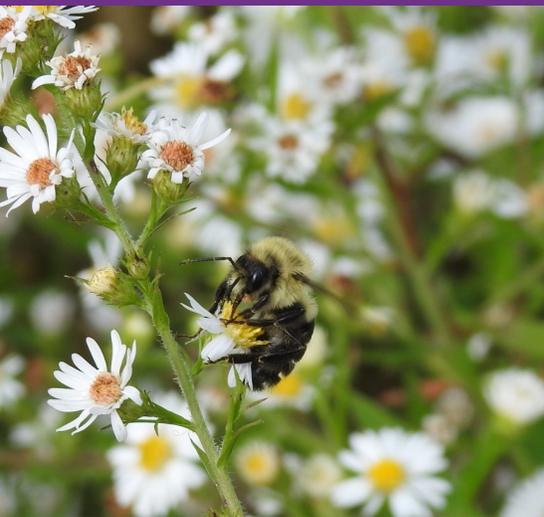




UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER



2021 Fall/Winter Newsletter

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Nature Almanac

October

- 1 Queen bumblebees feed on the last blossoms of the season
- 10..... Cool, damp weather encourages a flush of fungi across the forest
- 20..... Full Hunter's Moon

November

- 1 Most trees have lost their leaves
- 19..... Partial lunar eclipse covers 97% of the moon at 4:02 a.m.
- 19..... Full Beaver Moon

December

- 1 Winter begins on the meteorological calendar
- 18..... Full Cold Moon
- 21..... Winter Solstice

January

- 7 Look for Mercury low in the western sky just after sunset
- 17..... Full Wolf Moon
- 31..... Bird watchers attempt to reach 100 species observed in January

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

Jamie Greiner, Sustainability and Campus Outreach Manager

Michael Greiner, Site Manager

R. Chris Stanton, Director

Bonnie Twaddle, Community Outreach Coordinator

Lin Wu, Ecologist

Adam Zorn, Program Manager

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Instagram: @UMUNatureCenter

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION



HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
**NATURE
CENTER**



Riddle Me This

Al Eibel

When I was a youngster, my father presented me with this riddle: "What's black and white and red all over." I was stumped, and even more perplexed when he answered, "A newspaper." He roared with his cleverness, but I just didn't get it. He used the riddle several times with me. The problem was the blasted homophones; I was hearing "red," but he was saying "read." For me, my lack of understanding was a matter of interpretation.

I always think of that riddle when I see a Red-headed Woodpecker, a stunning bird that is indeed "black and white and red all over." And I deal with matters of interpretation when I discuss local woodpeckers with people, many who say they always see Red-headed Woodpeckers at their homes. Since Red-headed Woodpeckers are not that common, I ask for a description, and, invariably, the description often falls somewhere on the Hairy, Downy, Pileated, or Red-bellied woodpecker spectrum. With some precise questioning, the bird described is usually one of those four.

Local woodpeckers do have varying amounts of red plumage on their heads. Both male and female Red-bellieds have red napes, and the male's red extends to the base of the beak. Adult Downy and Hairy males sport a red patch on the back of their heads; adult females have no red. Pileated males and females have large red crests, with the male's red extending to the base of the beak. Pileated males also have red cheek patches.

With so much red on woodpecker heads, it's no wonder identification is sometimes a challenge. However, only the Red-headed Woodpecker – males and females are identical – has an ENTIRELY red head – the only eastern woodpecker to have an entirely red head. Although, the red head is a dead giveaway for identification, in the field it's also difficult to miss the startling black and white plumage on the wings and back.

Finally, Red-headed Woodpecker habitat includes parks, open forest, golf courses, and farmland. Lately, my wife regularly sees them at Silver Park, and I've seen them at Molly Stark Park, Quail Hollow, and along Reeder Road. Because the Red-headed are generally less vocal than other woodpeckers, a keen eye helps to spot them, and don't forget: "What's black and white and red all over?"

Summer Surprise

Dr. Chris Stanton

During the summer of 2020, reports of an invasive group of worms popped up around Columbus, OH. The worms are known as “Asian jumping worms” and include several species in the Genus *Amyntas*. Because they thrash around when disturbed and can crawl like snakes, they are also called “snake worms” and “crazy worms.”

