

UNIVERSITY OF MOUNT UNION
HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
NATURE CENTER

Discover the Wonder of Nature's Ever-Changing Story

Nature Almanac

October

- 1..... Chimney Swifts depart for warmer weather in South America
- 5..... Full Hunter's Moon
- 20..... Average date of the first hard frost

November

- 4..... Full Beaver Moon
- 12..... Norway Maples lose their last leaves
- 19..... Most Turkey Vultures have gone south for the winter

December

- 3..... Full Cold Moon
- 13-14..... Geminid Meteor Shower
- 21..... Winter Solstice

January

- 1..... Full Wolf Moon
- 31..... Full lunar eclipse at 6:48 a.m. local time
- 31..... Full Blue 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
Charles McClaugherty, Director
Karen Santee, Facilities Manager
Bonnie Twaddle, Community Outreach Coordinator
Lin Wu, Ecologist
Adam Zorn, Program Manager

Visit:

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center
16146 Daniel St. NE
Minerva, Ohio 44657

Contact:

The John T. Huston - Dr. John D. Brumbaugh Nature Center
University of Mount Union
1972 Clark Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601
Phone: (330) 823-7487
Email: naturecenter@mountunion.edu
Website: mountunion.edu/nature-center
Facebook: [facebook.com/HustonBrumbaughNatureCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HustonBrumbaughNatureCenter)
Instagram: @UMUNatureCenter



University of
Mount Union
HUSTON-BRUMBAUGH
Nature
Center

Have Seeds, Will Travel

By Adam Zorn

Late summer and fall are important for many species of plants and animals. Young animals must learn to fend for themselves. Many birds are preparing to migrate. Mammals begin to put on weight in preparation for winter, regardless if they plan to hibernate or not. And while plenty of plants are still blooming profusely through this time, others have long since dropped their blossoms and have spent time developing seeds to be deployed as their offspring.



Plants have many means in which to disperse their seeds. Large seeds, like acorns and hickory nuts, are carried away from the parent tree by squirrels. Winged seeds from maple and ash trees helicopter away from the parent tree in the wind. Many seeds are encapsulated in a delicious fruit to be carried away in an animal's digestive system, only to reappear again when the animal defecates somewhere in the forest – I call it the animal express. Even more exciting are the exploding or jumping seeds of jewelweed (a.k.a. touch-me-not) and violets.

Perhaps the most insidious means of seed dispersal commonly encountered by unassuming wildlife, pets, and humans are the hitchhikers. Who among us has not had a pet, shoes, socks, or pant legs loaded with clingy seeds? The inconspicuous pests are often unnoticed for a period of time after attaching themselves to man or beast. Once discovered, wildlife and humans react in much the same way by pulling the seeds off and tossing them to ground. And in doing so, the seeds have been effectively dispersed from the parent plant.

How do these seeds manage to cling tightly to fur, feathers, and clothes? Upon close inspection, the seeds or seedpods have one, or oftentimes many, hook-like appendages designed to grab hold of an unsuspecting passerby. On larger seeds like burdock, the hooks are quite evident to the unaided eye. Smaller seeds need scrutinized with a magnifying lens or microscope to appreciate how well "armed" each little seed truly is. The magnified image is a seed of Enchanter's Nightshade as viewed through a stereomicroscope.

There is an assortment of hitchhiking seeds at the Nature Center. They are commonly encountered in the margins between forests and fields or along woodland trails where light is sufficient for their survival. Two of the common species encountered along the trails are Enchanter's Nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) and White Avens (*Geum canadense*). Along the edges of the forest, species such as Swamp Agrimony (*Agrimonia parviflora*) and Lesser Burdock (*Arctium minus*) can be found. In the photograph, all four species are shown in the order in which they were mentioned to compare the various shapes and sizes of the seedpods. On your next visit to the Nature Center, try to find them before they find you!



Bird, Where Did You Get That Red?

