

Brown Family Environmental Center

at Kenyon College

Field Notes



July 2014 *Vol. 18 / No.3*

July, August, September



Before the State Route 229 that we know today, a wagon road followed the river between Mount Vernon and Gambier. This photo appeared in William Bodine's 1891 "The Kenyon Book."

change the name back to the melodic original, which thankfully stuck.¹

Though it makes for an interesting tale, thousands of years prior to the river's naming a much larger regime of change led to its birth from a immense sheet of ice known as the Wisconsin glacier. Prior to its advance, the Kokosing River did not exist, nor the Ohio River. Instead, the great Teays River flowed from east to west through the center of the state.

The Wisconsin glacier advanced 20,000 years ago over the Teays valley, scraping, grinding and trapping all manner of earth and stone under its frozen mass. As it receded, great volumes of melt water cut new river valleys, including the Kokosing's. Boulders and crushed rock were also released from the ice and deposited on the river's edges.

Fast-forward to 1890, and that glacial debris becomes an important local commodity: sand and gravel. The opening of quarries and availability of sand contributed to a glass-making industry that employed 1,000 people in Knox County at its height in 1950's, and quarries continue to operate today. (A soon-to-open portion of the Ariel-Foundation Park, located next to the river in Mount Vernon, will feature "ruins" of a Pittsburg Plate Glass factory - see arielfoundationpark.org).

The glacier also left a gift that we enjoy every time we draw a glass of water from a faucet in most of Knox County - ample pockets of groundwater that we access through public and private wells.

River of the Little Owls

The State Scenic Kokosing River winds through the heart of our community and colors our past with tales of ice, exploration, and survival.

The first of a two-part series, by Heather Doherty

The Kokosing River runs through the heart of Knox County and Mount Vernon, and has long been central to life in the region. It provided a home for Native Americans for thousands of years, and later carried settlers and their growing economy. The river remains one of our greatest natural assets, attracting residents and visitors with opportunities to recreate or simply revel in its beauty.

Our river is a special one. With tree-lined banks and much of its natural character intact, it boasts an outstanding wealth of wildlife. In 1998 it joined the ranks of a select group of "State Scenic" rivers designated by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

This article is first of a two-part series

that explores how the river connects us to our past and touches us today.

Aliases and Ice

The Kokosing River has survived several identities. Though the exact origin of its name has been the subject of debate, a common theory holds that the name "Kokosing" was used by the Algonquin Indians and meant "River of the Little Owls." This name was anglicized into "Owl Creek", which was the river's name as early settlers knew it.

Bishop Philander Chase founded Kenyon College in 1824, and for unknown reasons dubbed the Kokosing the "Vernon River." One of his successors, Bishop Gregory Thurston Bedell, successfully lobbied a few decades later to

INSIDE...

The (real) ninja turtle..... page 3
Nature Photo Contest..... page 6

Take a Hike, Win a T-shirt! page 4
Calendar of Events page 6

Groundwater sustains life of the river as well when it naturally makes its way to the surface, seeping upward either directly through the riverbed or through small springs that are common in the area. Springs contribute consistent, cold water to small creeks that then flow into the Kokosing. Cold water holds more oxygen, which is great for sensitive species.

As etched by the glaciers, the Kokosing River flows for 57 miles through a drainage basin, or watershed, of 485 square miles. The river and its tributaries originate in Morrow County and Richland County, and flow south and east through Knox County. The river passes through Mt. Vernon, Gambier, Howard, and Millwood before crossing east into Coshocton County where it joins the Mohican River to form the Walhonding River.

These rivers and several others eventually flow into the Muskingum River, followed by the Ohio River and the Mississippi, and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. The next time it rains in Knox County, wish those drops a nice trip to the Atlantic.

