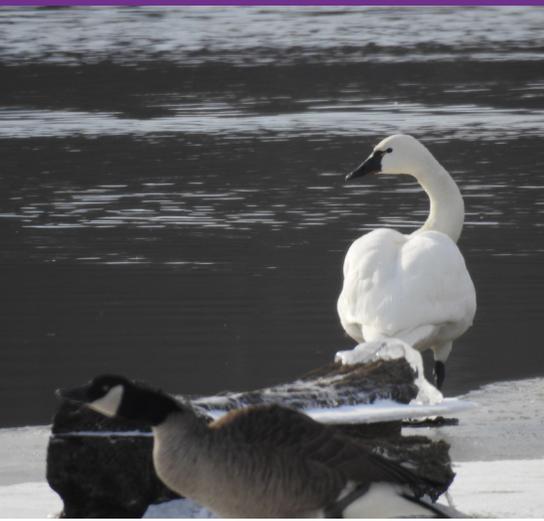




UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION
 HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
NATURE CENTER



2021 Spring Newsletter

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Nature Almanac

February

- 1Bird migration begins – look for ducks, geese, and swans on lakes without ice
- 15..... Gather supplies for maple sugaring season
- 27..... Full Snow Moon

March

- 1 Red and Silver Maple trees begin to bloom
- 15..... Amphibians begin to emerge from hibernation
- 28..... Full Worm Moon

April

- 13..... Bees and butterflies emerge from hibernation
- 22..... Earth Day
- 26..... Full Pink Moon

May

- 1Dragonflies and damselflies emerge from local ponds
- 17..... Look for Six-spotted Tiger Beetles on sunny paths and forest clearings
- 26..... Full Flower Moon

The 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

Visit:

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
16146 Daniel St. NE
Minerva, Ohio 44657

Contact:

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Instagram: @UMUNatureCenter

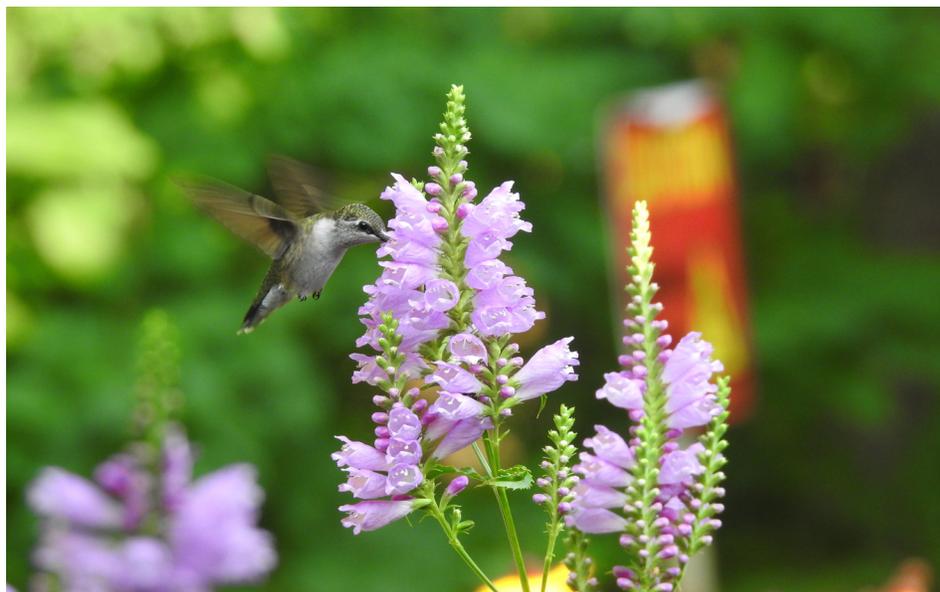


19th Annual Photo Contest

Amateur nature photographers are invited to enter their photos in the Nature Center's 19th Annual Nature Photography Contest between February 1 and February 23, 2021. This year's photo contest is going online for 2021 with the intention of returning to a traditional format again in 2022. Participation is free, but submissions are limited to nature photos captured in eastern Ohio (east of Interstate 71 and Ohio Route 23). Photos may be taken with cell phones, DSLRs or point-and-shoot cameras. Photos must be the original work of the photographer.

