The Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve

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

Celebrating over 90 years of biological research and conservation!

ACCREDITED LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION COMMISSION™ Conservation Excellence

Spring 2022

Myosotis Messenger

A Letter to Our Members

Dear Members,

As I write this on March 9, snow is falling. Yet signs of spring are revealing themselves; perhaps you've noticed changes in the types of birds in your backyards or the swelling buds on trees and shrubs. We, too, are busily preparing for the warmer months ahead. Though we can't be sure, we're hopeful that the worst of the coronavirus pandemic is behind us, and we're making our plans under that assumption! The spring calendar is full of school field trips coming to learn aquatic and forest ecosystem health lessons, and to explore through hikes and scavenger hunts. Our full range of K-12 summer education programs will run (we've added a section of Nature Study to accommodate all of our youngest students who want to participate) (see details on p. 11). We have just selected a fantastic group of Huyck Research Grant recipients who will be on-site this summer initiating new projects or returning to continue existing studies. Be sure to come to our Thursday Night Lectures (with the return of potlucks!) starting in July to learn from these inspiring scientists. We have also chosen our impressive 2022 undergraduate Odum Interns out of the largest pool of applicants in recent memory. Clearly students are eager to gain the valuable field research experience that the internship provides and that has been out of reach for many during the pandemic. These students will work with Summer Research Fellow, Jonathan Titus, Ph.D., on independent research projects over an eight-week period.

Huyck Preserve staff will also be hard at work this summer continuing ongoing projects and beginning others thanks, in part, to the recent success we've had in securing grants. Our NYS Conservation Partnership Program grant, which is focused on designing recreational improvements, is wrapping up and has created detailed designs to address our most pressing issues. Those designs have resulted in funding from the Recreational Trail Program which will bring those plans to fruition (see p. 6). We have also been awarded our fourth RFP grant from the Capital Region Partnership in Invasive Species Management (PRISM) to further our treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid infesting the beautiful and ecologically important hemlock stand at Lincoln Pond, and to continue the critical work of invasive species monitoring and management (see p. 5).

The summer will not be all work. We very much look forward to sharing relaxing days on the lake with you when the beach opens on June 25. See you then and at our in-person Gala on August 14!

Anne G. Rhoads, Ph.D., Executive Director

A Letter from Our President

Dear Friends,

Whether you come to the Preserve for peace and relaxation or to learn more about the land, its flora, fauna, and history, our newly released interactive trail map will help! Not only will visitors know exactly where they are on the trails, but the new map provides insightful information along the way (see p. 6). Our interactive map is one of the first accomplishments of a multi-year project of upgrading our trails, creating a boat launch, and restoring Davis Cottage to serve as an interpretive center. Stay tuned and enjoy!

Alexandra van Horne, President, Board of Directors

We are so grateful to have Florence Conway as our new (since the last newsletter) Membership and Outreach Coordinator. Florence has quickly become an important member of the team and, among other strengths, brings an artistic background that you will surely notice as you read this newsletter. Please join us in welcoming Florence when you see her at an upcoming event.

Membership Moments

Featuring the Warburton Family

The Warburtons are long-time members of the Huyck Preserve. Emily, Dave, and their daughters Rose (9) and Caris (6) all enjoy the Preserve in every season. Emily first visited the Preserve when she moved to town in 2011. She recalls her family becoming members to use the beach and then quickly becoming involved in many more Preserve activities. Rose and Caris don't remember the first time they visited the Preserve because it has always been part of their lives. "Their whole childhood [has] revolved around the Huyck Preserve," says Emily.

In the summer, Rose and Caris enjoy Nature Study and swimming at the beach. Emily says one of her proudest moments was when Rose passed the deep-water test: "she swam so fast!" Everyone in the family also loves seeing animals at the Preserve. Rose and Caris recall seeing the owls and hawks cared for by wildlife rehabilitator Kelly Martin, and the fun of catching and releasing crayfish during Nature Study. One time, Dave saw a bear by the Rensselaerville Falls. Emily saw bear prints while on the east side of the lake and sped up her pace just in case the bear was still nearby! Through the summer and fall, Emily enjoys running on the trails. Her favorite section to run is Loop Two of Partridge Path. In winter, her regular running routes become her favorite spots to ski. Rose and Caris' favorite wintertime activities include ice skating and roasting marshmallows at Winterfest. Rose says her favorite place at the Preserve is Lincoln Pond Trail because it has lots of "nice corners" and is a great spot to go for a walk with friends.

As winter melts into spring, the Warburtons are already looking forward to summer activities. Both Rose and Caris are eager for Nature Study to begin, and Rose is very excited about swimming. Caris can't wait for other lake activities like fishing, paddleboarding, and canoeing. The years ahead promise many more memories and cherished moments for the Warburtons and many other families who enjoy the Preserve.



Rose and Caris together at the lake on the last day for swimming, Emily and Dave skiing together on Partridge Path Loop Two, the Warburtons and their friends enjoying a winter walk around Lincoln Pond

Huyck Highlight

Featuring Lynn Wetterau, Education Volunteer

Lynn Wetterau, an active volunteer across almost all of the Huyck Preserve's education programs, brings a wealth of experience to her role. Lynn worked for the Veterans Administration for 37 years, first in Albany and then in Colorado before retiring in 2019. Through her work, she became involved doing classroom presentations for several nearby schools.

