

Dear Friend,

What a successful year it has been at the Huyck Preserve! From new events and the return of old favorites like the Rensselaerville Ramble, to important scientific research on such topics as foraging in ants to range limits in trees, we have been busy with people coming from near and far to explore, relax, and study.

The Huyck Preserve's diverse mission, spanning education, scientific research, and recreation, has a unifying undercurrent of conservation – to preserve the natural beauty of the Rensselaerville Falls, the watershed of Lake Myosotis, and surrounding lands. This imperative of protection makes it so difficult when, despite successes, we are faced with new threats to the health and longevity of our ecological communities – the plants, wildlife, and natural resources we care about and watch over. This year, we saw beech leaf disease, a likely lethal new forest pest, expand throughout our American beech trees. We witnessed a potential harmful algal bloom spread on Lake Myosotis in the height of summer, interrupting joyful recreation.

These and other challenges facing the natural world heighten the importance of the Huyck Preserve's education mission. We are doubling down on this core tenet of the Preserve's work. A new generation of conservationists and a committed and informed adult population is needed for long-term environmental stewardship. Our programs help cultivate them.

Join Us in Celebrating Some Education Highlights

✿ For the first time, five high school students from our Wildlife Ecology Research summer program and two undergraduate Odum Interns presented their research projects in the poster session at the Northeast Natural History Conference in Springfield, MA. Odum Intern Carly Velicer, of the University of Rochester, won first prize among undergraduate posters.

✿ We launched a new Toddler Tuesday hiking program over the summer to introduce our youngest community members to the wonders of the forest and start providing the building blocks for their lifelong connection to nature.

✿ This fall, we introduced our first formal adult education program. The course, run as a four-part series across two months, was supported by the Town of Rensselaerville's Kuhar Family Endowment and was led by content-area experts with indoor and outdoor lessons. We know that adults, too, want to continue learning about the natural world around them.

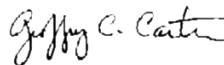
Your year-end gift extends this good work and helps build on our successes and mitigate against unforeseen challenges — generosity at any level will have long-lasting impacts.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Sincerely,



Lynn Love
Board President, Co-Chair Advancement



Geoff Carter
Board Chair, Co-Chair Advancement