

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

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story



**SUMMER  
2022**

- 1 Brumbaugh Scholars Program**
- 2 Photo Contest Winners**
- 5 Bird Flu - What to do?**
- 6 Student Updates**

# 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  
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  
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Minerva, Ohio 44657

## Contact:

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

**Instagram:** @UMUNatureCenter



*Photo: 2021 Brumbaugh Scholar, Alejandra Twiss '21 compared the effectiveness of an organic commercially sold herbicide to that of a synthetic herbicide during her research.*

## Brumbaugh Scholars Program Continues to Grow

The Brumbaugh Scholars program matches Mount Union students to a faculty or staff mentor and allows the students to work on summer research projects or other scholarly activities at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center. Students are paid an hourly rate and mentors are paid a \$3,000 stipend.

The program began in 2017 with four projects ranging from the history of the Brumbaugh family to paintings inspired by the Nature Center. From 2018 to 2021, the number of supported projects was two or three per summer. However, this summer the Nature Center will be supporting nine students! So, there will be a lot of activity this summer around the property and in the Visitors Center.

Congratulations to the following students and their mentors for being selected—we look forward to hearing about their work at the Brumbaugh Showcase in November:

- **Chyenne Brammer (geology)** will work with professor Jodi McCullough on astronomy programming
- **Mason Conn (biology)** is working with professor Heather Milliken Mercer on Beech Leaf Disease
- **Ava Fornara (environmental science)** will be documenting bird diversity with Program Manager Adam Zorn
- **Jessie Kasper, Ryan Meister, and Breanne Welsh (biomedical engineering)** are all working with Dr. Loay-Al-Zube to study the tissue strength of specific plants
- **Anthony Kemer (environmental science)** will study the impact of the new aerator on the east pond with Dr. Chris Stanton and Horticulture and Facilities Manager Cali Granger
- **Lizzie Regovich (environmental science)** will also work with Dr. Stanton to better understand the impacts of Asian jumping worms
- **Sarah Stanton (art)** will be recording mushroom occurrences and painting several species with Dr. Margo Miller

Check out last year's projects and learn more about the Brumbaugh Scholars program by visiting [mountunion.edu/brumbaugh-scholars](http://mountunion.edu/brumbaugh-scholars).



## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Photo Contest Winners

The 2022 Nature Photography Contest and Exhibit hosted by the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center received and displayed 116 photo entries. Formal judging was conducted, and judges recognized many photos with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Honorable Mention and Best of Show designations. People's Choice votes were tallied with votes from the public via paper ballot from February 27 through March 13. Congratulations to the photographers named below and thank you to all the participants that submitted photos to the contest in our traditional format this year! Everyone's photos make for a great display of Ohio's natural beauty!

### UMU Campus:

First Place – Bruce Hixon  
Second Place – Bruce Hixon  
Third Place – Thom Baker  
People's Choice – Bruce Hixon

### Open Category:

First Place – Matt Hoffman  
Second Place – Suzanne Lux  
Third Place – Dan Lux  
Honorable Mention – Rick Hannegan, Logan Good, Marni Ayers  
People's Choice – Suzanne Lux

### Black & White:

First Place – Suzanne Lux  
Second Place – Heather Mercer  
Third Place – Thom Baker  
Honorable Mention – Lisa Lee, John O'Donnell  
People's Choice – Bill Roloff

### Seasons:

First Place – Bill Roloff  
Second Place – Dan Lux  
Third Place – Matt Hoffman  
Honorable Mention – Frank Woolf, Rick Hannegan, Amy O'Donnell  
People's Choice – Bill Roloff

### Landscapes:

First Place – Bill Roloff,  
Second Place – Dan Lux  
Third Place – Matt Hoffman  
Honorable Mention – Logan Good, Amy O'Donnell, Bill Roloff  
People's Choice – Bill Roloff

### Nature Center:

First Place – Suzanne Lux  
Second Place – Marni Ayers  
Third Place – Amy O'Donnell  
Honorable Mention – Amy O'Donnell, Caitlin Thouvenin  
People's Choice – Caitlin Thouvenin



*Photo credit: Best of Show by Dan Lux*

### Wild Plants (and Fungi):

First Place – Dan Lux  
Second Place – Suzanne Lux  
Third Place – Cathy Fenstermaker  
Honorable Mention – Kamryn Bondoni, John O'Donnell, Kelsey Anderson  
People's Choice – Dan Lux

### Youth:

First Place – Hailey Zorn  
Second Place – Isabella Linger  
Third Place – Hailey Zorn  
Honorable Mention – Hailey Zorn, Isabella Linger  
People's Choice – Isabella Linger

### Invertebrates:

First Place – Cathy Fenstermaker  
Second Place – Bill Roloff  
Third Place – Lisa Lee  
Honorable Mention – Kelsey Anderson, Connie Rubin  
People's Choice – Lisa Lee

### Vertebrates:

First Place – Bruce Hixon  
Second Place – Bryan Leaman  
Third Place – Michelle Wittensoldner  
Honorable Mention – Suzanne Lux, Thom Baker, Michelle Wittensoldner, Dan Lux  
People's Choice – Lisa Lee

