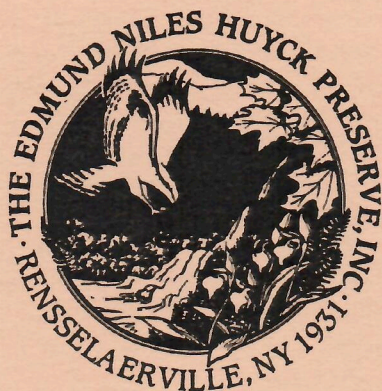


FORGET-ME-NOT



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

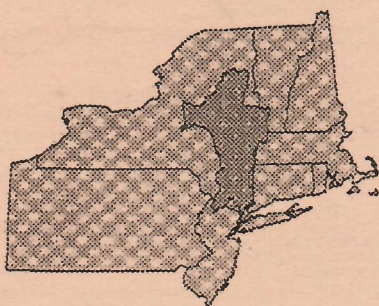
Volume 26, Number 2

Where Does the Hudson River Begin?

Richard L. Wyman

As I write it is raining in Rensselaerville, a welcome occurrence following a dry winter. Reservoirs from Maine to New Jersey are at all time lows for this time of year. The water cycle is one of the biochemical cycles that we study at the Biological Research Station of the Huyck Preserve. It is raining here today because on average more water evaporates off of the ocean than is returned as precipitation. Prevailing winds bring most of our moisture from the west (southwest to northwest depending on the season).

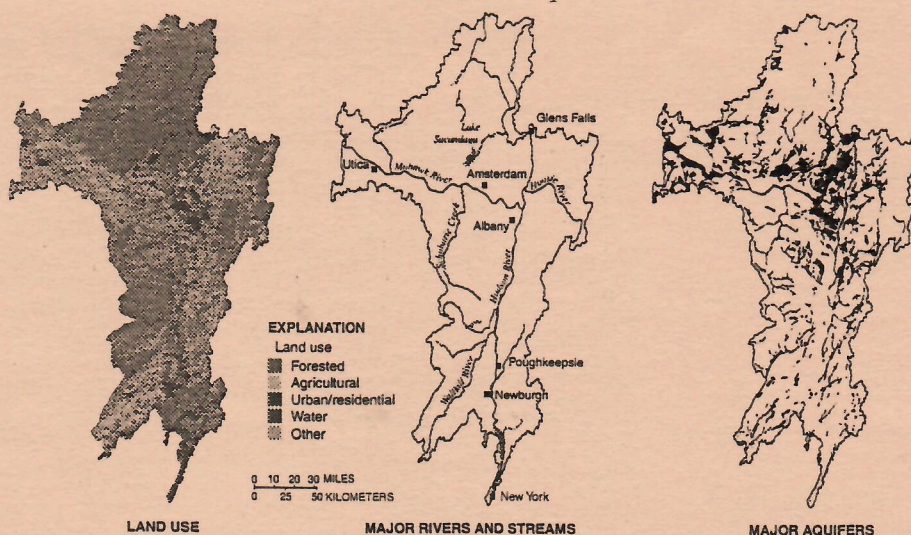
We are in the Hudson River watershed or basin. (Ten-Mile Creek runs through the Huyck Preserve and empties into the Catskill Creek. The Catskill empties into the Hudson River.) This encompasses about 13,300 mi² (3.6 million hectares). The Hudson headwater, or the place of its beginning is said to be Lake Tear of the Clouds in the High Peaks region of the Adirondacks. For geographic purposes this suffices but not for ecological purposes. The quality of the water in the Hudson is not just the result of rainwater falling onto its surface and the surfaces of its tributaries but also the result of



precipitation falling everywhere throughout the watershed.

The landscape may alter the quality of water moving through in various ways depending on the makeup of that landscape. In the Hudson basin approximately 62.3% of the landscape is forested including parts of the Adirondacks, Catskills, Berkshires, Shawangunks, Palisades and others. About 24.9% is farmland (including row crops, pasture, vineyards and orchards), 7.8% is urban and residential land and 2.6% is open water.

