

HUYCK PRESERVE
AND BIOLOGICAL RESERVE



...hull.
The leaves are corymbose-
celled, hairy above in lines;
they are rough above, smooth under-
neath, ovate to lanceolate, sharply
toothed in the middle, occa-
sionally taper-pointed, and rather
narrowly narrowed to a long con-
tracted entire portion, which is
broadly dilated into a conspicu-
ous head on short divergent pedun-
cles; the heads are high; brown; only linear.



Myosotis Messenger

Most recently the staff of the Huyck Preserve has been hard at work spreading one of the “best kept secrets” in the Capital-Upper Hudson Valley region, the beauty and wonder of our 2,000 acre nature preserve. We believe that if more people know about our twelve miles of immaculately kept trails open to the public dawn to dusk 365 days a year, they may reach out to our Conservation and Outreach Coordinator to join our volunteer program and assist with trail maintenance, running the newly updated Visitors Center, and participating in Citizen Science programs. We hope that if we expand our field-based science education programming to more schools and students in the region we will have a major impact on helping to create the next generation of science conservationists. Most importantly, we know that the more people who know about our majestic falls and participate in our festivals and guided hikes, the more support we can generate through donation and membership to help us continue all that we do.

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Conservation and Outreach Coordinator
Emileigh Tanner
Membership Coordinator
Dennis Hostash
Buildings and Grounds Assistant

And we do a lot! Many ask us how we create such fantastic programming year after year. So we thought we'd share the secret ingredients that provide the basis for a summer (and fall, spring, and winter!) of fun. Plus, we have added a few friendly faces who deserve a proper introduction. All of these people, diverse in backgrounds and hobbies, are key members of the Huyck Preserve family whether they are with us for a single summer or over 20 years and I encourage you to reach out and get to know them as members of the Huyck Preserve community.

- Dawn O'Neal, Ph.D.

A Recipe for a Summer of Fun

- Two parts **Administrative and Financial Manager**, consisting of a caretaker of 4 spray chickens, doting grandmother to 6 grandchildren, a moderate art collection of the great works of Susan Story, a dollop of knitting, and over 20 years of service to the Huyck Preserve from Copy Girl to Numbers Woman.
- A half pint of **Membership Coordinator**: a mix of rockin' singer and belly dancer, topped off with a budding green thumb for cultivating herbs and kale, a generous splash of yogi master-in-training, and the sunny countenance and whip smart ability to manage the membership, beach, and development programs.
- For a bit of spice, combine a lieutenant with the Rensselaerville Volunteer Firefighters with a generous zest of current pop music and a large helping of love for the Rensselaerville Community, top off with a dirt bike commute in rain, sleet, or snow and add 15 years of contracting experience to get a dedicated **Buildings and Grounds Assistant**.
- To stabilize all that flavor, add a generous cup of **Buildings and Grounds Supervisor**: a combination of more than 10 years devoted to beautifying the Preserve's trails and facilities, extended knowledge of the Preserve's history, and a firm and stern countenance mellowed by four little ones, kite flying, video games, and meditative wood splitting.
- One part **Conservation and Outreach Coordinator**: a mishmash of nature photographer, board gamer, and avid baker of delicious awesomeness, with a generous dose of love for her coon hound, Elvis, and a bowlful of experience in conservation biodiversity and policy.
- A handful of sprinkles, the happiest of additions, a mix of Naturalist, Aquatics Director, Wildlife Rehabilitator, and Summer Research Fellow. For the **Naturalist**, a love affair with a former Odum Intern, Mariah, folded in with an affection for flowers and his mischievous corgi. A few cows, a motorcycle, and a dedication to educating youth will make a bit of **Aquatics Director**. Also a teaspoon of **Wildlife Rehabilitator**: a blend of rescuing injured animals and educating interested participants during Family Wildlife Hour for our youngest environmental stewards.
- Finish off with a dash of **Summer Research Fellow** whose passion for forest ecology and research on the impact of climate on tree communities will season our Thursday Night Lecture Series.
- All brought together by chief cook and bottle washer, the **Executive Director**: a world traveler with a penchant for Turkish and Mexican Food, an avid reader, who is Master Delegator, gently mixing together all the ingredients peppered with the right amount of humor and direction for the fruitful outcome of the perfect summer!

