

# FORGET-ME-NOT

## Myosotis Messenger

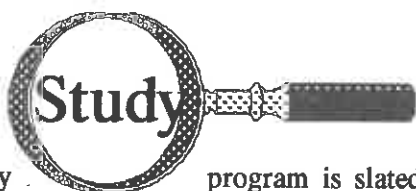
Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve  
P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147  
(518) 797-3440



### Swim Lessons

Summer's coming and you know what that means... Gardening, barbecues, and watching our kids metamorphose from humanoid to ichthyoid. 1993 Family Members (\$40 level) can enroll their children in the swimming program at Lake Myosotis Beach for free. Barbara Bolster-Barrett is organizing the program this year and twelve lessons are scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays commencing **July 7**. Call the Preserve to register.

### Nature



The 1993 Nature Study program is slated for **July 6 through August 12** at the Jessie Huyck Nature Center on Lake Myosotis from 10 am until noon. Children who have completed kindergarten through second grades will meet on Tuesdays and those children who have completed third through sixth grades will meet on Thursdays. *There is no fee for Family Members (\$40 level). The fee for non-members is \$25.* Call the Preserve to register.

### Annual Membership Meeting

All active members for 1993 are invited to attend the Annual Membership Meeting on **June 12 from 11:30 am till 1:00 pm** at the Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road. Board officers and various staff members will discuss the state of the Preserve and we will elect Board members. Plan to attend this important meeting to find out what we're up to and tell us how we're doing. *Members only.*



### Visitor's Center

We are currently in the process of moving, painting, cleaning, and organizing in preparation for the opening of our Visitor's Center behind the Mill House. When preparations are complete, we will have a place for visitors to stop and sign-in, ask questions, or purchase one of the many new items we will carry. Some of the items available will be tee and sweat shirts, caps, mugs, identification books for birds and other wildlife, butterfly nets, and birdhouse kits.

We need volunteers to help with the center on weekends. If you can help please call Carolyn or Cheryl at the office.

### 1993 Annual Science Symposium

The Science Symposium is set for **Saturday July 17 from 10am until 2pm** and you are invited. Researchers will discuss their current areas of inquiry with plenty of opportunities for questions. Join us for this thoroughly enjoyable day including an alfresco lunch by the pond with the researchers, staff, and members of both the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory committee. *Free.*

### National Trails Day June 5

As part of a nationwide event, National Trails Day is an opportunity for us to call attention to our beautiful Preserve to people throughout the state. This event is sponsored in New York by the Adirondack Mountain Club Trails Program, and Eastern Mountain Sports in cooperation with the American Hiking Society. Events are planned on June 5 throughout the state and nation. Please join us for **trail maintenance** from 10am until 1pm then join us again that evening for the **Owl Prowl** (see accompanying announcement). We will meet at Eldridge Research Center. Bring work gloves and trimmers if you have them. Please help us keep the trails safe and accessible for everyone's enjoyment.

## Preserve in the Classroom

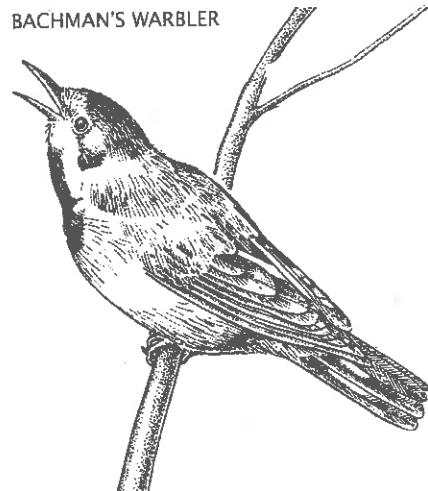
The Scott Ellis School adopted the Greening of Greenville as their school wide theme for the 1992/93 school year. The Huyck Preserve has been involved in the program from the start when we hosted a teacher workshop last August for 18 Greenville Elementary Teachers. Throughout the year we have offered support and information in a range of topics to teachers and students.

In the spirit of the Greening of Greenville, Rick and Marilyn Wyman and Tom Alworth helped blaze a trail through a wooded area near the school providing a local arena for students to observe the ecology of field, wood and stream. In addition, there was a celebration at the school focusing on the year's activities which was organized by the Preserve and included a parade featuring elaborate animal masks made by students and parents under the direction of local artist, Virginia Carter, and funded through the Preserve. This is an exciting program and we are pleased to have been a participant in the successful cooperative effort involving the teachers, students, parents, and administration of the Greenville School District.

