



**UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION
HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
NATURE CENTER**



2019 Fall/Winter Newsletter

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Nature Almanac

October

- 8..... Clean, then fill bird feeders, before the weather turns cold
- 13..... Full Hunter's Moon
- 20..... Average date of the first hard frost

November

- 4..... Turkey vultures head south for the winter
- 12..... Full Beaver Moon
- 18..... Average date of the first measurable snowfall

December

- 12..... Full Cold Moon
- 13..... Geminid meteor shower peaks. Best viewed after 10 p.m.
- 21..... Winter begins at 11:19 p.m. EST

January

- 1..... Phenology calendars start over
- 10..... Full Wolf Moon
- 20..... Bald Eagles return to nest sites



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
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

Website: mountunion.edu/nature-center

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

Instagram: @JMNatureCenter



18th Annual Photography Contest

Photo submissions for the Nature Center's 18th Annual Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit will be accepted beginning in February. 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.

Contest categories are Wildlife – Vertebrates, Wildlife – Invertebrates, Wild Plants, Landscapes, Seasons, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, Mount Union Campus, Black & White, and Youth (photos by children 8-12 yrs. old). All category winners will be eligible for Best in Show, and all accepted photos will be eligible for People's Choice votes. The exhibit opening is scheduled for February 28 from 6-8 p.m. Contest details and entry forms will be available no later than February 1.

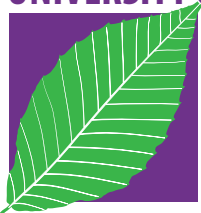
Brumbaugh Scholars Showcase

November 10 at 2 p.m.

See the work of outstanding University of Mount Union students in this showcase event. The 2019 cohort of Brumbaugh Scholars undertook projects related to biology curriculum development, molecular biology, breeding birds and reptile surveys at the Nature Center. The summer 2019 students (and mentors) were Sam Krzysiak (Dr. Lin Wu), Hanna Davis (Dr. Kim Risley), Garret Konet (Dr. R. Chris Stanton), and Nathaniel Ross (Dr. R. Chris Stanton). Your attendance in support of the students, the mentors, and their academic research is appreciated!

The Brumbaugh Scholars Program is a summer-long research opportunity for faculty and students at the University of Mount Union and is funded by the Brumbaugh Endowment to foster research and scholarly activities that are related to the mission of the Nature Center. Applications from any discipline or area of interest are welcome and encouraged.

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION



HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
**NATURE
CENTER**

In Search of Owls

Adam Zorn

This fall marks the fifth year of the Nature Center's Northern Saw-whet owl (NSOW) banding project. From October through November, bird bander and Nature Center volunteer Al Eibel and the Nature Center's program manager set up mist nets and play an audio lure beginning at sunset in an attempt to capture one of North America's smallest (and cutest) owls for banding and release. NSOW reside in forests across a large swath of the northern U.S. and Canada during the summer and migrate south in late fall in search of a place to spend the winter. The Nature Center's banding effort coincides with the timing of NSOW fall migration. Banding and release of these birds contributes to a growing volume of knowledge about their migration routes, life span, and basic morphology.

If you would like an opportunity to see a NSOW, join us on one of the following evenings: November 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, and 16 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. There is no guarantee of seeing an owl on any given date, but these dates are in the window of time when birds are traditionally caught during fall migration. There is plenty of information to share about encounters with owls in previous seasons, but attendees should also bring a book or favorite Wi-Fi enabled device to occupy time between net checks. These are drop-in events, so your attendance is not required for the duration of the evening; come for an hour or two or stay the entire evening. Interested participants are asked to register with their intention to attend so that we may be able to contact people in the event of a cancellation.



Join us for some Haiku

Dr. R. Chris Stanton

Originating in Japan and popularized by the poet Basho in the 17th Century, haiku is an ancient form of poetry that focuses on nature. These short poems traditionally consist of 17 syllables written in three lines and typically describes a temporary image



or a feeling produced by an observation made outdoors during one of the four seasons. The lines of the poem follow the form of five syllables, seven syllables, then five syllables. Last year, we offered the opportunity to write and share haiku during each season, resulting in poems such as the following:

crisp, gentle fall air
snaps the bittersweet open—
red surprise inside

and

last year's robin nest
shivering in winter's breeze,
wears a cap of snow

Haiku can be a fun and easy way to appreciate the outdoors and create lasting memories. Sharing our original poems with others also enhances the experience. Please join us for a workshop either this fall or winter (or both) and try it out. Programs are open to all ages, and you can come and go as you please—you do not need to attend the entire series.

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

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.

Saturday, October 19

***Autumn Haikus 2-4 p.m.**

Join us during this beautiful time of year as we share examples of haiku observations then hit the trails to write our own 17-syllable poems. This program is open to all ages and experiences. For more information, see the article on haiku poetry in this newsletter. ***Register by October 18.**

Sunday, October 20

***Faculty Presentation: Dr. Keith Miller 2-3:30 p.m.**

Beer, Bread, and Cheese: The tasty side of food science! In this presentation, Keith Miller, associate professor of biochemistry at the University of Mount Union will present on the ways civilization has harnessed science and technology to produce various foods. Discussion will include the developmental history of beer, bread, and cheese production along with the future applications of biotechnology to food production.

