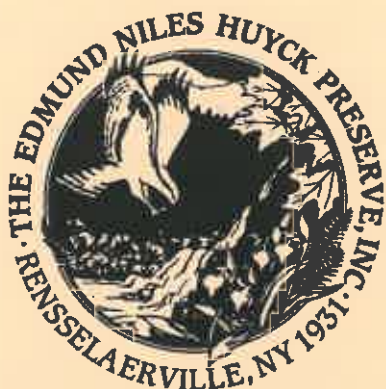


FORGET-ME-NOT



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

Volume 28, Number 2

Suckers and Eagles

Richard L. Wyman

Just below the spillway of Lincoln Pond you can hear the water falling down the six steps of the dam.

Colts feet are out and the grass is greening. Black flies bounce off my face and neck and wolf spiders

and ants run amongst the streamside rocks.

In a pool below the new

bridge on Pond Hill Road is a school of white suckers

(*Catostomus commersonnii*) waiting to spawn.

These fish have swum up from Lake Myosotis, about a mile south of here. There are so many fish in the pool that they make the bottom appear black, instead of the mud brown color elsewhere. You can only tell they are there because every once in a while you can see their lighter colored jaws.

It looks like they are so close together that they are touching one another. If you get too close or let your shadow fall on them, they dart about or sometimes swim downstream in a long train-like procession. These fish spawn in Ten Mile Creek every year near the first full moon of May (today is April 29th). The males are 10 to 12 inches and the females 14 to 20 inches long. If you were to catch one you would see that they are quite colorful on their heads and undersides; their backs are dark gray to black.

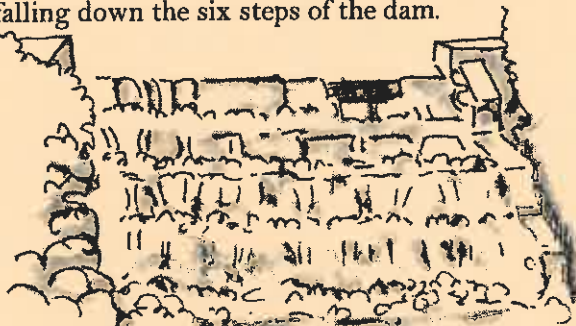
Their bellies and throats may have pink, blue, green and salmon colors. They have nuptial tubercles on their heads. Nuptial tubercles are small scaly protuberances used in courtship. We usually can tell when the suckers are in Ten Mile Creek because eagles and osprey show up to prey on them. My old friend Clayton Barber (he

passed away two years ago) told me a story about how his father and he would come to the Ten Mile Creek in the spring, before it was a nature preserve, and catch white suckers to eat. They would bring an old wooden slatted barrel and, using nets, would fill the barrel with fish. It is not hard to imagine because I would guess there are over a thousand fish in the stream now. It is funny - I never catch white suckers when I fish in Lake Myosotis. They are called suckers because their mouth is located under the head and they feed on mollusks and other invertebrates by sucking up mud and then removing edible morsels before ejecting the mud out of their opercula (opercula are the flaps over their gills that open and close when they breathe water in and out).

A couple of years ago I brought my biodiversity students here when the suckers were in the stream and a bald eagle flew right over our heads looking down at the fish. The students were thrilled. One young woman said her mother loved eagles but had never seen one in the wild.

I am now downstream a couple of hundred feet from the bridge at another pool also filled with fish. They are arranged near the bottom with their heads aimed upstream and I can see lines of white mouths moving as they jostle for position in the current. I try to count mouths and lose track around sixty. I have not seen an eagle or an osprey yet but I know it will not be long before they show up. Suckers and eagles let me know when spring arrives on the Huyck Preserve. Oh yeah - so do the black flies.

I am back home at about 6:00 PM and am sitting on my front porch that overlooks Lake Myosotis. An osprey just appeared, hovered for a second and dove down toward the mouth of Ten-Mile Creek where the suckers are congregated. It is dinnertime.



Lincoln Pond Dam
 Gretchen Halpert, COM.EN.ART 2003



Walks and Talks:

Eldridge Research Center on Lincoln Pond, Pond Hill Road

The History of Field Stations

Special Presentation,
73rd Annual Meeting

Dr. Ed Johnson of the University of Calgary and the director of the Kananaskis Field Station is a forest ecologist who studies the effects of disturbances. He is best known for his studies of the effects of forest fires on conifer forests of the Canadian Rockies. Dr. Johnson will talk about the evolution of field stations over the last several hundred years. *June 19th, 3:00 PM.*

Friday Evening Nature Strolls

Evenings are one of the loveliest times to be out in nature, with many sights and sounds that are unique to the twilight times. Taking a walk out in nature after a busy workweek is also a wonderful way to relax. This summer Marilyn Wyman is offering two opportunities to take a guided evening walk along Preserve trails. The first nature walk, around Lincoln Pond, from will meet at the Eldridge Research Center. The second will be along the Waterfalls trail with participants meeting at the Preserve office in the Hamlet. Both will be from 6:30-8:00 PM. There is no fee for these guided walks but reservations are required. Please contact the office at 797-3440 and let Carolyn Barker know if you plan to attend.

