



THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE

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

Celebrating over 80 years of biological research and conservation!



SPRING 2020



Conservation
Excellence

Myosotis Messenger

LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

From Anne Rhoads, Ph.D., Executive Director

Dear Friends,

For many of us in the Northeast, winter feels like the quiet season, a time when we can hunker down, move at a slower pace, and enjoy cozy activities with family and friends. In March and April, we prepare for spring with renewed energy and enthusiasm. This spring is quite different; COVID-19 has already caused great disruption and ongoing uncertainty here in New York State, the United States and across the globe. The Huyck Preserve has paused its programs and activities to protect the health of its users, staff, and community. We will keep you updated via our website and social media channels as we resume normal operations when it is safe to do so.

Before our offices closed in mid-March, two new staff members, who joined us in the fall, livened the pace of our winter. Michaela Fisher was hired as our Membership and Outreach Coordinator in November, but she is no stranger to the Preserve. Hailing from Berne, Michaela first came to us as a Wildlife Ecology Research high school student. After earning her BS in Natural Resources from Northland College, she worked as our education assistant in 2019 teaching school field trips and summer education programs. Michaela is passionate about conservation and is pursuing her master's in Biodiversity, Conservation, and Policy at the University at Albany while working full-time for the Preserve. We're thrilled to have her as part of the team! Michaela loves to meet our members, so say hello on social media, or stop by or call the office when we reopen.

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The Preserve also hired its first-ever Stewardship Coordinator in January. Garrett Chisholm came to us from a position with the Maine Conservation Corps at Wolfe's Neck Woods State Park in Freeport, Maine and has hit the ground running. This is such a critical position for the Preserve's commitment to the conservation of our natural resources, and we are so glad Garrett is here. I'm sure you'll agree the land is in good hands after you read more about Garrett in the pages ahead. Look for his invasive species events as our revised schedule is posted, and get in touch to learn how you can become a Huyck Preserve Volunteer Steward.

This winter, we've expanded in more ways than just staffing. Thanks to a tremendous gift by a Preserve friend and member, our boundaries have grown as well! We are thrilled to add this critical piece of property to the Huyck Preserve as we seek to secure protection of more of the Lake Myosotis watershed and the important ecological communities in the area. Read more about this significant addition below.

We are using this time of working remotely to best serve the needs of our visitors and program users when we reopen. In the meantime, spend time safely outside, enjoy the turning of the seasons whose reliability brings comfort, and look ahead to when we can get back together to celebrate the beauty of this place together.

Wishing you and yours peace and good health,

Anne Rhoads, PhD, Executive Director



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF OUR BOARD

From Alexandra van Horne

Dear Members,

In these trying times, there is tremendous comfort in the recurring, seasonal rhythms of nature. I'm writing on the first day of spring, looking out my window at a flock of American Robins foraging on the lawn and thinking of all the other birds migrating back to our area, such as the Northern Mockingbird, the Ovenbird, and the Eastern Bluebird. The sight of an anemone peeking out of the ground in the backyard or the fuzzy growth of the pasqueflower brings me joy.

Did you know that we have a special trail at the Huyck Preserve called the phenology trail, which is designed for you to observe the awakening of nature and record these observations using Nature's Notebook, an app on your phone? Why not use a solitary outdoor activity to contribute to a nationwide scientific database? If you are interested, our staff is available to help with any questions (email us at info@huyckpreserve.org).

You may also hike our trails while respecting social distancing and, with a little luck, you might see a rare occurrence such as the ice disc our new Stewardship Coordinator, Garrett Chisholm, saw in the Ten-Mile Creek a few weeks ago. Learn more about his discovery in his interview below.

Enjoy nature and stay healthy!

Alexandra van Horne, President, Board of Directors

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The board is pleased to announce that Dan McNamee was made Honorary Director at our January 2020 board meeting. Dan served as a Director of the Huyck Preserve since 1986, was Treasurer for many years, and managed the Preserve's endowment. We thank him for his many years of service.