By Al Eibel

This past July 8, Adam Zorn, Ben Mullaly, and I were checking our array of nets in the Nature Center woods on our second net run at about 10:00 a.m. As we approached the nets, we could see a splash of red. Even from many feet away, I commented, "That's not cardinal red."

It was Scarlet Tanager red, a red David Sibley describes as "brilliant" and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology calls "blood-red." Few reds in nature can match the red of a Scarlet Tanager, and holding one in the hand makes me remember Kenneth Koch's poem, "Rose, where did you get that red?"



We were thrilled because we often heard the robin-like song of the Scarlet Tanager in the forest canopy, but we usually did not see them. The chick-burr call of the Scarlet Tanager is unique and easier to recognize. Because the Scarlet Tanager forages in the canopy, opportunities to band one are rare. In a 2002-2003 research project in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, only five Scarlet Tanagers were banded from a total of 6,773 birds, and in eleven years of banding at the Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center, only four Scarlet Tanagers have been banded: three adult males in 2007, 2011, and 2017, and a hatch year female in 2015. The color difference between the breeding male and female is dramatic. An adult male (more than two years old) has a stunningly red body and black-black (my term) wings and tail. The female's body is yellow-green with darker wings and tail. When the males molt in late summer, their non-breeding plumage more closely resembles that of the female.

Scarlet Tanagers are neo-tropical migrants, wintering in northwestern South America. They eat insects and various types of berries. For comparison, the Scarlet Tanager has approximately the same wing chord and body mass measurements of the more easily seen Downy Woodpecker. Both wear the same size leg band.

Bees and Mammoth on Display

By Adam Zorn



Two new educational displays adorn the Visitors Center thanks to the hard work of our summer interns. An updated "Bees of the Nature Center" display in the lobby illustrates various aspects of the life and importance of native bee species residing at the Nature Center. An overview of their anatomy, where they live, and their importance as a pollinator of our local trees and wildflowers is highlighted by pinned specimens collected from the Nature Center. The pinned bees are contrasted with specimens of bee look-alikes to reinforce what a bee is or is not. Most importantly, there is information about how everyone can support healthy populations of native bees in their lawns and gardens.

The Whitaker Mammoth is on display once again after years of confinement in plastic totes and boxes. You may remember our story of the mammoth's discovery in the Summer 2016 Newsletter. After months of research, design, and construction, the mammoth's femur, rib, vertebrae, tooth, and foot are on display in the hall of the bird observatory. Information about the mammoth's discovery, how it was identified, and interesting facts about mammoths accompany the artifacts. The mammoth and its custom display case are truly one-of-a-kind, and we hope you will stop in to see it!

Huston-Brumbaugh Nature Center's Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 1

***Green Cleaning 2-4:00 p.m.**

This program will introduce "green cleaning". You will learn the best natural home products to use for cleaning your entire house. Green cleaning is better for your health, your wallet, and the environment. You will learn some tips for creating your own cleaning products, and make and take home a few simple cleaners. Limited to 15 people. ***Registration required by September 29.**

Saturday, October 7

The BIG SIT! Pre-dawn to Sunset

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 38 species from our lawn chairs at the North Woods, including a Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon! Join us for a couple of minutes or a couple of hours during this annual, international, noncompetitive birding event. Registration appreciated but not required by October 6.

Sunday, October 8

Relax and De-Stress Event 1-5:00 p.m.

EVERYONE needs to manage their stress these days. Take advantage of some relaxing activities such as a free 10-minute shoulder massage, a stroll 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.

Sunday, October 15

Huston Barnyard Celebration 1-5:00 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 appreciated but not required.

Saturday, October 21

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

More Than Skin Deep: Molecular Mechanisms and Therapeutic Opportunities in Obesity. During this lecture, Dr. Miller will present a basic understanding of energy regulation in the human body and the consequences of metabolism misregulation. Discussion will cover potential therapeutics and their mechanisms of action. Dr. Keith Miller is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Mount Union. ***Register by October 20.**

Sunday, October 22

Bringing in the Birds 2-4:00 p.m.