The subject(s) of the photo must be obviously characterized into one of the following categories: Wildlife, Wild Plants, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, or UMU Campus. Pictures must be submitted in .jpg format and sent as an email attachment to naturecenter@mountunion.edu (10 MB limit per email). Please include your last name and the category name in the photo file name (example: Smith_Wildlife.jpg). Up to two entries per person. Each entry must be accompanied by full name, mailing address (to mail prizes), and email address (for contacting winners) in the body of the email.

Photos will be judged by a committee of judges who will determine the 1st Place photo in each category. Photos will also be posted in albums on the Nature Center's Facebook page where the public can determine a People's Choice winner for each category from February 29 to March 4. Prizes will be awarded for the 1st Place and People's Choice picture(s) from each category - that's eight winners! All submitted entries may be used by the Nature Center online or in print with proper credit to the photographer. Questions regarding the contest may be directed to Adam Zorn, program manager at (330) 829-8988.



A Cascade of Wildflowers

Adam Zorn

According to Oxford Languages, one definition of cascade is "a large number or amount of something occurring or arriving in rapid succession." That is a very good description of the procession of ephemeral wildflowers blooming across the Nature Center's forest floor each spring. From late March through May, dozens of species of wildflowers emerge from the forest floor. Warm sunshine and spring rain rouse each plant from their winter dormancy in succession. The parade of blossoms appears to be fleeting or never ending, depending on the observers' point of view.

The old growth forest, located on the eastern half of the trail system, is the best place to see the greatest diversity of blooming spring flowers at the Nature Center – maybe all of Stark County. The forest floor in this portion of the Nature Center’s forest is largely undisturbed and has been for a very long time.

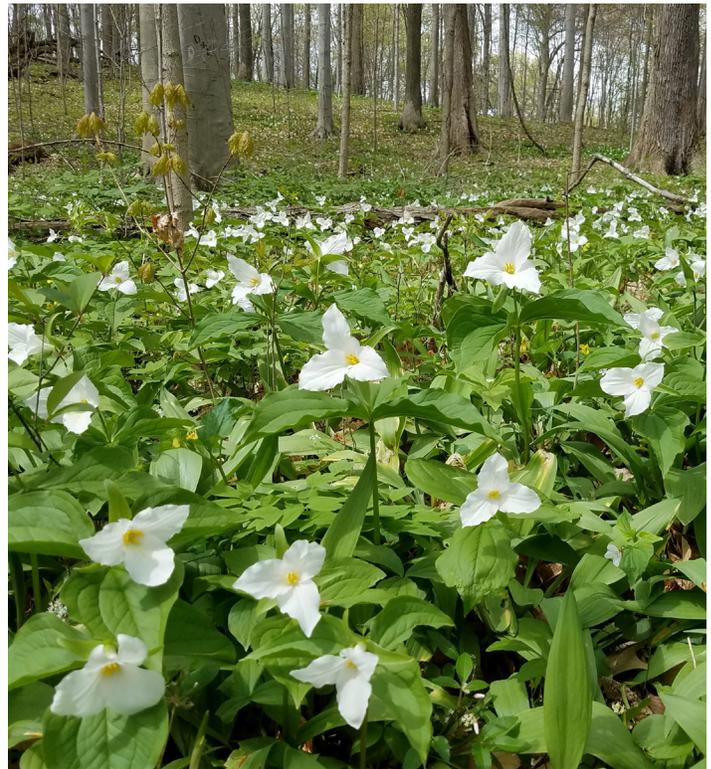
Though many species of spring wildflowers have short growing seasons, they can be very long-lived perennials. Many plants require as much as seven years to acquire enough energy during their short seasonal growing cycles to finally produce the long-awaited blossoms we cherish.

