



UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER



2019 Spring Newsletter

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Nature Almanac

February

- 1 Owl species vocalize frequently as they start their nesting season
- 19..... Full Snow Moon
- 26..... Killdeer return to thawing farm fields and lakeshores

March

- 1 Listen for early spring bird song
- 10..... Red and Silver Maple trees bloom
- 20..... Spring Equinox and Full Worm Moon

April

- 7 Sharp-lobed Hepatica blooms
- 19..... Full Pink Moon
- 22..... Earth Day

May

- 1 Common Green Darner dragonflies migrate to Ohio
- 11..... International Migratory Bird Day – get out and enjoy spring migration!
- 18..... 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:

Jamie Greiner, Sustainability and
Campus Outreach Manager
Michael Greiner, Site Manager
Karen Santee, Facilities Manager
R. Chris Stanton, Director
Bonnie Twaddle, Community Outreach
Coordinator
Lin Wu, Ecologist
Adam Zorn, Program Manager

Visit:

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
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Minerva, Ohio 44657

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Instagram: @JMNatureCenter



How Clean Has Your Windshield Been?

Dr. Chris Stanton

Over the past two years, there have been reports from around the world that insect populations are experiencing dramatic declines. These studies began with the observation that car windshields no longer end up covered in dead insects during the summer (like they used to 30 years ago). This “windshield phenomenon” led to research that documented a 76% decline in flying insects since 1989 in rural Germany. Similar studies from the Netherlands, Puerto Rico, and the United States confirm that insects are disappearing though the cause, or causes, have not been identified. There is evidence that habitat loss, pesticide use, and changes in weather patterns could be responsible but researchers have not been able to pinpoint one primary culprit yet.

Should we really be concerned if there are less insects buzzing around? Of course! We all know—but oftentimes forget—that insects and other small animals without backbones form a vital level in most food chains and provide many important services for humans. We rely on them to pollinate our plants, decompose dead leaves and carcasses, regenerate our soil, and provide population control for pest species. A study from 2006 estimates that insects provide \$57 billion worth of services for us in the United States each year! In addition, many other species rely on insects as food. Due to the drop in insect numbers, we are currently seeing sharp declines in insect-eating birds, amphibians, fish, and mammals. Entire areas are experiencing the loss of animals, which is now being termed “defaunation.”

So is this “defaunation” occurring in our area? To truly answer this question, we need more research to be conducted locally. The Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, with support from the University of Mount Union, is currently documenting species that are found here. For example, surveys of local bees, frogs, and birds were carried out in 2018 and will continue in 2019. Additional research projects and data are needed, so if you are interested in contributing information to help us learn about our local ecology, or being involved in a research project, please contact us. Together we can learn more about our region, educate others, and conserve the valuable resources we have—including insects.



Starting From Scratch

Al Eibel

A power line corridor separates the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's old growth woods on the east side from the second-growth woods on the west side. The corridor provides grasses, shrubs, and smaller trees with a space where competition is eased, and the plants can grow with much more access to sunlight than either of the two woods. The variety of plants provides birds with more insects, seeds, and fruits than the deeper woods might provide.

In 2015, FirstEnergy (the company that maintains the power line corridor) used a herbicide that devastated most of the native vegetation in the corridor. Although the herbicide application was unsettling, it presented an opportunity to replace and restore native plants to the corridor. It also presented the unique chance to monitor birds that use the corridor for feeding and nesting, and possibly show how native plants attract birds.

Since 2015, the University of Mount Union and First Energy have cooperatively set out to return native vegetation to the corridor. FirstEnergy trims and removes trees and snags as needed, and UMU maintains vegetation on the ground, primarily by mowing. FirstEnergy purchased seed stock from Ohio Prairie Nursery in Hiram, OH for the reclamation. The seed mix contained 25 species of native flowers and grasses including big and little bluestem, wild ryes, milkweeds, coneflowers, ironweed, joe pye weed, boneset, lobelias, goldenrods, and several species of aster.

In 2016, the original corridor plants began regenerating on their own. In early 2017, the corridor was seeded with the Ohio Prairie Nursery mix. UMU kept the vegetation mowed to a height of six inches that year to give germinating plants an opportunity to establish. In 2018, the seeded flowers and grasses were permitted to grow without intense mowing.

