

Junior Conservancy

a program of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy

Year in Review 2018-2019

Irrigated crop land at sunset in Bostwick
photo courtesy of Wynn Howard



From top left: Theresa Pippin, Maryann Dartnell, Brooke Miller, Davis Moore, Will Woodard, Turner Smith, John Bostwick, James Martin, Lipi Desai, Audrey Balicki, Caroline Schlabach, Morgan Sarkin, Meredith Eidson, Daisy-Jane Buck, Valeria Notte, Claire Coleman, and Rachel Kinsaul



MADISON-MORGAN
CONSERVANCY

PROTECTING FARMS, FORESTS, AND
FRONT PORCHES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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CAROLINE SCHLABACH

LUCIA HODGES

TURNER SMITH

Committee

MARYANN DARTNELL, *CHAIR*

EMILY BUCK

THERESA PIPPIN

RACHEL KINSAUL

CHRISTINE WATTS

Engaging Morgan County's youth in protecting special places for future generations

The Junior Conservancy is designed to provide high school students living in Morgan County an opportunity to serve on a board of directors and to design and execute their own conservation-related programming. During the 2018-2019 school year, the Junior Conservancy board held a Greenprint Ramble, volunteered at the Bostwick Cotton Gin Festival, went kayaking at Hard Labor Creek State Park, researched waste management in Morgan County, toured the recycling facility in Athens, and created and sold t-shirts as a fundraiser. Monthly board meetings were held over dinner at the Conservancy office and at sites around Morgan County.

We will miss board members that are graduating and/or moving on to greener pastures: John Bostwick, Claire Coleman, Meredith Eidson, Lucia Hodges, Brooke Miller, Davis Moore Morgan Sarkin, Caroline Schlabach, Turner Smith, and Will Woodard. We thank you for your service to Morgan County!

-The Junior Conservancy Committee

2018-2019 Events

Educational Committee

Meredith Eidson, Chair
John Bostwick
Claire Coleman

For the Greenprint Ramble, students met at Town Park in Madison on a teacher workday in October. The first couple of stops along the way included a visit to the Madison Train Depot, currently being rehabilitated for use as a community space and trailhead, and to the West Washington Gateway area, where students heard from City Planner Monica Callahan about Madison's stormwater improvement and revitalization plans for this corridor. Next, the group visited the site of the controversial proposed transmission lines at the historic Davis Crossroads, and learned about the Conservancy's work to preserve scenic views and rural land. Finally, the students visited a large solar energy project just over the border in Walton County and the newly developed Hard Labor Creek Reservoir. After a morning spent soaking in information about projects around the county, students enjoyed a lunch at Mary and Bob McCauley's historic home on Dixie Highway.

Service Committee

Turner Smith, Chair
Davis Moore
Daisy-Jane Buck
Lucia Hodges



Cotton continues to be ginned and celebrated in Bostwick

Junior Conservancy students got up bright and early on a cold November morning to help vendors set up for the annual Bostwick Cotton Gin Festival. This event celebrates the agricultural community with proceeds benefiting the historic Susie Agnes Hotel and other city improvements, and was a great way for the Junior Conservancy to give back to the community.



Junior Conservancy visits Hard Labor Creek Reservoir on the Greenprint Ramble

2018-2019 Events

Civic Committee

James Martin, Chair
Lipi Desai
Brooke Miller
Valeria Notte

Upon the request of Morgan County, the Junior Conservancy took up a challenging task of researching the current state of waste management in the county, and ways that it could be improved. Students researched what becomes of waste and recycled materials, both in Madison and Morgan County, and identified several challenges in the system, such as contaminated recycled materials and the lack of public education about waste management. As a result of their research, the students decided to take action by designing a graphic to inform the public on good recycling practices, encouraging use of re-usable bags, and teaching fellow students about how to recycle.



Junior Conservancy students at the Athens Recycling Center

Why a Junior Conservancy? The Conservancy's track record since its founding in 2000 shows significant conservation, support of local farmers, consistent and timely education, maps galore, a few restoration projects, fun events, and a sustained good working relationship with many partners. But that track record hasn't, until now, included a formal, coordinated

Social Committee

Morgan Sarkin, Chair
Audrey Balicki
Caroline Schlabach
Will Woodard

Social events held during the year included: kayaking at Hard Labor Creek State Park to kick-off the year, a "green" white-elephant gift exchange for the holidays, and an afternoon by Lake Malcom for the end of the school year celebration in May.



Junior Conservancy students exchanged hand-made or used gifts

approach to engaging Morgan County's youth.

During the strategic planning session a few years ago, the board looked back on the ways the Conservancy had engaged Morgan County's youth, and decided it was time to create a forum in which students could get more meaningfully involved. Thus, the Junior Conservancy was born. This is Year 2!

