

Brown Family Environmental Center

FIELD NOTES



Photo: Rebecca Kiger

Fishing in the Kokosing River

BY AMELIA RUSSELL '28,
BFEC STUDENT MANAGER

When I was growing up, fishing was a big part of my life. I spent countless hours with my dad and brother, bonding over our shared love of the outdoors. I was always drawn to pond fishing, especially for bluegill, when I could relax and enjoy the quiet moments. My dad and brother, on the other hand, loved the thrill of fishing for steelhead in the rivers near our home in northeast Ohio.

With my dad and brother, whether we were casting lines on calm ponds or tackling the rushing waters of the rivers, those fishing trips are memories I'll always treasure.

Fishing in the Kokosing River: A Thriving Ecosystem in North-Central Ohio

The Kokosing River, nestled in Ohio's heartland, is more than just a picturesque waterway — it's a vital part of the region's ecosystem and a popular destination for anglers. Flowing through Knox, Coshocton and Morrow counties, it joins with the Mohican River to form the Walhonding River. This river is part of the larger Muskingum River watershed, which drains over 8,000 square miles across Ohio, including urban, agricultural and forested areas.

The river offers a diverse and healthy ecosystem, thanks to its varied geography, ranging from urban development in the north to more rural and forested areas in the south. This environmental richness makes the Kokosing River an ideal place to fish, offering both abundance and diversity in the species found here.

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The Ecosystem and Wildlife

The Kokosing River is home to a variety of wildlife, making it an appealing destination for outdoor enthusiasts. Nearby forests and streams provide a habitat for animals like raccoons, opossums, muskrats, mink and foxes. In the water, the river supports several species of fish like largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill and channel catfish. Additionally, the headwaters near Kokosing Lake are ideal for anglers targeting suckers, smallmouth bass and rock bass during the spring spawning season.

The surrounding Kokosing Lake Wildlife Area offers a peaceful setting for fishing, with a variety of fish species found in the lake and river. The wildlife area, along with the Kokosing Scenic River and other protected areas, provides an excellent spot for anglers to enjoy fishing while also contributing to the preservation of Ohio's natural habitat.

Fishing Hotspots Along the Kokosing River

There are several designated fishing spots along the Kokosing River, making it accessible for both novice and experienced anglers. Some of the key areas to visit include:

- **Kokosing Lake Fishing Area.** Located near the Kokosing Lake Wildlife Area, this spot offers great fishing opportunities for game fish. The shallow waters and adjacent marshes provide prime spawning grounds, ensuring abundant fish populations.
- **Kokosing Scenic River.** This area is perfect for those who prefer a more serene fishing experience. The river's calm waters and surrounding forested areas provide a picturesque backdrop for fishing, and anglers can catch species like smallmouth bass, rock bass and suckers.
- **Hope Fishing Access.** A popular access point for anglers, this area offers convenient access to the river and allows anglers to fish from both the bank and small boats. It is part of the Kokosing River Water Trail, a designated water trail that offers an immersive fishing and paddling experience.

For detailed maps and further information, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) provides resources for planning your visit to these fishing locations.

Fishing Safety for People and Wildlife

Fishing in the Kokosing River can be a rewarding experience, but it's important to keep safety at the forefront of any adventure. Both personal safety and the well-being of the river's wildlife are crucial.

For Anglers:

- **Wear a Life Jacket.** Water conditions can change unexpectedly, and life jackets are essential when fishing from a boat.
- **Know the Water.** Be aware of water levels, currents and submerged obstacles that could pose risks, particularly in shallow areas or near the river's bends.
- **Use Sun Protection.** Early summer in Ohio can be brutal. Wear sunscreen, protective clothing and a hat to avoid sunburn.

For Wildlife:

- **Catch and release.** If you're fishing for sport, practice catch and release to ensure that the fish populations remain healthy for future generations of anglers.

- **Wet your hands.** An effective way to handle fish safely when practicing catch and release is to wet your hands before handling the fish, use barbless hooks, and gently release them back into the water. This minimizes stress and injury to the fish.

- **Leave no trace.** Clean up after yourself and dispose of all trash properly. Always remove fishing lines and hooks to prevent wildlife from becoming entangled.

Fishing Permits and Limitations

To fish in Ohio, anglers aged 16 and older must have the proper permits and be aware of the regulations that apply. You can purchase a license online via Ohio's Wildlife Licensing System or at a local vendor.

Here are some details about Ohio's fishing permits for 2025:

- Resident 1-Day License: \$14.00
- Resident 1-Year License: \$25.00
- Nonresident 1-Day License: \$14.00
- Nonresident 1-Year License: \$50.96

Fishing Limitations

- **Bag limits.** The bag limits vary depending on the species. The daily limit for smallmouth bass is typically 2 fish per person.
- **Boating restrictions.** Boaters on the Kokosing River must adhere to idle speed and 10-horsepower restrictions in certain areas to avoid damaging aquatic habitats and wildlife.
- **Stay informed.** Check the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website for the most up-to-date regulations on fishing in the Kokosing River.

