



Historic barn on Hundred Acre Farm



From top left: Audrey Balicki, Susan Bishop, Daisy-Jane Buck, Lipi Desai, Ian Garrett, Christian Keener, Lady Kuperberg, Will Kuperberg, James Martin, Valeria Notte, Maddox Pugmire, and Fritz Williams



MADISON-MORGAN
CONSERVANCY

PROTECTING FARMS, FORESTS, AND
FRONT PORCHES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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

The mission of the Junior Conservancy is to develop and sustain a conservation and preservation ethic in Morgan County's youth through education, civic engagement, community service, and social events. It 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 2019-2020 school year, the Junior Conservancy students decided to focus on *historic preservation*. The first half of the school year was spent learning about this topic through speakers and field trips. During the second half of the school year, students developed an audio-video project to highlight historic sites around Morgan County.

We will miss board members that are graduating and/or moving on to greener pastures: Susan Bishop, Lipi Desai, Will Kuperberg, and Valeria Notte. We thank you for your service to Morgan County!

-The Junior Conservancy Committee

2019-2020 Junior Conservancy Events

Monthly Happenings

The Junior Conservancy met monthly on Sundays at the Madison-Morgan Conservancy office, as well as at sites around Morgan County. Some highlights from the meetings include:

- *September* – UGA Master of Historic Preservation students talked to the Junior Conservancy about the field of historic preservation, their experiences in college and graduate school, and their career goals.
- *October* – Students participated in a historic preservation Ramble around Madison and learned about the history of the College Heights neighborhood from Preservation Planner Ken Kocher, as well as the current development of two historic downtown buildings from Preston Synder.
- *November* – Students attended City of Madison Commission meetings, including the Cemetery, Public Art, and Historic Preservation Commissions, to get an inside look at civic engagement right here in our community.
- *December* – Hundred Acre Farm hosted the Junior Conservancy’s holiday meeting, where the students learned about this special property, including its permanent protection through conservation easement, its recently developed certified forest therapy trail, and its role in saving the historic Sugar Creek Church.



The Junior Conservancy met at Hundred Acre Farm in December

Service Project



Students volunteered at Madison’s Old Cemetery with the Madison Cemetery Commission

January – Junior Conservancy students rolled up their sleeves and helped the Madison Cemetery Commission clean the historic grave marker of Tabitha Wilson. The domed cast-iron grave is the only one of its kind in the Old Cemetery and dates to the late 19th century. The partnership between the Junior Conservancy and the Commission was formed in the fall when students attended a Madison Cemetery Commission meeting to learn about the group’s work and local civic engagement.

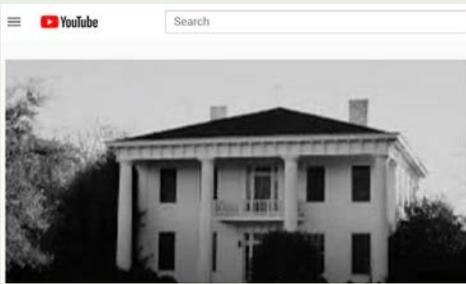


Hanging out by a bonfire at the holiday meeting

Spring Project

These Important Places

This year the Junior Conservancy Board documented nine historic resources in Morgan County in a series of videos entitled “These Important Places.” Each group chose three important places to research, explore, and video, and Will Kuperberg served as editor. These videos can be viewed on the Junior Conservancy [YouTube Channel](#). A few highlights from the video series include:



Susan Bishop, Christian Keener, Maddox Pugmire, and Fritz Williams researched the Ponder House (shown above), the City of Buckhead, and Madison Presbyterian Church.



Lipi Desai, Ian Garrett, and James Martin researched Rutledge Town Square, the Madison Memorial Cemetery, and the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center (shown above).



Audrey Balicki, Daisy-Jane Buck, Lady Kuperberg, and Valeria Notte researched the Bostwick Cotton Gin (shown above), Hundred Acre Farm, and Downtown Madison

Scholarship

First Annual Award

For the first time, a Junior Conservancy scholarship was awarded in the 2019-2020 school year. Criteria for the award of \$1,500 include: academic excellence, individual character, leadership potential, accomplishments within the organization, participation, application responses, and letters of recommendation.

The scholarship was awarded to a very deserving senior. Susan Bishop is a dedicated and authentic young lady who puts her heart into her work and strives for excellence. It was an honor to have her participate in the Junior Conservancy and we look forward to hearing about the great work Susan will go on to accomplish!



Senior Susan Bishop receives first annual Junior Conservancy scholarship

Why a Junior Conservancy?

During the 2016 strategic planning process, the Madison-Morgan Conservancy 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 in 2017 as a formal, coordinated approach to engaging Morgan County’s youth. This is Year 3! Our hope is that students learn something new and gain a different perspective on the place they call home.

