



Philander Chase Conservancy

**Annual Report
2017 - 2018**



Report from the PCC Board Chair

At Philander Chase Conservancy, our outlook is long term – very long term. The land we protect today will be land that is protected 100 years and more from now; in fact it will remain open space and undeveloped in perpetuity.

Since we were established in 2000, we have conserved approximately 5,300 acres of farmland, forests, and important watershed resources. These conservation easements have been the result of working partnerships with local property owners, some of which have taken many years to come into fruition. We work hard to maintain relationships with our community and are pleased to reap the long term benefits.

As we look toward the future, we are continuing to review ways that we can integrate our activities with the College's academic programs. Providing practical working experience for Kenyon students will enrich their college experience and develop a sense of stewardship for the land around our region and for our environment.

With the start of the upcoming "Our Path Forward" campaign, we are looking forward to further strengthening our ties to our local community, alumni, and friends of the college in order to ensure that our programs and the land that we conserve are well cared for, continue to be economically viable, and enjoyed by all who pass by.

We could not do any of this without your support. Thank you.

-Zali Win '84



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Managing Director's Report

City on a Hill
Untouched land beyond
A fallow field is
The secret of fertility
~ Deng Ming-Dao

How do you find personal renewal? During my student years at Kenyon, when I felt overwhelmed by the pressures of academics, I escaped on foot or by bicycle into the peace of the surrounding countryside and farmland. The Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC) did not yet exist in the late 70s so I kept to the backroads and sometimes would be gone for an entire afternoon. I always returned rejuvenated and happier.

Almost 40 years later, that same countryside is still my oasis. The Kokosing River beckons with its promise of great blue herons, kingfishers, and an occasional bald eagle. I can walk out my back door at home on the network of beautiful and well-managed BFEC trails to the newly-conserved Walker's Pond and sit until my mind calms. I never tire of the beauty of this area and am grateful daily for the gifts it provides.

An oasis of a different sort is in the planning stages in our region. Billed as an "entertainment venue of the future," Planet Oasis — a \$2 billion, 350-acre theme park off I-71 in Delaware County, Ohio (near Columbus and a Tanger Outlet mall) — is slated to open a first phase in 2019. Estimated to create 15,000 new jobs, the park will offer extreme sports experiences ranging from indoor skydiving, a surf park and a sports arena to health and wellness facilities, and hotels for all price points. The park will transform central Ohio if it is built. Many find this kind of experience their ultimate renewal.

Renewal comes in a variety of forms but renewal in nature is sustainable only if "fallow fields" are protected from development. With the population of Knox County projected to increase by the size of another Mount Vernon (16-17,000 people) by 2050,

the time to conserve the beauty and natural resources of our farmland, waterways, woodlands and open spaces is now.

At Philander Chase Conservancy, we work closely with our partners who understand the threat and are working with us to conserve the lands that renew us. We are pleased to report that in the past year we have been working closely with our national organization, the Land Trust Alliance, toward national accreditation to ensure that our practices are in keeping with the best practices in the country.

Thank you for caring and for reading our annual report. We pledge to continue to do our best to conserve this land we love so that those of us who are drawn to the natural world will always have places to find that respite. -Lisa Schott '80



Special Thanks to Our Partners:

Rob Alexander	Shane McGuire
Kale Barber '16	ODA Office of Farmland Preservation
Bentley Boyd	Shirley O'Brien
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Conservation News

Commentary: Defining Rural Character



Looking out over the rolling farm fields from the front porch of his 94 acre farm in Gambier, located in Knox County, former Kenyon College professor and former Director of the Rural Life Center, Howard Sacks reflects on what the definition of rural character is, and what it means to him.

My family operates a farm in Knox County some fifty miles outside the city limits of Columbus, Ohio. Over the past few decades, urban sprawl has come our way, transforming the rural landscape and small villages into suburban developments and commercial strips. Driving past the miles of decorative fencing surrounding a gated community, my wife Judy sighs, “So much fence, so little livestock.”

The rural character of this county is still visible all around me. I see it driving down township roads surrounded by open green landscapes, rolling fields and pastures that are punctuated by the occasional farmhouse and clusters of outbuildings. I hear it sitting on the front porch of my farmhouse at night, surrounded by silence and the occasional sounds of nature beneath the heavy darkness of a starry evening sky.

