

Huyck Preserve



Myosotis Messenger

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2009 Odum Undergraduate Research Interns:

Elizabeth Boykiw, Allegheny College
Kaela Chow, Colgate University
Anna Plattner, Cornell University
Katelyn Scoular, Lafayette College
Allie Weill, University of Chicago

Summer 2009 Intern:

Caitlin Cotter
Student Conservation Association

COM.EN.ART Associate Artists

Virginia Carter, Free-lance Artist
Patricia Kernan, NYS Museum

Photos: Chris Sciralli, Chad Jemison, Deb
Monteith, Barbara Husek, Adam Caprio

The Huyck Preserve – a model ecological center

As summer arrives, the Preserve is emerging with life and vitality. But don't be lulled into thinking that it was all hibernation throughout the winter months – far from it! In late April, the Huyck Preserve, with the leadership of the board and the '08 –'09 Scientist-in-Residence, Radka Wildova, was *Lead Sponsor* of Odum Conference 2009: Understanding and Managing Biological Invasions as Dynamic Processes. This very well received and attended national conference on invasive species and land management included twenty-five distinguished guest speakers from universities, NGOs and agencies from across the country. The event was held at the Rensselaerville Institute's Meeting Center, to every guest's delight. Field excursions to the Preserve were peppered throughout the two day conference to demonstrate the types of invasive species research conducted here and to inform attendees of the history and opportunities at the Preserve's field station. We thank everyone involved in this successful collaboration.

Over the last several months we began work on various projects to raise our profile in the region and connect with our membership. These initiatives include the Odum Conference, re-designing the Preserve's website, writing press releases for regional media, underwriting WAMC Northeast Public Radio, creating a Facebook page, reaching out to collaborate with other organizations and sending email updates to members and friends of the Preserve. These exercises have helped us to develop how we talk about what the Huyck Preserve offers its members and visitors, and what we aspire to do here:

Connecting People to Nature through Research, Education, Recreation and Conservation

New initiatives to connect the community include: opening the opportunity for swimming at the lake to our full membership, providing new volunteer positions in the visitor center and building trails, and a middle school day camp. New courses to connect adults to nature include: art and nature weekends taught by prominent artists, a Wilderness First Responder medical training course, and focused naturalist courses on warblers, mycology, and roadside geology of the Helderbergs. Just this week we learned that the Preserve will be awarded a major grant through NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to construct a brand new 6.1 mile trail called Partridge Path into the northern twelve hundred acres of the Preserve (see the map on page five). Partridge Path will connect the Preserve's current trails to the Long Path in Partridge Run, and will double the current trail length.

The organization has an additional fundamental focus as a biological research station. This is valuable to Huyck Preserve members and our efforts to connect people to nature because the field station enhances our programming with connections to prominent people in biology and ecology as well as authentic, rigorous and cutting-edge science.

Helping Launch Careers in Ecological Research and Environmental Leadership

For over 75 years the Preserve has helped to springboard scientists into their careers by providing independent support for their research. Positions in this realm include our newly formed Scientist-in-Residence position, an intensified and structured seven week opportunity for five undergraduate students called the Odum Internship, and Huyck Grants which support graduate-level and postdoctoral research.

Whatever aspect of this organization most interests you, we thank you for your continued support and hope you will take advantage of the many programs and activities we offer. If you are not a member yet, please join our today and take advantage of member discounts on merchandise and courses, access to the lake and our newsletter twice a year. Whether you've enjoyed and supported the Preserve for years, or you have only recently discovered us, your generous support makes a real difference in our ability to improve our trails, offer excellent programming, and support innovative work in the study of ecology. Looking forward to seeing you at the Preserve this summer!



Chad Jemison, Executive Director

Membership Weekend

Saturday, June 20th

June 20 & 21

Frogs and Turtles and Newts, Oh My!

11 AM – 1 PM

Meet at Eldridge Research Center front porch

Join the Preserve's Research Coordinator, Audrey Kropp, for two hours exploring the "Herps of the Huyck." Bring boots, long pants and a water bottle. \$10 suggested donation, free to members. Please call (518) 797-3440 to reserve a spot.