Bird banding began in 2016 and took place for six weeks; banding in 2017 and 2018 lasted for 10 weeks each year. The power line banding usually begins on Thursday during the first week of June and proceeds each Thursday through the second week of August. Eight nets are set up in a line along the east side of the corridor. The nets are opened before dawn, checked every forty-five to sixty minutes, and taken down at noon.

The data collected from each bird includes: species, age, sex, fat content, mass, wing chord, and general condition. Net number and time of capture are also recorded. In the table below, each banding year is listed with the total number of species banded, newly banded birds, recaptures (those birds captured that already have a band), and total individual birds netted during the year.

The recaptures can include birds from previous banding sessions at the Visitors Center and nestlings that have been banded in nest boxes on the UMU property. Increases in recaptures would be expected because newly banded birds often remain in the area as year-round residents or are returning summer residents. The Total Individuals Netted includes newly banded individuals, recaptures, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. The top five bird species banded/netted throughout the three years were: Wood Thrush 37; Gray Catbird 20; Ruby-throated Hummingbird 15; Northern Cardinal 15; Acadian Flycatcher 11. The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are not banded; however, they are aged, sexed, and immediately released.

The 2016 banding season had the fewest number of birds in each category, but the season was four weeks shorter than both the 2017 and 2018 banding seasons. Although an increase in each category appears from 2017 to 2018, more banding years are needed to determine if native plants and plant growth in the corridor might increase bird activity.

Year	Total Species	New Bands	Recaptures	Total Indv. Netted
2016	15	34	4	44
2017	16	37	13	54
2018	22	81	26	112



Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

Sunday, February 10

Un-BEE-lievable 2-4 p.m.

While we know quite a bit about honeybees and bumble bees, many of the nearly 4,000 species of bees native to the U.S. are understudied. Opportunities to study bees around the U.S. are becoming more common and provide much needed information about these mysterious pollinators. Join Cali Granger, MS in Plant Health Management, to learn the basics of bee biology, natural history, common species of Ohio, and the ongoing native bee survey she is working on at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico.

Friday, February 15

Great Backyard Bird Count 9-11 a.m.

Join Nature Center staff and members of the Canton Audubon Society as participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count in the comfort of the Bird Observatory. Snacks and warm drinks provided.

Sunday, February 17

Great Backyard Bird Count 1-3 p.m.

Join Nature Center staff and members of the Canton Audubon Society as participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count in the comfort of the Bird Observatory. Snacks and warm drinks provided.

Monday, February 18

Great Backyard Bird Count 9-11 a.m.

Join Nature Center staff and members of the Canton Audubon Society as participants in the Great Backyard Bird Count in the comfort of the Bird Observatory. Snacks and warm drinks provided.

Friday, February 22

Nature Photo Contest and Exhibit 6-8 p.m.

See page seven for entry and event details. Photo submission deadline is Noon, Monday, February 18.

Sunday, February 24

***Winter Salads 2-4 p.m.**

When the weather is cold outside, the idea of a salad might not be the first idea that pops into your mind. Judi Strauss will share great winter salads and recipes that can be a way to beat those wintertime blues. Full of greens, citrus and some unexpected ingredients, these salads are a great first course. Some are a meal in themselves. You'll get a chance to sample several salads in class and there are plenty of recipes to take home. ***Registration is required and limited to 16 adults. Food Fee is \$9.00 per person. Registration opens on Monday, January 28 at 9 a.m.**

Sunday, March 3

***Maple Sugaring Demonstration 1-2:30 p.m.**

Take a crash course in making maple syrup. Tree ID, how to tap a tree, and information on how to collect and boil sap

will be included. This program will take place rain or shine.