Leave-No-Trace Principles

Responsible fishing is not just about adhering to fishing regulations. It's also about ensuring the long-term health of the river's ecosystem. Practicing leave-no-trace principles helps preserve the beauty of the Kokosing River for future visitors.

- **Pack out what you pack in.** Take all trash with you, including fishing line, hooks and food wrappers.
- **Stay on established trails.** Avoid creating new paths or disturbing sensitive habitats.
- **Properly dispose fishing line.** Fishing line can be harmful to wildlife. Dispose of it properly, or recycle it at designated recycling stations.
- **Minimize noise and disturbance.** Keep noise levels down to protect wildlife and ensure a peaceful experience for other visitors.

By following these principles, anglers can help maintain the natural beauty and health of the Kokosing River for generations to come.

The Kokosing River in Ohio is a beautiful and bountiful location for fishing. Its diverse ecosystem, abundant fish species and tranquil setting make it a top choice for anglers looking to enjoy a serene outdoor experience. Whether you're fishing for smallmouth bass or simply enjoying the wildlife, the Kokosing River offers a memorable experience. Please remember to respect the environment, follow safety protocols and always fish responsibly. Happy fishing!

Ghost Pipe

BY JADA SWEARINGEN '24,
BFEC POST-BACCALAUREATE FELLOW (2024-25)

I thought I'd seen nearly everything when it came to the plant world in Gambier. While planting spring ephemerals in the BFEC garden and removing invasive species along the BFEC trails, I'd observed many different native (and non-native) plant species. All of these plants had flowers with a vast array of colors that would make even a rainbow envious.

Enter the ghost pipe. This eerie white plant — completely devoid of color — rocked my world.

If you pay attention, you may notice ghost pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), also called ghost plant or Indian pipe, in June or July, and you can see it as late as September. You'll find the plant by scanning the forest floor in shady areas that have moist soil and lots of decaying plant matter. I found my first batch of ghost pipes as I wandered through parts of the pine plantation at the BFEC. It reaches a height of eight inches or less, and its contrasting white color sets it apart from other plants growing in the understory. Ghost pipe does not photosynthesize, which means it doesn't have chlorophyll; hence, its ghostly complexion.

Ghost pipes used to be considered saprophytes, meaning they feed on dead and decaying plant material. However, recent research shows that it's a bit more complicated. Many trees have symbiotic relationships with fungi that live among their roots, and mycotrophs (myco: fungus, troph: feeding) like ghost pipe capitalize on that relationship, tapping into the flow of carbon between the tree roots and fungi. This allows the ghost pipe to indirectly receive nutrients and carbohydrates from the tree. Some consider ghost pipe as a "mycorrhizal cheater" because it takes carbohydrates and nutrients from the mycorrhizal network without providing any benefits in return.

An additional element of mystery surrounding this plant is how it changes over time. As the plant matures, the flower moves in its relationship to the stem. When the stems emerge from the ground, the flower is pendant or nodding (pointed downward). As the reproductive parts mature, the flower rises to a position that is perpendicular to the stem. After the flower is pollinated (usually by bumblebees) and as the seeds mature, the flower becomes erect to aid in seed dispersal. The scientific name describes this plant perfectly. *Monotropa* means "once-turned single flower" referring to this movement of the flower as it matures, and *uniflora* means one flower, referring to one flower per stem.

This hauntingly beautiful plant is surrounded by lore. Cherokee legend claims that the ghost pipe, or Indian pipe, is the result of chiefs who quarreled and could not find a solution. They decided to smoke a peace pipe amid their conflict. This displeased the Great Spirit, and he turned the chiefs into the white flowers to remind us to smoke the pipe only after making peace. It is said that ghost pipes grow wherever friends have quarreled.

This native plant is widespread through Ohio and the U.S. and doesn't have status concerns federally or in Ohio. Although Emily Dickinson collected ghost pipes and pressed them into her books, if you spot one, we hope you will enjoy it and leave it for the bumblebees.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

An eerie sight

The all-white ghost pipe is a common sight on the forest floor during the summer months.

Labyrinths

BY MADIS KENNEDY '25, BFEC STUDENT MANAGER

The labyrinth at the BFEC, tucked away between the Kokosing River and the Kokosing Gap Trail, sometimes goes unnoticed by passersby. The entrance is hidden behind a prairie, but in the glory of summer, the labyrinth's twists and turns beckon with lush greenery.

Upon entering the labyrinth, one begins a mile-long journey toward the center. Unlike a maze, the labyrinth doesn't aim to trap or trick, but rather to guide its guest on a rhythmic journey to nowhere and everywhere. This movement inward and then outward again, without concern for a destination, often inspires reflection. The labyrinth invites us to turn inward, to wind back and forth through time and space, to remember we are layered.

