



Philander Chase Conservancy

**Annual Report
2016 - 2017**



Report from the PCC Board Chair

Every time I visit Gambier, I'm struck by the timelessness of the rural landscape that made such an impression on me when I drove over the Bishop's Backbone and up to Kenyon for the first time nearly 40 years ago. For this, I'm grateful to my predecessors and colleagues at Philander Chase Conservancy and our many conservation partners – especially in view of the expanding development footprint of suburban Columbus and even Mount Vernon.

The Conservancy's activities, however, include more than viewshed and open space protection. We work with local farmers and property owners to increase the long-term economic viability of their land, thereby contributing to the sustainability of their farms. We are also working on increasing our engagement with students and faculty at Kenyon to provide real life practical experiences to help make classroom learning more meaningful academically and to help form a skillset for their post-college careers.

We have been able to permanently protect over 5,300 acres spread over 41 agriculture and conservation easements because of your support, the dedication of my colleagues on the PCC board, and the hard work of our staff: Amy Henricksen, Lisa Schott '80, and Wendy Wolfe. We have exciting plans for the future and we look forward to your continued partnership.

-Zali Win '84



Current Easement Holders:

Spence & Nancy Badet
Mike & Krys Clifton
Colton LLC
Clutter Family Farms
Jay Dorsey & Beth Waller
Chuck & Rita Dudgeon
Jim '78 & Kim Giles
Mary Hall Family
Eric & Kate Helt
Paul & Sue Holeski
Kenyon College
Bill Lawhon / White Oak Farms
Jay & Christine '01 Laymon
Jane Laymon-Kasper
Steve Lanning
Nathan McKee
Tim & Heidi Norris
Angela Porter
Mary McManus & Keith Plocki P'07
Lee & Mary Ann McPhail
Jerry & Elizabeth Mickley
Tracy & Florence Schermer
John & Rebecca Simpson
George Smith
Sharon Sweeney
Cornel Van Gorp / Casey's Way LLC
Norman White / Bent Canoe Farm LLC
Howard Workman

Original/Previous Owners:

Jean Briggs
Tom Jegla P'89 H'97
David & Lisa Seitz
J. Shorey
Don & Alesia Thomas

Managing Director's Report

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope. -WENDELL BERRY

Wendell Berry's words are especially meaningful and timely for us at Philander Chase Conservancy this year. I know I am "speaking to the choir" because by taking the time to read our Annual Report, you reveal an interest in land conservation and care for the earth. Never has fostering its renewal been more important.

The rewarding but challenging work of conserving land is only half the equation. While we are proud of the lands we've been able to conserve around Kenyon College, the "in perpetuity" work begins the moment the easement is signed. The land trust takes on a legal obligation to ensure that the terms of the easement are met through annual monitoring and legal defense. We've learned from our national organization, the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) that few issues arise with landowners who agree to a conservation or agricultural easement on their property. Issues are more likely to arise as the land is sold to new owners. PCC has been in existence for seventeen years and the board has decided to take a hard look in the coming year at our practices to bring them fully into alignment with the national standards and practices of the LTA for land trusts to minimize those risks.

In an article in May titled "Columbus Among Few Midwest Metro Areas With Robust Economy", the *Columbus Dispatch* reported that "Central Ohio's job growth is expected to top 1 percentage point a year through 2020, meaning the region could add at least 10,000 jobs a year through that period. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission predicts the region could add another 1 million people by 2050 with the population reaching 3 million people."

The pressure on rural lands is clearly not relenting. We pledge to continue to reach out to landowners interested in conserving their land and to work with the LTA to strengthen our infrastructure and processes to guarantee lands under easement are protected in perpetuity from development.

Thanks for your interest in the work of Conservancy, for sharing in the pleasing responsibility to "cherish what remains" of the beautiful and productive lands that surround Kenyon College and to "foster its renewal." We hope you will become a friend of PCC this year!

