

Summer 1992



FORGET-ME-NOT

Myosotis Messenger

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

SWIM LESSONS

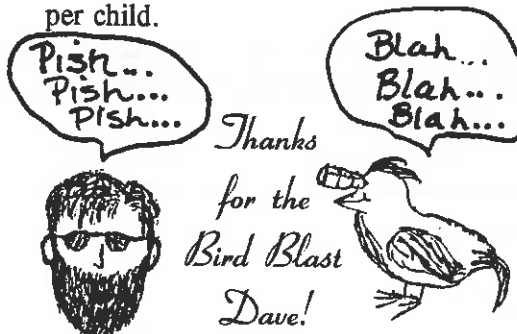
The Huyck Preserve welcomes **Nicole Foley** and **Caryn Cozzolino** to our summer staff. They will be working as lifeguards and teaching swimming. **Phil Hilferty** will be available to assist, as well. The lesson schedule has not yet been established but, as in years past, the Preserve is pleased to offer all children free lessons. Call the office after June 29 or stop by the beach to discuss dates with Caryn or Nicole. Please complete the enclosed registration form and mail it to the Preserve by June 15.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Beach Party scheduled for August 15, 1992 from 2:00 til 7:00 pm. Watch for details!

NATURE STUDY JULY 7 - AUGUST 11

Nature Study takes on a new face this year - that of **Dee Strnisa** (pronounced Sternisa). Dee comes to us from the Environmental Clearing House where she has been conducting student outings on the Hudson River to investigate various habitats. Children who will be entering kindergarten through second grade will meet at the Jesse Huyck Nature Center on Lake Myosotis on Tuesdays from 10:00 am until noon. Those who have completed grades two through five will meet at the Nature Center on Thursdays from

10:00 am until noon. Please complete and return the enclosed registration form. Registration is limited to twenty per section. Fee: **Members free; non-members \$25.00 per child.**



Thank you to **Dave Steadman** for his efforts in making the first ever Owl Prowl and the second annual early morning birdwatch two very successful activities. Thirty-two people attended the evening Owl Prowl on May 16. After a little wine, light fare and an introduction to owl sounds, we made our way up Gravatt Road in search of owls. We had a wonderful time despite the fact that the sneaky owls wouldn't cooperate.

The birds were more cooperative for the Sunday morning birdwatch. We were particularly impressed with the number of people who don't mind getting up that early on a Sunday morning! During the one-and-a-half hour tour led by Dave "Fearless Leader" Steadman we located several species of birds and they located us. Afterward we partook of a continental breakfast and brilliant conversation. It was great fun, Dave.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Huyck Preserve cast and crew are eagerly preparing for the summer of '92. Time for our annual appeal to that most vital member of our coalition, **the volunteer**. We have identified three areas which are in need of volunteers to provide essential services. If you can spare a little time this summer to help us out, we will provide you with a tee-shirt and all the training you'll need. As a volunteer you will gain a meaningful perspective of the activities in which the Preserve is involved. We need your acumen and energy in the following positions:

Trails (aka Huyck Hikers)

Lead guided tours
Maintain & supervise trails

Office

Provide information to visitors
Sell tee-shirts & books
Assist in the design of brochures

Research & Education

Assist in field research
Assist in environmental education

Call Carolyn or Cheryl at 797-3440 between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm Monday through Friday for further information. After those hours you can leave a message with a convenient time to reach you.

Your support is vital to us.

IN MEMORIAM

REV. PAUL ABELS (1937-1992)
Contributed by Douglas P. Elkins

Fear no more the heat 'o the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages;
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great;
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat;
To thee the reed is as the oak;
The scepter, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Fear no more the lightening flash,
Nor the all-dreaded thunder stone;
Fear not slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finished joy and moan;
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee, and come to dust.

No exorcisor harm thee!
Nor no witchcraft charm thee!
Ghost unlaid forbear thee!
Quiet consummation have;
And renowned be thy grave!
William Shakespeare

Advocate, follower, leader, minister, missionary, musician, counselor, peacemaker, friend, brother, soulmate, and member of the Board of Directors of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, 1990-1992.