This program will provide ideas and information to attract birds to your yard by creating appropriate habitat. In this slide presentation, you will learn what to consider when selecting bird food, feeders, nest boxes, water features and plants. Then you will be treated to a picture parade of all the birds you are likely, and some not so likely, to welcome to your yard. Program courtesy of the Canton Audubon Society. No registration required.

Sunday, October 29

***Shibori Dyeing 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Instructor Sarah McMahon will guide participants through the ancient art of Shibori resist dyeing. Concentrating on the clamping technique known as Itajime, participants will experiment with samples before creating a colorful scarf. All dyes and materials are provided. Please bring plastic gloves, apron, and container or bag to take home your project. No experience necessary! Pack a lunch or bring a dish to share during our lunch break. ***Registration is required and limited to 16 people, ages 12 and older. Materials fee is \$25.00 per person. Registration opens on Monday, October 9 at 9:00 a.m. and closes on Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m.**

Sunday, November 5

***Stakeholders Meeting 2-4:00 p.m.**

The staff of the Nature Center invites you to participate in a stakeholders meeting. We have plans for the Nature Center, and we would like to gauge your impressions and hear your opinions about potential projects in the near term and into the future. Call or email to register so that we can accommodate all who wish to participate. ***Register by November 3.**

Saturday, November 11

***Soapmaking with Barbara Lyons 1-4:00 p.m.**

Let soap maven, Barbara Lyons, teach you how to make simple, yet elegant handcrafted toiletries to gift and pamper those on your Christmas list. Participants will discover how to make lip balms, body scrubs and lotion, whipped shea butter, dusting powder, and experiment with making glycerin soaps. There will also be a demonstration on how to make cold process bar soap. All participants will receive samples of all these products, as well as a solid bar soap handcrafted by the soap maven herself. ***Registration is required and limited to 15 adults. Materials fee is \$10.00 per person. Registration opens on Monday, October 16 at 9:00 am.**

Sunday, November 12

***Neighborhood Naturalist: Life in the Litter 2-4:00 p.m.**

Discover the hidden, but extraordinary, world of invertebrates that make their home in the fallen leaves of the forest floor. Use the Nature Center's stereo microscopes to view and identify organisms collected from a handful of leaf litter. Participants must be at least 12 years old. ***Registration is required and limited to 16 individuals or pairs. Register by November 10.**

Sunday, November 19

Brumbaugh Scholars' Showcase 2-4:00 p.m.

Art gallery, short documentary screening, and local historical and sociological reports all related to nature and culture in northeast Ohio. See the work of outstanding University of Mount Union students in this inaugural showcase event. Your attendance is appreciated in support of the students, their mentors, and their academic research! Refreshments provided. No registration required.

Sunday, November 19

***"Spirit of Place" formed from Clay 2-4:00 p.m.**

From the dawn of recorded history people have created mythical beings to represent the spirits of natural features (forests, rivers, hills, waterfalls, etc.). These tales are a part of the rich folklore of African, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese and Celtic cultures as well as many others. Create your own "spirit of place" for a tree, garden, pond or whatever you like. You will construct a figure using rolled out slabs of clay for body and arms and then add head, hands, feet, and other details. After drying, the spirit figures will be fired in our kiln. We will set a time for you to come back to apply glaze for color and strength and they will be fired again. For anyone 10 to adult. ***Registration is required by Nov 17 at 5pm. Limited to 16 participants. \$5 material fee required.**

Sunday, December 3

Holiday Celebration 3-6:00 p.m.

Drop in between 3 and 6 p.m. to celebrate the holiday season with the Nature Center. Make hand-made crafts, enjoy s'mores and hot chocolate by the fire, listen to acoustic music, and visit Santa Claus in an 1800-era cabin. Simple holiday fun for the whole family. RSVP appreciated, but not required.

Sunday, December 10

Science at the Nature Center 2-4:00 p.m.