## Undying Gratitude Department...

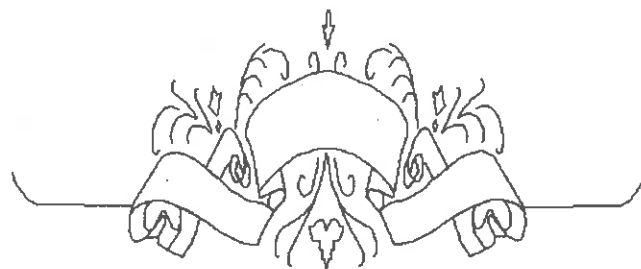
To **Bob Beyfuss**, **Marie Hartley**, **Charles Vandrei** (sorry about the weather), **John Rosettie**, and **Rick Wyman**, thanks for your provocative contributions to the Cabin Fever Series. It was great! And Thanks to **Ginny Carter-Steadman** for the extraordinary talent and energy you put into the mask making project, the **Lounsburys** and **GNH Lumber** for your generous donations of supplies for the project, and to **Sandy Bargman** for your enthusiastic music making with the elementary school kids and their *Greening of Greenville* program.

BACHMAN'S WARBLER



## Summer Field Research for High School Students

The Preserve is offering a pilot program for high school students July 12-17. Students will accompany a different scientist into the field each day from 9:00 am until noon to learn about the many facets that comprise good research by assisting the researcher in his or her query. The week culminates with the Science Symposium on July 17. Organized by **Marilyn Wyman**, this program is a golden opportunity for ten fortunate students to experience, first hand, the methodology and exhilaration of scientific inquiry. The cost is \$50. Call the Preserve to register.

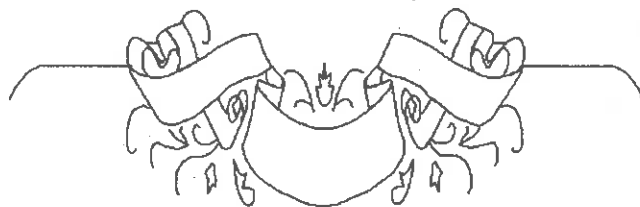


## Farewell to Anna Perkins

We are all saddened at the loss of Dr. Anna Perkins, truly a woman of, yet ahead of, her time. Shortly after graduating from Bellevue Hospital's medical program, she arrived in our town in response to an appeal for a doctor by Edmund Niles Huyck. Ever the city girl, Dr. Perkins spent her first ever night in a rural community in the home of Dr. Ordway (the current residence of Richard and Marilyn Wyman on the Preserve). She never left.

She came to our community in the 1920's and set up her practice to administer to the needs of everyone. House calls were a common occurrence right up until she fell ill this year. Dr. Perkins was a bird lover of the highest order and we all enjoyed a trip to the doctor a little bit because we could watch the birds up close in her window feeder. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Huyck Preserve during the 1940's and supported our efforts through membership and letters of encouragement as recently as last December.

She left a mark on the world that few have nor will ever match as a woman of incomparable spirit, intellect, ability, and thoughtfulness. Anna Perkins will always be missed and will never be forgotten by all who have been so fortunate as to have been touched by her.



## Dave Steadman's Birdwatcher's Trilogy

at the Huyck Preserve in Rensselaerville

Dave Steadman of the New York State Museum will enlighten and entertain us with three hikes this year to benefit Environmental Education.

*Birdwatcher's Hike*  
Saturday May 15 at 7:30 am  
Family Activity



*Nesting Birds*  
Saturday June 26 at 7am  
Family Activity

*Second Annual Owl Prowl*  
Saturday June 5 at 8:00 pm  
Adult Activity



We will meet at the Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road

*Birdwatcher's Hike or Nesting Birds*

Members \$5.00, Families \$7.50

Non-members \$6.00, Families \$9.00

*Includes a continental breakfast and amusing conversation afterward*

*Owl Prowl*

Members \$5.50, Couples \$10.00

Non-members \$7.50, Couples \$13.50

*Includes wine and hors d'ourves afterward*

**Advance Registration is Recommended**  
**(518) 797-3440**

# 1993 SCHEDULE OF HUYCK HIKE<sup>1</sup> & OTHER ACTIVITIES

## *Sure Cure for Brain Drain*

If females select the best mate to insure proliferation of the species, why does the female black duck select a Mallard mate over a male of her own species? What could be the benefit of mixing offspring in the Mallard population rather than the genetic mother raising her own brood? What can the Blue Spotted Salamander teach us about acid rain? 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 for these stimulating and entertaining hikes?