Lynn and students during a Nature Study stream activity

Shortly after retiring, health issues leading to mobility restrictions and a lengthy road to recovery upset Lynn's plans for retirement activities. Once she regained much of her mobility, she began looking for ways to become more involved in the Capital Region as a volunteer. When Lynn became aware of the Huyck Preserve and its volunteer opportunities through her love of hiking and the many other outdoor hobbies she enjoys, she reached out. She says one of the strengths of the Huyck Preserve's volunteer programs was the willingness of Anne and the rest of the Preserve staff to accept and work with her limitations, and also the encouragement they gave to push her boundaries a little beyond where she felt comfortable. Lynn quickly became a familiar face volunteering at the Preserve. She recalls one amusing memory of two contrasting reactions from different groups during a fifth-grade school field trip. The activity of the field trip was for students to turn over logs on the forest floor to look for decomposers such as earthworms, insect larvae, millipedes, and fungi. One group of girls was very engaged: "they got down in there, looking under the fallen trees, and came back with a whole laundry list of what they found." She said another group of boys pushed a log over with their feet, told her they didn't see anything, and declared they were done. Lynn told them, "no, go back, look closer!"

"Working with kids keeps you young..." says Lynn, "with a younger frame of mind and a better perspective." She will return for spring field trips and Nature Study this summer, and we could not be more pleased that Lynn will continue in her volunteer role!

Interested in becoming an education volunteer? Training opportunities are available! Contact info@huyckpreserve.org to learn more.

American Burying Beetle Moves Closer to 2023 Reintroduction

The Huyck Preserve an Important Field Study Site

By Carmen Greenwood, Ph.D., Roger Masse, Ph.D., Brandon Quinby, Ph.D., and Amy Quinn, Ph.D.

American burying beetle (Nicrophorus americanus) *from a laboratory population soon to be established at SUNY Cobleskill*

Undergraduate intern Jacob Lynch setting up a camera trap for a study evaluating competition for carrion resources between burying beetles and vertebrate scavengers (Summer 2021)

In 1989, the American burying beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*) (ABB) was listed as a federally endangered species, and is currently listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's "Red List" of critically endangered species. Historically, ABBs were distributed across 35 states and three Canadian provinces in the eastern and central temperate areas of North America. Their dramatic decline in geographic range and abundance means that they are currently found in less than 10 percent of their historic range. In New York, there were a total of 14 historical occurrences from eight counties (Suffolk, Nassau, Kings, Richmond, Bronx, Westchester, Monroe, and Erie), but the most recent record was from 1956. The ABB species is currently believed to be extirpated from the state.

The ABB is a member of the genus *Nicrophorus* which includes several other species with similar geographic distributions. Members of the genus are generally referred to as burying beetles because they exhibit the behavior of finding small vertebrate carrion on a landscape and using them for reproduction. The specialized life cycle and extensive bi-parental care exhibited by burying beetles is unique among carrion beetles. Male burying beetles are particularly adept at detecting carrion in the environment. When a host suitable for reproduction (generally a small mammal or bird carcass) is found, the male will emit a powerful pheromone to attract a female burying beetle. The pair will then proceed to bury the carcass up to about eight inches below ground, remove all hair or feathers from the carcass, and then coat it with bacteria-inhibiting secretions. The female beetle will lay eggs in an underground brood chamber next to the buried carcass. Both parents will remain with the developing larvae and feed the larvae regurgitated carrion until the larvae are ready to leave the chamber and pupate. Although this lifecycle seems off-putting to most people upon first hearing about it, burying beetles are vital for proper nutrient cycling in healthy ecosystems by aiding in the decomposition of small vertebrates. The presence of burying beetles in sustainable numbers is a sign of overall ecosystem health.

ABBs are the largest-sized species of this genus and, as such, require the largest-sized carrion hosts. Several hypotheses have been proposed to explain the species' decline, but it is likely this large size and the ABB's specialized breeding behavior have been the primary factors leading to its endangered status. Burying beetles use carrion for both nonreproductive feeding and for reproduction as food for their offspring. However, locating appropriate small vertebrate carcasses for breeding and raising offspring is more difficult than finding carrion on which to feed. Historical changes to the landscape dating back to the early 20th century are thought to have contributed to its decline. Loss of the American chestnut, upland game bird species and the Passenger Pigeon (thought to be one of the primary hosts of ABB) all contributed to significant habitat changes. The landscape in the northeastern U.S. has recovered from much of that disturbance, and currently supports diverse communities of potential bird and mammal hosts. The recovery of the ABB depends on properly managing existing populations and establishing new ones. However, several populations within their historic range continue to decline or have disappeared, and reintroduction attempts in Massachusetts, Missouri, and Ohio have had limited success so far. One specific goal of the US Fish and Wildlife recovery plan for ABB is to find a suitable location near the northern periphery of its historical range to support a successful reintroduction effort. The mixed hardwood forest habitats of central New York exhibit characteristics deemed highly favorable to burying beetles. Our research at the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve provides us with multiple opportunities to collect critical information and assess the habitat suitability of central New York as a potential reintroduction site starting in 2023. Since 2016 our research team has partnered with the Huyck Preserve to develop a long-term dataset evaluating the seasonal dynamics of *Nicrophorus* beetles already present in New York, along with the small mammal and bird communities which represent potential reproductive carrion for burying beetles, and competition for potential reproductive carrion resources among burying beetles and other scavengers.

