

Spring Discovery at the Huyck Preserve

SPRING 2017 | VOLUME 40; EDITION 2



In this edition:

*Scarneck: The Huyck Preserve's
oldest snapper*
page 4

*Can an endangered American insect
be successfully reintroduced to its
native habitat?*
page 6

*Summer at the Huyck: Recreation
and education opportunities*
page 10



Myosotis Messenger

Letter from the Board Chair

I am so fortunate to have been part of the Huyck Preserve through the years. When I began my doctoral research here in 1977, with the support of a Huyck grant, I never dreamed I would still be here 40 years later! What a powerful testament to the impact this amazing place has on people. Whether visiting for the first time and exploring the trails or lake, or returning for your 40th year hiking those trails, the beauty and peacefulness of nature fills you with awe and wonder.

One of my favorite experiences is encountering hikers along the trails as I am trekking out to my forest field sites to do my regular summer research. As it happens, I use a hula hoop as my sample plot to measure plants and soils and follow changes over the years. So here I am with my backpack, my dog, and a hula hoop, when I inevitably see someone on the trail. You can tell by the look on their faces, that they are wondering... why would someone go hiking with a hula hoop? Does the dog fetch it? I have to smile as I explain what I do in the forests, and why it is so important to helping us understand what the future impacts might be of climate change, disturbances like hurricanes or insect outbreaks, or just what happens as forests age. And no, the dog does not fetch it, but not for lack of trying on occasion!

**HUYCK PRESERVE AND
BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION**
5052 DELAWARE TNPK.
RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147
(518)797-3440

Board of Directors

Susan Beatty, Ph.D.
Chair

Susan Kessler
President

Geoffrey Carter
Executive Vice President
Mame Kennedy Schrager
Vice President

Helene Goldberger
Secretary

Martha Cid

Bradbury Dyer III

William H. Eldridge, Ph.D.
George Frangos, Ph.D.

Bill Logan

Tom Lyons

Daniel McNamee III

Rebecca Platel

Anne Rhoads, Ph.D.

Michael Sterthous

Alexandra Van Horne

Britt Winterer

Honorary Directors

Roswell Eldridge, M.D.

James Foster

Shirley Stevens French

Jerome G. Rozen Jr.

Staff

Jill Knapp
Interim Director

Adam Caprio
Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds

Dennis Hostash
Buildings and Grounds Assistant

Evan Place
Aquatics Director

Emileigh Tanner
*Membership Coordinator
and Board Liaison*

Leah Waldron
Bookkeeper

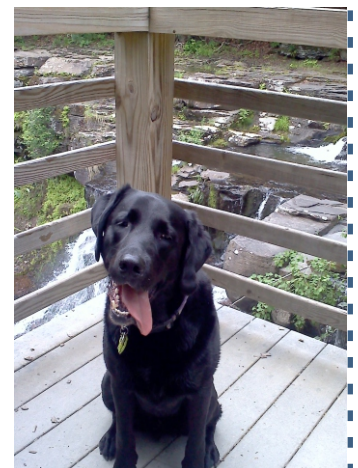
Since the founding of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve in 1931 with the later addition of the Biological Research Station, part of the mission has been to share knowledge about nature with the public. We accomplish that through the research program that has brought hundreds of scientists here over the decades, and through the many educational programs and festivals that we offer for all ages. Our Thursday Lecture Series during the summer months brings experts here to share their knowledge with the public on topics ranging from bats and bees to earthquakes. Come share some light snacks with friends on the Eldridge Research Center porch on a soft summer evening and look forward to a talk that explores the world around us.

After a great Winter Festival, where the weather finally cooperated enough to provide snow to build the famous toboggan slide, you can now look forward to the Rensselaerville Ramble and Forest Festival coming up June 17th. The Rensselaerville Library and the Preserve join forces to offer this multi-faceted day of being outside and enjoying ourselves. There will be lots of educational displays and vendor booths, so plan to bring the whole family out for a great day.

As I think back over the past year at the Preserve, I celebrate the contributions so many have made to helping us carry out our missions. Thank you to those who shared your time as a volunteer, or attended an event, or bought a beach pass and enjoyed the lake on a hot summer day. Thank you to those who contributed to our Annual Fund or came to our Benefit on the lawn next to Lincoln Pond where we enjoyed great food, great company, and danced! Thank you to those who enrolled your child in one of our education programs, so we could share our love of nature with them. And last but certainly not least, THANK YOU to our most recent executive director, Dawn O'Neal, who left the Preserve in January to become the director of NatureNet Science Fellows and Science Impact Program at The Nature Conservancy. Over the six years she was with the Preserve, Dawn developed new programs, taught countless students, mentored countless other students, organized citizen-science projects, conducted her own research, launched stewardship projects to monitor the health of our precious resources, and met everyone with a smile. Dawn's enthusiasm and energy are legendary, and we all miss having her as part of our lives here at the Preserve.

I look forward to seeing you out on the trails this summer, hula hoop and all!