If you are unfamiliar with the variety of flowers and/or the general period of spring to view them, save this information! Here is a rough summary of when you will want to visit and some of the species of wildflowers you can expect to see in bloom.

The table below was generated from observations submitted to the Nature Center’s biodiversity project on iNaturalist. You too can use the app or website to report your observations of wildflowers, insects, birds, mammals, and any other living organism you encounter. Each observation of blooming flowers or other organisms is a new data point in the project and helps to better inform the staff and other iNaturalist users about the diversity of life residing at the Nature Center.

Remember to always remain on the trail (dogs included) when visiting the Nature Center. It is tempting to step off the trail to get a better look at a flower, butterfly, or mushroom, but doing so will likely result in damage to other organisms growing or residing on the forest floor.

Please bring a camera or binoculars to enhance your view of specimens that may be too far away for satisfactory views.



Picking or collecting specimens is also forbidden! It is easy to convince ourselves that no one will notice a missing flower/rock/tadpole, but if we all made that assumption, there will eventually be none left for anyone to enjoy.

Like your lawn and garden at home, the Nature Center is private property. Therefore, no one has the right to remove things from your home or the Nature Center’s forest without permission. All our visitors deserve the opportunity to observe wildlife and the full cascade of wildflowers this spring!

Time Frame	Notable Wildflowers in Bloom
Late-March	Sharp-lobed Hepatica, Colt’s-Foot, Virginia Spring Beauty
Early-April	Rue Anemone, Bloodroot, Early Blue Cohosh, Purple Cress, Cut-leaved Toothwort, Halberd-leaved Violet
Mid-April	Yellow Trout Lily, Dutchman’s Breeches, Large White Trillium, Red Trillium, Dwarf Ginseng, Canadian Wild Ginger
Late-April	Downy Yellow Violet, Canada Violet, Long-spurred Violet, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Solomon’s Seal, Fairybells
May	Marsh Marigold, Wild Blue Phlox, Wild Geranium, Mayapple, Golden Ragwort, Dame’s Rocket

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

Notice

Participation is limited and participants will be expected to wear a face covering and respect six feet of physical distance among other CDC and Ohio Department of Health guidelines. Events may be canceled due to prescribed COVID-19 protocols. Registration is required to participate unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, February 7

***Winter Nature Journals 2-4 p.m.**

Keeping a journal of your experiences in the natural world can help develop your skills in observation, mindfulness, expression, and reflection—and help you form a stronger connection with a place. This program will introduce several approaches to organizing a journal and get you started on a new hobby. Open to all ages but be prepared to go outside.

***Registration is required by February 5.**

Wednesday, February 10

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

A guided walk searching for early signs of spring as well as animal tracks and traces left behind by local wildlife. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged.

***Registration is required.**

February 12 and 15 9-11 a.m.

February 14 1-3 p.m.

***Great Backyard Bird Count**

Join Nature Center staff as participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count in the comfort of the Bird Observatory.

***Registration is required.**

Friday, February 26

Photo Contest Online Premiere 4 p.m.

See page 2 for entry and event details. Photo submission deadline is Tuesday, February 23.

Saturday, February 27

***Full Moon Night Hike 6-8 p.m.**

Take a walk under the light of the full Snow Moon! We'll walk to the east end of the trail system to view the moonrise, listen for owls, and walk by the light of the moon. Dress warm and bring a flashlight. This is a moderately strenuous walk suitable for older children and adults. ***Registration is required.**

Wednesday, March 10

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

A guided walk checking the sugarbush and listening for sounds of spring. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, March 14

***Introduction to Volunteer Opportunities 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 required by March 12.**

Wednesday, March 17

***Going Green, and not just because it's St. Patrick's Day 7-8 p.m.**

Learn some simple tips to improve your personal sustainability (Shamrock shake not included). Presented as a live Zoom meeting and recorded video. ***Registration is required.**

Saturday, March 20

***Listening to a Vernal Pool 6:30-8 p.m.**

Celebrate the first day of spring by visiting a vernal pool and listening for the various species that breed there. As the sun goes down, these species should get louder. This program will include a short hike outside so dress appropriately.