Annual Membership Meeting

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Eldridge Research Center

Election of Board Members, learn about new initiatives and hear from author and special guest speaker, Fran Dunwell.



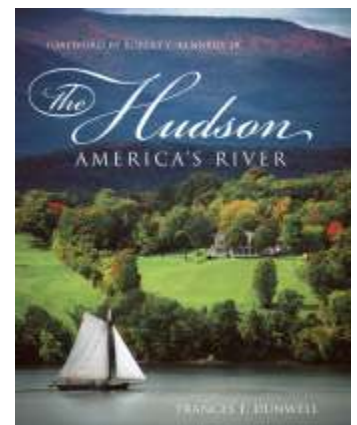
Frances F. Dunwell, renowned conservationist and author will speak at the Preserve's Annual Membership Meeting

How has the Hudson River transformed American history, politics and culture? How has its unique geography, scenic beauty and a culture of entrepreneurship inspired people to innovate in the fields of engineering, environmental conservation, art, and architecture? Come and find out!

Drawing on the material in her recently-published book *The Hudson: America's River*, Fran Dunwell will recount how the Hudson powered the growth of the country's greatest industrial and financial empire and also produced leading American artists, writers, engineers and environmentalists. Her dramatic tales bring to life the stories of visionary people changing the direction of our national history even today, inspired by their deep relationship with the river. Using slides of Hudson River School paintings and period engravings, she captures the spirit of the river through the eyes of its many admirers. She makes the case for conserving the Hudson as a source of creative inspiration and demonstrates that the river continues to be a creative force today. In 2009, as we celebrate the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, Dunwell demonstrates the importance of Henry Hudson's voyage in launching a 400 year legacy for the river that bears his name.

Copies of *The Hudson: America's River* (Columbia University Press 2008) will be available for purchase following Dunwell's talk. All royalties from sale of the book are being donated to the Natural Heritage Trust for conservation of the river.

Fran Dunwell is the author of The Hudson River Highlands (1991) and The Hudson: America's River (2008) and is a renowned conservationist. She has devoted over thirty years to protection of the natural and historic heritage of the Hudson River, serving in a number of nonprofit and governmental positions. Dunwell was instrumental in the Hudson's successful designation as an American Heritage River and its valley as a National Heritage Area. Her work has also resulted in the clean-up of river pollution and the protection of scenic vistas, historic sites, and fish and wildlife habitats.



Sunday, June 21st

Pot Luck Picnic at the Lake

5 – 7 PM at Lake Myosotis Beach

Last names A-J please bring a main dish, K-Z please bring a salad and/or dessert.

Free open swim after 5 PM for all Preserve members.

Then help welcome
summer & celebrate
Father's Day!

Lake Myosotis Beach

2009 Program

Mary Ellen Didion
1998



Swim Lessons

at Lake Myosotis

10:30 AM - 12 PM

Session 1

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
July 6 - 17, 2009

Session 2

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
July 20 - 31, 2009

Cost for Swim Lesson Session* :

Members: \$20 per child, \$35 maximum;

Non-members: \$30 per child, \$50 per family maximum

*membership and/or lake pass is not required



Lakefront

Lake Hours:

Sat/Sun	6/13 – 6/14	12:30 to 8 PM
M – F	6/15 – 6/19	3:30 to 7:30 PM (school hours)
All Days	6/20 – 7/31	12:30 to 8 PM
All Days	8/1 – 9/7	12:30 to 7 PM

(first week of Sept reduced hrs M-F)



Swimming at the beach area of Lake Myosotis is now possible for many more people. In order to purchase a lake pass, a family or individual must also be a member of the Huyck Preserve. As always, swimming in the lake is only allowed during stated hours at the designated swimming area when a lifeguard is present. Initially there will be a cap of 125 passes (forty more than were purchased last year) to evaluate the usage with the increased access. If you would like to purchase a lake pass (\$85) please contact the main office at (518) 797-3440.

The lakefront opens on Saturday, June 13th at 12:30 PM, one week earlier than in past summers. We will need to have reduced hours the week before Labor Day because many of our lifeguards return to college around the third week of August (details will be posted in August).