But along the next road west of our place, the fields have been split into five-acre lots, and the lights

from modular homes and starter mansions now dim the night skies. The new influx of residents to this rural community like the idea of living in the country, but don’t care much of the scents of farm life, or the sounds of machinery during harvest time, that are a practical part of living in the country.

In the face of this transformative change, the local citizens in our town convened a public dialogue about the future of our community. The primary goal was to preserve the rural character of our county.

But what is rural character?

For most Americans, “rural” means little more than the absence of what we associate with urban life, from cultural amenities to social diversity. The federal government defines rural simply as low population density. But, these definitions fail to capture the distinctive elements that constitutes a rural way of life.

Much of Knox County’s economy still relies on agriculture. The grain silo at the farmers’ co-op remains the tallest building in the county seat. Implement dealers still sell and repair farm equipment like tractors, hay elevators, and brush hogs. The county’s rural heritage embodies a distinctive set of cultural values: neighborliness, hard work, and independence.

Rural character also denotes a certain kind of sociability, an intimacy rooted in connection to place. Old-time farmers speak of knowing the inside of everyone else’s kitchens a generation ago, when neighbors would take dinner together as they moved from farm to farm in collective labor to bring in the harvest. Today, neighbors still gather at the grange hall, but its members, like the overall farming population, is aging and grange membership is in a rapid decline.

In simple terms, rural character means seeing the night sky, working the land, knowing your neighbors, and valuing community. We’ve lost

much of this in modern society, at a great cost to our individual and collective well-being.

Today, longtime residents don't quite trust newcomers who won't bother to get to know their neighbors and treat the area as a bedroom community or weekend retreat. In response, the new residents often find their older neighbors a bit standoffish.

My daughter plans to take over our farm in a few years, and I worry that she won't have the same opportunities as the past generations, or be able to experience the rural character of our community the way we have, which has given us so much peace through connection to the land and to our neighbors.

Howard Sacks is former Professor at Kenyon College and former Director of the Rural Life Center, who farms with his wife in Gambier, Ohio. His commentary was broadcast by WYSO 91.3 <http://www.wvxu.org/post/commentary-defining-rural-character#stream/0>

Mount Vernon First Fridays

During the decent weather months, Mount Vernon hosts downtown "First Friday" events. Amy Henricksen and Lisa Schott represented Kokosing Nature Preserve and Philander Chase Conservancy at "Farm Friday" and fielded questions from the local community.



ODA Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP)

In June, the Ohio Department of Agriculture awarded Philander Chase Conservancy over \$160,000 in Clean Ohio Funds to assist with funding the purchase of an agricultural easement on a property that must remain farmland in perpetuity. The Conservancy is working with the Josh and Jade Laymon family to conserve two of their farms, one with an agricultural easement and one with a conservation easement. The Laymon children have been interested and helpful participants in the easement process. We congratulate Emma Laymon on her Kiwanis David Greer Award in Agriculture and Conservation this summer! We enjoy walking the farms with the family. Josh and son Joe are pictured below.



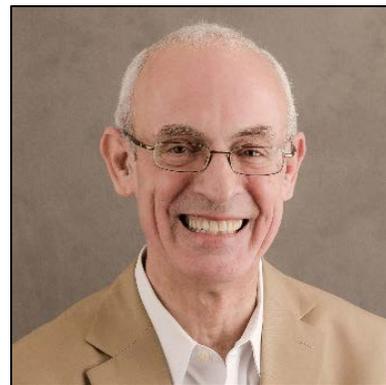
Conservation Outreach

At the invitation of Lee and Mary Ann McPhail, holders of three Philander Chase Conservancy agricultural easements, Lisa Schott spoke to the local PERS (Public Employees Retirement System) group about the Conservancy and Kenyon College. We welcome any opportunity to talk about our mission and our work. Thank you, Lee and Mary Ann!



provided passersby with a beautiful nature display. Brian Farmer, a Gambier community member, had honeybees placed at the buckwheat field to produce honey. Buckwheat honey has the highest antioxidants of any honey, and according to Brian, a spoonful of buckwheat honey is more effective than children's cough syrup. Buckwheat attracts many beneficial insects, and the field was covered in Monarch butterflies. Brian reminded us that this is a great example of Philander Chase Conservancy working together with neighbors to benefit farming, biodiversity, and the community.

