



The Rensselaerville Falls

THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. Box 188

RENSSELAERVILLE, NEW YORK 12147

NEWSLETTER

(518) 797-3440

Winter 1984

The President's Viewpoint

Dr. George R. Cooley has made possible the acquisition of the 103 acre Bennett property along Ten Mile Creek behind the Jenkins Homestead.

This is the largest single property gift to The Preserve since it was founded 53 years ago. It is the first property acquisition below the hamlet and is considered of important scientific and preservation potential as it provides a potential for the study and comparison of fish and wildlife above and below the dam. It also contains a considerable area of wet lands, something not a part of other Preserve property.

Dr. Cooley is an ardent, knowledgeable conservationist with a long record of deep interest in the protection of property and wildlife. He is on the Board of the Mohonk Preserve in New York State, the Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina, and in Florida he recently put together a 4,000 acre preserve which he then donated to the State of Florida.

At the 52nd Annual Meeting of The Preserve in August 1983, Dr. Cooley was named Honorary Director, the first person to have been so designated. He has been a member and supporter of Preserve interests from its incorporation serving on the Board and the Executive Committee.

It should be noted that The Preserve does not, cannot, acquire just any property. its certificate of incorporation is very specific concerning The Preserve's purpose "to preserve the natural beauty of the Rensselaerville Falls, Lake Myosotis, Lincoln Pond and the lands around them in the Town Of Rensselaerville; to increase the general knowledge and love of nature, particularly that of trees and wildlife, by maintaining a demonstration of reforestation and forest culture, and by providing means for increasing and protecting the birds, wild animals and fish within the boundaries of said lands."

The Preserve does not acquire buildings by design, and by policy divests itself of any buildings not pertinent to administrative or program purpose. At present The Preserve owns 8 buildings, 4 of which have never been winterized and are used only seasonally, and 2 others which are scheduled to be sold.

The Conservation Committee Chairman's Viewpoint

Dr. George Cooley, Chairman of The Preserve's Conservation Committee, recently sent from Florida this reminiscence of his family's first coming to Rensselaerville. Because it relates to The Preserve—past, present and future—and conveys something of Dr. Cooley, the man in nature, it is worth sharing. It bespeaks an affection for this corner which we share.

"It was the summer of 1937, that the Cooleys decided they needed a place in the country for the health and pleasure of the parents and plenty of open air and outdoor activities for their four adolescent daughters. All the neighboring counties were searched until Clarence Stevens asked, "Why don't you try Rensselaerville?"

"We did! We rented the annex to the Catalpa House (always called the boarding house by the natives) and determined to stay there until we found a place of our own."

"Frank Huyck drove us all over the region to show us houses which were available. We purchased the Watson Farm at the end of what is now called Cooley Road."

"It was a great success! We rebuilt the lovely old house, made an excellent tennis court and best of all became acquainted with the neighborhood. The girls swam in Lake Myosotis, canoed there and walked the trails of the recently established Edmund Nyles Huyck Preserve."

"In all his travels, Mr. Huyck felt he had seen nothing so beautiful and commanding as the Rensselaerville Falls, the Ten Mile Creek, Lincoln Pond and Myosotis Lake. It was from this awareness that his family in 1931 had put six hundred acres into The Preserve. At the time, we understood that The Preserve and its programs were for the benefit of the Rensselaerville community and the community participated in meaningful ways."

"Each summer, Win Stevens would arrange a trail blazing day when we young men would walk the trails, remove litter, extraneous brush and tree branches, drink some beer and look forward to the next summer. A program of natural science studies was begun on the

WELCOME TO NEW SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Board is very honored, indeed, to have the following distinguished experts to serve and guide the Preserve in its scientific research and educational pursuits:

