# eser ve Huyck Pr



Myosotis Messenger

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#### Message from the Executive Director:

80 Years of Saving Land and Conserving This Special Place



In November 2010, Jerilyn and John Woodhouse made an extraordinary gift to the Huyck Preserve: 37 acres of a pristine wetland that runs adjacent to Route 85 just north of the hamlet of Rensselaerville. The property had been in the Woodhouse family for decades so when they decided to sell their house, they wanted to make certain that their cherished land would be protected in perpetuity. This area will be called Hennicke Marsh, named for Jeri's family. Their wish that the land be enjoyed by the community, support education programs about nature, and provide

new opportunities for researchers reflects the founding principles and spirit in which the Huyck Preserve was founded in 1931.

In July the Rensselaerville Library is holding a Festival of Writers with the theme "A Sense of Place." The Huyck Preserve will host a reading and book signing on July 30 with author Jean Craighead George who wrote the classic children's novel My Side of the Mountain and its sequel Far Side of the Mountain (part of this story is set on the Huyck Preserve!). Preserves and biological field stations are particularly interested in the idea of place. As a preserve we seek to steward and protect relatively pristine and ecologically important habitats. For example, the new Hennicke Marsh is an unusually large and pristine emergent marsh for this region. Although some of the research at our field station is focused on evolution and behavior, much has implications for conservation, including plant and animal interactions, changes in the landscape over time, and the impact of those changes. Our monitoring records and surveys go back more than 75 years if you count the historic documents which detail the planting of tens of thousands of trees on the Preserve in the 1920s. By knowing this one place deeply, and studying processes over time, scientists can extrapolate an understanding of larger trends that affect the larger region.

Part of the central mission of the Huyck Preserve is to protect the Lake Myosotis watershed. A watershed is a geographic area of land that drains water to a common place—in this case, Lake Myosotis (see map). Protecting this land yields many benefits: the public can continue to enjoy the falls, trails, and ponds:



Tussock grass at Hennicke Marsh

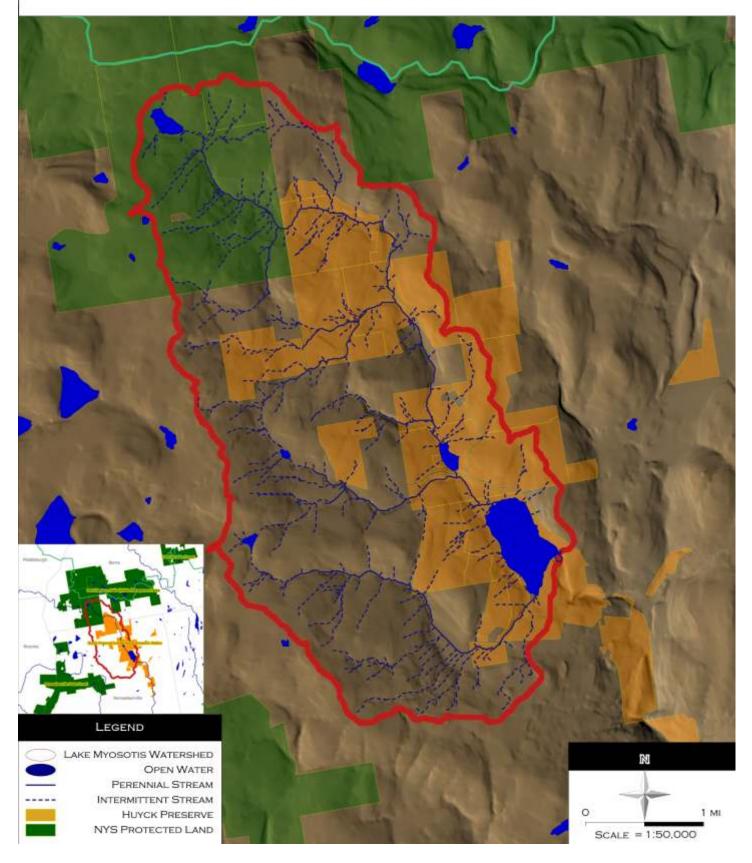
the hamlet's public drinking water supply is protected; and the field station remains a secure place for research. The watershed also connects Partridge Run and Rensselaerville State Forest, which along with the Preserve protect more than 10,000 acres of open-space land and provides education and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support of the Preserve. The majority of our public and youth-focused programs are kept to a minimal cost or are free thanks to you.

