General Information
Mount Union College’s John T. Huston-Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center is offering workshops January 3, 2010 through April 25, 2010. All workshops will begin at the Visitors Center unless noted otherwise. Dress appropriately as all workshops will be held rain or shine, although not all workshops are held outdoors. Please review the workshop descriptions for additional information.

Open Enrollment Programs are informal, open to adults and families and are available without registration. Simply show up at the scheduled time if you are interested. For more information, call (330) 823-7487.

Limited Enrollment Programs are available only by pre-registration. To register please call (330) 823-7487. If you register and find that you cannot attend, please call and cancel so that someone else can have your place. Limited enrollment workshops are indicated with an *.

Hours of Operation
The Visitors Center and Bird Observatory are open on the following days:

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 dawn to dusk every day.

First Quarter Schedule
Please post this schedule to remind yourself of the workshops you plan to attend.

Sunday, January 3  Folk Jam  2 p.m.
Sunday, January 17  Trees in Winter: Walk with a Naturalist  2 p.m.
Sunday, February 7  Folk Jam  2 p.m.
Wednesday, February 10  *Preschoolers and Partners – Let’s Look at the Year of the Snake 10-11 a.m.
Fri.-Mon., February 12-15  13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count
*“Count for Fun, Count for the Future!” See description for a full list of times.
Sunday, February 14  Valentine’s Day Walk with a Naturalist  2 p.m.
Saturday, February 20  Drum Circle  2 p.m.
Sunday, February 28  *Gifts from the Garden – Beat the Winter Blues 2-4 p.m.
Tuesday, March 2  Last day to enter Photo Contest! by 4 p.m.
Friday, March 5  Photo Contest Open House/ Artists’ Reception  7-9 p.m.
Sunday, March 7  Folk Jam  2 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16  *Preschoolers and Partners – Let’s Look at Wind! 10-11 a.m.
Saturday, March 20  Drum Circle  2 p.m.
Sunday, March 21  It’s Spring! Walk with a Naturalist  2 p.m.
Thursday, April 1  *Preschoolers and Partners – Let’s Look at Eggs! 10-11 a.m.
Sunday, April 4  Easter Walk with a Naturalist  2 p.m.
Saturday, April 10  Bird Banding  8-10 a.m.
Sunday, April 11  Folk Jam  2 p.m.
Saturday, April 17  Drum Circle  2 p.m.
Saturday, April 24  Bird Banding  8-10 a.m.
Sunday, April 25  Wildflower Walk with a Naturalist  2 p.m.

*Indicates registration is required
Folk Jam  
Sunday, January 3  
2 p.m.
Join us at the Nature Center for a folk music jam. Bring an instrument or just come to listen. Beginners are welcome. Make new friends, have fun and learn a new song or two!  *No registration is required.

Trees in Winter Walk  
with a Naturalist  
Sunday, January 17  
2 p.m.

Folk Jam  
Sunday, February 7  
2 p.m.
See January 3 for description.

Preschoolers and Partners  
*Let’s Look at the  
Year of the Snake!  
Wednesday, February 10  
10-11 a.m.
Preschoolers and Partners is designed for 4 and 5 year olds, each accompanied by an adult partner. Each session will include exploration, story-time, a simple craft and a snack. You may register to attend any or all of the sessions.

Sunday, February 14 is Chinese New Year and it’s the Year of the Snake. We’ll look at New Year’s customs as well as find out some things about snakes. So join us - 恭喜發財 Kung Hei Fat Choy! *Registration is limited and required.

13th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count  
“Count for Fun, Count for the Future!”  
Fri.-Mon., February 12-15
We are again participating in the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s Great Backyard Bird Count. Come watch the birds in the comfort of our (heated) bird observatory and you can help. Even if you don’t know a nuthatch from a chickadee - we’ll show you how, and you can take part in the thirteenth year of this Citizen Science project. If you choose to join us on Saturday morning February 13, you can breakfast right along with the birds.  *Registration is required and limited for the breakfast, but you are welcome to join us to count after 10 a.m., even if you don’t attend the breakfast, as the Great Backyard Bird Count itself requires no registration. (Please let us know if you register for the breakfast and find that you cannot attend.)
The events will be held at the following times:

Friday, 9 - 11 a.m.
Saturday, 9 - 11 a.m. *Bird Breakfast –  *registration required
Saturday, 10-11 a.m. bird count only
Sunday, 2 - 4 p.m.
Monday, 9 - 11 a.m.

Valentine’s Day Walk  
with a Naturalist  
Sunday, February 14  
2 p.m.