The Huyck Preserve's continued support of our ongoing conservation efforts also line up with SUNY Cobleskill's dual mission of educating future scientists and promoting conservation and sustainability in the region. We are happy to have included over 30 undergraduate students over the last 6 years in our survey efforts to determine suitable reintroduction locations. With funding from several non-governmental conservation organizations, these students have completed internships and presented their findings at

scientific conferences. Many of them have been inspired to pursue conservation-related careers. In addition, we have worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) which has initiated a regulatory change that will allow reintroduction of "experimental" populations (thus allowing endangered species to be re-established without holding local landowners responsible for accidental harm to the animals). We are also collaborating with the Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Center for American Burying Beetle Research at the St. Louis Zoo (which has successfully reintroduced individuals of the southern population of ABBs to Missouri) and Lou Perrotti of Roger Williams Park Zoo (who has led the reintroduction of ABBs to Massachusetts for over 25 years). Our long list of collaborators demonstrates the broad support for this effort. Moving forward with our reintroduction efforts, we plan on collecting wild caught ABBs from Block Island, RI in the summer of 2022. After collecting our founder population, we will bring individual beetles into our laboratory breeding center at SUNY Cobleskill in attempt to produce as many as possible for a release date in the summer of 2023. It takes a village for endangered species conservation to be successful, and our collaborators at the Huyck Preserve have been an important part of the effort.

Carmen Greenwood, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill
Roger Masse, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill
Brandon Quinby Ph.D., Research Scientist/Conservation Biologist, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill
Amy Quinn Ph.D., Associate Professor, Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Sciences, SUNY Cobleskill

Updates from the Land

By Garrett Chisholm, Stewardship Coordinator

Like Thoreau trekking into Walden's woods, I, too, have discovered much about myself and the world around me through my journeys across the Preserve. I have welcomed many of these discoveries with delight, but there is one that I have found deeply troubling: hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). HWA is an invasive aphid-like insect from Japan that feeds on hemlock trees and was first discovered at the Preserve in 2015. This once-isolated population has now spread widely across our 350 acres of majestic hemlocks. This year, my third annual routine monitoring excursion revealed significant infestations in all six of our highest priority hemlock stands.

I saw this porcupine enjoying a light breakfast before making its way into a hemlock tree. I snapped a quick (distanced) selfie before it settled down for a nap.

Although our past treatments in two stands have had a positive impact, the HWA are moving quickly throughout the Preserve from untreated stands. With two generations a year, HWA populations can easily explode. A single adult female will produce an average of 200 eggs in the winter, and each of those eggs has the ability to mature and produce another 200 eggs in the spring, amounting to the potential of 40,000 eggs in one year! HWA's spread to and through the Preserve is accelerated by a warming climate, since their populations would normally be limited by our traditional long, cold winters. Subzero winter temperatures like we experienced this year may kill a significant number of HWA, reducing population sizes and slowing their spread and tree health decline. In March, I examined the insects inside the woolly masses found on a sample of hemlock branchlets and found that nearly 95 percent of the insects were dead. New York State Hemlock Initiative (NYSHI) confirms this mortality rate to be consistent with other data from across the middle to northern parts of the state this winter. This is good news as we hope it will buy us more time to effectively protect our important stands.

Above: Hemlock woolly adelgid found at the Preserve Left: HWA as viewed under magnification, Kelly Oten, North Carolina State University, Bugwood.org

HWA treatment will continue this year thanks to our fourth successful application to Capital Region PRISM's RFP grant program. We will also be supporting NYSHI in monitoring for silverflies, the HWA biocontrol agent released at the Preserve by NYSHI in 2021 in the hopes of finding a landscape-scale solution. As in past years, two summer stewards will assist us in our invasive species management work.

Another reason that I pay especially close attention to the Preserve's hemlock stands is that they form the preferred habitat of porcupines. Porcupines are among my favorite animals, and I routinely encounter them, earning me the nickname of the "Porcupine Whisperer" with the Huyck Preserve staff. While Thoreau was once likened to a porcupine, I'm just happy to observe them whenever possible.

To learn more about HWA monitoring and management techniques, or to volunteer (which increases your chances of seeing a porcupine) contact garrett@huyckpreserve.org.

Recreational Improvements – Updates, News, and Acronyms Explained!

The Huyck Preserve's 12+ miles of trails are carefully maintained by Huyck Preserve staff and volunteer trail stewards, but over time, high foot traffic, extreme precipitation, hydrologic changes, and other factors can cause damage that negatively impacts user experience and surrounding natural communities. In December 2020, the Huyck Preserve was awarded a NYS Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP) grant (with funds from the NY Environmental Protection Fund, administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the state Department of Environmental Conservation) aimed at designing recreational improvements throughout the Preserve. That project will be completed soon and has had several incredibly important results.