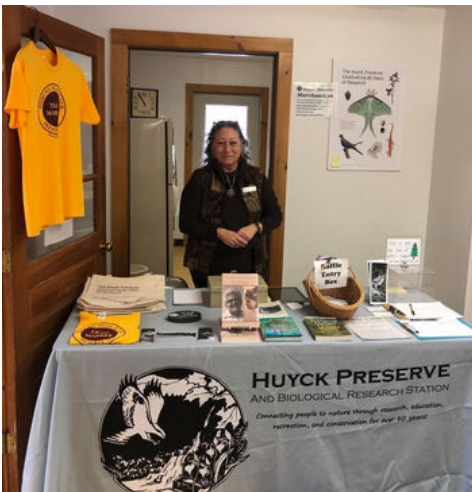


HUYCK HIGHLIGHT

Susan Cunningham, Member and Volunteer

Huyck Highlight is another new feature of our newsletter. This short piece introduces readers to a person who plays an important role at the Preserve, whether they are a member, board member, staff, scientist, or volunteer. Here, we spotlight Susan Cunningham, who has given endless hours in support of our education programs, office projects, and events.

Susan is a long-time resident of Westerlo, NY. She joined the Huyck Preserve in June 2018 and began attending many of our seasonal events. As a former educator whose own three children are grown, Susan is happiest in her garden, with her grandchildren, and involved in her community. Her enthusiasm for community engagement extends across multiple groups including the Rensselaerville Library and Conkling Hall. She started volunteering for the Preserve in the fall of 2018, mostly helping in the office. Last spring, she generously offered her help with spring school field trips and stayed on through the summer for our Thursday Night Lecture Series and our Nature Study program. Susan's experience as a teacher's aide in the Greenville Elementary School and her natural ease with children made her an invaluable part of our education team. When we experienced a transition in staffing in the office, Susan stepped-in with her can-do attitude and positive, cheerful energy. She worked part-time during the summer and fall, playing an instrumental role in the administrative preparations and onsite management for our Annual Benefit and then again for our 80th Anniversary Research Celebration. Now, she is back to volunteering. When asked what her favorite part of volunteering at the Preserve is, Susan said, "I love working with the staff." The feeling is mutual, Susan!



A GENEROUS GIFT OF LAND EXPANDS PRESERVE, INCREASES WATERSHED PROTECTION

BY ANNE RHOADS, PH.D.

In February, the Huyck Preserve received a generous, heartfelt gift from a member in the form of a beautiful 23-acre parcel adjacent to existing Preserve land. The property, located off Pond Hill Road, is an important addition to the Preserve as we continue to meet our conservation goals.

Protecting the watershed of Lake Myosotis is a central component of the Huyck Preserve's mission. In addition to safeguarding the drinking water supply for the hamlet of Rensselaerville, working to conserve land across the 4,000-acre watershed protects important ecological communities, allows public enjoyment of the trails, views, and waterways in the area, offers opportunities for researchers and visiting students to learn and study in the region, and builds connections between other protected lands — itself an important goal for ecosystem resilience. This new property, which falls solidly within the watershed of Lake Myosotis, was one of the Preserve's highest priorities for land protection, and we are fortunate and grateful to have received it.

Tom Lyons, chair of the Preserve's Land Conservation Committee, reflected on the value of the property to the Preserve. "The donation of this land is important in so many ways for the conservation of natural resources within the Preserve. It protects water quality and serves as a protective buffer to biological resources further to the east. It also provides access to views to the south of the Preserve. The donation can serve as a model for other property owners within the Lake Myosotis watershed who wish to protect their lands by adding to the Preserve. We are immensely grateful for the donation and all it does to further our entire mission, as well as the positive impacts it will have on Rensselaerville."



Tall red pines line the entranceway to the property.

The land includes mixed hardwood forest, wet meadow, shrub wetland, planted red pine forest, and an open field. The diversity of habitats supports a broad range of wildlife, with American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse and tracks of several other native animals seen on a recent visit. Many of our visitors have enjoyed crossing the xylophone bridge over Trout Creek across from the Preserve's Eldridge Research Center. Trout Creek gets its name from a trout hatchery built into the stream by Edmund Niles Huyck, the ruins of which are still viewed from Pond Hill Road. Below the bridge, Trout Creek meets Ten-Mile Creek whose waters then flow into Lake Myosotis before spilling over the Rensselaerville Falls as they make their way to the Catskill Creek. This new property includes and protects part of the upper reaches of Trout Creek that meander through shrub wetland and successional northern hardwood forest. Because of the ecological importance of the lands through which Trout Creek and Ten-Mile Creek flow, and because Lake Myosotis is a public water supply, protection of the water quality in the upper reaches of Trout Creek is extremely important.