***Registration is required by March 19.**

Sunday, March 21

***Exploring a Vernal Pool 2-4 p.m.**

We will investigate what species are using the vernal pools by collecting water samples and looking for various forms of life in these exciting but temporary habitats. ***Registration is required by March 19.**

Sunday, March 21

***Sounds of Spring Hike 2-4 p.m.**

Let's listen and search for the source of common sounds of spring! Listening is a great way to explore and interact with the wildlife at the Nature Center. We will help you decipher the many voices of our forest in spring. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for muddy trails. ***Registration is required.**

Wednesday, April 7

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

A guided walk searching for spring wildflowers. Wear sturdy shoes suitable for muddy trails. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, April 18

***Earth Month Activities 2-5 p.m.**

Join the UMU Green Raiders to celebrate Earth Month at the Nature Center.

- Nature craft with individual kits (ongoing, 2-5 p.m.)
- "Restore our Earth" program (2-3 p.m.)
- Guided hike (3-4 p.m.)
- Children's Earth Day themed story time (4-5 p.m.)

This event is great for all ages and takes place in the Nature Center's pavilion (weather permitting) with alternate plans for inclement weather. ***Registration is required.**

Thursday, April 22

***Earth Day Hike 10-11:30 a.m.**

Enjoy a guided walk on this very special day to appreciate and enjoy our planet. ***Registration is required.**

Thursday, April 22

***B'EARTH'day Party 7-8 p.m.**

Learn about the special "gifts" we can give the Earth to restore, protect, and preserve it for future generations! Takes place in the Nature Center's pavilion with alternate plans for inclement weather. ***Registration is required.**

Saturday, April 24

***Spring Nature Journals 2-4 p.m.**

Keeping a journal of your experiences in the natural world can help develop your skills in observation, mindfulness, expression, and reflection—and help you form a stronger connection with a place. This program will introduce several approaches to organizing a journal and help you with your new hobby. Open to all ages but be prepared to go outside. ***Registration is required by April 23.**

Sunday, April 25

***Spring Insect Walk 2-3 p.m.**

Spring has sprung and the insects are jumping back to life! On this guided walk around the Nature Center, come and release your spring fever as we explore, discuss, catch, and identify those early emerging spring insects. ***Registration is required.**

Wednesday, May 5

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

A guided walk searching migrating wildlife such including birds, butterflies, and dragonflies. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, May 16

***Vegetable Garden Insects: The Good, the Bad and the Buggy 2-3:30 p.m.**

As we anticipate getting back into our gardens after a long winter, so are the bugs! It is important to prepare your garden for those problematic pest insects while also supplying suitable habitats and resources for beneficial insects. But how do you know which insects are wreaking havoc and which are the defenders of your garden? Come and learn about integrative pest management (IPM) practices, the biology and identification of some common pests and beneficial insects that can be found in your gardens. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, May 23

***It's Not Just a Garden: Pollinator Habitat 2-4 p.m.**

You would be surprised by how much your outdoor space provides for pollinators already! We will discuss what you currently provide for pollinators (without even realizing it!), and simple steps you can take to make your outdoor space more pollinator-friendly. FREE seeds, plants, pollinator home and safe water dish will be available for those that want to add any or all of these. ***Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, April 27 at 9 a.m. Attendance is limited to adults only.**

Saturday, May 29

***Ohio Bat Roost Monitoring 8:30-9:45 p.m.**

Bats are a critical part of our ecosystem and an important component of the agricultural economy. 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. ***Registration is required**

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

2-4 p.m. on April 11, May 2, June 6

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!