SUE BEATTY
Chair, Board of Directors
Spring 2017



Obi, Sue Beatty's canine companion, happily posing at the Upper Falls Lookout

2017 Winter Festival

The Huyck Preserve Winter Festival remains one of our most popular events, and this year was no exception as we welcomed nearly 200 guests! In addition to our usual seasonal attractions such as the snow luge, ice skating and snowshoeing, we were pleased to share some of the following great activities:

- A newly expanded Artisan Market! We were thrilled to welcome over 15 local vendors, including beer and wine tastings, hot and tasty food, and various farms, artisans, organizations, and businesses.
- For the third year in a row, the Rensselaerville Volunteer Fire Department put on a live ice-rescue demonstration to show spectators how they would respond to someone who fell through the ice. RVFD also gave advice on how one would properly self-rescue — great information for all our ice-fishing guests!
- Local animal rehabilitators, Linda and Eric Brown, allowed guests to get up close and personal with many live raptors, including a prairie falcon, broad-wing hawk, screech owl, and a barred owl!
- Members of the Rensselaerville Rod and Gun Club presented an engaging demonstration on how to cut through the thick ice and what gear to use for this winter activity. Below, Chris Schiralli holds up a freshly-caught chain pickerel.



The snow luge remains the most popular attraction at the Winter Festival — and with good reason! This year's luge measured nearly 50 feet long!



Above: Some of the tasty treats donated to our first-ever baking contest. Thanks to everyone who participated and to our excellent (and eager) judges!



All hands on deck! It takes a team to make an event run smoothly, and this group knows just what that's all about! Pictured above, Huyck Preserve staff are all smiles as they catch a break with the Huyck Preserve's #1 volunteer and best hot chocolate server, Ernie Kuehl (front left).



Right: We were very pleased to welcome the NYS Department of Conservation to the 2017 Winter Festival. Here, one of their representatives stands by the ash tree outside the Eldridge Research Center and talks about the invasive emerald ash borer that is currently killing the majority of ash trees in the Northeast.



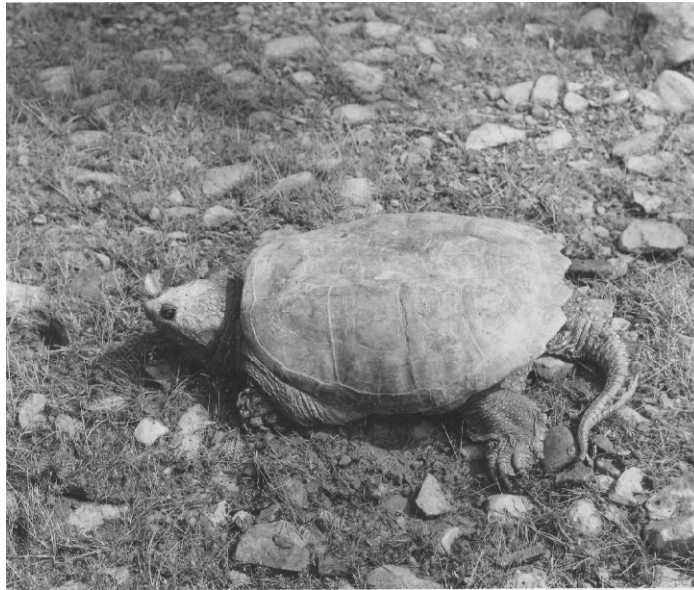
Scarneck, the Huyck Preserve Snapping Turtle

BY LAURA STEPHENSON CARTER

Formidable, forbidding, intimidating. These are just some of the words biologists have used to describe the ferocious snapping turtle. He lives in muddy rivers, streams, ponds, or marshes. He'll embed himself in the mud and look like a rock—his beady eyes alert for unsuspecting fish swimming by—or prowl along a pond's edge, hunting frogs and stalking young waterfowl. Then he'll suddenly thrust out his head to capture and devour his prey. He'll drag a bird underwater, drown it, and then use his dangerously sharp, hooked beak, strong jaw, and forelimbs to tear it apart. In fact the jaws of a full-grown snapping turtle are so strong that they could sever a human finger.

There are a few of these savage creatures at the Huyck Preserve living in Lincoln Pond, Lake Myosotis, and elsewhere. Note that in the scientific name, *Chelydra serpentina*, “serpentine” suggests snake. Indeed, the snapping turtle's biting motion is as quick as a rattlesnake strike. The most famous, and likely the oldest, snapping turtle at the Preserve is Scarneck, so named for the ugly scar on the back of his neck. Weighing 50-60 pounds, and measuring 13 inches wide by 16 inches long, he could be more than 75 years old. We have a photo of him from the 1940s as well as ones taken of him in summer 2016. He lives in Lincoln Pond.

Maybe Scarneck got that scar by fighting. Snapping turtles are aggressive and fight often. “It believes most thoroughly in the survival of the fittest, and to it the Fittest is ‘Number One,’” wrote American zoologist and conservationist William T. Hornaday in 1914. “It is a chronic fighter, and inasmuch as its jaws are very strong—and [it] never knows when to let go—it is a reptile to be either mastered or avoided.”



