



# UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH NATURE CENTER



## 2021 Summer Newsletter

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

#### Nature Almanac

##### June

- 6..... Dragonflies and damselflies are abundant
- 20..... Summer Solstice
- 24..... Full Strawberry Moon

##### July

- 4..... Explore meadows for flowers, bees, and butterflies
- 23..... Full Buck Moon
- 25..... Open windows at dusk to enjoy the insect chorus

##### August

- 8..... Purple ironweeds and yellow goldenrods appear in unmowed fields
- 22..... Full Sturgeon Moon
- 29..... Viburnum, dogwood, and spicebush fruits fuel migrating songbirds

##### September

- 12..... Bumblebee queens fuel up on pollen and nectar before hibernation begins
- 20..... Full Harvest Moon
- 22..... Autumnal Equinox

# 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

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## Summer 2021 Brumbaugh Scholars Research



*Pictured left to right: Alejandra Twiss '21 and Emily Becker '23*

The Nature Center's summer research program continues this year with three new University of Mount Union students undertaking three novel projects. Students will incorporate a great deal of field work into their research this summer, so visitors will likely see the students monitoring equipment, collecting data, and making discoveries all around the property this summer! The students and their topics are:

### **Ryland Black '22, biology and Spanish major**

Research: "Trail camera trapping mammals in the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center (with a possible emphasis on bobcats)"

Mentors: Adam Zorn, program manager at the Nature Center and Dr. Chris Stanton, director of the Nature Center and professor in the Department of Biology

### **Emily Becker '23, environmental science major**

Research: "Terrestrial and aquatic mollusk species survey of the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center"

Mentor: Dr. Amy McElhinney, chair and associate professor in the Department of Biology

### **Alejandra Twiss '21, French and geology major**

Research: "The effects of organic and conventional style farming in crop and weed health"

Mentor: Jamie Greiner, sustainability and campus outreach manager at the Nature Center

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. Learn more at [mountunion.edu/brumbaugh-scholars](http://mountunion.edu/brumbaugh-scholars).

# Photography Contest Awards

The 2021 Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit hosted by the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center received and displayed 115 photo entries.

Amateur photographers were invited to submit up to two photos in the categories of wildlife, wild plants, Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, and University of Mount Union Campus.

This year's format was a little different, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and entries were submitted in a virtual format and displayed on the Nature Center's Facebook page.

Formal judging was conducted, and judges recognized many photos with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Honorable Mention and Best of Show designations. People's Choice votes were tallied with votes from the public on the Nature Center's Facebook page from February 26 through March 12.

Congratulations to the photographers named below and thank you to all the participants that submitted photos to the contest under a different format this year! Photos are still available to view on the Nature Center's Facebook page.

We plan to return to our traditional photo contest format in 2022, so keep an eye out for next year's call for submissions!

*Pictured right: Best of Show, Bill Roloff from the Wild Plants category*



	<b>Wildlife</b> (59 entries)	<b>Wild Plants</b> (30 entries)	<b>Nature Center</b> (30 entries)	<b>Mount Union Campus</b> (13 entries)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	Taerie Kelly	Bill Roloff	Amy O'Donnell	Joel Evans
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	Michelle Wittensoldner	Laura Stanton	Shane O'Brien	Kimmy Davis
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	Kylie Pontius	Emily Becker	Rachael Blasiman	Joel Evans
<b>Honorable Mentions</b>	Suzette Barstow Bruce Hixon Lisa Lee Shane Mallon John Bauer Brian Potts	Jordan Kerchef Mark Archibald Isaac Arnold	Kim Hill Patty Rickard	Dana Lucas
<b>People's Choice</b>	Brian Potts	Erica Noll	Amy O'Donnell	Joel Evans

**Best of Show: Bill Roloff from the Wild Plants category**

# Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

## Notice

Event registration is limited and participants are expected to maintain physical distance from others indoors and outdoors. Face coverings are required for access to the Visitors Center, indoor events, and other activities where social distancing cannot be maintained. Policies are subject to change at any time. Registration is required for event participation unless otherwise indicated.