We hope that many more people will take advantage of and enjoy this wonderful community gathering spot during the summer.



Wildflower Walks

Join naturalist Chris Schiralli on either or both walks that explore the wildflowers of the Huyck Preserve.

Summer

Saturday June 27, 2009

Late Summer

Saturday September 5, 2009

Learn to use a guidebook to identify flowers on your own.
Please bring boots, long pants and a water bottle.

All ages welcome

9 AM - 12 PM

Guided Hikes are free to members. Suggested donation of \$10 for non-members. Please call (518) 797-3440 to sign up.

volunteer Trail Day

Blazing New Partridge Path

Saturday August 29, 2009

9 AM - 1 PM

Meet at the Eldridge Research Center

The Huyck Preserve recently received tremendous news. The NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has recommended funding our grant proposal for \$49,220 to create the full 6.1 mile **Partridge Path trail**. This work will include trail maps, kiosks, Student Conservation Association interns, and efforts to create a volunteer program, as well as train and recognize those volunteers.

This, our third volunteer event of the year, will be a chance to create the first section of this trail beyond the Race Track and also improve the trail sections constructed during the Earth Day and National Trails Day events earlier in the spring. We hope you will join us and will be part of making this exciting opportunity become a reality!

This will be followed by a BBQ pot luck at Lincoln Pond from noon to 1 PM. The Preserve will provide grill items, buns, condiments and drinks. Please bring a side or dessert to share.



Odum Conference 2009: A successful collaboration

by Jonathan Rosenthal and Radka Wildova

We had the great pleasure of co-chairing Odum Conference 2009: *Understanding and managing biological invasions as dynamic processes: integrating information across space and time*. This high-level symposium was held jointly by the Ecological Research Institute, the Huyck Preserve, and the New York Invasive Species Research Institute on April 30-May 1, 2009, with the Preserve playing a critical role as lead sponsor of the event. The conference was named after Eugene P. Odum, the father of ecosystem ecology, in order to both honor his legacy in the field and to focus attention on the important role that the Preserve played as host to his research early in his career.

The conference's formal presentations took place at the Rensselaerville Institute's Meeting Center, complemented by expert, hands-on workshops held at the Preserve. Participants eagerly attended lectures and panel discussions featuring more than 25 of the field's most prominent researchers and practitioners, and viewed approximately 40 poster presentations by additional experts. One of the main goals of this conference was to further discussion on invasive species between top ecological researchers and leaders in the field of natural resource management. This goal was met with great success, with the intimate setting of the Meeting Center proving ideal to foster conversations even when a tree fell in the hamlet and took out the power for three hours. One presenter demonstrated truly remarkable resourcefulness in continuing her talk by using a white board and key-chain flashlight until the generator was hooked up.

The workshops at the Preserve attracted enthusiastic participation. They included one on the effects of beech bark disease, presented by Dr. George Robinson, of the U. of Albany (and chair of the Preserve's Scientific Advisory Committee); one on interactions between invasive earthworms and native salamanders, by Professor Robinson's student, Rebecca Pinder, and one on iMapInvasives, a state-of-the-art mapping and database program, presented by Brent Kinal of the New

York Natural Heritage program. Additionally, Audrey Kropp, the Preserve's research manager, led a Lincoln Pond nature walk as well as tours of the Preserve and its facilities, providing further opportunities for participants to learn about its history and ongoing programs.

The conference was very well attended, with 114 participants representing educational, conservation, research institutions, government agencies and environmental consulting firms. Participants hailing from 21 states and two foreign countries, all converged upon Rensselaerville for the event. Dr. Holly Menninger, of the New York Invasive Species Research Institute served as the conference's coordinator, and this symposium would not have been possible without

everything that she and her institution put into it. Nor would it have been possible without all of the support provided by the Preserve's board of directors and staff. Additionally, the W. P. Carey Foundation deserves recognition for the major underwriting they provided for the event, while the Rensselaerville

Meeting Center earned high praise for its superb staff, facilities, and services. Finally, the conference steering committee members, including the above-mentioned Dr. George Robinson, as well as Dr. John Kusler of the Association of State Wetland Managers, and Dr. Charles Canham of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, provided invaluable assistance.