Drum Circle  
Saturday, February 20  
2 p.m.
Join us for Drum Circle. Every third Saturday of the month, Greg Rice will instruct us in drum tradition and methods and we’ll all make some music together. If you have a traditional drum, feel free to bring it. If not, we’ll have some extra drums and rhythm instruments to share. It’s great fun and anyone can do it. Come on out for a slappin’ good time. *No registration is required.

*Gifts from the Garden -Beat the Winter Blues  
Sunday, February 28  
2-4 p.m.
This hands-on workshop, led by Judi Strauss, is for gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Gift ideas range from presents of plant cuttings, dried flowers and herb blends to scented oils and birdhouse gourds. Each participant will go home with a project completed during the workshop, as well as directions for and samples of other garden gift ideas.  *Registration is required and limited to 16 adults. Material fee is $8.

Photo Contest
Are you an amateur photographer? Do you like to photograph nature? Would you like to share your efforts with others? Pick up an entry form, or click on the link on the Nature Center home page (www.muc.edu/nature_center.) Choose your favorite photo of nature from the region including the Great Lakes and the Ohio River basin, enlarge it (approximately 8x10), put it on a mat and bring it to the Nature Center by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2. Amateurs of any age are welcome to enter their work and best of all, there’s no entry fee!

Last day to enter Photo Contest!  
Tuesday, March 2  
by 4 p.m.
Don’t miss out! Get your entry over to the Nature Center right away. Entry forms can be picked up at the Visitors Center or downloaded from our website at www.muc.edu/nature_center.

Photo Contest Open House/Artists’ Reception  
Friday, March 5  
7-9 p.m.
Are you an amateur photographer? Do you have a local nature photo you’d like to show off? Would you like to check out our local photographers? Our seventh annual Photo Contest Artists’ Reception will be held Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Come cheer on your favorite photographer.

The photographs will be on display in the Visitors Center through April 5. Entries may be picked up after this date. People’s choice nominations will be open through
March 21, with the winners on display from March 23. Entry forms can be picked up at the Visitors Center or downloaded from our website at www.muc.edu/nature_center. No registration is required and there is no entry fee.

Folk Jam
Sunday, March 7
2 p.m.
See January 3 for description.

Preschoolers and Partners
*Let's Look at Wind!
Tuesday, March 16
10-11 a.m.
Preschoolers and Partners is designed for 4 and 5 year olds, each accompanied by an adult partner. Each session will include exploration, story-time, a simple craft and a snack. You may register to attend any or all of the sessions.

Who has seen the wind? We haven't - but we'll look at some things that the wind can do - including making kites fly. *Registration is limited and required.

Drum Circle
Saturday, March 20
2 p.m.
See February 20 for description.

It's Spring! Walk with a Naturalist
Sunday, March 21
2 p.m.

Preschoolers and Partners
*Let's Look at Eggs!
Thursday, April 1
10-11 a.m.
No foolin' - ever since the goddess Oestre turned her lovely bird into a rabbit, rabbits and eggs have been associated with this season. We'll dye some eggs and make a basket to put them in, then see if we can find some real bird nests. *Registration is limited and required.

Programs at Alliance City Parks

Winter Hike
Sunday, January 10
2-3:30 p.m.
Butler Rodman Park

Anitmal Valentines
Monday, February 8
4:30-6:30 p.m.
Silver Park

Easter Walk with a Naturalist
Sunday, April 4
2 p.m.

Bird Banding
Saturday, April 10
8-10 a.m.
Meet Al Eibel for a session of bird banding. Al will be setting up mist nets to capture songbirds. Then he will band each bird and collect data that include: species, sex, age, mass, wing length and general health. The birds will then be released. Banding allows scientists to collect information about a bird’s age, distribution, migration, and reproduction. Come learn more about this important activity! (Please remember to dress for the weather.) This session will be cancelled if it is raining or snowing or the temperature is below 40 degree F. No registration is required.

Folk Jam
Sunday, April 11
2 p.m.
See January 3 for description. Note change of date due to Easter holiday.
Drum Circle
Saturday, April 17
2 p.m.

Bird Banding
Saturday, April 24
8 -10 a.m.
See April 10 for description.

Wildflower Walk with a Naturalist
Sunday, April 25
2 p.m.

Nature Center Volunteer UPDATE

September, October and November Volunteers
We extend a sincere thank you to our September, October and November volunteers! If you volunteered last quarter and your name is not on this list, we are truly sorry. Please let us know so that we can give you the credit that you deserve.