*Wednesday, June 2*

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

A guided walk searching for dragonflies and damselflies emerging from Nature Center ponds. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. **\*Registration is required.**

*Sunday, June 13*

**\*Making a Butterfly Collection 2-4 p.m.**

Have you ever wanted to collect a butterfly and display it for others to see? This program will demonstrate how to properly capture a butterfly (or moth), pin it, and preserve it for display. We will also discuss local butterfly species and which ones are appropriate for collecting. Participants will be supplied with the required materials. **\*Registration is required.**

*Tuesday, June 15*

**\*Pond Study 10-11 a.m.**

A family-friendly investigation of aquatic life in the Nature Center's pond. Wear boots or shoes that may get wet/muddy. **\*Registration is required.**

*Saturday, June 19*

**\*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. Canceled in event of rain or high winds. **\*Registration is required.**

*Saturday, June 19*

**\*Pond Study 1-2 p.m.**

A family-friendly investigation of aquatic life in the Nature Center's pond. Wear boots or shoes that may get wet/muddy. **\*Registration is required.**

*Tuesday, June 22*

**\*Butterfly Walk 10-11:30 a.m.**

An exploration in search of butterflies and day-flying moths of the Nature Center! Binoculars and camera are encouraged to view and document all the species we see! Will be canceled for rain or strong winds. **\*Registration is required.**

*Friday, June 25*

**\*Beetles and other Forgotten Pollinators 2-3:30 p.m.**

In this program we will look at examples of beetles, and other insects, that are important pollinators but usually do not receive the attention that bees do. After viewing live examples, we will take a hike to search for some of these interesting local species. **\*Registration is required.**

*Saturday, June 26*

**\*To Bee or Not to Bee 2-3:30 p.m.**

What makes a bee a "bee?" How are bees different from flies and wasps? What is the role of bees, flies and wasps in pollination services? Come and learn about the characteristics of bees, flies and wasps that are unique to each group. We will take what we learn and apply it in the field as we catch/look for bees, flies, and wasps. **\*Registration is required.**

*Sunday, June 27*

**\*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 to their own outdoor space. **\*Registration is required and opens on Tuesday, June 1 at 9 a.m.**

*Wednesday, July 7*

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

A guided walk exploring summer-blooming wildflowers. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. **\*Registration is required.**

*Saturday, July 10*

**\*Bat Roost Monitoring 8:30-10 p.m.**

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. Bring a flashlight. Canceled for rain. **\*Registration is required and limited.**

*Sunday, July 11*

**\*Summer Bioblitz 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

A bioblitz is an intense period of biological surveying to record all the living species within a designated area. Help us bioblitz the Nature Center and contribute data to our biodiversity project. This is a self-guided activity that only requires use of the iNaturalist app on your smart phone. No registration required.

Tuesday, July 13

**\*Soil Surprise 10-11 a.m.**

Do you know how many organisms reside on the forest floor in just a handful of leaf litter and soil? You might be surprised! This is a family-friendly investigation. **\*Registration is required.**

Saturday, July 17

**\*Soil Surprise 1-2 p.m.**

Do you know how many organisms reside on the forest floor in just a handful of leaf litter and soil? You might be surprised! This is a family-friendly investigation. **\*Registration is required.**

Saturday, July 17

**\*Making an Insect Collection 2-4 p.m.**

Northeast Ohio is full of beautiful and interesting insect species. In this program participants will learn how to collect, store, then pin the insects that they find. Pinned insects can then be displayed but should be protected (from other insects!). Participants will be supplied with all collecting and pinning materials. **\*Registration is required.**

Sunday, July 18

**\*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 Friday, July 16.**

Sunday, July 25

**\*Bee Hunt 2-3:30 p.m.**

Come and learn about the wild world of native bees as we cover the major bee families found in Ohio and characteristics of each family that are useful in field identification. A short introduction presentation will be followed by in the field collection of bees. **\*Registration is required.**

Saturday, August 7

**\*Astronomy Viewing 9-10:30 p.m.**

Come and view the summer night sky! A short presentation in the Visitor's Center that shows current night sky objects will be followed by a walk outside to a viewing area to see the location of these objects and to look at constellations. Rainy day alternative is to watch a prerecorded virtual telescope viewing that will be made available on our website/Facebook or via direct email of participants that registered for this program. Bring flashlights and binoculars to aid your view. **\*Registration is required.**

Wednesday, August 11

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

A guided walk exploring the effects of Beech Leaf Disease on the Nature Center's beech trees. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. **\*Registration is required.**