We were gratified by the conference's turnout and energy level, and are convinced that this event will have a lasting impact in terms of advancing our understanding of invasive species and how to manage them. Furthermore, we are very glad that this event shone a bright spotlight on the Preserve, bringing this remarkable institution to the attention of other potential partners and collaborators.

Jonathan Rosenthal and Radka Wildova head the Ecological Research Institute. Additionally, Dr. Wildova is already familiar to many of you, having served as Scientist-in-Residence at the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station in 2008, and returning to lead the field station and continue her research on invasive species there this summer.



Immersed and Inspired Residency Reflections

Last autumn I had the pleasure of being accepted to the COM.EN.ART Artist Residence program at the Huyck Preserve. This was my first residency and I have to say that it was one of the greatest opportunities I have ever had to explore my skills and myself as an artist. It gave me the opportunity to work on different subject matter, explore techniques, and to really focus on nature and art together. This program allowed me the time and space I don't typically have available in my every day routine.

To be immersed in such beautiful surroundings was very inspiring. I shared the residency with another artist, Kathy Jaramillo. We fell in well together and I enjoyed seeing how

someone else worked - the techniques she used, and what subjects she chose to work with. We would take daily hikes along the trails as well as the time we spent in the studio. We watched a beaver feeding very close to the shore and watched an adult Bald Eagle with two juvenile eagles fly very low over our heads, circling around us before flying off.

The staff was awesome and helped us with any research or questions we had. The cabin was very comfortable and the studio space has some of the best lighting I have experienced as well as beautiful views of the pond. This experience has had an intense and positive impact on me. It helped me to see my own strengths plus areas I needed to practice.

Terry Smith, 2008 Artist-in-Residence



Terry Smith, 2008
Kestrel feathers

Terry Smith is a wildlife Artist currently working and living in upstate N.Y. In addition to wildlife art she also hand dyes and screens her original art on clothing. You can track her down on www.wildravens.net.

COM.EN.ART

2009 Artists-in-Residence: Melisa Beveridge, Brooklyn, NY • Ryan Bross, Oceanview, NJ • Lucilla Carcano, Campomorone, Italy • Elisabeth deBoor, Madison, WI • Melissa Mance, Alden, NY • Sandra Orris, Medusa, NY • Terry Smith, Mechanicville, NY • Amie Zimmerman, Jenkintown, PA

The 27th Annual

Science Symposium

featuring keynote speaker, Jeremy Kirchman, Ph.D. who will deliver a talk on
Genetics of boreal forest birds in isolated habitat "islands"



Patricia Kernan, 1998

Saturday, July 11, 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Eldridge Research Center
Pond Hill Road on Lincoln Pond

The Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station's annual Science Symposium is an opportunity for this year's researchers and interns to share their work with the community. The Science Symposium is a longstanding Huyck Preserve summer tradition that you won't want to miss!

All are welcome. Free to the public.

2009 Huyck Grant Recipients:

Christine Johnson (American Museum of Natural History) *Ecology of slave-maker ants and their hosts: The effect of geographic variation in parasite and host range on co-evolutionary trajectories*

Tobias Pamminer and Sabastian Pohl (University of Munich, Germany) *Host-parasite interactions in slave-making ants and their slaves*

Sean Robinson (University at Albany) *The Influence of Sexual Condition and Dispersal Ability on the Population Genetic Structure of Bryophytes*