Huyck History 1931-1933

September 5, 1931 - Meeting of Incorporators and the Organization Meeting held in the Rensselaerville Library. Certificate of Incorporation dated August 14, 1931.

September 12, 1931 - First meeting of officers, Directors and Associate Members.

November 1931 - 450 acres of land deeded to Preserve by Mrs. E.N. Huyck. 136,000 trees had been planted on these lands by Mr. Huyck during the ten years prior to his death in 1930.

1932 - First year's income \$1,247 and outgo \$1,204. Colonel Greene proposes spring and fall dam inspections. 9,000 trees planted on Preserve lands. First trail blazed is Hagaman Falls. Preserve lands are posted. Children of school plant 3,000 trees - pine, spruce and ash.

1933 - Hatching and banding of Wood and Mallard Ducks on lake Myosotis, Vernon Haskins, East Durham, assisting. Caretaker employed 3 days a month. School children plant another 2,000 trees. Dam and bridge over spillway repaired at a cost of \$3,142. Frank Lanagan supervised. 1,475 yards of stone thrown on top of old fill, protecting village against high waters or break in dam.

History Aficionados

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote a letter to Jessie Huyck admiring the wonderful woolen blankets from the Huyck Felt Mills. There is a great deal of memorabilia concerning the Huycks and the Preserve which is begging to be perused and presented in the Mill House Visitor's Center. If sifting through history is of interest to you, please contact Cheryl or Carolyn at 797-3440.

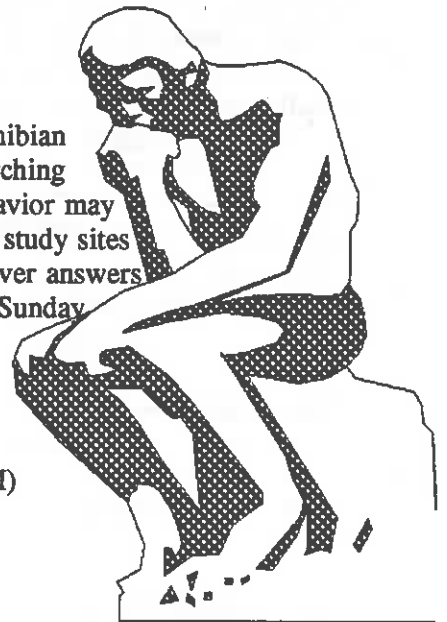
Thank You
Marie

The gardening seminar offered by Marie Hartley at the Preserve in February was a welcome respite from a dreary winter. We were all privy to creative and intelligent ideas in planning, planting, and caring for the garden which will provide a beautiful respite for the soul during the dog days of summer.

1992 SCHEDULE OF HUYCK HIKES¹ AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sure Cure for Brain Drain

What can the study of forest floor decomposition, understory vegetation, and amphibian biology tell us about the effects of changing climatic conditions? How does researching the reproductive behavior of ducks, ruffed grouse and green frogs reveal how behavior may evolve? Huyck Hikes are opportunities for you to accompany researchers to their study sites and learn how scientists untangle these and other mysteries of nature. You'll discover answers to your questions and then you'll discover new questions. Won't you join us each Sunday at 1:00 pm for these stimulating and entertaining hikes?



May		
16	David Steadman	Owl Prowl - a night walk (8:00 PM)
17	David Steadman	Birdwatching (7:30 AM)
30	Everyone	Volunteer Meeting (10:00 AM)
June		
7	David Steadman	Nesting behavior of Preserve birds
13	Board Members	1992 Annual Membership Meeting ²
14	Susan Beatty	Forests and our changing environment
21	Malcolm Frisbie	How air pollution impacts amphibians
28	Robert Parmelee	Biodiversity of the forest floor
July		
5	David Goldblum	Tree falls and forest structure
8	Susan Beatty	Environmental degradation and recovery in Czechoslovakia ³
12	Maria Vagvolgyi	Snails and other mollusks of the Preserve
18	Researchers	1992 Annual Science Symposium ⁴
19	Leslie Riggs	History of old-field succession
26	Xingquo Han	Effects of acid deposition on forest soils
August		
2	Don Lafrancois	Green frog reproductive behavior and ecology
9	Gretchen Schawe	Sexual selection in the Ruffed grouse
16	Nancy & Bill Elliott	Experiments on drought and forest processes
23	Piotr Jablonski	Foraging success in the water strider
30	Kevin Omland	Female choice and reproduction in mallards

¹ All Huyck Hikes begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday at the Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville, NY.