-Lisa Schott '80



Special Thanks to Our Partners:

Rob Alexander	Shane McGuire
Kale Barber	Eli Norris
Bentley Boyd	ODA Office of Farmland
Rob Clendening	Preservation
Guy Denny	Shirley O'Brien
Carol Duvall	Nicole Pagano-Percy
Jack Esslinger P'05	Cary Purcell
Siobhan Fennessy	Darrel Severens
Doug Givens P'03 H'10	Stu Schott
Jeff Harris	The Shriver Family
David Heithaus '99	Justin Smith
Ray Heithaus '68 P'99 H'14	Richard Stallard
Paul Helser	Tom Stamp
Noelle Jordan	Lori Totman
Mark Kohlman	Roger Yarman

Conservation Achievements

Walker Farm Conserved

Kenyon alumnus Harlow Walker '57 and his wife Carole have been the devoted stewards of almost forty acres of land at the edge of the Kenyon campus at the southwest corner of Route 308/Chase Avenue and New Gambier Road. The property has been in the Walker family for seven generations and is called Woodbine Farm. The most well-known feature of the property is a beautiful woodland pond fondly referred to by generations of Kenyon students as "Walker's Pond."

Harlow and Carole wished to protect the land from future development and decided to sell the fee title on the property to Kenyon College with a conservation easement to be held by PCC. Late last summer, John Woollam '61 H'08 made it possible for PCC to purchase the property for the College, which will be managed by the Brown Family Environmental Center (BFEC).



Walker's Pond

The BFEC has developed a new trail called the Walker's Pond Loop that is open to all visitors. The trail can be accessed from the BFEC New Gambier Loop trail or from an extension on the Corridor Trail. The July 2017 BFEC newsletter reports, "Part of the trail follows a ridgeline, but the pond sits in a depression and is fed by a small, unnamed tributary to Wolf Run. The tributary is spring-fed and augmented by run-off from the hills north of the pond. We believe the pond was once a vernal pool, but now stays filled year-round. Surrounded by a forest of young pines, the area is still and quiet."

Although we have only started a species inventory for the area, we have already spotted Longtail Salamanders and Red-back Salamanders. We hope to find many more interesting species in this area."

We thank Harlow, Carole and their son Hal, who all worked closely with PCC, for their commitment to land conservation and for making this unique and beautiful land available to the public. See you on the Walker's Pond Loop Trail!

Special News and Events

Farewell to Jill and Welcome to Wendy

Dr. Seuss once said, "Don't be sad it's over. Be glad it happened." We had the difficult task in February of bidding a fondest farewell to administrative assistant Jill Shriver who split her work in Woollam House between PCC/KNP and the Kenyon Institute. The Kenyon Institute became a program of and moved to the Kenyon Review in the winter. As amazing as Jill is, she wasn't able to be in two places at one time so she needed to find full-time work in another department. We are happy she is working with the Office of Alumni and Parent Engagement supporting campus events and is just down the street from us. We miss her very much but are genuinely grateful we had the opportunity to work with her. We wish her every good wish.



We were fortunate to attract a strong pool for our part-time position and are pleased to announce that Wendy Wolfe began her work as administrative assistant with

Philander Chase Conservancy and Kokosing Nature Preserve on June 21.

Wendy moved to Gambier in 1986 after graduating from The College of Wooster. She spent the last thirty years teaching 4th grade at Wiggin Street School and East Elementary for Mount Vernon City Schools. She currently resides in Gambier with her husband, Michael, their two children, Harper and Max, her mother, Pat Leech, and their two dogs, Diesel and Jetta. She enjoys travel, reading, gardening, and rescuing neglected animals. Welcome to the PCC/KNP family, Wendy!