2018-2019 Junior Conservancy Members



Audrey Balicki

Audrey Balicki has spent the last five years of her life in Madison. Prior to that, she was born and raised in metro Atlanta. She has enjoyed the past few years of small town living and calls Madison home. Audrey's studies are very important to her and she takes a rigorous class load. She is an extraordinarily organized person, and she sets goals for herself and works hard to achieve them. Audrey's weekends usually consist of babysitting. Currently, she is saving money to put towards the purchase of a car. When she is not babysitting, Audrey can be found running in town, shopping, or attending Athens Church. Last summer, she went to Agalta Valley in Honduras to minister to the villagers.

John Bostwick

John Bostwick has lived in Bostwick his whole life. He is a junior at Athens Academy, where he has attended school since he was three years old. When not in school, John enjoys hunting dove and deer, fishing and skiing. He has played football since 5th grade and he is very involved with his high school team and trains year-round. John has been active in Wild Life and Young Life since the 7th grade and continues to enjoy all that these programs offer. During the school year and summer break he volunteers with E.S.P. (Extra Special People), where he has the opportunity help participants with sports related activities.



Daisy-Jane Buck

Daisy-Jane Buck is a sophomore at Morgan County High School. She is a part of the track team, swim team, marching band, and theater program as well as the Morgan County Junior Conservancy. Daisy has lived in Morgan County for the majority of her life, and she thinks it is very important that our beautiful county is taken care of. The Conservancy helps her feel as if she is making a difference to keep the area she was raised in pretty and safe.

Claire Coleman

Claire Coleman is the president of the Junior Conservancy, as well as a member of the education committee. She attends Morgan County High School as a senior. Outside of the Junior Conservancy, Claire is the president NHS and the president of the Morgan County FFA Chapter. Claire also raises show pigs for competition. Next fall, Claire will be attending the University of Georgia as an agricultural communications major and plans to attend law school at UGA so she can begin her own agricultural law firm. Claire joined the Junior Conservancy for the opportunity to influence and educate others about agriculture and history in Morgan County, as well as learn along the way!



Lipi Desai

Lipi Desai moved to Madison in the 4th grade. She and her family found that Madison was completely different than the bustling city life they had moved from. Lipi is interested in giving back to the city that gave her so much happiness and joy in her childhood. As Lipi grew older, she became more active in the plentiful activities that Morgan County has to offer. In doing so, she learned how small the town of Madison is, where even a short trip to Walmart meant seeing someone you know. That realization made Lipi fall in love with Madison even more. Throughout the years, she and her family have put down roots, and she has made friends in Madison that she will communicate and keep in touch with for the rest of her life.

2018-2019 Junior Conservancy Members



Meredith Eidson

Meredith Eidson is a senior at Morgan County High School. At school, she is a member of the varsity spirit cheerleading squad, the International Club, a member of the Best Club, National Honor Society, Y-Club, and the IB program. Outside of school, Meredith is involved in Young Life, and is an active member of Madison FUMC. Next fall, Meredith will be attending the University of Georgia, and major in child psychology. With her family being deeply rooted in Morgan County, Meredith joined the Junior Conservancy to be able to learn and educate others about the county that has helped shape her family.

Lucia Hodges

Lucia Hodges is a Senior at Morgan County High School. Other than the Junior Conservancy, she is also co-founder and president of the Morgan County Young Democrats, President of the International Club, and a student in the International Baccalaureate program at the high school. Next fall, she will be attending college at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, California. She is proud to be a part of the Junior Conservancy and contribute to the effort to preserve and protect the community she grew up in.



James Martin

James Martin is a sophomore at Morgan County High School. He was born in Atlanta and moved to Morgan County when he was nine years old. James has come to realize that life in Morgan County is far greater than he ever imagined. He is interested in sports, hunting, fishing, and most of all, telling people about the love of God. James has learned about the value of teamwork and good communication from his experience playing JV football, varsity cross country, and varsity tennis. James worked for Lee Nunn Farms to raise money for a summer mission trip to Peru that he attended last summer.

Brooke Miller

Brooke Miller serves as Vice President for the Junior Conservancy. She is Vice President of Morgan County's DECA business chapter and Secretary of the National Honor Society, as well. Brooke also enjoys serving in leadership positions at the Georgia Youth Assembly and Georgia United Nations Assembly. Outside of school, Brooke likes to play tennis, spend time with her friends and family, and travel! Brooke will be attending the University of Georgia next fall where she will double major in International Affairs and Political Science and minor in Spanish. Afterward, she plans on attending law school.



