Spring 2000

Myosotis Messenger

FORGET-ME-NOT

Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve
& Biological Research Station
P.O. Box 189, Rensselaerville, NY 12147
Tel/Fax: (518) 797-3440
www.huyckpreserve.org

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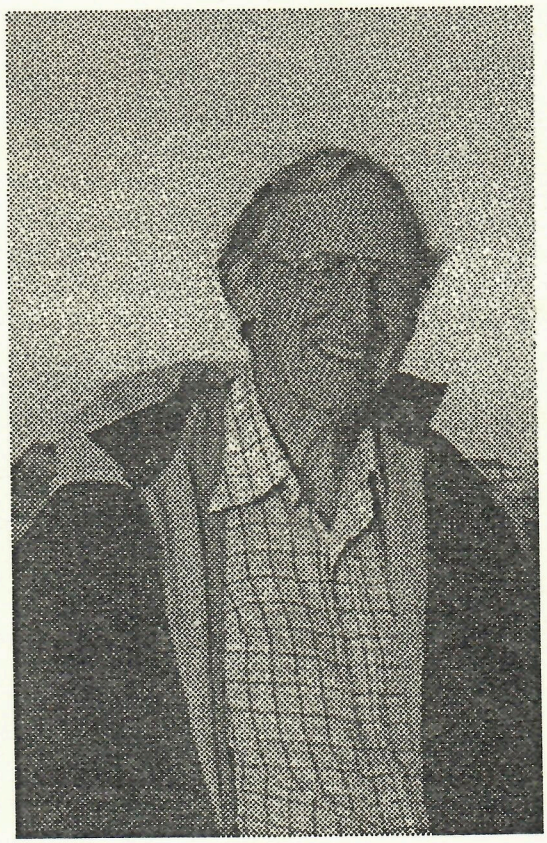
Dr. Eugene Odum to Return to Preserve in July 2000

Exciting news! Dr. Eugene P. Odum has agreed to attend this year's Science Symposium at the E. N. Huyck Preserve on July 15. Known to many as the father of ecosystems ecology, Dr. Odum has had an extremely long and distinguished career as a researcher, educator, and environmentalist. He will address those gathered for the symposium and will be present at a dinner or afternoon BBQ held to honor his career and contributions to ecology and to reflect on his early years conducting research on Preserve during the 1930's and 1940's.



Currently, Dr. Odum is the Callaway Professor Emeritus of Ecology, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Zoology, and Director Emeritus of the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia, Athens which he established. He is known for his broad-based view of humanity and the environment and as the pioneer of ecosystems ecology as an integrative science. During his career, he explored the theme that the "goods and services" provided by human activity and natural systems must be considered in balance and that healthy, life-supporting natural systems are necessary to buffer the ecological impact of human industrial, urban, and agricultural practices.

Among the many research topics he has pursued, Dr. Odum studied and catalogued the fish, reptiles, and amphibians of the Preserve and has analyzed the eleven natural forested stands and eight conifer plantations on the Preserve. One of his greatest contributions to the field came in 1953 with the publication of his landmark textbook, *Fundamentals of Ecology*, which took a new and holistic approach to the field.

"My approach to the field was radically different from the traditional 'reductionist' mode that has characterized academic disciplines during the latter half of this century," writes Odum in an autobiographical summary. "Instead of starting with the details of components, I start with the large-scale whole or 'ecosystem' and then proceed with consideration of the components."

Dr. Odum published several other ecology text books and later in his career wrote several books that apply ecological principles to the larger questions of global sustainability and human environmental challenges. *Ecology and Our Endangered Life-Support System*, published in 1989, is viewed both as a student textbook and as a citizen's users guide to ecology. *Ecological Vignettes: Ecological Approaches to Dealing with Human Predicaments*, published in 1998, is a completely non-technical overview of ecological and environmental issues.

Dr. Odum's many honors and awards include the 1977 Tyler Ecology Award, the 1987 Crafoord Prize (equivalent to the Nobel Prize), and election to the National Academy of Sciences in 1970. Dr. Odum has also received distinguished alumni awards from his alma maters and various honorary degrees. We hope that you will join us in honoring Dr. Odum as well at our annual Science Symposium this July.