***Register by October 18.**

Saturday, October 26

***Pause to Pamper with Barbara Lyons 1-3 p.m.**

Let soap maven, Barbara Lyons, teach you how to make simple, yet elegant handcrafted toiletries to pamper yourself. Participants will discover how to make lip gloss, dusting powder, whipped shea butter, and more. You will also get to experiment with making glycerin soaps and take your creation home! All participants will receive samples of all the products,

as well as a solid of bar soap, which was handcrafted by the soap maven herself. ***Registration is required and limited to 15 adults. Materials fee is \$10 per person. Registration opens on Monday, September 30 at 9 a.m.**

Sunday, October 27

***Felted Gnome Workshop 1-4 p.m.**

Using wet felting and needle felting techniques, you will be instructed how to make a gnome using wool roving just in time for the holidays. Finished, they should stand about seven inches tall. All materials will be included. ***Registration is required and limited to 16 adults. Materials fee is \$30 per person. Every participant is required to bring a hand towel and bath towel from home. All other supplies are provided. Registration opens on Monday, September 30 at 9 a.m.**

November 4, 7, and 9

***In Search of Owls 6-11 p.m.**

See article on page 3. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, November 10

Brumbaugh Scholars' Showcase 2-4 p.m.

See the work of outstanding University of Mount Union students in this showcase event. The 2019 cohort of Brumbaugh Scholars undertook projects related to biology curriculum development, molecular biology, breeding birds and reptile surveys at the Nature Center. Your attendance is appreciated in support of the students, their mentors, and their academic research! Refreshments provided. No registration required.

November 11, 14, and 16

***In Search of Owls 6-11 p.m.**

See article on page 3. ***Registration is required.**

Sunday, November 17

***Honey and Honey Tasting 1-3 p.m.**

Did you know that honey tastes differently depending on the plants that the honeybees visited? After an introduction to honey making, we will sample various types of honey so that you can decide which variety tastes best to you. ***Register by November 15.**

Sunday, December 8

***Evergreen Wreath Workshop 2-4 p.m.**

Evergreen wreaths have been on display for hundreds of years and are a symbol of growth and everlasting life. Join us and create your own natural evergreen wreath. There is no fee and all materials are provided. If you have something of your own to add to your wreath, please bring it along. This workshop will involve some tools and techniques that will be difficult for children. Participants must be 12 years of age and older.

***Registration is required and opens on Nov. 11 at 9 a.m.**

Attendance is limited to 16 participants.

December 14 – January 5

120th Christmas Bird Count All Day

Participate in the Audubon 120th Christmas Bird Count as a volunteer in the Quail Hollow (Dec 14) 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 to learn more.

Sunday, December 15

Holiday Celebration 3-6 p.m.

Drop in between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season with the Nature Center. Make holiday crafts, enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate by the fire, listen to acoustic music, and visit Santa Claus in an 1800s-era cabin. Simple holiday fun for the whole family.

Tuesday, December 24 – January 1

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 Thursday, January 2.

Sunday, January 19

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

We will continue to explore the Nature Center property during the winter season in an attempt to find and capture special moments that are unique to this place and time. This program is open to everyone—you do not need to attend other haiku workshops in order to participate in this program. For more information, see the article on haiku poetry in this newsletter.

***Register by January 17.**

Sunday, January 26

***Native Bees of the Rio Grande del Norte 2-3 p.m.**

Though many people think of the honey bee or bumble bee first when they hear the word 'bee', there are around 4,000 other bee species in the U.S. Opportunities to study bees around the U.S. are becoming more common and provide much needed information about these lesser known pollinators. Join Cali Granger as she discusses her collaborative, multi-year native bee survey at the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in New Mexico. This study is the first in this region of NM and provides new and exciting information about the bee species there currently and in the future. ***Register by January 24.**

February 14-17

Great Backyard Bird Count

Join Nature Center staff and volunteers to count birds visiting the feeders outside the Visitors Center. A fun and educational activity that contributes data to one of the world's biggest citizen science projects. Learn more at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

Sunday, February 23

***Waste Not, Want Not 2-4 p.m.**

No one wants to waste money. Estimates indicate \$1,000-\$3,000 in food, per household, is thrown out every year. Judi Strauss will teach us how to bring that number down. Shopping, storage, and preservation information will be provided. We will also cook some tasty food designed to get more from your food budget. ***Registration is required and will begin on Monday, January 27 at 9 a.m. Class is limited to 16 adults. Food fee is \$8 per person.**

Friday, February 28

Photo Contest Exhibit Open House 6-8 p.m.

Photographers, friends, and the public are all invited to attend this open house and reception for the Nature Center's 18th Annual Photography Contest. View place winners that were awarded during formal judging and cast your own ballot for the People's Choice award. See page 2 for contest information.

