



SUMMER, 1986

NEWSLETTER

THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.
P.O. BOX 188, RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147
(518) 797-3440

THE ROLES OF A NATURE PRESERVE

It is 8:35 PM, and the sun is setting over Lincoln Pond Cottage's back porch, where I am sitting. A fish splashes, a woodpecker drums, and a male beaver swims across the pond to begin his evening's work.

Anyone who has spent time in the woods can appreciate the beauty and tranquility of places like the Huyck Preserve. But nature preserves, in addition to being beautiful, also protect land, plants and animals, are used in research and education, and serve the community. Perhaps to fully appreciate their significance, we need to know what is happening to the natural areas of the Earth.

PRESERVATION

The current World population size is 5 billion and growing at the rate of 9 million people a year. To obtain the basic necessities (i.e. clean water, wood, clean air, food, and

a supply of energy), people rely on both "renewable" and "nonrenewable" resources. But as "nonrenewable" resources are being rapidly depleted, civilization, in search of more, is invading the Earth's natural areas at an alarming rate. The destruction of these areas and the subsequent loss of plants and animals is becoming an increasingly serious problem. Ninety-five percent of the natural areas in Africa are gone and with it, ninety-five percent of the wildlife. Most of the Himalayan forests have been cleared and the Amazon rainforest has been reduced to half its original size.

The encroachment of civilization on natural areas also threatens the Earth's ability to support human life. In Africa, the pressure of too many people and their livestock is forcing the Sahara Desert, already the largest desert on Earth, to expand at the rate of 1 to

3 miles per year. As millions of acres of arable land are lost, the threat of mass starvation looms larger for the people who live in these arid areas.

While the pressures in the United States are not as severe, yet, there is a need to balance the growing conflicts between development and conservation. In New York State, the rapid development of the entire Catskill region as well as other areas is not only a threat to plants and wildlife, but may affect the quality of human life as well. For instance, when trees are removed from forests, erosion increases and soil washes into reservoirs. As these reservoirs fill in, there is less water available during periods of drought.

The Huyck Preserve protects the Ten Mile Creek watershed which includes Lincoln
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RICK WYMAN BECOMES PRESERVE'S MANAGER

Panhandle State University (Goodwell, Oklahoma) in 1969, and his Ph.D. in Zoology in 1973 from Illinois State University. As part of his dissertation research, he studied the fishes of the lagoons of Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). His work there was supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

In 1974, he took a position with Lawler, Matusky, and Skelly Engineers, an engineering and environmental consulting firm. As project manager and principal investigator, he studied the effects of industry on aquatic and terrestrial habitats along the Hudson River, Lakes Ontario and Erie, and the near-shore Pacific Ocean.

In 1980, he joined the faculty of Hartwick College (Oneonta, New York) where he taught ecology, animal behavior, vertebrate biology, general zoology, as well as a field course on San Salvador Island in the

Bahamas. He also helped manage the college's 800 acre Pine Lake Environmental Center. He now has over 20 scientific publications and chapters in several books.

Dr. Wyman's research continues to be on the evolution of fish behavior and on forest biology. He is particularly interested in the effects of acid rain and soil acidity on the distribution of the red-backed salamander (the most abundant terrestrial vertebrate in the northeast United States).

He and his wife Marilyn own a 120 acre farm in Franklin, Delaware County, New York. He has three children, Laurie (20), Ricky (18), and Jerrine (4). In 1984, Dr. Wyman and several colleagues formed the Catskill Educational Retreat, a series of weekend educational programs. These programs included ecology, animal behavior, evolution, and international issues related to the environment.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Richard Wyman as the new Resident Manager of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve.

Dr. Wyman was born in Morristown, New Jersey, and grew up in Middletown, New Jersey. He earned a B.S. in biology from

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The board of directors of the Huyck Preserve is delighted to welcome our new resident manager, Dr. Richard Wyman. Rick's background includes wide experience as an educator, researcher and manager, all of which will help him do an effective job.

I think it's even more important, though, that he is a person who loves nature, and loves sharing his knowledge of nature. For the Preserve and its members, and for the community of Rensselaerville, that is a good thing. It will lead to more educational programs for people of all ages, as well as renewed strength in our ongoing activities of conservation and research.