***Registration is required by March 1.**

Saturday, March 16

District 13 Science Day

We cannot make Ohio District 13 Science Day a success without your help. We are looking for Science Day judges and volunteers. If you would like to be a judge or volunteer, please contact Jamie Greiner at (330) 829-8161 or greineja@mountunion.edu. You may also visit our District 13 Science Day webpage at: mountunion.edu/ohio-district-13-science-day

Sunday, March 17

***Clover Field Wildlife Care 2-4 p.m.**

Learn about the amazing work of Kristen Beck and her non-profit wildlife rehabilitation organization Clover Field Wildlife Care. Kristen is the President of the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, and Clover Field cares for over 700 injured and orphaned native wild animals each year. This program will dispel some of the myths surrounding wildlife rehabilitation, offer suggested ways you can help, and introduce you to a few non-releasable educational ambassadors. Wish List donations are welcomed and much appreciated! Please visit www.cloverfieldwildlife.org to view Wish List items. ***Registration required.**

Sunday, April 7

Earth Month Celebration 2-4 p.m.

Join the UMU Green Raiders to celebrate Earth Month at the Nature Center. Events include: Earth Day Program (2-3 p.m.), Upcycle Craft Stations (2-4 p.m.), Children's Story Time (3-4 p.m.), and Guided Hike (3-4 p.m.). Drop in for any or all of the afternoon's activities! Great for all ages.

Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14

***Weaving Workshop with Kate and Sarah McMahon**

- **Day one: April 13, 1-4 p.m.**
- **Day two: April 14, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Learn the exciting art of weaving! Exploring various pattern and pictorial techniques, participants will learn the basics of tapestry weaving by making their own set of handmade mug rugs. No experience necessary. Bring your own small loom or work with a provided frame loom. Shuttles (yours to keep), warp, and weft materials will be provided. Potluck lunch on Sunday--bring a dish to share and your own plate and utensils. See below for details:

1. **Bring Your Loom:** Those with their own small looms will attend day one (April 13) to learn warping techniques and warp their looms. Day two (April 14) will focus on weaving techniques. The result is to go home with mug rugs, weaving and warping skills.
2. **Use Provided Loom:** Those using provided frame looms need only attend day two (April 14) but are welcome to participate in Day one. Day two will focus on weaving techniques. The result is to go home with mug rugs,

weaving skills, and a frame loom.

***Registration is required and limited to 16 adults. Fee is \$85.00 per person. Registration opens on Monday, March 11 at 9 a.m.**

Saturday, April 27

Bioblitz: City Nature Challenge 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Help us bioblitz the Nature Center and contribute sightings to the 2019 City Nature Challenge. Scheduled and self-guided activities with instruction will be available during the day. Full details available as the date approaches.

Sunday, April 28

Bioblitz: City Nature Challenge 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Help us bioblitz the Nature Center and contribute sightings to the 2019 City Nature Challenge. Scheduled and self-guided activities with instruction will be available during the day. Full details available as the date approaches.

Saturday, May 4

***Spring Haiku Writing 2-4 p.m.**

Spring is an exciting time at the Nature Center due to the many rapid changes happening outside. We will try to capture some of these exciting moments by writing and sharing our original haiku poems. Dress for spending some time outside to observe and write. This program is open to all ages—no experience necessary. ***Register by May 3.**

Sunday, May 19

***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. 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 Monday, April 22 at 9 a.m. Attendance is limited to 20 adults.**

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. Canceled for rain.

Saturday, June 22

***Breeding Bird Blitz 7-10 a.m.**

Over the last 10 years, 81 species of birds were 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. Canceled in event of rain or high winds. ***Registration is required. Attendance is limited to 12 participants.**

Sunday, June 23

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

We will discuss what you currently provide for pollinators, 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.**

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

2-4 p.m. on February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2

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!

Winter Bird Banding

10 a.m. - Noon on February 3, 17, March 3, 24

See live songbirds and science in action during a bird banding demonstration. Banding takes place inside the Visitors Center. Bird banding is canceled in the event of rain, snow, or temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Bird Banding with Al Eibel

8 a.m. - Noon on April 27, 28, May 11, 25

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 are canceled in the event of rain.

Spring Bird Walk

9-11 a.m. on April 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13

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. RSVP requested.

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.

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.