The first goal of the NYSCPP project was to design critical repairs to the Lower Falls Trail and the Lake Myosotis Boat Launch. The Lower Falls Trail suffers from erosion and drainage issues and is no longer ADA compliant. Similarly, the shoreline at the boat launch area is severely eroded, making it difficult for users to easily launch kayaks and canoes and threatening the water quality of the lake. The Preserve hired Wilderness Property Management (WPM) to create plans for solutions to these problems. Designs for the Lower Falls Trail include improved drainage systems, retention walls, slope stabilization, trail surfacing with gravel, and grading. A dedicated boat launch has also been designed with a gravel trail across the existing grass leading boaters to the water's edge where they will enter the water at a graded launch edged in stone.

In the spring of 2021 WPM completed a full evaluation of the Preserve's trail system, incorporating the input of Preserve members and visitors who formed a focus group for the project. The assessment yielded a trail improvement plan with a prioritized list of future projects and potential remedies. Some of those tasks can be done in-house as time allows (for example, Ordway Trail), while other work will require additional funding to hire professional trail builders (for example, Lake Trail West).

Scan the QR code or go to huyck-preserve.github.io/Huyck-Preserve-Trail-Map to view our new map!

Perhaps as significant as the trail and boat launch improvements, the NYSCPP project has also yielded a new trail map. Not only is the paper map improved, showing more details especially in the Falls Trails area, but we now have our first digital trail map (scan the QR code at left to test it out)! The map is georeferenced, meaning it will show visitors where at the Preserve they are currently standing. We've also created interpretive content linked to the map – information on the Huyck Felt Mill, Wheeler Watson Cemetery, and Lincoln Pond Farm. A tree guide and invasive species brochure can be accessed through the map. Clickable features provide information on each trail including distance, level of difficulty, and key points of interest. Visitors will also notice that the trails on the maps are now color-coded, one suggestion that came out of the Wayfinding and Trail Marking Plan created by WPM. Over the next year, we will add color-coded paint blazes to mark each trail at the Preserve. This colored blazing method is the recommended system for safety (it makes following a trail easier even if one doesn't have a digital map), and trail blazes are long-lasting, easily touched-up, and cannot be stolen. Stay tuned for volunteer days where you can join the trail blazing crew. Bringing the community together for these events will harken back to the early days of the Preserve (see pp. 7-8). The rest of the Wayfinding and Trail Marking Plan will be actualized in future trail work.

One of the most important outcomes of this project has been that the designs created in the NYSCPP project positioned us for a successful application to the Recreational Trail Program (RTP). (Hold on while more agencies and acronyms are explained and linked to our trail improvement funding successes!) The RTP is a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and, in New York State, it is administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. RTP applications are made through the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) which awarded more than $81 million in round XI funding to 97 shovel-ready projects across New York State at the end of 2021. The RTP was one of 11 REDC programs in round XI, and the Huyck Preserve was one of 13 entities receiving RTP funding, and one of only two nature preserves (other recipients included municipalities, counties, and snowmobile organizations). Our project, entitled "Implementing Trail Designs for Enhanced Public Access," was also one of only five to receive the maximum award ($250,000). With these funds and matching Huyck Preserve funds, we will construct the improvements to the Lower Falls Trail and Lake Myosotis Boat Launch designed in the NYSCPP project.

Davis Cottage in 2021

The RTP will also fund the restoration of Davis Cottage, the small white building near the boat launch, and convert it into a trailside interpretive center focused on lake-based public education and stewardship programs. The center will be an accessible building and will feature our first rooftop solar installation. The RTP grant has a maximum length of five years. We are currently working on getting federal approvals and expect construction to begin in spring of 2023 – this may feel like a long time from now, but we think you'll agree it will be worth the wait!

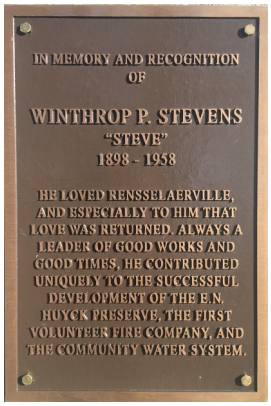
Reviving Davis Cottage

A conversation with Shirley Stevens French

"Memories are facts that have been dyed, trimmed, and rinsed so many times that they come out almost unrecognizable to anyone else who was in the room." -Mary Beth Keane, *Ask Again, Yes*
Shared by Shirley Stevens French

Longtime Huyck supporter Shirley Stevens French is the great niece of Preserve founders Edmund Niles (ENH) and Jessie Van Antwerp Huyck (JVAH). Shirley's grandmother, Anna Louise Van Antwerp Stevens, was Jessie Van Antwerp Huyck's sister. Born in 1929, Shirley has many memories of the Preserve's early years and what seemed an idyllic childhood of summers in Rensselaerville, where her great Uncle Edmund had been raised and her family continued to be deeply involved. Here, we share and record her stories from a recent sit down, especially as they relate to the Preserve's current project to improve our trails and boat launch and to restore Davis Cottage.

