



# UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER



## 2019 Summer Newsletter

### Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

#### Nature Almanac

##### June

- 2.....Common milkweed begins to bloom
- 17..... Full Strawberry Moon
- 21..... Summer Solstice

##### July

- 7.....Butterflies are in great abundance
- 16..... Full Buck Moon
- 25.....Blackberries are ripening

##### August

- 2..... Listen for "dog day" cicadas
- 15..... Full Sturgeon Moon
- 18.....Goldenrods begin to bloom

##### September

- 14..... Full Harvest Moon
- 16..... Monarch butterfly migration peaks
- 23..... Autumnal Equinox





# 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:

Jamie Greiner, Sustainability and  
Campus Outreach Manager  
Michael Greiner, Site Manager  
R. Chris Stanton, Director  
Karen Santee, Facilities Manager  
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:

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

**Phone:** (330) 823-7487

**Email:** [naturecenter@mountunion.edu](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu)

**Website:** [mountunion.edu/nature-center](http://mountunion.edu/nature-center)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/  
HustonBrumbaughNatureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HustonBrumbaughNatureCenter)

**Instagram:** @JMNatureCenter



## New Property Purchased to Increase Scientific Research

### Dr. Chris Stanton

In addition to offering programs and other opportunities to explore our local habitats and species, the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center also serves as a site for scientific research. Most of this research has been conducted by students as a part of their classes at the University of Mount Union, but over the past few years more student research has occurred through programs such as the Brumbaugh Scholars. The Brumbaugh Scholars, and other summer students, tackle important research projects that help us better understand our ecosystem and allow the students to gain valuable, hands-on research experience for their future careers.

As the number of research projects grows, there is a need for more space and habitats to study. So, we were very excited when the opportunity surfaced to buy additional property located very close to our site. Earlier this year, the purchase of nearly 70 acres—consisting of fields, forests, vernal pools, and a stream—was finalized. This new area will serve as a research reserve and allows us to expand our project possibilities for students across many academic disciplines. Public access to this property will be limited so that the research studies are not disturbed.

This summer, there will be at least six Mount Union students working on research topics that range from viruses in the soil to animal diversity to high school lesson planning that incorporates outdoor components. The growth of research at the Nature Center is very exciting and benefits everyone in our community as we continue to better understand our local environment and how to protect it. Watch for the results of these projects to be presented during a program at the Nature Center in November!

# Second Annual Nature Center BioBlitz

Adam Zorn

The Nature Center's second Annual BioBlitz was held the weekend of April 27-28, 2019. A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record as many living species within a designated area. This year's bioblitz was treated to slightly better weather compared to 2018. Warm temperatures on Saturday afternoon encouraged insect activity and a bump in participants compared to the colder conditions of Saturday morning and all day Sunday. Despite the less-than-ideal spring weather, 19 data collectors made 374 individual observations of 164 different species of organisms over the two-day period!

All data were collected using iNaturalist, an online social network of people sharing biodiversity information to help each other learn about nature. The Nature Center has a project page that collects iNaturalist observations from users making observations on the Nature Center's property. Most data were submitted via the iNaturalist app, but some observations were recorded on digital camera and uploaded to the iNaturalist website.

A quick summary of participant observations included 23 species of blooming wildflowers, 17 species of birds, 17 species of trees, 17 species of insects, three species of butterflies, and three species of amphibians. The top five species observed



were (in order) Mayapple, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Black cherry, Garlic mustard, and Christmas fern. The top five iNaturalist observers were (in order) azornoutdoors, lexie22, scottwatkins, scooterw11, and npross2020. The effort of all participants resulted in a net increase of 43 species of organisms added to the Nature Center's biodiversity project. The current number of species recorded and reported to iNaturalist (as of April 28) stands at 564 species of organisms residing at the Nature Center. View the entire biodiversity project online at [inaturalist.org/projects/huston-brumbaugh-nature-center-biodiversity-project](https://inaturalist.org/projects/huston-brumbaugh-nature-center-biodiversity-project).

