



SUMMER 1991

## FORGET-ME-NOT

### Myosotis Messenger

Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve  
& Biological Research Station  
P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147

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#### NATURE STUDY

Children's Nature Study at the Huyck Preserve will begin on Tuesday July 2 at the Jessie Huyck Nature Center on Lake Myosotis. The six week program for children entering the first, second or third grade will meet on Tuesdays from 10 am until noon. The children entering fourth, fifth, or sixth grade will meet on Wednesdays from 10 am until noon. Both groups will meet together the last two days, August 6 & 7. Mike Matthews will be here on that Tuesday to acquaint us with skulls, bones, hides and other things we might find in our own backyard. Then on August 7, Jim Chapman will be here. All of the kids who attended last year remember Jim and his snakes. His Boa has recently had babies!

Nature Study for pre-schoolers will meet two Saturdays, July 13th and 20th from 10 am until 11 am. A parent should plan on spending this hour with his or her child. The young children are welcome to come and see Mike Matthews and Jim Chapman.

Group size is limited to 15 in the school age groups, and 8 parent/child teams in the pre-school group. Members: Free  
Non-members: \$10.00 first child, \$5.00 for each additional sibling; Pre-schoolers \$5.00/team. Call the Preserve (797-3440) to register.

#### SWIM LESSONS AT THE PRESERVE

We are pleased to invite member children to register for free swim lessons at Lake Myosotis this summer. The lessons will take place Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1 pm until 3 pm for six weeks. Call the Preserve to register.

#### ART SHOW IN THE WORKS

The Huyck Preserve is planning an art show to display pieces inspired by our beautiful grounds. Drawings, paintings, photographs, poetry, any creative expression. We have not yet set a date however, it will be held in the fall. Watch for more news in the next Forget-Me-Not and get ready.

#### 1991 ANNUAL SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

All members are invited to attend the Science Symposium on July 27 at 10 am. Many of the researchers will discuss their research and answer your questions. Enjoy a buffet lunch and fine conversation afterward. Meet at the Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road.

#### TEE TIME

It's time for a new tee. Just look at yourself. You have stains left over from changing your oil last fall. Your friends point and snicker as you go by. The fire hall is ready to throw you a fundraiser. Let's face it, it's time. And we can help! You, too can be a fashion victim for a mere twelve bucks, ten bucks for kids. Our colors include yellow, sea mist, sea aqua, teal, red, ash, royal blue, dark green, and peach (not all sizes in all colors). We have a size to fit nearly everyone: Kids 2-4, 6-8, 10-12; Adults small, medium, large, x-large, x-x-large. See how easy we've made it? No more excuses, it's time for a new shirt.

**A HEARTFELT THANKS** to **Dr. David Steadman** for making the **Birdwalk** the highlight of our spring. Maybe we could do it again in the fall?

## LYME DISEASE UPDATE

Lyme disease is an increasing concern in many areas. While there is no evidence of deer ticks infected with the Lyme disease bacterium in the Preserve, it is very important to exercise caution when going out in the woods. The nymph, an immature deer tick, causes most cases of Lyme disease. It is about the size of a poppy seed and dark in color. This stage is most abundant during June and July but can occur at other times. It is the bite of the nymph as it feeds on blood which transmits the disease.

Initial symptoms vary from mild to severe. Usually, a large red spot resembling a bullseye or red patch will develop at the site of the tick bite. This will likely be accompanied by flu-like symptoms. At this stage, the disease is most easily treated with antibiotics and will require a diagnostic blood test. If untreated, symptoms can become progressively worse leading to headaches, meningitis, facial paralysis, heart problems, chronic fatigue, and arthritis. Lyme disease is difficult to treat at later stages so early diagnosis is imperative.

### An Ounce of Prevention...

How do we avoid these pests? Here are some suggestions.

- \* Wear light-colored clothing
- \* Wear long pants and pull socks over the cuffs
- \* Use an insect repellent containing D.E.E.T.
- \* Make frequent body checks for ticks

### If You Suspect a Tick Bite...

Look for the tick and remove it with fine tipped tweezers. Send the tick to Albany County Department of Health for identification or call the Center for the Study and Treatment of Lyme Disease at (914) 285-1700.