Lincoln Pond Trail: July 16th, 6:30 PM
Falls Trail: August 27th, 6:30 PM

Lyme Disease Talk: Understanding Ticks and Lyme Disease

Join Rick Bursell, of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Greene County, for a power point presentation on Lyme disease. The northern Catskill region has a fairly high rate of Lyme disease. Lyme disease is only contracted by the bite of an infected deer tick. This presentation will show you how to avoid contracting Lyme disease and help you to understand the biology and ecology of the deer tick. Topics to be covered include an overview of Lyme disease in NY State and this region, the deer tick life cycle, integrated pest management (IPM) for managing deer ticks, what to do if you get bit by a deer tick and Lyme disease symptoms and diagnosis. *Sunday, July 11th, 2:00-4:00 PM. Free.*



Approaching Your Landscape the Natural Way

Antonia Besculides will conduct a Natural Landscaping class on Sunday, August 8th at the Preserve. Learn how to plant a native landscape to attract and provide habitat for birds and wildlife, while improving the aesthetics of your yard. Plant trees for shade or for windbreaks to help cool and heat your house seasonally. There will also be a section on managing your backyard stream from an ecological perspective. Registration is required. *August 8th, 2:00-5:00 PM. Cost \$5.00 members \$7.50 non-members.*

Antonia Besculides has led numerous workshops on organic gardening and landscaping with native plants. She has given workshops at the Agroforestry Resource Center in Acra, NY.

Mary Ellen Didion
Winged Insects
COM.EN.ART 1998

Observations on Nature with Barry Kuhar & Membership Appreciation BBQ

Local naturalist, Barry Kuhar will again join us on Sunday, August 22nd at 2:00 PM to share his daily observations on nature. This has become an annual event that we all look forward to. Afterward we will hold our membership appreciation BBQ by the pond. Please register by August 15th at the Preserve office (797-3440) if you plan to attend. *BBQ free to members, \$10 for non-members.*

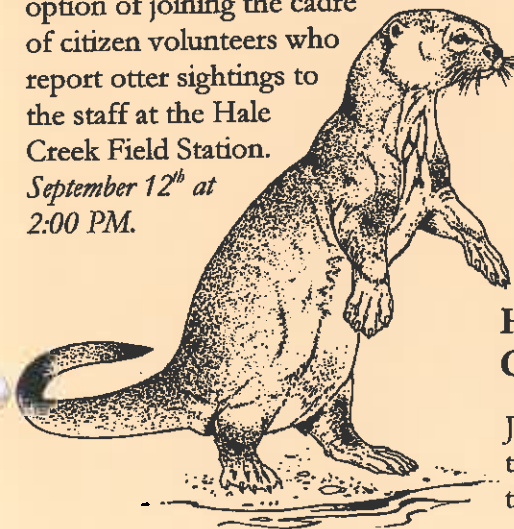
River Otter Program with Melissa Hamilton

River otters are members of the mustelid or weasel family who are memorable to anyone who has ever witnessed their playful antics and graceful swimming abilities. You can learn more about these beguiling creatures by attending a river otter educational program at the Eldridge Research Center on Sunday, September 12th at 2:00 PM. Melissa Hamilton, a Student Conservation Association educator who is currently working at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYS-DEC) Hale Creek Field

Station in Gloversville, will present the river otter program.

River otters are one of the aquatic members of the weasel family. Like mink, river otters are very susceptible to injury and reproductive difficulties due to exposure to inorganic pollutants, such as mercury and PCBs. Staff members at the Hale Creek Field Station are conducting research to evaluate the impact of these contaminants on mustelid populations in the Hudson River watershed. The NYS-DEC is seeking citizen volunteers who will report sightings of river otters in the Hudson River drainage basin.

Melissa Hamilton's presentation is suitable for the entire family and will include a slide presentation and river otter game. This educational program will provide a wealth of information about a fascinating animal. If time permits, we will take a walk to look for signs of river otter activity on the Preserve. By the end of the presentation, attendees will be well equipped to recognize river otter activity and will have the option of joining the cadre of citizen volunteers who report otter sightings to the staff at the Hale Creek Field Station. *September 12th at 2:00 PM.*



Ongoing activities

Rich Guthrie: Mist net and bird banding
Dan Rubino of Mirakel Optical: Binocular cleaning and advice on selecting binoculars
Chris Keefer: Children's activities
Jim Coe: Display on bird illustrations
Kevin Berner: NYS Bluebird Society display

Scheduled birding walks (40 minutes to one hour in duration)