Trout Creek near the Eldridge Research Center

The donor of the property is a kindred spirit who values "the Preserve's stewardship of the land for wildlife habitat" and shares our goal of protecting the watershed and our focus on biological research, education, and conservation.

Future management of this parcel will be valuable in the prevention of the spread of invasive species downstream into our existing land. Keep an eye out for how you can be a part of that effort. We also look forward to the potential that this donation has for educational programming including public events. We hope to begin with a celebratory "landwarming" event to be held when we can all come together again.



Huyck staff visit the newly acquired property.

HUYCK PRESERVE'S BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION - 80-YEAR MILESTONE CELEBRATED

BY LYNN LOVE, BOARD MEMBER

"Let's not wait another 80 years to do this again," Tom Alworth, Deputy Commissioner of New York State's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, told a workshop audience on the afternoon of November 2, 2019. Alworth, who conducted research on wren nesting habits at the Huyck Preserve in the 1990s was joking, a little. His sentiment was meant to underscore the value of gathering current and past students, interns, and research fellows of the Huyck Preserve as well as educators, community, and board members to pursue the central theme of the Huyck Preserve's 80th Anniversary Research Celebration: What is a field station and why are field stations important?



Morning panel session with (L-R) Joan Herbers, PhD, George Robinson, PhD, Kerry Woods, PhD, Tom Alworth, MS, Owen Sholes, PhD, and Meghan Barrett

During the one-day conference, held at the nearby Carey Institute's conference center overlooking Lake Myosotis, there were many and varied answers to that question among the nearly 100 participants. The answers highlight the reasons why we must share more widely the rich scientific history of the Huyck Preserve's field station, which has continuously hosted researchers since 1939, and not delay convening again to determine how the Preserve's research program will best be supported and utilized well into the future.

The conference was structured in two main time blocks, beginning with a morning plenary panel facilitated by longtime Huyck science alumna and current Summer Research Fellow, Sue Beatty, PhD., followed by a keynote presentation by Kim Knowlton, DrPh., Senior Scientist and Deputy Director of the Science Center at the National Resources Defense Council. Knowlton's talk centered on how climate change threatens human health, with a lively, ecologically-grounded Q+A session following her presentation.



2019 Wildlife Ecology Research Program high school students explain their summer projects in the afternoon poster session.

At the morning plenary, Huyck research alumnus and UAlbany Professor Emeritus George Robinson, PhD., emphasized that field stations are secure places to observe biological phenomena over a long period of time, and as such, offer a unique resource. Joan Herbers, PhD., also a longtime Huyck researcher as well as Ohio State University Dean and Professor Emerita, stressed that field stations like ours offer opportunities to identify scientific problems that could not be identified any other way. She cited her own research on ant colonies as an example. Huyck researcher Meghan Barrett, a PhD candidate at Drexel University, talked about the differences between field biology and conventional laboratory work, especially the value of making observations in a field setting. She also encouraged attendees to communicate about their scientific work through social media, and described some ways of doing so.

Later, after lunch, three concurrent breakout sessions echoed morning plenary participants' insights, and allowed conference-goers to delve more deeply into

three relevant topics: the importance of long-term research at the field station; the role of the Huyck Preserve and other field stations in networking and supporting scientists throughout their careers from student to senior researcher; and the importance of communicating science effectively with the public. They were each enthusiastically attended and combined speaker presentations with audience Q&A and group discussion.

As the afternoon sessions drew to a close, many attendees headed out to the Preserve to hike trails or visit the Helderberg Brewery for a craft beverage and further conversation, while research alumni recorded interviews of their time at the field station. The discussions, connections, and ideas generated at November's conference are leading efforts for future steps and programming at the Preserve's Biological Field Station — including gathering our alumni and other research constituents more frequently.



Participants enjoy lunch at the Carriage House Restaurant at the Carey Institute.