The River Road

Prior to European settlement, in the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Kokosing River valley was home to small villages and hunting grounds of several Native American tribes, including Huron, Shawnee, Wyandotte and Delaware. Farmers, historians, and archaeological enthusiasts continue to find a wealth of stone tools and points in fields and river beds; the BFEC preserve has turned up its own small collection (look for a display at the re-

source center in the coming year). Frederick Lorey's *"History of Knox County, Ohio 1876-1976"*, documents early settlement of the area. He notes that the tributary stream Indianfields Run was named for a village and agricultural field at the creek's confluence with the Kokosing River, located about five miles east of Gambier. Visitors are welcome to explore the area now as the Knox County Park District's Indianfields Bluff Park.

The Greenville Treaty of 1795 was followed by a rapid decline of Indian presence in our region. But like the Native Americans before them, early settlers relied on the river for transportation. At the time, there was simply no alternative aside from Native American footpaths. Like so many other towns in America, Mount Vernon's access to a river led to the settlement and prosperity.

Shortly before Ohio gained statehood in 1803, Andrew Craig became the area's first documented settler when he traveled up the Kokosing River and stopped near present-day Mt. Vernon. He later moved west, and was followed by Nathaniel Mitchell in 1803, who also came up the river. Gilman Bryant, Mt. Vernon's first storekeeper, brought his first stock of merchandise up the Kokosing River by canoe.

In the early 1800's the flow of the Kokosing River powered machinery that was vital for human sustenance and shelter: mills for sawing wood and grinding grain. Water depths (aided by some dams) were sufficient to carry flat boats loaded with agricultural and wood products downstream to the Walhonding River, and then to the

Muskingum and Ohio Rivers.

As Ohio's forests were cleared, soil erosion altered the river, making it more shallow and less suitable for commercial boat traffic. As mills closed, roads and railroads rose to prominence.

We Are Like Kokosing

The Kokosing River encircles Kenyon College in geography and history. It loosely winds around the campus on three sides, and the adjacent rolling hills make for scenic views of its valley. Those familiar with the college enjoy a view of the river from "sunset point," while the BFEC's Pine Overlook Trail and Observatory and Corridor Trails offer other vantage points.

When Bishop Philander Chase founded the college here 1824, its distance from civilization was met with strenuous objection by members of the Board of Trustees, to the extent that several resigned². On his initial trip to scout the area, he was accompanied by William Bodine, author of *"The Kenyon Book"*, who noted several small farms in the vicinity, though westward were "suggestions of unconquered wilderness." Despite the objections, the Kokosing River valley spoke to them:

"The whole panorama of the beautiful valleys that lay at our feet, the undulating line and varying surface of the distant hills,... with the windings of the river, all were brought into view, and presented a scene and landscape of unsurpassed loveliness and beauty. It certainly so appeared to me then, and so it seemed to strike our good Bishop. he expressed his delight and satisfaction in the brief

Continued on page 4...



The Little Owl

The name "Kokosing" was given to the river by Native Americans, and loosely means "River of the Little Owls." It's hard to know what owl populations were like 300 years ago, at a time when Ohio also harbored wolves, bison, and antelope. But they could have been speaking of Ohio's littlest owl, the screech owl, which stands at just 8" and lives in forests and suburbs. Or maybe they had the barred owl in mind; though not so small, it especially loves riverine forests where it snacks on frogs.

As both the "Kokosing" and the anglicized translation "Owl Creek", the river is part of what defines our region, and has been justly appropriated as a namesake. The owl image featured above is the logo of the Owl Creek Conservancy, which works to conserve natural and agricultural land in Knox County (owlcreekconservancy.org). There's also the Owl Creek Produce Auction near Fredericktown, and the Owl Creek Baptist Church and cemetery on Owl Creek Road southeast of Mt. Vernon. Two Kenyon College acapella groups, the Owl Creeks and the Kokosingers, sooth us like the sweet sound of the river.

Creature Feature:

The (real) ninja turtle

Of the eleven species of turtles found in Ohio, here are a few of the characters, including one species that makes its home at the BFEC.

by David Heithaus



This spiny softshell turtle now makes its home in an aquarium at the BFEC. Softshell turtles don't need air to breathe. With specialized tissues in their pharynx, they can actually remove oxygen from water while releasing carbon dioxide into it.