...get a closer look at our ingredients!



Carolyn Barker
Financial and
Administrative Manager



Emileigh Tanner
Membership
Coordinator



Dennis Hostash
Buildings and Grounds
Assistant



Adam Caprio
Supervisor of
Buildings and Grounds



Christina McLaughlin
Conservation and Outreach
Coordinator



Chris Schiralli
Naturalist



Kelly Martin
Wildlife Rehabilitator



Dawn O'Neal, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Miles Pangburn
Aquatics Director

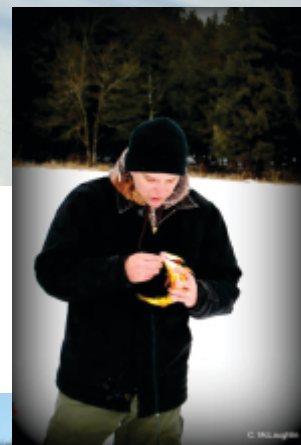


Seth Bigelow, Ph.D.
Scientific Research Fellow

Winter Festival, 2015

Though our Festival this year was exceptionally frigid, that didn't stop roughly 100 brave souls from joining us to celebrate all the great seasonal fun the Huyck Preserve had in store! As always, we had a wonderful array of local vendors including Naturelogues Nature Photography; Partridge Run Apiary, SUNY Cobleskill student chapters of Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, and Wildlife Society; Hudson-Mohawk Bird Club; the Rensselaerville Library; Rensselaerville Rod and Gun Club; and live birds brought in by Linda and Eric Brown and Kelly Martin, Wildlife Rehabilitators . We were also pleased to welcome Heather Ridge Farm this year who brought some delicious soup and chili to help our guests warm up from the winter wind.

Peruse our Winter Festival spread to see some of the fun activities we enjoyed. We look forward to riding the snow luge with you in the 2016 Winter Festival!



(Above): The Rensselaerville Rod and Gun Club were back again this year to give hands-on ice fishing demonstrations.



C. McLaughlin



Huyck Preserve is home to many different kinds of wildlife. New this year, a 1st year deer who has been hanging out at the Research Station. Keep your eyes out for our many seasonal residence!



C. McLaughlin



(Left): Adam and Dennis have truly perfected the art of building an excellent snow luge. Come to the 2016 Winter Festival and try for yourself!

(Above): Our grandiose Spruce stands provide a brilliant backdrop amid the white landscape surrounding Lincoln Pond. Interested in the phenology of this stand? Check out the Phenocam in place as part of Drs. George Robinson and Andrei Lapenas' research.



C. McLaughlin



C. McLaughlin



We had several live birds brought in by Wildlife Rehabilitators Kelly Martin and Linda and Eric Brown, including this beautiful hawk.

Spring Awakening

Christina McLaughlin, Conservation and Outreach Coordinator



We've had a long cold winter and spring is finally, albeit slowly, arriving. At our elevation, the arrival of spring can be even slower than other places in the immediate area. April may get some warm days, with more hours of sunshine, but you'll still find large patches of snow in shady spots. The pond and lake will still have ice cover over much of the surface, riddled with holes and pools of water. Day to day changes at the Preserve make it a great time to be outside and exploring.

Beneath the ice on Lincoln pond, in the mud and silt of the bottom, turtles hibernate through winter. Their slow metabolisms require almost no oxygen, so they bury themselves in mud. Aquatic frogs will need some

oxygen, so instead they sit atop the mud, and may swim around a little bit during winter. Land based frogs, like the wood frog and spring peeper spend the winter in leaf litter and rocks, freezing so that even their heart beats stop, before thawing and returning to life with the warmth of spring.