Campground at Lake Myosotis, 1934 (photo courtesy of Kathleen Hallenbeck, whose grandparents had a camp at Lake Myosotis and whose parents met in Rensselaerville while visiting the camp)



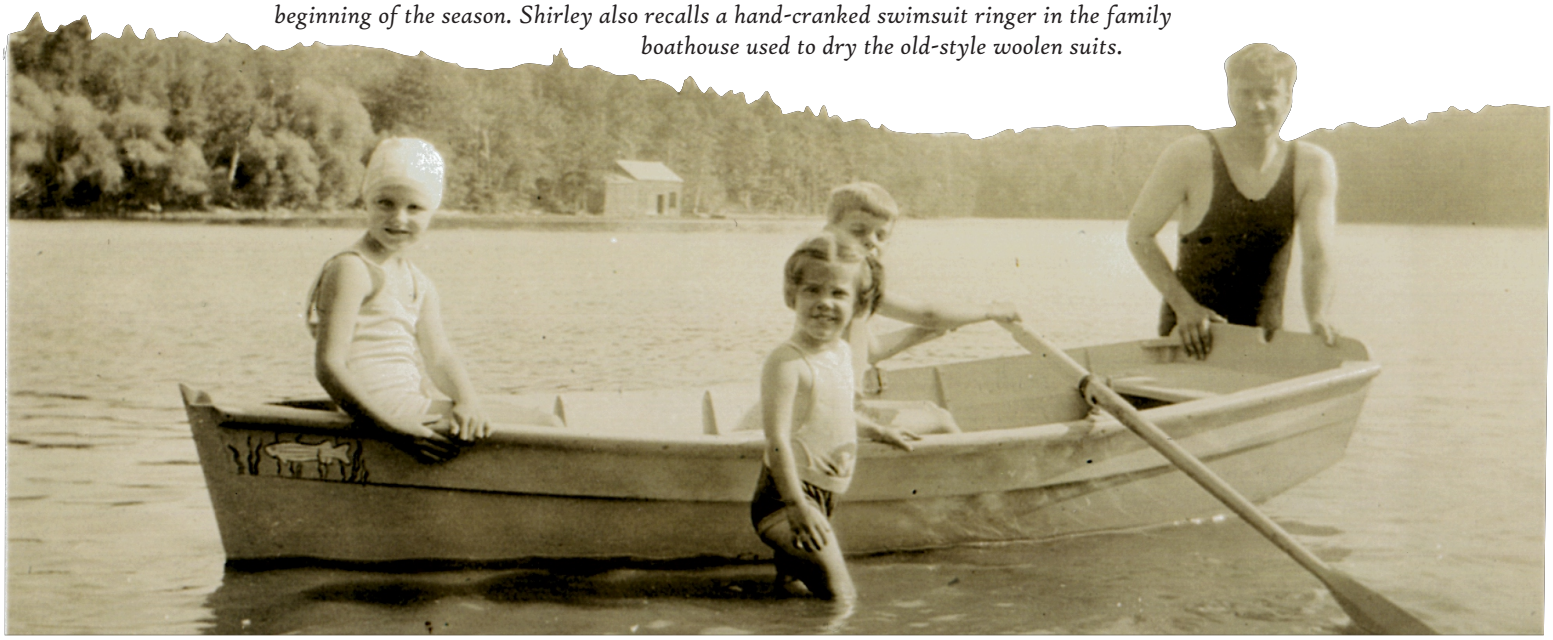
A plaque in memory of Winthrop Stevens is located at the old campground site on the shore of Myosotis Lake.

Davis Cottage, the small, white building just north of the boat launch area, has been used by the Preserve for education programs and, in recent years, for storage of equipment. Built in 1946, the building was originally the summer home and headquarters of Allen Davis (1886-1965), the caretaker for the community campground envisioned by Edmund Huyck and created by Jessie Van Antwerp Huyck and Shirley's father, Winthrop (Win) Stevens in the early years of the Preserve. Win, the nephew of ENH and JVAH, was the first secretary of the Preserve and a devoted supporter of the village community. The campground, composed of about twenty canvas tents on wooden platforms on the east side of Lake Myosotis, existed until 1966. Shirley remembers the camps serving, at least in part, as a country getaway for workers from the Huyck family's mill where her father served as personnel manager. Workers came to Rensselaerville from what was then known as F.C. Huyck and Sons, Kenwood Mills in Rensselaer for fresh air and a healthy setting away from the city. Shirley recalls her father saying, "We come to enjoy fresh air, and others should be able to, too." It was the creation of the camps that opened the lake to the public for the first time.

Shirley's family's home was on Pond Hill Road below Uncle Ted (ENH) and Aunt Jessie's (JVAH) house (now the Huyck House at the Carey Institute for Global Good). Even as a young girl of nine, she would walk up the hill unchaperoned to enjoy a day on the lake. The majority of boats on the lake were canoes, and it was mostly canoes that were stored in the family's boathouse near the

Continued...

