



THE RENSSELAERVILLE FALLS

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.

POST OFFICE BOX 77
RENSSELAERVILLE, NEW YORK
12147

(518) 797-3440

NEWSLETTER

WINTER

"GOD MADE THIS SCENE BEYOND COMPARE, but one man's loving hand protected it, and gave it to his fellow man to share..."

Sara Evans Letchworth

With the 50th Anniversary of The Preserve marked on September 6, 1981, by the dedication of the Lewis A. Eldridge, Jr. Laboratory, at Lincoln Pond, work continued throughout the winter months to organize materials. Major accomplishments to date include the placement of the flora and fauna specimens exhibit on the 2nd. floor; and the cataloging of research with cross referencing in draft form for review by the Scientific Advisory Committee.

The laboratory will serve as a functional unit for research projects and for the preservation of the cumulative results. Classroom space is also available for group meetings.

"TO INCREASE THE GENERAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF NATURE,..." is but one of many of the Chartered Purposes of The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, yet it probably is the one that most conspicuously distinguishes The Preserve from other "conservation organizations". The Preserve did not begin by promoting general and scientific knowledge. It was not until 1937, six years after its founding, that a pilot program was tested and later adopted, by which scientific research on the flora and fauna of The Preserve would be supported. The success of this initial effort was due almost entirely to the close personal relationship that evolved between Mrs. E. N. Huyck and Dr. William J. Hamilton, Jr. of Cornell University. Dr. Hamilton first undertook a survey of the plants and animals of the Preserve, and recommended a number of research projects that were well suited to The Preserve. He was then invited to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee to supervise the conduct of research on The Preserve.

The current Scientific Advisory Committee is composed of Dr. Carl J. George, Chairman (Union College); Dr. Richard Park (R.P.I.); Dr. Vincent J. Schaefer (A.S.R.C.); Dr. Nancy G. Slack (Russell Sage); Dr. Margaret McB. Stewart (S.U.N.Y.).

Applications for Research Grants are at an all-time high. Grant awards and research programs will be announced in the Summer Newsletter which will be published in July.

The E. N. Huyck Preserve, Inc. receives funds for operations from three basic sources: 1) a grant request is made annually to The Edmund Niles Huyck Foundation for a substantial portion of The Preserve's operating expenses. The Foundation was created, in 1960, under the will of Jessie V.A. Huyck, and is administered by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co., as Corporate Trustee, and Messrs. William A. Waldron and Dr. Roswell Eldridge as Trustees. 2) The second source of income is from membership dues and contributions. 3) The third is income generated from program; i.e. Maple Syrup sales, consulting, etc. Copies of the Financial Report are available at the Preserve's office.

PRESERVE FAUNA --

As haven to many creatures, you may cross the paths with one of the following:

WILD TURKEY - This low flying "bomber" may be found in small groups, or alone, throughout the winter months. Look for them in woody swamp areas.

PILEATED WOODPECKER - This large, confident woodpecker can be found in hardwood areas of the Preserve (as well as on Main Street!). Large rectangular holes in trees and a loud tik-tik-tikkik-tikkik are signs of its presence.

OSPREY - A regular migrant visitor to Lake Myosotis in April - May, this large (4 - 6ft.) raptor can be distinguished from Turkey Vultures (blackish, soar in dihedral) by its angular, light wings.

COYOTE - A timid mammal, The Eastern Mountain Coyote or "Coy"dog (we will not be "dog"matic as to which one it is as the debate is still on) feeds on small mammals (mice, rabbits), birds and berries. A trained ear may hear its most conspicuous sign - its doleful night cry.

BEAVER - The work of this industrious furbearer can be seen around Lake Myosotis, Lincoln Pond and the streams above and below these bodies of water. When the Preserve was first established, beavers were well established in Lincoln Pond, and were studied by one of the first scientists to conduct research on the Preserve. They were later trapped and removed from the Pond. The present lodges were established during the last five years. They are best seen just before, or shortly after, sunset.

OTTER - The distinctive foot prints, with a long tail dragging in the snow of the past two winters, is the only evidence, thus far, of the return of this large, semi-aquatic, member of the weasle family. Keep a look out for this playful, fish-eating mammal, along the streams and in the Lake or Pond.