Scarneck, the infamous snapping turtle, at the Huyck Preserve in the 1940s.

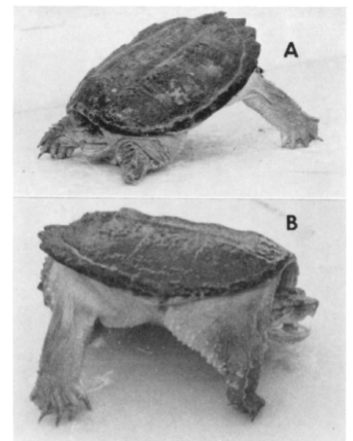
Researchers haven't studied snapping turtles at the Preserve—they have focused on the more benign wood turtles and painted turtles instead—but they have recorded their observations about them from time to time. Jean Piatt, who specialized in frogs and was the Preserve's resident biologist in 1941, reported collecting a 35-pound snapping turtle, which he and the other biologists promptly killed and ate for dinner. Today, snapping turtles and other wildlife are protected on the Preserve. Fishing, however, is allowed on Lake Myosotis.

One of the scientists who dined on the Huyck snapping turtle was Cornell biologist Ed Raney. He

studied frogs at the Preserve (1939-1943), but in 1954, he wrote an article for the journal *Copeia* about a fight between two large snapping turtles at Cornell's Ringwood Preserve near Ithaca, New York. The turtles were near a cleared hummock in the middle of a large pond. “In combat they faced each other and each attempted by rapid thrusts of the head to grasp the other by the neck,” Raney wrote. They used their front feet to keep from being grabbed and were making low puffing sounds throughout the struggle. “Occasionally one would make contact by mouth. Then both would either sink slowly under water where much bubbling could be seen and heard, or the one that was bitten would roll on its back, and with this twisting motion seemed to be consistently successful in freeing itself.”

They'd be under water for about 30 seconds, and as they resurfaced, they'd start fighting again.

Finally, when the fighting subsided, there didn't seem to be a winner, but neither seemed to be badly injured. Raney was puzzled as to what the fight was all about—it was August, and typically mating season was in May and eggs deposited in June. “Therefore the combat seems not to be associated with territorial fighting in connection with reproduction,” he concluded. “Perhaps it indicates a tendency for a snapping turtle to defend an



Snapping turtles defend themselves against predators by assuming a threatening posture.



Huyck Preserve staff netted Scarneck and were careful to put him in a plastic tub so they could safely weigh and measure him. He weighs 50-60 pounds, measures 13 inches wide by 16 inches long, and could be more than 75 years old.

area at a time other than the spawning season.”

In the 1970s, another Preserve researcher—Edmund Brodie Jr., who was studying amphibians and aquatic insects—described defensive behavior in snapping turtles he’d observed in South Carolina. Most turtles, when threatened, defend themselves by retracting their head and limbs into their shell. But not the snapping turtle. Instead, he assumes the downward-dog yoga position: He lowers the front of his shell and extends his back legs while he’s hissing and lunging at the predator. If the threat comes from the side, the snapper dips sideways so his shell faces the predator.

One can only assume that Scarneck must have been quite successful in defending his territory and protecting himself from predators to still be alive after so many years.

And who knows how many offspring Scarneck has produced.

The snapping turtle mating season is in May. In June or July, the female leaves her pond to find a suitable place to lay her eggs. She may travel a mile or more, even crossing roads, in her journey. Once she finds a good nesting spot, she’ll dig a hole with her hind legs, lay 20-40 creamy white eggs the size of small ping-pong balls, and bury them. The nest-building process could take as long as a week. Then she’ll trudge home. Generally it takes 80-90 days for the eggs to hatch. The inch-long, soft-shelled hatchlings burrow up to the surface, and then instinctively find their way to water. Of course, they have to evade all kinds of predators that want to eat them—raccoons, foxes, dogs, skunks, birds, and snakes. Even when they reach the water, they have to watch out for fish and other snapping turtles. But once the young’uns have grown and their shells harden, they are less vulnerable. It takes around five years for males to reach reproductive maturity; it takes females four to seven years.

Old Scarneck reached maturity a long time ago and he’s still going strong.

We hope he stays with us for a good long time.

Laura Stephenson Carter is a science writer and edits a publication at the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Maryland (<https://irp.nih.gov/catalyst/>). She is a former board member of the Huyck Preserve and is working on a history of the organization.



In June 2016, Huyck Preserve Com.En.Art artist Jessica Heide came across “this adorable snapping turtle...[who] had crawled up from the edge of Lake Myosotis to lay her eggs at the edge of the road,” she wrote on her blog. To see her blog post on the snapping turtle, go to

www.jessicaheide.com/a-turtle-from-the-huyck.

To read more stories about the Huyck Preserve, go to Laura’s blog at www.lscnews.wordpress.com

References

Ditmars, Raymond L., “Reptiles of the World,” New York: The Macmillan Company, 1927

Dodd, C. Kenneth, Jr. and Edmund D. Brodie, Jr., “Notes on the defensive behavior of the snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*.” *Herpetologica* 31:286-288, 1975.