New Board Member Introduction: Neil Mortine



Of Bees and Buckwheat Fields

The Philander Chase Conservancy owns farmland on Depolo Road between New Gambier and Canada Roads. The Grassbaugh family farms the land and planted buckwheat this summer which, in bloom,



Neil Mortine is a native of Newcomerstown, Ohio, with extended family throughout Coshocton and Knox counties. He loves the rolling foothills, farms and fields of eastern and central Ohio. Newcomerstown is also the hometown of Cy Young and Woody Hayes, and he is an avid follower of all Cleveland sports teams and The Ohio State Buckeyes. Neil is President and Chief Executive Officer of Fahlgren Mortine, a nationally recognized integrated marketing and communications firm in Columbus, Ohio. Active in the community, he has served leadership roles on numerous boards over the years, including Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, Ohio Historical Society and Community Shelter Board. He was also a founding board member for the Friends of Theodore Roosevelt National Park

(Medora, ND), and currently serves as a board member for Capital University, the national PR Council and the Southern Ohio Copperheads, a summer collegiate baseball team in Athens, Ohio.

Neil earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

Neil and his wife Christine reside in Worthington, Ohio. They have four adult children and five grandchildren. Christine is a former classical musician/conductor and taught at Kenyon. She currently serves as a certified flight instructor, FAA flight examiner, and AOPA instructor. She manages her activities from the OSU Don Scott Airport in Columbus.

New Board Member Introduction: Lisa Coney '78



Lisa Coney is a 1978 graduate of Kenyon College. Other family members who graduated from Kenyon College include Lisa's husband, Tom Shively, Kenyon Class of 1976, her sister, Leslie Coney, Class of 1980, and her niece and nephew-in-law, Erin and Blake Sheppard, both Class of 2003. Over the years Lisa has been a Class Agent, Campaign volunteer for the College's capital campaigns back to the *Campaign for Kenyon* in the 90s, and a Career Development extern sponsor and volunteer, among other things. Professionally, Lisa is Managing Director and Senior Risk Manager for the Healthcare Investment Banking Industry Practice Group with SunTrust Robinson Humphrey. Prior to

joining STRH in 2014, Lisa spent the bulk of her career with Bank of America and its predecessors. She is currently a board member of Community Consulting Teams of Boston, a not-for-profit organization that offers consulting services on a pro bono basis to other not-for-profits in the greater Boston area through volunteers who are all graduates of top 25 business schools. During the course of her involvement, Lisa has led six projects and served in Client Development and Volunteer Relations roles. Lisa and Tom reside in Wayland, Massachusetts and have three adult children.

Partner Profile: Cary Purcell

We all know that in our daily work lives, there is nothing more valuable than a colleague who is side by side with you with shared beliefs and a strong work ethic. Everything we do at Philander Chase Conservancy (PCC) is based on legal work, from creating the conservation and agricultural easements, to reviewing title work and potential violations. In my eight years with the Conservancy, we have had been fortunate to work with attorney Cary Purcell.



Cary arrived in Columbus in 1985 after graduating from the University of Notre Dame to join Schottenstein Zox and Dunn (now Ice Miller) as an associate attorney. In 1990 Cary joined Bricker & Eckler where he became a Partner in 1992. In 1996, Cary was a key member of a group of attorneys, architects and Kenyon officials focused on developing a long-term conservation mission and strategy for Kenyon College, which led to the formation of the Philander Chase Corporation (now Conservancy.) In recent years, Cary has semi-

retired and become a solo practitioner focusing on just a few clients such as PCC. He and his wife Joanne live in the Gambier area on 65 acres off Hopewell Road. Cary and Joanne have two grown daughters, Aubrey and Ellie, who love outdoor adventures as much as Cary. As evident in the photo, Cary is a conservationist for a reason. He enjoys traveling to wild places around the country and the world and is an avid skier, hiker, scuba diver and fisherman. We appreciate Cary's legal counsel and enjoy our work with him. Thank you, Cary, for providing the foundation of all our work by ensuring that we have strong easements and that we steward them properly.

Images of our Rural Landscape



In an effort to capture quality images of the rural landscape the Conservancy is working hard to protect, Kenyon's Office of Communications brought professional photographer Bob Handelman to Gambier in June to create a portfolio of images highlighting our protected properties. The photograph featured on the cover of this year's Annual Report is just one of the beautiful images Bob was able to capture. Local photographer J. Phil Samuelli photographed Kokosing Nature Preserve during the late summer months.

