

# Junior Conservancy

a program of the Madison-Morgan Conservancy

Year in Review 2017-2018

## 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 mock board of directors and to design and execute their own conservation-related programming.

Operating within four programmatic silos (education, service, civic, and social), the Junior Conservancy board held a Greenprint Ramble through Bostwick, made bird feeders with the special needs students to celebrate the first day of spring, helped the Madison City Council proclaim Arbor Day, went ice-skating in Athens, and created and sold Morgan County calendars as a fundraiser. Monthly board meetings were held over dinner at the Conservancy office and in homes around Morgan County.

The 2017-2018 school year marked the founding year of the Junior Conservancy. We will miss those founding board members moving on to greener pastures: Carson Adams, Anna Beth Barber, Wynn Howard, Kitty Ligon, Sarah Grey Ligon, and Finn Williams. We thank you for your service to Morgan County and for making our first year of the Junior Conservancy so rewarding!

-The Junior Conservancy Committee

JUNIOR CONSERVANCY MEMBERS FROM TOP LEFT: WILL WOODARD, WYNN HOWARD, BROOKE MILLER, KITTY LIGON, CAROLINE SCHLABACH, CARSON ADAMS, MORGAN SARKIN, MEREDITH EIDSON, SARAH GREY LIGON, FINN WILLIAMS, DAISY-JANE BUCK, ANNA BETH BARBER, LUCIA HODGES, CLAIRE COLEMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: CHRISTINE MCCAULEY WATTS, EMILY BUCK, MARYANN DARTNELL

### Board of Directors

CLAIRE COLEMAN, *PRESIDENT*  
CARSON ADAMS, *VICE PRESIDENT*  
BROOKE MILLER, *TREASURER*  
ANNA BETH BARBER, *SECRETARY*  
WYNN HOWARD, *REPORTER*

DAISY-JANE BUCK	MORGAN SARKIN
MEREDITH EIDSON	CAROLINE SCHLABACH
LUCIA HODGES	FINN WILLIAMS
KITTY LIGON	WILL WOODARD
SARAH GREY LIGON	

### Committee

MARYANN DARTNELL, <i>CHAIR</i>	
EMILY BUCK	CHRISTINE MCCAULEY WATTS
RACHEL KINSAUL	THERESA PIPPIN



# Educational Committee

**Will Woodard, Chair**  
**Carson Adams**  
**Daisy-Jane Buck**  
**Claire Coleman**

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The Educational Committee organized a Greenprint Ramble through Morgan County. On October 15th, Junior Conservancy members hopped on a school bus that took them on a meandering tour from Madison to Bostwick and back again. Along the way, students learned about the history, culture, and agriculture of Morgan County as they passed by landmarks and unique sites.

The Ramble included stops at Malcom’s Crossroads, the cotton gin in Bostwick, and the Nolan House, commissary, and barn. Students also learned about Morgan County’s groundwater recharge areas, significant because they replenish our water supply.

# Service Committee

**Morgan Sarkin, Chair**  
**Sarah Grey Ligon**  
**Will Woodard**

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Making tasty bird feeders

To celebrate the first day of spring, Junior Conservancy members made bird feeders with special needs students. With three simple ingredients: pinecones, peanut butter, and bird seed, tasty treats were made for our feathered friends.



Junior Conservancy Greenprint Ramble

# Civic Committee

Lucia Hodges, Chair  
Daisy Jane Buck  
Brooke Miller

The Junior Conservancy helped Madison's Mayor and City Council proclaim Friday, February 16th as Arbor Day. Junior Conservancy President, Claire Coleman, read the Arbor Day Proclamation at the City Council meeting. Pictured above Junior Conservancy members join the Madison Greenspace Conservation Commission, Council members, and Mayor Fred Perriman to proclaim Arbor Day.



Fishing at Dan Rather's lake

# Social Committee

Kitty Ligon, Chair  
Meredith Eidson  
Sarah Grey Ligon  
Brooke Miller  
Morgan Sarkin

Two social events were held during the year: a trip to Athens for ice skating in January and fishing in Morgan County for the end of the school year in May.

**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 approach to engaging Morgan County's youth.

During the strategic planning session two 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.

The inaugural year was a success and learning experience for us all, and we are so grateful for the inaugural board's pioneering spirit. We look forward to the 2018-2019 school year and seeing what its Junior Conservancy does for Morgan County.



Madison City Council, Greenspace Commission, and Junior Conservancy proclaiming Arbor Day

# 2017-2018 Junior Conservancy Members

## Carson Adams

Carson Adams is the Vice President of the Madison-Morgan Junior Conservancy and a Senior at Morgan County High School. He is also a project manager in the MCHS Robotics Team, a Varsity player on the MCHS Golf Team, and the Saxophone Section Leader of the MCHS Band. He works as a docent at the historic Rogers House and Rose Cottage. Carson will attend UGA after graduating with the Class of 2018 and plans to major in Biotechnology. Carson loves history, service, and long walks on the beach.



## Anna Beth Barber

Anna Beth Barber is excited to be serve on the Junior Conservancy Board this year. Anna Beth has learned so much about the environment in her Environmental Systems class at school, and is happy to put what she learned into action and implement it in her community. Anna Beth is a senior at Morgan County High, and plans to attend the University of Georgia next year to major in Animal Studies. Eventually she hopes to attend the school of Veterinary Medicine and become a certified veterinarian. She is a member of the Morgan County Marching Band as well as the Morgan County swim team. Anna Beth enjoys attending GYA to debate in the judicial program and actively raises money for UGA Miracles, which benefits the Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.