History of Labyrinths

Labyrinths are incredibly old inventions. In North Africa and Europe, examples of rock carvings and paintings of a labyrinth structure date back to 2000 BCE. The basic pattern appeared

shortly afterward and simultaneously all over the world, in Asia, the Americas and Africa. It took new forms, such as designs incorporated into baskets, wall paintings, wooden sculptures and games.

The ancient Roman version increased the labyrinth's complexity and was found in tile patterns in floors. These labyrinths had seven "circuits" or concentric rings. The medieval rendition, pioneered by Otfrid the monk in the 9th century, included four more circuits, creating the eleven-circuit labyrinth. This design is what appears in one of the most famous labyrinths, the Chartres Labyrinth, built in the early 13th century on the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France.

Labyrinth designs and uses are incredibly varied across time and space. In some contexts, they are deeply spiritual, like in the Chartres Cathedral, or in Hindu tradition in which the labyrinth is intertwined with creation and the cosmos.

The BFEC Labyrinth

Today, the labyrinth idea seems to have reemerged at a time when humans are renegotiating our relationship with nature, offering an avenue of communication. The labyrinth's structure is a conversation between humans and their landscapes, and so is the act of walking through it.

The history of the BFEC's labyrinth goes back to 2013, when Dave Heithaus '99, then facilities director for the BFEC, organized a team of volunteers to plant 500 oak trees in concentric rings. These little trees were barely recognizable among the taller grasses. In 2016, Noelle Jordan, director of the BFEC, worked with a high school volunteer to design the eight-circuit labyrinth. It was then mowed in by Shane McGuire, BFEC's land manager. Now, 12 years later, the oak trees have grown taller and are becoming a more prominent feature of the landscape, changing how the labyrinth is experienced. In another 12 years, we may be able to enjoy shade from these trees as we journey inward and back out again.

The BFEC Labyrinth from above, soon after its establishment.



Photo: Ray Heithaus '99

Native Bees at the B(ee)FEC

BY ANABELLE HICKS '26, BFEC STUDENT MANAGER

As summer flowers bloom and color spreads across Ohio's prairies, it is impossible to miss all of the buzzing creatures flying about. From leaf-cutting bees to bumblebees, Ohio's native bees are often the unsung heroes of pollination. This summer, I hope you're able to spot some of the native bees that can be found at the BFEC.

Leafcutter bees are cavity-nesting bees, building their homes in preexisting small holes (about the diameter of a pencil) in wood or hollow stems. These holes are often created by other insects. Leafcutter bees are solitary; they don't form colonies or have the famous "queen bee." They get their name from the circular cutouts they create in leaves. Leafcutter bees like to stay close to home — within 100 yards of their nests — which means that they pollinate neighborhood flowers, including sunflowers and flowers in the pea family.

Most regions of the world have several species of bumble bees. According to entomologist Denise Ellsworth of The Ohio State University Extension, the

common eastern bumble bee (*Bombus impatiens*) is the most prevalent native bee in Ohio. They have large black bodies with yellow and black hairs spread all over, with a particularly dense patch on their abdomen. Bumblebees are social, living in small colonies. They often nest underground in abandoned rodent burrows. You can spot them slowly bumbling from flower to flower this summer. They are great pollinators of coneflower, bee balm and wingstem.

Frequently confused with bumblebees, large carpenter bees are solitary, cavity-nesting bees. In appearance, they resemble bumblebees, but Dr. Jones at The Ohio State University Extension explains that carpenter bees' hairs are concentrated on their thorax not on their abdomen. This gives them a shinier appearance than the bumblebee which has a very fuzzy abdomen. *Xylocopa virginica* is the most abundant carpenter bee in Ohio, often seen buzzing around fast and erratically. These early morning foragers are generalists and pollinate many plants in our gardens.

Sweat bees, named for their tendency to land on and consume the salt in human sweat, can have the typical black and yellow coloring, or they can be metallic neon green. Sweat bees are semi-social; they divide tasks with other bees, but much more flexibly than honey bees. It isn't uncommon for female sweat bees to abandon their nest to create their own. Sweat bees pollinate lots of wildflowers and crops, like sunflowers, alfalfa and apples.

As you take in the lush summer landscape, remember that Ohio's native bees are hard at work behind the scenes. These small but mighty pollinators help sustain the wildflowers that define the season. Unlike the familiar honeybee, they have evolved alongside native plants for thousands of years, forming an irreplaceable part of the ecosystem. Protecting these native bees helps ensure that the BFEC's wildflowers, prairies and gardens continue to thrive for generations. Next time you see a bee buzzing by, take a moment to appreciate the essential role it plays in keeping nature thriving.



Common bees of Ohio include (clockwise from top left)
leafcutter bees, bumblebees,
sweat bees and carpenter bees.