I have never truly understood why so many people hate snakes and so few hate turtles. What is a turtle but a snake with legs coiled up in a suit of bony armor? Is a snake bite really that much scarier than a turtle bite?

Yeah... I guess it is.

Being as turtles are so darn popular, let's have a look at what Ohio has to offer. Did you know that Ohio is home to the world's largest and most venomous turtle? If so, you have been misinformed. Not even Australia has venomous turtles. They don't exist anywhere so please stop spreading the rumor.

Ohio is home to eleven species of turtle and among them we definitely have some characters.

The homebody: Ohio's most terrestrial turtle, **eastern box turtles** are the shut-ins of our turtle menagerie. They favor moist woodland areas and may spend their entire lives in an area no bigger than 600 feet in diameter. If not foraging for food, box turtles spend most of their time secreted under

leaves or rotting logs. Just in case that's not enough to avoid contact with the outside world, box turtles also carry around their own personal panic rooms. If threatened, they can withdraw into their shells and tightly shut two hinged plates for that extra bit of protection.

Even though these gentle animals are charming enough to take home you should never transport a box turtle. Not only are their lifespans greatly reduced in captivity (unless rigorously cared for), the stress of being removed from and trying to return to their home range can have detrimental effects on their health. Particularly if they find themselves crossing roads.

Male eastern box turtles have longer tails and bright red or orange eyes; females have brownish orange eyes.

The free runner: Another turtle that doesn't mind leaving the water behind is the **wood turtle**. Fond of woodland marshes and swamps, Wood turtles split their time between land and cool, slow moving streams- sometimes in colonial groups. Although they are

seldom found more than a few hundred feet from water, they will consistently move over three hundred feet per day-considerably further than the humble box turtle. Not only that, they are accomplished climbers (as turtles go) and are able to scale obstacles from fallen logs to garden fences. You'd be lucky to see one in action, however. Normally distributed throughout New England, Ohio is at the extreme edge of the wood turtles range and they have never been identified outside of the far north east corner of the state.

Male wood turtles have a social hierarchy based on size. To ensure access to mates, larger turtles heap physical abuse on their subordinates until they flee to the edge of the group or leave altogether.

The (real) ninja turtle: Along Ohio's rivers and streams basks a master of speed and disguise- the **eastern spiny softshell turtle**. Preferring ruthlessness and cunning to heavy armor, the softshell turtle sports a leathery carapace, powerful paddle-like feet and the ability to disappear into the sandy substrates they prefer. Their shallow shell and long limbs allow them to out-swim any other turtle found in Ohio and by quickly shifting from side to side they can bury themselves in a river bottom in the blink of an eye. Softshell turtles have an abnormally long neck and specialized snout that can be used as a snorkel as they lie in wait for there prey.

Softshells are largely carnivorous and can be highly aggressive. If anything is fast enough to catch one, it might think twice about a repeat attempt. In a twist from the wood turtle, female softshells tend to be larger than males and can grow to almost twenty inches in length.

The tank: The only turtle in Ohio bigger and meaner than the spiny softshell is the infamous **snapping turtle**. While stories about them shearing ½ inch carriage bolts may be a bit exaggerated, I would not rush out to jam a thumb in one's face. Snapping turtles are heavily built and can exceed 30 pounds when mature. They prefer muddy still water with plenty of vegetation. Shallow lakes and farm ponds are the perfect hideout for a snap-

Continued from page 2...

but significant exclamation: "Well, this will do!"