## Daisy-Jane Buck

Daisy-Jane Buck is a freshman 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 junior. Outside of the Junior Conservancy, Claire is an active member of NHS and the vice president of the Morgan County FFA Chapter. Claire also raises show pigs for competition. Once she finishes high school, Claire plans to attend UGA as a livestock veterinary science major and eventually receive a DVM so she can begin her own veterinary practice. 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!



## Meredith Eidson

Meredith Eidson is a junior at Morgan County High School. At school, she is a member of the varsity spirit cheerleading squad, the public relations officer for DECA, a member of the Best Club, National Honor Society, and the IB program. Outside of school, Meredith is involved in Young Life, is an active member of Madison FUMC, and is starting her 14th year of dance at Pointe of Grace Dance Academy. In the future, Meredith plans on attending the University of Georgia, to pursue a degree in business. 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.



# 2017-2018 Junior Conservancy Members

## Lucia Hodges

Lucia Hodges, Lead Civic Organizer for the Madison-Morgan Junior Conservancy, is a junior at Morgan County High School. She is currently involved in the Madison Community Theater, the Morgan County Boys & Girls Club, and the International Baccalaureate program at the high school. She is happy to be a part of the Junior Conservancy to help better the community she grew up in.



## Wynn Howard

Wynn Howard is currently serving as Reporter on the Junior Conservancy. He is a senior at Morgan County High School. After graduation he plans on attending Warnell School of Forestry at the University of Georgia. He has been a resident of Morgan County his whole life. His passions involve photography and the outdoors. When he's not hiking through the North Georgia mountains, you can find him using his passion for photography to keep the citizens of our community aware of how important and meaningful Morgan County truly is.

## Kitty Ligon

Kitty Ligon serves as the Lead Organizer of the social committee for the Junior Conservancy. She is a senior at Morgan County High School. She is a varsity cheerleader and an active member of Madison First United Methodist Church and YoungLife. Kitty is excited to be a member of the Junior Conservancy Board because she gets to learn more and educate others about her community.

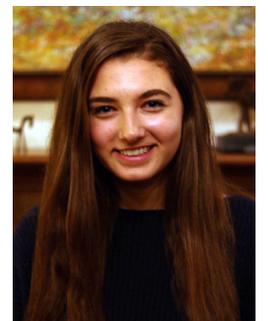


## Sarah Grey Ligon

Sarah Grey Ligon is a senior at Morgan County High School and in the International Baccalaureate program. She is captain on the Varsity cheer team, participates in YoungLife and is involved with Madison First United Methodist Church. She has been involved with and volunteered for the Madison-Morgan Conservancy for several years and was delighted to become one of the founding board members of the the Junior Conservancy. Sarah Grey serves on the social and service committee for the board. Next year, she will attend the University of Georgia and study fashion merchandising. Sarah Grey hopes to remain a member of the community and continue her work with the Conservancy.

## Brooke Miller

Brooke Miller serves as Treasurer for the Junior Conservancy. Brooke plays tennis for the Morgan County High School team and the Smasher's team. She is vice president of Morgan County's DECA chapter where she competes in Financial Literacy and Marketing Communications. Brooke enjoys being involved in Georgia Youth Assembly and Georgia United Nations Assembly, and has been a member of the National Honor Society since sixth grade. Anchoring for the Morgan County News Crew is another of Brooke's favorite things to do at school, along with serving as a Traffic Court Judge. Outside of school, Brooke likes to attend Athens Church, volunteer for local campaigns, cheer on the Georgia Bulldogs, and spend time with her family. Her future plans include attending a college in Georgia to study history and political science followed by law school in Texas where she wants to permanently reside with many dogs.



# 2017-2018 Junior Conservancy Members



## Morgan Sarkin

Morgan Sarkin is a junior at Morgan County High School. Morgan serves as the Lead Organizer of the service committee for the Junior Conservancy. In school, she is on the varsity cheer squad, president of the junior class, and very involved with Young Life. Morgan is part of the IB program, and she would like to attend the University of Mississippi.

## Caroline Schlabach

Caroline Schlabach is a junior at Morgan County High School and lives in Madison. Caroline is involved in YoungLife, as well as the National Honors Society, tennis, and Perfectly Polished in Athens. She is interested in preserving the heritage and culture of Madison and Morgan County. Caroline's goal is to attend the University of Georgia after graduation.



## Finn Williams

Finn Williams is a junior at Morgan County high school. At the high school, will is on the wrestling, football, and soccer teams. Finn is in the International Baccalaureate program.

## Will Woodard

Will Woodard is a junior at Morgan County High School. He currently serves as the Madison-Morgan Junior Conservancy Education Committee Lead Organizer. 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. Will intends to go to 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.



# 2017-2018 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. 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 and Jason were also the lucky winners of the 2018 Derby Day Raffle, the Conservancy's only fundraiser of the year.



## Christine McCauley Watts

Christine McCauley 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 inaugural board of the Junior Conservancy and gets teary with love and admiration every time she thinks about the fourteen students who made it so wonderful. She is also very proud of the Endangered Properties Revolving Fund's work in saving the Foster-Thomason-Miller House and is excited for the Junior Conservancy to have such an important project to be a part of.

## 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.



*images courtesy of Wynn Howard, Maryann Dartnell, and Christine McCauley Watts*



Junior Conservancy members after yoga on the first day of summer at the Foster-Thomason-Miller House



**MADISON-MORGAN  
CONSERVANCY**

SERVE † SAFEGUARD † SUSTAIN