Forested areas, under pre-industrial conditions



G.R. Wall, K. Riva-Murray and P.J. Phillips. 1998. Water Quality in the Hudson River Basin, New York and Adjacent States, 1992-1995. U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1165.

provided clean, clear water to the Hudson. Today because of increased acidic deposition the role of the forested landscape is changing. Of course runoff from urban areas frequently contains high concentrations of all those modern chemicals we use to live including soaps, detergents, petrochemical by-products (gasoline, oil, grease), pesticides, herbicides, plastics and many others. More than 80 percent of the people in the Hudson River basin drink surface waters and the remaining 20% utilize ground water supplies.

At the Biological Research Station we study things that happen in a small portion of the forested land of the Hudson watershed, but what we learn has much wider implications affecting much greater area. Ecologists, like myself, frequently work in relatively small plots measured in one or a few meters squared. This is

because it is not possible to measure everywhere. We have to limit ourselves to what is economically and practically feasible. One of the things we measure here is nitrogen. Nitrogen is a naturally occurring element needed by all living things because it is part of amino acids, proteins and DNA. It represents 78% of the Earth's atmosphere. This nitrogen has to be converted to a reactive form before life can use it. Bacteria and nitrogen fixing plants perform the conversion naturally. Humans also produced reactive nitrogen through the manufacture of fertilizer and the combustion of fossil fuels. The product of these processes is released to the environment by vehicles, airplanes, power plants, water treatment plants, and runoff from agricultural lands and lawns.

The principle chemicals in acid deposition (acid rain) are oxides of sulfur and nitrogen. When a molecule of oxygenated nitrogen (e.g. nitrate) falls on soil, a set of chemical changes occurs within the soil. Generally soils in the Hudson River watershed are naturally acidic and acid deposition may increase acidity. As acidity increases, soils lose low molecular weight, low valence ions, e.g. sodium, calcium, magnesium. These atoms and ions are carried away by nitrites and nitrates.

Soils are composed of colloid particles; very small fine clay-like particles that have negatively charged surfaces that attract and hold positively charged ions. Because ions of nitrites and nitrate

have a negative charge they are not attracted to colloidal surfaces and they leach out of soils with the ground water. Because of a law called electrochemical neutrality a negative ion cannot leach from the soil without carrying with it a positive ion. Thus soils receiving acidic deposition lose their sodium, calcium and other small positive ions. These losses appear to adversely affect tree and amphibian health and over time produce acidified lakes such as those found in the Adirondacks. The nitrates then accumulate in the groundwater, streams, lakes and rivers.

In a recent survey conducted by the US Geological Survey (the National Water Quality Assessment Program) of major river basins in the United States, nitrate concentrations in ground water were highest in agricultural wells (26mg/l). In the Hudson River watershed of the ground water samples collected, 53% had detectable concentrations of nitrates (>0.05 mg/l as N). 38% of agricultural wells had nitrate concentrations greater than 3 mg/l. Three milligrams per liter of water is considered to be the level of nitrate concentrations to indicate human influence. Of 26 wells tested in urban/residential areas, 23% had concentrations greater than 3 mg/l.

High nitrate concentrations in water have several effects that adversely impact life in ponds, streams, rivers, lakes, and near shore oceanic environments. There is also concern that high concentrations of nitrates in drinking water may not be healthful for humans.



Margy O'Brien

COM.EN.ART.1999

The highest concentration of nitrates in streams sampled where in highly urbanized landscapes possibly because of large amounts of fertilizer used in lawn care. The lowest concentrations were in forested areas. Forested areas appear to sequester some of the excess reactive nitrogen produced by human activity.

Unfortunately human activity produces so much reactive nitrogen that forests have become saturated and cannot use the excess. Hence excess reactive nitrogen leaks into ground water, streams, lakes, and rivers. This can lead to an increase rate of eutrophication due to the fertilizing effect of reactive nitrogen on phytoplankton. Fishkills may follow and "dead zones" in nearby oceans may result (e.g. in the

Gulf of Mexico offshore of the Mississippi River).

The water quality of the Hudson River is not the result of Lake Tear of the Clouds but of all precipitation falling on every square inch of the watershed. The answer to where the Hudson River begins is everywhere within its watershed.

