



# FORGET-ME-NOT

## Myosotis Messenger

Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve  
& Biological Research Station  
P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147  
(518) 797-3440



### THOMAS ALWORTH

We are pleased to welcome **Tom Alworth** as the newest member of the Huyck Preserve staff. He has been hired to assist in research, maintenance, and education.

Tom's background is impressive and varied. He is from Nyack, New York and most recently was the secondary level instructor teaching and developing programs for high school students and adults at the New York Zoological Society at the Bronx Zoo. While there, he trained science teachers in the zoo's Z.E.S.T. program (i.e. Zoos for Effective Science Teaching) and also was a trainer for the W.I.Z.E. program (Wildlife Inquiry through Zoo Education), a program endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and funded by the National Science Foundation.

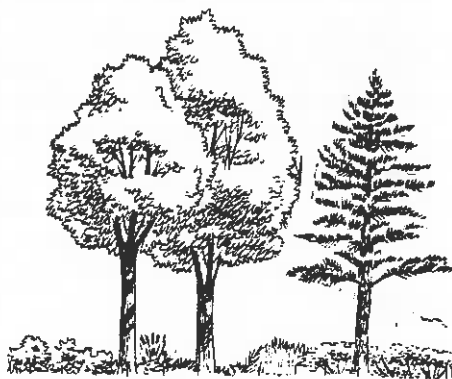
As if that isn't enough, Tom has taught animal behavior seminars at the Bronx High School of Science and several science courses in biology, research methodology, and ecology at the college level.

Tom is a graduate of S.U.N.Y. Potsdam and earned his masters of science degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

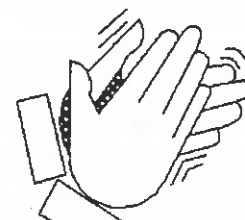
### FALL TREE PLANTING

The 1991 Fall Tree Spree is planned for **Saturday October 26th** thanks to the organizational talents of **Lillian Keller** and **Hedda Elk**. If you would like to receive a tree courtesy of the RHDA, the Preserve, and a bevy of splendid souls, call Hedda at 797-3499 or Cheryl at the Preserve, 797-3440. Let them know what type of tree you would like and prepare a hole wherever you would like it planted.

This service is available to everyone in the hamlet.



If you would like to be a **bevy member** contact Hedda or Cheryl. **Bring a shovel** to the Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road at **10:00 am**, dig up the trees, then we'll transplant our way through the village. There will be a continental **bevy breakfast** afterward at the Elkins' house, 2128 Main Street.



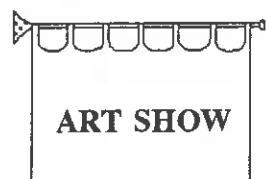
### THANKS TO...

**Damion O., Anthony B.,  
Ken W., Johnny M., Rohan L.,  
Wayne P., Richard S.,  
William T., and Scott F.,**

the nine young men of the Cass Residential Center Summer '91 Forestry Crew who, under the guidance of **James Chapman**, have spent many hours at the Preserve this summer clearing the Cooley Trail, scraping and painting foot bridges, even rebuilding the fieldstone abutment under the upper falls bridge. This is not the first time residents of the Center have helped us out and we want you to know that we appreciate all your hard work. Thanks for a job well done.

### IN HONOR OF COLUMBUS DAY

Nancy Elliott will present Ecological History of Land Use in the Bahamas: a lesson for the Tropics at the Eldridge Research Station on Sunday October 13th at 1:00 pm. Not only will this be an interesting discussion but you'll be able to justify taking the day off on Monday.



## CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Huyck Preserve is inviting all who have an affinity for paint, clay, pencils, or celluloid to enter your work in the first ever (as far as we know) Huyck Preserve Art Show.

This is a juried event which is open to professionals and amateurs and will culminate with a reception and exhibition at 1:00 pm on April 4, 1992 at the Waterfall Gallery on Main Street in Rensselaerville. Judges for this event are Virginia Carter Steadman, artist, Victor Schrager, photographer, and Susan Gallo of the Waterfall Gallery.