By early April at the Preserve, as daily average temperatures are consistently above 37, spring peepers will awaken from their hibernation and creep from their hiding places. These heralds of spring will start singing for mates and continue until about early May. Spring peepers make their physical preparations for mating in the fall, so they can start seeking a mate immediately after spring thaw. That loud chorus of spring peepers at dusk and dawn that tells you spring is coming is made by a tiny frog that at its largest is about an inch long! These tiny tan colored frogs are easily identified by the faint black X on their back, which gives them their scientific name: *Pseudacris crucifer*.

The ice starts to break up in April as well, with Ten-Mile creek encouraging the process by wearing away at the ice particularly near the spill way. Combined with days of sun shine, the ice will start to thin and crack especially in the shallower edges of the pond, and the cold-blooded residents of the pond will awaken. The

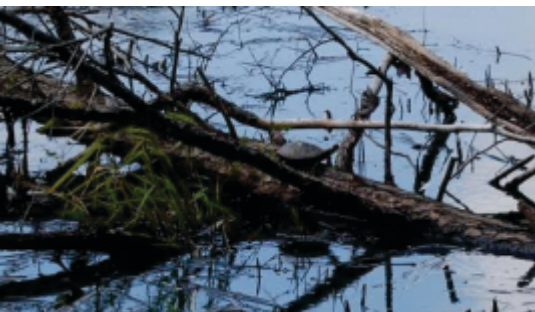


northwest corner of Lincoln pond gets the most sun, and amongst the cattails and blue flag irises in the mud is the painted turtle hibernaculum – where they spend their winter. Despite having body temperatures almost at freezing, painted turtles move around a little bit during the winter. As the ice thins and clear water spots appear, the turtles emerge to sun themselves on clump of dead grass or logs. Once they've been able to warm themselves several times, they'll start seeking mates, and females will lay eggs in June and July.

By early May many amphibians will be visiting, or already have visited, vernal pools and springs. Vernal pools are seasonally flooded areas offering fish-free bodies of water for amphibians to lay eggs and

juveniles to grow up in relative safety before they dry up in summer time. The first warm rain of the year usually starts these animals' trips from over wintering sites to breeding sites. If you're driving at night during a warm spring rain watch out for amphibians crossing the roads!

It may not seem like spring yet, but spring comes gradually. Keep your eyes open when outside, and you'll start to see and hear the first signs of spring event while there's still snow on the ground!



1: Dates/temp info for peepers: www.caryinsitute.org/newsroom/its-almost-time-spring-peepers
2: www.lpzoo.org/blog/nature-boardwalk-lincoln-park-zoo/what-do-painted-turtles-do-winter



Lincoln Pond

Edmund Niles Huyck

Tired, from the days's dull task I steal away
At evening to a pond where willows grow
Against the taller hemlock's dark array;
And crowning all, great sun-swept hills a-glow.

A little pond where peaceful breezes blow
Catching the sunlight on its rippled face;
Where fleurs-de-lis in green and purple row
Border its margins with their stately grace.

Oh ! little flower of France, can it be true
The same world shelters you in safety here,
While in yon land, a-far, hell's blasting crew
Tear you in shreds, and leave all black and sere?

In the clear shallows little fishes swim, –
When suddenly, from deeper darkness glides
An armored monster, wide of jaws and slim,
Designed to kill and live, and nought besides.

Just so, the nation boasting of its might,
Forgetting beauty every where unfuled,
Denying all belief in common right
Reverts to brute, and tries to rule the world.

My boat moves slowly, longer shadows fall;
The golden sunset and a single star,
Beauty and peace and stillness over all –
"T is very hard to feel that there is war!"