Philander Chase Conservancy Video

The Philander Chase Conservancy worked with Kenyon's Office of Communications to produce a new video sharing information about the Conservancy's land conservation efforts, its impact on the Kenyon student experience, and the growing development pressure that makes our work important. You can view the video at www.philanderchase.org. Special appreciation to Kale Barber '16, Video Producer, and Bentley Boyd, Advancement Communications Director, for their work on the video.



Land's End Swag

In addition to the Philander Chase Conservancy and Kokosing Nature Preserve t-shirts currently available at the Kenyon Bookstore, you can also now purchase Land's End attire sporting the respective logos of the Conservancy and the Preserve. Orders can be placed online through the following web address:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/pcclandsend>



Kokosing Nature Preserve

As we approach the third anniversary of the dedication of our conservation burial ground, we are continuing to spread the word, to our local community and beyond, about green burial and the existence of Kokosing Nature Preserve. To date, we have sold interment rights for 31 plots, and we have had 7 interment services. We have been touched by the beauty of each service, and we are honored to work with the families who have chosen an environmentally friendly burial for their loved ones. The prairie has continued to flourish during the summer months, and maintains its beauty in varied ways in each of the changing seasons.



If you have not yet walked the paths at Kokosing Nature Preserve and enjoyed the beauty of that space, we encourage you to do so. If you are interested in learning more about interment rights or scheduling an outreach presentation focused on green burial, please contact Amy Henricksen, Kokosing Nature Preserve Steward, at 740-501-4438 or info@kokosingnaturepreserve.org.

Managing for Invasive Species at Kokosing Nature Preserve

The summer growing season is the perfect time to enjoy the sights and sounds of the Kokosing Nature Preserve, Kenyon's green burial cemetery located at 10620 Quarry Chapel Road. In addition to the glorious wildflowers, however, there are also

various species of invasive plants that would like to gain a foothold, if allowed. Efforts to control these invasive species are critical to maintaining the overall health and diversity of the prairie.

The staff of Kokosing Nature Preserve were excited to partner with the BFEC Summer Interns and volunteers in June, July, and August, working together to keep the invasive species under control. For three hours every Tuesday afternoon, a team of three to seven student interns and volunteers worked tirelessly to remove Canada thistle, bull thistle, teasel, pokeweed, burdock, mare's tail/horseweed, multiflora rose, and wild berries from the 23 acre preserve.

BFEC Student Interns included Mia Fox '19, Bjorn Nilsson '20, and Eden Stephey '21. Office of Green Initiatives Student Intern, Kira Lancz '21, and BFEC post-baccalaureate, Madeleine Morgan '18 also lent a helping hand this summer. Volunteer workers included local high school students Owen Decatur, Duncan Hardy, Malcolm MacDonell, and Logan Meyer. The hard work of this crew is greatly appreciated and the results of their efforts can be enjoyed by all when walking the paths at Kokosing Nature Preserve!



Restoration of the 22 Acres Adjoining Kokosing Nature Preserve

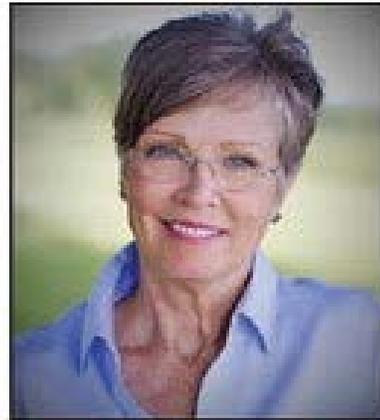
In October of 2017, the Philander Chase Conservancy received a generous gift from Peter White '66 P'01, Chair of the Kokosing Nature Preserve Board of Directors, for the purpose of restoring to prairie the remaining 22 acres of the former Tomahawk Golf Course property. With efforts currently underway to clear and prepare the acreage for seeding, this gift will ensure that the property adjacent to Kokosing Nature Preserve, including all of the property that is visible from Quarry Chapel Road, will be as picturesque as the Nature Preserve has become. We are excited to not only rehabilitate the appearance of this space, but also to provide additional pollinator habitats, refuge for birds and other wildlife, and natural space for the community to use and enjoy.