Chris Keefer: 1:00 PM
Peter Feinberg: 2:00 PM
Jim Coe: 3:00 PM
Larry Federman: 4:00 PM

Scheduled indoor talks & slide presentations (30 minutes to one hour in duration)

Jim Coe: Natural History Illustration, 1:30 PM
Margaret Bernstein: A Musical Exploration of Birds and Nature for Children, 2:30 PM
Kelly Martin: Rehabilitation of Injured Birds, 3:30 PM

Badge Program for Girl Scouts & interested young people

Scouts need to take whole program to fulfill badge requirements, other children could participate in any portion*

1:00 to 1:15 PM	Orientation
1:15 to 1:45 PM	Introduction to Bird Identification
1:45 to 2:30 PM	Using Binoculars, Bird banding demonstration, Live bird exhibition
2:30 to 3:15 PM	Bird Conservation
3:15 to 3:30 PM	Break
3:30 to 4:15 PM	Beginner Bird Walk
4:15 to 5:00 PM	Making Kestrel Boxes*

*Kestrel box building is available only to children fulfilling scout badge requirements.

Hudson River Ramble: Guided walk on the Rensselaerville Falls Trail

Join us for a hike highlighting the unique plant and animal habitats along the falls trail as well as the history of the Huyck Felt Mill, formerly located on the Preserve site. *September 25th at 2:00 PM., meet at Office Parking Lot.*

6th Annual Bird Festival

Eldridge Research Center
Saturday, June 5, 2004 1 to 5 PM



Barred Owl, 2003
by Sandra Orris
Bird nest
by Colleen Lodge,
COM.EN.ART 2001



Wildlife Rehabilitation Update

Kelly Martin

Generally fall and winter are relatively quiet times for wildlife rehabilitators, relative to the summer when animals are nesting and orphaned wildlife numerous.

There were a few exceptions this past year. It seemed to be a season of probable West Nile virus victims - debilitated great horned owls and red-tailed hawks with no signs of trauma. Though many wild animals are injured by cars resulting in fractures and head trauma, these raptors showed no sign of injury but were weak and emaciated. Some did not live long enough to be examined by a veterinarian. Those that were seen by my veterinarian were found to have internal parasites and bacterial infections. In spite of treatment these birds died, indicating that we were only treating underlying secondary problems. It became clear that although we did not specifically test for West Nile, there was some other pathology going on in these birds. One red-tailed hawk was submitted for a necropsy to more accurately determine the cause of death.

Another red-tailed hawk I took in did survive. He showed similar symptoms: weak, thin and unable to fly well. This bird was found in Huntersland, NY and was banded. I contacted the North American Bird Banding Program (1-800-327-BAND) with the band number. He had hatched in 2001 near Berlinsville, PA and was banded on October 27, 2002, also in PA. After an initial period of supportive care, this bird spent a month and a half with my two educational red-tails in an outside cage. He was released at the Huyck Preserve in time for fall migration. At least it was a happy ending for this bird.

There were two unusual species submissions this winter - a long-eared owl and a saw whet owl. Both birds had wing injuries, probably from car collisions. The long-eared came from the Coxsackie area and unfortunately died after a few days, following surgery on the fractured wing. They are not a hardy bird and often do not tolerate the stress of handling, captivity and physical trauma. The little saw whet, our smallest resident owl, also often a migratory species, fared better. It was rescued from the side of Route 32 by a young man from the Westerlo/Rensselaerville area. This bird had a 'wrist' fracture. Injuries to this joint almost always render a bird unable to return to the wild because flexibility, agility, and the ability to successfully capture prey or to avoid predators is impaired. We will try to employ this little one in our educational programs.

Another odd fellow brought in from Rensselaerville was a mink, also hit by a car. He had major head trauma and injury to both eyes, with both eyes pushed out of the socket but still attached. Word to the wise - if an animal receives such an injury, time is of the essence to save the eyes and veterinary care is imperative. My veterinarian was unable to save one eye and we are attempting to save the other. This required surgically replacing the eye in the socket and suturing it shut for three weeks. Minks do not make good patients. They are aggressive when handled and can make an intense musk odor when they feel threatened, much more intense than their usual musky smell. His head trauma resolved completely, but it remains to be seen whether or not he will regain visual function in the eye. It looks doubtful.

A couple of long-term patients that came in over the summer may finally gain their freedom. A cooper's hawk from Triangle Lake, another car victim, had suffered minor trauma to his legs and pelvis, but had required surgery to repair his crop which ruptured when hit. He was not ready for release when fall migration came and went. He spent the winter in cramped quarters; accipiter hawks are highly neurotic birds and can do severe damage to themselves when not held in specialized caging. He is now being flown and conditioned by a falconer to ready him for release. He may make his return to the wild at our upcoming bird festival on June 5th. Also, a juvenile red-tailed hawk was picked up in Westerlo after being hit by a car. My veterinarian surgically repaired a fractured humerus and he is now residing with another rehabilitator, Michelle Segerberg from Selkirk. Michelle has a very large cage in which this bird can gain some strength before release.