How does nature respond to disturbances? University of Mount Union students will make presentations on research related to the effects of ash tree death due to Emerald Ash Borer, analysis of soil properties as influenced by power line rights-of-way and its importance to the creation of pollinator habitats, diversity of insects in northeastern Ohio, and more! Your attendance is appreciated in support of the students and their academic research! No registration required.

December 14 – January 5

118th Christmas Bird Count All Day

Participate in the Audubon 118th Christmas Bird Count as a volunteer in the Quail Hollow (Dec 16) 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.

Friday, December 22 – 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 Tuesday, January 2.

Sunday, January 14

Neighborhood Naturalist: Winter Weeds 2-4:00 p.m.

A winter walk to explore the beauty of the skeletons of weeds. We will explore a variety of habitats and have opportunities to photograph and identify many of our persistent weed flowers, seeds, and stems. Dress appropriately for the weather and trail conditions. No registration required.

Wednesday, January 17

Saw-whet Owls 7:00 p.m.

Learn about the Nature Center's Saw-whet Owl banding project initiated in 2015. Bird bander Al Eibel and Program Manager Adam Zorn will describe how the project was started, how they capture and band one of North America's smallest owls, and what they've learned so far about Saw-whets in Ohio. This program is hosted and sponsored by the Canton Audubon Society. The program takes place at Exploration Gateway, 5712 12th St NW, Canton, OH 44708. No registration required.

Sunday, January 21

***Neighborhood Naturalist: Camera Trapping 2-4:00 p.m.**

Receive a trail camera for Christmas? Learn how to set a camera trap to increase your odds of capturing images of local wildlife. Whether you are tracking a big buck or simply interested in what species of wildlife pass through your backyard, the proper setup is key to capturing good images on your trail camera. Best for older children and adults. Program is indoors and outdoors. ***Register by January 19.**

Sunday, January 28

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

Internal Conflict: Our Current Understanding of Autoimmune Disease. During this lecture, Dr. Miller will lead discussion of autoimmune disorders focusing on their history, mechanisms of action, treatments, and the development of future treatment options. Specific focus will be given to type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and rheumatoid arthritis. Dr. Keith Miller is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Mount Union. ***Register by January 26.**

February 16-19

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/>

Friday, February 23

Photo Contest and Exhibit Open House 6-8:00 p.m.

Photographers, friends and the general public are all invited to attend this open house and reception for the Nature Center's 16th Annual Photograph Contest. View place winners that were awarded during formal judging and cast your own ballot for the People's Choice award. See page 6 for contest information.

Events Continue on the next page

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

Sunday, February 25

***Cooking with Maple Syrup 1-4:00 p.m.**

A two-part program about making maple syrup with Program Manager Adam Zorn and cooking with maple syrup with Judi Strauss. This natural sweetener provides both sweetness and unique flavor to everything, from desserts to salads to main dishes. Judi Strauss will demonstrate how to cook with maple syrup in ways you never thought of before. It's more than just a topping for pancakes! Lots to sample in class and recipes to take home ***Registration is required and limited to 16 adults. Food Fee is \$9.00 per person. Registration opens on Monday, January 29 at 9:00 a.m.**

Recurring Programs

Acoustic Jam

2 - 4 p.m. on Oct. 8, Nov. 5, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4

3-6 p.m. on Dec. 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! No registration required.

Project FeederWatch

Every Sunday afternoon from Nov. 12 - April 1

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.

16th Annual Photography Contest



Save the Date!

Photo submissions for the Nature Center's 16th 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. An artists' reception and exhibit opening is scheduled for **February 23 from 6-8 p.m.** Contest details and entry forms will be available by February 1.