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

2-4 p.m., on October 6, November 3, December 1, January 5, and February 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! No registration required.

Bird Banding with Al Eibel

Noon-2 p.m. on December 8 and January 12

See live songbirds and science in action during a bird banding demonstration with licensed bird bander Al Eibel. Banding takes place inside the Visitors Center on the designated dates and time. Bird banding is canceled in the event of rain, snow, or temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit. No registration required. Banding sessions cancelled in the event of rain.

Project FeederWatch

Every Sunday afternoon from Nov. 10-March 29

Assist the Nature Center staff and volunteers with identifying and counting birds visiting the bird feeders on Sunday afternoons. No experience necessary. Takes place indoors.

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.

Facilities and Grounds Report

Mike Greiner

If you have hiked the preserve this summer, you have likely noticed some great improvements to our trails. Heavy spring rains forced us to make drainage improvements and lay down gravel in muddy areas in a number of locations. The most notable trail upgrade is the new and improved trail signage. New posts have been installed, new wayfinding signage has been applied, and some trails have even been renamed. Do not worry; we are still trying to learn the new trail names too!

Trail system improvements will continue through the fall. There is a new section of trail still to be installed near the Visitors Center to complete the new Huston Farm Loop. The boardwalk portion of the Huston Farm Loop will be expanded to include a short stretch installed along the vernal pool as part of an Eagle Scout project. Additionally, there will be some new map kiosks and continued application of gravel on muddy sections of trails. We hope you find the updates around the preserve to be a helpful addition to your next visit.



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 and get hands-on experience, gardening. Third-grade students come in March and May, and then 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 followed by Plant Parts and Functions and Pollination in spring and Seeds to Salsa Harvest followed by Soil/Nutrient Cycling in the fall. 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.

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!

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Alec Barker | Ruth Border | Julia Chen | Shirley DeMaiolo | Jane Helwig | Amy Hosking | Sarah McMahon | Patty Rickard | Rich Sutton (son) |
| Anna Bartlett | Thaddeus Border | Mark Clough | Andrea Dietz | Ann Hendel | Kera Leskovec | Tammy Mierzna | Nate Ross | Topaz Tolloti |
| Lisa Bilby | Kayla Bowyer | Becky Cox | Elayne Dunlap | Paul Hobe | Hayley Maher | Larry Miller | Liz Ross Jones | Graycen Wood |
| Ashlynd Birgy | Patty Bruey | Cub Scouts Pack #62 | Al Eibel | Matthew Honaker | Jared Marsh | Bernie Miner | Hunter Smith | Christian Young |
| Rick Blessing | Phyllis Case | Brandi Cunningham | Kathy Forsyth | Charlie Hoopes | Martha McLaugherty | Linda Morgan | Ann Sutton | Michell Young |
| Katriel Border | Kathy Chambers | | Monica Haines | Sophia Hoopes | Kate McMahon | Jacob Motz | Rich Sutton (father) | |
| Lani Border | Jerry Chen | | Claudia Harris | Judy Horn | | Carol Pancake | | |

SPECIAL THANKS! Additional gratitude is extended to the Alliance YWCA Summer Camps for creating unique and colorful items for our Fairy Village!

Snapshot USA

Adam Zorn

Snapshot USA is a collaboration between researchers from each state seeking to capture the diversity of animals across the United States using camera trapping. The Nature Center is one of fifty cooperators participating in this one-of-a-kind research project. From September through October 2019, collaborators will simultaneously deploy trail cameras in all 50 states. Camera locations will represent settings defined as urban, suburban, rural, or wild and habitats such as forest, grassland, desert, alpine, beach, or anthropogenic.

Snapshot USA's goal is to facilitate the collaboration of cooperators to contribute to a national database of public wildlife data. Once compiled, the first objective is to examine nationwide trends in mammal community assembly rules associated with natural environmental (habitat) and anthropogenic (setting) filters. As an example, the data may show which combination of setting and habitat recorded the greatest variety of mammals during the study period. Some species-specific information may show which combination of setting and habitat recorded the highest frequency of certain species of mammals like White-tailed deer, Black bear, or Striped skunk.

As is common with many research projects, there may be more questions than answers after this year's data comes in. To facilitate additional research and inquiry, Snapshot USA coordinators will be making the data publicly accessible for others to view and use as well as creating suggested classroom exercises for educators. Follow the Nature Center's social media outlets for information on these resources as they become available or follow #SnapshotUSA on various social media platforms.

Snapshot USA is a collaboration of the Smithsonian Institution and North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and powered by eMammal. eMammal is a data management system and archive for camera trap research projects. This cyber-tool is designed to not only be useful to scientists, but also to the citizen scientists who aid scientists in photo collection. Camera trappers use eMammal software to look at pictures, identify animals, and upload them for review and archive at the Smithsonian. These data then help address important conservation-related questions. The pictures provide a unique view into the secret world of wildlife. For more information about Snapshot USA, visit <https://emammal.si.edu/snapshot-usa>.





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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 218
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
mountunion.edu/nature-center