VISITS

A series of conversations with area residents exploring the character of rural life

The Rural Life Center at Kenyon College • Gambier, Ohio • Spring 2014
WHAT FARMERS KNOW

Tuesday, February 11 • 11:10 a.m. • Peirce Lounge

Knox County farmers and naturalists often are college graduates, and their knowledge may stem from the latest scientific research. But rural knowledge is broader than that: experts learn by focused walks in pastures and woodlands, informal dialogue with colleagues and neighbors, and close observation of animals and crops. Judy Sacks, affiliated scholar in American Studies at Kenyon, will lead a conversation with farmers, trappers, and livestock managers about the **unwritten but vital knowledge** embedded in rural spaces.

GUN CULTURE AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Tuesday, March 25 • 11:10 a.m. • Peirce Lounge

Media attention to gun violence and incidences of mass shootings have brought the Second Amendment into sharp focus in popular debate. Less discussed, though, is the lawful and traditional use of guns in rural society. Hunting is a rite of passage and cherished family activity, as well as a means of livelihood. Indeed, many rural residents view gun ownership as a symbol of American freedom. Kenyon senior Rebecca Katzman will lead a conversation on **gun culture and the Second Amendment** with local gun enthusiasts.

AN AMISH SING

Tuesday, April 15 • 11:10 a.m. • Peirce Lounge

Tourism and commerce bring Amish people into regular contact with those who do not share their belief system and practices. In light of these interactions, Amish communities increasingly value their distinctive singing tradition as an important aspect of being Amish. Children sing in school; young people sing at Wednesday night Bible studies and Sunday night sings; unmarried young women sing at scrapbooking events. Join us for a **special musical presentation** of an Amish “sing” by members of the Beachy family, from Holmes County.

All talks take place in Peirce Lounge in Kenyon College’s Peirce Hall. Kenyon College is located in the village of Gambier, five miles east of Mount Vernon in central Ohio. Admission to all events is free.

For more information, visit the Kenyon website at www.kenyon.edu or the Rural Life Center website at rurallife.kenyon.edu.

Cover photograph: Rebecca Katzman, Poultry judging at the Knox County Fair, 2011