INTRODUCING GARRETT CHISHOLM, STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR Q&A ON NEW CONSERVATION ROLE AT THE PRESERVE

Chisholm Talks About His New Role at the Preserve with Michaela Fisher, Membership and Outreach Coordinator

MF: What brought you to a career in land stewardship and conservation?

GC: I spent summers growing up on Monhegan Island, a rocky, undeveloped setting approximately 12 miles off the coast of Maine. It was there that I built an everlasting connection with the natural world, and to which I credit my desire to work in the field of conservation. When I began my college career at the University of Vermont (UVM), I wanted to learn how to protect natural areas so that others could experience them as I had as a child. Much of my undergraduate years were spent in conservation-focused, service-learning courses so that I could fully immerse myself in the Vermont landscape while earning my degree. I graduated from UVM in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies with a focus in Conservation and Stewardship. Since then, I have worked for a land trust, spent a season on a trail crew, and completed a service term through AmeriCorps at a state park.



Garrett adds Huyck Preserve boundary signs to our newest property.

MF: What are some of your outdoor interests?

GC: My favorite outdoor activity is simply walking through the woods. I also enjoy the occasional rock climb or other strenuous outdoor activity such as hiking, biking, or swimming, but I am happiest just being immersed in nature. Rensselaerville is the furthest I have ever lived from the Atlantic Ocean, so I am looking forward to seeing how my outdoor interests will change as I discover the complex landscape of the Helderberg Escarpment and the Catskills.

MF: This is a new position at the Preserve. What are your responsibilities?

GC: As the Stewardship Coordinator, I am responsible for carrying out the Preserve's land management operations. A main priority will be implementing the Preserve's new Invasive Species Management and Monitoring Plan in order to protect key areas of the Preserve from invasive plants and forest pests that threaten native species. Some examples include hemlock woolly adelgid, an aphid-like insect threatening the Preserve's 370 acres of hemlock, and Eurasian watermilfoil, an aquatic invader discovered in Lake Myosotis in 2019. In collaboration with fellow Preserve staff, I will also monitor the land at the Preserve, with an emphasis on the trail system and property boundaries. I will be using Geographic Information System mapping (GIS), a visualization data system that reveals patterns and changes in complex terrestrial data — to help inform land management and land protection decisions. The skills that I have garnered through my previous positions in the field of conservation will be important as I navigate my role as the Stewardship Coordinator at the Preserve.



Garrett discovered an ice disc on Ten-Mile Creek while he was out monitoring hemlocks. Ice discs form in slow, cold rivers or streams when a rotational shear frees a section of ice and sends it spinning. As the disc rotates, it grinds against surrounding ice, smoothing itself into a circle.

MF: What are you most looking forward to in your first year in this position?

GC: Apart from having the opportunity to explore the myriad of plant and animal species at the Preserve, I am most looking forward to getting to know the community. I will be working toward building a volunteer crew for stewardship activities at the Preserve. There is ample opportunity for members of our local and regional community to get involved. From my own volunteering experience, I know that even a few well-spent hours can have a significant, positive impact on the land and can, in turn, be deeply rewarding. I am excited to meet and engage new groups, and teach people how to identify an array of native and invasive plant species. This is a skill that will be very valuable at the Huyck Preserve as we carry out our work, and it will be valuable knowledge and awareness that people can take with them wherever they go in the area. I am planning a series of invasive species education and work days and encourage anyone with an interest in volunteering at the Preserve to contact me by email at garrett@huyckpreserve.org. We are looking to build a real network of Huyck Preserve Volunteer Stewards, and I am eager to get started!

Garrett began working as the Stewardship Coordinator for the Huyck Preserve in January of 2020. He obtained a B.S. in Environmental Studies with a focus in Conservation and Stewardship from the University of Vermont. His interests lie within the protection and promotion of natural areas so their ecosystem services may be sustained and enjoyed well into the future. Garrett has had the opportunity to work for a variety of conservation-focused organizations in Maine and Vermont, including a state park, land trust, conservation commission, and a parks and recreation department. He looks forward to bringing the formative experiences that he has had in nature to the Huyck Preserve!