Focus on Trails

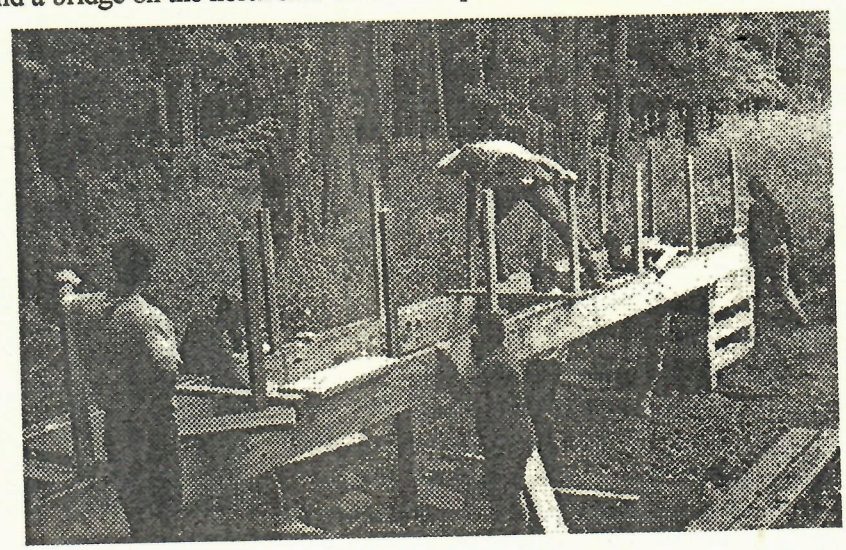
Wade Newmeister COM.EN.ART Artist-in-Residence 1998

The Preserve, with volunteer help, is hoping to expand the level of maintenance on our trail system. In the past, a lack of funds and volunteers has limited maintenance activities. In addition, several years of rough weather have caused severe erosion and the washing out of bridges. Although the trails are open, they are still in need of attention. Trails are the one service that the Huyck Preserve offers to the community year-round, open for public use 7 days a week. This is why it is so important for us to keep an open ear to the public and listen to concerns regarding the trails.

In 1998, representatives from the ADK came to the Preserve and surveyed the trails. They gave us a detailed report of what should be done to improve certain trail areas. These included projects such as like sloping the trails slightly inwards so water doesn't collect in certain areas and adding water bars on steep slopes to divert water off of the trails and minimize erosion. They also suggested that we move the upper falls bridge upstream and add an observation deck to view the falls. This would be done for two reasons, 1) the old stone pathways to either side of the bridge are beginning to collapse and, 2) the trail has become so eroded that it is going to be a major project to repair.

Preserve staff have also been doing my own survey of the trails. Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, John McGuiness, hikes the trails, takes notes and takes the time to listen to community members about their suggestions for our trails. Suggestions from the community have included clearing out the falls area to enhance the view from the lower bridge, adding signs to the intersection of the trails, and creating better trail maps (which we now have in the works).

With the help of several volunteer groups we have started down the road to better trail maintenance. Last summer, a group of five British volunteers and others helped build a bridge on the north side of Lincoln pond. In one week, the group built a beautiful bridge that withstood the forces of Hurricane Floyd. This year we had volunteers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, MA. They spent a week moving the walk bridge spanning Pond Hill Road, putting in bog bridges over marshy areas of the trails, adding signs at trail intersections and building a kiosk at the trailhead by Lincoln Pond. They also added a new tile floor in the learning center at the Eldridge Lab. We would like to send our sincere thanks to these two groups of volunteers for working so hard during their vacation.



British Conservation Trust Volunteers and others build bridge near Lincoln Pond, Summer 1999

In the future, we plan to add another kiosk to the beach area, move the upper bridge upstream, and add an observation deck overlooking the falls. Better drainage in several areas and small footbridges crossing the wetter areas are also needed. Small groups of people can make a huge difference in a large project. This year we have two volunteer groups coming from England, a group from SUNY Albany, and June 3rd is National Trails Day. Please come out to the Eldridge Research Center at 9:30 a.m. to help us out. We can improve the quality of our trails considerably and make the Preserve a better place for the community and our members.

Help us kick off our Summer 2000 Volunteer Campaign

We at the Preserve are always trying to meet the needs of our members through environmental education and outdoor recreational opportunities. We have also been developing new ways in which you can help us achieve our mission through enjoyable and rewarding volunteer opportunities.

