

## THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. Box 188

RENSSELAERVILLE, NEW YORK 12147

# NEWSLETTER

(518) 797-3440

Summer 1984



**Lincoln Pond Cottage**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF LINCOLN POND COTTAGE

About a mile north of the village of Rensselaerville, sits Lincoln Pond and the charming Lincoln Pond Cottage. Once the farmhouse accompanying a sawmill, later a fishing cabin, it is now a summer residence for scientists who work on the Preserve.

In the 1800's, the Lincoln Farm, named for Levi Lincoln, looked quite different from what it does today. The sawmill, a long low building, straddling what is now the spillway, was powered by water cascading over a dam built around 1800. Next to it was the house we now know as Lincoln Pond Cottage. There were other buildings including barns and a wagon house. One of the barns stood across the road from the house where the parking lot is now. The other barn was about where the Lewis A. Eldridge Laboratory has been constructed. And, instead of trees north of the farm, there were open fields.

Inside the house, the central chimney was supported by enormous timbers that can still be seen. These beams measure as much as two feet across and twelve inches thick, and, according to Dr. Robert Dagleish, former Executive Director of the Preserve, "They were cut when there were still some tremendously big trees in the area." Had the house not been right next to a sawmill, it is doubtful that such large timbers would have been used as they would have been very difficult to transport.

It would appear that in 1809, Thomas Watson held the first lease on the land from Stephen Van Rensselaer, the Patroon who controlled all the land in Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Later on in the 1800's, Levi Lincoln as well as members of the Bouton family operated the sawmill. In 1888, the land was sold to Myron Bryant, who became the last miller at the Lincoln Farm. Then in 1913, he sold it to Edmund Niles Huyck (Ted) who renovated the house by adding a porch facing the pond, dormer windows, and a roofed entranceway for the front door.

From 1913 to 1930, the cottage served as Ted Huyck's fishing retreat where he would come alone or with friends. He loved to fish Lincoln Pond as well as Lake Myosotis and though he did not always catch anything — sometimes there was more talking than fishing — the small pond was full of pickerel, yellow perch, and bullheads.

During those summers, Lincoln Pond Cottage was also the center of Sunday evening activities. Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Huyck, family, and friends, would bring food and gather on the porch for picnics. "The water was always tranquil and it was very pleasant to sit there," remembers Mrs. Dorothy Waldron, whose husband, Charles, was a great friend and fishing companion of Ted Huyck's. "Afterwards we all went back to the Huyck house [now part of the Rensselaerville Institute] and sang hymns." Sometimes the group stayed at the cottage to sing.

In 1926, the cottage was a honeymoon hideaway when Katharine Huyck, Ted's niece, and Lee Elmore were married. A heavy fog blanketed the area that weekend and the Elmore's were not even discovered by the Greenes at Bull Frog Camp, also on Lincoln Pond.

Ted Huyck died in 1930. In his will, he asked that Lake Myosotis and its shores (this included Lincoln Pond) be set aside for the enjoyment of the people forever. His wishes were carried out when in 1931, the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve was established.

Trails around Lincoln Pond were developed from 1933 to 1935 and still exist today. In 1938, the Preserve established a Biological Field Station at Lincoln Pond. Students and scientists were invited to research on the Preserve during the summer months. They lived in Lincoln Pond Cottage, were given a fee for their work, and were required to submit papers on their projects. The land around Lincoln Pond was to be left untouched for ecological research.

*(continued on next page)*

**FREE NATURE STUDY CLASSES  
FOR CHILDREN**

*See page 2*

**HUYCK HIKES BEGIN  
SUNDAY, JUNE 24**

*See page 2*

## 1984 HUYCK HIKES

Come and join visiting naturalists for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon Huyck Hike. Hikes will meet every Sunday, June 24th through Sept. 2nd, at 2:00 p.m., the Mill House parking lot. Please come dressed for the trails!