Photos: Wikimedia Commons



The Forest-Dwelling Fisher Returns to Ohio

BY SHANE MCGUIRE, BFEC LAND MANAGER / NATURALIST

A small mammal is slowly making its return to its native Ohio forests. Fishers (*Pekania pennanti*) are members of the weasel or mustelid family. Sometimes called pekans (derived from the Abenaki language) or fisher cats, these animals are definitely not feline. They have long slender bodies with short legs and a long bushy tail. Adults are usually 24 to 30 inches long, including their tails. They vary in weight from six to 20 pounds, with males usually being larger than females. Their thick fur is dark brown, intensifying to black on the rump and tail, and they frequently have a cream-colored spot on their chest. They have five toes with retractable claws, and they can turn their back feet 180 degrees, making them excellent tree climbers.

These secretive and rarely seen mammals can be found in coniferous or mixed hardwood forests with plenty of canopy cover, downed trees and snags. They prefer more than 80% canopy cover and moderately large trees for denning. Because of these preferences, they are generally found in old growth forests. Although they are great climbers, they are usually found on the forest floor foraging around fallen trees.

Excellent predators, their diet consists of small mammals like mice, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and birds. They will also eat apples, cherries, raspberries, beechnuts and acorns. An interesting note: they generally don't eat fish! Fishers have few predators due to their size, agility and aggressive behavior but they have been known to succumb to coyotes, black bears, bobcats and great horned owls.

So, if they don't eat fish, why are they called fishers? The name comes from the word "fitch," referring to the European polecat (*Mustela putorius*) which bears a resemblance to the fisher.

Additionally, in the French language, the pelt of a polecat is called "fiche" or "fichet."

Fishers are native to North America and used to be widespread throughout the northern forests of Canada and northern U.S. Historically, they were found from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, in coastal areas of the U.S. Pacific Northwest, in the Midwest as far south as Tennessee, and throughout the Northeast. Today, their range is much smaller and mostly in Canada.

Fishers used to be abundant in Ohio before European settlement, but they were extirpated from the state in the mid-1800's. Habitat loss was the major cause as settlers cut down Ohio forests to make way for farms and homesteads, but hunting and trapping also played a role. Over the years, Ohio forests have been slowly regenerating, resulting in a return of many wildlife, including turkey, black bears, bobcats, river otters and bald eagles. Evidence suggests that fishers might be next on the list. They have been moving westward from established populations in northwest Pennsylvania, and there have been multiple confirmed sightings in northeast Ohio since 2013.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife, biologists have been collecting fishers killed by vehicles to determine their age and genetics. In 2023, a biologist tested a fisher and found that it was pregnant. The Division of Wildlife is anticipating that natural reproduction in Ohio fishers will be confirmed in the coming years.

ODNR depends on citizen sightings to help them monitor wildlife populations. To report wildlife sightings of fishers, black bear, bobcat, river otter, ruffed grouse, turkey and more, send an email to wildinfo@dnr.ohio.gov.

Returning to Ohio
The habitat of fishers formerly extended as far south as Tennessee.
Missing from Ohio since the mid-1800s, the small mammal has been slowly returning to area forests.



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Nature is Restorative

BY QUINN HARNDEN '26, BFEC STUDENT MANAGER

Place facilitates belonging. It allows individuals to identify with something larger than themselves, while offering a sense of connection to a greater whole. The study of environmental psychology includes the idea of place attachment. When individuals can attach themselves to a stable place, many psychological benefits follow. In particular, place attachment is tied to a sense of belonging, well-being, happiness, and nostalgia. When individuals connect with natural spaces, these feelings can be achieved.

Nature is restorative and powerful. At Kenyon, we are surrounded by the 700-acre Brown Family Environmental Center. With its interconnected paths, beautiful scenery and biodiversity, the BFEC can be key in creating our singular and collective identities and well-being at Kenyon. The trails can remove us from daily stressors, affording us time to slow down and breathe.

Restorative environments, like the BFEC, revitalize us and reduce our physiological stress. This idea lies at the foundation for Roger S. Ulrich's Stress-Reduction Theory (1983), which encourages us to understand the healing power behind natural spaces. When individuals are in nature, feelings of arousal and stress are reduced by unconscious processes. We experience an immediate decrease in blood pressure, which indicates to our stress systems that sustained attention can be restored.

Building off the Stress-Reduction Theory, the Attention-Restoration Theory claims that with cognitive control, natural environments can have a restorative effect on one's ability to focus. In our busy, day-to-day lives, the human brain is constantly overstimulated with unnecessary information that requires direct attention, resulting in fatigue. Natural spaces counter this fatigue, restoring the ability to focus and concentrate. The outdoors can help us restore our attention as it allows us to use top-down processing. Put simply, nature allows humans to be guided by our senses rather than our analytical thinking.

Humans are part of the natural world; we spring from it, and it is where we belong. It's no wonder that human brains are more readily primed to de-stress and refocus in places where our physiology is still attuned. Research has shown that we are able to process and understand information much more efficiently in nature than compared to any built environment. Evolutionarily speaking, our brains are wired to understand the natural world. Throughout human evolution, we have spent 99% of our time in nature, and we are able to reach our fullest potential in the outdoor spaces around us. Even today, in nature, we can think creatively, exercise more empathy and efficiently engage with the world.