Sunday, August 15

**\*Summer Insect Walk 2-3 p.m.**

As we get into those hot summer days, insects are plentiful! Join a walk around the Nature Center to see how many different types of insects we can find, catch, and discuss. **\*Registration is required.**

Tuesday, August 17

**\*Tree ID 10-11 a.m.**

Learn to identify some of the most common species of trees at the Nature Center. This is a great introduction for learners of all ages. **\*Registration is required.**

Saturday, August 21

**\*Tree ID 1-2 p.m.**

Learn to identify some of the most common species of trees at the Nature Center. This is a great introduction for learners of all ages. **\*Registration is required.**

Wednesday, September 8

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

A guided walk searching for the wild food sources that will sustain our local wildlife in their fall migrations and through the upcoming winter months. Wear sturdy shoes. Cameras and binoculars are encouraged. **\*Registration is required.**

Saturday, September 18

**\*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. 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, October 9

**The Big Sit! 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**

It's a "tailgate party for birders" with the objective to tally as many bird species as can be seen or heard inside a 17-ft count circle. Last year we tallied 36 species from our lawn chairs at the North Woods! Join us for a couple of minutes or a couple of hours during this annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. No registration required.

**Events continued on the next page.**

## Recurring Programs

### **Acoustic Jam**

2-4 p.m. on June 6, July 11, Aug. 1, Sept. 5, Oct. 3

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! Registration not required.

### **\*Evening Paddle**

7-8 p.m. on June 5, July 3, August 14

Join the Nature Center canoe fleet for an evening paddle on one of our local reservoirs. Each canoe can accommodate three people. Registrants must register in groups of two or three people. All participants will be required to sign a waiver before entering canoes on the day of the event. Anyone with their own registered paddlecraft is welcome to join the fleet at their own discretion. Will be canceled for inclement weather.

**\*Registration is required.**

### **\*Full Moon Night Hikes**

June 24 at 9 p.m., July 22 at 8:45 p.m., August 22 at 8:30 p.m.

A casual walk to the east end of the trail system to view the moonrise, listen for owls, and explore Nature Center nightlife. Bring a flashlight. This is a moderately strenuous walk suitable for older children and adults. **\*Registration is 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](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu).



June 21-27, 2021 has been designated National Pollinator Week, a week initiated and managed by Pollinator Partnership to celebrate pollinators and spread the word about what individuals can do to protect them. Fourteen 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.

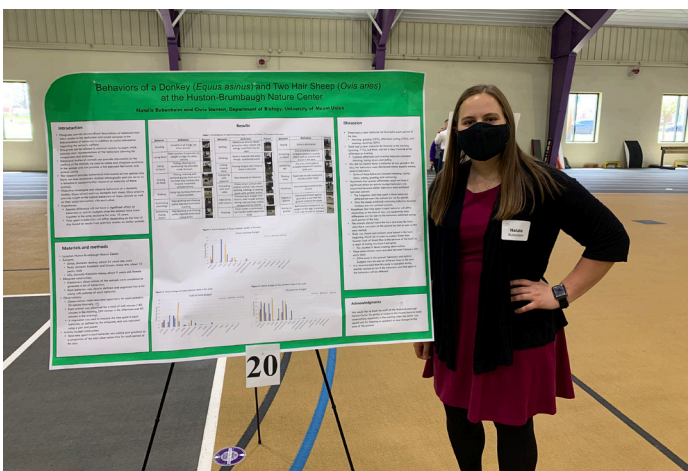
The Nature Center is offering a week full of make-and-take items and educational programs in support of pollinators. Stop by the Visitors Center during open hours June 22-27 to make and take items home that you can easily add to your outdoor area to help improve pollinator habitat! Educational programs will take place covering butterflies, bees, other insect pollinators, and gardening for pollinators. Check the schedule of events on page 4 for program descriptions and registration information.

## Nature Center-supported Research on Display at SCHOLAR Day

SCHOLAR Day is the University of Mount Union's Student Celebration Honoring Our Latest Academic Research. Students and faculty set aside an entire day to learn from students on campus who have completed outstanding research projects. This event is celebrated by students; faculty, staff, and administrators; alumni, and the greater community. SCHOLAR Day was held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. Student presentations at SCHOLAR Day fell into two categories: formal and poster presentations. Student projects must be nominated and accepted for inclusion in SCHOLAR Day activities.