- June 24** Craig Benkman, S.U.N.Y. Albany, "Nesting birds of old fields and adjacent habitats."
- July 1** Mike Kallagi, Cornell University, "An introduction to the flora & fauna of recently acquired lands along Ten Mile Creek."
- July 8** Art Newell, N.Y.S. DEC Fisheries Dep't, "Aquatic Ecology Walk."
- July 15** Frederick Harrison, W. Carolina Univ., "Freshwater sponges"; Robert Daniels, N.Y.S. Museum, Biological Survey "Crayfish"; & Cliff Siegfried, N.Y.S. Museum, Biological Survey "Aquatic Ecology of Myosotis Lake."

- July 22** Nancy Slack, Plant Ecologist, Russell Sage College, "Flowerless Plants by the Rensselaerville Falls."
- July 29** Peter Tobiessen, Union College, "Beneath the forest floor, out of sight, out of mind?"
- August 5** John Haines, mycologist, N.Y.S. Museum, "Mushrooms & other fungi."
- August 12** Robert MacWatters, Cobleskill College, "Acid Rain."
- August 19** Carl J. George, Union College, "The fishes of Myosotis Lake."
- August 26** George R. Cooley, Honorary Director, E.N. Huyck Preserve, "Curiosities of Nature."
- Sept. 2** Andrea Worthington, Siena College, "Who eats the fall fruits? Migrant birds."

### A BRIEF HISTORY (continued)

Many of the scientists who stayed at Lincoln Pond Cottage have become well known in their fields: Dr. William J. Hamilton, Dr. Edward Raney, Dr. Donald R. Griffin, Dr. Eugene Odum were among those who lived and worked on the Preserve during the early years.

Lincoln Pond Cottage has been continually modified and upgraded since the Preserve took it over in 1931. Some of the improvements might strike one as a little strange, however. For instance, the stall shower added in 1952, the only one in the house, is still in a bedroom!

In 1964, the kitchen was renovated by Lee Elmore, Allen Davis, the Preserve caretaker, and Stanley Bennett. Cabinets were built, a side door boarded up, and a washing machine installed. The water for the house came out of Lincoln Pond and "as the summer progressed," says Bob Dalgleish, "because of the algae bloom, the water coming into the house was dirtier than the clothes and gave them a green tinge."

In 1982, the central fireplace had to be removed because the foundation was not strong enough to support it. The walls around the chimney were cracking and there was a real fire hazard.

The Lincoln Pond barn has a history of its own. It was a primitive lab facility for the research scientists. The daily ritual of wiping dead flies and bat manure from the work tables reflected just how primitive it was. In 1964, at the same time improvements were being made at the cottage, the lab was "modernized." Formica topped counters were installed and cabinets built.

In the 1970's the Preserve was unsuccessful in attempts to gain funding from the National Science Foundation to update the research facility. But a bequest made by Dr. Lewis A. Eldridge in 1978 made possible the rebuilding of the Lincoln Pond barn. In 1981 it was dedicated as the Lewis A. Eldridge Laboratory, and its completion is expected in 1985.

As for Lincoln Pond Cottage, it remains a lovely four bedroom house with a spacious living room, dining room, and kitchen. The Preserve plans to winterize the cottage as well as to make additional improvements.

Donations to the Lincoln Pond Cottage Fund are welcome as are contributions of furniture and other fixtures.

Laura Stephenson Carter

## FREE NATURE STUDY CLASSES FOR CHILDREN

Kate Storms, Donna Kropp, and Susan Holmes are organizing nature study classes this summer for children 4 to 12 years of age. Assisting in the program will be Linda Meyers who has a M.S. in Wildlife from South Dakota State University. Ms. Meyers has just spent 8 months as a research assistant at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. In addition to her other responsibilities, she led tours on Barro Colorado Island and gave presentations on tropical forest ecology. She has worked with over one thousand school children in grades Kindergarten through Twelve.

The 4 to 6 year old group will meet Thursday mornings, 10 to 12, July 12 through August 16 at the Mill House. The teachers will be Donna Kropp and Linda Meyers.