These are a few of the highlights, or low points, from this past winter. Now spring is here and the orphans are here too. We are already caring for baby cottontails and gray squirrels. If you need assistance with wildlife, remember that you can get the numbers of wildlife rehabilitators nearest you from every NYS DEC regional office. For our local area, here are a few numbers to keep on file: Kelly Martin 827-4616; Michelle Segerberg 767-2238; Marcia Kent 872-1660. We trade animals to insure that wildlife ends up with a licensed rehabilitator able to provide the best care with appropriate housing for each species. Many of you may know Marcia as our local bird rehabilitator. I for one am so glad that she is willing and able to provide the intensive care required in properly raising orphaned songbirds. Give me the mammals and larger birds any day!

Calendar of Activities and Events ~ Summer 2004 ~

May

May 6
May 8
May 18, 20, 24
May 20, 21, or 22

May 25

May 29-30

Minds On: Scientific Method (Middle School)
Board of Directors Meeting
Greenville Elementary School 3rd/4th Grade classes fieldtrip
Northeast Natural History Conference: Bat Illustration, Structure in Nature & Nature Printing Workshops at the Preserve
Tools & Observation/Wildlife Alive! Fieldtrip, Berne, Knox Westerlo Elementary - 2nd Grade
Photography Workshop with Thomas Teich, registration required

June

June 2,3,4
June 5
June 19

June 27

Greenville Elementary School Kindergarten fieldtrip
Bird Festival
73rd Annual Membership Meeting
Guest speaker: Ed Johnson, Univ. of Calgary
History of Field Stations
Huyck Hike: Jill DeVito, Miami University
Riparian wolf spiders, 2 PM

Susan Caumont
COM.EN.ART 1998



July

July 1-29

July 6-27

July 7
July 9-11
July 10
July 11

July 16

July 17
July 25
July 26-30

Nature Study/"Junior Scientists": grades 3-5 (meets Thursdays, 10 AM - noon at the Jessie Huyck Center)
Nature Study/The Natural World Around Us: grades K-2 (meets Tuesdays, 10 AM - noon at the Jessie Huyck Center)
Swimming Lessons begin at Lake Myosotis - M,W,F July 7-August 6, 1:00-3:30 pm
Plein Air Landscape Painting Workshop with Jim Coe, registration required
Display/Animals at Catskill Mountain Festival, 11 AM-5 PM
Understanding Ticks and Lyme Disease: Lyme Disease Talk with Rick Bursell of Cornell Coop. Ext. of Greene County, 2-4 PM
Evening Guided Walk around Lincoln Pond/Marilyn Wyman, 6:30 PM, meet at the Eldridge Research Center
Science Symposium, Eldridge Research Center, 2 PM; BBQ to follow
Huyck Hike: Mike Dlugos, University of Binghamton/water striders, 2 PM
Environmental Camp for middle school students, registration required

Hannah Sawyer, COM.EN.ART 1997



August

August 1
August 8

August 11-12
August 15

August 22
August 16-20
August 27

Huyck Hike: April Boulton, Villanova University/Common Wood Ants, 2 PM
Approaching Your Landscape the Natural Way with Antonia Besculides,
2-5 PM; \$5 members/\$7 non-members

Teacher Center/ Teacher Workshop: Natural History, 9AM – 4 PM

Huyck Hike: Gerald Bove, SUNY Buffalo/Zooplankton migration in Lake Myosotis, 2 PM

Observations on Nature with Barry Kuhar and Membership BBQ, 2 PM
Environmental Camp for middle school students, registration required

Evening Guided Walk on Rensselaerville Falls Trail/Marilyn Wyman, 6:30 PM,
meet at Mill House Parking Lot

September

September 2
September 4
September 12
September 25

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers at the Preserve September 2-16

Annual Benefit Dance, Conkling Hall, 7:30 PM

River Otter Program & Slideshow with Melissa Hamilton, 2 PM

Hudson River Ramble: Guided Hike of Rensselaerville Falls Trail, 2PM

October

October 16-17

Plein Air Landscape Painting Workshop with Jim Coe, registration required

Valerie Hayes
COM. EN. ART 2002



2004 Huyck Grant Recipients

April Boulton, *Villanova University*
**Influences of a common wood ant on native
and exotic plant species**

Huyck Hike: August 1

Gerald Bove, *SUNY – Buffalo*
**Zooplankton migration in Myosotis Lake Huyck Preserve,
using Acoustic Doppler Profiler (ACDP)
and Scindler-Patalas trap**

Huyck Hike: August 15

Jill DeVito, *Miami University*
**Response of terrestrial
riparian wolf spiders (*Pirata sedentarius*)
to chemical cues of vertebrate and invertebrate predators**