## Photography Contest Awards

The 2019 Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit hosted by the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center received and displayed 111 photo entries. Formal judging was completed prior to the gallery opening, and judges awarded ribbons for first, second, third, Honorable Mention, and Best of Show. People's

Choice ribbons were awarded based on votes from the general public from February 22 through March 3. Congratulations to the photographers named below, and thank you to all of the participants that submitted photos for this year's exhibit. The Exhibit was on display through March 10, 2019.

<b>Youth:</b>	1st - Hailey Zorn, 2nd - Hailey Zorn, 3rd - Lydia Zorn, People's Choice - Hailey Zorn
<b>Seasons:</b>	1st - Margie Blake, 2nd - Dan Lux, 3rd - Susanne Lux, Honorable Mention - Matt Hoffman, People's Choice - Matt Hoffman
<b>Wildlife (Vertebrates):</b>	1st - Bill Roloff, 2nd - Michelle Wittensoldner, 3rd - Cheryl Withey, Honorable Mention - Fran Hall, Cheryl Withey, and Bruce Hixon, People's Choice - Cheryl Withey
<b>Wildlife (Invertebrates):</b>	1st - George Weigly, 2nd - Bill Roloff, 3rd - Scott Watkins, Honorable Mention - Bill Roloff, People's Choice - Michelle Wittensoldner
<b>Wild Plants:</b>	1st - Patty Rickard, 2nd - Linda Chen, 3rd - Susanne Lux, Honorable Mention - Linda Chen, People's Choice - Dawna Louise Earl
<b>Landscapes:</b>	1st - Michelle Wittensoldner, 2nd - Patty Rickard, 3rd - Margie Blake, Honorable Mention - Jordan Kercheff, and Patty Rickard, People's Choice - Michelle Wittensoldner
<b>Black &amp; White:</b>	1st - Fran Hall, 2nd - Bruce Hixon, 3rd - Matt Hoffman, Honorable Mention - Lucy Baer, People's Choice - John Hill
<b>Nature Center:</b>	1st - Margie Blake, Honorable Mention - Lucy Baer, People's Choice - Margie Blake
<b>UMU Campus:</b>	Honorable Mention - Lucy Baer, People's Choice - Lucy Baer
<b>Open Category:</b>	1st - Margie Blake, 2nd - Cheryl Withey, 3rd - Dan Lux, Honorable Mention - Patty Rickard, People's Choice - Cheryl Withey
<b>Best in Show:</b>	George Weigly - Great Spangled Fritillary in Wildlife (Invertebrates) category



# Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

Friday, May 31

**Ohio Bat Roost Monitoring 8:15-9:30 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. Unfortunately, bat numbers have drastically declined over the last few years. Bring a lawn chair and assist the staff in counting bats that leave the roost in the Huston Barn. This data contributes to the Ohio Bat Roost Monitoring Project facilitated by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Internet search "Ohio Bat Roost Monitoring Project" for more information. Cancelled for rain.

Saturday, June 1

**Dragon(fly) Hunting 1-3 p.m.**

Search through the air and water for dragonflies and damselflies in support of Ohio's Odonata Survey. Aerial and aquatic nets are available to borrow if you do not have your own. Smart phones and tablets with the iNaturalist app are encouraged but not necessary. Dress for the weather. Cancelled for rain.

June 17-23

**National Pollinator Week**

Stop in the Visitors Center during open hours to learn about pollinators. Free activities too! See page 6 of the newsletter for details.

Saturday, June 22

**\*Breeding Bird Blitz 7-10 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, or we can loan you a pair. Coffee will be ready at 7 a.m. We will be on the trails for about two hours, 7:30-9:30 a.m. Cancelled in event of rain or high winds. **\*Registration is required. Attendance is limited to 12 participants.**

Sunday, June 23

**\*Its 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. 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, May 28 at 9 a.m. Attendance is limited to 20 adults.**

Wednesday, June 26

**\*Summer Kids Program 11 a.m.-Noon**

Learn about local species of insects. See page 6 for program information. **\*Registration required.**

Wednesday, July 3

**\*Summer Kids Program 11 a.m.-Noon**

Learn about local species of pond creatures. See page 6 for program information. **\*Registration required.**

Friday, July 5

**Bat Roost Monitoring and Night Hike 8:30-10:30 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. Unfortunately, bat numbers have drastically declined over the last few years. Bring a lawn chair and assist the staff in counting bats that leave the roost in the Huston Barn. After the count, we will take a night hike to search for other nocturnal inhabitants at the Nature Center. Bring a flashlight. Cancelled for rain.