THE VERNAL EQUINOX MARKS AN ANNUAL CHANGE IN BIRDS AT THE HUYCK PRESERVE

BY VIRGINIA CARTER, MEMBER AND LOCAL BIRDING ENTHUSIAST

March 22nd brought a light but water-logged blanket of spring snow to the hayfields and woodlots of the Helderberg Plateau just days after the vernal equinox. This month, we are experiencing stillness in nature and in our own homes countering the restless wave of bird migration. Birds know nothing of our societal woes but everything about perilous movement.



Red-winged Blackbird, ©James Coe

Our earth orbits, and the northern hemisphere tilts closer to the sun after the vernal equinox. The lengthening of daylight begins the race to transform sunlight into sugars and energy, changing the landscape into buds, blossoms, grasses, and the first pale woodland ferns. Like a chromatic orchestra tuning up, grey-brown turns to warm reds, yellows, greens, blues and violets. At the same time, many birds begin their migratory travels over thousands of miles in long flights, catching strong tail winds from the south that assist their arduous journey north. Their phenological clock has been set to time their arrival precisely when food supplies can best replenish the deep depletions of a stressful flight. Food such as worms, grubs, insects, frogs, fish, and flies are all wildly reproducing as the frozen soil, lakes, and ponds warm up.

The Huyck Preserve sits at the top of the Helderberg Plateau almost 2,000 feet above sea level. Many species of birds begin a thousand mile or more migration up several North American flyways, and the Huyck Preserve is one destination along the Atlantic Flyway. Listen for the first rattling of Red-winged Blackbirds, whistles of Grackles, mimicry of Mockingbirds and breathy sighs of Mourning Doves traveling from their winter grounds in search of the abundant food necessary for breeding made available in the long, warm, and wet days of spring and summer. The use of two distinct, often distant, geographic areas for overwintering and breeding makes migrating birds vulnerable to human development and habitat loss. This, combined with climate change, has dramatically imperiled both the number of species of birds and the total count of bird populations over the last 50 years.

From a literal birds-eye perspective, landforms in isolation jump out from their surroundings. A protected, undeveloped natural area like the Huyck Preserve appears as a banquet of habitats, including ponds, streams, open fields, woodlots, forests, wetlands, and terraced waterfalls, and becomes a favorite spot for birds and bird watchers alike.

Successful birding starts with a close study of birds' physical characteristics, or field marks, and an understanding of habitat preferences. A field guide and binoculars are helpful tools on any expedition.

Walking the trails on both Lake Myosotis and Lincoln Pond, the Common Yellowthroat (a nesting warbler) forages and nests in low shrubs near the watery edge. The Blackpoll Warbler stops briefly to feed on seeds and small insects in low willows but continues its journey deep into the Adirondacks where it prefers spruce forests for a nesting territory. Red-winged Blackbirds scout for territories at swamp and pond edges and begin their calls for a mate. March brings worm and grub feeders with all-purpose beaks designed to probe and dig in the first soft surface soil: American Robins, Blue Jays, Northern Mockingbirds, and Common Grackles to name a few. In April, Great Blue Heron return to the Bear Swamp in near-by Westerlo to re-colonize last year's rookery high up the trunks of barren trees. These stranded "snags" allow easy landing and takeoff for the cumbersome and long-winged creatures as they search the wetland below for a fish dinner.

Late March and early April draw the first ducks into open water: Hooded Mergansers exercise their wings in preparation for courtship, and Ruddy Ducks, Bufflehead, Pie-billed Grebes, and Blue-winged Teal can all be seen on the edges of the nearby Basic Creek Reservoir and, closer to the Preserve, in the flooded wetlands at both ends of Bryan Road.

The steady pulse of warbler migration begins in late April and tapers in late May as species who nest on our plateau settle in while other species push northward to their preferred nesting habitats. Local nesting warblers include Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Ovenbird and the Myrtle, Magnolia, Yellow, Prairie, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated blue, and Hooded Warblers. Migrants passing through include the Pine, Palm, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Black and White, Blackpoll, and Blue-winged Warblers.

Knowing which species are on the move and when prepares us to not only watch and listen for them, but also to appreciate these spring migratory birds at the Huyck Preserve and surrounding areas when they arrive, and to revel in their annual movements and requirements for survival.