I hope you'll join us this summer for an exciting line-up of lectures and field-based programs. Don't miss our Science Symposium on August 6 and the 80th Anniversary Benefit Gala on August 27. For details on our programs, visit the calendar at www.huyckpreserve.org

Chad Jemison, Executive Director

# PERENNIAL AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS OF THE LAKE MYOSOTIS WATERSHED



# Ferns of the Huyck Preserve

By Weston Testo

Weston Testo is a biology student at Colgate University. He recently won an award from the Botanical Society of America for his research on a rare fern found mostly in Central New York - the American Hart's-tongue Fern (Asplenium scolopendrium). Wes is a native of Westerlo, New York and has worked on various projects at the Preserve in the last few years.

Perns enjoyed their heyday some three hundred million years ago, when they grew as tall as trees in the swamps that covered much of Earth. A few million years later, the world's landmasses collided, the swamps dried up, and ferns slowly faded into obscurity as conifers and

flowering plants took over. More recently, these lacy-leafed wonders experienced a brief revival in their popularity the Victorian fern craze. During the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, ferns were featured extensively on pottery, paintings, and, most prominently, in the gardens of well-to-do families. People simply couldn't get enough of ferns! In order to supply the feverish demand of the day, ferns were collected from all parts of the world, from the rainforests of New Zealand to the Russian taiga. With such exotic locales to be explored, one



Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) an evergreen fern often encountered in the hardwood forests of the Preserve.

might think that the botanists and amateur fern collectors of the era would have overlooked the forests and swamps of the Helderberg Escarpment. Such could not be farther from the truth. In fact, New York State, and this region in particular, was (and still is!) well known for its diverse and unusual assortment of ferns. Reporting on his botanical explorations in Upstate New York in 1878, fern enthusiast Benjamin D. Gilbert wrote, "No other state in the Union, east of the Mississippi, can show such a list of ferns as this." As a life-long New York resident and fellow fern

fanatic, I tend to agree.

Mr. Gilbert never visited the Huyck Preserve he died thirty years before its establishment but he would have been rather pleased if he did. The Preserve is home to more than two dozen species of ferns, ranging from the

diminutive maidenhair spleenwort to the cinnamon fern, which grows nearly as tall as a person. They can be found throughout the Preserve: clinging to the cliffs beside the falls, deep in the hemlock woods, even next to the visitor center parking lot! It is truly a fern lover's paradise.

Now, I know that not all of us are card-carrying members of the American Fern Society. It's no great secret that ferns can be more difficult to appreciate than their flowering cousins. The main reason for this, of course, is that many species of fern look frustratingly alike.

Granting some notable exceptions, they are light green throughout, with finely dissected, tapered leaves and few obvious identifying characteristics. So how can one tell them apart? A good place to start is to pay attention to where they're growing. When hiking along Lake Myosotis or through any of the Preserve's wetlands, look for the coarse, yellow-green foliage of the sensitive fern, which gets its name from its tendency to wither at the touch of the season's first frost. If you spend lots of time deep in the Preserve's hardwood forests, you may be cross paths

#### Fern Walk with Wes Testo

Saturday, August 20 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Join Wes Testo for a walk that will focus on some of the fern species found in the Preserve that grow to be quite large towards the end of the summer season. Participants should meet at the Eldridge Research Center located at 284 Pond Hill Road in Rensselaerville. *This walk is free to the public.* 

with the Northern maidenhair fern, a particularly elegant take on the fern motif. When hiking the Falls Trail, it's hard to miss the elongated fronds of the bulblet bladder fern, which drape over the rocky outcroppings along Ten Mile Creek. There's plenty of others, too, growing in nearly all of the Preserve's 2,000 acres.

Beginning with the unfurling of their fiddleheads early each spring and lasting until the first snowfall of winter, the ferns of the Huyck Preserve offer a show of beauty to satisfy a wide audience, from casual visitors to the most devoted frond enthusiasts. During your next visit, take some time to enjoy these plants, keeping in mind that their beauty is best appreciated up close.

A good reference guide for the amateur fern follower is the Peterson Field Guide to Ferns, Second Edition: Northeastern and Central North America.



Wes Testo amongst a large colony of bulblet bladder fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*) one of the Preserve's most common fern species.