These ideas are supported by neuroscience. In various studies, urban environments have shown increased activity in the amygdala and reduced activity in the right prefrontal cortex, both of which are detrimental to the human brain because the amygdala is the fear center and the prefrontal cortex is responsible for attention. In nature, however, the opposite occurs, allowing our brains to recharge. Humans experience less arousal and are able to regain attention in the natural environment. Studies have shown that those living in urban areas have approximately a 40% increased risk of developing mental health disorders than those living in rural areas.

So, I ask you: what is potentially the best (and easiest) way to relieve physical, mental and emotional stress? Go outside. Find a place that you connect with. Walk in the woods. Allow yourself to unwind and breathe in nature. And maybe leave your cell phone at home.

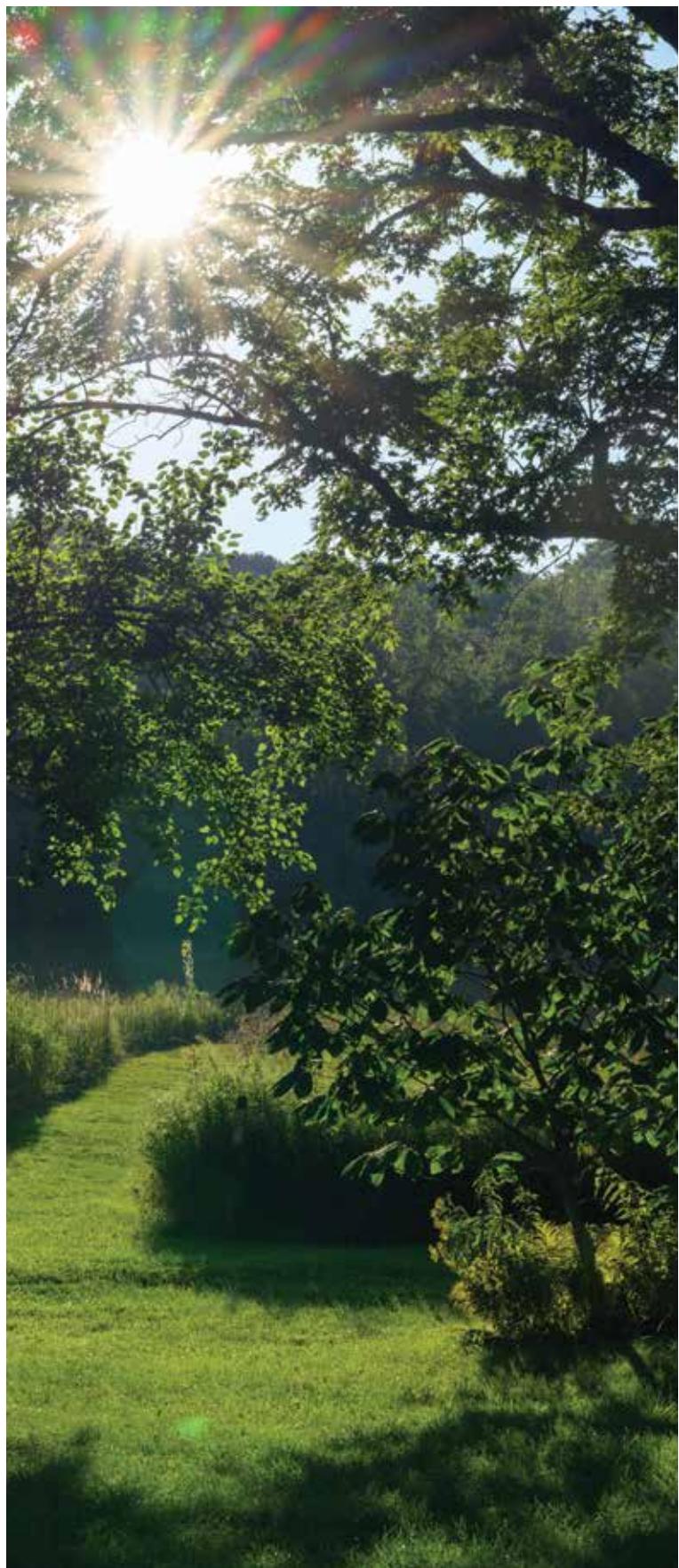


Photo: Rebecca Kiger

Donors and Volunteers

SPRING 2025

Kenyon provides financial support to the BFEC, but the center has been able to grow largely through the generosity of our donors and volunteers. We are indebted to the following individuals, groups and businesses for recent donations of time, materials and funding. If you would like to make a gift or volunteer for a project, please call the BFEC at 740-427-5050.