Nature Study for Elementary Students

Eldridge Research Center,
Pond Hill Road on Lincoln Pond

9am – 12pm

Tuesdays:
July 7, July 14, July 21, July 28
K-2nd grade

Thursdays: July 9, July 16,
July 23, July 30

3rd-5th
grade



Mary Ellen Didion
1998



Call (518) 797-3440 for details and to register

Get Wild Middle School Nature Camp

- Explore Nature
- Art in the Wild
- Survival Skills
- Animals
- Swimming

M - F August 3rd - 7th
Day Program*

Rising 6th - 8th Grade

Cost: \$200
\$180 for members



*Camp will not conflict with the Good Cause Club play practices

2009 Calendar

Activities, Events, & Programs

April /May

- April 18 Earthday Event: Trail Clean-up & BBQ
 April 30/May 1 Odum Conference on Invasives
 May 2 Natives, Invasives and your Garden
 May 9 Spring Wildflower Walk - free for members
 May 16 & 23 *Watching Warblers Course**
 May 23 Bird Festival

June

- June 6 National Trail Day Volunteer Event - Partridge Path
 June 13 & 14 *Fly Fishing Retreat for Women**
 June 13 *Lake Myosotis Beach Opens*
 June 20 Herpetology Walk: Frogs, Turtles, & Newts, Oh My!
 Annual Membership Meeting with speaker Fran Dunwell,
 Author of *The Hudson: America's River*
 June 21 Potluck at Lake Myosotis Beach
 June 27 Summer Wildflower Walk
 June 27 & 28 *Art Workshop: Oil Painting with Peter Seward**

July

- July 6 - 17 Swim Lessons Session 1 (M,W,F)
 Tuesdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28 Nature Study for Grades K-2
 Thursdays, July 9, 16, 23, 30 Nature Study for Grades 3-5
 July 11 Annual Science Symposium
 with keynote speaker Ornithologist Jeremy Kirchman, Ph.D.
 July 20 - 31 Swim Lessons Session 2 (M,W,F)
 July 29 - August 5 *Wilderness First Responder Course*

August

- August 1 *Roadside Geology of the Helderbergs**
 August 3 - 7 *Get Wild: Middle School Day Camp**
 August 7 - 9 *Wilderness Medicine Recertification Course*
 August 22 Volunteer Trail Day: Blazing Partridge Path
 August 29 *Identifying Fall Warblers*
 August 29 & 30 *Art Workshop*
*Pastel Painting with Susan M. Story**

September /October

- September 5 Late Summer Wildflower Walk
 September 12 & 13 *Art Workshop*
*Drawing with Stanley Maltzman**
 begins September 17 and runs throughout the Fall
 Mycology 101 for fun: Mushrooms and more
 with John Haines, Ph.D.
 September 19 *Fall Migration*
 October 24 *Fall Waterfowl Made Easy*

Course Registration

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Cell _____
 Email _____

Name of Participant(s) if different than above

Youth Programs

Start Date	Age	Course	Cost		Total
			Mbr	N-Mbr	
7/6	___	*Swim Lessons/Session 1	\$20	\$30	\$ _____
7/20	___	*Swim Lessons/Session 2	\$20	\$30	\$ _____
7/7	___	*Nature Study Grades K-2	\$20	\$30	\$ _____
7/9	___	*Nature Study Grades 3-5	\$20	\$30	\$ _____
8/3	___	Middle School Day Camp	\$180	\$200	\$ _____

* family maximum of \$35 for members/program and \$50 for non-members.

Adult Courses

Art Workshops: (10% off for Members)		R & B	Lunch only	Total
6/27	Oil Painting/Peter Seward	\$250	\$200	\$ _____
8/29	Pastel Painting/Susan M. Story	\$250	\$200	\$ _____
9/12	Drawing/Stanley Maltzman	\$250	\$200	\$ _____

Birding:

8/29	Identifying Fall Warblers	\$35	\$40	\$ _____
9/19	Fall Migration	\$35	\$40	\$ _____
10/24	Fall Waterfowl Made Easy	\$35	\$40	\$ _____

		Mbr	N-Mbr	Stu	
8/1	Roadside Geology of Helderbergs	\$35	\$40	\$20	\$ _____
7/29	Wilderness First Responder**	\$850	\$695		\$ _____
8/7	Wilderness Medicine Recert.**	\$350	\$275		\$ _____

* required full application available at www.huyckpreserve.org or (518) 797-3440

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to:

Huyck Preserve
 P. O. Box 189
 Rensselaerville, NY 12147



Roadside Geology of the Helderbergs

Saturday August 1, 2009

9 AM to 3 PM



The landscapes of the Helderbergs today are vastly different from the marine to terrestrial environments of around 400 million years ago. The rocks from Thacher Park to Rensselaerville record 30 million years of dramatically changing ecosystems and life, volcanic eruptions in the Appalachians and the erosion of a rising mountain chain in western New England that rivaled the current Himalayas in height.