Biodiversity Workshop: A Primer for Community Action

On May 9-10, 2002 the E.N. Huyck Preserve will be hosting a workshop focusing on the topic of biodiversity in the Hudson River Valley region. It is sponsored by Cornell University's Biodiversity Project Work Team, a team comprised of Cornell University staff involved in Natural Resource issues and other partners including the E.N. Huyck Preserve, the Department of Environmental Conservation, Hudsonia, Hudson River Biodiversity and Terrestrial Habitat Project and numerous County Cooperative Extension Associations up and down the Hudson River.

While the definition of biodiversity is not always well understood or agreed upon, the goal of this workshop is to help various stakeholders understand and conserve biodiversity within their own communities.

Topics and activities to be covered during the two-day event include learning about biodiversity in the Hudson River Valley and promoting the conservation of biodiversity.

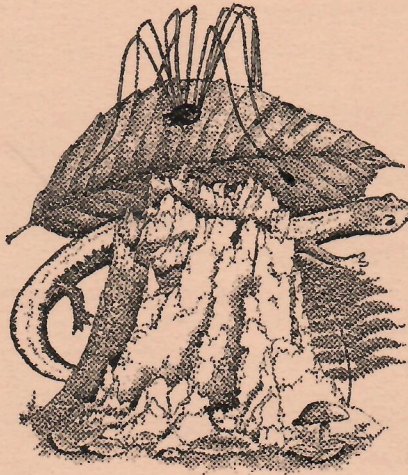
The participants will gain experience in identifying birds, frogs, wildflowers, and other elements of nature. They also will learn about "Nature mapping", an outreach program that promotes biodiversity studies for use in resource planning and management.

Dr. Richard Wyman, the Preserve's Director will give a presentation on the "Biodiversity on the Preserve" and how his research has contributed to understanding the significance of key species. Marilyn Wyman will discuss "Managing for Biodiversity in Forest and Farmlands".

This workshop targets anyone involved in programs where biodiversity is an issue, including garden programs, farming, forestry, watershed, water quality, land-use planning, and wildlife management.

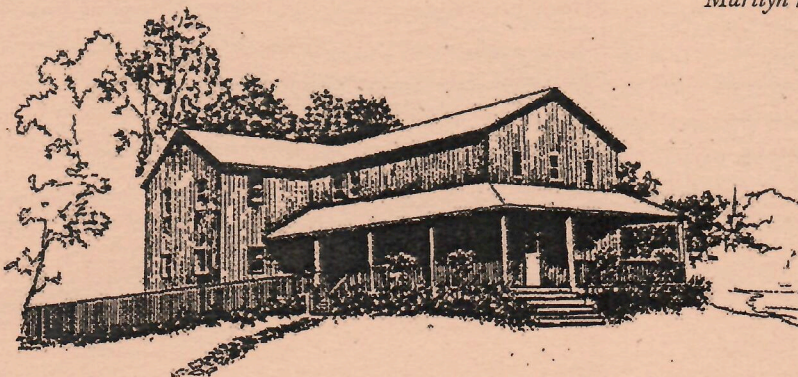
Because the E.N. Huyck Preserve has a history of researching its own varied habitats; this seems the perfect setting for this workshop. Participants will have opportunity to experience our rich biodiversity during their time here, as well as, the more intangible values such a special natural place offers.

Marilyn Wyman



Katherine Shelbourne

COM.EN.ART



Patricia Kernan

COM.EN.ART 1998

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COME FLY WITH US, COME FLY-AWAY ...

