



UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION
HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
NATURE CENTER

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story



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John T. Huston – Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center

Mission Statement

The John T. Huston - Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center provides and supports opportunities for enjoying and learning about our natural and cultural heritage.

Staff

Cali Granger

Horticulture and Facility Coordinator

Michael Greiner

Site Manager

Bonnie Twaddle

Community Outreach Coordinator

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Visit

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Bird Banding Returns to the Nature Center

After a three-year hiatus, bird banding research will continue at the Nature Center. Banding activities will once again be led by Al Eibel, federally permitted master bird bander and retired science teacher from Alliance City Schools. Al will be conducting banding research along the FirstEnergy right-of-way (ROW) on the eastern half of the Nature Center property this summer with the assistance of Nature Center staff and summer student employees. Banding was previously conducted on the ROW from 2016 to 2020 to monitor the response of bird abundance and diversity to the maturing pollinator habitat that was established under the utility lines. The results of that effort are available on our website at mountunion.edu/hbnc-education. Click the Nature Center Resource tab and view the file named FirstEnergy Right-of-way Habitat Reclamation Report for a summary of the banding data collected.

Al will also be initiating a project to study the dispersal patterns of fledgling Eastern Bluebirds. Al is interested in knowing how long bluebird offspring remain in/around their parent's territory after leaving the nest. In order to study the bluebirds, Al will be banding Eastern Bluebird nestlings when they reach the appropriate age. Each bird will have a standard aluminum band with an identification number imprinted on it as well as a color band made of flexible plastic placed around their leg. Al is properly permitted via the USGS Bird Banding Lab to handle and band the birds in this study. Once the birds leave their nest, there will be an opportunity for visitors to report an Eastern Bluebird observed with a color band around its leg. This project is taking place at the Nature Center as well as a couple of Stark Parks properties. Stay tuned for more information about this project and how you can assist in reporting your observations of banded bluebirds!

Nature Center-supported Research on Display at SCHOLAR Day

SCHOLAR Day is the University of Mount Union's Student Celebration Honoring Our Latest Academic Research. Students and faculty set aside an entire day to learn from students on campus who have completed outstanding research projects. This event is celebrated by students; faculty, staff, and administrators; alumni, and the greater community. SCHOLAR Day was held on Tuesday, April 25. Student presentations at SCHOLAR Day fell into two categories, formal and poster presentations. Student projects must be nominated and accepted for inclusion in SCHOLAR Day activities.

Three projects conducted in whole or in part at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center were presented in the Peterson Field House during the SCHOLAR Day poster session. The work included Emily Becker's herbarium collection, Syd Parker's insect diversity study, and an investigation of the elastic modulus of multiflora rose by Breanne Welsh, Jessie Kasper, and Ryan Meister, Jr.



Part of SCHOLAR Day includes an Honors Convocation which includes a number of awards presented to students in various academic disciplines. The Nature Center sponsors The Charles McClagherty Award to a member of the graduating class who plans to pursue a career in ecological or environmental sciences and has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to those fields. This year's award recipient was Emily C. Becker.

Summer Staff Announcements

Emily Becker has been the Nature Center's visitor services associate since May 2022. She is graduating from Mount Union in May 2023 with a degree in environmental science. Emily was recently awarded The Charles McClagherty Award to support her pursuit of graduate school. This summer she will be working for the Cleveland Metro Parks as a botany field technician before continuing her education in the fall in the ecology and evolutionary biology program at Kent State University. We thank Emily for all her work and enthusiasm during her time with us for the past year and wish her the best of luck going forward!

Ava Fornara has been hired for this summer's visitor services associate position. She is currently an environmental science major at Mount Union. Some of our regular morning hikers may recognize Ava from her Brumbaugh Scholars research project last summer documenting birds across the property. She'll be around all summer assisting the staff, greeting visitors, conducting field work, and helping this summer's cohort of Brumbaugh Scholars with their research as needed.

Michael Shields, computer science major at Mount Union, will be returning this summer as lead summer student maintenance worker. After a summer without a student, it will be great to have another set of hands around to keep up with the many projects planned for this summer.

Summer 2023 Brumbaugh Scholars

Each summer, the Brumbaugh Scholars program matches Mount Union students to a faculty or staff mentor and allows the students to work on summer research projects or other scholarly activities at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. Projects and scholarly work are student-initiated and student-led. Prospective Brumbaugh Scholars submit project proposals for review in January and selected projects, supported by the Brumbaugh Endowment, are to be completed over a 10-week period from late May to August. Now in its seventh year, the Brumbaugh Scholars program is proud to announce the Summer 2023 cohort. Congratulations to the following students and their mentors. We look forward to working with you and hearing about your work during the Brumbaugh Scholars Showcase on Sunday, September 24!