Sunday, July 7

**Butterfly Blitz Noon-4 p.m.**

Twenty species of butterflies have been recorded at the Nature Center during the last three years. Come join us for a leisurely walk around the Nature Center to see how many of these we can find, and maybe we can add to the list. Aerial nets are available to borrow if you do not have your own. Smart phones and tablets with the iNaturalist app are encouraged but not necessary. Dress for the weather. Cancelled in event of rain or high winds.

Wednesday, July 10

**\*Summer Kids Program 11 a.m.-Noon**

Learn about local species of reptiles. See page 6 for program information **\*Registration required.**

Wednesday, July 10

**\*Firefly Hike 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Fireflies should be at their peak of flashing this week. We will head outside to observe their behaviors, collect some individuals, and document how many species are living at the Nature Center. The information collected will help us to determine how well these interesting insects are doing in our area. Cancelled for rain. **\*Registration required.**

Saturday, July 13

**\*Summer Haiku Writing 2-4 p.m.**

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry that describes nature in a short, 3-lined observation. Come outside with us as we observe summertime at the Nature Center and share our haiku observations. No experience is necessary and all ages are welcome. **\*Register by July 12.**

Sunday, July 14

**\*Flower Pressing Workshop 2-4 p.m.**

With all the beautiful summer flowers blooming, it seems we need a way to keep them a bit longer! This workshop will allow us to do just that. Each person will create a unique

framed piece of art using flowers pressed at the Nature Center. This fun project will provide you with all the information you need, and you will also receive a small press to use at home. **\*Registration is required and limited to 16 attendees, ages 12 and up. Registration begins Monday, June 17 and closes July 8.**

*Thursday, July 18*

**\*America's Most Wanted Bird 7-9 p.m.**

Purple martins are an important and beloved bird but what is their status in our area? After a short introduction to the species, we will visit a local nesting colony to listen to and watch this fascinating bird. **\*Space limited to 20 people and registration is required.**

*Friday, August 2*

**\*Bees in Your Backyard Workshop 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Native bee expert Olivia Carril will discuss the natural history of bees, emphasizing the ones most commonly seen in Ohio, and how to recognize them. Field experiences in collecting and identifying bees will be included. Olivia Carril has been studying bees for over 20 years, and is the co-author of "The Bees in Your Backyard, A Field Guide to North America's Bees". **\*Full workshop information and registration is available online at <https://u.osu.edu/beelab/courses/>**

*Sunday, August 4*

**Carnation Days Festival: Self-guided Nature Walks 1-5 p.m.**

Self-guided nature walks and activities available for all ages. Stop in the Visitors Center for details upon arrival. Refreshments provided in the Visitors Center before and after your walk!

*Wednesday, August 7*

**\*Summer Kids Program 11 a.m.-Noon**

Learn about local species of frogs and toads. See page 6 for program information. **\*Registration required.**

*Wednesday, August 14*

**\*Summer Kids Program 11 a.m.-Noon**

Go for a hike using your 5 senses. See page 6 for program information. **\*Registration required.**

*Sunday, August 18*

**Wildflower Walk 1-3 p.m.**

Walk the trails and utility corridor of the Nature Center in search of summer wildflowers. The habitat restoration project under the utility lines should be full of blooming wildflowers this year. Smart phones and tablets with the iNaturalist app are encouraged but not necessary. Dress for the weather. Cancelled in event of rain or high winds.