Like other early residents of the area, Chase benefitted from the river's power. He established the Kenyon Mill on the river, where it now intersects Big Run Road and Route 229 just east of Gambier, to process lumber for construction of the Old Kenyon dormitory. A flood hit while the sawmill was still under construction, though, and Chase feared the worst. As the waters receded, he found the mill's dam intact, and

that the flood waters had further excavated the raceway, saving him time and expense. New optimism swept Chase and local residents that divine powers were on Chase's side.³

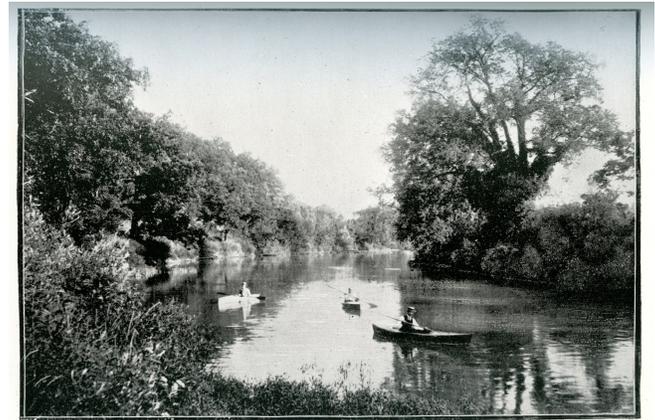
The college sold the mill, though in the 1850's it became a gathering spot for farmers waiting for their grain to be processed. It changed hands several times, and ceased operations in 1948. It collapsed into the Kokosing River in 1999, having stood for 155 years.⁴

A September 1995 Kenyon Collegian article reported that boating on the river was a popular form of student entertainment. Four boating clubs existed in 1865, and a canoe house was constructed, but destroyed in the major flood of 1913. The river remains a popular spot to swim as the school year begins in late August, or on the rare, summer-like days of early May.

Though we no longer rely on the river for basic elements of survival, it remains an important part of the school's

Continued on page 7

Gilman Bryant, Mt. Vernon's first storekeeper, brought his first stock of merchandise up the Kokosing River by canoe.



ON THE KOKOSING, AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL.

...*"Turtles,"* continued from page 3

per. They come by their name honestly with a powerful beak capable of rapidly firing of in a brutal snapping motion. This behavior is used as both hunting technique and defense. Snapping turtles are omnivorous and eat just about anything that comes their way. While happy to scavenge, they are extremely effective ambush hunters and have been known to capture fish, amphibians, small mammals and even the occasional bird.

Despite their somewhat clunky appearance, snapping turtles are fast and extraordinarily flexible. If you're ever tempted to pick one up, think long and hard about how far that neck might extend... or those legs with the inch-long claws...

Fierce and largely without predators as adults, snappers are not afraid of much

- including dry land. If their habitat is threatened or overcrowded (or if they darn well feel like it), a snapper might be found far from a water source. At the end of the day, a snapping turtle is still primarily aquatic so if they're on land, they're on a mission. For everyone's good, let them complete it without disturbance!

The darling: One of Ohio's smallest and cutest turtles is also one of its most threatened: the spotted turtle. While they can be found in small slow moving ditches or creeks, their preferred habitat includes marshes, bogs and wet meadows. Unfortunately, these are amongst the most frequently altered or destroyed in the state and without them, the spotted turtles' permanent lodging choices are limited. A shame since they are the only living member of the Genus

Chlemmys. Spotted turtles are small, seldom reaching six inches in length. Their carapaces are broad, smooth, blue-black canvases speckled with tiny yellow circles. This pattern extends out to their heads and limbs and makes them quite appealing to look at. Male and female spotted turtles are not difficult to tell apart. While males have a tan chin, long tail and brown eyes, females have a yellow chin and orange eyes.

Spotted turtles are active, aquatic hunters and spend a good deal of time poking their heads into every nook cranny and bit of vegetation in their home range. Like the snapping turtle, they are omnivorous. Algae, aquatic plants, insect larvae, tadpoles and salamanders are all on the menu. Spotted turtles eat exclusively while underwater.



