event, the Nature Center staff inspected the trail system for issues and created a triage list. While Mike and Cali tackled trail blockages requiring chainsaws, other Nature Center staff and volunteers cleared limbs and branches by hand to reopen the trail system as quickly as possible. Most storm events require a day, maybe two, to clear the entirety of the trail system.

Structural damage to the boardwalk occurred on four separate occasions, each resulting in a couple days of trail closures to repair the underlying supports of the boardwalk. This type of repair often requires the need for new lumber and hardware and quickly becomes a multi-day project to restore the boardwalk to its original condition.



An assortment of trail and property damage after several strong storms during the spring season of 2022.

Service Projects

Service-Learning Projects

Alpha Pi Omega (APO), a service fraternity at the University of Mount Union, came to the Nature Center this past year to complete their fall and spring maintenance of the bird observatory garden in addition to the clean-up of some of the trails and grounds of the Nature Center. This spring required a lot of extra maintenance as there was a lot of storm damage. Many trees were downed and there was a lot of debris that the APO members helped to clean up. The fence of the bird observatory was damaged when a large tree fell on it. APO was able to help with the tree cleanup as well as helping to salvage most of the fence pickets.

Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity completed invasive species removal November 2022 as a fraternity service project. ATO brothers removed a large section of mature burning bush south of the Visitors Center and around the west pond.

Eagle Scout Project

The Nature Center's old story walk signage required updating and maintenance. A user-friendly design was developed and made of materials that will withstand the elements of the outdoors longer than the first iteration. The new story walk signage was installed as an Eagle Scout project for Alex Kuttie. Alex worked on setting new posts, adding hardware, and installing the story walk along the boardwalk sections of the Huston Farm Trail. Additionally, Alex and fellow Scouts wrote and illustrated an original story "Hunting in the Woods" about a fox learning to hunt on his own. The story was displayed during the summer of 2023.



Stewardship Activities

The Nature Center staff conduct stewardship activities year-round in an effort to document and monitor flora and fauna residing within the confines of Nature Center-managed property. The activities are comprised of a combination of research activities, citizen science, and documentation of casual observations. The data and information gathered are used for a variety of purposes including natural resource management decisions, foundations for student research projects, monitoring for invasive species and their impacts, and enhancing learning opportunities and community engagement. The following is a quick summary of stewardship activities undertaken at the Nature Center during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

- **Bird Surveys:** annual citizen science data collection projects including Project NestWatch, Project FeederWatch, Great Backyard Bird Count, Big Sit, and eBird.
- **Bird Banding:** activities are federally permitted and initiated by master banding permit holder, and Nature Center volunteer, Albert Eibel. Mr. Eibel and Nature Center staff resurrected a multi-year project banding songbirds along the electrical powerline corridor at the Nature Center. Mr. Eibel also started a multi-location Eastern Bluebird nestling banding project with the assistance of Nature Center staff to learn more about the dispersal patterns of young Eastern Bluebirds after they leave the nest.
- **Targeted Ohio Specialist Bee-Flower Associations Project:** In cooperation with The Ohio State University, Nature Center staff are collecting bees from host plants known to be used by specialist bees. The data will contribute to the first county-level and state-level list of bee species in Ohio.
- **Beech Leaf Disease Survey:** Continuation of a long-term monitoring project to track the progression of disease symptoms in American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) due to the introduced nematode *Litylenchus crenatae*.
- **Snapshot USA:** The fourth year of participation in a ground-breaking nationwide mammal survey utilizing wildlife cameras. Previous datasets have been published in *Ecology* and the 2022 dataset is in review prior to publication.
- **iNaturalist:** The Nature Center manages a data collection project using the iNaturalist platform to collect photographic evidence of all life forms residing at the Nature Center. Anyone using the iNaturalist app can photograph and upload observations of organisms during a visit to the Nature Center. In addition to visitors and staff, several Mount Union courses and student research projects have used iNaturalist to document various organisms at the Nature Center. In the past year, BIO 141, BIO 240, and five Mount Union student research projects have utilized iNaturalist.



Ava Fornara holds a Gray Catbird during bird banding research.

Visitor Comments in FY 2022-2023...

Nature Center Visitor Survey

Visitors are welcome to complete an anonymous survey about their visit. Survey respondents (147 total) have given an average of 4.9 stars to their overall experience when visiting. Twenty-four reviews were recorded in the past fiscal year. Survey comments are optional. Here is what some respondents had to say about their experiences in the last fiscal year:

“It's a gorgeous place 15 min from my house to take a walk. I just started the yoga class here and it's amazing. I love the bird room.”

“We have relatives just moved back to Ohio from Oregon. We told them about the trails at Brumbaugh they took a hike and was very impressed with the volume of available trails to hike.”

“Best marked trails around! Stark parks should follow your lead.”

“All my experiences with the Nature Center facilities and staff have been outstanding. My only wish is that the trails and forest land could be 10x bigger. Looking forward to being more involved in 2023!”

“I love that the Nature Center has some trails that are more like hiking trails. Ones that go down to a swampy area. I love that I can get a long hike switching from trail to trail, without going on the same area twice. Also, I love seeing the difference in the forest from the newer woods to the older woods. I bring my dog and it's so nice that the Nature Center supplies waste bags, since sometimes I forget to bring one. I also love the tadpole area- I brought my nephew to see them and he loved it.”

“My boys (4 and 1.5) love our little hikes at the nature center. We started coming when I was pregnant with my second son. It's my oldest's favorite park. They love visiting the farm then we head across the street to the Adventure Trails. They love the big rocks to climb on and collecting sticks to add to the tee pee style piles. They don't know how to play checkers but enjoy stepping from square to square on the yard sized Checker Board. The Observation Tower is also a favorite.”

“We are SO blessed to have this resource in our community. Thank you for everything you do!”

“My husband and I walk a LOT of parks in many counties-this one rates at our top!”

“Absolutely love it here. The trails, watching the animals and the different seasons wonderful place.”

“I would come more often if i lived closer. Such a great place to visit and great programs and hiking trails.”

“First time attending. I really enjoyed myself. The staff was very friendly and answered any questions I had. I was very impressed with the whole nature center. I will definitely return!”



Wildflower meadow and windmill at the North Woods section of the Nature Center.