"The favorite summer sport begins" (L-R) Shirley's cousin Joan Wilson Ipsen, Shirley Stevens French, Shirley's brother, Winthrop Jr., and father, Winthrop Stevens, in the family rowboat built by Allen Davis (1934). Winthrop's favorite family tradition was to take a Lake Myosotis swim with his children every year on May 31 to mark the beginning of the season. Shirley also recalls a hand-cranked swimsuit ringer in the family boathouse used to dry the old-style woolen suits.



Reviving Davis Cottage (cont.)

Shirley at Rensselearville Falls in 1934

mighty red oaks that still stand as sentinels between the beach and the dam. Some others had sailboats. Allen Davis, who Shirley recalls as a "dear, caring, quiet man who was dedicated to the well-being of others," supplied the lake with rowboats. In fact, one might argue that he began the public boat program on the lake, building a fleet of rowboats that were mostly available to campground residents for rent from the launch area outside the cottage. Many men enjoyed fishing from those boats. Shirley was fortunate to have her very own tiny version of an Allen Davis-built rowboat painted with its name "Little Toot." She was always under the watchful eye of Allen and Helen Davis and the campground residents as she rowed Little Toot solo on the lake. "I remember losing an oar once overboard and someone came out and helped me." Little Toot was a little tippy, but Shirley points out that she always wore her lifejacket! At the end of a good day boating, Shirley often ended with milk and cookies provided by the Davises or a cold glass of water from the well behind the campground. Shirley's fondness for those days on the lake stayed with her through adulthood. Shirley told us that when starting her family with late husband Robert French, "I insisted all my children learned to row."

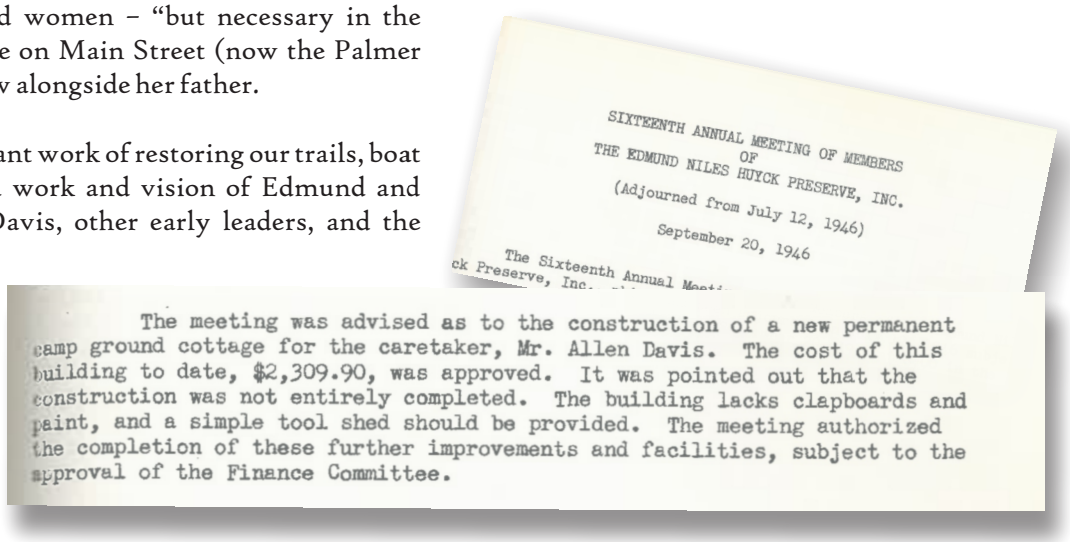
In case readers wonder if the rocky shoreline, which is the enemy of many current day boaters, especially when launching a new boat on a windy day, was an equal adversary then, Shirley says, "The rocks were always a challenge for launching boats," but they also provided the material for many rock skipping competitions. "Flat, thin rocks were a prize. Kids would get at least five skips. Some got even seven, eight, and nine. It was a real skill, almost like throwing a frisbee today." In those earlier days, there was a ramp and dock down from the cottage to launch boats (see photo at left).

Davis Cottage in the 1950s with boat dock in the foreground

Allen Davis' keen awareness of his surroundings and the natural world had another early and long-lasting impression on Shirley and many others who knew him. Shirley recalls lessons on moss, trees, and fishing. "Uncle Ted was a great fly fisherman, and Allen Davis taught me how to fish. He always had a can of worms ready." Shirley said. The Preserve's plans to create a trailside interpretive center to serve as a spot for lakeside education programs and outreach for boaters and other lake visitors is a fitting use of this building that Allen Davis called his summer home. Shirley is overjoyed by the project and says we "couldn't be using the house for a better reason."

Our trail initiative also strikes a personal chord for Shirley who reports that trail work at the Preserve in the 1930s and '40s was performed by "summer" and local men. Win Stevens, who designed the Preserve with Aunt Jessie and other early leaders, was integrally involved in the creation of the trails. According to Shirley, "Win awakened the idea of sharing the Preserve with the community." She describes her father's trail blazing events as big community affairs for men and boys. Often, the work was followed by a game of baseball. Lake Trail West is one of the trails our current project identified as a high priority for improvement. Shirley remembers that trail being built and what a significant accomplishment that was. Being part of the trail action was a rite of passage for boys and something she yearned to be a part of. Shirley saved her allowance for two years and finally earned enough to buy a pair of overalls (long pants were, at that time, unheard of for girls and women – "but necessary in the briars," Shirley says) from Rice's store on Main Street (now the Palmer House). At last, she joined the trail crew alongside her father.