Join New York State geologist, Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, for a day-long exploration of the Helderbergs. Learn to grasp deep geologic time, read the history of the landscape from the rocks beneath our feet and identify fossils from the distant past.

Participants are asked to bring a lunch and water. The course will meet at Thacher Park and end in Rensselaerville. Please arrange for your own transportation as we will travel to multiple sights in caravan.

Cost: \$40/\$35 members, \$20 for students.

Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten is a geologist at the New York State Museum. His research explores sedimentary rocks, fossils and ancient environments of the Devonian Period, and ancient volcanic ash layers found in sedimentary rocks. He lives in the Helderbergs.

Mycology 101 for fun: Mushrooms and more with Dr. John Haines

Come join us at Lincoln Pond to explore Rensselaerville's world of black molds, puff balls, flying spores, creeping slimes, spalted wood, artist's conks, stink horns, swimming spores, death caps, jelly fungi, rusts, smuts, Chanterelles, ectotrophic mycorrhizae, inoperculate discomycetes, and more. With collecting basket, air sampler, pond water, hand lens and microscope, we will gather, examine, and identify some of the earth's most curious and crucial organisms. Each evening will include a little collecting, a little talk, and a little microscopy. We will emphasize a different topic each week depending on weather and interest. We will sample the air, bait for water molds, investigate building mold, and perhaps even engage in a little mycophagy.

The group will meet at the El dridge Research Center each Thursday from 6-8 PM starting September 17, 2009 and continuing until Rensselaerville freezes over. Anyone who is interested in learning about these mysterious organisms or just wants a walk in the woods is welcome.

For those of you who can't wait until September, log on to Bryce Kendrick's website <mycology.com/fifthoc.html>.

Cost: \$5 per session.



John Haines, a Rensselaerville resident, will be your guide. He has a PhD in mycology and has been a student of the fungi for more than 45 years including 34 years as New York State's mycologist.

Adult Courses

Pre-registration required

Would YOU like to know how to handle back country emergencies?



The following certification courses will be offered at the Huyck Preserve.

Wilderness First Responder Course Open Recertification Course



Wilderness First Responder

7/29/2009 - 8/5/2009

\$850 - Includes Room & Board, Commuter \$695



Open Recertification

8/7/2009 - 8/9/2009

\$350 - Includes Room & Board, Commuter \$275

The Huyck Preserve is sponsoring a hands-on Wilderness First Responder (WFR) course in Rensselaerville, NY on July 29 - August 5, 2009, followed by an Open Recertification course on August 7 - August 9, 2009. These intensive backcountry medical training courses will show students how to deal with medical emergencies when they are miles from help and dialing 911 is not an option.

Wilderness Medicine differs from traditional first aid in three respects. First, transport times are measured in hours and days rather than minutes, so many phases of patient care that usually occur in a hospital must be carried out in the field. Second, severe environments dramatically increase the complexity of any emergency and heighten risks to patients and rescuers alike. Third, limited equipment makes improvisation and resourcefulness essential.

These issues and more will be addressed by professional instructors from Wilderness Medical Associates, leaders in the field of wilderness medical training. Classes are fast-paced with an emphasis on practical skills. Mornings are devoted to lectures, while afternoons and evenings are spent outside working on everything from stretcher construction to full-scale rescue simulations. A number of realistic simulations, complete with fake wounds and stage blood, will be conducted. Past students commonly report of real-life rescues that, "felt just like a simulations."

This course is recommended for all outdoor professionals and enthusiasts who spend time in remote areas. Graduates will be certified by Wilderness Medical Associates. Room and board are available at the Huyck Preserve's biological research station. Call Wilderness Medical Associates at 1-(888)-WILDMED for curriculum information.