² The Annual Membership Meeting is from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday (members only)

³ This is an evening talk beginning at 7:30 at Eldridge Research Center

⁴ The Annual Science Symposium is from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday

FUN, FREE & FASCINATING

For many people, the scope of today's environmental problems may seem overwhelming. The following list of suggestions, from Cornell Cooperative Extension, is a guide to assist consumers in making choices which will not only benefit the earth but our quality of life now and in the future. The beauty of these suggestions is that they not only make good ecological sense, but also good dollars and cents...That's right, most of these ideas will actually save you money! Our fall newsletter will offer further (and some surprising!) suggestions to simplify your life while being kind to the earth.

ECO-CONSUMERISM It's Within Your Power It's In Your Hands

What To Buy

In General...

- * Products that are recycled, recyclable, reliable, repairable, refillable, reusable, and long-lasting.

- * Bulk products in large containers to reduce packaging.

Food...

- * Fresh fruits and vegetables rather than canned or frozen varieties.

- * Juices in concentrate form.

- * Eggs in fiberboard rather than styrofoam cartons.

- * Loose leaf tea rather than tea bags.

- * Milk in returnable containers rather than cartons.

The Home...

- * High efficiency electrical appliances; when possible, buy hand operated tools or appliances rather than electric or motorized ones.

- * Microwave ovens, pressure cookers and other energy-saving devices.

- * Compact fluorescent light bulbs or other low watt, long-lasting bulbs.

- * Paper trash bags instead of plastic.

- * Canvas or mesh grocery bags instead of paper or plastic.

- * Cloth napkins and towels.

- * Cloth diapers instead of disposable.

- * Phosphate-free, biodegradable soaps and detergents.

- * Long lasting razor blades.

- * Toothpaste in tubes rather than plastic pumps.

- * Lipstick brush to use all the lipstick in a tube.

- * Permanent or reusable coffee filters.

- * Reusable plastic dishes, cups and utensils for picnics.

- * Woodburning stoves and fireplace inserts.

- * Recycled paper products such as toilet paper, greeting cards, stationery, children's playbooks, and drawing sheets.

- * Tampons with cardboard applicators or no applicators.

- * Biodegradable cat litter.

- * Rechargeable batteries.

- * Faucet aerators for each sink.

- * Low-flow shower heads.

- * Radial tires.

- * Fuel-efficient vehicles.

- * Natural pest control products instead of toxic pesticides.

- * Thermostats for heaters.

- * Timer for outdoor lights and furnace thermostat.

- * Weather stripping, insulation and caulking for windows, doors, and water heater.

- * Solar energy panels where possible.

What To Avoid...

- * Over-packaged products.

- * Plastic wrap.

- * Aluminum foil.

- * Disposable razors.

- * Aerosols, styrofoam and other products containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

- * Fruits and vegetables out of season.

- * Pre-packaged meals with plastic or aluminum trays.

- * Clothes requiring dry cleaning.

- * Gas-guzzling vehicles.

- * Chipboard, particle board and other glued or bonded materials that may emit formaldehyde gas.

- * Lumber treated with preservatives, fungicide or insecticides.

- * Water softeners or detergents with phosphates.

- * Pesticides with chlorinated hydrocarbons, such as DDT.

- * Drain cleaners with toxic chemicals.

- * Disposable diapers.

- * Colored facial tissues, paper towels, toilet paper.

- * Wood from tropical rain forests such as teak, mahogany, satinwood, or rosewood.

- * Endangered plants, animals or products made from overexploited species (furs, ivory, reptile skin, or tortoise shell).

- * Soup in plastic containers.

- * "No-pest" strips and plastic flea collars.

You can call Cornell Cooperative Extension for problem solving ideas from companion gardening to safe drain cleaners. This organization is a treasure trove of ideas to improve and simplify your life. They're in the phone book.