These species have been reported in the eastern U.S. since the early 1900’s. Over the past ten years, they have rapidly expanded into the midwestern states. The environmental concern associated with the worms is that they consume the leaf litter and other organic materials from the surface of soil, leaving it dried out and the soil quality degraded. Originally from Japan and Korea, these worms have been transported across the U.S. in the soil of potted plants, in mulch, and as fishing bait.

So, in June of this year, I decided to do some searching around the Nature Center property for jumping worms. I figured that if they were in Columbus last summer, then they may arrive in Stark County in a few years. Plus, it would be good to know what invertebrate species occur now so we can observe the impacts of the new worms—if they eventually appear. Rachel Vees, an undergraduate student from Minerva who attends Miami University, joined me in the first week of July to sample the worms of the Nature Center. We poured a mixture of mustard powder and water at several wooded sites to drive the worms out of the ground but did not find any jumping worms—good news!

But on July 13, 2021, Program Manager Adam Zorn noticed some writhing worms in a flower bed outside of the Visitors Center. They were jumping worms, and we later found them



in almost every flower bed around the Nature Center! We feel confident that these worms were not present last summer, so they likely arrived in the past year. How? We don’t know for sure. Subsequent searches have found dense populations of the jumping worms in other parts of the Nature Center property.

We need to do more work to determine the impacts of these species and you can help with this effort. If you suspect that you have these worms in your garden or woods, report them to The Ohio State University at the following website: go.osu.edu/asianjumpingworms.

For more information on the worms, including how to identify them, check out <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/jumpingWorm.html>.

20th Annual Photography Contest



Save the date!

Photo submissions for the Nature Center’s 20th Annual Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit will be accepted beginning in February 2022. There is still plenty of time to capture the perfect shot of your favorite subject, season, or landscape. Participation is free, but submissions are limited to nature photos captured in eastern Ohio, including Lake Erie and the Ohio River basin. Photographers must be amateurs.

The contest returns to its original format this year with all submissions being printed at 8”x10” size and matted. An artists’ reception and exhibit opening are scheduled for Sunday, February 27, 2022 from 1-5 p.m. Contest details and entry forms will be available by February 1.

Photo credit: Shane O’Brien

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

Notice

Participation is limited for some events. Participants will be expected to wear a face covering and respect appropriate distance during indoor events. Events may be canceled due to prescribed COVID-19 protocols. Registration is required to participate unless otherwise indicated.

October 3-9

Mental Illness Awareness Week

To raise awareness of and reduce the stigma attached to mental illness, there will be a self-guided walk through the Nature Center's labyrinth during daylight hours this week. Educational pamphlets available in the Visitors Center during open hours as well. Please practice social distancing and wear a mask if other people are walking the labyrinth at the same time.

Sunday, October 3

***Sustainable Self-care Workshop 2-4 p.m.**

The UMU Green Raiders will assist you in the making of some all natural, eco-friendly self-care products, such as body washes, bath bombs, body scrubs, and bar soaps. These products are guaranteed to boost your well-being. Limited to 20 people, reservations required (all supplies provided). ***Registration is required.**

Wednesday, October 6

***Walk with a Naturalist 10-11:30 a.m.**

A guided walk searching for birds undertaking their fall migration. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Saturday, October 9

The Big Sit! 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. Last year we tallied 36 species from our lawn chairs at the North Woods! Join us for a couple of minutes or a couple of hours during this annual, international, noncompetitive birding event.