# Ferns and fern allies of the Huyck Preserve

LYCOPODIACEAE (CLUBMOSS FAMILY)
#Huperzia lucidula (Lycopodium lucidulum)

#Lycopodium obscurum

Shinning Clubmoss Tree Clubmoss

EQUISETACEAE (HORSETAIL FAMILY)

#Equisetum arvense #Equisetum fluviatile Common Horsetail Water Horsetail

OPHIOGLOSSACEAE (ADDER'S-TONGUE FAMILY)

#Botrychium matricariifolium Botrychium virginianum Daisy-leaf Grape-fern Rattlesnake Fern

OSMUNDACEAE (ROYAL-FERN FAMILY)

Osmunda cinnamomea #Osmunda claytoniana Cinnamon Fern Interrupted Fern

PTERIDACEAE (MAIDENHAIR FAMILY)

Adiantum pedatum

Maidenhair Fern

DENNSTAEDTIACEAE (BRACKEN FAMILY)

Pteridium aquilinum var. latiusculum

Bracken Fern

THELYPTERIDACEAE (MARSH FERN FAMILY)

#Phegopteris connectilis (Dryopteris phegopteris)
Phegopteris hexagonoptera
Thelypteris noveboracensis
Thelypteris palustris var. pubescens

Woodwardia virginica

Long Beech Fern Broad Beech Fern New York Fern Marsh Fern Virginia Chain Fern

ASPLENIACEAE (SPLEENWORT FAMILY)

Asplenium platyneuron Asplenium trichomanes Ebony Spleenwort Maidenhair Spleenwort

DRYOPTERIDACEAE (WOOD FERN FAMILY)

#Athyrium felix-femina Cystopteris bulbifera #Dryopteris carthusiana (spinulosa) Lady Fern Bulblet Fern Spinulose Wood

Fern

#Dryopteris cristata
#Dryopteris intermedia
#Dryopteris marginalis
#Gymnocarpium dryopteris
#Matteucia struthiopteris
Onoclea sensibilis
Polysticum acrosticoides

Crested Wood Fern Common Wood Fern Marginal Wood Fern Oak Fern Ostrich Fern Sensitive Fern

POLYPODIACEAE (POLYPODY FAMILY)

Polypodium virginianum

Common Polypody

Christmas Fern

Compiled by Hamilton, 1937 and Faux, 1999. # Indicates additions by Wilmer Faux 1999. The phylogenetic system of this list follows that proposed by Arthur Cronquist (1981). Latin names on this list are taken from the Revised Checklist of New York State Plants by Richard S. Mitchell and Gordon C. Tucker from the New York State Museum (1997). Latin names in parentheses are taken from Gray's Manual of Botany (eighth edition) by M. L. Fernald (1950) since these names appear so frequently in field guides and will be most useful for the amateur. Most of the common names are taken from Newcomb's Wildflower Guide.

#### 29th Annual Science Symposium Saturday, August 6, at 1 p.m.

Come learn about the research currently being conducted at the Preserve from Scientist-in-Residence, Dr. Susan Beatty, Associate Dean of Natural Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder, the 2011 Huyck Grant recipients, and this year's Odum Interns. Keynote speaker will be Chirstine Sheppard, Ph.D., Curator of Ornithology – Wildlife Conservation Society/Bronx Zoo.

Christine Sheppard is an expert in the conservation biology of birds, including their behavioral ecology, and reproductive systems. She is currently utilizing WCS's collections to discover ways of helping wild populations, as well as developing management protocols to ensure the persistence of captive populations. Current projects include a program for Lesser Adjutant Storks, which are breeding at the Bronx Zoo and are found in the wild at a site studied by the WCS Cambodia program. Observation of social behaviors hints that there may be extended relationships between parents and offspring. Comparisons of hand reared and parent reared chicks is another priority, as is developing enrichment for birds in the Bronx Zoo collection and finding ways for birds to express their natural behavioral repertoire. Dr. Sheppard has a strong interest in avian nutrition and has developed diets for hand rearing Mauritius pink pigeons, flamingos and palm cockatoos. She is now working on Bee-eater nutrition issues.