Stewart's Finding a Need & Refilling It!

For many years we in the Capital District have known that this local retailer of dairy and other food products has been refilling and recycling soda and milk bottles. Now Stewart's has assumed an even more significant role in the solution to the ever burgeoning trash problem: They have instituted a school milk program using refillable milk bottles which may never end up in the landfills.

The bottles are made by General Electric of Lexan and can be refilled about 100 times. They require no straws and feature tamper evident, recyclable caps. When the bottles can no longer be refilled, G.E. buys the bottles back and recycles them for engineering and automobile uses.

Stewart's initial investment was approximately \$100,000 for a filler,

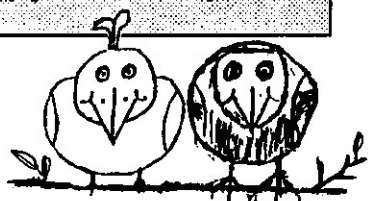
washer, coder and conveyor system. The cost of each bottle is \$.30. After 100 uses, the cost of the bottle becomes negligible to the cost of the product. Since packaging of the products we buy generally costs more than the product inside, refilling just makes sense.

Fourteen school districts have implemented the returnables into their lunch programs at the elementary school level with considerable success. Stewart's delivers fresh milk daily and picks up the empties which are stored in reusable, stackable milk crates provided by the company. The company provides support to educate the students and raise awareness. Since most of these kids have been studying the environment in school, compliance with recycling procedures

is second nature to them.

What does it save? A single Saratoga district discarded 700,000 paper milk cartons in just one year. That's a lot of landfill space when one considers the number of districts in the state. That also translates into great deal of money which can be put to better educational use.

The refillable program has been so successful that Stewart's is currently looking for another bottling company to handle the surplus. You can contact Susan Law Dake at (518) 581-1000 to receive further information. Then talk to your school board to see how this program might be implemented in your district. This is an idea whose time was - and whose time has come again.



NATURALIST SOCIETY WILL MEET JULY 20

Summer is nearly here and soon another session of Nature Study will begin for our kids. Surely you Rensselaerville natives remember your Nature Study days - the fun of field walks, the pride in being able to identify gold-finches, beech trees, and Viceroy butterflies. Many of us have found that our trail skills have sadly diminished since those days! Other folks are new to the area and would like to know more about our local woodlands. We all enjoy sharing nature with our children and no one wants to respond to a child's questions with "I don't know".

For all these reasons, and because we adults still have a need to sate our curiosity, explore, and have fun, the Preserve is organizing a Naturalist group for adults and you are invited. Participants will select their own field or lab study they wish to pursue - anything from bird identification to pond water study.

The planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 20 at 7 pm. Join us for wine and cheese at Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road. Perhaps we can begin a new summer tradition.



1992 NATURE STUDY & SWIM LESSON REGISTRATION

Child's Name

Grade 9/92

Child's Name

Grade 9/92

Address

Parent or Guardian

Phone

Registration for (circle one)

Nature Study

Swim Lessons

Both

1992 Member/Non-member (circle one)

Amount Enclosed \$

THE IMPORTANCE OF STEWARDSHIP
From the Executive Director

Global
The world is participating in the United Nation's Conference on Environment and Development - The Earth Summit - being held in Brazil. This event should be the largest single international gathering ever focused on the environment. Unfortunately, it seems that a new North-South polarity threatens to inhibit constructive open discussions. The North (developed countries) wants to continue on its path of economic development that ignores the environmental consequences of that development, and the south (developing countries) wants to start on that well worn path. The South wonders how the North can expect the South to preserve their natural systems while the North continues to ravage theirs.

HRH Prince Philip in an address to the World Commission on Environment and Development held in London this past April, said that the concept of stewardship is essential to resolving the ecological dilemmas we face:

"Stewardship operates on two levels; firstly, at the level of good housekeeping; living thriftily, saving energy, repairing, re-using and recycling, not wanting by not wasting, accepting personal responsibility, and so on. Secondly, it also operates at a level which recognizes that we are as much a part of the living world as it is part of us. Good stewardship celebrates the beauty and diversity of the natural world. We should not, I believe, just be managing the earth's resources more efficiently...but seeking to live in balance with the rest of creation,, even if we cannot discern any direct and immediate material benefit to ourselves in that process."