Hornaday, William T., *The American Natural History, Volume 4—Reptiles, Amphibians, and Fishes*, New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, pages 39-41, 1914.

Raney, Edward C. and Josephson, Ruth A., Record of combat in the snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*. *Copeia* 1954:228, 1954.

General info:

Snapping turtle fact sheet (Publication of the Snapping Turtle fact sheet was funded by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Division of Wildlife, Pierre, SD.)
<https://www3.northern.edu/natsource/REPTILES/Snappii.htm>

The Mating Season and Reproduction of the Snapping Turtle
<http://animals.mom.me/mating-season-reproduction-snapping-turtle-1721.html>

University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology
http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Chelydra_serpentina/

Bosch, A. 2003. “*Chelydra serpentina*” (On-line), Animal Diversity Web. Accessed March 05, 2017 at
http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Chelydra_serpentina/

Conn Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection
<http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2723&q=469200>

Link to blog post on Raney:
<https://lscnews.wordpress.com/2011/03/28/tagging-frogs/>

HUYCK PRESERVE RECEIVES SAM MADISON AWARD

In April at the Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club’s annual meeting Kelly Martin, wildlife rehabilitator and Huyck Preserve educator, and Huyck Board Member Tom Lyons accepted the Sam Madison Award in recognition of the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station’s “varied environmental education and research programs.” Education has been a key part of the Huyck Preserve’s mission since its creation in 1931.

The Sam Madison Award, named for the man who led and advised the club through much of its history, an inveterate birder, friend and gentleman, was established to encourage and enhance the education of students and teachers about birds and their habitats, and to promote understanding and appreciation of birds, their biology, ecology, and conservation. The Huyck Preserve does this through summer programming for students from kindergarten through high school. The Huyck Preserve also encourages research at its facility by undergraduate and graduate students.

Burying Beetles of the Huyck Preserve:

Can the endangered American burying beetle be successfully reintroduced to New York?

BY CARMEN GREENWOOD, PH.D., AND AMY QUINN

Burying beetles in the genus *Nicrophorus* require carrion of a suitable size to serve as a brood chamber in which to rear their young. *N. americanus*, the largest of the burying beetles is federally endangered (listed in 1989). It typically uses carrion the size of a large rat or pigeon-sized bird as a brood chamber (Fig. 1). Parents provide the larvae with extensive parental care including feeding them regurgitated carrion to give them vital gut symbionts they need to survive.



Fig. 1. Male and female burying beetle bury and remove fur from a dead mouse to prepare it for hosting their brood (left and center) and adult burying beetles provision offspring with regurgitated carrion (right).

The decline of the passenger pigeon and a host of small mammals that occurred in the early 20th century is thought to have contributed to the decline of *N. americanus*. Availability of suitable hosts for reproduction is thought to be one of the limiting factors for its persistence. Only three populations of *N. americanus* currently remain; two in the Midwest and one in Rhode Island (Fig. 2).

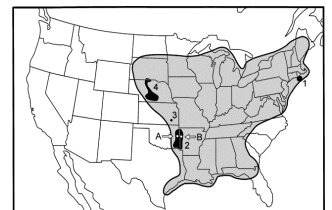


Fig. 2. Historic (gray) and current range (black) of ABB. (source: USFWS)



Fig. 3. Species of burying beetles closely related to *N. americanus*, typically found in central New York. From left to right: *N. orbicollis*, *N. pustulatus*, *N. tomentosus*, *N. sayi*, *N. vespilloides*.

One goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Plan for this species is to host a successful reintroduction of *N. americanus* somewhere in the northern portion of its historic range. In an effort to assess the suitability of New York State as a potential reintroduction site for *N. americanus*, two SUNY Cobleskill students, Delicia Crippen and Melanie Musarra, surveyed the community composition of both carrion beetles and small mammals at the Huyck Preserve and Research Station. The size and relative abundance of closely related burying beetles (Fig. 3), with similar biologies to *N. americanus* may provide clues about the ability of mixed forests and upland

meadows of New York State to support large burying beetles like *N. americanus*. The availability of small-mammal hosts of the appropriate size may also be an indicator of the potential success in reintroducing *N. americanus* to this environment. Students used the approved USFWS above-ground pitfall trap (Fig. 4) to evaluate carrion beetle community composition. They also measured the pronotum width of the beetles and marked them prior to releasing them, as part of a mark/recapture study design. Body size of the beetle is a direct reflection of the amount of resources they received while in the larval form. Bigger beetles may indicate the availability of reproductive hosts that are big enough to support *N. americanus* reproduction.

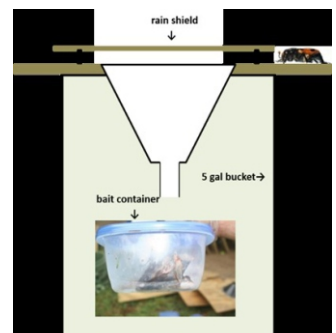


Fig. 4 Above-ground pitfall trap used for beetle collections (top) and Sherman trap used for small mammal collection (bottom).