Huyck Hike: June 27

Mike Dlugos, *Binghamton University*
**Flexibility of *Aquarius remigis* tactics:
Does temperature, food abundance, and development time
influence *A. remigis* tactic choice?**

Huyck Hike: July 25

Nature Study:

Jessie Huyck Center on Lake Myosotis

Junior Nature Study: *The Natural World Around Us*

Tuesdays, July 6- July 27
10 AM – Noon

Week 1- Living Things/Weather/Collecting data

Week 2- Trees/Leaves and Birds

Week 3- Pond Life and Water Creatures

Week 4- Plants and small animals (mammals and invertebrates)

Junior Nature Study classes are designed for children of Kindergarten age through third grade, although younger children may attend if an adult is in attendance with them. The theme for this year's four-week class is *The Natural World Around Us*.

The primary goal of the program is the development of fundamental science skills. All of the activities of Nature Study are based on the child's central role in the discovery process, with a focus on problem solving. It is our aim to encourage the development of the following core skills: observing, classifying, comparing and contrasting, gathering data, predicting and communicating.

The program is organized and delivered by Huyck Preserve Educators, Liz LoGuidice, Deb Monteith and Kelly Martin. Liz has recently joined the Huyck Preserve education team and brings a wealth of science education knowledge and skills. Deb's background is in Outdoor Education, along with several years experience as an elementary teacher. Kelly is a New York State licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, actively involved in education. All three currently work as environmental educators at the Huyck Preserve.

A major part of our program is the inclusion of real animals, presented by Kelly Martin. A variety of animals will be included each week, with students guided through predicting and questioning to learn more about each animal. Each lesson will also include a nature walk or short hike, games and arts and crafts.

2004 Learn to Swim Program:

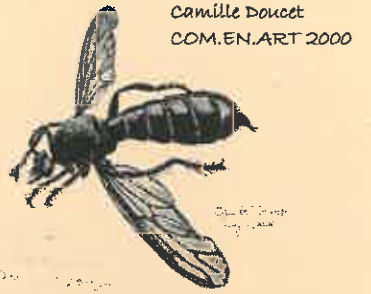
Lake Myosotis Beach

It's almost that time of year again! Get out your swimsuits and sun block, because Swimming Lessons will be starting before you know it!

The 2004 Learn to Swim at Lake Myosotis will run on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-3:30 PM for five weeks, beginning on Wednesday, July 7th and continuing until Friday August 6th, 2004.

Barbara Bolster-Barrett, a NYS certified Water Safety Instructor, will lead the program, as she has for the past 12 years.

Pre-registration is recommended. To do so, contact Carolyn Barker at the Huyck Preserve office, 518-797-3440.



Camille Doucet
COM. EN. ART 2000

Nature Study for grades 3-5 "Junior Scientists" program

Thursdays, July 1-29
10 AM – Noon

This year we are pleased to offer a program, in conjunction with our research staff, entitled "Junior Scientists."

Children will learn about the research process first-hand—what we are studying here at the Preserve, why it is important, and how data is gathered and recorded. Each week, children will get an opportunity to gather, measure and record data out in the field as part of an ongoing research project.

Barbara Bolster-Barrett will again lead this Nature Study program with the expert guidance of Eldridge Research Center manager, Audrey Kropp.

Pre-registration is recommended for the "Junior Scientists" program. Please contact Carolyn Barker at the Preserve office, 518-797-3440.



Manabu Saito
COM. EN. ART 1996

Workshops and Education Programs:



Birch Grove, receding snowline. Early spring 1995

Explore & Experiment: a Large Format Photography Workshop May 28th & 29th

We are pleased to offer yet another opportunity to experience and interpret the unique beauty of the Huyck Preserve's Helderberg setting.

A workshop entitled *Explore & Experiment: Large Format Landscape Photography* will run on Friday, May 28th 5:30-7:30 P.M. and on Saturday, May 29th 10 A.M.-5 P.M (rain date, Sunday, May 30th). Renowned landscape photographer, Thomas Teich, a native to the Catskills, will lead this exciting new offering.

During the two-day workshop, Mr. Teich will introduce photographic enthusiasts to the world of large format photography. "Large format" uses very large negatives (5x7 inches, 8x 10 inches, or even larger) held in place by a "view camera." These large negatives hold considerably more information than smaller formats, such as 35mm or 120 films. The end result is an image of unsurpassed sharpness and clarity.

Participants will get an opportunity to use a view camera to produce B&W photographs on the spot, as well as learn techniques in composition and exposure that

produce stronger results regardless of format used.

On Friday evening, May 28th, participants should bring 2-3 examples of their best work for critique. Mr. Teich will also display some of his extraordinary prints at that time.