- Nick Anna (environmental science) will be working with Site Manager Mike Greiner on a pre-construction vegetation survey of the wetland project area at the North Woods section of the Nature Center.
- Ian Black (biology and French) will be identifying soil bacteria present in locations with native and non-native flora with Dr. Kim Risley.
- Logan Good (physics) will work with Professor Jodi McCullough on a variety of astronomy initiatives including interpretive materials at the Nature Center and deep-space photography at the Dr. Charles McClagherty III Research Reserve.
- Reagan Kole (biology) will be working with Professor Heather Milliken Mercer to develop hands-on science experiments at the Nature Center for students in grades 7-12.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

General Information

All events begin at the Visitors Center and are held rain or shine unless otherwise indicated. Events marked with an asterisk (*) require registration. All other events are informal, open to adults and families, and are available without registration.

To register or inquire about events, call (330) 823-7487 or email naturecenter@mountunion.edu.

*Bat Roost Monitoring

Friday, June 2 | 8:30-10 p.m.

As the main predator of night-flying insects in Ohio, bats keep insect populations in check and reduce impacts on humans. Bring a lawn chair and assist the staff in counting bats that leave the roost in the Huston Barn. Bring a flashlight. Cancelled for rain/wind. ***Registration is required and limited.**

*Breeding Bird Blitz

Saturday, June 17 | 8-10 a.m.

Over the last 10 years, 81 species of birds have been recorded at the Nature Center during the breeding season. Join us for a leisurely walk around the Nature Center to see how many of these we can see/hear or add new species to the list. Bring binoculars. Canceled in event of rain or high winds.

***Registration is required.**

*All About Hummingbirds

Wednesday, June 21 | 10-11 a.m.

This program is all about our favorite nectar-sipping bird, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We'll talk about the life cycle, food preferences, and physical feats of this amazing little bird before we make a homemade hummingbird feeder.

***Registration is required.**

Butterfly Walk

Thursday, June 22 | 12:30-2 p.m.

An exploration in search of butterflies and day-flying moths of the Nature Center. Binoculars and camera are encouraged to view and document all the species we see. Will be canceled for rain/wind.

*Native Bee Exploration

Friday, June 23 | 12-1 p.m.

Come and learn about the wild world of native bees as we discuss the major bee families found in Ohio and characteristics of each family that are useful in field identification. A short introduction presentation will be followed by in the field collection of bees. Open to all ages.

***Registration is required.**

*Tapestry Workshop with Canton Fiber Arts Guild

Saturday, June 24 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Learn the ancient art of tapestry! Through various pattern and pictorial techniques, participants will learn the basics of the weaving process. Create your own one-of-a-kind art piece or functional cloth on a simple frame loom. Please bring your own scissors and ruler or measuring tape. Bring your own lunch and beverage. 16 people maximum. ***Registration required. Cost is \$75 per person to cover all textiles and loom provided.**

*Enhance Your Homegrown Habitat

Sunday, June 25 | 2-4 p.m.

Discover what you currently provide for wildlife and pollinators (without even realizing it!), and simple steps you can take to make your outdoor space more wildlife- and pollinator-friendly. FREE seeds, plants, pollinator homes and safe water dishes will be available. ***Registration is required and opens on May 30 at 9 a.m. Attendance is limited to adults only.**

*Bat Roost Monitoring

Friday, July 14 | 8:30-10 p.m.

As the main predator of night-flying insects in Ohio, bats keep insect populations in check and reduce impacts on humans. Bring a lawn chair and assist the staff in counting bats that leave the roost in the Huston Barn. Bring a flashlight. Cancelled for rain/wind. ***Registration is required and limited.**

Moth Night Out

Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22 | 8:45-10 p.m.

Join the Nature Center for an evening of mothing. Light traps and bait stations will be set up in various locations around the Visitors Center and nearby trails to attract moths and other nocturnal insects. This is a self-guided activity from station to station. Bring a flashlight and your phone to upload images of insects using the iNaturalist app. Canceled for rain/wind.

*Introduction to Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday, July 23 | 2-4 p.m.

Are you interested in volunteering at the Nature Center but do not know where to begin? Join us this afternoon to learn about the mission, history, and staff of the Nature Center, what we do to achieve our mission, and the vital roles that Volunteers provide to help us accomplish this endeavor. There are opportunities available for individuals and families of all ages. No commitments will be requested during this informational program. ***Registration is limited and required by July 21.**

*Eco-Printing Silk Scarves with Canton Fiber Arts Guild

Sunday, July 30 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Learn to make botanical prints using plants and natural dyes. Most materials are provided. If you have any, please bring the following (can be dried): leaves of oak, maple, sand cherry, sumac, sweet gum, raspberry; flowers of marigold, rose, false indigo, coral bell, geranium; onion skins. You will create and take home two printed silk scarves. Bring your own lunch and drinks. 10 people maximum. ***Registration required. Cost is \$75 per person to cover textiles and supplies.**

Carnation Days Hike and Seek

Sunday, August 6 | 1-5 p.m.