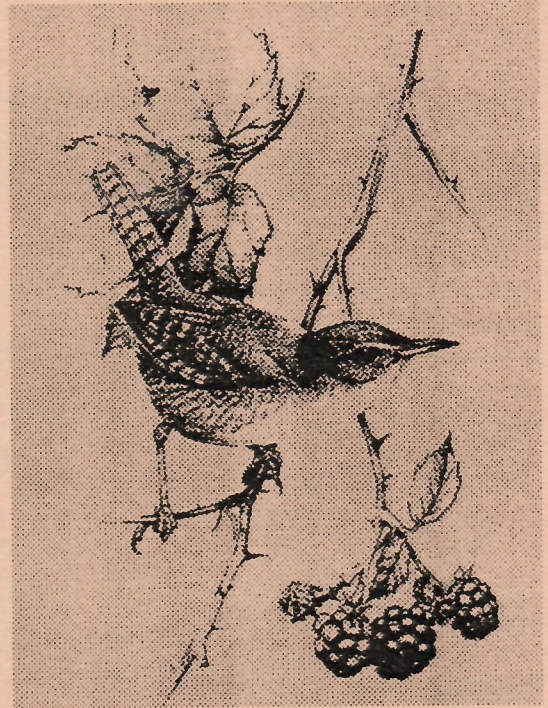
Take flight with the Huyck Preserve on June 8th from 1:00 – 4:00 for our Bird Festival, featuring several bird experts sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for our feathered friends. Some of our favorite bird people will be returning and there will be new faces and activities as well. Most of the activities will be on-going throughout the afternoon, such as, bird walks and talks with experts to help us identify birds, binocular cleaning, adjustments and advice on selecting binoculars, bird banding demonstrations, live native birds on display, and fun bird watching related activities and games for young kids.

Though we are still working on the schedule and adding more participants, here is a tentative list of the activities and the presenters:

- **Rich Gutherie** – Rich is a well-recognized bird expert, frequently heard on WAMC, and offers a wealth of knowledge on birds. He will set up a mist net to trap birds for banding, offering an up-close view of local birds with an opportunity to experience a 'bird in the hand' first-hand.
- **Larry Fedderman**, Northern Catskill Audubon Society - Larry will share his skills and abilities in bird identification in walks along the edges of Lincoln Pond, and will be available at his Audubon display to engage in bird talk.
- **Chris Keefer** – Kids will have a great time learning about birds and bird watching from Chris, while using tools and equipment in a fun and entertaining manner.
- **Dan Rubino**, Mirakel Optical – Dan will have binoculars on display, but, bring your own binoculars for adjustment or cleaning, and your questions about selecting appropriate binoculars to suit your needs.
- **Kelly Martin**, Huyck Preserve – Kelly is a local wildlife rehabilitator and educator and will bring several native birds for an up-close view.

In addition to this, there will be other on-going activities for adults and kids as well as literature on many different bird related issues such as conservation efforts, habitat concerns, nest box designs, bird feeding and so much more. Please join us for a fun day dedicated to celebrating those creatures that bring joy to our daily lives, our neighbors, the birds.

Kelly Martin



Susan Caumont

COM.EN.ART 1998

Thacher Park Spring Fest & Wetland Fest 2002: a Celebration of Spring and Wetlands

Huyck Preserve educators will be joining the festivities at the John Boyd Thacher State Park & Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center for their Spring Fest and Wetland Fest on May 11th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There will be many activities, walks and talks both at the Overlook at Thacher Park and at the new Emma Treadwell Nature Center. Many organizations, state and federal agencies, and local conservation groups will be participating in this celebration to increase public awareness as to the value of wetlands. Among the many activities, there will be: live animal presentations, nature art and photography, children's games and crafts, educational displays, nature walks, nature talks, traditional string music, fly tying and casting demonstrations, bird banding demonstrations, and much more. Food snacks will be available.

For additional information:

Nature Center: 518-872-0800

Website: <http://welcome.to/springfest>

For displays: 518-872-1804

NYS DEC Wetlands Program: <pxriexin@gw.dec.state.ny.us>

2002 Huyck Hikes Schedule:

Saturday, June 8: Bird Festival

Elyse A. Glover, The University at Albany:

Do House Wrens (*Troglodytes asdon*) exhibit relic rejection behavior in response to experimental brood parasitism?

James McCormick, The University at Albany:

Influence of bluejay caching behavior upon American beech population structure

Sunday, June 30

Miriam Brandt, Regensburg University, Germany:

Strength of reciprocal selection pressures and coevolutionary hot spots in social parasite systems

Sunday, July 7

Jill DeVito, University of Texas @ Arlington:

Safety in numbers: metamorphic synchrony and aggregation as anuran antipredator defense strategies

Sunday, July 14

Ryan Herlands, Vanderbilt University:

The role of ecology in population differentiation in *Neochlamisus bebbianae* leaf beetles

Sunday, August 25

James Runkle, Wright State University:

Twenty-four years change on a 200-yr old *Tsuga canadensis* woods

All hikes meet at the Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville, 2:00 p.m.