Spotted turtles face threats beyond anthropogenic habitat loss. They are fond of terrestrial jaunts, brightly colored and not particularly fast. Many spotted turtles have injuries from failed predation attempts. During their winter dormant period, muskrats are a major threat. The rest of the year raccoons can be very hard on populations. Photo: en.wikipedia.org



The Mother Nature Curve Ball

If we're honest, creating a 'natural' area is bit of a contradiction and every now and again, Mother Nature likes to smack our arrogant little hands in way of reminder. Such has been the case down the road (along the Kokosing River and S.R. 229) where a very nice mix of prairie grasses, flowing plants and several hundred oak trees are currently sitting under a foot or two of water. Again. Shortly after planting they enjoyed a six month tour of Dante's lowest circles (the cold ones) then multiple floods rivaling Noah's whole deal and now the Kokosing is exploring novel parts of the river valley for a fourth time in about as many months. Lesson learned Nature; touché... And yet the introduced native flora planted in our Laymon Road restoration area fared better than one might have predicted... Is it possible that nature is more resilient than Nature? In your face Mama!

Of the forty-odd oak species that were planted at our Laymon Road restoration area, only three suffered significant mortality rates. Our experimental Laurel and Water Oaks perished almost to a one and a patch of white oaks in a low spot checked out with them. So it seems Mother Nature did teach us at least two lessons: 1. white oaks are lousy at holding their breath and 2. if you plant trees from southern ranges to see if they can survive in northern ranges in the context of climate change, don't bank on the climate changing in a particular direction. Mother Nature is nothing if not a contrarian.



Young oak trees sprout from a former agricultural field at the Laymon Road restoration area, surviving the harshest winter in 20 years.



One of the stops on the Wolf Run self-guided trail route features new signage overlooking our meadow wetland and a stately oak tree.

Take a Self-Guided Hike, Win a T-shirt!

Frustrated that you can't seem to fit BFEC events into your busy schedule? Explore on your own time with the help of two new self-guided brochures, then take a survey for a chance to win a BFEC t-shirt or market bag!

Our River Trail guide (accessible at Laymon Road canoe parking lot) explores the Kokosing's incredible diversity, while our Wolf Run guide explore this Kokosing River tributary stream and nearby wetlands along the Corridor Wetlands / Bishop's Backbone Trail (accessible from the New Gambier Road Trailhead). Trail guides are provided at these locations (and at bfec.kenyon.edu), and map out points of interest that are marked on the trail with numbered posts.

Both signage and the brochures were funded in part by a grant from the Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF), to help visitors enjoy and learn about rivers and wetlands, including how conservation benefits both the intriguing, resident wildlife and people. Conserving floodplains and wetlands, for instance, helps reduce river

bank erosion and the severity of flooding by absorbing excess water. Conserving this so-called "green infrastructure" is far less expensive than building flood walls, with the added benefit of preserving natural beauty.

We need your feedback: visit these trails, fill out our survey, and you may be one of two winners drawn for a t-shirt or market bag on **July 30** and **August 15**.

Follow our Wolf Run trail guide to look for the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly on our Corridor Wetland Trail. It is somewhat uncommon since it needs a wetland plant (*Chelone Glabra*, or Turtlehead), to reproduce, but finds it in our wet meadow wetland, plus common milkweed for nectar.



Calendar of Events

*All events are free, open to the public, and start from the BFEC Resource Center unless stated otherwise.
9781 Laymon Road, Gambier Ohio | 740-427-5050 | dohertyh@kenyon.edu | bfec.kenyon.edu*

Frogs & Tadpoles Family Adventure Day - Saturday, July 5th, 1-4pm. The BFEC ponds are busy with tadpoles swimming, frogs hiding in the shallows, and dragonflies zooming overhead. Drop-in to grab a net and explore this mini-ecosystem, plus try your hand at a scavenger hunt and craft.

Elements of Survival Brown Bag Library Chat - Wednesday, July 9th, noon - 1pm
Join the BFEC at the Public Library of Mt. Vernon & Knox County (201 N. Mulberry St.) for a brown bag chat about the amazing survival tactics of Ohio plants and animals. Learn about the natural elements involved with insects that glow in the dark or make themselves poisonous, frogs that freeze nearly solid, and plants that employ “chemical warfare” to hold off competitors.