Board Member Focus: Stephen Christy '71

PCC Board member Stephen Christy, a 1971 graduate of Kenyon and a landscape architect, was recently recognized by the Lake Forest Open Lands land trust for his work with the land trust since 1984. PCC has also been a beneficiary of his “quietly creative genius,” most

notably his brilliant design for Kokosing Nature Preserve. A member of the PCC board since its inception, he has been generous with his time, talents and treasure and made a profound and lasting impact on the work of Philander Chase Conservancy. We are also fortunate to call him one of our own.

Partner Focus: Paul Helser

We appreciate partner Paul Helser, who is a certified forester with Helser Woodland Management in Knox County. Paul works with landowners on timber management plans to create sustainable forest management using the best practices, among other services. We partner with Paul when he creates timber management plans on PCC's conserved properties. We have appreciated the time he spends teaching us about trees and long-term forest management.



Paul Helser

STEPHEN CHRISTY | IMPACT AND LEGACY

A Tribute to an Individual's Lasting Impact and Legacy

Spotlight: Stephen F. Christy, Jr., former Executive Director and landscape architect



ABOVE Stephen Christy in 1990 leading the Lake Forest Garden Club on a tour. In 2014, the Club created an award in his honor, the Stephen Christy Stewardship Award.



Thank you Stephen, for sharing your quiet, but profound land legacy in Lake Forest.

Throughout our community, there is a myriad of landmark buildings and formal gardens designed by famous regional and national architects. Equally impactful are the irreplaceable open spaces and beautiful conservation developments championed by Lake Forest Open Lands – many designed by the quietly creative genius of landscape architect Stephen Christy. Like the well-known buildings peppered throughout Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, Stephen's landscape plans were designed to preserve and seamlessly enhance the unique natural surroundings of our community as it developed over time.

A landscape architect by training, Stephen is a bit of a Renaissance man – writer, artist, opera fan, classic car aficionado, and creative thinker. He had his hand in some of our most treasured places: the 200-acre Deerpath Farm community; the nature preserves and conservation developments at Everett and Middlefork Farms; and Lake Forest Open Lands' very first project, West Skokie Nature Preserve.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Lake Forest Open Lands Governor Steve Bartram, Ashley Maente, former Life Director Deborah MacKenzie and Stephen Christy.

Stephen has been a fixture of Lake Forest Open Lands' family since 1984, yet has decided to retire this year as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. While he is considered one of the foremost authorities on the natural history of our area, he has never lived in Lake Forest. Stephen lives in Chicago, but his respect and appreciation for the rare Midwest landscapes that define our community drew him to become Lake Forest Open Lands' first executive director. Since then, Stephen has applied his vision and expert knowledge to craft six nature preserves, allowing us all to enjoy the highest quality prairies, woodlands and wetlands – complete with miles and miles of walking trails! Many of us enjoy these, but may not realize Stephen's influence in preserving our cherished vistas resulting from his graceful use of conservation easements to ensure the permanent protection of our community's character.

Not one sign or plaque lists Stephen's name. He has never sought the spotlight for his work, always crediting the generosity and leadership of others. At the May 17th Annual Meeting, Lake Forest Open Lands gave a toast to Stephen's many contributions and honored him for the indelible mark he's made on our community.

"Stephen's been part of our Open Lands family from nearly the beginning," reflects John Sentell, current president of Lake Forest Open Lands. "Without living in Lake Forest, his roots and impact in our community are incredibly deep. Considering three decades of accomplishments, in essence he is one of our long-standing citizens. If there were a key to the City, he should have it." Stephen certainly has the key to our hearts.

Thank you Stephen, for sharing your quiet but profound land legacy with Lake Forest. ■

New Environmental Studies Major at Kenyon

In January, the faculty of Kenyon College formally approved the elevation of environmental studies from a concentration to a major.

The cross-disciplinary major will expand the academic focus of the College's ongoing efforts on sustainability. It builds on the popular environmental studies concentration, which has been offered since 1990 and now has about 15 concentrators per graduating class.

Professor of Biology Siobhan Fennessy, the Philip and Sheila Jordan Professor in Environmental Studies, along with Visiting Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Robert Alexander, and a faculty task force designed the major in 2016.