Volunteer recruitment has been an area of recent growth for the Preserve. We are expanding our pool of volunteers with the assistance of the Albany Retired Senior Volunteer Program, the Volunteer Center of the Capital Region, and through participation in regional volunteer fairs. In addition, we have been fortunate to have volunteer work groups from the Student Conservation Association and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers come stay on the Preserve for week-long visits to accomplish major facilities maintenance and renovation projects.

Now we are turning to you, our supporters and members, to join our volunteer efforts through one of the many opportunities listed below:

- *Visitor Center Education/Membership Volunteer* - Join a Preserve staff or board member on a sunny weekend morning or afternoon surveying Preserve trail users and explaining about our educational opportunities. Weekday afternoon slots also available.

- *Ecology Lab Volunteer* - Work with Preserve research staff or visiting scientists to carry out field and lab-based scientific research projects. You will enjoy yourself, learn something, and help promote human understanding of the natural world. Half day or full-day slots available both weekdays and weekends.

- *Buildings and Grounds Maintenance Volunteer* - Our Buildings and Grounds supervisor John McGuiness lists "knowledge of basic hand tools" as a requirement for this one, but if you know the difference between a hammer and an axe, he'll teach you the rest! Work with John and other volunteers on a variety of indoor and outdoor trails and building maintenance activities. Half and full day weekday slots are available and we can accommodate groups of five or more on the weekend.

- *Trails Day Work Crew* – Accompany Preserve staff for a morning of trails repair and maintenance at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 3. Lots of great things to do this day, join us earlier for a 7:00 a.m. bird walk or stay later for our afternoon ***Take Flight Bird Festival***. Also, join Rensselaerville residents for their annual garage sale and Founder's day activities. Is there anywhere else to be on June 3 other than Rensselaerville?

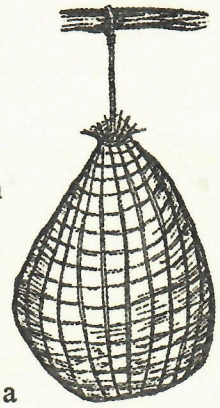
If you or a group of family and friends are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, contact Joe Dever at (518) 797-3829 (3440) for more information and to schedule a time slot.

Volunteer Orientation Meetings

- ***What are they?*** To kick off our summer volunteer program, we are hosting three volunteer orientation sessions at the Preserve Mill House. **Orientation sessions are not mandatory** for Preserve volunteers, but will educate you on the range of options available. Please see our article on volunteer opportunities for more information.
- ***Where are they?*** From Albany, take Highway 85 into the Hamlet of Rensselaerville. At the T in the road, take a right turn and drive 100 ft to the bridge across 10-Mile Creek. The Mill House is directly before the bridge on the right.
- ***When are they?*** Orientations will be held on:
  - *Thursday evening,* ***May 4, at 7:00 p.m.***
  - *Saturday morning,* ***May 6, at 11:00 p.m.***
  - *Saturday morning,* ***June 3, from 11:00-noon***

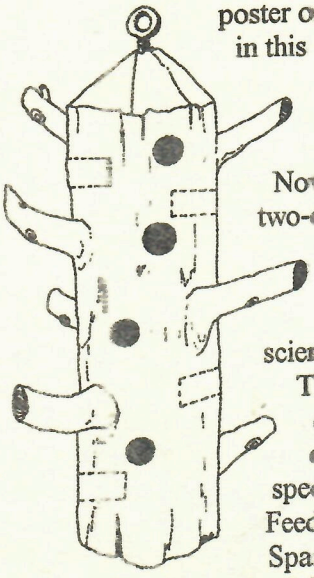
Project FeederWatch Isn't Just for the Birds

Marilyn Wyman



One of the regular monitoring practices that occur on the Preserve involves a census of bird species and numbers throughout the winter months. This requires a well-stocked bird feeder and the interest to regularly observe its visitors.

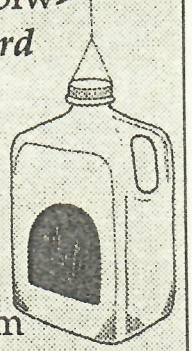
Project FeederWatch is coordinated through the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. In the fall we receive a packet of material to help conduct our study. It includes a poster of bird species we might expect to see at our feeders in this region, a FeederWatcher's Handbook, data sheets with explanations on how to use them, and a newsletter summarizing the information collected last year. This year we will collect data from November through March. Feeders are observed for a two-day time period every two weeks. Weather data is also recorded during the observation period.