LIFETIME

Allan Bazzoli M.D.
Geoffrey and Lori Brown
Margo de Camp and
David Marietta
John and Abbe Cheek
Avram Cooperman,
in memory of Jeff
Cooperman and in honor
of David Cooperman
Peter Glassman
Cornelia and Robert Hallinan
Doug and Dianne Mack
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David and Kim Newell
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Myra Douglas
Alyssa and
Jonathan Lawrence
Christine and Jay Laymon
Anna Lee and John Lillig

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Evelyn Newell, historical
bird books from the Brown
Family collection

VOLUNTEERS

Since January, our dedicated volunteers removed invasive species, planted trees, helped care for our gardens, trail blazed, monitored our bluebird trail, led elementary field trips, worked at our Earth Day Festival and so much more. Collectively, they volunteered over 480 hours. Wow! Thank you so much. (Unless otherwise indicated, our volunteers are Kenyon students):

Sarah Bernat
Kate Bogan
Henry Brandt
Isabel Braun
Katherine Brown,
community member
Morgan Brozena
Sofia Chaves
Debbie Cole,
community member
Sam Cole, community member
Sam Connors
Khloe Cook, MVHS student
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Cynthia Stevens
Gabriel Suhm
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Olivia Wangerow
Kai Ward
Abby Warshauer
Mandy Welsh
Ada Wigfield
Kenyon Women's
Lacrosse Team
Kenyon Men's Football Team

Upcoming Programs and Events

We hope you can join us for these select programs.
 There are many more programs posted on our website.
 For a complete listing, go to bfec.kenyon.edu.

Yoga in the Garden

EVERY MONDAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15,
 11:30 – 12:15 P.M.

Use your Monday lunch break to de-stress with an outdoor yoga class. Bring your kids, grandkids, friends, etc. Open to all ages. Bring your own mat or use ours. Free! Meet in the BFEC garden (behind the white house). *No class on Monday, Sept. 1.

Guided Hike: Pine Grove and Fern Trail

Part of our 30th Anniversary Series

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2 P.M.

Join BFEC Director Noelle Jordan for a guided hike of two of the oldest trails at the BFEC. We'll enjoy these moderate trails (some hills) and discuss how the landscape in this area has evolved since the early 1990s. *Meet at the Resource Center.*

Plein Air Painting Class: Watercolor

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 5 – 7 P.M.

Join us for our yearly plein air (outdoor painting) workshops. This summer's theme is "Card Club." Learn how to streamline your outdoor painting experience, and fine-tune your drawing, composition, value and color skills. Experiment with different mediums and learn new techniques. You will complete and take home a variety of greeting cards. All materials are provided. Space is limited. To preregister, email schutte1@kenyon.edu, or call 740-427-5053.

Himalayan Bowls and Chanting

SATURDAY, JULY 19, 10:30 A.M. OR 1 P.M.

(TWO SESSIONS AVAILABLE)

Allan Bazzoli M.D. will offer the sounds of eighteen Himalayan singing bowls combined with harmonic chants from different cultures to immerse you in a very relaxing, transcendent experience of vibration and sound. Bazzoli will chant a blend of Native American sounds, the OM chant (the universal chant), the Dragon chant and the Snow Mountain chant. Cost: \$20 adults. \$10 students. Reserve your spot: schutte1@kenyon.edu. *Meet at the Resource Center.*

Art Exhibit and Artist Reception

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 4:30 – 6:30 P.M.

The BFEC is presents "GROUNDED // MY RETURN" by local artist Paige Hashman from August 15 through October 27. Join us for the opening artist reception on Friday, Aug. 15, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Guests will be able to meet the artist and learn about her works and inspiration. Snacks and beverages provided. *Meet in the Resource Center.*

Plein Air Painting Class: Gouache

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 5 – 7 P.M.

Join us for this plein air painting workshop. This summer's theme is "Card Club." Gouache is a type of paint that goes on similar to watercolor but has an opaque finish. We will fine-tune your composition, value and color skills while painting with this cool medium. You will complete and take home one or more greeting cards. All materials are provided. Space is limited; please preregister by emailing schutte1@kenyon.edu or calling 740-427-5053.

Prairie Wildflower Seeds: Tiny Songs

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2 P.M.

Prairie wildflowers yield many seeds. In their dry, dormant state, the seeds — some no larger than a pinhead — make sounds. Artist Cadine Navarro explored the sound vibrations of nine native Ohio prairie plants in a recent art exhibit. Author and poet Terry Hermsen was so moved by the art exhibit and the seed sounds that he wrote his most recent book, "Tiny Songs: Haiku and Meditations." Join us as Hermsen shares some of his thoughts and poems from the book, along with a guided prairie hike. Maybe we will hear the songs... *Meet in the Resource Center.*

Fall Harvest Festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, NOON – 4 P.M.

This FREE family event includes hayrides, live music, food trucks, children's activities, farm animals, a campfire, a cider press, pumpkin decorating, an art exhibit by plein air painters, and so much more! Join us! *This year we are back at the BFEC.*

Solstice Stroll: Labyrinth Walk

Part of our 30th Anniversary Series

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:45 A.M.