The workshop is limited to 10 participants. Deadline for registration is Friday, May 21, 2004. To register or for more information, contact the Preserve office at 518-797-3440

To learn more about Thomas Teich's photography, check out his web site at www.thomasteich.com



March, Honey Hollow

Artists' Retreat & Workshop with Jim Coe

July 9-11, 2004

October 16-17*, 2004

Jim Coe, artist, naturalist and author/illustrator of the Golden Guide *Eastern Birds*, will again offer his plein air landscape painting workshop at the Preserve in July and again in October. Jim has been teaching landscape painting workshops at the Huyck Preserve for three years.

The workshop begins Friday

evening (July only) with a slide presentation. Topics discussed will include a summary of materials and equipment, brief overview of the history of plein air painting, and a slide-by-slide demonstration of Jim's working process. (*Presentation will be given on Saturday during October workshop.)

Jim will start Saturday morning with a plein air demonstration. By mid-morning, students will set off to start their paintings, striving to work quickly and directly from nature. After a break for lunch and mid-day evaluation, the class will return to try a second painting. Throughout the day, Jim will circulate among students giving individual critiques

Sunday will essentially be a repeat of Saturday concluding with a group evaluation.

All participants should plan to bring their own portable easel, oil paints, brushes, solvent, and at least three canvas boards or canvases. A complete materials list will be sent upon registration.

In case of inclement weather, a still life will be set up in the laboratory. Students can also bring their own landscape photos or studies to work with.

To learn more about Jim and his artwork, visit his website www.jamescoe.com.



Reflections, Green Heron

Natural History Teacher Workshop

August 11-12, 2004

9 AM-4 PM

The Preserve is hosting a two-day workshop on Natural History, accredited by the Teacher Center of the Greater Capital Region, in August. Rick Wyman, Ph.D. (Huyck Preserve Executive Director and Biologist) and George Robinson, Ph.D. (University of Albany Biologist) will lead teachers in identifying and classifying plants and animals utilizing keys and field guides. This workshop aims to make teachers feel comfortable teaching their students in an outdoor setting. If you would like to be part of this workshop or for more information, contact the Teacher Center at 479-4083.

High School Internship Opportunities at Eldridge Research Center

Huyck Preserve education and research staff are working together to develop a flexible internship program for High School students. This opportunity will allow students to complete a 20-hour internship during school holidays, such as Christmas break, the mid-winter break in February or spring break in April. Interns will work on indoor and outdoor research projects that involve long-term monitoring of invertebrates, small mammals, amphibians and trees. Interested students who excel during the 20-hour internship will be offered the option of extending their internship into the summer months.

Some benefits of a Huyck Preserve internship:

- Learn to identify and classify forest wildlife
- Work in the field on a real-life biological research project.
- Build college-level skills while gaining experience at a working research laboratory

Do you know a High School student who is interested in Science and the natural world? An internship at the Eldridge Research Center is a valuable opportunity for a student to build knowledge, confidence, life skills and their college resume. For more information, contact Audrey Kropp, Laboratory Manager at 797-5172.

Camp photos: (above right) Campers participate in release of kestrel, Nicole LaGrone 2003; (right) Campers construct raft at Myosotis beach, John McGuinness, 2002



Environmental Education Camps 2004

Deb Monteith

The popularity of the middle school Environmental Education Camp has led to the inclusion of a second camp scheduled for late July. Combined with the August camp, this opportunity for middle school students is yet again in great demand. Although summer is still a while in coming, places are filling up quickly, with not too many places left.

The camps promise to be another great inclusion to the Huyck Preserve summer programs. This year, we are pleased to include two junior counselors in training (CIT), who are working toward becoming camp counselors and chaperones at our program. We will once again be lucky enough to have Justin Wexler assisting at the camps to provide training guidelines for our junior CIT's. All three of these assistants have attended the Environmental Education Camp in the past and as such are well versed in the day-to-day operations of the camp.

The programs will once again be packed with learning opportunities, skill development and plenty of fun. We will continue our focus on science using field-based research methodology, and will utilize the Biological Research Station and visiting scientists to their full potential. Huyck Preserve staff is readying for a full program load and have plenty of ideas to make the

camp the best it can be. Keep your eyes peeled for lots of fun photos and stories from camp this summer - we'll try not to make them too scary!



How Green is My Hillside?

Barbara Bolster-Barrett

We notice it first from a distance, whether clambering a hill on that first spring hike, or driving along a scenic road. The change is subtle indeed, but like other springtime phenomena, it stirs us in an elemental way. In winter, the trees that blanket the hillsides are stark—their forms rendered in artist's pencil. With the first blush of spring these ghostly sentinels reanimate. Tender buds emerge at each terminus. Grey hued winter hillsides are now tinged with soft mauve or pale green as if tipped, ever so gently, with colored wash.

These hints of color are clues to the processes that occur during spring. Like older autumn leaves, new buds reveal red and blue range pigments called Anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are a class of sugar-based anti-oxidants that protect each developing leaf from the considerable damage that can be caused by photo-oxidation from the sun's rays. According to University at Albany Professor and Scientific Advisory Committee member, George Robinson, Anthocyanins release free radical molecules that break down the leaf's cellular structure. In this way, they function similarly to Beta-carotenes found in orange vegetables, much touted in health circles for their protective, anti-oxidant properties.