Davis Moore

Davis Moore is a junior at Morgan County High School. He plays trumpet for the MCHS Band, is a member of student council, and plays rugby. In his free time, Davis enjoys playing his trumpet, running, watching movies, reading books, and learning about things that interest him. He is also involved in Georgia Youth Assembly and National Honors Society.

2018-2019 Junior Conservancy Members



Valeria Notte

Valeria Notte is a junior at Morgan County High School. She is part of the International Baccalaureate program and strives to do her very best and constantly challenge herself. She has been inducted into the National Honor Society. Her goal is to become an attorney because of her passion to help people. Her participation in Georgia Youth Assembly has furthered her passion for law, and she is grateful for the countless opportunities and experiences it has brought her. Outside of school, Valeria dances competitively, and has done so for seven years. She is very involved with dance and teaches ballet and tap to younger students.

Morgan Sarkin

Morgan Sarkin is a senior at Morgan County High School, where she is a part of the IB program. Morgan served as the lead organizer of the service committee on the 2017-2018 Junior Conservancy board, and as the lead organizer of the social committee for the 2018-2019 board. In school, she is on the varsity cheer squad, varsity golf squad, the B.E.S.T. Club, and the International Club. She is very involved with Young Life and her youth group at Madison First United Methodist Church. Morgan will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall of 2019.



Caroline Schlabach

Caroline Schlabach is a senior at Morgan County High School and lives in Madison. Caroline is involved in YoungLife, as well as the National Honors Society, and swim. She is interested in preserving the heritage and culture of Madison and Morgan County. Caroline will be attending the University of Georgia next fall.

Turner Smith

Turner Smith is a senior at Morgan County High School and will graduate Cum Laude in May 2019. He has a passion for music and is active in the MCHS band program where he holds a leadership position as Equipment Captain. He is an active member of the National Honor Society and works as a life guard at the Morgan County Aquatic Center. Turner will be attending Mercer University next fall.



Will Woodard

Will Woodard is a senior at Morgan County High School. He currently serves as the Madison-Morgan Junior Conservancy Treasurer. He is also an active 4-H and FFA member. Will previously served on the Northeast District Board of Directors for Northeast District 4-H and served as the local FFA chapter president. He has shown sheep and beef heifers for the past ten years and is very involved in agriculture. Next fall, Will will attend the University of Georgia and study Agriculture Business and Animal Science. His desired job position is a sales representative at an agricultural business such as Godfrey's Warehouse.

2018-2019 Junior Conservancy Committee Members

Emily Buck

Emily Buck is serving her second term on the Conservancy Board and is on the Junior Conservancy Committee. She enjoys all aspects of the Conservancy and believes strongly in its mission. Outside of her Conservancy activities, Emily serves on the boards of the Steffen Thomas Museum and the Morgan County Foundation for Excellence in Public Education. Emily loves living in Madison with her husband, David, and three children. She spends her days tutoring Middle School and High School students and serving as taxi to her three busy kids. In her free time, Emily enjoys volunteering, cooking, walking her two springer spaniels, reading, and traveling.



Maryann Dartnell

Maryann Dartnell is the Committee Chair for the Junior Conservancy and serves on the Madison-Morgan Conservancy Board. She taught IB Environmental Systems, IB Physics, and multitudes of other science courses at MCHS from 2001-2016. Maryann has a passion for serving her community and for helping others appreciate and conserve our natural world. She raised her two daughters, both environmental engineering graduates from Georgia Tech, in Madison. Maryann and her husband, Devon, live on a farm in Rutledge with their dog and two horses.

Rachel Kinsaul

Rachel Kinsaul currently teaches agriculture at Morgan County High School where she also serves as the FFA Advisor. Rachel and her husband Jason, and their son JP live in the Bostwick area on a small farm. Rachel serves on the Madison-Morgan Conservancy's Board of Directors.



Theresa Pippin

Theresa Pippin is the Program Coordinator for the Madison-Morgan Conservancy and provides staff support for the Junior Conservancy. Theresa has enjoyed getting to know the Junior Conservancy students and greatly appreciates their enthusiasm and dedication. In addition to her work with the Junior Conservancy, Theresa helps with Greenprinting, grant writing, and various other Conservancy programs. She holds a degree in anthropology from the College of William and Mary and a masters in Environmental Planning and Design from the University of Georgia.

Christine Watts

Christine Watts has led the Madison-Morgan Conservancy's efforts since 2001. She is a UGA double dawg with an undergraduate degree in geography and a master degree in historic preservation, all of which has led her to a career of protecting both historic structures and open space in an effort to ensure safe passage of important places to future generations. She is extremely proud of the Junior Conservancy and is grateful for their efforts in educating themselves and others about the complexities of sustainable growth.



Images courtesy of Valeria Notte, Wynn Howard, and Christine Watts



Sign at the Athens-Clarke County Recycling Center



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