We are glad to be taking on the significant work of restoring our trails, boat launch, and Davis Cottage. The hard work and vision of Edmund and Jessie Huyck, Win Stevens, Allen Davis, other early leaders, and the community who came together out of a shared love of this place should be remembered and honored as we carry the torch (and take up shovels and loppers) with a renewed pledge to continue the work they began over 90 years ago.



SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
OF
THE EDMUND NILES HUYCK PRESERVE, INC.
(Adjourned from July 12, 1946)
September 20, 1946

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve, Inc.

The meeting was advised as to the construction of a new permanent camp ground cottage for the caretaker, Mr. Allen Davis. The cost of this building to date, $2,309.90, was approved. It was pointed out that the construction was not entirely completed. The building lacks clapboards and paint, and a simple tool shed should be provided. The meeting authorized the completion of these further improvements and facilities, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee.

Huyck Preserve board minutes from September 20, 1946 describing the building of Davis Cottage

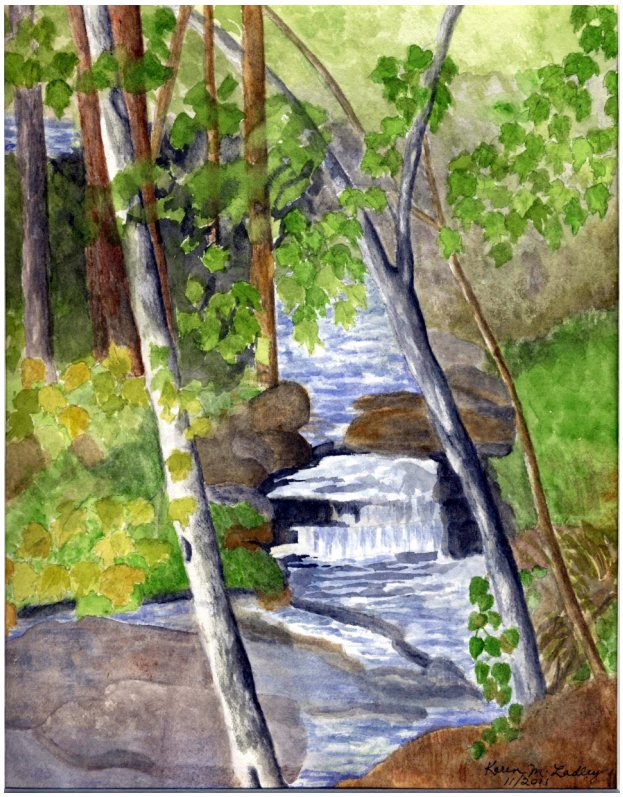
Enjoying Nature All Season Long!

George Robinson, Ph.D., examining bittersweet rings at an invasive species event

Lincoln Pond spillway
Photo ©Lynsey Ackert

Trout Creek in winter

Participants of our winter birding event look for birds on the lake.



Watercolor by ©Karen M Ladley

Red oak leaves on snow
Photo ©Ann Perry

Bill Logan discussing trees at our Meet the Trees event
Photo © Virginia Carter

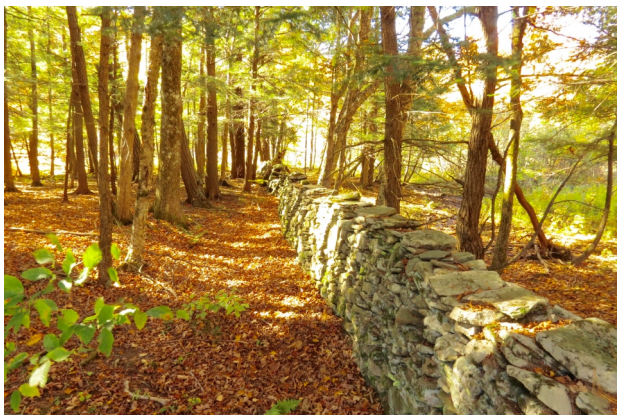
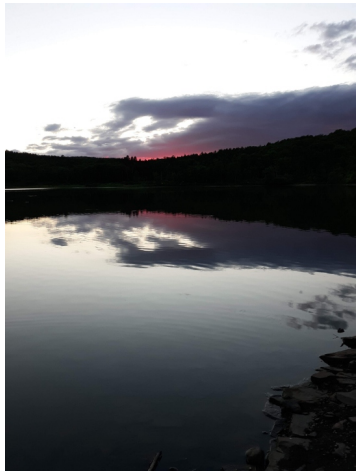


Photo ©Dennis Murphy.