### Best of Show (best of the 1st Place images):

Dan Lux from the Wild Plants category

# Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

## **\*Breeding Bird Blitz**

*Saturday, June 11 | 8-10 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 required.**

## **\*Evening Canoe Paddle**

*Friday, June 24 | 7-9 p.m.*

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

## **\*Butterfly Walk**

*Saturday, June 25 | 1-3 p.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 required.**

## **\*Backyard Pollinator Workshop**

*Sunday, June 26 | 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. **\*Registration is required and opens on May 31 at 9 a.m. - limited to 20 adults.**

## **\*Giving Wildlife Habitat an Edge**

*Tuesday, June 28 | 5:30-7 p.m.*

Join Stark County Soil & Water at the Nature Center for an interactive workshop with Ohio State University Wildlife Ecologist Dr. Gabe Karns, whose research has focused on managing edge habitat within transmission line right-of-ways. Later, we will make a field visit to a powerline ROW that has been established with a diverse mix of perennial pollinator habitat. **\*Register for the workshop by visiting [starkswcd.org](http://starkswcd.org) or calling the District at (330) 451-7645.**

## **\*Introduction to Volunteer Opportunities**

*Sunday, July 10 | 2-4 p.m.*

Have you been interested in Volunteering at the Nature Center but don't know where to begin? Join us to learn about our mission, history, staff, what we do with volunteer support. Opportunities available for individuals and families of all ages. No commitments will be requested during the program.

**\*Registration is limited and required by July 8.**

## **\*Bat Roost Monitoring**

*Friday, July 15 | 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.**

## **\*Pond Study**

*Sunday, July 17 | 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 required.**

## **\*Evening Canoe Paddle**

*Friday, June 24 | 7-9 p.m.*

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

## **\*To Bee or Not to Bee**

*Saturday, July 23 | 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. A short introduction presentation will be followed by in the field exploration as we catch/look for bees, flies, and wasps.

**\*Registration required.**

## **\*Movie Night: "The Croods"**

*Friday, July 29 | 7:30 p.m.*

Take a trip back in time with the Nature Center and "The Croods"! Learn about life on Earth during the Pliocene Epoch (5.3 to 2.6 million years ago) before our feature presentation. Pre-movie activities begin at 7:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 8:15 p.m. Bring your favorite chair or borrow one of ours. Takes place in the pavilion. **\*Registration required.**

## **Carnation Days Hike and Seek**

*Sunday, August 7 | 1-5 p.m.*

A family-friendly, self-guided hike for all ages. Life-size wildlife images will be hidden along the trails, and it is your task to find them. Participants will receive a map with clues about where the various critters are hiding.

### **\*Bee Hunt**

*Saturday, August 13 | 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 exploration as we catch/look for bees. **\*Registration required.**

### **\*Wildflower Walk**

*Sunday, August 21 | 1-2:30 p.m.*

Learn to identify some of the most common wildflowers blooming at the Nature Center. We'll also appreciate the diverse array of wildlife making use of the food resources they provide. Moderately strenuous walk due to terrain and potential for heat/sun. **\*Registration required.**

### **\*Bird Walk**

*Sunday, September 11 | 1-3 p.m.*

A guided bird walk to search for summer residents fueling up before migration and fall migrants resting and feeding before continuing their journey south. Bring your binoculars, or loaner binoculars are available. **\*Registration required.**

### **\*Nature Trivia Night**

*Friday, September 16 | 7-8:30 p.m.*

Join us for an evening of nature and Nature Center trivia! Bring a smartphone or tablet to participate – free wifi available. Compete as an individual or share a device with a partner. Family-friendly and free. It'll be fun, educational, and you might win a prize! **\*Registration required.**

### **\*Shorebird Excursion**

*Saturday, September 17 | 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. Please wear appropriate footwear for muddy areas. The location of the program will be determined a few days prior based on local conditions.

**\*Register for notification and directions.**

### **\*Fall Insect Walk**

*Saturday, September 17 | 2-3 p.m.*

As days get shorter and nights get colder, insects are preparing for the coming winter. Walk around the Nature Center to see how many different types of insects we can find, catch, and discuss as they brace for winter. **\*Registration required.**

### **\*Simple and Clean**

*Sunday, September 18 | 2-4 p.m.*

Create self-care and cleaning products that are made from natural ingredients that are safe, environmentally friendly, and save money! The make-n-takes include body wash, lip balm, lotion, laundry soap, all-purpose cleaner, etc. **\*Registration is required and opens Aug. 23 at 9 a.m. - limited to 16 adults.**

### **\*Sunset Hike**

*Friday, September 30 | 7-8:30 p.m.*

A guided walk on the trail as the sun goes down. Bring a flashlight. Dress for the weather and seasonal trail conditions. This is a moderately strenuous walk suitable for older children and adults. **\*Registration is required.**

### **Relax & De-stress Event**

*Sunday, October 2 | 1-5 p.m.*

EVERYONE needs to manage their stress these days. Take advantage of some relaxing activities such as 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!

### **The Big Sit!**

*Sunday, October 9 | 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.