Celebrate the sunrise on the shortest day of the year. BFEC Director Noelle Jordan will provide a brief overview of labyrinths and directions to the entrance of the BFEC labyrinth, then you will enjoy some solitude and a moving meditation at your own pace. The total walk in and out of the labyrinth is approximately two miles; plan for about 90 minutes. *Meet at the Kokosing Gap Trail parking lot on Laymon Road.*

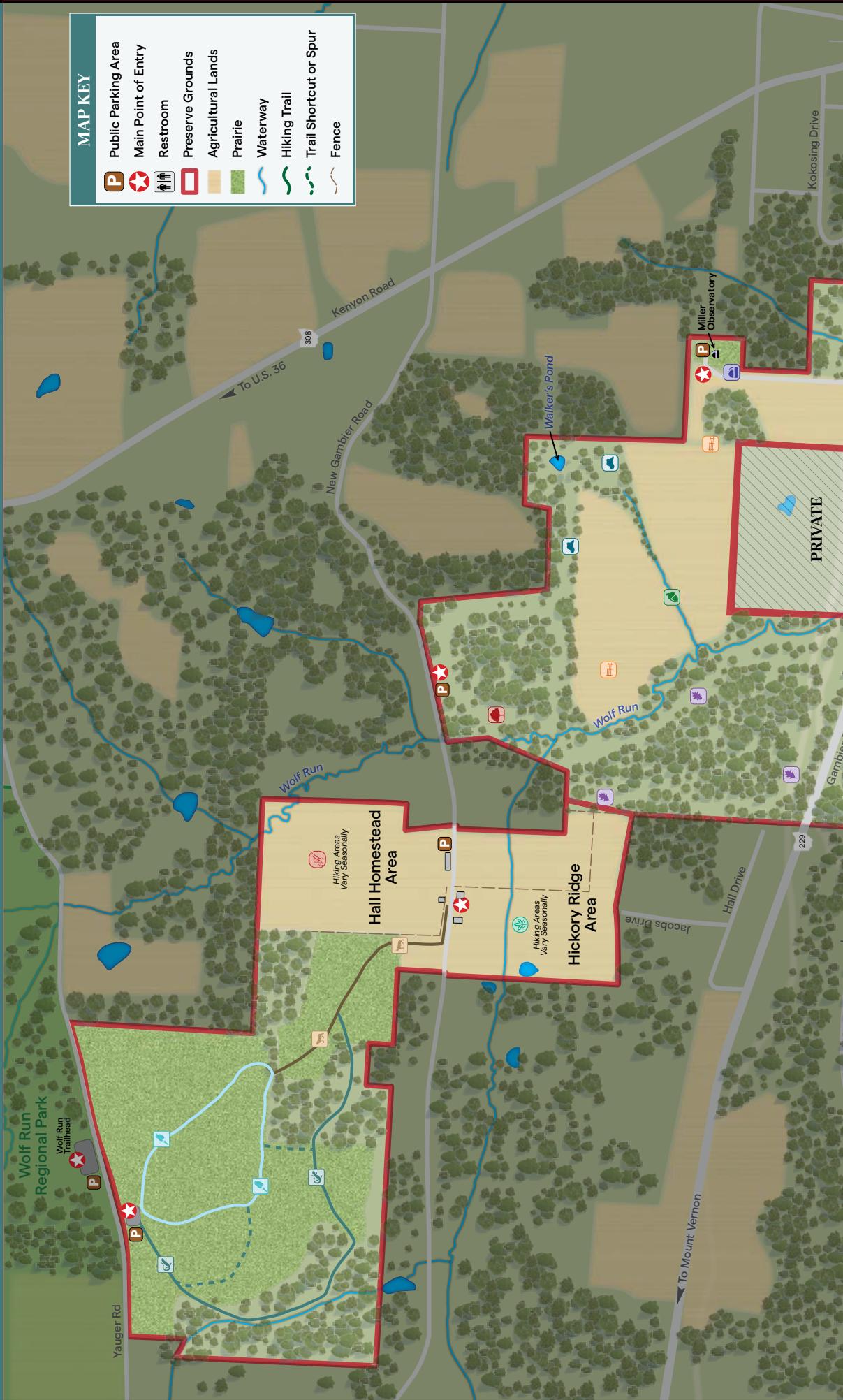


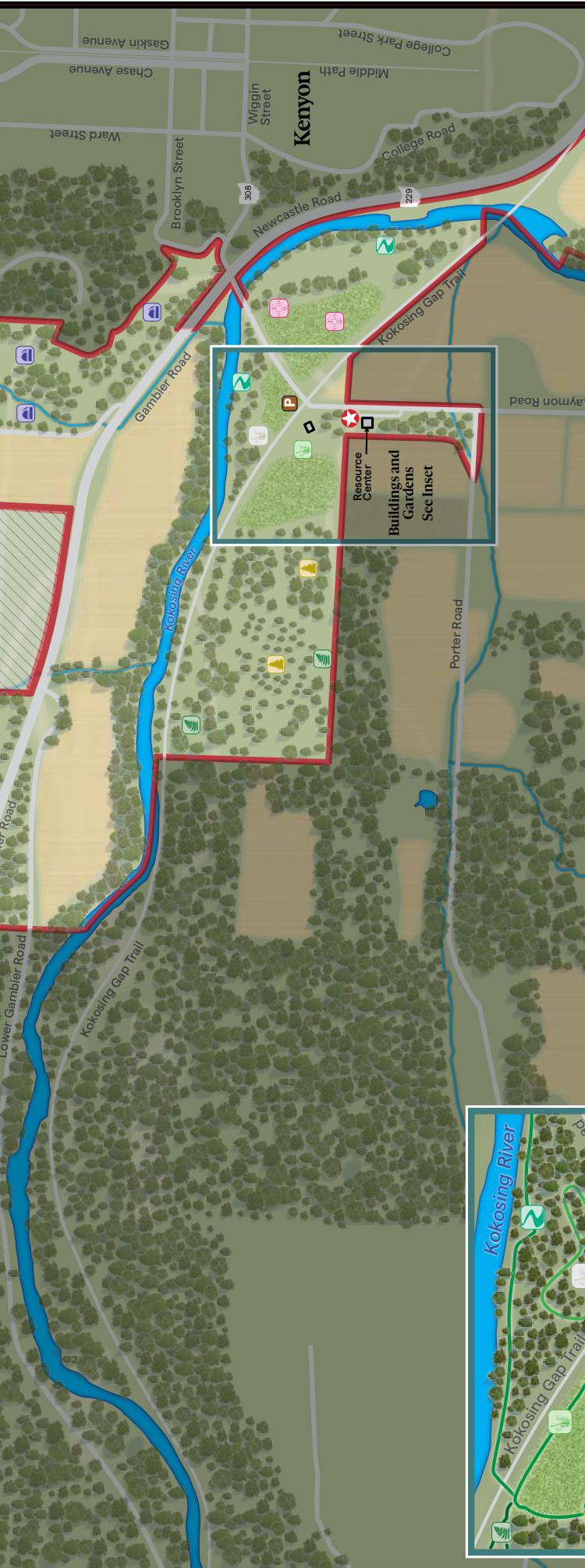
Brown Family Environmental Center

Facility and Trail Map



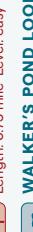
Kenyon





With the June 28 ribbon cutting of the new BFEC North trail system, our new trails — Prescott Springs Trail, Schott Circle and Woollam Way — are now open to the public. This updated map shows our expanded trail system and is available in kiosks as well as at kenyon.edu/bfec.

| BFEC South Trails | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | RIVER TRAIL Length: 1.0 mile Level: easy |
|  | PRairie TRAIL Length: 0.5 mile Level: easy |
|  | PINE PLANTATION TRAIL Length: 0.6 mile Level: difficult |
|  | FERN TRAIL Length: 0.7 mile Level: moderate |
|  | LABYRINTH Length: 1.0 mile Level: easy |
|  | NATURE PLAY TRAIL Length: 0.1 mile Level: easy |

| BFEC Central Trails | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | HICKORY RIDGE AREA Level: moderate |
|  | BISHOP'S BACKBONE TRAIL Length: 1.25 miles Level: moderate |
|  | CORRIDOR TRAIL Length: 0.75 mile Level: moderate |
|  | GIVENS' GROVE TRAIL Length: 0.3 mile Level: easy |
|  | NEW GAMBIER LOOP TRAIL Length: 0.75 mile Level: easy |
|  | WALKER'S POND LOOP Length: 0.75 mile Level: moderate |
|  | MILLER OBSERVATORY TRAIL Length: 0.8 mile Level: easy |