#### 2011 Huyck Grant Recipients

Julie Miller, Ph.D. Candidate

Cornell University

Launching raids in slavemaker ants: a model for the analysis of collective decision making

Andreas Modlmeier and Tobias Pamminger, Ph.D. Candidates Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz, Germany

Evolution of anti-parasite defenses in Tempothorax ants

Kassandra Semrau, Master's Candidate University of Michigan Effects of Celastrus orbiculatus and other

exotic species on abundance and diversity of the seed banks at the Huyck Preserve

Laurel Symes, Ph.D. Candidate

Dartmouth College

Sexual selection and species recognition in *Oecanthus* tree crickets

Zachary Wood

Dartmouth College

Ground and Stand Level Factors in a Northeast North American Forest with Beech Bark Disease



Small mammal study during H.S. course 2010



#### 2011 Odum Interns

Joshua Allen Binghamton University

Lucas Harris
Hamilton College
Mandy Ng
University of Maryland,
Baltimore County

### Thursday Evening Lecture Series and Potluck

June 30 - September 1

Potluck at 6:00 p.m., Lecture at 7:00 p.m.

Join us Thursday evenings for food, an informative lecture on an ecological topic, and dynamic conversation at the Eldridge Research Center. See page 11 for this year's schedule of speakers.

# Programs for Youth at the Huyck Preserve



#### Elementary Programs

Nature Study - Children will be introduced to nature by looking at local flora and fauna, walks, and crafts. Those entering kindergarten or just finishing 5th grade are welcome.

Cost: \$30 nonmember/\$20 member.

Grades K-2 - T-F, July 5 - 8 1:00-3:30 p.m. Eldridge Research Center Grades 3-5 - M-F, July 11 - 15

1:00-4:00 p.m. Eldridge Research Center



#### Wil dlife Family Hour

The Wildlife Family Hour will focus on a different animal each week. All ages are welcome.

Free to the public.

June 29 - August 23 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Eldridge Research Center



#### Swimming Lessons

Swimming Lessons will be taught at three levels each day and are approximately a half hour long. Participants typically range from age 3 to 14, and they are sorted into the three groups on the first day of each session. Cost: \$30 nonmember/\$20 member.

SL Session 1 - T,W,F/M,W,F July 5 - 15 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lake Myosotis Beach

SL Session 2 - M,W,F July 18 - 29 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lake Myosotis Beach



#### High School Program

High School Conservation Research Internship -This program is for rising 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of field ecology and field based research. Please call 518-797-3440 for details.

Cost: \$750. Scholarships are available.

M-F, July 18 - 29 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Eldridge Research Center

#### Youth Program with Jean Craighead George

The Preserve in collaboration with the Rensselaerville Library's Writer's Festival will be hosting a free program with Jean Craighead George, author of the classic children's book *My Side of the Mountain*. The sequel, *Far Side of the Mountain*, is partially set in the village of Rensselaerville and the Huyck Preserve. Join us for a reading, discussion and book signing. Intended for grades 3-8.

Saturday, July 30 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Eldridge Research Center



# Hennicke Marsh Dedication July 2



The Huyck Preserve is preparing to dedicate our newest property. The Hennicke Marsh is a complex network of wetland and upland habitats stretching over roughly 60 acres, with 37 acres now owned by the Preserve thanks to a generous donation from Jeri and John Woodhouse in honor of her parents Catherine I. and Herbert T. Hennicke. The Hennicke Marsh is home to a rich variety of birds, butterflies, wildflowers and other flora and fauna, now safely protected by the Huyck Preserve.

A large portion of the new property (and of the wetland as a whole) is what biologists describe as a "sedge meadow": a wet meadow community in which 50% or more of the plant cover consists of varieties of sedge. These are rare habitats, and this is the first of its kind in the Preserve. One of the most intriguing members of the sedge meadow plant community is the iconic tussock sedge. Like miniature haystacks or fountains of sedge grass, these tussocks can take thirty years or more to form. Mingled in among the sedges are forget-me-nots, buttercups and many other types of wildflowers, with monarch and mourning cloak butterflies fluttering above, deer bedding down in the tall grass for some late morning shade and turtles soaking in the afternoon sun.

Across the sedge meadow and past the hedgerow, the shrub swamp stretches along the creek. This mixture of habitats is ideal for songbirds with yellow warblers, bobolinks, and chickadees trading songs and flitting from shrub to shrub, from high hedgerow trees to low covering bushes.

The emergent marshland extends through and

around the shrub swamp, with shallow and deep sections. Just upstream from the new preserve property beavers have dammed up the water near Route 85 leading to some great deep water habitat for ducks, herons, rails and bitterns. Deep and shallow portions of the emergent marsh extend throughout the property, with cattails reaching up above the marsh grasses offering perches for the red winged blackbirds that call this part of the marsh home.