The Preserve is one of thousands of volunteer participants contributing to a public science monitoring effort that spans immense distances. This has allowed scientists to have access to huge quantities of information and helps them to determine the fluctuations in bird populations and species distribution on a national level. For example, FeederWatch data indicates the decline of the House Sparrow in our region, through the analysis of over a decade worth of data. This has been attributed to competition for nest sites with European Starlings. Both are species that were introduced into this country during the last century.

Beside the value the data provides, it is an excellent way to connect with the natural world. It is something I can do while working on an education program at my desk. Gazing out at the feeder, watching the birds come and go, helps to remind me of the wonder of it all. Or as another Feeder Watch participant put it "Watching my feeder birds gives me a strong connection to the natural world and helps remind me that we are part of the natural world, too."

If you are interested in participating in this program you may contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-BIRD or Web site: <http://birdsource.org/pfw> or join our ***Take Flight Bird Celebration*** (see events) on **June 6th from 1-5 at the Eldridge Lab.** There will be a display outlining Project Feeder Watch and also Classroom FeederWatch geared towards students and teachers.



HUYCK PRESERVE AND ITS WILD NEIGHBORS FORGE A NEW RELATIONSHIP

Kelly Martin

What should you do if you encounter a cottontail rabbit hit by a car lying in the middle of a road?

Who do you call if a mourning dove hits your window and breaks a wing?

Where do you go for assistance when your cat drops a baby gray squirrel on your doorstep?

How do you help when a tree with a nest cavity is cut down felling four downy screech owls with it?

When is it appropriate to rescue young wildlife, and when should you leave them alone?

The answer is to call a licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator!

Wildlife rehabilitators are qualified to provide certain levels of medical care for sick and injured wildlife. They know when to seek veterinary medical assistance and have access to appropriate caging and nutritional substitute diets. Rehabilitators make every effort to raise young animals to be wild and not tame, and they possess skills and knowledge to evaluate whether or not an animal will be able to be successfully released. They also have the ability to make the decision to humanely euthanize an animal that is suffering and beyond help. The goal of all wildlife rehabilitation is to return healthy animals to their natural environment.

Wildlife rehabilitators are often called simply for information about native animals. Questions about how to resolve nuisance wildlife problems are common. Occasionally, people request information about how to care for a wild animal that they have found. Besides legal concerns, there are many reasons why an untrained person should not attempt to care for a wild animal. There are disease threats for humans

and pets, safety concerns for both people and wild animals, and ethical concerns over keeping wild animals as pets. State and Federal licenses are required to permanently house native wildlife in captivity.

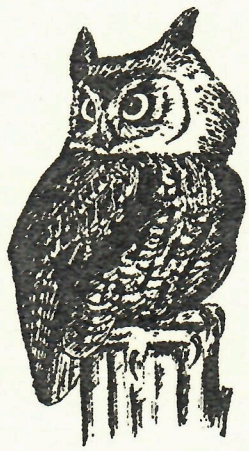
Most wildlife rehabilitators care for wildlife out of their homes and do not charge a fee. However, they would rarely refuse a donation to help offset the costs of medical expenses, food, and caging. Depending on the circumstances of a given wildlife situation, they may ask a caller to bring the animal to them. However, if there is a risk to the public in picking up a particular species, the rehabilitator will arrange to pick up that animal.

What happens to an otherwise healthy wild animal that can not be returned to the wild after rehabilitation because, for various reasons, it would not be able to survive? These animals are candidates for "education" efforts. Education, research, and foster parenting for orphans are all legitimate and worthwhile reasons for holding non-releaseable captive wildlife. Unfortunately, most zoological facilities exhibit exotic animals and not common native wildlife. Therefore, many wildlife rehabilitators obtain the appropriate licenses to keep certain species of wildlife.

These non-releaseable wild animals become ambassadors, 'speaking' on behalf of their own species and becoming valuable partners for those of us interested in teaching others about our natural world. I have been a wildlife rehabilitator for almost twenty years. I provide care for sick, injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife and I have licenses from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the U. S Fish & Wildlife Service to legally possess and care for wildlife. I also have licenses to possess non-releaseable wildlife for use in education programs.

I am working with the Huyck Preserve to explore the possibilities of providing a permanent home for some native animals that are unable to return to the wild. There are many benefits to this opportunity.