Mount Union Hosts Ohio District 13 Science Day

Jamie Greiner

The University of Mount Union is proud to once again be hosting Ohio District 13 Science Day on Saturday, March 16, 2019. One of 17 District Science Days in Ohio, the fair is open to 5th – 12th graders from Carroll, Stark, and Tuscarawas counties. For so many students, the weeks and months of experimentation and research will finally pay off when they arrive at Bracy Hall ready to compete in our District Science Day!

The Ohio District 13 Science Day is a Broadcom Masters and Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair (BSEF) Affiliate. Broadcom Masters is a competition that allows us to name our top 10% of 6th – 8th grade students to be nominees for a national competition in Washington DC, where awards totaling over \$60,000 are available. The Buckeye Science and Engineering Fair affords 9th – 12th grade students an opportunity to compete to advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), one of the largest and most prestigious science fairs in the world. Through District Science Days in Ohio, over 1,000 students in 7th – 12th grade will advance to the Ohio State Science Day and compete for more than 100 different scholarships and awards valued at more than \$2,500,000.

We cannot make Ohio District 13 Science Day a success without your help. We are looking for Science Day judges and volunteers. If you would like to be a judge or volunteer, please contact Jamie Greiner at (330) 829-8161 or greineja@mountunion.edu. You may also visit our District 13 Science Day webpage at: mountunion.edu/ohio-district-13-science-day.

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!

Lucy Baer	Jackie Capuano	Jim Dutter	Paul Hobe	Kim Lessic	Krista Moegling	Michelle Simmons
Erin Bain	Phyllis Case	Al Eibel	Keirsten Hofmann	Suzy Lish	Ben Mullaly	Hunter Smith
Joseph Balogh	Celeste Caserta	Lauren Entwistle	Mitchell Hofmann	Lauren Lux	Jarrold Mullen	Susan Smith
Alec Barker	Krysten Castenir	Sara Fleming	Samantha Hofmann	Hayley Maher	Jim Nero	Madison Stacho
Rick Blessing	Gabriella Cataloni	Andrea Fry	Morgan Holmes	Jared Marsh	Emily Novak	Lauren Stajcar
Adrienne Bock	Kathy Chambers	Sandy Gahan	Matthew Honaker	Maleah Matey	Leanne Novak	Ben Stanton
Anna Bodo	Julia Chen	Gabby Gannon	Charlie Hoopes	Martha McClaugherty	Maggie O'Donell	Sarah Stanton
Adrianna Border	Carson Ciesinski	Abby George	Sophia Hoopes	Miranda Meadows	Rebecca O'Neill	Li Sun
Katriel Border	Mark Clough	Cali Granger	Judy Horn	Tammy Mierzna	Carol Pancake	Ann Sutton
Lani Border	Olivia Cope	Tatum Grover	Amy Hosking	Keith Miller	Sophie Ramsey	Darla Sutton
Ruth Border	Shirley DeMaiolo	Claudia Harris	Emily Ina	Larry Miller	Rachel Reese	Rich Sutton (son)
Thaddeus Border	Andrea Dietz	Cathy Hart	Amrita Jagpal	Heather Milliken	Patty Rickard	Alejandra Twiss
Kayla Bowyer	Alan Dolan	Deb Hatherill	Carly Jaksic	Mercer	Nate Ross	Stan Vuletich
Danielle Bradfield	Lee Dolan	B. J. Hays	Lauren Koler	Bernie Miner	Liz Ross Jones	Anna Wilson
Patty Bruely	Katelyn Doemel	Jane Helwig	Kera Leskovec	Sally Miner	Evan Ruggles	Graycen Wood
Aubrey Buchweitz	Elayne Dunlap	Ann Hendel			Dwight Santee	Lauren Zaleski

Additional gratitude is extended to Aultman Alliance Community Hospital, who donated handwashing booklets for every Alliance-area 4th grade student in conjunction with the Children's Hands-On Gardening Program. Thanks to Sunshine Therapy Dogs who brought sweet and calming dogs to our Relax and De-Stress Event for attendees to enjoy. Thank you to the Town and Country Garden Club for decorating our cabin for the Holidays Celebration. And lastly, thanks to Mount Union Mill for the many years of donated birdseed...we will miss you!