Doe on Lake Trail East
Photo ©Scott Keating

Woodpecker work
Photo ©Ann Perry



Myosotis Lake at sunset
Photo ©Laura Arnwine

Squirrel tracks on Lincoln Pond boardwalk, Photo ©Karen Conway

Upcoming Events

Monthly Events

April

Earth Day Event

Saturday, April 23 | 1 - 3 PM

Join us to welcome back wildlife rehabilitator Kelly Martin as she shows us her current animals and leads an early spring hike.

Citizen Science Phenology Event

Saturday, April 30 | 10 AM - 12 PM | Visitors' Center

Join Stewardship Coordinator Garrett Chisholm to learn about our phenology trail and how to become a citizen scientist.

May

Spring Wildflower Hike

Saturday, May 14 | 10 AM

Follow Chris Schiralli, local wildflower expert, on a gentle hike around the Preserve in search of spring blooms.

Nature Drawing Workshop

Saturday, May 21 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Come sketch outside with artist and Membership and Outreach Coordinator Florence! Learn the basics of how to approach drawing from nature. All skill levels welcome.

June

National Trail Day

Saturday, June 4 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Be a part of helping improve trails at the Preserve. This event will focus on work at Ordway Trail.

Forest Invader Event

Saturday, June 11 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Volunteer with Stewardship Coordinator Garrett Chisholm to tackle our next invasive species project.

July

Invasive Species Symposium

July 9 | 1 - 4 PM

Join us to learn about a range of invasive species topics from a panel of experts. The event will conclude with a hike.

Thursday Night Lecture Series Begins

Gather at the Research Center every Thursday night starting July 14th for an engaging scientific lecture series following a communal, pot-luck meal. Lectures continue in August.

Stay tuned for event details and full lecture series schedule.

August

Paddle Together

Saturday, August 27 | 5 PM

Come on a guided paddle around Lake Myosotis.

Registration is required for events.

Please see our website at www.huyckpreserve.org/upcoming-events for registration and event details.

Email info@huyckpreserve.org with questions.

Annual Events

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 25 | 1 - 3 PM

Meet with board members and staff, and cast your vote at the annual board election. Guests will also learn more about current and future happenings at the Preserve.

Beach Opening

Saturday, June 25

Benefit Gala

Sunday, August 14

Eldridge Research Center

Join us for the return of our benefit gala and silent auction! We will enjoy beverages and dinner on the shore of Lincoln Pond, and attendees can view auction items available through our virtual auction site.

In-Person Gala, August 14, 5 - 8 PM

Virtual Auction

opens: Saturday, August 13 at 8 AM

closes: Sunday, August 14 at 10 PM

Stay Tuned!

For updates, please see our events page at www.huyckpreserve.org/upcoming-events or follow us on facebook for event postings.

Want to receive updates in your inbox? Join our email list by checking the "please send Huyck Preserve announcements" box on your membership renewal form or email info@huyckpreserve.org.

Our Summer Education Programs are Back!

Nature Study

Grades K-2: July 11-15, 9 AM - 12 PM
Grades K-5, week 1: July 11-15, 1 - 4 PM
Grades K-5, week 2: July 18-22, 9 AM - 12 PM
Grades 3-5: July 18-22, 1 - 4 PM
$120 for Members, $200 for Non-Members

The Nature Study program at the Huyck Preserve introduces elementary school children to nature through a week-long, half-day program. Students learn about nature through exploration of our forest trails and streams. What animals and plants live in our forests, pond, and streams? The kids will find out! We use science-themed games and crafts to reinforce the basic concepts of ecology and environmental science we've discussed out in the woods.

Have your children attended Nature Study in the past? We hope they will return this year, as we offer new lessons and activities each year while bringing back popular favorites!

Ecological Explorations

Grades 6-8: July 25-29, 9 AM - 4 PM
$250 for Members, $320 for Non-Members

Ecological Explorations provides the opportunity for middle school students to explore the Preserve's natural treasures and ecological concepts in an immersive, hands-on format. Students spend time hiking the Preserve's trails, exploring the ecosystems of the streams, lake, pond, and forests, problem solving, participating in group challenges and activities, and frequently end the day swimming at the lake.

Wildlife Ecology Research Program

Grades 9-12: August 1-12 (M-F), 9 AM - 4 PM
$475 for Members, $550 for Non-Members

Wildlife Ecology Research is an intensive 2-week day program where high school students learn basic ecological principles through hands-on research experience. Ecologists from colleges and universities around the region will instruct students on broad topics in ecology. Wildlife Ecology Research culminates in small group research projects that are mentored by program staff as well as by undergraduate Odum Interns. This program aims to provide a significant academic experience that will help students prepare for courses and research experiences at the college level while letting them explore career options in the natural sciences.

Visit www.huyckpreserve.org/summer-programs for more details and registration.
Please email info@huyckpreserve.org with questions. To register at the member rate, please call (518) 797-3440.

Huyck Preserve
and Biological Research Station
2022-2023 Membership Form

Membership year is May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

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

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

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal

Membership $ _____

Additional Donation $ _____

Total Amount $ _____

This gift is given in honor of/ in memory of
(please circle)

_____

Please make checks payable to the Huyck Preserve.

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

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

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ABOUT THE COVER:
Racetrack-Wheeler Watson trail sign, photo © Scott Keating