The 7 to 12 year old group will meet Monday mornings, 9 to 12, July 9 through August 13, at the Mill House. The teachers for this group will be Susan Holmes and Linda Meyers.

### Wanted: Unique Photos of Preserve

Preserve needs interesting photographs for its historical files. Also, if you have any stories or bits of history about the Preserve and its buildings, send them along, too. Material cannot be returned, so don't send any negatives, slides, or pictures you can't part with. Send to:

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve  
P.O. Box 188  
Rensselaerville, N.Y. 12147

## 1984 Recipients Huyck Preserve Grants:

- Susan W. Beatty, Ph.D. Cornell University 1981; Owen D. Sholes, Ph.D. Cornell University 1980. "Effects of Litter Accumulation and Herbivory on Understory Plant Distributions within a Forest Community."
- Frederick W. Harrison, Ph.D. University of South Carolina 1969. "Cytological Examination of Oocyte-Nurse Cell Interactions in Sexually Reproducing Freshwater Sponges."
- David C. Houle, Ph.D. SUNY Stony Brook, 1986. Emmanuel B. Hey, Ph.D. SUNY Stony Brook, 1986, "Dispersal and Habitat Choice in Species of the *Drosophila affinis* subgroup."
- Clifford A. Siegfried, Ph.D. University of California, Davis, 1974. "Factors Limiting Phytoplankton Production in Myosotis Lake, Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve."
- Andrea Worthington, Ph.D. University of Washington, 1983. "Opportunistic Frugivory in Thrushes (Turdidae): the interaction of food quality and foraging efficiency."

## Ongoing Research With Outside Funding:

- Daniels, Robert, Ph.D. University of California, Davis 1980. "A Study of the Distribution and Ecology of Crayfish in the E.N. Huyck Preserve."
- Herbers, Joan, Ph.D. Northwestern University 1978. "Queen Numbers in North American Ants."
- Tobiessen, Peter, Ph.D. Duke University 1970. "Inhibition of Mycorrhizae of Hardwood Seedlings Growing in Pine Plantations." NSF Funded.
- Wilcox, R. Stimson, Ph.D. University of Michigan, 1969. "Alternative Territory Strategies in a Water Strider." NSF Funded.

## The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve

invites you to the

## Second Annual Huyck Summer Science Symposium

Saturday, July 28, 1984 — 3 p.m.

Guggenheim Auditorium at the Rensselaerville Institute

Please join us to learn about the studies being conducted on the Preserve, to meet our visiting scientists during the wine and cheese break, and to air and share your views during the question and answer period at the close.

## REGISTRATION FORM

### 1984 Nature Study Classes for Children

4-6 years - Thursday mornings 10-12, July 12-Aug. 16,  
**MILL HOUSE**

7-12 years — Monday mornings 9-12, July 9-Aug. 13,  
**MILL HOUSE**

Class size is limited and available on a first come basis. Assistants are welcome and needed. Will you help? Please volunteer on form below.

**PLEASE RETURN BY JULY 8, 1984**, to The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Box 188, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ YES, I WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER

### HUYCK PRESERVE MAPLE SYRUP, MADE FROM OUR OWN MAPLE TREES!

	Preserve Office Pick-up	UPS Shipped
pint	\$ 5	\$ 8.50
quart	\$ 7	\$11.00
½ gallon	\$12	\$17.00
gallon	\$22	\$28.00

**Makes a perfect gift any time of the year!**  
— Will Enclose a Gift Card —

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Huyck Preserve, P.O. Box 188, Rensselaerville, NY 12147.



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P.O. Box 188

Rensselaerville, New York 12147

## 1984 Membership Dues

Junior (17 yrs. or younger) .....	\$5.00	\$ _____
Active .....	\$10.00	\$ _____
Supporting .....	\$25.00	\$ _____
Contributing .....	\$50.00	\$ _____
Sustaining .....	\$100.00	\$ _____
Patron .....	\$1000.00	\$ _____

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please 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.

**Thank you.**

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