Rick Wyman's appointment also signals our desire to have the Preserve work more closely with groups and individuals in the local area. We'd like to see every family in this region be members of the Preserve, not just as a way of building support but to widen the circle of people who understand and are part of the Preserve's efforts in protecting the natural beauty and purity of the Ten Mile Creek watershed.

Our deep thanks go to Deborah Gordon, whose effective work as business manager helped to bring the Preserve greater financial health. And a warm welcome to Rick Wyman and his wife Marilyn and four year old daughter Jerrine, who are now residing in the Ordway House on Pond Hill Road. Having managed their own large farm in Delaware County, they're well prepared for our long Rensselaerville winters and the realities of rural life. I hope you'll meet them soon and join us in making them feel at home!

Martin Sullivan

LANDSCAPING PROJECT

The area around the Eldridge Research Center at Lincoln Pond is getting a face lift. Shrubs that will attract birds and are appropriate to the environment are being planted. Several large fieldstones or boulders will set off the plantings and an area for a small bench is planned.

This landscaping project was made possible through the generosity of Dr. Roswell Eldridge. However, "we still need \$500 to \$1,000 to complete the project," he says.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the project may make a donation to the Preserve and indicate that it is to go toward Eldridge Center Landscaping.

PRESERVE'S INSURANCE SKYROCKETS

The Preserve has been hit with the problem that has been rampant throughout the country this year. Insurance premiums which last year were less than \$8,000 have shot up to \$19,000. The Board of Directors is looking into ways to cut the insurance costs without curtailing any of the Preserve's programs.

Some establishments, faced with huge insurance bills, have cut back on services or, in some cases, failed to open. The Preserve, however, decided to operate the Lake Program again this year, even though much of the insurance increase is associated with that program.

ROLES OF NATURE (Continued from Page One)

Pond, Lake Myosotis, and the Rensselaerville Falls. The watershed collects, cleanses, and holds water which ultimately becomes the water supply for the village of Rensselaerville. The Preserve also protects the surrounding forest and its community of organisms that form soil and prevent erosion. The forest supports a variety of plants and wildlife that we all enjoy. Plants, by the way, produce the oxygen we need to live by using the carbon dioxide we expell when we breathe.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Our survival depends upon human appreciation of the significance of natural areas. Through research, scientists hope to better understand world ecosystems, and through education, that knowledge can be shared with the rest of us.

Research on a preserve can help us to understand processes of larger ecosystems. The Huyck Preserve is part of the larger ecosystem that includes the Helderberg Highlands, the Catskill Mountains, Ten Mile Creek, Catskill Creek, and the Hudson River. Its forests are referred to as the Northeast deciduous-hemlock forest that separates the more northerly conifer forests from the more southerly deciduous forests.

One of the wonderful aspects of the Huyck Preserve is its commitment to research. The work of about 240 undergraduates, postgraduates, and professionals in such varied disciplines as ecology, geology, physiology, evolution, and sociology, has become a significant part of hundreds of scientific reports and papers.

Educational programs at the Huyck Preserve include the *Nature Study* classes for youngsters, the summer weekend *Huyck Hikes*, and the annual *Science Symposium*. And I hope to increase the number and kinds of programs in the future.

THE COMMUNITY

Perhaps one of the least appreciated aspects of any preserve is that it invariably exists in the midst of people, the preserve's community. The Huyck Preserve serves its local community by providing a recreational resource, a focal point for community gatherings, nature education programs, a watershed and drinking water, and a beautiful natural area. I hope to develop ways for the Huyck Preserve to serve the community and its members better.

In summary, preserves protect and preserve natural areas, provide opportunities for research and education, as well as serve their local communities. I plan to write a series of articles covering each of these areas more thoroughly.

A bullfrog moans, a cricket begins chirping, and I realize it has grown dark. As I make my way into the cottage, I think about how much I am looking forward to meeting all of you and to pursuing our mutual interests in the Huyck Preserve.

Richard L. Wyman, Ph.D.
Resident Manager

1986 RESEARCH PROJECTS

While many of us are strolling through the woods, admiring the Rensselaerville Falls, and swimming in Lake Myosotis this summer, scientists have been hard at work trying to uncover some of nature's mysteries. Five research projects being conducted this year are being supported by E. N. Huyck Preserve grants, while other projects are being funded by outside sources.