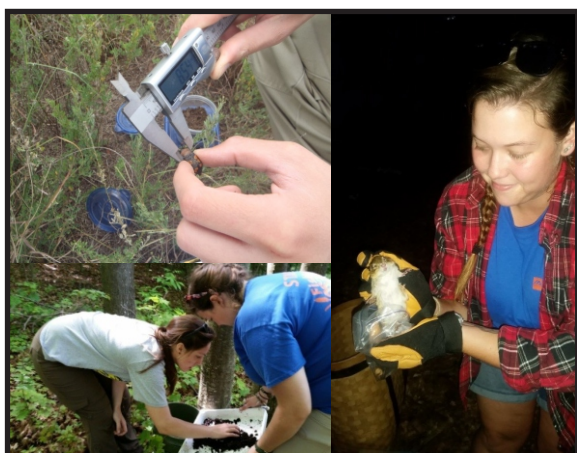


Fig. 5. Clockwise from bottom left: Melanie Musarra and Delicia Crippen checking traps for beetles, measuring pronotum width, and processing a captured eastern chipmunk.

meadows of New York State to support large burying beetles like *N. americanus*. The availability of small-mammal hosts of the appropriate size may also be an indicator of the potential success in reintroducing *N. americanus* to this environment. Students used the approved USFWS above-ground pitfall trap (Fig. 4) to evaluate carrion beetle community composition. They also measured the pronotum width of the beetles and marked them prior to releasing them, as part of a mark/recapture study design. Body size of the beetle is a direct reflection of the amount of resources they received while in the larval form. Bigger beetles may indicate the availability of reproductive hosts that are big enough to support *N. americanus* reproduction.

Between May 30th and August 12th Delicia and Melanie collected 802 beetles representing six species of burying beetles (in order of prevalence: *N. orbicollis*, *N. tomentosus*, *N. pustulatus*, *N. sayi*, *N. defodiens*, and *N. vespilloides*) with relatively large pronotum widths (Fig. 5). The students also captured 187 small mammals (125 initial captures, 62 recaptures) during two trapping intervals in each of the investigated habitat types.

Sherman traps were placed in grids near beetle

(Continued on next page)

traps and species were identified and marked for later identification as a recapture. Five species were identified, but the genus *Peromyscus* (white-footed and deer mice) comprised 96% of all captures. Eastern chipmunks, short-tailed shrews, meadow voles, and red squirrels were captured at a much lower frequency, though chipmunks and squirrels were observed regularly.

The presence and large size of these beetles, as well as the presence of appropriately sized hosts indicate that the habitat in the Huyck Preserve is likely suitable to support *N. americanus* (Fig. 6). Another season of survey effort will be required in 2017 before definitive conclusions can be made.

This research was made possible through the Huyck Grant Program. The Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station awards four to five Huyck Research Grants each year to selected scientists and graduate students conducting research in basic and applied ecology, conservation biology, taxonomy, animal behavior, evolution, earth sciences, land-use history, and other areas of natural science. Over the last several decades more than \$250,000 in grants have been awarded to support research conducted at the Huyck Preserve.

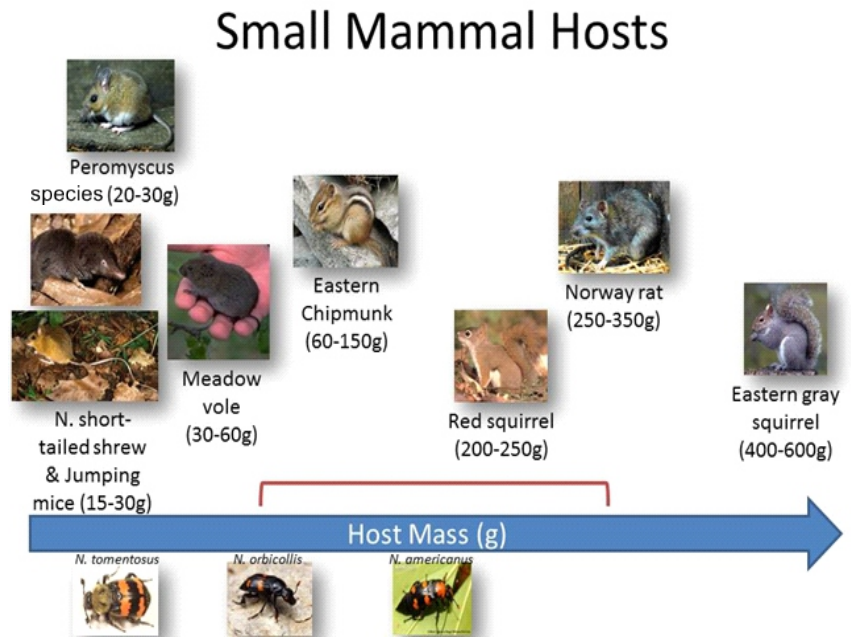


Fig. 6. Diagram representing how body size of small mammals relates to host suitability for corresponding *Nicrophorus* species.