For application forms or more information on this or other courses at the Huyck Preserve and its biological research station visit:

www.huyckpreserve.org

Art Workshops

Retreat Weekends

\$250* - includes housing & food

\$200* - lunch only

*10% discount for members

June 27 & 28

Oil Painting with Adirondack Artist Peter Seward

Explore strategies in creating a successful painting in one sitting. We'll start with finding an appropriate subject/setting to make our task easier, and work hands on with the instructor to ensure a good foundation to build the oil painting from. If weather does not permit, we will focus on direct painting in the studio, employing techniques to complete an unlabored painting.

Peter Seward is a painter/illustrator residing in Lake Placid, New York. He comes from a family of professional artists, with a strong traditional background, which he uses as a jumping-off point for his modern subjects.



Frankenpine, 2006 - Stealth Towers Series
oil on canvas mounted on masonite, 14 X 18 inches

August 29 & 30

Pastel Painting with Plein Air Artist

Susan M. Story

This workshop is designed to help you approach plein air painting and further enhance the appreciation of landscapes. We will begin with thumbnail sketches to create a good and inspiring composition. Emphasis will be on learning to use color to make your statement personal while developing a working knowledge of the pastel medium and associated materials. Techniques to manipulate the medium and produce special effects will be taught through demonstrations and individual help.



Autumn Confetti
pastel painting, 19 X 25 inches

Susan M. Story is a retired international designer, now a local artist who has won numerous awards from national exhibitions. She is especially noted for her inspirational use of vibrant color.

September 12 & 13

Drawing with Renowned Artist Stanley Maltzman



Stanley Maltzman has designed this drawing workshop to encourage you to learn to see. The class is structured to help you discover the drama taking place in nature, to approach the subject with inspiration and craftsmanship, and to enjoy the outdoors. He will both demonstrate techniques using drawing media such as charcoal, graphite, and conte pencil, and work individually with workshop participants. Emphasis will be on the value of the sketch, composition, technique and enjoyment of working in plein air.

Another Veteran
charcoal drawing, 19 X 24 inches

Stanley Maltzman, PSA is a highly acclaimed landscape artist, as well as an accomplished author and educator. His work is in many collections including: The Carnegie Mellon Museum of Natural History, The Butler Institute, The National Academy, The American Academy of Arts and Letters, The U.S. Coast Guard Museum and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Identifying Fall Warblers

August 29, 2009

Highly prized by birders in the spring for their colorful plumage and characteristic songs, wood-warblers are often left unidentified in the fall due to their transformation into drab and songless challenges. However, the beauty of fall warblers lies in their subtlety and the challenge! Increase your knowledge of fall warbler ID with this one day course coupling classroom discussions with in-the-field examples right at the onset of fall warbler migration.



Blackburnian Wood Warbler
John James Audubon

Fall Migration

September 19, 2009

Mid-September is a great time to be birding Upstate New York! Come join us in and around the Huyck Preserve where we will seek out the greatest diversity of Neotropical migrants we can find such as swallows, flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, sparrows, and more! Tips and techniques for finding and identifying non-breeding plumaged birds will be highlighted.

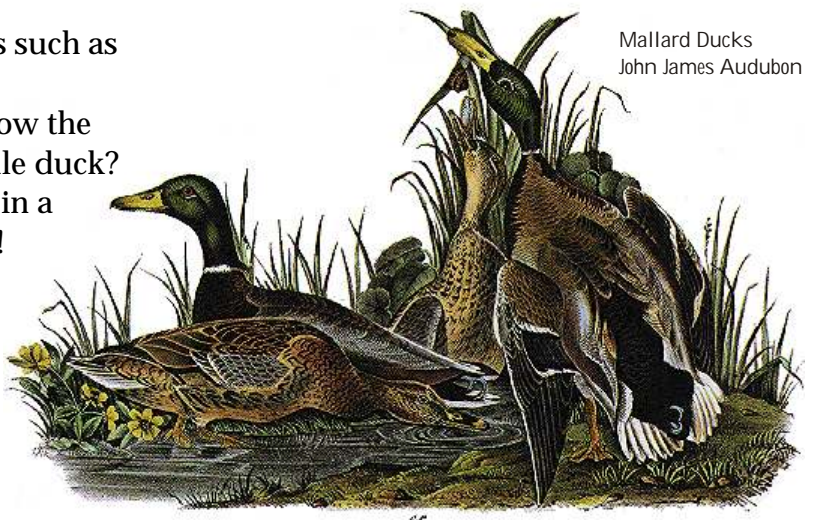
Fall Waterfowl Made Easy October 24, 2009