1914–1918

Nature, Art, and the Huyck Preserve

Emileigh Tanner, Membership Coordinator

Nature and art are an inseparable force that continues to shape our history, culture and personal existence. Written word has glorified nature for centuries, and whole artistic movements have placed it at the forefront of focus. The natural world is so deeply connected to our being that the art we create, whether it be literary, musical, or visual, is undoubtedly peppered with its influence; from the sweeping brush strokes of Claude Monet's paintings, to Ansel Adam's magnificent photographs of America's landscape, to countless nature-inspired books, poems and songs, the Earth provides a vast pool of inspiration to nurture our artistic spirit.

The namesake to the Huyck Preserve, Edmund "Ted" Niles Huyck, was well aware of nature's power through its serenity and quiet beauty. Ted, an avid fisherman and outdoors man, spent many hours contemplating life, truth, the human condition and of course nature while floating the glistening waters of Lincoln Pond. In this short meditation to the left, one can easily feel the affection he had for this special place and why he wished to keep it undisturbed for many generations to come.

By supporting the Huyck Preserve, you are helping to keep his wishes alive. Thank you!

Want to read more of Edmund Niles Huyck's poems? Stop by our Visitor Center to peruse or purchase our limited supply of print editions of "Lincoln Pond and Other Poems"!

Become a Volunteer!

We are looking for people interested in volunteering to collect data as part of citizen science efforts at the Preserve. Currently we are looking for volunteers for the Phenology trail and MAPS bird banding station. Phenology trail volunteers are asked to walk the short trail weekly (or more often!), while MAPS volunteers participate in the band station, which is typically 4:15AM-10:30AM on weekdays in the summer.

Citizen Scientist volunteers will receive specialized training to collect for the project(s) they and will learn the reasons for the on-going study and its importance to the greater fields of biology, zoology, ecology, conservation, and wildlife management. This is a great position for people with an active interest in science and the environment, who want to spend their time collecting useful, meaningful data used in ongoing ecological research. Citizen scientists may also do data entry for projects.

For more information on specific projects, check out the citizen science page of our website: www.huyckpreserve.org/citizenscience

We will be holding a volunteer information and training session for citizen science volunteers in May – if you are interested in join the Preserve as a volunteer please send an email to outreach@Huyckpreserve.org to be notified of the training session date.



Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS)

Get hands on with MAPS! Citizen scientists can learn how to remove birds from mist nets, how to safely handle birds, the names of some of the groups of bird feathers, and how to identify the reproductive state of birds.

The data collected is used to monitor the health of breeding birds at Huyck Preserve and to identify what species are actively breeding within the Preserve.



Program Dates

Friday, June 5
Wednesday, June 17
Wednesday, July 8
Friday, July 17
Wednesday, July 29
Friday, August 7

MAPS Program meets at Lake Myosotis Kayak area and begin at roughly 4:15am

**Dates and times subject to change based on weather.
Please call our office the day prior to the event to confirm
(797-3440).**



Calling All Kids!

Our popular Tuesday morning program *Wildlife Family Hour* is returning! Children and adults of all ages are welcome to this program for an engaging introduction to wildlife. Meet with live animals, learn about plant identification, and be led on a nature hike with Wildlife Rehabilitator Kelly Martin

Children must be accompanied by an adult
Every Tuesday, July 7th - August 18th
10:30 - 11:30 am

This program is free but a \$5 donation is suggested.

Huyck On Demand

Did you know you can schedule a personalized guided hike? Whether it be for a nice outing with family or friends, a child's birthday party, or scouts looking to fulfill badge requirements, the Huyck Preserve can customize a special hike for you and your needs!

Groups booking through Huyck on Demand are guaranteed to have access to either the research station or visitor center for restrooms, use of the research station lawn for picnicking, and a Preserve staff member to provide the program and give you personal attention. In addition, a private program will allow us to go at a pace you prefer, pick a trail that matches your hiking abilities, and provide more staff attention for answering questions.

Come for a few hours or a whole day trip and get a program tailored to your interests, ages, and abilities. We have programs designed to for specialized requirements and staff with knowledge in a variety of nature topics to answer your questions.

Examples of potential hikes available to you include:

For Adults

Wildflower Walk - Learn to find and identify native wildflowers along our trail.