Each participant may enter three pieces which must reflect an image from the Preserve. There are two divisions: Adults and Children (high school age and younger). Call Cheryl Elkins at 797-3440 or 797-5163 to receive a list of categories and specific details. The deadline for entries is March 15, 1992 at 3:00 pm.

## OpEd Points of View

While walking around Lake Myosotis last weekend it occurred to me that the Preserve means different things to different people. I thought I'd take a moment to mention a few. For many people the Preserve is a place where they can renew their spirits by just looking at the beauty and enjoying the peace. There are times when the Preserve is as beautiful as any place on earth. This year the lake water is especially low and a great deal of shoreline is visible, especially on the northern end of the lake. This exposed shoreline has been invaded by several species of adventitious pink, purple and yellow flowers. I suspect they are alien but nonetheless they are spectacular. I felt as if I were in Oz when I walked through a several acre patch of yellow composites.

We have a small but steady group of

people who enjoy angling the shores and open waters of the lake. The fish are not large but generally if I go around sundown, I can catch a dozen or so fresh white perch which makes for a nice pan fried dinner. Edmund Niles Huyck, too, was an avid fisherman.

Of course, the number one attraction for visitors is the Falls. About 3000 people from all over the globe visit the falls each year. With so many hikers, the Falls are showing signs of overuse so we must all take care to protect this very special natural phenomenon. While this may be nature's playground, the area around the falls can be dangerous. Last year a deer fell into the ravine near the falls, broke its leg, and had to be destroyed. To prevent any such human tragedy, signs have been put up to remind hikers to stick to the trails.

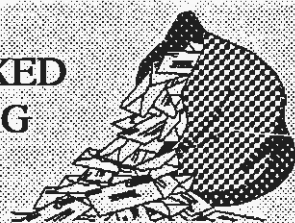
Our beach area is also heavily used by our neighbors. This year we gave swimming lessons to 60 children. On the last day of the swim season, I was talking to Phil Hilferty who has taught swimming here for six years. He was touched by the six children diving off the floating platform and swimming about freely. A few short years ago, these same children could not swim. One of those children was my daughter Jerrine. The good fortune of having this lake makes it our responsibility and our privilege to teach the children who live nearby to swim.

This year 30 plus scientists worked on the Preserve. You may have noticed some markers of experiments along the trails and a few new signs requesting that hikers stay on the trails. This is important because too many human feet can cause damage. For example, in the hemlock forest we have found that there are about 1 million springtails and mites, and about 5 million nematodes (roundworms) in the top 10 centimeters (4 inches) of each square meter of forest floor. These creatures may not seem appealing

but their role in the decay of forest litter significantly influences the way the forest works and survives. When we walk off the trails we literally squash tens of thousands of the organisms which are being studied by researchers.

The Preserve means water to residents of the hamlet. Their drinking water has come from the lake since the late 1800's. Each summer the lake experiences an algal bloom. During this period, algae grow rapidly. When the algae die, their pigments are released into the water which discolors the lake and residents tap water. For many years the Preserve treated the water with copper sulfate which killed the algae and caused it to settle on the bottom of the lake all at once instead of gradually as would be the natural condition. Because of the mass of dead material, bacterial action was inadequate to break down the organic material and recycle the nutrients held in the material. So over the years a thick layer of nutrient rich ooze accumulated (continued on page 3, column 1)

## MIXED BAG



This month's item is a reprint from William Kittredge in Utne Reader.

## Oldest Tree

The park ranger told a story about the bristlecone pine. Seems a researcher was trying to count the tree rings and establish a maximum age for the bristlecone. And he was having trouble with his core drill. So he took a chainsaw to what he thought to be the oldest tree on the mountain. And it worked. Trust the scientist; he killed the oldest thing living on earth in order to count its years.

**MIXED BAG** is intended as a reader supported feature. This is your forum. Send an editorial, offbeat items, humor, recipes, anything you wish. How are we doing? Don't forget to write.