Kathy Chambers, Volunteer of the Year

Bonnie Twaddle

The annual luncheon for our founders and volunteers is one way we honor and thank them for their contributions that support the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center mission to “provide and support opportunities for enjoying and learning about our natural and cultural heritage.”

This year, lunch was catered by Amy’s Catering. With entertainment provided by engaging Magician Tim Angeloni, he asked for help from various individuals. One of Tim’s tricks required the help of one individual, Kathy Chambers. The surprise ending of this trick required Kathy to reach in a bag to read aloud to the audience a framed document that stated, “2018 Volunteer of the Year, Kathy Chambers”.

Kathy Chambers has volunteered at the Nature Center for five years, with most of her hours helping facilitate the Hands-On Children’s Gardening Program. Committed, dependable, flexible and wears a neon pink wig on Halloween, Kathy volunteers “wherever you need me.” Thank you, Kathy, for your years of assistance in many various ways!

“From the Heart” awards (medallions) recognize exemplary acts of kindness that come from the caring heart. Awarded this year was Hunter Smith. Employed as a UMU student summer worker,

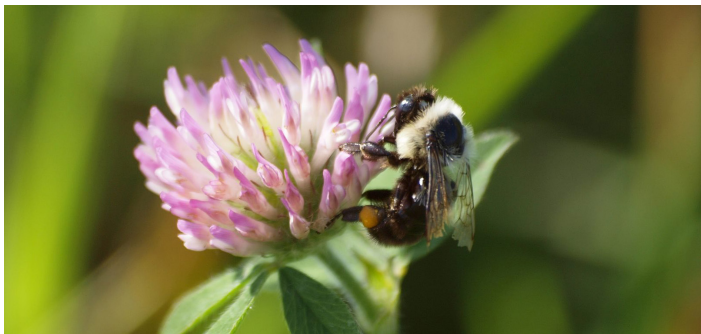


his dependability and work ethic are certainly worth honoring.

Shirley DeMaiolo, aka “Nature Center Mom”, and Al Eible received recognition for providing volunteer service of 339 hours and 195 hours, respectively, this past year.

Monsignor James Kolp said a blessing and the event concluded with a butterfly release outside, orchestrated by Volunteer Jim Nero.

Just this past year, 211 Volunteers provided 2,132 hours of volunteer service! We are so thankful for all the help you provided that supported our mission for another great year!



17th Annual Photo Contest and Exhibit

Amateur nature photographers are invited to enter their photos in the Nature Center’s 17th Annual Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit on February 22, 2019. Participation is free, but submissions are limited to nature photos captured in eastern Ohio (east of Interstate 71 and Ohio Route 23). Photos must be size 8”x10” and securely mounted and matted on 11”x14” mount board (not under glass or in a frame). Photos must be the original work of the photographer.

Nature photos will be accepted for the following categories: Wildlife – Vertebrates, Wildlife - Invertebrates, Wild Plants, Landscapes, Seasons, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Mount Union Campus, Black & White, Youth (photos by children 12 years old and under), and Open. The “Open” category has no

geographic range restriction, but the entry must be a nature photo and is available only to participants who are submitting at least one other photo in another category. Ribbons will be awarded for each category. Formal judging will be completed by a panel of judges comprised of professional photographers and naturalists. Judges will also determine one winner of “Best in Show”. The public will vote for “People’s Choice” awards for each category. People’s Choice judging is determined by ballots cast by the public from February 22 – March 3.

Photo submissions will be accepted by Nature Center staff in the Visitors Center during normal operating hours beginning in February. Photographers are limited to five entries in total and three entries per category, except the “Open” category which is limited to one entry per photographer. Photographers must have at least one other entry in another category to participate in the Open category. Same rules apply to youth participants. Deadline to submit a photo is Monday, February 18, 2019 at noon. Full details and contest entry forms are available on the Nature Center’s website and in the Visitors Center lobby.

An open house/artist’s reception will take place on Friday, February 22, 2019 from 6-8 p.m. Photographers, friends and the public are invited to attend. People’s Choice balloting begins during the open house and runs through March 3. The exhibit runs through March 10. Questions regarding the contest and exhibit may be directed to Adam Zorn, program manager at (330) 829-8988.



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