The new major in environmental studies will have three foundations: a curricular focus, an experiential community exercise and a Senior Exercise. Students can choose from eight initial curricular areas of focus: arts and humanities; biology; chemistry; economics and policy; environmental science; food and agriculture; global environmental issues; and cultures, societies and environments.

Faculty members for the interdisciplinary major come from departments across the College, including the anthropology, biology, economics, philosophy, physics, political science, religious studies and sociology departments.



Dave Heithaus '99, director of green initiatives at Kenyon, commented on the interdisciplinary appeal of the major: "Environmental studies students are also concerned with social justice, politics and community issues. They intend to help shift our culture toward environmental resilience."

To fulfill the major, students must complete a project within a community setting that demonstrates a practical application of the knowledge and skills developed in the program. This requirement reinforces a goal of the Kenyon 2020 strategic plan to facilitate more high-impact experiences for students, such as undergraduate research, community-based learning and internships.

The College's environmental centers — the Brown Family Environmental Center, Office of Green Initiatives, Philander Chase Conservancy, Kenyon Farm and Kokosing Nature Preserve — are creating long-term plans with specific projects that students can complete to meet this requirement.

Majors also will complete an independent research project that demonstrates the development of depth in their environmental education and their ability to approach environmental issues from a systems-based, interdisciplinary perspective.

Interest in environmental studies has been increasing nationwide. More high school students are taking the Advanced Placement environmental science exam; in 1993, about 5,000 students took the exam, and in 2015 almost 140,000 students took it.

-from Kenyon News, March 8, 2017

Introduction: Nicole Pagano-Percy

As part of Kenyon College's commitment to land conservation, a new position was created in the Kenyon College Office of Development with the responsibility for overseeing fundraising initiatives for the Philander Chase Conservancy. Nicole Pagano-Percy currently serves as Kenyon's inaugural director of development for campus partners, supporting the fundraising initiatives of not only the Conservancy, but also the other two non-profit organizations of the College: the Gund Gallery and the Kenyon Review. Nicole joined Kenyon as director of reunion giving in June 2008. For nearly eight years, she worked with reunion classes celebrating 5th-60th reunions by cultivating a reunion giving program that supported nearly a third of Kenyon's multi-million dollar annual fund.

Nicole graduated from Hiram College with a degree in psychology and has experience in business development, project management, training and quality management. A native of northeastern Ohio, Nicole currently lives in Mt. Vernon with her husband, Michael Percy, and two daughters, Sophia and Lillian.



Nicole Pagano-Percy

Bookstore Swag

Look for the new Philander Chase Conservancy and Kokosing Nature Preserve t-shirts on your next visit to the Kenyon Bookstore. Help us spread the word for just \$14. Notecards are also available!



Philander Chase Conservancy Picnic



PCC Annual Picnic

On the last Sunday of June each year, PCC hosts a picnic to thank landowners and PCC partners. Rita and Chuck Dudgeon have generously hosted the picnic at their Grove Church Road the past three years. The Dudgeons have two protected farms, including one that has been in the Dudgeon family for over 200 years. Thanks to everyone who joined us. Mark your calendars for the 2018 picnic on Sunday, June 24 at Kokosing Nature Preserve!



Kokosing Nature Preserve

Certification by the Green Burial Council

In January 2017, Kokosing Nature Preserve was certified by the Green Burial Council as a conservation burial ground -- the highest rating the Council offers for natural burial cemeteries. This certification is an official recognition of the preserve's sustainable practices and efforts to offer people environmentally friendly burial options.

The Green Burial Council is the environmental certification organization setting the standard for green burial in North America. They offer environmental certificates for funeral homes, cemeteries and product manufacturers.