Seven student projects, conducted in whole or in part at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, were presented in the Peterson Field House during the SCHOLAR Day poster session. The work included research, planning, and construction representing the fields of civil engineering, environmental science, chemistry, geology, and biology, with support from several Nature Center staff members. Stop in the Visitors Center this summer to view the research posters of many of the projects completed by University of Mount Union students in the past year!

*Pictured left: Natalie Bubenheim '21 presents at SCHOLAR Day*



# Beech Leaf Disease Update

In the Nature Center's Fall 2018 newsletter, we reported the first discovery of Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) at the Nature Center. At the time, no one knew what was attacking Ohio's American Beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*) and causing the telltale symptoms of dark stripes or bands between the veins of the tree's leaves. The mysterious disease was first discovered in Lake County, Ohio in 2012 and has since spread to seven states and the Ontario Province of Canada. Researchers from multiple government agencies and universities have been working to discover the cause and spread of BLD.

The most recent research indicates that BLD symptoms are associated with a newly recognized subspecies of nematode (*Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*). The nematode is a microscopic worm that has been found in leaf tissues and buds of the tree, and their presence in the buds is likely the cause of the symptomatic appearance of beech leaves in spring. Early symptoms of BLD include dark stripes or bands between the veins of beech leaves. The symptom is best located by standing under the tree and looking directly up into the canopy of leaves overhead. Advanced symptoms include shriveled, discolored, or deformed leaves that have a calloused appearance, followed by reduced leaf and bud production in successive growing seasons until the tree eventually dies.

The Nature Center's beech trees are living remnants of Ohio's once extensive old-growth forest. When John T. Huston settled onto the present-day Nature Center in the mid-1800's, he used beech trees to build the barn, carriage house, family home, and other structures. The beech trees remaining on the Nature Center's east end were spared the ax by the Huston family, and many individual trees along the Brumbaugh Woods, Beech, Succession, and Oak trails are a couple of hundred years old.



The beech tree's historical significance is only surpassed by its ecological importance. In Ohio forests, where chestnut, elm, hemlock, and ash trees have been wiped out by disease and pests, beech trees are an invaluable component of the ecosystem. Beechnuts are relished by as many as 40 species of wildlife including turkeys, woodpeckers, squirrels, and deer. Tree cavities in mature beech trees provide nesting sites for owls, wood ducks, flying squirrels, and other woodland animals. The complete loss of another tree species could have serious consequences for forests across the eastern U.S.

Be on the lookout for Beech Leaf Disease! You can report beech trees from anywhere with or without symptoms of BLD using Tree Health Survey, an app that trains users how to identify beech trees and BLD symptoms, report symptom severity, and submit photos. More information about Tree Health Survey is available at <https://treehealthapp.cmparks.net>.

## 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!

Kaylee Adkins  
Seth Beldean  
Matthew Berner  
Ryland Black  
Adrianna Border  
Katriel Border  
Lani Border  
Ruth Border  
Thaddeus Border  
Jacob Buttar

Eric Caldwell  
Bennett Caruso  
Jacob Coman  
Michael Contreras  
Shirley DeMaiolo  
Nicola Demonte  
Jocelyn Eber  
Christian Egan  
Bethany Eierdam  
Tori Fanello

Nicholas Fuchs  
Carter Hancock  
Alex Heighberger  
Tyler Jasinski  
Ronald Kaminski  
Brett Kayser  
Abby Kimball  
Jarrett Lukacsko  
Jamon McCort  
Zachary Minor

Gabriel Obrist  
Austin Overy  
Joshua Palmer  
Ryan Pappis  
Adam Passino  
Angel Perez  
Zakery Peterjohn  
Xavier Pinaya  
Colton Priester  
Tucker Ramirez

Dustin Sanor  
Matthew Sendrey  
Emilio Spetic  
Tyler Stack  
Tyler Stitzel  
Zachary Traynor  
Rylan Wikle  
Brandon Youngs

**SPECIAL THANKS!** Additional gratitude is extended to the University of Mount Union Office of Marketing and GEM Graphics in Alliance, OH for their instrumental roles in the design and production of Nature Center t-shirts!



John T. Huston-Dr. John D.  
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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](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu)  
[mountunion.edu/nature-center](http://mountunion.edu/nature-center)