Upcoming Events at the Huyck Preserve:

Saturday, June 17th
9am-3pm

Rensselaerville Ramble



Trail Run and Walk

Eldridge Research Center

Our second annual R'ville Ramble is back! In collaboration with the Rensselaerville Library, this event brings participants over 2, 5, or 8 miles of hills and forests on Huyck Preserve trails. This event is suitable for people of all ages! (Register at: www.raceentry.com/race-reviews/rensselaerville-ramble-trail-run-and-walk)

Stick around after the run for the following:

Live Music by
Red Haired Strangers!

Forest Festival
10am - 3pm
(Lincoln Pond)

&

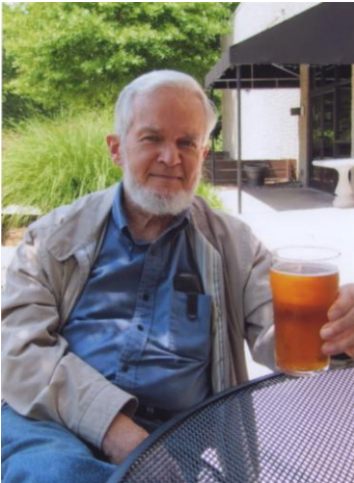
Party at the Lake
3pm - 8pm
(Lake Myosotis)

Free Swimming
for Ramble & Festival participants!

Vendors and Wild Animals

Bonfire and S'mores

We are saddened to acknowledge the passing of three very dear members of our community.



Dan Driscoll

Last year the Huyck Preserve lost a longtime friend in Dan Driscoll, who served on the Board of Directors as the chair of the Land Conservation and Stewardship Committee. Humble, unassuming and kind, Dan was a stalwart protector of the environment and conservation programs through his work at the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and the Huyck Preserve. His leadership was instrumental in trail development and land acquisition. The pipe xylophone along the footbridge over Trout Creek was Dan's creation; a rubber mallet allows hikers to make their own music, further evidence that Dan's legacy will resonate for years to come.

Barbara Heath

Barbara was a wonderful woman and great friend of the Preserve.

She did not miss an event or annual meeting; a cheerful and positive member, former Board of Directors member, and volunteer, she donated her time and resources to the Preserve over decades. Barbara's love of nature and animals was nurtured by her time at Lake Myosotis and on our trails. Her kindness and huge heart live on through her wonderful children and grandchildren.

We will always be grateful for her friendship and support.



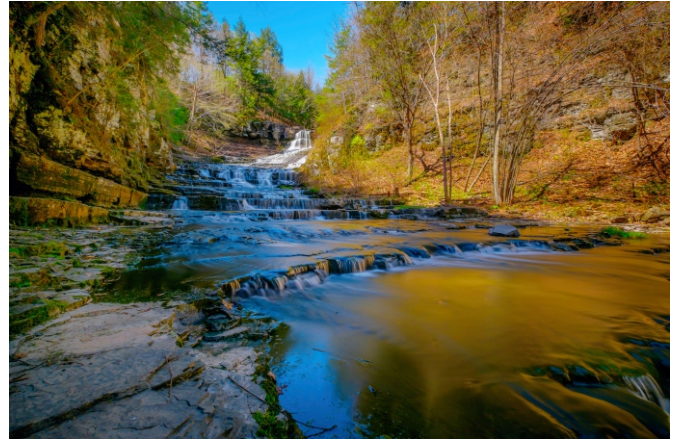
Jack Long

Jack Long will be sorely missed by his friends and by every volunteer organization in Rensselaerville. He donated his time and talents to the Presbyterian Church, the volunteer ambulance corps, and the water and sewer projects for the town. He was a loyal member of the Preserve and helped with dam maintenance and water purification facilities. Jack was a considerate neighbor who was always there to lend a hand. He will be missed by all.

The Process of Accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance

BY SUSAN KESSLER, PRESIDENT, HUYCK PRESERVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The process of applying for accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance has been most beneficial to the Huyck Preserve. It has provided an incentive to organize the plans, files, and policies into a system that ensures accurate transmission of information to outside organizations and future staff and directors. In essence, after this process, the Huyck Preserve's records, strategic goals, and policies will be updated, accurate, and accessible. For a small organization with a long and rich history, the documents prepared for accreditation will help provide a logical and successful evolution toward future growth. It is an extremely important accomplishment for the Huyck Preserve or any similar organization.



I joined the Board of Directors of the Huyck Preserve in 1997. At that time, the Preserve's mission was the same as it is today: to preserve the natural beauty of the Rensselaerville Falls, the watershed of Lake Myosotis and surrounding lands, to conduct long-term research on natural systems as part of a global effort to understand and protect the Earth's biodiversity, and to increase appreciation of this effort through innovative, field-based educational programs for students, teachers, and the community. During those and preceding years, the Preserve was a private charity funded primarily by the Huyck Foundation and was supplemented by a U.S.D.A. grant that supported field research carried out by the executive director. The community was served through seasonal educational and recreational programs.