### May

15	David Steadman	Birdwatcher's Hike <sup>2</sup> (7:30 am)
23	David Goldblum	Treefall gaps & understory ecology

### June

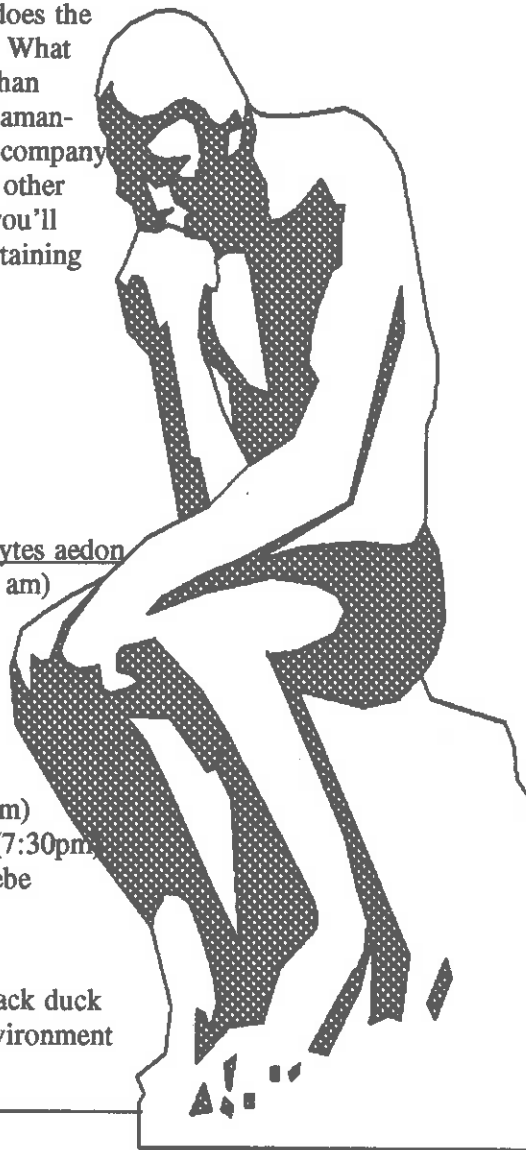
5	David Steadman	Second Annual Owl Prowl <sup>3</sup> (8:00 pm)
6	Tom Alworth	Sticking it to the male house wren <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>
12	Board of Directors	1993 Annual Membership Meeting <sup>4</sup> (11:30 am)
20	Leslie Rigg	Old field succession
26	David Steadman	Nesting Birds <sup>2</sup> (7:00 am)
27	Michael Horne	Acid rain and the Blue Spotted Salamander

### July

11	Bin Bin Shao	Behavioral ecology of Golden Shiners
17	Researchers	1993 Annual Science Symposium <sup>5</sup> (10:00 am)
21	Susan Beatty	Ecological restoration in island ecosystems (7:30pm)
25	Stephanie Rosa	Determinants of clutch size in Eastern Phoebe

### August

1	Donald Lafrancois	Territory choice in the male green frog
8	Kevin Omland	Mate selection preferences of the female black duck
22	Diane Morin	Alternative products for a healthy home environment
29	Isabella Schreiber	Adaptation in Mallard ducks



## *Meaningful Minutia*

<sup>1</sup>All Huyck Hikes begin at 1:00 PM on Sunday at the Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Rd, Rensselaerville, NY.

<sup>2</sup>Family Activity. Members \$5.00, Families \$7.50; Non-members \$6.00, Families \$9.00. Includes continental breakfast and amusing conversation afterward.

<sup>3</sup>Adult Activity. Members \$5.50, Couples \$10.00; Non-members \$7.50, Couples \$13.50. Includes wine and hors d'ourves afterward.

<sup>4</sup>The Annual Membership Meeting is from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM (members only).

<sup>5</sup>The Annual Science Symposium is from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Lunch served.

Huyck Hikes...  
**Fun, Free & Fascinating**

## OBFS News

Biological field stations are places where the majority of ecological research is conducted. They are frequently situated near unique and beautiful natural features and ecosystems and they are entrusted with the task of monitoring the well-being of the Earth's natural systems. The Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) was established to insure the advancement of biological sciences through the development of research and teaching programs at field stations, to implement cooperation among field stations, and to disseminate information about field stations. There are about 150 member stations in the organization today, primarily in North and Central Americas and the Caribbean.

Dr. Richard Wyman is chair of the International Committee of the OBFS to determine the potential of enlarging the membership to develop a more global association through which information can be shared and disseminated with field stations worldwide.