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Kenyon

kenyon.edu/bfec | 740-427-5050



OUR MISSION

The Brown Family Environmental Center exists to support the academic goals of Kenyon College, to provide opportunities for education and research, to engage Central Ohioans of all ages with nature, and to conserve the natural diversity of the Kokosing River valley.

OUR STAFF

Will Pritchard '25, Post-Baccalaureate Fellow
Terri Hieronimus, Gardener
Bonnie Schutte, Administrative Assistant
Shane McGuire, Land Manager Naturalist
Noelle Jordan, Director

BROWN FAMILY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER | 9781 LAYMON ROAD | GAMBIER, OH 43022-9623

Celebrating 30 Years of Growth

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL HELP US KEEP GROWING OVER THE NEXT 30 YEARS AND BEYOND.

There are many reasons to give, including the satisfaction of knowing you're a part of critical environmental education and conservation programs. Receive preferred access to workshops, a hard copy of our newsletters and a discount on bird seed. **Use the form below to send your contribution today.**

NAME (FIRST, MIDDLE, LAST)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP/POSTAL CODE

COUNTRY

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Membership level:

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$2,500+ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$100 | |

My check, payable to Kenyon College, is enclosed

Amount enclosed: _____

Mail to: BFEC, P.O. Box 508, Gambier, Ohio 43022

Your donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. Kenyon College is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

To pay by credit card, visit gift.kenyon.edu.