To achieve its certification as a conservation burial ground, Kokosing Nature Preserve had to meet a rigorous list of requirements. The preserve had to guarantee the long-term stewardship of its burial ground through a deed restriction or a conservation easement, limiting substantive changes to the operational or conservation policies governing the cemetery. Additionally, the Green Burial Council required an ecological assessment of the existing geology, soils and topography as well as existing and potential vegetation and wildlife, and a plan for ongoing management of invasive species on the property was required.

The preserve also needed to have an endowment fund in place to ensure the long-term maintenance of the property. It fulfilled the fund requirement with the help of gifts from Kelly Lyles '99 and Robert Lyles '99.

"It's a good thing anytime anyone sets aside land to promote environmental aims. What's exciting about this project is that it's unique," said Kate Kalanick, executive director of the Green Burial Council, noting the partnership Kokosing Nature Preserve enjoys with Kenyon College. It's important to get people at a younger age to think about the footprint that they can leave. So often people wait to consider these things until the time in their own lives when they are facing these decisions."



Kokosing Nature Preserve, July 2017

Kenyon's Reunion Weekend 2017

On May 26, 2017, Kenyon Alumni had the opportunity to attend an Alumni College Seminar at Kokosing Nature Preserve as part of Kenyon College's Reunion Weekend 2017. 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. 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 (included on page 8). Attendees enjoyed a tour of the preserve at the conclusion of the seminar.



Royal Rhodes, Donald L. Rogan Professor of Religious Studies

Kokosing Nature Preserve

Returning Naturally: Words on Kokosing Nature Preserve

by R.W. Rhodes

Far from the madding crowd a poet wrote
lines for a country graveyard's elegy,
Another on Nantucket wrote of Quaker
graves, and whalers lost at last at sea.

Here we map the labyrinthine heart,
encased in clay, and tender to the earth.
Close is Nature's final Lost & Found,
where life has lastly measured out its worth.

We hear the static rattle of the crows,
while patterns of the stars are closely read,
and eagle nestlings, fully fledged and fed,
fly where fawns keep pace with watchful does.

*

Here amidst the grass and nodding oak,
I go to gaze -- the living's awkward spy --
at dawn and dusk, as if my blood awoke
the scrutiny of some eternal eye.

The buried find a permanent address,
and never change their clothes -- a suit or dress --
and say, when asked when they are coming home,
that it is in Ohio's fertile loam,

where all our life prepares us for such sleep,
letting go of things we long to keep.
But now we hear a gently calling bell
whose music gladdens fields of asphodel.

*

Every culture crafts and makes its own
a sacred tale to tame this nameless zone;
as Orpheus found and lost Eurydice,
a mother's love restored Persephone.
Love called forth from darkness Lazarus,
such love as strong as death will live in us.
Such light rejects our deeds that burn or rust --
machines we made that grind our hearts to dust.

The landscape is a palette of pastels,
surprising music, mixed with perfumed smells.
Botanicals and fauna all inhabit --
with deer and dogs, the turtle and the rabbit,

all creatures great and small, the nightly bats,
hummingbirds and grackles, bees and gnats --
a biosphere of rich diversity,
a looking-glass for our humanity.

In life, in death, these threads are deftly spun,
and weave us all together into one.

R.W. Rhodes
2015

Kokosing Nature Preserve Reception Center

Kokosing Nature Preserve will soon have a reception center available for rental. The former Tomahawk Golf Course clubhouse is currently being 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 will also allow our families and guests to have on-site access to restroom facilities. Rental income generated by the facility, both for services at Kokosing Nature Preserve and for other groups or events wanting to use the space, will be used to further the Philander Chase Conservancy's ongoing mission of land conservation.

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





The Angela Porter Property



The Tim & Heidi Norris Farm

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.

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Membership levels:

Student/Young Alumni ('12-'17): \$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

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

My payment method:

☐ Check (payable to Philander Chase Conservancy)



Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

☐ I will give online at **campuspartners.kenyon.edu**.

My contact information:

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Email

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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Staff Members:

Lisa Schott '80, Managing Director
Wendy Wolfe, Administrative Assistant
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**