Fortunately the marsh has so far been largely undisturbed by aggressive invasive plants like purple loosestrife. Though some purple loosestrife has been identified along the shoulder of Route 85, the greater marsh remains, for the most part, unimpacted. Moreover the water quality at the marsh remains high despite the proximity to the state highway where road salting could potentially have a negative impact.

Hennicke Marsh is a wonderful addition to the Huyck Preserve for research, education, and watershed protection. We are grateful to Jeri Woodhouse and her family for their generous gift.

#### Hennicke Marsh Dedication

wine and cheese reception Saturday, July 2, 2011 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Hennicke Marsh is located at 172 Gifford Hollow Road, Rensselaerville, N.Y.

Directions: From Route 85 turn onto Route 6 (just north of the hamlet of Rensselaerville), then quickly make a right on Gifford Hollow Road. Go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the new sign on right side.

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Join us
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September 24
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along with
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F John Haines, Ph.D.

Retired S
NYS Museum t

Mycologist



look for details in late summer



Join us on Saturday, October 1 Volunteer Trail Day from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. BBQ Potluck from 6:00 -7:00 p.m.

then ...

Explore and Enjoy the Night Sky with Alan French

Eldridge Research Center, 7:00 p.m.

The night sky's beauty is accessible to almost everyone and some sights are best seen by the eye alone. Many of these are most impressive under dark sites like those at Huyck Preserve. Alan French will introduce you to the wonders of the night sky—including constellations, meteor showers, northern lights, and man made satellites. Guests will get a simple kit to make their own plansiphere, which can be set to show the night sky for any time and night. We'll also enjoy some of the amazing astrophotography being done by amateurs, professionals, and space craft.

Weather permitting, there will be a constellation tour and telescopic views of celestial objects, including the moon, following the indoor program. The moon will set at 9:25 p.m., leaving the sky nice and dark. It is easy to get chilled standing around under the clear sky—it feels 20 to 30 degrees colder - so dress warmly, and be sure to bring a warm hat. Free to the public

Alan has been enjoying the night sky and telescope making for almost 50 years. He has been invited to speak at astronomy conventions, including Stellafane, Winter Star Party, Southern Star, and Peach State Star Gaze. Alan is president of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers and on the board of Dudley Observatory. His main interests are naked eye and binocular astronomy, and the moon and planets.



Huyck board members Susan Kessler and Chuck Houghton

## Huyck Preserve Receives Grant Award from New York's Environmental Protection Fund

On Monday, March 14, 2011, board members Susan Kessler, Chuck Houghton, Dan Driscoll and George Robinson were at the Legislative Office Building in Albany for the announcement of \$1.8 million in grant awards to 57 NY land trusts. The Huyck Preserve received \$75,000, the largest award of all 57 grants, to provide two years of support for the creation of a new Ph.D. level staff position: Director of Conservation Education. This is the single biggest investment in our annual operating capacity in at least 15 years.

In addition to this award, the W. P. Carey Foundation has generously agreed to provide the matching funds required for this Land Trust Alliance award.

# Huyck Preserve Receives \$67,680 Grant to Repair and Improve Trails

At the very end of 2010 the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station received a \$67,680 grant award from New York State Parks' Recreational Trail Program (funded by the Federal Highway Administration). The funds will be used in 2012 to improve the condition of our existing trails including fixing the trail around Lincoln Pond that has been flooded by beaver, creating a bridge over Hagaman Creek at the southwest corner of Lake Myosotis, erosion prevention measures near the falls and around Lake Myosotis, mitigating wet areas of trail and making the trail to the lower falls bridge wheelchair accessible. This work will complement the new five mile long Partridge Path trail, new trail signs, kiosks and trail map.



Visitors on the lower bridge by the Rensselaerville Falls

## Important Repairs to Lincoln Pond Dam to Begin Shortly

After its Bicentenial (or so) check up in 2007 by an engineering firm, it was determined that structural improvements needed to be done to preserve the structure and maintain the Lincoln Pond. Lincoln pond has served as the center of the research and education campus of the biological field station since the late 1930s and is rich with historic research. In June 2011 the Preserve signed a contract with Delta Engineering to do the engineering and design work with plans to begin construction in fall

2011. Every effort will be made to retain the beautiful aesthetics of the dam while coming into compliance with recent changes to NYSDEC dam safety regulations. We have raised \$105,000 towards this project and will have an accurate estimate of the total cost in the coming weeks when the engineering and design work are completed. If you are interested in supporting the renovation of this historic structure please contact Chad Jemison at the main office (518) 797-3440

# 2011 Activities, Events, & Courses

Meeting Place/Notes: RS Eldridge Research Station; VC Visitor Center; LM Beach; LMB Lake Myosotis Boat Rack † registration required; \* discount for members; (F) free program for members

#### Thursday Lecture Series

7pm at the Eldridge Research Center, free program Potluck, 6:00 p.m.