Sunday, October 10

***Introduction to Volunteer Opportunities 2-4 p.m.**

Have you been interested in Volunteering at the Nature Center but don't know where to begin? Then join us this afternoon to learn about the mission of the Nature Center, the history, the staff, 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 Friday, October 8.**

Saturday, October 23

***Birdability Outing 8-10 a.m.**

Birdability is a national program designed to encourage all individuals, especially those with limited mobility or other health challenges, to visit and enjoy accessible locations and to enjoy birds and nature. Join the Canton Audubon Society and the Nature Center on an exploration for local birds. Binoculars will be available. Open to persons of all mobility levels. The Nature Center is the first Birdability Site in Stark County. Learn more about Birdability at birdability.org. ***Register by October 22.**

Sunday, October 24

***Summer Research Showcase 1-3:30 p.m.**

See the work of outstanding University of Mount Union students in this showcase event. The 2021 cohort of Brumbaugh Scholars and *Sit Lux* researchers undertook summer-long research 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! ***Register by October 22.**

Wednesday, November 3

***Walk with a Naturalist 10-11 a.m.**

A guided walk searching for White-tailed Deer. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, November 14

***Composting 101 2-3 p.m.**

Learn about the basics of traditional composting and explore a few alternatives! ***Registration is required.**

Friday, November 19

***Hike in the Dark 6-7:30 p.m.**

The sun sets so early this time of year! If you are missing your after-work walks, join us for a hike in the dark. Bring a flashlight and prepare appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, December 5

***Upcycled Ornament Workshop 2-4 p.m.**

Upcycling, creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless, or unwanted products into new materials or products of higher value. Join us as we UPCYCLE some everyday items into holiday decorations! ***Registration is required.**

December 5-19

Holiday Celebration Open House

The Huston Cabin is dressed up for the holidays. Drop in weekdays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. to walk through the cabin. Great photo opportunities inside and out. Try a holiday-themed scavenger hunt, read the story walk,

and leave a letter for Santa. Send an email or check our social media pages for directions on how to leave a letter for Santa!

Wednesday, December 8

***Walk with a Naturalist 10-11 a.m.**

This month we'll be taking an off-trail hike. Wear sturdy shoes, bring a walking stick if needed, and generally come prepared for an off-trail exploration. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Friday, December 10

***Hike in the Dark 6-7:30 p.m.**

The sun sets so early this time of year! If you are missing your after-work walks, join us for a hike in the dark. Bring a flashlight and prepare appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. ***Registration is required.**

December 14 – January 5

122nd Christmas Bird Count All Day

Participate in the Audubon 122nd Christmas Bird Count as a volunteer in the Quail Hollow (Dec 18) or Tri-Reservoir (Jan 1) count circles. Join a team of volunteers to count birds in the field, or you may be able to participate at home. Contact the Nature Center or visit the Audubon Society online at audubon.org/conservation/join-christmas-bird-count.

December 24 – January 2

Holiday Break

The Visitors Center will be closed as part of the University of Mount Union's holiday break. Staff will be present daily for limited hours to respond to email, voice messages, and care for the animals. The Visitors Center will reopen on Tuesday, January 4.

Wednesday, January 5

***Walk with a Naturalist 2-3 p.m.**

A guided walk emphasizing winter identification of common trees at the Nature Center. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, January 9

***Winter Tree ID 1-2:30 p.m.**

Learn to ID common trees using bark, buds, and twigs. This is a good event if you are thinking about making maple syrup! Prepare appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. ***Register by January 7.**

Sunday, January 23

***Maple Sugaring Crash Course 1-2:30 p.m.**

Thinking about making your own maple syrup, and you're not sure how to start? Take a crash course to learn the basics. This event should help you decide if you will or won't make syrup when the weather breaks! ***Register by January 21.**

Photo credit: Rebecca Rodhe

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

2-4 p.m. on October 3, November 7

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.

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.



Mental Illness Awareness Week

October 3-9

This year's NAMI Mental Illness Awareness Week theme is "Together for Mental Health." One common influence on mental health is stress. Stress is the result of pressures or tensions and how our body responds. Stress can cause feelings of unease, anxiety, frustration, nervousness, fearfulness, or helplessness. When stressed, you may notice changes in your sleep, appetite, or energy level. Feeling stressed is normal, especially during a crisis. You may experience stress for a variety of reasons during this time, such as increased caregiving responsibilities, financial challenges, or health concerns. Stress can be overwhelming and affect your mental and physical health.

What you can do:

1. Take five. Take a deep breath and relax. Even five minutes to take care of yourself can help.
2. Take a walk, stretch, or attend a virtual exercise class. While doing an activity you enjoy, focus on the here-and-now.
3. Maintain connections with others. Call, video chat, or reach out to friends and family.
4. Create a daily routine that includes rest, exercise, and regular meals.