- The animals will become members of the Preserve education team, to help us teach people about the animals with which we share our world.
- They will be at home at the Lab where members of the Preserve and the public may view them up close while learning the natural history of the species and the history of the particular individual.
- There will be opportunities for artists and photographers to work with them as subjects of their art.
- There may also be opportunities for internships or research projects for students of all ages interested in wildlife, biology, the environment, or nature.



To bring birds to the Preserve, we need to build the type of caging that is necessary to safely and humanely house such species. Our initial plans are to house two Red-tailed Hawks and two Great Horned Owls. As we progress, we hope to add caging for two American Kestrels (sparrow hawks) and two Screech Owls. Eventually, we hope to have the type of facilities that will offer a unique and rewarding educational experience for young and old and a quality home for the native wildlife that help us teach the lessons of the wild. You will hear more about how you can help us help wildlife in the future. I hope we can count on your support.

How can you locate a Wildlife Rehabilitator if you find injured wildlife? You can contact the Huyck Preserve for names of local wildlife rehabilitators or the local NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Regional Wildlife Office. Also, veterinarians often keep lists of licensed rehabilitators as do, zoos, humane societies, and nature centers.

Kelly Martin is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, wildlife educator, and new member of the Huyck Preserve education team.

Take Flight!

Northern Catskills Birding Festival

June 3, 2000
1:00-5:00 p.m.
Eldridge Research Center on Lincoln Pond
Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville

7:00 a.m. Birdwalk ✧ Afternoon Raptor Display with Kelly Martin ✧ Binocular Adjustment & Care with Dan Rubino of Mirakel Optical ✧ Bird Banding Demonstration with Rich Guthrie of NPR's Catbird Seat ✧ Talk on Bicknell's Thrush ✧ Show and Book signing with Artist/Author Jim Coe ✧ Stories, Crafts, and Food Available

Preserve's Staff and Board Assess the Past and Plan for the Future

As the organization moves into its 70th year, staff and board are working hard on a goal-setting and strategic planning process to plot a future of growth that stays true to our mission and remains consistent with our history and traditions. We realize that to stay current with trends in environmental education, land preservation, and research station priorities, we need to reflect internally on our priorities as well as listen to input from our colleagues, members, and community.

In November 1999, staff and board met for a day-and-a-half vision and goal-setting session on the grounds of The Rensselaerville Institute. Dr. Richard Wyman, Executive Director, gave a comprehensive overview of the Preserve's history, activities and accomplishments to the group. With the help of a professional facilitator, we used brainstorming and role-playing exercises to develop the components of a Preserve vision statement, to determine organizational strengths and weaknesses, and to develop goals for each of the Preserve Board's eight committees. We also had time for relaxation and socializing, and various Preserve staff, board, and friends entertained others at a late-night folk and blues music jam session!

Moving beyond the retreat, we have been meeting in committee groups to flesh out goals, objectives, and action steps for prioritization at our April board meeting. As these goals are finalized, we hope to mold the board into a productive and effective committee structure and begin to see results by the third quarter of 2000. Stay tuned for a full report on our committee goals and strategies in the September newsletter.

An important part of our goal-setting process will be to solicit input from you, our members. We are therefore planning to create a member questionnaire so we can get a better understanding of the needs and interest areas of our members and other supporters. In addition, we will to hold several Preserve survey days, where volunteers ask trail users about their interests, needs, and support level for Preserve. This exercise will tell us who uses Preserve trails, allow us to tell non-member trail users about our educational offerings, and permit us to inform trail users how they can support the Preserve through membership or volunteer work.

If you would like to spend a sunny weekend afternoon with a Preserve board or staff member, interviewing and educating trail users about the Preserve, please contact Joe Dever at (518) 797-3829 for more information.

Update on our Organizational Development Progress

You may recall in our fall 1999 newsletter that we announced the hiring of Joe Dever as the new Director of Administration and Development. Since coming on, he has been working with the Preserve staff and board to develop strategies for organizational growth that will help ensure a financially sound future.

We are developing a multi-pronged organizational development strategy, which includes major and planned giving programs, corporate sponsorships, and increased grant writing activity. We also hope to increase the number of Preserve members and the level of support provided by current members. This summer, we plan to educate the over 3,000 non-member trail users about opportunities to support trail stewardship with a membership.

The Preserve has recently been accepted into the United Way sponsored state and federal government employees workplace giving programs. Now you have the opportunity to donate to the Preserve through your workplace if you are a state or federal employee. We have also written grants to a number of foundations and government agencies for support of our education, research, and land preservation activities.