Corlin Bauhofer, a science teacher at the Shalmon Middle School, and a candidate for an M.S. degree in biology at Union College in Schenectady, is continuing her work, begun last summer, of collecting and identifying mushrooms and other fungi

(Continued on next page)

1986 RESEARCH (Continued from previous page)

found on the Preserve. Dried specimens will be housed at the New York State Museum in a special collection titled "Fungi of the E. N. Huyck Preserve."

Dr. Susan Beatty, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, is studying the causes for plant species patterns that exist in the forest understory community. She has been doing research at the Preserve since 1977 when she was a graduate student at Cornell University.

James Marden, a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Vermont, is studying the flight dynamics of libellulid dragonflies. He is trying to determine why flight muscle makes up sixty percent of the body mass of the male libellulid dragonfly, when an animal needs as little as fifteen percent to be able to fly.

Dr. James Runkle, an Associate Profesor at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, is studying the turnover in the old hemlock woods where the beech trees have been affected by beech bark disease. Dr. Runkle did research on the Preserve in 1977 and 1978 when he was a graduate student at Cornell.

Research being conducted on the Preserve with outside funding includes that of Dr. Robert Daniels, who is studying crayfish, Dr. David Steadman who is conducting a survey of the birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals of the Preserve, and Dr. Stimson R. Wilcox who is studying water striders.

Dr. Jerome Rozen, of the American Museum of Natural History and a member of the Preserve's Board of Directors, has been studying parasitic bees. Dr. Richard Wyman, the Preserve's new Resident manager, is studying salamanders and forest ecology. Other scientists who are continuing research projects at the Preserve include Dr. Andrea Worthington (birds), Dr. Fred Harrison (sponges), and Dr. John Haines (fungi).

T-Shirt and Sweat Shirt Order Form

Please indicate number wanted in appropriate space(s)

	T - SHIRTS			SWEATSHIRTS	
Child	Yellow	Teal Blue	Green	Powd. Blue	Burgundy
XS (2-4)	_____	_____	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
S (6-8)	_____	_____	n.a.	_____	n.a.
M (10-12)	_____	_____	n.a.	_____	n.a.
L (14-16)	_____	_____	n.a.	_____	n.a.
Adult					
S (34-36)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
M (38-40)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
L (42-46)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
XL (48)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Prices	Preserve Office Pick-Up	UPS Shipped
T-Shirt		
Child	\$ 8.50	\$ 9.50
Adult	9.50	10.50
Sweat-Shirt		
Child	12.00	13.50
Adult	13.00	14.50

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City, State, Zip Code _____

Please enclose check for _____

Mail To:

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

LAKE MYOSOTIS DAM

The Lake Myosotis Dam is scheduled for renovation and repair. The earthen dam, although stable, needs to be improved in order to satisfy New York State and Federal regulatory requirements.

The Board of Directors hired the engineering firm, Clough, Harbour and Associates, to evaluate the dam and spillway and to develop alternative designs for rehabilitation. Clough Harbour has recommended raising the crest of the dam as the most cost effective solution for complying with the Federal and State standards. The firm also recommends resurfacing the spillway channel once the crest of the dam has been raised.

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the State agency responsible for the enforcement of the dam safety regulations, is satisfied that the Huyck Preserve is taking responsible measures to deal with this problem. In addition, the Preserve has developed an Emergency Action Plan which is being coordinated with village residents and the fire department.

The Preserve is investigating possible sources of funding for the project which will cost an estimated \$185,000. Although the DEC's policy is to work with dam owners to help them resolve problems satisfactorily, and the Preserve has been working closely with the Dam Safety Section of DEC's Division of Water, the Department is unable to assist in the financing of dam reconstruction.

Compliance with the regulations could be achieved less expensively by lowering the level of Lake Myosotis, but too much of a reduction could leave village residents thirsty in a dry spell. Lake Myosotis is the public water supply for the village of Rensselaerville.

MAPLE SYRUP

HUYCK PRESERVE MAPLE SYRUP,

Preserve Office

	Pick-up	UPS Shipped
pint	\$ 6.00	\$10.00
quart	\$ 8.50	\$13.00
½ gallon	\$15.00	\$20.00
gallon	\$27.50	\$33.50

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THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.

P.O. Box 188

Rensselaerville, New York 12147

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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