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MAPLE SYRUP ORDER FORM

Please ship, via United Parcel Service, Grade A. Maple Syrup in "earthenware" style plastic jugs, to the following:

-----No.-----Amount to:
NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

-----No.-----Amount to:
NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

-----No.-----Amount to:
NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY STATE ZIP

U.P.S. delivery is to street address only, please do not use post office box or R.F.D. numbers.

-----Pints, shipped U.P.S. within continental U.S. \$7.00 = \$
----- no shipping, local pickup \$5.00 = \$

-----Quarts, shipped U.P.S. within continental U.S. \$10.00 = \$
----- no shipping, local pickup \$ 7.00 = \$

-----1/2 gal. shipped U.P.S. within continental U.S. \$18.00 = \$
----- no shipping, local pickup \$12.00 = \$

----- 1 gal. shipped U.P.S. within continental U.S. \$28.00 = \$
----- no shipping, local pickup \$22.00 = \$

TOTAL = \$

Make checks payable to The E. N. Huyck Preserve, Inc., and return payment with this order to above address.

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A MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURE -

The Board of Directors voted to close Conkling Hall for the winter months as no events were scheduled according to the Director's calendar and a community survey. Approximately \$3,500.00 in fuel costs will be saved by this action. An "ad hoc" committee to study Conkling Hall has made the following recommendations concerning guidelines for the permanent committee:

- 1) Make rules governing the use of the building.
- 2) Enforce these rules.
- 3) Devote itself to the marketing of the building.
- 4) Devise budgets for the building operation.
- 5) Explore means of funding the operation.

The Conkling Hall committee will be appointed by the President:- any volunteers?

Man's almost universal sweet tooth was satisfied by the natives of Northeastern North America in a most unique fashion. They produced sugar by concentrating spring sap of the Sugar Maple. This technique was used long before the arrival of the first Europeans, and is even more impressive when it was accomplished without the use of metal containers to boil the sap.

Maple sugar and native honey were the only sweeteners available to the early settlers, and "sugaring" was a common and rewarding rural activity. Judge William Cooper, father of the journalist James Fenimore Cooper, developed extensive sugar bushes around Cooperstown. Thomas Jefferson had some Sugar Maples from New York transplanted in Virginia. In a letter, dated July 10, 1791, Jefferson calculated that the use of native maple sugar, rather than newly imported cane sugar could save the young nation \$8,000,000 in imports, and still have a surplus of \$1,000,000. for export. But, as the young nation grew, and cut its forests of maple, "sugaring" declined. In 1891, maple sugar producers were paid a bounty of two cents per pound. The cost of maple sugar increased, while cane sugar decreased, and "Maple Sugaring" declined further. It is presently estimated that less than 5% of the tapable Sugar Maples in New York State are tapped. New York State is a major producer of Sugar Maple products. Half of the Preserve's 1981 syrup ended up being sold by Vermont processors.

With the decline of agriculture within New York State, and the resulting increase in second growth forests, there has been a marked increase in the number of Sugar Maple trees. Sugaring does not cause lasting injury to the trees, and provides the forest owner a potential source of income from living trees. The long term income potential of tapped Sugar Maples exceed all other commercial uses of this tree. Thus the restoration of maple sugaring can be a significant incentive for the preservation of the deciduous forests of the Northeast where the Sugar Maple is one of the most common trees.

The sugaring season is during the month of March. Come visit the "Sap House" in Medusa, at the open house on Saturday, March 27th. from 2 - 5:00 pm, followed by a pankake supper at the Church Hall. Come buy some syrup, enjoy the distinctive flavor of Maple Syrup and SAVE A MAPLE."

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS look forward to an enlarged and active membership. We invite your ideas and encourage you to share the membership form below with a friend or neighbor. THANK YOU.

THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.
P.O. Box 77
Rensselaerville, New York 12147

Membership Dues: Aug.'81 - Aug.'82:

Junior (17yrs or younger).....	\$5.00	\$.....
Active.....	\$10.00	\$.....
Supporting.....	\$25.00	\$.....
Contributing Member.....	\$50.00	\$.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Make all checks payable to The E.N. Huyck Preserve, Inc., and mail to the above address. Tax deductible: Annual report is on file and available through the N.Y.S. Department of State, Charities Registration section, or the Preserve.

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