Nature's Keepers Outdoor Adventure Camp

July 30th - August 1st. Our day camp for 8-11 year-olds focuses on having fun while connecting with and learning about nature. Camp runs from 9am-4pm daily, and feature hikes, nature-related crafts and games, and Kokosing River tubing. Registration is \$60 for members or \$70 for non-members, Camp is filling quickly - email dohertyh@kenyon.edu for registration materials.

Kokosing Exploration - Saturday, Aug. 2nd, 1-3pm

Laymon Rd. canoe access parking lot. Cool off by wading into the State Scenic Kokosing River to discover its diverse life. All ages welcome; please wear water shoes or old sneakers for walking in water. Co-sponsored by the Knox County Park District. *From S.R. 229, turn south onto Laymon Road, then immediately right into canoe access parking lot.*

Kokosing River Rally: A River Runs Through It

Saturday, Sept. 6th, 10am -1pm. The Kokosing River runs through the heart of Knox County and Mt. Vernon, and as one of just fourteen State Scenic Rivers in Ohio, boasts exceptional wildlife. Celebrate this community treasure with a river cleanup and festivities! The cleanup starts at 10am from Riverside Park (West High St. & Dike Road, Mt. Vernon), followed by river fun from noon - 1pm at the newly renovated C.A. & C. Depot at Ariel-Foundation Park (501 S. Main St., Mt. Vernon). Enjoy wildlife netting, interactive displays and river crafts. Brought to you by the Knox County Park District, City of Mt. Vernon, Knox County Recycling & Litter Prevention, ODNR Scenic Rivers, and BFEC.



*Calling All
Photographers!*

Knox County Nature Photography Contest

Photographers of all abilities are invited to submit work to this community contest in celebration of our beautiful Knox County. Prizes awarded in children's (ages 15 and below) and adult divisions. The submission deadline is Oct. 13th, and contest show will take place during the Oct. 18th Harvest Festival. Look for complete contest guidelines online soon at bfec.kenyon.edu.

Fossils of Knox County - Saturday, September 6th,

1:30pm. Join Kenyon Professor of Physics Eric Holdener to learn about fossils common in the Knox County area, the local bedrock where they are found, and what the fossils reveal about the environment in which they lived. Bring in your own fossil finds for identification!

Blazing Prairie - Saturday, October 4th, 1pm

Though not many remain, prairies represent a definitive chapter in Ohio during prehistoric times and in recent history. Join us inside for a short presentation, video of our annual prairie burn, and discussion of new BFEC prairie projects, then enjoy a short walk to admire our towering prairie grasses at their autumnal finest.

Harvest Festival - Saturday, October 18th, 1-4pm

Celebrate the season with this FREE family event. Activities include wagon rides, live music, kids harvest races, farm animals and produce, bonfire, cider press, pumpkin decorating with OSU Extension Master Gardeners, and the Knox County Nature Photography Contest show.

Thank You to...

Our Members *April - June*

PATRON

Geoffrey & Lori Brown
Donald & Sarah Rogan

Doug Downey & Maureen Tobin
Timothy & Betsy Warner
Jeff Wentworth

FRIEND

Kevin & Denise Conway
Hollie Hecht
Frederick Neidhardt
Martha Newell
Royal Rhodes

INDIVIDUAL

James & Marlene Carter
Jean Cline
Lisa Kackley
Tim Shutt
Barbara Walker-Simpson
Joanne Worley

FAMILY

Fred & Victoria Baumann
Bruce & Deborah Kinzer

DONOR

Susan Walker

Our Donors

After Kenyon Society
Royal Rhodes

Town & Country Garden Club

Our Volunteers

In the office, classroom, gardens and on the trails: Pam Harman, Edna Kemboi, Toby SantaMaria, Lee Schott, Kenyon LandLords

Kenyon College Theta Delta Phi.