For additional resources on mental health and coping with stress, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <https://www.cdc.gov/populationhealth/well-being/index.htm>. Learn more about mental health awareness month at <https://www.nami.org/Get-Involved/Awareness-Events/Mental-Health-Awareness-Month>. Explore the Nature Center's calendar of events for free, relaxing activities this week and all year long!



TOGETHER
for Mental Health



Sustainability Month

Jamie Greiner

October is Campus Sustainability Month. This year, UMU's theme is the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests (<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>)."

These goals seem daunting and out of reach for the average person, but it's changing this exact mindset that will ultimately contribute to their achievement. The first step is to educate ourselves about the goals and then tell other people. Take it a step further by supporting (with your time, talent, and/or money) those organizations (locally and globally) that are working every day to achieve specific goals. Next, evaluate your personal impact. How can you become a more conscious citizen and consumer? In what ways can you "do less harm" in your day-to-day, while also "doing more good"?

Think simple to start – plant a tree, participate in a clean-up event, vote, reduce your consumption (energy, water, food), reuse (bags, bottles, mugs, etc.), donate, borrow instead of buying, volunteer, write your representatives about environmental and social justice issues, plant wildflowers, compost, support local businesses, and the list goes on and on. Lastly, enjoy and appreciate the natural world that is all around you and encourage others to do the same. A wise woman said, "The more clearly we can focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe about us, the less taste we shall have for destruction" – Rachel Carson (author of *Silent Spring*).

Facilities and Grounds Report

Mike Greiner

Another less-than-normal summer has passed but we continue to plug away at projects across the Nature Center properties. Improvements to our grounds include new bridges, major painting, improved path lighting, new trail stairs, replaced split rail fences and a host of little projects improving the visitor experience.

Engineering students from the University of Mount Union, under the direction of our site manager, installed new trail bridges. Two old bridges were removed from the southwest section of Brumbaugh Woods Trail and two new bridges were designed and constructed by the engineering students. This was certainly a learning experience for the students from design concept to physical onsite construction. We hope our hikers notice the sturdy improvement of these new bridges.

Both the Visitors Center and the Operations Building were given a fresh coat of paint this spring. Several new path lights were also installed on the building, better illuminating the path from the pavilion around the west side of the Visitors Center to the main entrance path.

Eagle Scout candidate Cory Miner from Troop 15 in Louisville replaced the washed-out stairs that connect Beech Trail to Succession Trail. Several weekends of work with scouts and volunteers completed the timber constructed stairs. They were backfilled with gravel making the climb out of the Succession Trail valley safer and sturdier.



Finally, split rail fences received some TLC. Oak Trail overlook, the honeybee yard and the pond all got new rails as well as some posts replaced.

There are some exciting projects slated for the coming year, so keep an eye out as we continue to improve our grounds and facilities for our visitors.

Volunteer Recognition

We extend a sincere thank you to our April, May, June, and July Volunteers! Our outstanding Volunteer staff assists us in maintaining high-quality programming and a beautiful facility. Thank you for ALL that you do!

Julia Bates	Thaddeus Border	Katelyn Doemel	Gina Hoffman	Bernie Miner
Emily Becker	Hannah Botzman	Brandon Duktig	Allison Hrovat	Cory Miner & Boy
Kayley Black	Amy Briceland	Madison Frank	Cynthia S. Larson	Scout Troop #15
Adrianna Border	Jacob Buttar	Joseph Haas	Mary Lindsay	Dustin Obermyer
Katriel Border	Megan Casciola	Ann Hendel	Hayley Maher	Alejandra Twiss
Ruth Border	Shirley DeMaiolo	Heather Hickman	Emily Maroni	Rachel Veas

SPECIAL THANKS! Additional gratitude is extended to the Alliance Middle School Summer Explorers 2021 for designing posters for display in the Visitors Center to highlight this year's National Pollinator Week.



John T. Huston-Dr. John D.
Brumbaugh Nature Center
1972 Clark Ave.
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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