Virginia Carter, a former trustee of the Huyck Preserve, has lived in Rensselaerville since 1984. Along with the NYS Museum, she originated the ComEnArt Natural History Artist-in-Residency at the Huyck Preserve, which ran from 1996 to 2016. She is an environmental educator and conservationist working at present and in the past with The Peregrine Fund, Island Conservation, the Nature Conservancy, NY Audubon, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy and various museums. She is an avid birder and biodiversity advocate.



STATE-OF-THE-ART WEATHER STATION AT ELDRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER

BY ANDREI LAPENAS, PHD AND GEORGE ROBINSON, PHD

For many people, their immediate interest in weather can be summarized as, “high, low, and how much snow?” But, for many of the Huyck Preserve’s researchers and other users who are interested in natural systems, questions about weather are deeper and the answers more significant. The impact of weather fluctuations on the activities and behaviors of organisms - from birds to trees - are often at the heart of researchers’ inquiries. Today, thanks to a partnership with the University of Albany, and the support of a generous Preserve member as well as several board members, the Huyck Preserve has a new, state-of-the-art weather monitoring tool. This will greatly aid scientists studying specific flora and fauna, and offer an enhanced ability to detect significant changes in climate relevant to the Preserve and its natural systems.

Since the beginning of the Huyck Preserve’s research program in 1938, the field station has served many scientists who have measured local weather with a variety of instruments. Thermometer readings for air, soil, and water temperature were probably the most common measurements. Over the past 20 years, efforts have been made to provide more comprehensive records of weather, using computerized instruments to read temperature, moisture, wind, and solar energy at regular intervals. In April 2015, a digital camera was permanently mounted and focused on a stand of conifers on the eastern shore of Lincoln Pond, to provide visual records of weather conditions at the Preserve. Approximately 20 images of this portion of Lincoln Pond have been captured each day since its installation, yielding a tremendous dataset created through this installation. The main purpose of this “Phenocam Network” is to track growth stages of trees over time, using both regular color and infrared images, but the images are also useful for visitors who want to know about snow and ice conditions, and water levels. Public access to the images is at <https://phenocam.sr.unh.edu/webcam/sites/huyckpreserveney/>.

Other technologically advanced weather monitoring has been taking place at the Preserve for decades, with the most recent station erected in 2006. Despite the long-term nature of weather data collection at the Preserve, there has been a need for more accurate long-term data, better data management, and improved data access. At the Science Symposium and Environmental Monitoring Workshop held on August 4, 2018, a consensus was reached among the researchers and conservation partners in attendance: improved weather data was the most important monitoring improvement needed at the Preserve. The symposium helped define the need for long, continuous, standardized measurements, solid data management, and easy data access beyond our established capacity that would help detect significant changes in climate.

In 2019 Huyck Preserve Director Anne Rhoads, PhD reached out to University of Albany (UAlbany) colleagues about updating the old weather station. The University’s Department of Geography and Planning has had long-lasting, productive relations with the Huyck Preserve. During the last decade, several UAlbany professors and their graduate students have conducted research at the Huyck Preserve (including professors George Robinson, Alexander Buyantuev, Shiguo Jiang, and Andrei Lapenas, and graduate students Claire Gaffey, Marie Orton, and others). Among their projects, perhaps the most visible to Huyck Preserve visitors is the application of Aerial Unmanned Vehicles (AUV) (drones) for studies of forest productivity and health. Rhoads and Lapenas determined that a joint project and shared cost would allow the Preserve to obtain a modern, state-of-the-art, professional weather station with internet capabilities that would serve the research needs of UAlbany scientists and many others. A generous member of the Preserve and several members of the board of directors quickly pledged to fund the Preserve’s portion of the new station. Working together, a new, more modern and capable weather station was built outside of the Eldridge Research Center in 2019. This cooperation brings benefits to both organizations. Increased reliability of weather data from the Huyck Preserve is already enabling UAlbany researchers to apply for new grants and perform important work at the Huyck Preserve - work that allows the team to look ahead and make predictions about the future of the ecosystems of the Huyck Preserve and surrounding area.