As spring progresses, each tree develops increasingly rich color. The result is often stunning. One section of hillside abutting the Preserve has some good-sized stands of Poplar. Seemingly overnight, sometime between late April and early May, this simple stand of trees becomes absolutely luminous. I am stirred. It is as if they are lit from within.

Interestingly, that same glowing yellow-green is the very shade associated with the Heart Chakra in Kundalini Yoga. Kundalini indicates an energy meridian that corresponds to those areas of the body directly adjacent to the spinal column. It is akin to the energy "watershed" contained within our bodies. The Heart Chakra is the fourth and central energy "point" along this meridian. On an emotional level, it deals

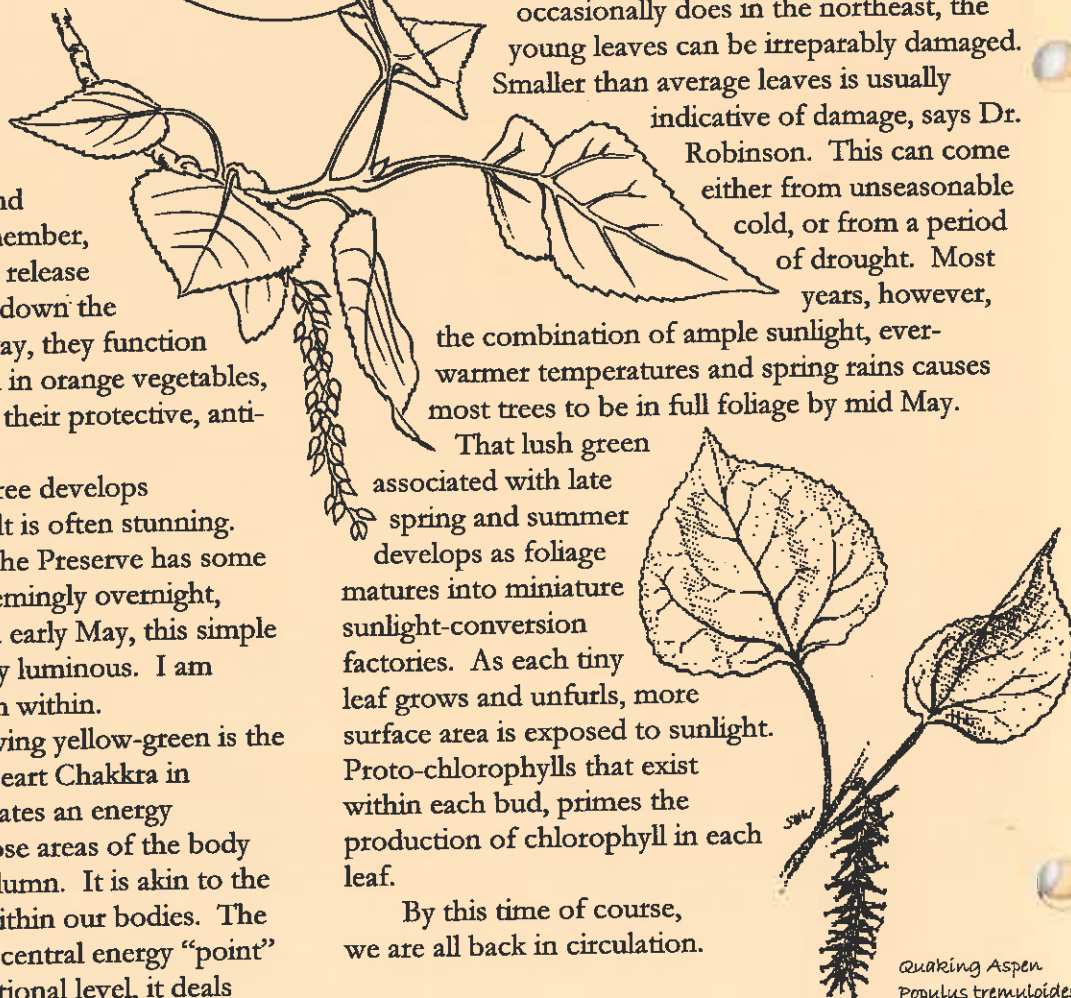
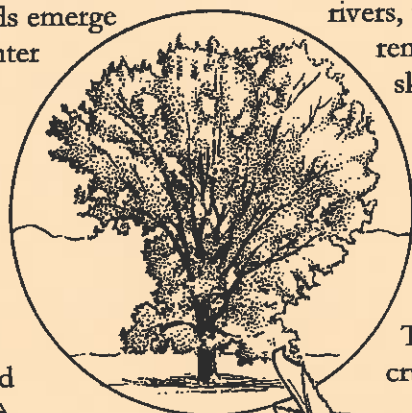
with our capacity to love and empathize, on a physical level with the literal act of blood circulation. Human models often reflect systems found in the natural world. To my mind, it not merely coincidental that this color, associated in Indian culture with glowing physical and mental health is so indicative of a vibrant, healthy tree.