Wade Neumeister

COM. EN. ART 1996

May 19th Trail Day Planned

On May 19th, from 1-4 p.m. we will be hosting "National Trail Day". This year volunteers from the Greenville Chapter of the National Honor Society will join us in our effort to beautify our trails. In the recent past, volunteers - both local and from the BTCV - have built bridges, stone retaining walls, dug drainage ditches and cleared trails. Their efforts have been noticeable; they are greatly appreciated by us and enjoyed by all who use our trails.

This year we will meet at the Eldridge Research Center. We will be working on the trail that leads from Lincoln Pond to the boat launch around the northeast end of the lake. There will also be crews sent out to put up trail markers elsewhere on the Preserve.

At 4:30 p.m., the end of the day, we will relax by the pond and have a barbeque at the lab for all of the participating volunteers. We request that you sign up in advance (by Thursday, May 16th) so that work assignments can be prepared and we know how many to expect at the BBQ. There is a sign-up sheet for those who would like to participate posted at the Rensselaerville Library; or call 797-3440 to volunteer.

We hope you will be part of the volunteer team to open the hiking season at the Preserve. Volunteers are urged to bring work boots, gloves, insect repellent, drinking water, and appropriated clothing for the weather. Hope to see you there!

John McGuiness

Annual Membership Meeting – June 22, 2002

A Special Presentation - “Keeping Track”

Our special guest speaker at this year's Annual Membership Meeting will inspire those interested in local wildlife and their habitats.

Susan Morse, Program Director of Keeping Track, a national non-profit organization dedicated to involving communities in wildlife habitat monitoring, will address the meeting and outline the fundamentals of her organization.

Sharing her skills as a naturalist, tracking expert and habitat specialist for over 20 years, Morse aims to bring a community into the active role of monitoring and accumulating data on wildlife habitats and consequently foster decisions regarding the preservation and use of these habitats.

The fragmentation and destruction of habitat is a primary cause of decline in wildlife populations. Via monitoring and collecting of data, citizens can obtain the information needed to make informed decisions about wildlife habitat stewardship.

While Keeping Track involves identifying habitat types and identifying and interpreting the signs of key species, it does not create a census of wildlife.

The data produced from a Keeping Track Program documents;

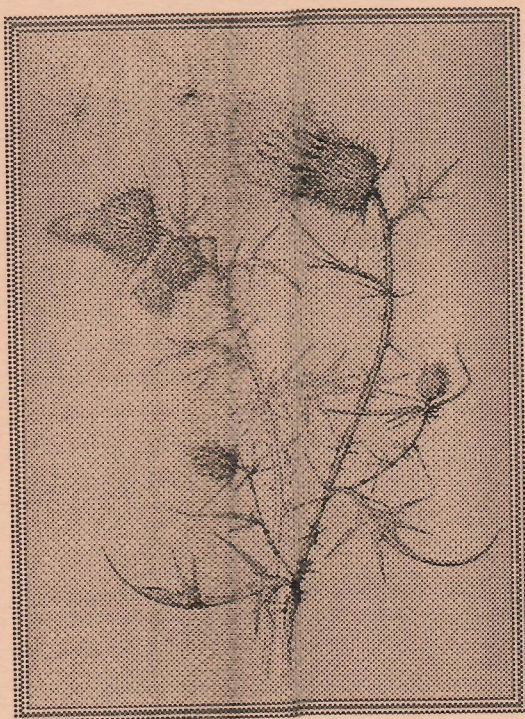
- The presence of sensitive, endangered, or other species of wildlife.
- Qualitative assessments of habitats and landscapes.
- Needs for immediate and long-term conservation plans.
- Changes in distribution of wildlife populations and identification of their essential habitats and travel corridors.

The Huyck Preserve hopes to stimulate community interest in this program so that the full six-day workshop can be conducted in the future, hopefully with support from neighboring organizations with similar minded goals. The fundamental success of this program involves bringing a group of like-minded individuals together, who will work on the common goal of wildlife stewardship.

“We work with urbanites and farmers, hunters and anti-hunters, teachers, loggers, poets. What's fun about Keeping Track is we can put our differences aside to work toward our common goal- collecting reliable data to guide community planning and protect wildlife.”