The Preserve has already received tentative notice from a local family foundation that our grant proposal for an elementary school science education program has been accepted and that the program will be funded for this fall. This innovative program involves Preserve staff visits to classes at the Arbor Hill School in Albany to talk about the principles of field biology and the opportunities for science careers. We then bring classes out to the Preserve to further explore ecology, the scientific method, and science careers. We believe this is a great addition to our ongoing school programs that provide environmental education opportunities to our own Greenville school district.

Like all new programs started on the Preserve, we plan to find other funding sources to make the Arbor Hill School program one that can be expanded and sustained over many years. An important component of fundraising and program expansion, however, is ensuring that we meet the needs of our community and membership. To make sure this happens we plan to survey our membership to determine your interests. We would also like to provide you with volunteer opportunities that bring you out to the Preserve to work with our scientists, staff and board members (*please see article on this topic*). Finally, we are developing additional ways for you to support the Preserve financially, through targeted major and planned giving contributions for those activities you feel are most important. Watch this space (and your mailboxes!) for updates on our organizational growth and development plans.

Joe Dever, Director of Development and Administration

Summer Camps Promise Big Learning Opportunities

This August, the Huyck Preserve will offer Middle School students the opportunity to participate in two separate day camps. The Environmental Education Day Camp returns this year, after its successful initiation last year. This year the camp will focus on the environment and its inhabitants, offering a diverse program in biological study. During the weeklong camp, coordinated by Deb Monteith, students will participate in daily workshops such as photography, creative writing, scientific study, and animal rehabilitation, conducted by specialists in each field.

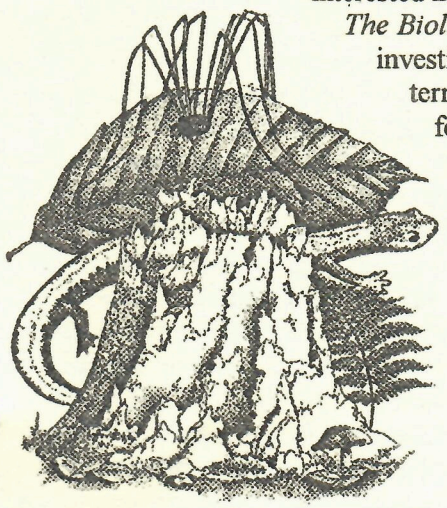
The camp will run from Monday, August 14, through Friday, August 18 each day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Thursday evening, August 17 there will be an optional sleep over for all participants and dependent upon participants, a BBQ lunch on Saturday, August 19. Daily events will include swimming, nature study, cooperative challenge activities and orienteering skills.

The second opportunity for students will be a Science Camp, coordinated by Ted Watt, to be held Monday, August 21 through Friday, August 25. During this week, students will participate daily in workshops learning the methods and skills of scientific enquiry. Students will learn to formulate hypotheses, plan and conduct an experiment, and evaluate their findings. Hands-on experience in the environment provides the perfect setting for these learning experiences, bringing science to life for all students.

The camps will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and attendance will cost $115 for members of the Preserve and $140 for non-members. Registration and membership information can be obtained by calling the Preserve office at 797-3440. Registration for both camps closes August 1st, 2000.

Catskill Summer 2000

Catskill Summer 2000, a program sponsored by the Catskill Institute for the Environment (CIE), is a college credit summer course for high school seniors interested in a career in science. This year's topic, *The Biology of Nature in the Catskills*, will investigate regional ecology in aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The Huyck Preserve, a founding member of CIE, will be offering the program along with Ashoken Field Campus of SUNY-New Paltz, Pine Lake Environmental Campus of Hartwick College, and the Biological Field Station at SUNY-Oneonta. The Preserve's portion of the program will run July 19-23. Students will return home with a broader understanding of the regional environment and the critical reasons to preserve the Catskills for future generations.



Katherine Shelbourne COM.EN.ART Artist-in-Residence 1999

Rising Costs Necessitate Program Fee

Due to the rising costs of conducting the Huyck Preserve youth summer programs, we are adding a fee to the family-level membership requirement.

If a child wishes to attend swimming instruction or participate in Nature Study, there will be a **$10 charge per child** for each program. Families with three or more children participating in a program will be charged a **$25 maximum fee**. These funds will help offset salaries, materials, and related expenses.