Kokosing Nature Preserve Partner Focus: Jacki Mann RN, CHPN

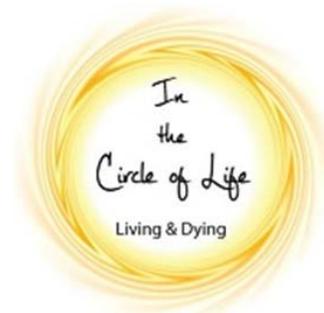
The subject of death and dying is all too often considered a taboo subject in our current society. In our outreach efforts, the staff of Kokosing Nature Preserve is striving to help reverse that mindset and open a healthy dialogue about end-of-life issues. We are very fortunate to have crossed paths with Jacki

Mann, RN CHPN, who has become an invaluable partner to Kokosing Nature Preserve.



Jacki is a Hospice Nurse, Death & Dying Doula, and Life & Death Coach with over 30 years of in home care and hospice nursing. She has founded *In the Circle of Life*, a non-profit organization whose mission is to help others, sick or well, on their journey of living more fully and purposefully, by preparing them for dying and death. In February of 2018, Jacki began hosting a “Death & Dying Discussion Group” on Kenyon’s campus, and that discussion group will continue in the 2018-2019 academic year. In addition, Jacki is partnering with the Kokosing Nature Preserve and Hospice of Knox County to lead an awareness and education series of events for the community. This series will include viewing and discussion of the documentaries, *Facing Death*, *Being Mortal*, and *A Will for the Woods*, as well as other informative classes, seminars and discussions focused on end-of-life issues.

You can learn more about Jacki and her work through her website: www.inthecircleoflife.com.



Kenyon's Reunion Weekend 2018

On May 25, 2018, Kenyon alumni once again had the opportunity to attend an Alumni College Seminar at Kokosing Nature Preserve as part of Kenyon College's Reunion Weekend 2018. The seminar, "Grave Matters: An Exploration of Key Western Attitudes about Death and Dying", was led by Royal Rhodes, Kenyon's Donald L. Rogan Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus. During the seminar, Professor Rhodes shared a reading of his poem, *Returning Naturally: Words on Kokosing Nature Preserve*, which he wrote for the occasion of the



preserve's dedication in October of 2015. Professor Rhodes also shared a copy of his poem, *A Kenyon Sonnet: Farewell, Kokosing*, written upon his retirement from the Kenyon faculty in May of 2018. Attendees enjoyed a tour of the preserve at the conclusion of the seminar.

Kokosing Nature Preserve Reception Center

The Kokosing Nature Preserve now has an on-site reception center available for rental. The former Tomahawk Golf Course clubhouse has been converted to a reception center for the primary purpose of providing families access to space for services in inclement weather and/or space to have a luncheon or gathering immediately following a service. The reception center also allows our families and guests to have on-site access to

restroom facilities. The space is available for rental to community members, as well, who wish to use the reception center for any upcoming events.



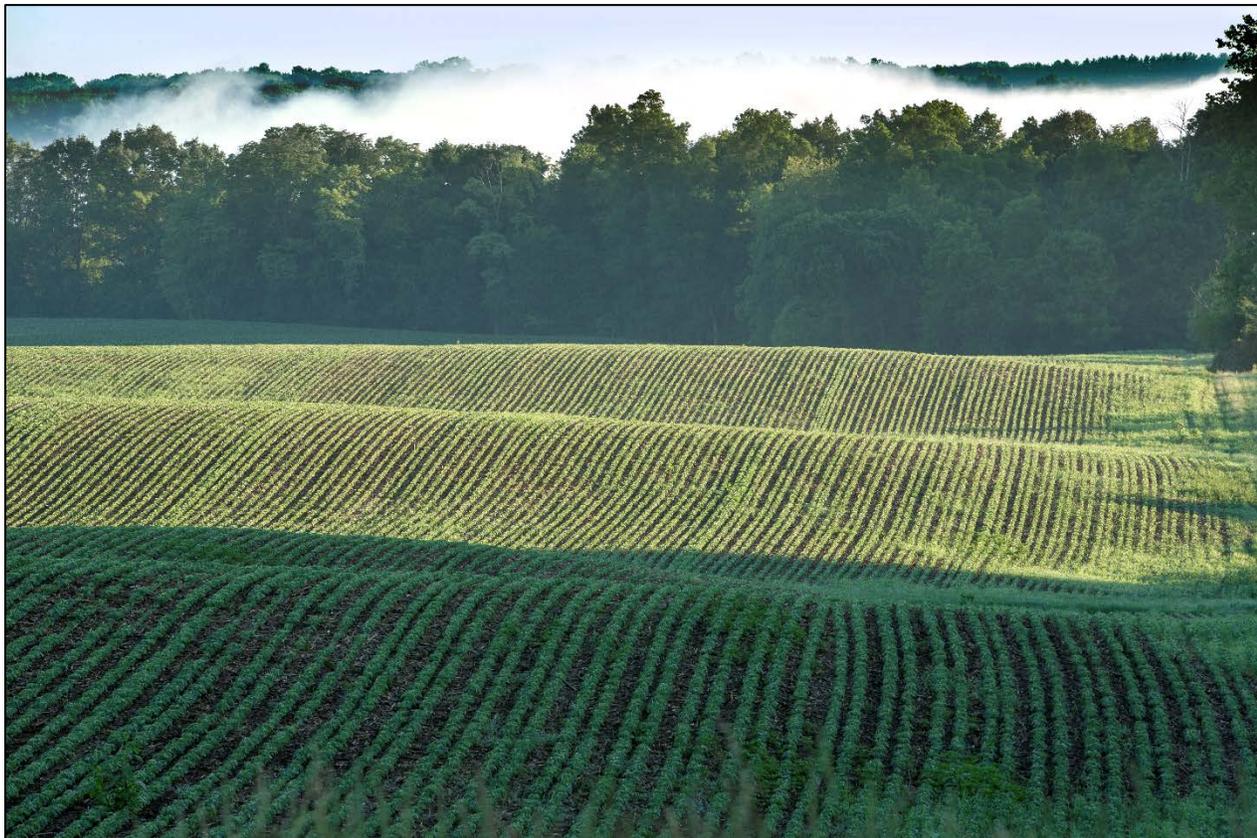
For more information about rental of the Kokosing Nature Preserve Reception Center, please contact Amy Henricksen at 740-501-4438 or henricksena@kenyon.edu.