For more information on Keeping Track, see their website at www.keepingtrackinc.org. For more information on the Annual Meeting or other Preserve events, call 797-3440.

Deb Monteith



Kevin Duggan

COM.EN.ART, 2001

Story Hour Launched

Lincoln Pond is a remarkable area. Its pond, stream, hemlock, and mixed deciduous habitats are ideal for research and education. We've long thought that “the lab” would also be a nice spot to do story time.

This winter, we launched a Story hour Program for pre-school and school-aged children in cooperation with the Rensselaerville Library. Library staff provide board books and easy readers for toddlers and a variety of picture books for school aged children. The Preserve provides food, puzzles, color materials and a well lit comfortable area for youngsters to read and play.

Each month has a loose theme. Our January event was “Story Bowl” in honor of “Super Bowl Sunday” and featured a number of sports and activity related books.

Sunday, April 28th will be the last story hour in our winter series. Please join us at the Eldridge Lab from 1-3 p.m. for “Nursery Tales” featuring A.A. Milne, Beatrix Potter and other favorites.

Barbara Bolster Barrett

20th Annual Science Symposium to feature R. Stimson Wilcox

On Saturday, July 20, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. the Huyck Preserve will be hosting its 20th Annual Science Symposium in the Eldridge Research Center on Pond Hill Road. The Symposium highlights a range of field projects conducted at the Biological Research Station. We are continuing the tradition of inviting a prominent scientist to speak who has conducted work here at the Preserve. This year's guest speaker will be R. Stimson Wilcox, Associate Professor at Binghamton University.



Dr. Wilcox's interests lie in the areas of behavioral ecology, particularly mating strategies, territoriality, aggressive mimicry, communication, and alternative strategies and tactics. He also studies predator-prey interactions that are mediated by underwater, low frequency pressure waves, working mainly with water striders, jumping spiders and fish, in both the field and the laboratory.

During his study of water striders on the Ten-Mile Creek, Dr. Wilcox discovered that males communicate their territory by creating ripples on the water's surface.

Other symposium topics include blue jay caching behavior, leaf beetles, tracking change in hemlock forests and the internationalization of biological field stations. Please join us for an interesting and informative afternoon.

2002 Swim Lessons & Nature Study

We will again be offering Red Cross affiliated swimming lessons at Lake Myosotis. Classes will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from July 8-August 9 from 1-3 p.m. and will be taught by Barbara Bolster Barrett.

Nature Study for grades K-2 will be meeting Tuesdays (July 9-August 6) and grades 3-6 will meet Thursdays (July 11-August 8). Both classes will meet at the Jessie Huyck Center on Lake Myosotis from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration will be held the first day of class, but students may pre-register by contacting the Preserve Office at 797-3440. Cost: Family level membership plus \$10 class fee per child (max. \$25 per family)

Environmental Education Camp — August 19-23, 2002 Scholarships Available for Local Students

The 2002 Summer Environmental Education Camp is pleased to offer two scholarship positions, thanks to The Good Cause Club of Rensselaerville. The two positions will be available to any local students who wish to participate in this year's residential camp experience.

This weeklong residential camp for middle-school students offers an exploration of the natural environment through a range of activities and workshops designed to challenge the mind and have fun in the process.

The camp will be a hands-on experience with a maximum of 12 students attending under the supervision of our experienced staff and assistants. While a host of activities are planned, students will be directly involved in the daily planning and preparation of each day, including cooking, cleaning and nightly activities.

Some of the workshops offered include; drawing and natural illustration, creative writing and poetry, scientific discovery through research projects, animal rehabilitation and wildlife care, creative woodworking and a range of challenging outdoor education activities. There will of course be swimming at the lake, plenty of games, and some fun to be had at the campfire at night!

While the camp's primary aim is to foster an appreciation of our natural environment, we also hope to build personal skills, provide an opportunity for socialization, learn and apply the skills of problem solving and analytical thinking and of course, have a lot of fun.

Scholarship applicants need to submit a short student-written essay outlining why they would like to be awarded this position and how they feel they would benefit by attending the camp. Applications should be received no later than July 12, 2002 and recipients will be notified by July 21, 2002.