2019-2020 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 excels in her classes and she is involved in many clubs. Audrey has completed the Marketing Pathway, including the Business Dual Enrollment Course. Being involved in this program has sparked an interest in Audrey to continue with marketing in the future. Audrey is grateful to be a part of the Junior Conservancy and hopes to continue to bring her skills to the organization.

Susan Bishop

Susan Bishop is a senior at Morgan County High School. Outside of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy, she is a member of the National Honors Society, 4-H, student council, the IB program, swim, and tennis. Susan will attend Augusta University in the fall to earn a degree in Nursing. She plans to one day become a pediatric nurse practitioner. Susan is very appreciative of the knowledge and experiences the Junior Conservancy has granted her.



Daisy-Jane Buck

Daisy-Jane Buck is the reporter for the Junior Conservancy. This is her third year with the Conservancy and she has thoroughly enjoyed her participation thus far. She is a junior at Morgan County High School. Daisy-Jane runs track and field, participates in drama club, and take pilots lessons on the side. The Conservancy has been a valuable part of her life, and she loves how much it teaches her about the county where she lives and the ways that she can help to keep it safe and educate others.

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. Lipi graduated in 2020 and will attend the University of Georgia in the fall.



2019-2020 Junior Conservancy Members



Ian Garrett

Ian Garrett is 16 years old and a freshman at Morgan County High School. He enjoys backpacking on the Appalachian Trail and has the goal of section hiking the trail before graduating college. He currently has 80 miles completed. Ian plays the trumpet in the award winning MCHS band and he is an actor with the school drama program. He has an excellent work ethic and welcomes any task given to him.

Christian Keener

Christian is 16 years old and a sophomore at MCHS. He has lived in Morgan County for 10 years but spent the first 5 years of his life in Switzerland. This time abroad instilled a love for travel. In fact, Christian has traveled back to Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Austria, and France. Christian's other interests include hunting & fishing. As part of his hunting passion, Christian is actively involved on his family's property with planting food plots, monitoring feeders, land maintenance, and controlled burning. Further, Christian is enrolled in the Agricultural pathway at MCHS. Christian has played club soccer for 6 years and is part of the MCHS soccer team. Christian is also a founding member and player for the MCHS Rugby Club. Finally, Christian is part of NHS, FFA, and is the vice-president of the Junior Conservancy Board.



Lady Kuperberg

Lady Kuperberg is a freshman at Morgan County High School. She is involved with the Morgan County High School Fine Arts program as a member of the band and drama department. Lady is also beginning her fourth year in dance company with the Oconee Youth School of Performance. Beyond fine arts she is also interested in engineering and hopes to study engineering in college. Lady has lived her entire life in Morgan County and is a sixth-generation resident on her mother's side. She is excited to use her creativity with the Conservancy.

Will Kuperberg

Will Kuperberg graduated with the class of 2020 and he was a part of the Junior Conservancy for one year. Outside of the Conservancy he enjoys taking pictures and making videos, and Will hopes to pursue a career in one of those fields. He will be attending the University of Georgia in the spring to get a degree in film or photography. Throughout his high school career Will was an active part of both club and high school soccer teams and was also a member of the MCHS Bulldog Marching Band. Will also volunteered at local Habitat for Humanity worksites and at different community events at the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center.



2019-2020 Junior Conservancy Members



James Martin

James Martin is a junior at Morgan County High School. He was born in Atlanta and moved to Morgan County when he was nine years old. At MCHS, James plays tennis and runs cross country. He currently serves as the Class of 2021 Class President.

Valeria Notte

Valeria Notte is the 2019-2020 President of the Madison-Morgan Junior Conservancy. She has been part of the organization for two years, and it has been a wonderful experience. In the fall, Valeria will attend The University of Georgia, where she will major in International Business and Management with a minor in Spanish. She hopes to attend Law School in the future, and she also hopes to continue her career of dance by exploring the many options UGA has to offer. Her experience in the Junior Conservancy has created a great stepping stone to be successful in her future endeavors.



Maddox Pugmire

Maddox Pugmire is a 15 year old freshman at Athens Academy. Her family lives in a historic home in Madison. She participates in many activities, including cheerleading, tennis, and drama. Maddox enjoys hunting, traveling, painting, babysitting, and baking in her free time. She volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club once a week where she tutors and she is active her youth group at Madison Presbyterian.

Fritz Williams

Fritz Williams attends Morgan County High School where he is on the soccer and wrestling teams. He also plays club soccer locally in Madison and attends Young Life meetings and camps. Fritz enjoys traveling with his family. Scotland is his favorite place he has traveled.



2019-2020 Committee Members



Maryann Dartnell, Chair

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.

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.



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 Daisy-Jane Buck and Madison-Morgan Conservancy

Thank you to our Junior Conservancy supporters, speakers, and funders:

Amici

Anonymous

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The mission of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy is to provide public education on conservation matters and to protect and enhance the heritage and quality of life of the residents of Morgan County, by preserving historic sites, greenspace, farmland, and timberland.