*Saturday, September 14*

**\*Shorebird Excursion 8-11 a.m.**

Every fall, thousands of shorebirds migrate through Ohio. The mud flats of nearby reservoirs are a great place to observe the birds. Several species may be seen including sandpipers,

plovers, ducks, gulls and herons. We may be walking in muddy areas so please wear appropriate footwear. We will have some binoculars available, but please bring your own if you have them. The location of the program will be determined a few days prior based on local conditions. **\*Register for notification and directions to the site.**

*Saturday, September 14*

**\*Harvest Moon Night Hike 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

Hike the trails to the east meadow to catch a glimpse of the Harvest Moon. Dress for the weather. Bring a flashlight. Cancelled in event of rain or high winds. **\*Registration required.**

*Sunday, September 15*

**Founder's Day Luncheon**

Save the date! This is an invitation-only event for volunteers and others who have contributed to the mission of the Nature Center. For volunteer information, contact Bonnie Twaddle at (330) 823-7487 or [twaddlb@mountunion.edu](mailto:twaddlb@mountunion.edu).

*Sunday, September 22*

**Fall Hike 1-3 p.m.**

Enjoy a guided fall hike along the trails of the Nature Center. We will look for signs of Fall including wildflowers, wildlife, and, of course, fall foliage. Please dress for the weather and current trail conditions.

*Sunday, October 6*

**Relax and De-stress Event 1-5 p.m.**

EVERYONE needs to manage their stress these days. Take advantage of some relaxing activities such as a free 10-minute shoulder massage, strolling through the peaceful woods, walking the labyrinth, relaxing by the pond, listening to live music and more. Come alone or bring the family – there is something for everyone! No registration required.

*Saturday, October 12*

**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 39 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 13*

**Huston Barnyard Celebration 1-5 p.m.**

A family-friendly afternoon of activities at our historic Huston barn. There will be games and activities that Mr. Huston's children would have played back in the late 1800s, a hayride on the Nature Center property, simple snacks that the Huston Family might have enjoyed, and farm animals that were so important to support the Huston Family's way of life. RSVP requested but not required.

**Events continue on the next page.**

## Recurring Programs

### **Acoustic Jam**

2-4 p.m., June 2, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 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! No registration required.

### **Bird Banding with Al Eibel**

8 a.m.-Noon, June 2, 29, July 6, 20, August 3, 17, September 22, 28

See live, wild songbirds in the hand and learn why bird banding is an important tool for bird and wildlife conservation. Drop in any time between 8 a.m. and noon. Meet Al outside on the east side of the Visitors Center. Banding sessions cancelled in the event of rain.

## 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](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu).

## Wednesday Summer Kids Programs

Get your kids (ages 12 and under) out of the house and into the outdoors this summer for our series of topics that will introduce them to some of our local species from 11 a.m. to noon. These short, hands-on programs will be a lot of fun and wrap up in time to have a picnic lunch outside. Parents should stay on site but do not have to join the program. All participants must provide their own lunch. Dress appropriately for the weather and to be outside. **\*Registration required separately for each program date listed below.**

<b>June 26</b>	Local insects	<b>Aug 7</b>	Local frogs and toads
<b>July 3</b>	Local pond creatures	<b>Aug 14</b>	5-senses hike
<b>July 10</b>	Local reptiles		



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES | Share Your Love of Gardening!

Now in our 15th year, the Children's Hands-On Gardening Program continues to serve Alliance-area third and fourth-grade students. The students visit the Nature Center four times during one growing season to learn about gardening and get hands-on experience. Third-grade students come in March and May, and return as fourth-graders in September and November. Students visit from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and cycle through activity stations in small groups that reflect the season and theme of their visit. The themes are Germination/Plant Life Cycle, Plant Parts and Functions, and Pollination in spring. The fall lessons include Seeds to Salsa Harvest, followed by Soil and Nutrient Cycling. With this basic knowledge and hands-on experience of an entire growing season in Ohio, we hope these students are inspired and confident to plant in pots or gardens at their homes for years to come. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate the activity stations on a variety of dates in both the spring and fall. For more information about this volunteer opportunity, please contact Bonnie Twaddle at (330) 823-7487 or [twaddlb@mountunion.edu](mailto:twaddlb@mountunion.edu).