Jerry Armstrong
Rob Arnold
Grant Aronson
Jon Baley
Carrie Balogh
Eloise Bradford
Ryan Brooks
Bruce Byers
Vincent Calautti
Kathy Chambers
Mike Chiracu
Mark Clough
Julia Collins
Sheila Cubick
Shirley DeMaiolo
Alan Dolan
Lee Dolan
Laura Dornan

Stacy Durst
Al Eibel
Heather Eichner
Amanda Espenschied-Reilly
Jeremy Evans
Harriett Fahnert
James Finucane
Dakota Granger
Jim Greiner
Diane Haines
Billy Hassinger
Deb Hatherill
Ann Hendel
Abigail Honaker
Amy Hosking
Carly Kalish
Dave Keirn
Joyce Lackey

Jean Leuenberger
Ed Libbey
Nancy Lippiatt
Barbara Lyons
Martha McClaugherty
Carol Pancake
Kay Polen
Brenda Rice
Greg Rice
Brian Riggs
Edmund Shi
Greg Smith
Jill "Rockstar" Smith
Amber Stevens
Lynn Stroud
Sarah Swope
Ben Thompson
Kevin Watkins

Special Thanks!
We would like to thank the Washington Ruritan Club for purchasing dictionaries for each 4th grade student from Alliance City Schools that participated in the Gardening Program this fall.

Thanks to Floyd Marshall for the use of his honey extracting equipment which allowed two classes of students help us extract honey from our bee hives.

Thanks also to Eddie Williams for the use of his sound equipment for the Movie Night in the Barn.
Recognition of Volunteers

October 18, 2009

Harriett Fahnert was chosen as Volunteer of the Year at our Founder’s Day Celebration. Harriett is a wonderful example of a life-long learner who uses her teaching experience and her own sense of wonder to encourage children to enjoy the outdoors. We are fortunate to have her as a trail guide. Thank you, Harriett!

Congratulations to Sheila Cubik and Saleena Niehaus who received the “From the Heart” Award. This award recognizes acts of kindness that come from the caring heart.

During the past year, 193 volunteers have given the Nature Center and its visitors 2,262 hours of their valuable time and talents! We are able to serve our visitors and the community to a great extent because of our dependable and dedicated volunteer staff. We cannot thank you enough!!

To all of our volunteers and guests from the staff of The John T. Huston – Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center: Thank you for joining us to celebrate the wonderful people and events that make the Nature Center such a wonderful place.

Junior Barn Detective Workshop

Friends of Ohio Barns held their first Junior Barn Detective (JBD) Workshop on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. This pilot training session was designed to further educate barn enthusiasts who are willing to go out into their respective communities and assist owners and stewards of old barns by helping them understand preservation and maintenance techniques, available resources and perhaps build a better appreciation of the barn structure. The workshop included a tour of the Huston barn here at the Nature Center and a practice evaluation of the neighboring Sutton barn. Workshop sessions included common barn problems and restoration by Jim Mehl and “Gizmo,” a hands-on model of how important good joints and proper structuring are to the integrity of a century barn. For more information on Friends of Ohio Barns, check out http://ohiobarns.osu.edu/

Contra Dance

The award winning Huston-Brumbaugh Barn was the perfect setting for an evening of traditional contra-dancing on October 24, 2009. We were pleased to host over 40 friends of all ages who danced to the traditional (guitar, fiddle, penny whistle) music of the band, “One String Short”. Contra-dancing is simple folk dancing dating back to medieval England and Scotland. At American contra-dances, there is a “caller” who teaches each dance before it is executed and then “calls” each move as the music is played. Our veteran caller, Jan Larson, chose dances that were suitable for beginners and it was interesting to watch the evening transpire. Confusion and embarrassment gave way to laughter and community-building as the dancers picked up on the simple steps and everybody helped each other out. Nature Center Director, Chuck McClaugherthy and his wife, Martha, are working to make contra-dancing a regular offering in the Alliance community. There will be a contra dance on January 30 at Jupiter Studios. Look for more dance opportunities in the months ahead.

Leave No Child Inside

This symbol indicates activities that foster our participation in the Northeast Ohio Leave No Child Inside Network. LNCI is a movement to help reconnect children with nature through advocacy, education and coordination of efforts to assure that all children have access to natural areas for play.

Please save March 6, 2010 when the Nature Center will join with Stark Parks to give you tips and tricks for taking kids outside (and a chance to be outside with them).

For more information on this event, visit http://www2.muc.edu/academics/nature_center.
The John T. Huston-Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center

Discover the Wonder of Nature’s Ever-Changing Story

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Sunday 1-5 p.m.
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Our trails are open from dawn to dusk every day.

The Nature Center is located 6 miles south of Mount Union College on Daniel Street, just off Rt. 183

Contact us at (330) 823-7487 or naturecenter@muc.edu
www.muc.edu/nature_center