Marilyn Walters-Wyman



## FIRST ANNUAL BEACH PARTY

*Huyck Preserve Members  
You are Cordially Invited to Attend*

Saturday August 17th  
Lake Myosotis Beach  
1 pm until 7 pm

Bring what you wish to grill  
& a dish to pass  
Beverages will be available  
Rain Date 8/24

## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE



### AND LIFE ON EARTH

This book recently published by Chapman and Hall is about the greenhouse effect and the consequences of global climate change for life on earth. The book is authored by seventeen scientists knowledgeable in climatology, meteorology, hydrology, biology, human health, energy policy, and international politics. The foreword was written by Paul Ehrlich. The book results from a conference organized by the Huyck Preserve and the New York State Museum that was held at the museum in April of 1989.

The first chapter by Richard Wetherald (Geophysical Fluids Dynamic Laboratory, Princeton Univ.) provides the reader with an introduction to general circulation models, the chief tool used by climatologists to examine possible future climates. Then you are lead through a treatment of what changing climatic conditions will do to hydrological cycles by John Hayes (SUNY - Albany), that is how will water availability in the greenhouse world be different than today. Chapter three, by Richard Houghton (Woods Hole Research Center) explains what greenhouse gases are and how the destruction of forests affects the concentrations of these gases in the atmosphere. Next, Edward Cook (Lamont Doherty Geological Observatory) addresses what tree rings can tell us about past climates and how they may indicate future conditions. In chapter five, James Clark (NYS Museum) shows us how different ecosystem processes (productivity and decomposition) may be affected by changing climatic conditions and how the frequency of forest fires will change as conditions become drier, especially in continental interiors.

The effect of changing climatic conditions on wildlife is covered in the next three chapters. First, Robert L. Peters (World Wildlife Fund) considers how global biodiversity will be reduced as climatic conditions change. Migratory wildlife, especially shorebirds and Serengeti ungulates, present examples of how vulnerable some species will be to changing climatic conditions which is fully addressed by Robert Lester and J. Peter Myers (National Audubon Society). My chapter discusses how changing climatic and environmental conditions are already affecting amphibian species, and how amphibian species may be the first to disappear as climates change. Extinction of species during the past, present, and future is then covered by David Steadman (NYS Museum). Stephen Leatherman (Univ. of Maryland) discusses how sea level will rise as the earth warms and what the consequences will be for the hundreds of millions of people who live near the sea. Daniel Dudek (Environmental Defense Fund) reviews how agricultural productivity will decrease

throughout much of North America as climate changes. Janice Longstreth (Clements Associates) and Laurence Kalkstein (Univ. of Delaware) both discuss the effects of changing climatic conditions on human health, disease and mortality. Jan Beyea (National Audubon Society) then addresses energy options

available to reduce greenhouse emissions and Dean Abrahamson (Univ. of Minnesota) discusses international politics and steps needed in policy. A group of four authors composed the final chapter after the conference in an attempt to summarize the book and offer suggestions about what we all need to do in the future. Part of this chapter was reprinted in the Fall 1990 Newsletter and the final portion will be printed in our next Newsletter.

This book is written for everyone. As Paul Ehrlich said, this book "will expand your appreciation of one perilous element in the human predicament".

## ✿ FORGET-ME-NOT ✿

We hope you are all enjoying our new newsletter. The name Forget-me-not refers to the tiny, blue perennial flowers which grow throughout the area, especially in damp shady areas. *Myosotis* is its scientific name and also the inspiration for our lovely lake. While prolific in North America, the Forget-me-not is native to Europe and Northern Asia. The Ancients explained its universal presence with the story of an immortal god who fell in love with a blue eyed earth maiden. He begged the powers of heaven to make her immortal. They agreed on the condition that she would perform the seemingly impossible task of setting out Forget-me-nots in every corner of the world. Each evening he slipped down to help her and other lovers, seeing their joy in the task, helped also. She must be immortal now for Forget-me-nots are found even on mountain tops. A second folktale comes from Carolyn Barker of Rensselaerville. It seems a beautiful young woman and her handsome beaux were courting on a mountain top. She spied the beautiful *Myosotis* growing up out of a rocky outcropping. The lovely maiden asked her beaux to get her a bouquet, which he did. He climbed the rocks and as he picked the bouquet, he lost his balance and fell. But, as he fell past the fair maiden, he tossed her the flowers and shouted, "Forget me not".