Since that time, the Preserve successfully achieved status as a public charity (we were previously classified in another nonprofit category) and our sources of income have diversified to include various grants, community support through annual-fund donations and fundraisers, and revenue from programs as diverse as a residential research program for high school students from Korea. The trails and lake programs, which are so important to our community, continue to be well-maintained and utilized. Three of our buildings have undergone renovation, and we received a donation of land that represents important habitat protection. As is true of all organizations, fiscal soundness is ultimately what allows the Preserve to remain viable. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the work of Alexandra Van Horne. Twenty years ago, the Preserve was on a trajectory towards significant economic challenge. She joined the board as treasurer and worked relentlessly to balance the budget and manage our investments; she oversees all operations as they relate to financial issues. In 2010, we received a large endowment with recognition of her extraordinary contributions and talent for oversight. Currently, Alexandra is overseeing the completion of the accreditation application, which is an enormous undertaking.

Other members of the executive committee have been extremely critical to our success: Sue Beatty, for her decades of dedication to our science and research; Geoff Carter for his role in advancement and communications; Helene Goldberger for her legal oversight and wisdom, and Mame Kennedy Schrager for always being available to help. Deepest gratitude is due to our dedicated and excellent directors: Missy Cid, Brad Dyer, Willie Eldridge, George Frangos, Bill Logan, Tom Lyons, Dan McNamee, Becca Platel, Anne Rhoads, Mike Sterthous and Britt Winterer. They have prioritized the Preserve, volunteered their time and expertise, and have attended our marathon meetings on the most beautiful afternoons.

Past Board members made their mark and laid groundwork for this accreditation and other achievements: Carol Ash, Ginny Carter, Laura Stephenson Carter, Shirley French, Malcolm Morris, and Jerry Rozen, to name an important few. Our loyal staff keeps the operation running smoothly: Adam Caprio, Dennis Hostash, Emileigh Tanner, Leah Waldron, Evan Place, and interim director Jill Knapp. Former executive director, Dawn O'Neal, started the process of accreditation; we owe her a debt of gratitude for that and all her other extraordinary initiatives.

Protecting and safeguarding the mission that was established by Jessie Van Antwerp Huyck in 1931 is what motivates us and makes us proud. Without the Preserve, its trails and lake, Rensselaerville would be a very different place. Accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance puts us on even firmer footing as we face the challenges of the future. Thank you for supporting us and enjoying the Preserve. Please visit often!

Summer at the Huyck Preserve

Swim Lessons

Session I | July 17-21; 10:30am-12pm
Session II | July 24-28; 10:30am-12pm
\$25 members; \$35 non-members

**NEW for 2017* : Private Swim Lessons
(all ages and abilities)*

\$25/hour members; \$35/hour non-members

*Please contact aquatics@huyckpreserve.org
for more information and to register.*



Wildlife Family Hour

Every Tuesday starting July 11th | 10:30-11:30am

Join our local rehabilitator, Kelly Martin, for an engaging morning discovering the wildlife in and around the Huyck Preserve! Make Tuesday mornings even better with nature walks, basic plant identification, and getting close and personal with wild animals!

*This program is free and open to the public.
A \$5 donation is greatly appreciated.*



Annual Membership Meeting

Eldridge Research Center | June 24; 1pm

Meet with staff and board members, cast your vote in the board election, and learn about the current and future state of the Preserve.



Nature Study

Grades K-2 | July 17-21; 1-4pm
Grades 3-5 | July 24-28; 1-4pm

Elementary school age children have the opportunity to discover the natural world in this week-long half-day program. Students will learn elementary concepts in the natural sciences while engaging in time outside and nature-themed crafts and games.