***Spring Bird Walk**

9-11 a.m. on April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17

Join Naturalist Adam Zorn on the Nickel Plate Trail in Louisville, OH for a morning bird walk. Great for beginners and experienced birders. Level, paved walking surface. Bring your binoculars. Meet at the trail head on Pinevale Ave, Louisville, OH. Canceled for inclement weather. Group size limited. ***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.

Vernal Pools in 2021

Dr. Chris Stanton

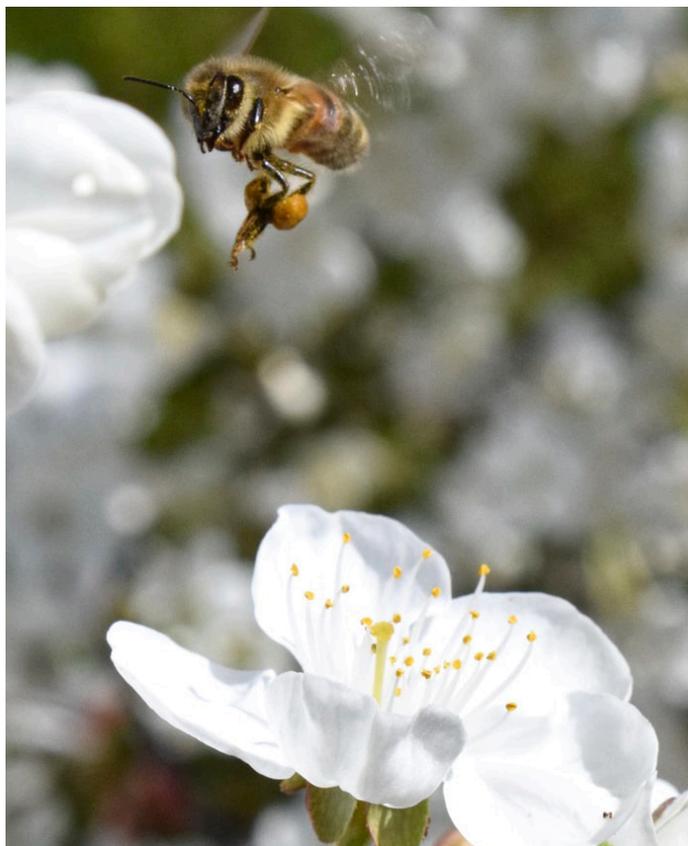
A vernal pool is a temporary, shallow body of water that forms from rain and melting snow in the late winter and early spring. These pools are vital breeding areas for amphibians (like frogs and salamanders) and other interesting species (like fairy shrimp). However, due to the short existence of the pools, these species must complete their development before their habitat dries out. The temporary nature of these pools also causes them to be overlooked and considered unimportant, which often leads to their destruction.

At the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, natural vernal pools have not existed so a man-made pool was constructed in 2016 to introduce this habitat. Since its establishment, the pool has become home to spring peepers, wood frogs, gray tree frogs, American toads, and other exciting and vocal species. More recently, the Nature Center has purchased nearby properties that contain natural vernal pools for students to study and for us to better understand how these habitats function locally.

So far, 2021 is shaping up to be a good one for vernal pool species. Rain and snow have been filling the pools and the long-range forecast looks like the habitats are unlikely to dry out too early. So, we will be paying extra attention to these pools this year—in our research projects, in our university classes, and in our public programming. Watch for a weekend



of vernal pool activities in the third week of March, which has typically been when amphibian activity starts to peak, and conditions are right for sampling. Many of these activities will be easier this year thanks to the new section of boardwalk completed last fall by Randy Ray Detchon as his Eagle Scout project.



Earth Day 2021

Earth Day Network (EDN), the organizing body for Earth Day worldwide, announced that the theme of Earth Day 2021 is “Restore Our Earth”.

“The theme is based on the emerging concept that rejects the idea that our only options to save the planet are to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change and other environmental damage. Scientists, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and governments worldwide are now looking at natural system processes and emerging green technologies to restore the world’s ecosystems and forests, conserve and rebuild soils, improve farming practices, restore wildlife populations, and rid the world’s oceans of plastics.”