## Center for Environmental Studies

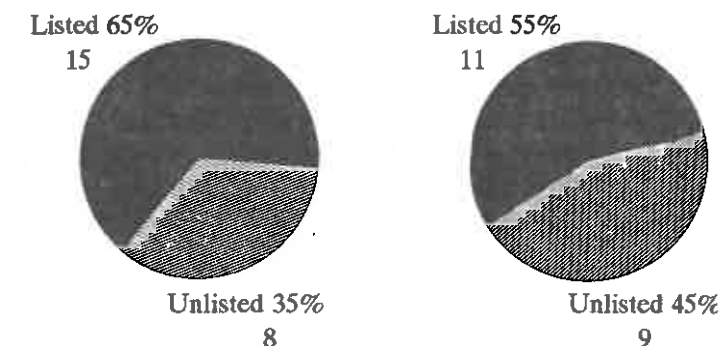
The Preserve's Board of Directors voted to establish the Center for Environmental Studies at the E.N. Huyck Preserve. The Center will be home to the Preserve's educational activities including Nature Study and elementary, high school, and college level classes. In addition, research conducted by Preserve staff and their associates will be under the Center's purview. We hope that the Center will allow the Preserve to attract increased support from philanthropic organizations and make easier the task of communicating what we do.

## The NEUS Working Group

The Northeast U.S. Working Group (NEUS) of the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (International Union for the Conservation of Nature or IUCN), is chaired by Dr. Richard L. Wyman. The formation of the task force was in response to the startling decline of amphibian species around the globe. Part of the NEUS Working Group's activities is to summarize information available on amphibian populations in the northeastern United States.

Dr. Wyman has compiled a listing of amphibians in the northeast that are listed by one or more states as being threatened, endangered, or of special concern. This list reveals that a full 65% of 23 species of salamanders and 55% of 20 frogs and toads are so listed. Several additional trends are evident. First, for salamanders there is a tendency for the larger forms, such as the slimy, spring, and Jefferson's salamanders, to be absent from amphibian assemblages. Second, in the high elevation sites of both New York and Pennsylvania, these larger species are absent or very rare while in low elevation sites

## Amphibians in N.E.U.S. Listed vs. Unlisted



Salamanders

Frogs and Toads

they are doing okay, though not great. The mole salamander groups, Ambystomidae (e.g. yellow-spotted, Jefferson's, and blue-spotted) appears to be having the most difficulty sustaining their populations because they are each listed by several states.

Dr. Wyman, in conjunction with Dr. William Dunson of Pennsylvania State University, has begun a series of experiments with the blue-spotted and Jefferson's salamanders to determine why they are rare or absent from high elevation sites. This involves a series of egg transplantation experiments, moving lowland egg masses to high elevation and high elevation masses to low elevations. During the summer Chad Hershock and Mike Horne of Penn State will be working with Dr. Wyman on the ecology and conservation biology of newly metamorphosed mole salamanders. They will initiate experiments designed to examine the effects of soil chemistry and intra- and interspecific competition on mole salamander growth and survival.

A final trend revealed by the analysis of threatened and endangered forms is that relatively more salamanders are threatened at the higher latitudes while more frogs and toads are threatened at low latitudes. This may be a consequence of the amphibian communities being dominated by salamanders in the north and by toad and frogs in the south.

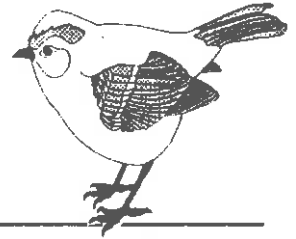
If you would like to volunteer to help with one of these projects and help save the amphibians (vertebrates, as are we!), please call the Preserve.

# 1993 Membership Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



Junior/Student \$10

Individual \$30 (Senior \$20)

Family \$40 (Senior \$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 **PO 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.

## *Staff*

Dr. Richard L. Wyman, Executive Director  
Marilyn Walters-Wyman, Educational Coordinator  
Thomas Alworth, Research Asst. & Grounds Supervisor  
Cheryl Elkins, Office Asst. & Newsletter Editor  
Carolyn Barker, Office Asst.  
Barbara Bolster-Barrett, Educational Asst. & Lifeguard  
Charles Storms, Lifeguard  
Brooks Wright, Field Asst. & Maintenance  
Kenneth Barnett, Field Asst.

## *Scientific Advisory Committee*

Dr. Peter. Tobiessen, Union College  
Dr. Charles Canham, Inst. of Ecosystem Studies  
Dr. Edward Horn, Dept. of Environmental Health  
Dr. David Steadman, New York State Museum  
Dr. Andrea Worthington, Siena College

## *Board of Directors*

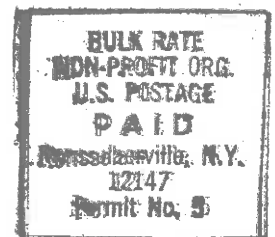
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Dr. Susan Beatty, University of Colorado

**E.N. Huyck Preserve**  
**P.O. Box 189**  
**Rensselaerville, NY 12147**



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