## Recurring Programs

### **Acoustic Jam**

*June 5, July 3, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2 | 2-4 p.m.*

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!

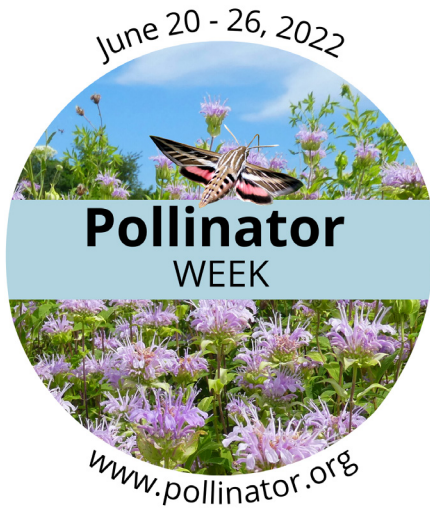
### **Get Wild and Woolly!**

*June 12, July 10, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Oct. 9 | 2-4 p.m.*

Bring your spinning wheel, knitting, crochet, needle felts, looms, etc. for a wooly sharing of the fiber arts. Open to all interested in participating or curious to watch and learn.

## 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. For registration or inquiries, call (330) 823-7487 or email [naturecenter@mountunion.edu](mailto:naturecenter@mountunion.edu).



## National Pollinator Week

The Nature Center is offering a week full of make-and-take items in support of pollinators and in celebration of National Pollinator Week. Stop by the Visitors Center during open hours June 21-26 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 regarding butterflies and gardening for pollinators. Check the schedule of events on page 3 for program descriptions and registration information.

## 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!

Katriel Border	Ann Hendel
Ruth Border	Anse Kee
Thaddeus Border	Bert Knepper
Lori Bowman	Lauren Lowell
Shannon Bowman	Rachel Lowell
Fred Cockrill	Emily McNeal
Mike Cope	Franey McNeal
Paula Cope	Gail Swift
Shirley DeMaiolo	Scott Swift
Sandy Gahan	Kylie Thouvenin
Jane Heater	Larry Thouvenin III

## Bird Flu – What to do?

Much of the summer of 2021 was marred by the occurrence of a mystery bird disease that caused the death of thousands of songbirds across nine eastern states in the U.S. The yet-to-be-explained illness tapered off last August, and bird enthusiasts were permitted to begin feeding birds in their backyard again last fall. Now, while the mystery bird disease is still being investigated, an outbreak of avian flu has spread across the U.S. and Canada.

Thirty-one states and nine Canadian provinces have reported wild birds with H5N1, also known as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Domestic poultry are particularly prone to HPAI infections, putting food supplies at risk, but so too are several groups of wild birds including waterfowl (ducks and geese), raptors, Bald Eagles, and Great Blue Herons. In total, 40 different species of birds have been reported infected with the virus as of April 2022.

Infected birds can shed the HPAI virus in their saliva, nasal secretions, and feces. In general, wild or domestic birds with any of the avian influenza virus types may exhibit one or more of the following signs: decreased egg production, sudden death without clinical signs, swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, and hocks, nasal discharge, and/or lack of coordination.

At the time of this writing, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is not recommending the removal of bird feeders, but anyone maintaining bird feeders should remain vigilant and monitor for sick or dead birds. All Ohioans can report sick or dead birds at 800-WILDLIFE (945-3543). Historically, avian influenza has posed little risk to common songbirds, but everyone should remain vigilant and take proper precautions such as cleaning feeders and bird baths, observe wildlife from a distance, do not feed waterfowl, prevent contact between domestic and wild birds, and use proper hygiene after exposure to birds and bird feeding stations.



# 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 26, 2022.

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.

Three 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 Emily Becker's aquatic and terrestrial mollusk survey, Ryland Black's trail camera investigation of human impact on wildlife activity, and Aleya Mims' research on the presence of nematodes on American Beech trees.

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!

Learn more about SCHOLAR Day at [mountunion.edu/scholar-day](http://mountunion.edu/scholar-day).



## Switching Emilys

Emily Maroni has been the Nature Center's visitor services associate since May 2021. She graduated from Mount Union in May 2022 with a degree in chemistry and a minor in Mathematics. She will be pursuing a job at a personal care product company and would like to do research in sustainable materials.



When asked what she like most about working at the Nature Center, she responded, "I have so many enjoyable memories from the Nature Center- I loved all our kayaking trips, especially the one to Nimisila to see the purple martins. I enjoyed doing the butterfly survey and learning to identify lots of butterflies, and even weeding in the garden was enjoyable since I could just check out (mentally) and spend time in the sun." We really enjoyed working with Emily over the past year and wish the best for her after graduation!

Emily Becker has been hired for this summer's visitor services associate. She's an environmental science major at Mount Union, and some of our regular hikers may recognize Emily from her Brumbaugh Scholars research project last summer looking for snails, slugs, and other mollusks in the forest and ponds here. She'll be around all summer assisting the staff, greeting visitors, conducting field work, and helping this summer's cohort of Brumbaugh Scholars with their research as needed.



John T. Huston-Dr. John D.  
Brumbaugh Nature Center  
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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

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