“While the world waits for global political and business leaders to take decisive action to reduce carbon emissions, natural processes including reforestation and soil conservation can store massive amounts of carbon while restoring biodiversity, clean water and air, and rebalance ecological systems. Restoration is not only practical, but necessary to reduce climate change.”

Learn more about this topic at the Nature Center on April 18 and 22 (see calendar of events). *Source: earthday.org*

Order a Nature Center T-shirt

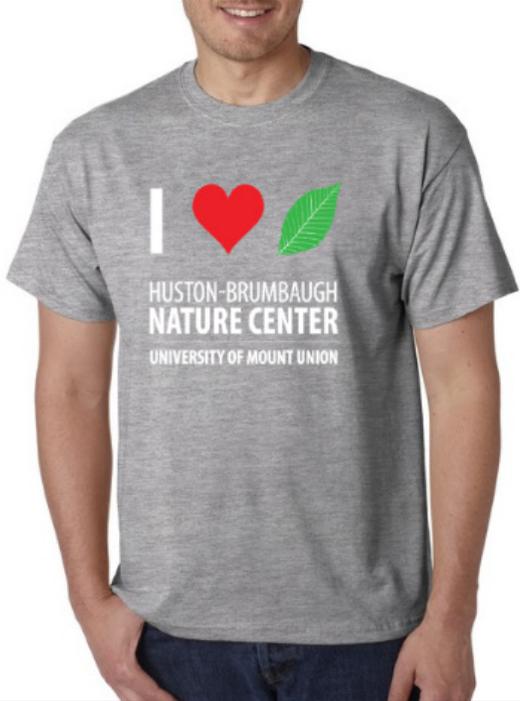
For the first time, the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center is offering t-shirts for sale to the public! Do you or someone you know love the Nature Center enough to show the world? Now you can with this one-of-a-kind shirt!

Shirts are Gildan DryBlend 50/50 Cotton/Poly in Sport Gray color with a screen-printed logo on the chest as shown below. All shirts are \$15 each. All sales are pre-order only. Payment must accompany your order form. Checks should be payable

to "Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center". All sales are final (no exchanges or changes) and are due by March 12, 2021.

Orders may be handed to a staff member at the Nature Center or mailed to "Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, c/o University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Ave, Alliance, OH 44601." You will be contacted to pick-up your order at the Nature Center – sorry, we cannot mail/deliver shirts. Contact the Nature Center by phone or email for questions.

Nature Center T-shirt Order Form		
Name:		
Telephone:		
Email:		
Address:		
	Quantity	Total Price (\$15 each)
Youth Small		
Youth Medium		
Youth Large		
Adult Small		
Adult Medium		
Adult Large		
Adult X-Large		
Adult XX-Large		
Adult XXX-Large		
	Grand Total Shirts:	Grand Total Price:



Volunteer Recognition

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

Kaylee Adkins
Alec Barker
Katriel Border
Ruth Border
Thaddeus Border
Madison Brown
Logan Burns
Jacob Burror

Jacob Buttar
Randy Detchon & Scout
Troop #177
William Domain
Brandon Duktig
Jim Dutter
Al Eibel
Bethany Eierdam

Joseph Haas
Ann Hendel
Allison Hrovat
Keaasha Kilgore
Abby Kimball
Alexis Krese
Christopher Kuttie
Davon Kuttie

Grant Kuttie
Jack Kuttie
Hayley Maher
Chuck McClagherty
Jordan Minns
Rita Pollock
Jarek Slernit

A SHOUT OUT to our Volunteers, visitors and friends who made a point of reaching out to us for ways they can help during this COVID-19 crisis to maintain this beautiful facility! We have had a significant increase in traffic during this pandemic as people search for safe outdoor spaces. Their help and concern have not been unnoticed by the Nature Center staff and we thank all of them!



The John T. Huston-Dr. John D.
Brumbaugh Nature Center
1972 Clark Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601

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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