Often seen at a distance, in flight, or in bad light (or all three!), waterfowl identification can be a real challenge to birders of all levels. Join us for a special opportunity to take your waterfowl identification skills to the next level using a wide range of traditional and holistic identification methods such as field marks, behavioral clues, silhouettes, vocalizations, and flight patterns. Want to know the difference between a diving duck and a puddle duck? or perhaps how to separate the scaups at rest in a mixed flock?!? Then this is the course for you!

*Cost: \$40/\$35 members.
\$5 off each course if you sign up for two or more.*

8:00 AM to 12:00 noon
meet at Eldridge Research Center

Chad Witko is a renowned field observer and has conducted bird research and environmental education efforts across the country for the National Audubon Society, PRBO Conservation Science, and the New Jersey Audubon Society.



Mallard Ducks
John James Audubon

Bir ding

with Chad Witko



Sandra Orris, Snowy Owl
COM.EN.ART 1996

Snowy Owl

by Kelly Martin

It is rare to see a snowy owl in New York, as they are only an occasional visitor from the arctic tundra regions of Canada. This year, however, snowy owl sightings were unusually high. The phenomenon of a dramatic population increase outside of a species' typical geographic region is called an irruption. Webster's definition of an irruption is *when a natural population undergoes a sudden upsurge in numbers especially when natural ecological balances and checks are disturbed*. Irruptions are common with the finch family, but the 2008/09 winter likely had the largest number of snowy owls in the New York region in decades.

Wildlife rehabilitators in our area received several calls about injured snowy owls through the late fall and winter. Perhaps this was due to the biological stresses that pushed them south, or maybe because there is considerably more development in this region than snowy owls' traditional winter range. One injured owl near the Alcove Reservoir was unable to be captured after being hit by a car. Another was hit by a train and had to be euthanized. One that received a lot of media coverage was observed on top of Albany buildings and then found dead, presumably weakened by starvation and disease. One snowy owl ended up under my care and had a happier fate.

Through a chain of events I received a snowy owl that presumably was injured by a collision with a vehicle. This bird was observed in the Troy/Albany area near 787, went over the bank into the river, and was seen by workers on the USS Slater swimming to shore. Many phone calls transpired and local birder, Rich Guthrie was called (you might remember Rich from his talk about the ivory billed woodpecker at Preserve's Bird Festival last fall). Rich and a NYSDEC employee rescued the bird and brought it to a local veterinarian, Dr. Carrie O'Loughlin in Delmar. By the time I picked up the bird from her, she had examined it and determined that the injuries were not serious (soft tissue bruising to one wing, minor head trauma and a minor eye injury).

Based on the bird's weight, size and markings some several other experts and I determined it was a juvenile male bird. Juveniles tend to be more prone to leave their traditional wintering regions in irruption when ecological stresses occur. This individual bird was a little underweight due the stresses of migration. Additionally, the bird was young and likely still honing its hunting skills. He was a fussy eater for quite some time while under my care, but he finally settled on a preference for small half-grown rats. Over the three months of the winter his weight increased and his injuries healed. Snowy owls, as well as the threatened short-eared owl and northern harrier, have been sighted in the grassland preserve area off Route 9 in Coxsackie. This is where I released the rehabilitated snowy owl in mid-March, just in time to make the long trip back to the tundra.



Rehabilitator Kelly Martin with the Snowy Owl she cared for a few days before its release

Kelly Martin is President of New York State Wildlife Rehabilitators Association. She is also an invaluable contributor to education programs at the Huyck Preserve. Kelly and her family live in Berne.

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