June 30: Beth Gavrilles & Philip Juras Eugene Odum, Life, Legacy and a Sense of Place

July 7: Kerry Woods, Bennington College Imagined Forests: Concepts, Preconceptions, and Realities of Old-Growth

July 14: Bryan Danforth, Cornell University Phylogeny and Evolution of Bees, the most important pollinators on earth

July 21: Andrea Worthington, Siena College The neuroethology of prey capture behavior in dragonflies: vision, decision, precision

July 28: Mark Blumler, Binghamton University

August 4: TBA

August 11: Craig Ivanyi, AZ-Sonora Desert Museum Lizards and Snakes of the Southwest

August 18: Laurel Symes, Dartmouth College Acoustic communication: birds, beetles, and things that go buzz in the night

August 25: Roland Kays, NYS Museum Cameratraps - the new binocular for mammal watchers.

September 1: TBA

#### Jul y

July 2 4:00-6:00 p.m. (Raindate July 3 3:00-5:00 p.m.) Hennicke Marsh Dedication

Gifford Hollow Road (1/2 mile from Route 6 near Rt 85)

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 (Sundays) 9:30 a.m. RS Exploring Nature Series

July 7, 14, 21, 28 (Thursdays) 11:00 a.m. to noon LMB Relax & Meditate with Nancy Dyer (F)

July 5-8 1:00-3:30 p.m. RS Nature Study for Grades K-2 †\*

July 5-15 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. LM Swim Lessons Session 1 (T,W,F, M,W,F) †\*

July 5, 12, 19, 26 (Tuesdays) 10:00 a.m. RS Wildlife Family Hour (F)

July 7, 14, 21, 28 7:00 p.m. RS

Thursday Evening Lecture Series & Potluck at 6 pm (F)

July 11-15 1:00-4:00 p.m. RS Nature Study for Grades 3-5 †\*

#### July cont'd.

M-F, July 18 - 29 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. High School Conservation Research Internship †

July 18-29 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. LM Swim Lessons Session 2 (M,W,F) †\*

July 24 2:00-4:00 p.m. VC

Wildflower Walk with Chris Schiralli (F)

July 30 2:00-3:00 p.m. RS Youth Program with Jean Craighead George, (F) author of *Far Side of the Mountain* Discussion, Reading, and Book Signing

#### **August**

August 2, 9, 16, 23 (Tuesdays) 10:00 a.m. RS Wildlife Family Hour (F)

August 4 7:00 p.m. RS Thursday Evening Lecture Series & Potluck at 6 pm (F) August 4, 11,18,25 (Thursdays) 11:00 a.m. to noon Relax & Meditate with Nancy Dyer (F) LMB

August 6 1:00 p.m. RS Science Symposium

keynote: Christine Sheppard, Bronx Zoo Curator of Birds, Huyck Grant recipient in late-70s

August 7, 14, 21, 28 (Sundays) 9:30 a.m. RS Exploring Nature Series

August 20 10:00 a.m. - noon RS Fern Walk with Wes Testo (F)

August 27 7:00 p.m.
Annual Benefit

#### september

September 24 RS Mushroom Festival

September 25 10:00 a.m. RS Wildflower Walk with Chris Schiralli (F)

#### October

October 1 3:00-7:00 p.m. RS Volunteer Trail Day & BBQ dinner (F)

October 1 7:00 p.m. RS Explore the Night Sky with Alan French



# Huyck Preserve

& Biological Research Station

#### 2010-2011 Membership Form

Membership year is May 1, 2011 - April 30, 2012



#### Membership Levels

Student 15 \$ Individual 40 \$ Family 50 \$ 125 Contributing Sustaining \$ 300 Patron \$1,000 Benefactor \$2,500 or more

Name		New Member Renewa
Address		
City	StateZip	Additional donation \$
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Would you like to b	e added to our e-mail updates?	
o moil		Thank You!

The Huyck Preserve is a registered 501(c)3 organization and all gifts including dues are deductible to the extent provided by law.

#### Connecting people to nature through research, education, recreation, and conservation.

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