P.O.V. continued from pg.2

on the bottom, nutrients on which algae thrive. Since nutrients of the past are causing the algae blooms of the present, adding such chemicals as copper sulfate would not solve the problem. Rather, copper sulfate would only make the situation worse, not to mention that the water would not be fit to drink. A properly maintained water treatment system could alleviate the problem.

As the Preserve has received increased attention in the press, more and more people have been coming to see it. As the numbers of people increases so does their impact on the Preserve. In order to minimize the impact of humans on the forest, streams, falls, and research sites we ask that everyone take note of signs which have been placed along the trails. Cooperation will sustain the Preserve so that we can each appreciate it from an individual point of view.

Richard L. Wyman

## SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

About forty youngsters participated in the weekly Nature Study. Eight preschoolers enjoyed a program of their own. The last two weeks brought two special people to the Preserve. First was Mike Matthews from the Department of Environmental Conservation who brought along a trunk full of skulls, bones, pelts, and other items. From these, children learned to identify animals.

James Chapman, once again, ended this year's nature study with his ever popular snakes. The kids really got a kick from petting the boa constrictor.

The 1991 Science Symposium which took place July 27 was attended by about fifty people. The range of topics included research on decomposition, soil chemistry, amphibians, global climate, and the ruffed grouse.

The Huyck Preserve is featured in the September/October 1991 issue of **Country Journal** in the article Hard Times for Frogs by Paula Ford. Check it out!

## HISTORICAL BRIDGE HIKE

The Rensselaerville Historic District Association in conjunction with the Huyck Preserve has planned a hike which will explore existing bridges as well as former bridge sites in the village of Rensselaerville. Meet at Eldridge Research Station (lab) on Pond Hill Road at **3:00 pm, Sunday October 20.** Refreshments and conversation at the lab following the hike.

## NEW CROP OF SWEATS

The new crop of sweatshirts is in and we have harvested some great colors: red, white, ash (lt. grey), teal, royal blue, green, burgundy. Whether you're small, medium, large, x-large, or xx-large, we've got you covered. Order yours today for just \$14.40 (members) or \$16.00 (non-members), plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. Or stop in and pick one up. Makes a great gift.

## STUDENT INTERNS

For the second year, students from Greenville High School will be learning about and conducting field research on the Preserve. Tom Alworth, from the Preserve and Mrs. Sandy Orris, Greenville science teacher, have been busy preparing eight motivated kids who will study various aspects of flora and fauna and receive high school credit for their efforts. It's great to have them back.

## WISH LIST

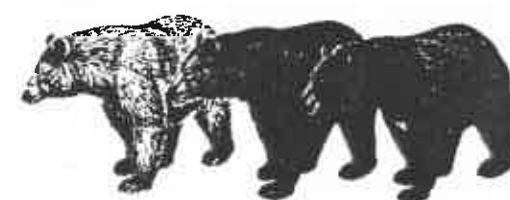
If any of the following items have outlived their usefulness, we can put them to use.

- \*Publishing software
- \*Refrigerators for researchers quarters
- \*Working typewriter
- \*Binoculars

The Huyck Preserve is a not for profit, privately funded preserve dedicated to research, protecting the environment, education, and recreation.

Your support is vital to our work. Contributions apart from membership are sincerely appreciated. The Preserve is eligible for corporate matching grants for your donations.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Junior/Student \$10; Individual \$30 (seniors \$20); Family \$40 (seniors \$30); Contributing \$100; Sustaining \$250; Patron \$500; Benefactor \$1000. Members receive the newsletters, free or reduced admission to all Preserve events, publication discounts, voting privileges, invitations to member only events.



## 1991 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Level:

**Junior/Student \$10**  
**Individual \$30/Seniors \$20**  
**Family \$40/Seniors \$30**  
**Contributing \$100**  
**Sustaining \$250**  
**Patron \$500**  
**Benefactor \$1000**

Please make your tax deductible contribution payable to the **E.N. Huyck Preserve, Inc.** and mail to **P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147.** Our Annual Report is on file and available through the N.Y.S. Dept. of State, Charities Registration Section or the Preserve Office.

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