Springtime phenomena often concern circulation. The world and its residents stir anew. Streams and rivers, the life's blood of an area, course with renewed vigor. All variety of animals: bears, skunks, woodchucks, frogs and turtles come out of their respective dormancies. So too, does every deciduous tree. Longer periods of sunlight, in conjunction with the warmer days and cooler evenings of early spring, trigger sap to circulate nutrients to every viable area of a tree. This in turn spurs buds to emerge. If, at this crucial point, a hard freeze occurs, as it occasionally does in the northeast, the young leaves can be irreparably damaged. Smaller than average leaves is usually indicative of damage, says Dr. Robinson. This can come either from unseasonable cold, or from a period of drought. Most years, however,

the combination of ample sunlight, ever-warmer temperatures and spring rains causes most trees to be in full foliage by mid May.

That lush green associated with late spring and summer develops as foliage matures into miniature sunlight-conversion factories. As each tiny leaf grows and unfurls, more surface area is exposed to sunlight. Proto-chlorophylls that exist within each bud, primes the production of chlorophyll in each leaf.

By this time of course, we are all back in circulation.



Quaking Aspen
Populus tremuloides

New Initiatives At The Eldridge Research Center:

Gearing Up For The Future

Audrey Kropp

As you may know, the Huyck Preserve has received funding from the National Science Foundation in the past to implement our development plan for the facility. Phase one entailed doubling the size of the Eldridge Research Center. The second phase sought to improve the housing facilities at the Preserve, which was accomplished through the modernization of the Bullfrog Camp Complex.

These projects have been very successful and in continuing with the implementation of our development plan, the HP staff prepared a proposal to the NSF requesting grant funds for phase III of our development plan.

For field stations to fulfill their role in biological research and education, they must offer modern laboratories and educational spaces, up-to-date equipment, appropriate personal accommodations for visiting scientists and students, and modern communications and data management systems for a broad array of users. After a review of the current capabilities of the HP and these criteria, a need for improvements in our laboratory and communications technology was identified.

The third phase of our development plan is aimed at more efficient use of the expanded laboratory with updated technology to better accommodate research and education at the Preserve. A major focus of the proposal is to improve the technological capabilities at the Preserve. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a comprehensive GIS (Geographic Information System) and modernization of our data management system. Our proposal includes requests for hardware, including computers and GPS units and the creation of a networked computer lab with high-speed satellite Internet connection, accessible to a broad array of users. In addition, we propose to purchase ARCGIS software, which will enable us to update, expand and allow online access to the Preserve database. Finally, we seek to replace our outdated weather station with a wireless unit to assist in our monitoring role.

Improvements to the laboratory will also include finishing the basement, with the addition of a laundry facility, workshop and storage areas. We also plan to better furnish and equip the laboratory to create more desirable workspaces for researchers and educators with the designation of a wet laboratory, drying room and live animal room. Plans include a new fume hood, distillation apparatus, scales for the laboratory and furniture for the education room.



Patricia Kernan, 1998 Eldridge Research Center

Chairwoman Marge Rooney Passes Away

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve Directors, Trustees and staff were saddened to learn of the passing of Marge Rooney, chairwoman of the Preserve. Marge joined the Board in 1990. She was the Board secretary and then its chairwoman. Marge was an extraordinary woman and inspired us all with her selfless commitment to the Preserve and our community. Her humor and her generous heart will always be with us.

In the office we remember her best for her Monday morning visits during the summer, when she would arrive to proof read a fund raising letter, hand in cash receipts from selling raffle tickets at the farmers market, and then chat with us about our families. We extend our most sincere condolences to the Rooney family.



Special Thanks:

A belated thank you to RALPH AND JANICE BRAND (Family level) and DIANA DIETRICH AND ALAN WILSON (Contributing level) for generous membership donations in 2003. Your generosity and support are appreciated and we apologize for missing you in our annual listing published in the Winter 2004 *Forget-Me-Not*.

Service Learning Day Participants

Audrey Kropp

The Preserve would like to thank the Service Learning Day participants (Axel Kammerer, Anthony Parente, Jonathan DeSarno, Kelly Curtain, Elizabeth Polonski, David Tucker, Amanda Jackson, Sinead Jardim, Guy Albergo, Mark Misuvaca, Don Jones, and Colleen Valentine) from the Greenville Middle School for helping us with some of the set-up for the salamander project this season. Your help labeling sample bags and jars saved us hours! We would love to have you back again next year.

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

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- ☐ One time gift paid in full with this payment.
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Every gift counts, every gift is appreciated.

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