A family-friendly, self-guided hike for all ages. Life-size wildlife images will be hidden along the trails, and it is your task to find them. Participants will receive a map with clues about where the various critters are hiding.

***Evening Canoe Excursion**

Tuesday, August 8 | 7-9 p.m.

Join the Nature Center canoe fleet for an evening paddle on one of our local reservoirs. Each canoe can accommodate three people. Registrants must register in groups of two or three people. All participants will be required to sign a waiver before entering canoes on the day of the event. Anyone with their own registered paddlecraft is welcome to join the fleet at their own discretion. Will be canceled for inclement weather.

***Registration is required.**

Guided Bird Walk

Thursday, August 10 | 8:30-10 a.m.

Join us for a guided bird walk on the Nature Center trails. Easy, casual walk in search of summer resident bird species. Great for bird enthusiasts of all ages. Bring binoculars or borrow ours (limited availability).

***Insects at Night**

Friday, August 11 | 8:30-9:30 p.m.

From lacewings to mosquitoes, moths to crickets, insects come alive at night! Join us as we explore the Nature Center after dark to see what insects we can find. We will use light traps and hand collecting to see these nocturnal beauties up close. Please bring a flashlight. ***Registration is required.**

***Cooling Self-Care DIY Products**

Sunday, August 27 | 2-4 p.m.

Refresh yourself from the summer heat by creating self-care products that are made from natural ingredients and are safe, environmentally friendly, and save money! The make-n-takes include cooling skin spray, relaxing foot soak, reed diffuser, refreshing beverages (non-alcoholic), and more. ***Registration is required and opens August 1 at 9 a.m. - limited to 16 adults.**

***Summer Haiku Workshop**

Sunday, September 10 | 1-4 p.m.

Come and help us capture the last days of summer in haiku! Haiku, which originated in Japan, are short, vivid "word paintings" about nature. We'll go over how to write these easy three-line poems, and then we'll spend time outside observing nature and writing. Refreshments will be available and there will be time for sharing. Each participant will receive a blank haiku journal, plus some rice paper and a brush pen to decorate their journal in a sumi-e (Japanese ink painting) style. Come dressed for the weather. Attendance is limited to 10 participants. ***Registration is required by September 8.**

Summer Research Showcase

Sunday, September 24 | 1-4 p.m.

See the work of outstanding University of Mount Union students in this showcase event. The 2023 cohort of summer researchers undertook a variety of projects with University mentors. Each student will make a presentation about their research. Your attendance is appreciated in support of the students, their mentors, and their academic research!

***Full Moon Hike**

Friday, September 29 | 7-8:30 p.m.

A guided walk on the trail as the sun goes down and the full moon comes up. Bring a flashlight. Dress for the weather and seasonal trail conditions. This is a moderately strenuous walk suitable for older children and adults. ***Registration is required.**

Relax and De-stress Event

Sunday, October 1 | 1-5 p.m.

EVERYONE needs to manage their stress these days. Stop by at your convenience and enjoy some relaxing activities such as strolling through the peaceful woods, walking the labyrinth, relaxing by the pond, listening to live music, light refreshments, and more. Come alone or bring the family – there is something for everyone!

The Big Sit!

Sunday, October 8 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

It's a "tailgate party for birders" with the objective to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard inside a 17-ft count circle. Join us at the North Woods for a few minutes or few hours during the world's most sedentary birding event! Bring a chair and binoculars. No registration required.

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1 | 2-4 p.m.

Join us at the Nature Center for a music jam. Bring an instrument or just come to listen. Beginners are welcome. Make new friends, have fun, and learn a new tune or two! No registration required.

Get Wild & Woolly

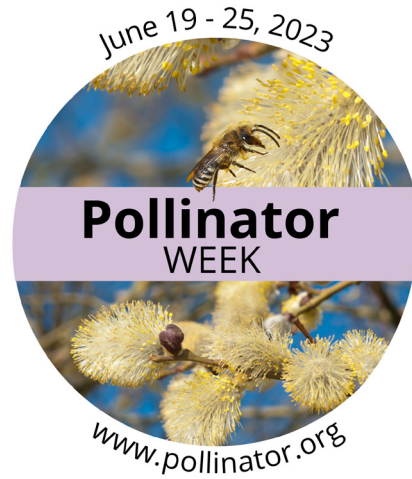
June 11, July 9, Aug. 13, Sept. 10, Oct. 8 | 2-4 p.m.

Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, crochet, needle felts, looms, etc. for a woolly sharing of the fiber arts. Open to all interested in participating or curious to watch and learn. Facilitated by Canton Fiber Arts Guild.



Wild, Windy Weather

Two early spring storms in successive weekends resulted in considerable damage to homes, utility lines, and trees across the region. The Nature Center avoided damage to buildings and the power went out for only a few hours, but several areas of the trail system sustained significant damage resulting in days of trail cleanup and repairs. The storm on March 25 brought down many dead ash trees and uprooted nearly an equal number of mature black cherry, red maple, sassafras, cucumber magnolia, and beech trees in multiple areas. After a few days of clean up, everything was clear until the next storm on April 1 polished off several more trees whose root systems were weakened by spring thaw and the previous storm. Both events resulted in closure and repair of the boardwalk and significant trail obstructions from one or more trees laying across sections of trail. Thank you for your patience as we worked to reopen and repair the trail system this spring.



National Pollinator Week

Pollinator Week has become an international annual celebration in support of pollinator health that was initiated and is managed by Pollinator Partnership. It is a time to raise awareness for pollinators and spread the word about what we can do to protect them. Stop by the Visitors Center during open hours June 20-25 to make and take items home that you can easily add to your outdoor area to help improve pollinator habitat! Educational programs will take place regarding butterflies, native bees, and gardening for pollinators. Check the schedule of events on page 3 for program descriptions and registration information.

Volunteer Recognition

We extend a sincere thank you to our December, January, February, and March Volunteers! Our outstanding volunteer staff assists us in maintaining high-quality programming and a beautiful facility. Thank you for ALL that you do!

Kim Anderson	Kevin Kern
Joseph Balogh	Catherine Klopp
Judy Birmingham	John Kolar
Ruth Border	Liz Koziarz
Chyenne Brammer	Jake Laurie
Fred Cockrill	Amy McElhinney
Joel Collins	Joe Planisky
Mike Cope	Adam Seefeldt
Paula Cope	Grace Seefeldt
Shirley DeMaiolo	Joseph Seefeldt
Sandy Gahan	Kylie Thouvenin
Emma Given	Larry Thouvenin III
Ann Hendel	Sage Warner

Photography Contest Awards



The 2023 Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit hosted by the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center received and displayed 167 photo entries. Formal judging was conducted, and judges recognized many photos with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention and Best of Show designations. People's Choice votes were tallied with votes from the public via paper ballot from February 26 through March 12.

Congratulations to the photographers named below and thank you to all the participants that submitted photos to the contest in our traditional format this year! Everyone's photos make for a great display of Ohio's natural beauty!

Best of Show - Daniel Lux (Pictured bottom right)

Invertebrates:

First Place – Liz Schweitzer
Second Place – Michael Grimes
Third Place – Suzanne Lux
Honorable Mention – Marni Ayers, Bill Roloff, Michelle Wittensoldner
People's Choice – Liz Schweitzer

Wild Plants and Fungi:

First Place – Bill Roloff
Second Place – Kelsey Anderson
Third Place – Bill Roloff
Honorable Mention – Michelle Wittensoldner
People's Choice – Patty Rickard

Vertebrates:

First Place (and Best of Show) – Daniel Lux
Second Place – Daniel Lux
Third Place – Liz Schweitzer
Honorable Mention – Michelle Wittensoldner (2x), Rick Hannegan
People's Choice – Tami McMinn

Seasons:

First Place – Lindy Anastis
Second Place – Mike Jones
Third Place – Suzanne Lux
Honorable Mention – Joyce Campian, Mary Thornton, Daniel Lux
People's Choice – Suzanne Lux, Amy O'Donnell, Tami McMinn

Landscapes:

First Place – Daniel Lux
Second Place – Bill Roloff
Third Place – Matt Hoffman
Honorable Mention – Michael Grimes
People's Choice – Bill Roloff

UMU Campus & Nature Center:

First Place – Liz Schweitzer
Second Place – Thom Baker
People's Choice – Liz Schweitzer

Black & White:

First Place – Mike Jones
Second Place – Matt Hoffman
Third Place – Lindy Anastis
Honorable Mention – Bill Roloff
People's Choice – Bill Roloff

Open Category:

First Place – Mike Jones
Second Place – Suzanne Lux
Third Place – John O'Donnell
Honorable Mention – Michael Grimes
People's Choice – Suzanne Lux





John T. Huston-Dr. John D.
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Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Visitors Center and Bird Observatory Hours

April through October
Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, 1-5 p.m.
Closed Mondays

November through March
Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday 1-5 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Saturdays

Our trails are open from dawn to dusk every day.

**The Nature Center is located six miles south of
the University of Mount Union on Daniel Street, just off Route 183**



Contact us at:

Phone: (330) 823-7487

Email: naturecenter@mountunion.edu
mountunion.edu/nature-center