Andrei Lapenas, PhD is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geography and Planning at the University at Albany (UAlbany). During the late 1980s, Andrei and a group of colleagues developed an original approach for long-term predictions of climate change now known as the method of paleoanalogues or paleocalibration. In the mid 1990s, Andrei’s interests turned from the oceanic to the terrestrial carbon cycle, and he moved to UAlbany where he began a study of the Historic Russian Soil Collection, a large set of late 19th and early 20th century soil “monoliths.” Andrei’s research is now focused on forest ecophysiology and especially the physical and biogeochemical feedback mechanisms linking climate change, plant phenology, and soil. He began research at the Huyck Preserve in 2012.



George Robinson, PhD began conducting research at the Huyck Preserve in the 1990s. After a long career, he is now Emeritus Professor of Biological Sciences at the University at Albany. His current work at the Preserve involves studying the phenology (timing of biological events in relation to changes in season and climate) and carbon allocation (the way resources are shared among leaves, stems, and roots) of coniferous trees in response to longer growing seasons. George is a member of the Preserve’s Scientific Advisory Committee, which he chaired for 15 years; has served on the Board of Directors (1998-2012); and spent a summer as the Preserve’s resident Senior Research Fellow (2014).



MEMBERSHIP MOMENTS

BY MICHELLE DePACE, MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER

Membership Moments is a new section of the Myosotis Messenger where a Huyck Preserve member will reflect on a special experience or favorite place at the Preserve. Email Michaela at info@huyckpreserve.org if you'd like to share your story.

What words come to mind when I think of the Huyck Preserve? Anticipation, beauty, comfort, wonder, curiosity, and awe. When I visit, I am always anticipating the discovery of the day. While kayaking on Lake Myosotis, I hope to see a Great Blue Heron, my favorite bird, and to see the detail of its body and stalking behavior, but not so close as to interfere. Sitting still in the kayak, enjoying the silence, being so close to a heron is wonderful. Typically, I find it hard to sit still and not be busy. When I am at the Preserve, I can just “be,” relax in the moment, and enjoy whatever chooses to fly by, along with the ripples in the water, and the movement of the clouds above me.



Great Blue Heron, ©James Coe

The element of surprise is another reason the Preserve is such a special place. Each time I put my boat in the water, I wonder if I will see the eagle again. On our first outing on Lake Myosotis, my husband and I struck gold! Paddling along the shore, I noticed something in the tree ahead. It was not until I got right under the tree that I realized it was a mature Bald Eagle - literally ten feet above my head. I motioned to my husband, and we sat quietly in our kayaks for over 20 minutes, in awe of this majestic bird. I never imagined I would get so close to an eagle in the wild. Finally, after it flew off, we laughed and exclaimed at our great fortune. We have since seen other eagles fly over the lake, but nothing has matched our initial, up close experience.



Lower Falls, © Caleb Jacobus

I don't need to be on the lake to love the Preserve. It is a treat to enjoy the quiet of the shoreline on weekend mornings while reading our newspapers and books. Some of my happiest times were spent in the woods with our late dog, Snoopy. She was always pulling ahead on the leash to see what was around the next turn, delighting in the scents and movement of small animals around her. I also love the town of Rensselaerville and its local businesses. I enjoy getting our breakfast sandwiches on Saturday mornings at Kuhar Family Farm Café, and walking up to the Helderberg Brewery after a relaxing afternoon of hiking or kayaking. Since we live in a suburb of Albany, The Huyck Preserve is our connection to water, woods, and a home away from home.

I also look forward to attending informative talks at the Eldridge Research Center that deepen my sense of the mission of the Preserve. I have enjoyed other wonderful events, such as the Winter Festival and the Ramble. The Preserve is clearly a center of the community. There is a great mix of people and possibilities for participation for all ages.

Though I wish I had known about the Huyck Preserve when my children were young, I'm grateful that I know about it now. The Preserve is a precious, unique, and special place—one which I have shared with our grown children and many friends. My hope is that more people will come to know and love the Preserve as I do, and that they will contribute in whatever way they can to its continued well-being and success.

Michelle is a retired special education teacher who taught students K-12 for 35 years. She grew up near the Catskill mountains, which is where she still does a lot of hiking. She has four grown children, all of whom love the outdoors.



ENJOYING NATURE ALL SEASON LONG!