- Dr. Edward Horn, (Chairman, S.A.C.), Chief, Bureau of Protection, Department of Environmental Conservation
- Dr. Robert Bubeck, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey
- Dr. Claire Buchanan, Department Biology, American University
- Dr. William E. Keller, Educator
- Dr. Michael C. Mackey, McIntyre Medical School, McGill University
- Dr. Robert C. MacWatters, Fish & Wildlife, SUNY Cobleskill
- Dr. Richard Monheimer, Director, N.Y.S. Museum & Science Service
- Dr. Peter Tobiessen, Dept. Biology, Union College

Dr. Michael Mackey will be Resident Scientist at the Preserve from July through August, 1984. Dr. Mackey's specific goals for the Summer of 1984 are to:

1. spearhead the efforts of the S.A.C. to develop a long range plan for the Huyck Preserve's scientific program.
2. develop a strategy to provide scientific coordination for the research program.
3. develop a plan of study to conduct the 5th biological survey of the Huyck Preserve which has been conducted every ten years since 1939.
4. evaluate potential expanded funding of scientific research at the Preserve.
5. develop a brochure for prospective scientists.

The Science Advisory Committee has also earmarked completion of the renovations and equipping the Eldridge Laboratory as its priority goal of 1984.

Eldridge Laboratory Completion

Completion of the Eldridge Laboratory, in particular the Lewis A. Eldridge III Conference Room, has been made possible through the continued generosity of the Eldridge Family. Dr. Lewis A. Eldridge Jr. bequeathed a generous sum to transform the old barn into a research facility for summer scientists, recipients of Huyck Foundation grants. Following the death of Lewis A. Eldridge III in 1983, Mrs. Ruth Eldridge, family members, & friends established a memorial fund to complete the work, particularly to create a library/seminar room on the second floor. The Preserve is indebted to the Eldridge Family for their foresight and generosity in making the Eldridge Laboratory & Conference Center a reality.

President's Viewpoint (con't)

The Preserve's particular interests are in woodlands and the watershed, their protection and preservation, as well as the wildlife living therein. The State of New York retains ultimate ownership of all its water resources through the Dept. of Environmental Conservation with which the Preserve, of necessity, maintains an on-going relationship.

The entire Rensselaerville community suffered an irreparable loss with the death of that remarkable husband and wife team, Henrietta and Bill Rice. "Hank and Ricey" touched everyone, one way or another, and in a very human way. If you needed assistance, you received it; if you needed counsel, it was there; if you needed cheering up, no two persons were more ready to assist you there, too. They had a touch and were a presence any community could use a great deal more of

Conservation Committee (con't)

species of the local area. I remember the profound study of our violets, of Francis Harper's contribution to our knowledge of animals, plants and fish, of Huntington Williams' collection of fossils."

"In time, The Preserve doubled its acreage, all draining into the Ten Mile Creek and soon we hope to have all that land above the village."

"The new policy of acquiring land along Ten Mile Creek below the village is a wise one. The bluffs there are varied in width, height, slope and vegetation. Not a structure borders the creek for two or three miles. With these additional acres our Ten Mile Creek will be a complete ecosystem."

and Rensselaerville knew and appreciated that touch for many years. We were blessed.

The Rice family has had a long association with The Preserve. William F. Rice, Sr. was The Preserve's second president, following Mrs. E.N. Huyck. Ricey served several times on the Board of Directors and was helpful to me personally when I went to him for counsel at the time I was first elected to the Board of Directors in 1980. The most recent member of the family to have served The Preserve was Jeannette P. Rice, young Bill's wife who was a member of the Board from 1980-83.

In the spring of 1982, Jeannette Rice initiated a project to plant new trees along Main Street to replace the lovely old ones we have been losing annually.

Seventeen new maple trees were planted that spring with Ricey's supervision and active participation. They remain a fitting, living memorial.

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.

2nd Annual Summer Symposium on Scientific Research JULY 28, 1984

Details To Be Announced

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

	Preserve Office	
	Pick-up	UPS Shipped
pint	\$ 5	\$ 8.50
quart	\$ 7	\$10.50
½ gallon	\$12	\$16.00
gallon	\$22	\$27.00

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

Ship To:

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

THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.
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Membership Dues: August 1983 - August 1984

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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