We realize it is important for us to continue providing opportunities for our membership to teach their children to swim and explore nature. This fee will allow us to continue to do so.

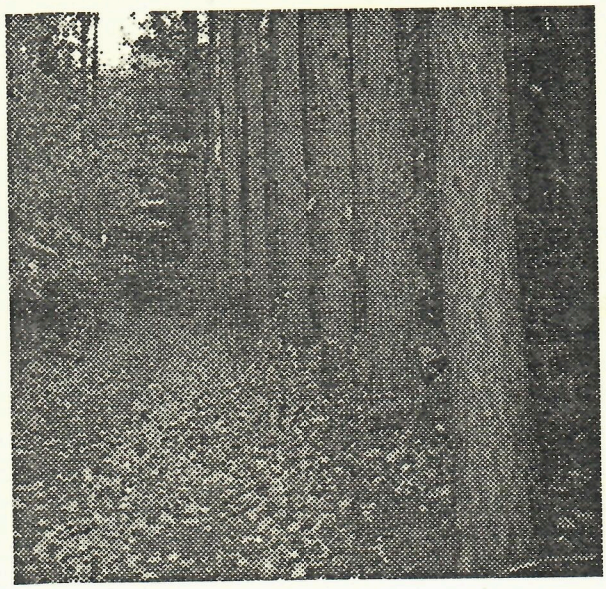
Spring's Arrival

Richard L. Wyman

I was standing on the lawn in front of the Millhouse near a kingfisher sitting in a tree, watching bats catch emerging stoneflies from the stream, when a bald eagle flew in front of me. It was some 12 feet from my head when it looked at me, then continued down the Ten Mile Creek valley looking for fish to catch. He glided up and over the road bridge and silently disappeared down the valley.

My daughter Allyson and I were waiting in our driveway at the Ordway House (my rented home on Pond Hill Road) for the students from my Biodiversity class to arrive for a Sunday field trip, their first visit to the Huyck Preserve. I had told them to bring lunch so we could picnic on the top of the world. Daffodils, periwinkle, and colts feet were in bloom. A few black flies hovered around my face. The eight students arrived in three cars – not bad, it could have been eight cars.

We hiked up the trail behind my house, stopping at the two small ponds near the trail. True to form, both yellow spotted and blue spotted salamanders had bred and left dozens of egg masses clearly visible, adhering to branches of sagging bushes around the pond's edge. Newts were swimming about, as were young water striders. We had to be careful to step over a thatched roof ant mound some four feet round.



Back on the trail we entered the red pine plantation. Many of these plantations were planted on the Preserve in the late 20's and early 30's by the Work Production Association to help stabilize the soils and the water cycle. You can age the trees by counting the limbs and it is evident that something happened to many of them when they were eight or nine years old. Many trees show crooks in them at the ninth limb whirl, signifying that the terminal bud was removed causing side buds to grow into the main trunk. Terminal buds produced an enzyme that inhibits lateral shoot growth. When the terminal bud is removed lateral shoots grow. It may have been a hard winter in 1936 or so, and deer may have eaten the terminal buds for the lack of anything else to eat. In any case the trees are now weak at that point and often in strong winds will break there.

We continued on around what is called the "Race Track," so named because Dr. Ordway, the original owner of the land, and his children rode horses on the circular track in the woods. Of course it was not woods then. We left the track and entered what we call Beech Forest One because it was the first beech forest where I began my salamander research. There are now also Beech Forests 2 and 3. Here the forest is as it once was, except the trees are much smaller now. Ten, twelve, fifteen inch diameter trees are really baby trees in a world were adults and oldsters measured 18 feet around. The original forest cover here was dominated by beech, sugar maple, hemlock, and chestnut with patches of oak and birch. Chestnut succumbed to blight over 50 years ago, and now the beech bark disease is killing the beech. You can tell that this part of the forest was never farmed because there are pits and mounds created by trees falling. Pits and mounds take hundreds of years to form and their presence makes it unlikely that these woods had been farmed. I turned over some rocks and found earthworms, spiders, beetles, millipedes, and centipedes.