## 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!

Kayla Aldan	Adrienne Bock	Fred Cockrill	Cali Granger	Charlie Hoopes	Alyson Kantor	Tony Massucci	Jacob Riggle	Hunter Smith	Ann Sutton
Eduardo Alvala	Lani Border	Shirley DeMaiolo	Christian Hanson	Sophia Hoopes	Emily Keller	Martha McClaugherty	Lynn Riggle	Susan Smith	Joshua Thorn
Joseph Balogh	Phyllis Case	Elayne Dunlap	Jane Heater	Megan Hoover	John Kolar	Isaiah Myers	Liz Ross Jones	Sarah Stanton	Brenna Walker
Kristen Beck	Kathy Chambers	Al Eibel	Jane Helwig	Judy Horn	Hayley Maher	Polly Offenbecher	Ben Santee	Josh Stark	Carol Wearstler
Corrie Bezon	Carson Ciesinski	Kathy Forsyth	Ann Hendel	Amy Hosking	Chris Marks	Carol Pancake	Dwight Santee	Carter Sterling	
Rick Blessing	Mark Clough	Mallory Glenn	Keirsten Hofmann	Carly Jaksic	Jared Marsh	Patty Rickard	Erika Shi	Kelli Sterling	

SPECIAL THANKS! Additional gratitude is extended to the Canton Audubon Society for helping with this year's Great Backyard Bird Count.



# A Bird in the Hand: Addressing Common Questions and Misconceptions About Bird Banding

Al Eibel

Most people observing bird banding at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center are experiencing it for the first time. Naturally, observers have ideas about the procedure that produce many good questions that help their understanding of the process. Observers also have misconceptions about the banding process. A few of the most common questions and misconceptions are listed below in italics, and the correct information of banding follows.

1. *The mist nets are up and open all the time.* Mist nets are up and open only when a bander is present to frequently monitor the nets. When the banding session is over, the net is removed. Some banding stations close the nets and enclose them in a weatherproof cover until the next banding session.
2. *The bands hurt the birds.* Each bird species has its own size of band. Most of the bands used for songbirds weigh less than 0.1g (less than 0.003 of an ounce). Therefore, the mass of the band is insignificant when added to the bird's mass. None of my recaptured birds have had injuries associated with a band.
3. *What happens when the bird's leg grows? Won't the band be too tight?* Birds caught in mist nets are adult size and, therefore, have adult legs that will no longer grow. Even newly fledged birds are adult size.
4. *Small birds are baby birds.* Birds that fly into the mist nets are not "baby birds." They might be a species that is small. Adult American Goldfinches are much smaller than adult American Robins, but the American Goldfinch is not a "baby" bird.
5. *Blue Jays are "mean" and difficult to band.* Blue Jays in the hand are docile, quiet, and easy to band. An added bonus is that I can view their wonderful plumage up close. Their blue, black, and white feathers are stunning.
6. *Where can I buy mist nets, or where can I get bands?* Only licensed banders can purchase mist nets, and a permit must accompany an order for mist nets. Bands are issued to licensed bird banders through the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), which is a part of the United States Geological Survey. Banders are responsible for all bands issued to them.



7. *Why do you band birds?* The BBL asserts that it uses banding data to "monitor the status and trends of resident and migratory bird populations. Because birds are good indicators of the health of the environment, the status and trends of bird populations are critical for identifying and understanding many ecological issues and for developing effective science, management, and conservation practices."
8. *May I help extract the bird from the net, or may I band the bird?* Removing birds from nets can only be attempted by a person who has trained with and learned the procedure from a licensed bander. Banding a bird also requires training with a licensed bander.

I hope this mini-tutorial helps you to understand the procedures and purpose of bird banding. Additionally, I hope you will attend one of the many banding sessions offered at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. See the list of recurring programs for dates and time this summer.



## National Pollinator Week

Bonnie Twaddle

Pollinator Partnership is proud to announce that June 17-23, 2019 has been designated National Pollinator Week! National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what you can do to protect them. Twelve years ago, the U.S. Senate's unanimous approval and designation of a week in June as "National Pollinator Week" marked a necessary step toward addressing the urgent issue of declining pollinator populations. Pollinator Week has now grown into an international celebration of the valuable ecosystem services provided by bees, birds, butterflies, bats, and beetles.

Stop in the Visitors Center during open hours June 18-23 to make and take items home that you can easily add to your outdoor area to help improve pollinator habitat!



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

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Alliance, Ohio

## 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](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu)  
[mountunion.edu/nature-center](http://mountunion.edu/nature-center)