Bluebird Monitors: Sarah Goslee-Reed, Keith Kitchen, Brian Miller, & Keith Robinson

Field Trip Leaders: Thank you to the 40 Kenyon student and community volunteers who helped us bring over 600 elementary students to the BFEC this spring.

Earth Day Festival: Nancy Chappel, Rebecca Metcalf, Mt. Vernon High School Key Club,

Earth Day Challenge Marathon: Our sincere thanks to the 250+ volunteers whose contributions made the event possible!

Continued from page 4 ...

identity. A good example lies in the school's "spiritual alma mater", a song written by Orville Watson and entitled "Kenyon Farewell." Kenyon students ceremoniously sing the song on the eve of the first day of classes and upon graduation:

*"Old Kenyon, we are like Kokosing,
Obedient to some strange spell,
Which urges us from all reposing,
Farewell, Old Kenyon, fare thee well."*

Your Kokosing Exploration

Now that we've wandered through the river's history, look for part two of this article in our next edition of edition of *Field Notes*, where we'll explore its biology and conservation. In the meantime, explore the river and one of its tributaries, Wolf Run, with trail signage and two new self-guided trail guides (see page 5). And see our events calendars for two river events on August 2nd and September 6th.

References

^{1,3} Smythe, George Franklin. *Kenyon College: Its First Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1924.
² Chase, Philander. *Bishop Chase's Reminiscences: An Autobiography*. Boston: J.B.Dow, 1848.
⁴ Rural Life Center. (2000). *Life Along the Kokosing* (RLC0001). Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio.

Other Sources

Bodine, William Budd. *The Kenyon Book*. Columbus: Nitschke Bros., 1891
Lorey, Frederick N. *History of Knox County, Ohio 1876-1976*. Mount Vernon, OH: Knox County Historical Society, 1976.
Kokosing River flows through Kenyon's history. (1995, September 28). *The Kenyon Collegian*, p.6.



Now is the time to join!

There are many reasons to become a member of the BFEC, including the satisfaction of knowing you're a part of critical education and conservation programs. Receive preferred access to popular workshops, a hard copy of our newsletters, and 10% discount on bird seed. Thank you for your support!

Membership level: Student ___ \$20 Individual ___ \$35
Family ___ \$50 Friend ___ \$100 Patron ___ \$250
Benefactor ___ \$1000 +

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Amount enclosed: _____

My check, payable to Kenyon College, is enclosed

Please bill my ___ Visa or ___ MasterCard

Card number _____ Exp. date _____

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. The Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

Mail to: BFEC, P.O. Box 508, Gambier, Ohio 43022



Brown Family Environmental Center at Kenyon College

9781 Laymon Road, Gambier, Ohio 43022 ~ (740) 427-5050 ~ <http://bfec.kenyon.edu>



Our Mission

The BFEC at Kenyon College exists to engage Central Ohioans of all ages with nature, and to support the goals of Kenyon College by conserving the natural diversity of the Kokosing River valley and providing opportunities for education and research.

Director of Facilities

David Heithaus

Director of Programming

Heather Doherty

Facility & Program Assistant

Jill Kerkhoff

Upcoming Events

Wed.	July 9	Elements of Survival Brown Bag Chat Mt. Vernon Public Library
Saturday	Aug. 2	Kokosing Exploration
Friday	Aug. 15	Last chance to WIN a BFEC t-shirt! See p.5
Saturday	Sept. 6	Kokosing River Rally: <i>A River Runs Through It</i> C.A. & C. Depot, Ariel-Foundation Park
Saturday	Sept. 6	Fossils of Knox County
Saturday	Oct. 4	Blazing Prairie
Saturday	Oct. 18	Harvest Festival

Events details inside and at bfec.kenyon.edu

Knox County Nature Photography Contest

Deadline: Monday, October 15th

- * Prizes awarded * Novices welcomed
- * Adult & children's divisions
- * Contest rules coming soon at **bfec.kenyon.edu**



Brown Family Environmental Center
at Kenyon College
P.O. Box 508, Gambier, Ohio 43022