We expect the earth's population to

reach at least 10 billion before any significant demographic transition can occur, that is about twice as many people as exist today. It is clear that the current human population is straining the ecological and climatological systems of the earth. Yet we must fight to even get the population issue on the UNCED agenda. It appears the United States will stymie constructive treaties on biodiversity and global climate change. As citizens it is our right, and as stewards it is our responsibility, to continue to impress upon our elected officials that the environmental problems we face must be dealt with now. To delay is to risk the future of the species - our species.

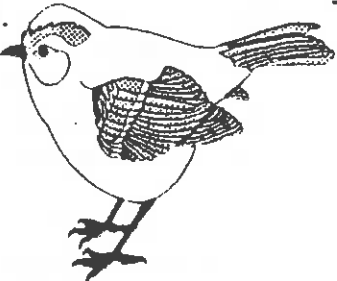
Local
Stewards come and go quietly, taking nothing but photographs and leaving nothing but footprints. Preserve members understand the concept of stewardship. Unfortunately, most of our 3000 visitors are not members and sometimes abuse the Preserve by leaving their garbage behind, picking flowers, starting fires in undesignated areas, wading in the streams, climbing the delicate falls, hiking off the trails. I would ask our members as stewards to help by picking up trash and informing violators about the role of the Preserve. The Preserve is dedicated to conserving the plants and animals with the least possible human interference. We do this for its own sake, so this remains the kind of place you enjoy spending time, and also to provide a place for long term study of natural ecosystems. You can volunteer to take an active, creative role in administrative, educational, and research activities on the Preserve. If you're wondering what to do, call us or stop by the visitor's center. We have an abundance of ideas.

Richard L. Wyman

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 and may qualify for corporate matching funds from your employer.

Member Benefits: You'll receive these nifty newsletters, free or reduced admission to all Preserve events, publication discounts, voting privileges, invitations to member only activities.



1991 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Street

City

State

Zip

- Membership Level:**
Student \$10
Individual \$30/Senior \$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.

STAFF

Dr. Richard L. Wyman, *Executive Director*
Mrs. Marilyn Walters-Wyman, *Educational Coordinator*
Mr. Thomas Alworth, *Research Assistant &*
Mrs. Cheryl Elkins, *Office Assistant*
Mr. Carolyn Barker, *Office Assistant*
Ms. Sarah Orris, *Field Assistant*
Mr. Philip Hilferty, *Lifeguard & Swimming Instructor*
Ms. Nicole Foley, *Lifeguard & Swimming Instructor*
Ms. Caryn Cozzolino, *Lifeguard & Swimming Instructor*
Ms. Dee Strnisa, *Education Assistant*
Mr. Brooks Wright, *Field Assistant*
~~Mr. Jamie Young~~, *Maintenance Assistant*

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. Peter Tobiessen, *Chairman*
Union College

Dr. Charles Canham
Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Dr. Edward Horn
Department of Environmental Health

Dr. David Steadman
New York State Museum

Dr. Andrea Worthington
Siena College

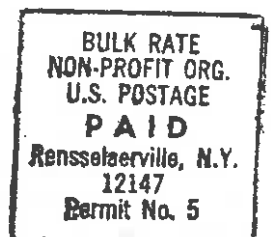
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mrs. Katharine Huyck Elmore, *Chairperson*
Mrs. Carol Ash-Friedman, *President*
Mr. James Foster, *Vice President*
Mr. Daniel McNamee, *Treasurer* — ?
Mrs. Marge Rooney, *Secretary*

Mrs. Barbara Blum
Mr. Martin Brand
Mrs. Laura Carter
Ms. Camille Douglas
Mr. Philip Gitlen
Mr. Michael Huxley
Dr. Jerome G. Rozen, Jr.
Mr. Victor Schrager
Dr. David Steadman
Dr. Vincent Schaefer, *Honorary Director*

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Dr. Susan Beatty
University of Colorado



Postal Patron
Rensselaerville, NY 12147