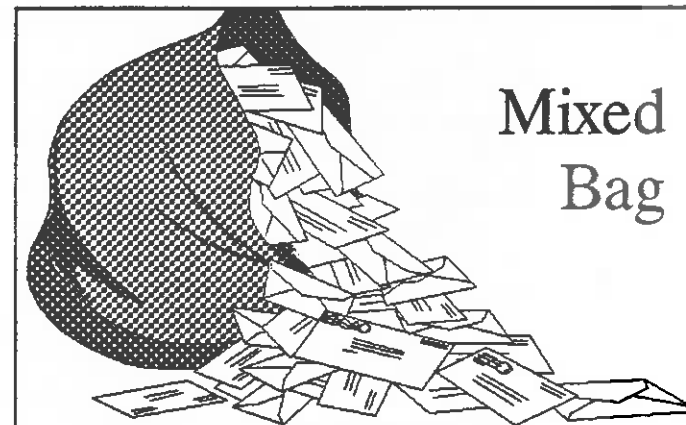
It is clear that these tiny, lovely flowers have inspired many people over the centuries. Little wonder.



**1991**  
**SUMMER AT THE HUYCK PRESERVE**

May 19 (8 am)	Dr. David Steadman	NYS Museum	Nesting & migrating birds
June 15 (11 am)	MEMBERS		60th Annual Membership Meeting
June 16	Dr. Robert Parmelee	Rutgers Univ.	Ecology & significance of worms
June 30	Dr. Malcolm Frisbie	E. Kentucky Univ.	Amphibian physiology & air pollution
July 14	Jessica Jacklet	Huyck Preserve	A day in the life of a research assistant
July 21	Gretchen Schawe	SUNY-Albany	Courtship behavior in ruffed grouse
July 27 (10 am)	Preserve's Scientists		Annual Science Symposium
July 28	Dr. Xingquo Han	Rutgers Univ.	Soil chemistry and acid rain
August 4	Paul Wilson		Pollination in the touch-me-not
August 11	David Goldblum	Univ. of Colorado	Tree fall gaps and understory flora
August 17	MEMBERS		BEACH PARTY! (rain date August 24)
August 18	Don Lafrancois	SUNY-Albany	Green frog behavior and ecology
August 25	Dr. William Elliott	Hartwick College	What decomposition means to you
September 1	Dr. Frank Ladd	Univ. of Canterbury	Whale stranding synchrony and statistics
September 15	Jinzhong Ma	Rutgers Univ.	Organic chemistry of forest soils

All events begin at 1:00 pm unless otherwise indicated. The Annual Membership Meeting and the Beach Party are planned for members and their guests only. Everyone is welcome to join us for all of the other activities. The Beach Party will be held at Lake Myosotis. All other events are held at the Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Rd., Rensselaerville, NY. For information, call the Preserve at 797-3440.



**LITTER DECOMPOSITION TIME**

Most hikers practice the philosophy "if you pack it in, pack it out". Others leave litter behind.

paper - 2-5 months  
orange peels - 6 months  
milk carton - 5 years  
cigarette filter - 10-12 years  
sixpack rings - 10-20 years  
plastic bag - 10-20 years  
leather shoes - 25-40 years  
nylon cloth - 30-40 years  
plastic container - 50-80 years  
beer/soda can - 80-100 years  
plastic foam - infinity?

Mail your ideas for **Mixed Bag** to the Preserve and we'll publish them. Editorials, offbeat items and humor, recipes, anything you wish will be considered and most likely published.

**IN MEMORY OF...**

Richard L. Donato, from Connie and Alan Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Gamache, and Joanne & Leo Burda.

**WISHLIST**

- + Working Electric Typewriter (prefer IBM Selectric)
- + 2 Refrigerators for Researcher's Living Quarters
- + Several Card Tables or Small Desks for Researchers

If you happen to have any of the above items collecting dust, we can put them to use. Call the Preserve if you can help us out.

**LOVING IT TO DEATH**

Many of you who walk the trails to the Rensselaerville Falls have noticed that there are now signs along the way informing you that climbing the Falls is verboten. Little in recent years has created such controversy. Please understand that it has never been permissible to climb the Falls. The signs have recently become a necessity due to the fact that many people lately have been hauling coolers of beer and picnic supplies up to the area and spending hours climbing the sheer rocks after drinking a few brews...Then many of these people leave their empties and other trash at the Falls for others to clean up. Therefore, we have been forced for liability as well as aesthetic reasons to strictly enforce our policies regarding picnics and swimming. So there will not be any confusion, swimming is allowed only within the roped off area in Lake Myosotis and only when a lifeguard is on duty. You are welcome to picnic in the picnic area along Lake Myosotis as well. Not only is clambering up and down the Falls dangerous but it creates a great strain on the Falls and the ecosystems it supports - an ecosystem which includes the citizens of the Hamlet of Rensselaerville and downstream.

**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.

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Circle Membership Level: Junior/Student \$10 Individual \$30 (Seniors \$20)

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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.



THE E. N. HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.  
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