\$30 members; \$80 non-members

*Please contact info@huyckpreserve.org for more
information and to register*



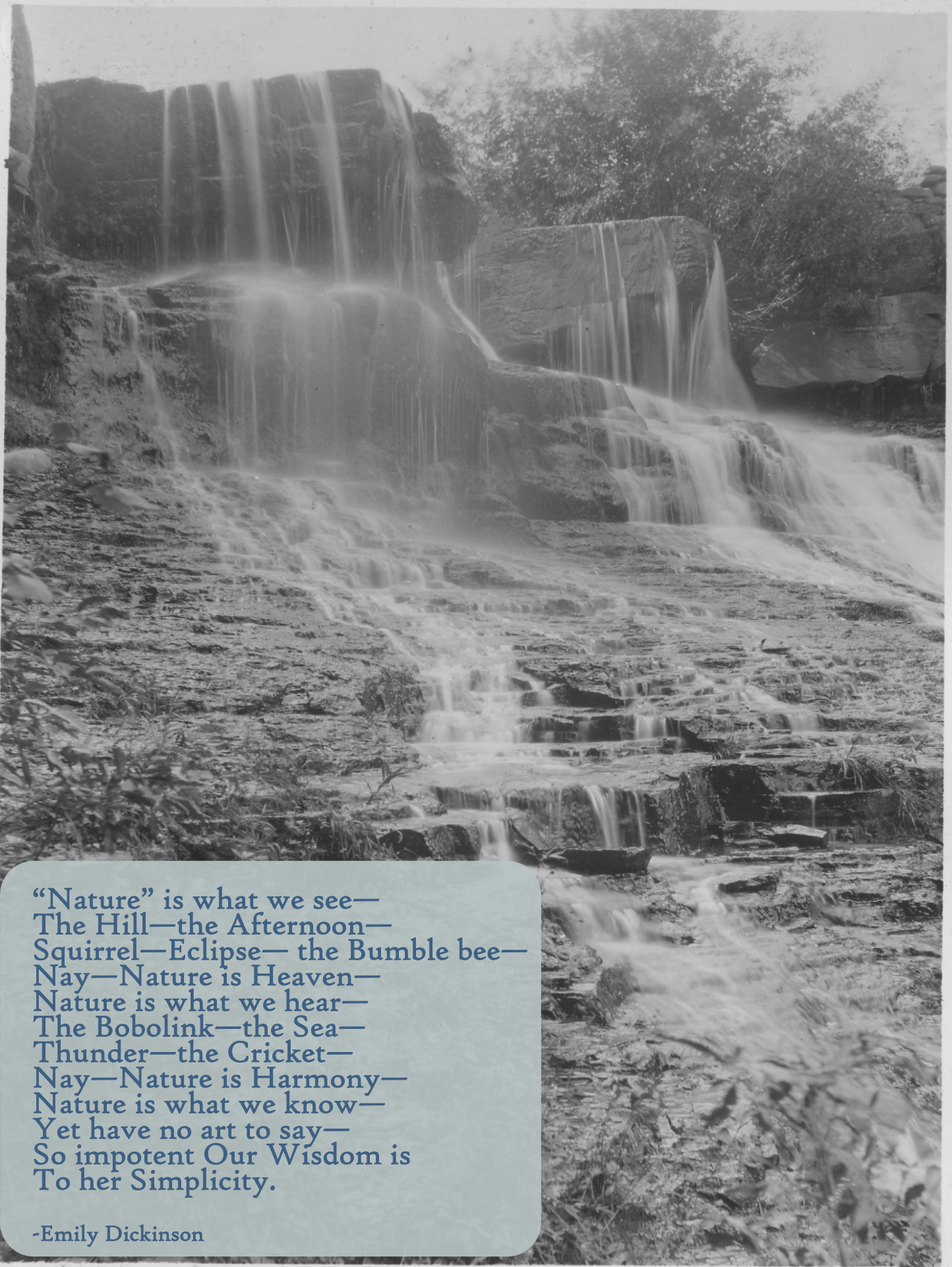
Thursday Night Lecture Series

*Every Thursday night starting in July (Dates TBA)
Wine and Cheese: 6pm | Lecture: 7pm*

Join us each Thursday for an informative talk on a different natural-science topic. We will be bringing in a different presenter each week.

Our speaker schedule will be available at www.huyckpreserve.org starting in May.





“Nature” is what we see—
The Hill—the Afternoon—
Squirrel—Eclipse— the Bumble bee—
Nay—Nature is Heaven—
Nature is what we hear—
The Bobolink—the Sea—
Thunder—the Cricket—
Nay—Nature is Harmony—
Nature is what we know—
Yet have no art to say—
So impotent Our Wisdom is
To her Simplicity.

-Emily Dickinson

HUYCK PRESERVE

AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION



2017-2018 Membership Form

Membership year is May 1, 2017 - April 30, 2018

Membership Levels

- ☐ Student \$ 25
- ☐ Individual \$ 45
- ☐ Family \$ 60
- ☐ Contributing \$ 150
- ☐ Sustaining \$ 350
- ☐ Patron \$1,250
- ☐ Benefactor \$3,000 or more

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

Membership \$ _____

Additional donation \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Thank You!

The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc. 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 conservation, research, education, and recreation.

Photo and COM.EN.ART illustration credits: Cover-Butterflies, Rebecca Jabs, Com.En.Art 2016; Page 2: Obi, Sue Beatty; Page 3: Sledding Image and DEC Walk, Missy Cid; Staff Image, Tom Lyons; All other images, Adam Caprio; Page 4: Turtle in Tub, Adam Caprio; 1940's Image, Huyck Preserve Archives; Turtle defense image provided by Laura Carter; Page 5: Snapping Turtle, Jessica Heide, Com.En.Art 2016; Page 6: All images provided by Dr. Carmen Greenwood and Amy Quinn; Page 7: Research Image by Dr. Carmen Greenwood and Amy Quinn; Ramble Logo, Brittany Higgins; Page 8: Obituary Images from Altamont Enterprise provided by families; Page 9: Falls Image, Lauren Trainer, 2015; Page 10: Lake Image, Evan Place, 2016; Education Images, Erin Sanderson, 2016; All others unknown; Page 11: Veiled Falls Historical Image, Huyck Preserve Archives; Back Page: Red-Spotted Purple Detail, Rebecca Jabs, Com.En.Art 2016; Myosotis Messenger Design: Emileigh Tanner



HUYCK PRESERVE

AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION

POST OFFICE BOX 189
RENSSELAERVILLE, NY 12147
(518) 797-3440
WWW.HUYCKPRESERVE.ORG