Above: Students in our homeschooling class loving the outdoors



Above: A snow laden scene on the bridge at the lower falls, ©Nancy Dyer



Above: Participants of the Full Moon Hike enjoying a bonfire and marshmallows



Above: Blue cohosh in fall, ©Jeanette Rice



Left: The lower falls after the first snow of the season



Above: A happy Winter Festival visitor making an acorn-marble craft



Above: Guests meet Sparkles the pigeon, one of Kelly Martin's rehabilitated animal ambassadors, at our Winter Festival.



Above: Helder~Herdwyck Farm was one of the vendors that joined us this year at the Winter Festival.



Left: Participants learning from David Muska at the Winter Tracking Event



Above: Ice rescue demonstration at the Winter Festival, ©Doug Michaels



Above: Staff explore the newly acquired property(see p. 4)



Right: A young fan of our Winter Festival, ©Doug Michaels



Above: Participants watch a live ice rescue at the Winter Festival.

SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT ELDRIDGE RESEARCH CENTER, 284 POND HILL ROAD, RENSSELAERVILLE, NY, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, events remain subject to delay or cancellation.

For updates, please see our events page at <https://www.huyckpreserve.org/upcoming-events-and-programs.html>

HUYCK PRESERVE UPCOMING EVENTS

All events take place at Eldridge Research Center, 284 Pond Hill Road, Rensselaerville, NY,
unless otherwise noted.

MAY

INVASIVE SPECIES SERIES:
FOREST INVADERS AND VOLUNTEER
POTLUCK

WITH GARRETT CHISHOLM,
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR
SATURDAY, MAY 16 | 10:00-11:00 PM



BIRD WALK
WITH GINNY CARTER,
LOCAL BIRDING ENTHUSIAST
SATURDAY, MAY 23 | 6:30 AM-8:30 AM
RSVP REQUIRED

NATURE HIKE AND YOGA BY THE LAKE
WITH MARY BETH KOLOZSVARY,
ECOLOGIST AND YOGA INSTRUCTOR
SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 9:30 AM-11:30 AM
RSVP REQUIRED

JULY

NATURAL HISTORY MYSTERY HIKE
WITH GARRETT CHISHOLM,
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR
SATURDAY, JULY 11 | 9-11 AM
RSVP REQUIRED



JUNE

TRAIL CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, June 6 | 9-11 AM

RENSSELAERVILLE RAMBLE
TRAIL WALK AND RUN
SATURDAY, JUNE 13 | 9:00 AM *Learn
more and sign up at
www.rensselaervillerramble.weebly.org.*

INVASIVE SPECIES SERIES:
AQUATIC INVADERS
WITH GARRETT CHISHOLM,
STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR
SATURDAY, JUNE 20 | 9:00-11:00 AM

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 3:00 PM

AUGUST

ANNUAL BENEFIT
CAREY INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL GOOD
SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 | 5:00 PM
RSVP REQUIRED

SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 | 1 PM



ON-GOING PROGRAMS

PIZZA BEACH PARTIES
WITH BEGOLDEN FARMS
LAKE MYOSOTIS BEACH
SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 5-7 PM
SATURDAY, JULY 25 | 5-7 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 | 4-6:30 PM



THURSDAY NIGHT LECTURE SERIES
POTLUCK 6:00 PM | LECTURE 7:00 PM
JULY 9, 16, 23, 30
AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 27

WILDLIFE FAMILY HOUR
WITH KELLY MARTIN,
WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR
TUESDAYS 10:30 - 11:30 AM
JULY 7 & 21
AUGUST 4 & 18

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO RSVP, PLEASE VISIT WWW.HUYCKPRESERVE.ORG/COMING-PROGRAMS.



HUYCK PRESERVE

AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION

2020-2021 Membership Form

Membership year is May 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021

Name _____

☐ Please update my contact information below:

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

- ☐ Please keep my donation anonymous by leaving it out of Huyck Preserve publications.
- ☐ I would like to sign up for paperless correspondence. Please send my newsletter to my email provided below.
- ☐ Please send Huyck Preserve announcements to my email provided below.

Email _____

Membership Levels

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$1,250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$3,000 or more |

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

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Please make checks payable to the Huyck Preserve.

To make a payment online, please visit
www.huyckpreserve.org/membership.

Thank You!

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



HUYCK PRESERVE

AND BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH STATION

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Image taken by Sebastian Pohl,
May 2007