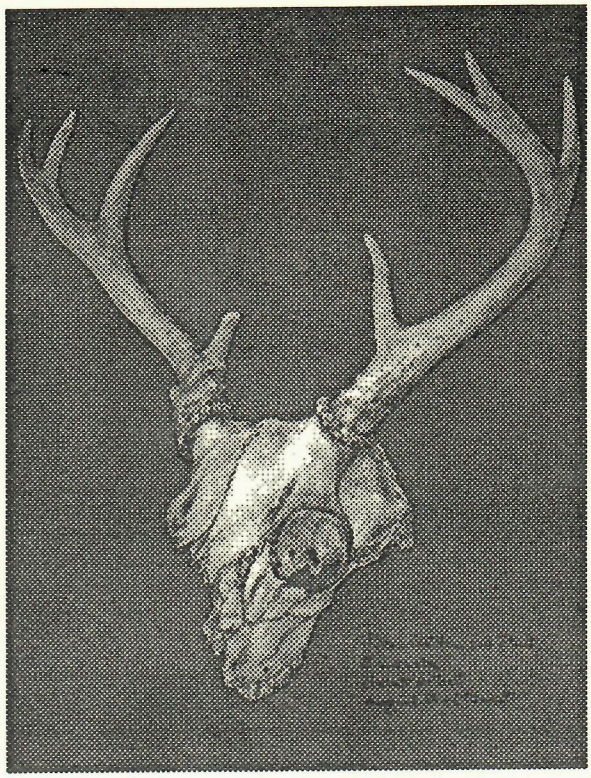
We saw the small white spots covering the scale insect that helps spread the beech bark disease. These insects inject their feeding mouthparts into a tree's growth layer and suck up the nutritious sap. This alone would not kill the tree, but they deaden the tissue around their mouthparts to prevent the tree from walling them off. The scale lives only a year or so and eventually falls off. However the deadened hole provides an entryway into the tree for a fungus. Apparently both the scale and fungus were introduced from Europe on imported European beech trees back in the1890's. A fungal colony grows out from the deadened opening. Trees may have several thousand scale insects and hence they may be invaded by several thousand fungal colonies. Once the colonies circle the tree, the tree dies. In essence, it has been girdled.

We then move north on the ridge east of the Ten Mile Creek through relatively old forests and some wetlands. I show my students a large dead tree that now lies on the ground and is covered in moss. Ten years ago the tree was standing dead and one day I looked into the base of the tree where ants had removed most of the wood and in the process covered the bottom of the hole in sawdust. There were a number of coyote pups lying in the sawdust. I backed away from the entrance with the hair on my neck standing up, knowing mom was watching me. I left them alone. The tree is on the ground now and has become home to many salamanders that live in and under it.

At around noon we made it to the top of the world. This is a small clearing on the ridge top where the bedrock is close to the surface and the vegetation is dwarfed. There are rings of lycopods (small primitive plants that once were tree size when the dinosaurs roamed) moss and dwarfed pine trees. You can look

down across the Ten-Mile Creek valley and up over the ridge west of the Ten-Mile. The Preserve is located in a hanging valley with ridges running north to south (more or less) both east and west of the creek. We sat and ate our lunch looking out over about 1000 acres of forests – not a house in sight or the noise of a car. Part of my lunch was an orange that quickly attracted a bunch of springtails, which I am now certain I have eaten. After lunch we sat on the mats of lycopods and moss and silently listened to nothing. A warbler almost landed on my head. We saw several garter snakes and a deer skull.

We then climbed down off the ridge over cliffs of Devonian shale (400 million years old) and walked south on Grevatt Road. We came upon a beaver pond with a recently repaired dam. Hurricane Floyd had washed it out when the bridge on Pond Hill Road washed away. We flushed a great blue heron and watched it fly north over the creek bed, then walked along the creek south toward the Eldridge Lab. We continued along the Ten-Mile Creek south of the lab and found that white suckers had migrated up out of the lake and were spawning in the stream. There were several hundred of these foot long fish. While we were watching fish and playing around at trying to catch one, a bald eagle made an appearance, flying around the north end of the lake. It circled once and began to fly toward us, then flew up the creek at treetop level directly over us. I heard, "I've never seen an eagle in the wild before," and "Wow, my mother is going to be so jealous, she loves eagles and has them all over her kitchen."



Camille Doucet *COM.EN.ART Artist-in-Residence 1999*

The floods have changed this area a lot. A single stream used to run into Lake Myosotis here but now that stream is filled in and two other streams flow into the lake. This has caused an island to form in between the two streams that requires quite a bit of figuring out getting across. Allyson and most of the students took off theirs shoes and waded. We made it back to my driveway five miles and four and a half hours later, a little tired, wet and muddy – but fairly certain we had had a good day.

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