The cost for the residential experience is \$350 per child for the 5 days for members of the Preserve, or \$375 for non-members. If you would like to attend as a day camper only, costs will be \$135 for members and \$150 for non-members with lunch included.

For more information or to register, please pick up a brochure, or call 797-3440.

Deb Monteith

Jessie Blake Salmon
COM.EN.ART 2000



The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve

2002 Spring and Summer Calendar

All activities, events and programs meet at the
Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville, NY
unless otherwise noted.

April 27, 2002

Project Wet Workshop

April 28, 2002

Story Time in cooperation with the Rensselaerville Library featuring British Nursery stories.
1:00-3:00 PM, Refreshments will be served.

May 9-10, 2002

Biodiversity Workshop with Cornell University

May 19, 2002

Trail Day, 1:00 AM-4:00 PM
Community Barbeque to follow

May 21 & 23, 2002

MindsOn Workshops

June 2 - 14, 2002

Residential Field Ecology Course with SUNY Albany

June 3-5, 2002

Greenville Central Schools Kindergarten Fieldtrip

June 8, 2002

Bird Festival, 1:00-5:00 PM
Huyck Hikes: James McCormick (bluejays) & Elyse Glover (wrens)

June 10, 2002

Albany City Schools, School 26 Fieldtrip

June 22, 2002

71st Annual Membership Meeting
featuring Guest Speaker Susan Morse from Keeping Track

June 30, 2002

Lake Myosotis Opens
Huyck Hike: Miriam Brandt (*Regensburg University, Germany*) Slavemaking ants, 2:00 pm



Tim Angell
COMENART 1999

July 7, 2002

Huyck Hike: Jill DeVito (*University of Texas @ Arlington*) Safety in numbers: antipredator defense strategies in tadpoles, 2:00 pm

July 8, 2002 – August 9, 2002

Swimming Lessons begin.

Lessons will be held at Lake Myosotis Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00-3:00 PM.

July 9, 2002 – August 6, 2002

Nature Study for K-2 begins. Tuesdays 10:00 AM – Noon at the Jessie Huyck Center on Lake Myosotis.

July 14, 2002

Huyck Hike: Ryan Herlands (*Vanderbilt University*) The role of ecology in population differentiation in *Neochlamisus bebbianae* leaf beetles, 2:00 pm

July 11, 2002 – August 8, 2002

Nature Study for 3-6 begins. Thursdays 10:00 AM – Noon at the Jessie Huyck Center on Lake Myosotis.

July 20, 2002

Science Symposium, Stimson Wilcox (SUNY Binghamton), Guest Speaker

August 11-21, 2002

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) at the Preserve

August 19-23, 2002

Environmental Awareness Camp for Middle School Youth

August 25, 2002

Huyck Hike: James Runkle (*Wright State University*) Twenty-four years change on a 200-yr old *Tsuga canadensis* woods, 2:00 pm

August 31, 2002

2002 Benefit Dance, 7:30 PM

featuring Captain Squeeze and the Zydeco Moshers

September 22, 2002

Hudson River Ramble at Preserve, 2:00 PM; Meet at the Mill House/Rensselaerville Falls Trailhead

October 19, 2002

Burroughs Talk by Zoe Walker, 2:00 PM

COM.EN.ART Show and Reception

October 25-27, 2002

Residential Artist Program at Preserve with local artist Jim Coe



Jane Axamethy, detail
COM.EN.ART 2001



Linda Beckwith
COM.EN.ART 1997

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve
Post Office Box 189
Rensselaerville, NY 12147

Yes I (we) would like to join/renew my (our) membership in the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station. I am (We are) including an additional gift of \$ _____ which is a: *(Please check the appropriate box)*

- ☐ One time gift paid in full with this payment.
- ☐ Gift of appreciated stock, real estate or other assets. Please contact me directly for details of transfer.
- ☐ I am interested in discussing a bequest to the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station.
- ☐ My company sponsors a Matching Gifts Program

Membership Levels

Student	\$ 10.	Contributing	\$ 100.
Individual	\$ 30.	Sustaining	\$ 250.
Family	\$ 40.	Patron	\$ 500.
Benefactor		\$1000. or more	

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
e-mail _____

This gift is given in honor of/in memory of: _____

(Provide exact wording here.)

Every gift counts, every gift is appreciated.

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