This important project was made possible by a generous gift from PCC board member Anne Griffin '78.

Notes from the Field



Mount Vernon high school sophomore Madeline Henricksen chose Kokosing Nature Preserve as her field study site for her AP Biology course. Her assignment is to conduct monthly observations at the same site throughout the 18-19 academic year.





Philander Chase Conservancy
2017-2018 Donor Listing

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Zali Win '84
Camille & Stuart Yahn
Bill Yost '68

Become a Friend of PCC

What is it about the lands surrounding Kenyon College that matter most to you? For some it is the natural beauty of the rolling and productive farmland, for others it is the abundant birdlife along the Kokosing River or the peace of walking among the sycamores and oaks. Protecting these resources is a team effort. In addition to the partners we have mentioned, we have been grateful for the financial support from our loyal board members and others in the community who believe in the work of the Conservancy.

Inspired by our supporters, we have become a non-profit, *member-supported* land trust. We invite you to join our efforts by becoming a friend of the Philander Chase Conservancy. Please help us fulfill our mission of protecting the natural beauty of the farms, woodlands, waters and open spaces surrounding Kenyon College and preserving the rural character of the region at large.

Membership levels:

Student/Young Alumni ('13-'18): \$20
Individual: \$35
Family/Dual: \$50
Supporter: \$100
Patron: \$250
Benefactor: \$1,000
Heritage Circle: \$2,500*

*Heritage Circle members are eligible to purchase interment rights at Kokosing Nature Preserve. For more information, visit kokosingnaturepreserve.org

Donations to Philander Chase Conservancy count toward Kenyon College giving societies. All donations are fully tax-deductible as permitted by law. Philander Chase Conservancy is a 501c(3) organization

For more information or to discuss bequests, a memorial contribution, or a planned gift, contact Lisa Schott at: schottl@kenyon.edu or 740-427-5902

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Check (payable to Philander Chase Conservancy)

Card number: _____

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My contact information:

Name

Street Address

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Return this form with payment to:

Philander Chase Conservancy
Kenyon College Woollam House
306 Gaskin Avenue
Gambier, Ohio 43022-9989

Our mission is to protect the natural beauty of the farms, woodlands, waters and open spaces surrounding Kenyon College and to preserve the rural character of the region at large.

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David H. Cannon '73
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Staff Members:

Lisa D. Schott '80, Managing Director
Amy Henricksen, Project Coordinator
& Kokosing Nature Preserve Steward

You can make a tax-deductible gift in support of Philander Chase Conservancy and its land conservation mission online at:

campuspartners.kenyon.edu



**Philander Chase Conservancy
Kenyon College, Woollam House
306 Gaskin Ave, Gambier, OH 43022
Phone: 740-427-5902
www.philanderchase.org**