Huston Family Cabin Replication

By Mike Greiner

1850's frontier living is coming to life at the Nature Center with the reconstruction of a log cabin adjacent to the Huston barnyard. This structure was salvaged from nearby Carroll County. The cabin

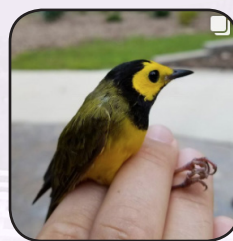
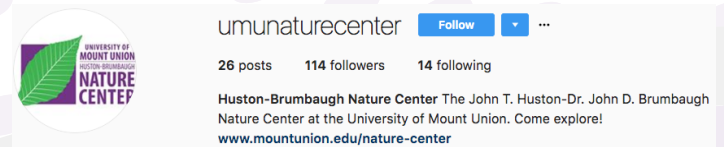


represents the type of home that the Huston family may have lived in after purchasing the land and prior to building the farmhouse and barn. The cabin joins the Nature Center's collection of historic and replicate structures, such as the barn and corncrib, respectively, which illustrate local architectural and cultural history.

Throughout the summer, Terra Masonry & Mehl Restoration have been working to reassemble the log cabin into a showcase piece depicting frontier life on the farm. The logs of the cabin are assembled on a new foundation, and the mortar, known as chinking, between the logs has been completed. Soon the roof, foundation block work, and a concrete floor designed to look like wood planks will be completed to finish the authentic appearance of this historic cabin. Check the schedule of events for opportunities to learn more about this new space highlighting frontier life in Ohio.

Follow the Nature Center on Instagram

The Nature Center recently created an Instagram account to showcase Center updates and events, wildlife, and more! Follow us today **@UMUNatureCenter**. Stopping by for a visit? Be sure to tag us in your photos!



Volunteer Opportunities

By Bonnie Twaddle

For a very rewarding experience, please consider becoming a **Volunteer Trail Guide** for preschool and elementary school field trips. Many local schools bring their students to the Nature Center for seasonal or themed hikes to experience and learn about the wonderful out-of-doors.

What a great opportunity to share your love and excitement of nature with children who rarely get the opportunity

to hike through the woods! Most field trips occur during weekday mornings for 1 ½ hours during spring and fall months. We encourage potential Volunteer Trail Guides to observe a minimum of 2 groups led by Nature Center staff or experienced Volunteer Trail Guides to be sure it is a good fit for you.

For more information about this position, please contact Bonnie Twaddle at 330-823-7487 or twaddlb@mountunion.edu.

Volunteer Recognition

We extend a sincere thank you to our May, June, July, and August Volunteers! Our outstanding Volunteer Staff assists us in maintaining high quality programming and a beautiful facility. Thank you for ALL that you do!

Joseph Balogh

Rick Blessing

Adrianna Border

Katriel Border

Lani Border

Nate Border

Ruth Border

Thaddeus Border

Norma Boughman

Patty Bruey

Kathy Chambers

Shirley DeMaiolo

Alan Dolan

Lee Dolan

Laura Dornan

Elayne Dunlap

Jim Dutter

Al Eibel

Sandy Gahan

Cali Granger

Jane Helwig

Ann Hendel

Amy Hosking

Larry Miller

Long K. Nguyen

Peggy Palazzo and STREAM

Campers

Carol Pancake

Patty Rickard

Nate Ross

Liz Ross Jones

Erika Shi

Jennifer Simpson

Susan Smith

Kayla Stephens

Ann Sutton

Darla Sutton

Rich Sutton

Rebecca Szekely

Ryan Walderman

Janet Wolfe

Special Thanks!

We extend an additional thank you to **DeHoff's Flowers and Greenhouse** and **Ream's Greenhouse** for donating flowers to plan on the Pollinator Mount Habitat on the University of Mount Union's campus.

Thanks to **Regina Coeli's Holy Cross STREAM Camp** for helping plant some of the donated flowers on the Pollinator Mount Habitat. STREAM Campers were: Peggy P., Sofie D., Lily L., Ava S., Jack M., Natalie S., Olivia S., Morgan T., Audrey B., Caroline B., Sydney L., Joe F., and Catherine G.

Thank you **Mount Union Mill** for your continuous donations of bird seed.



Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 218
Alliance, Ohio

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

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**