Our Forest Through Time - Learn some of the history of Huyck Preserve and how it has shaped the forests around us and what lives here. We'll talk about forest regeneration and what is impacting it here at the Preserve.

Seasonal Ecology Hikes - We'll talk about migration, breeding seasons, why and how leaves change color, and the other seasonal changes going on in the forest around us, depending on the time of year, along with identifying some of the common plants and animals seen in specific seasons.

For Kids

Bug Off! - We'll look for bugs of all shapes and sizes and introduce the diversity of insects at the preserve along with some of their behavior and how to identify them.

Family Beginning Birding - Learn the basics of bird identification by sight and sound in this all-ages hike. We'll look for some common birds, cover some binocular basics, and you'll take home a sheet with some helpful tips for learning to identify birds.

Winter Wildlife - How do animals survive the winter? We'll talk about how animals survive winter, where they are, and how to look for them when there's snow everywhere.

Hunt for Herps! - Herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians - we'll take a hike in search of frogs, salamanders, turtles, and snakes and introduce their biology and lifestyles.

Learn more about this great program by visiting
www.huyckpreserve.org/hike-on-demand.

To schedule a hike, please contact the Huyck Preserve Main Office 518-797-3440 or email outreach@huyckpreserve.org!

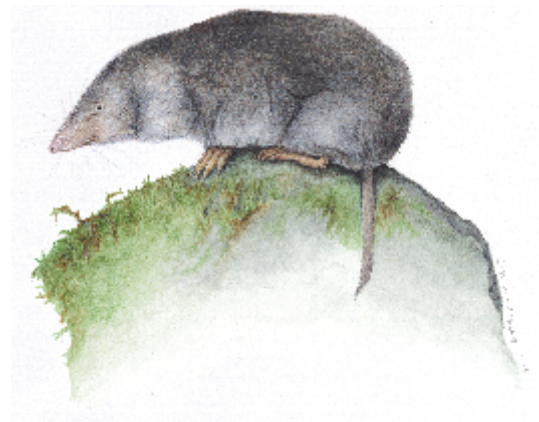


We're adding more Hikes!

We're expanding our public guided hike offerings, and would love to get your opinions on programs to offer. Some potential hike ideas include: **adults-only social hikes ending at a local bar; fitness-oriented hikes to help you stay or get in shape through a supportive, community setting; family-friendly guided hikes for the enjoyment of all; or tell us your ideas!** Please help us by taking a quick, anonymous survey at

<http://goo.gl/forms/JpNvV51aIS>.

Thanks and happy hiking!



Now Hiring!

Multiple part-time ten week lifeguard positions are available from June 23-Labor Day weekend. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age and have current American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification with Waterfront and current American Red Cross certification in CPR/AED.

Visit our website or call our office at (518)797-3440 for more information.



Learn in Nature with Huyck Preserve's Summer Youth Education Programs!



Nature Study*

www.huyckpreserve.org/nature-study-k-5th-grades

This program introduces elementary school children to nature through a week-long half day program. Students spend time outside experiencing nature and walking the trails, and learn how to identify common plants and animals in the area.

Grades K-2: July 27-31; 1-4pm

Grades 3-5: July 20-24; 1-4pm

\$30 members, \$80 non-members



Natural History Day Program*

www.huyckpreserve.org/natural-history-day-program-6th-10th-grades

This program provides the opportunity for rising Middle School and Junior High students to learn about the natural world through observation, exploration and research. The Middle School program will explore the Preserve's natural treasures through ecological concepts while learning field research techniques. The Junior High students will expand on this to be immersed in a hands-on field research experience.

Session I: July 6-10; 9am-4pm

Session II: July 13-17; 9am-4pm

\$200 members, \$250 non-members

Wildlife Ecology Research*

www.huyckpreserve.org/wildlife-ecology-research-11th-12th-grades

In this intensive 3 week program, rising juniors and seniors learn basic ecological principles through hands-on research experience. Wildlife Ecology Research culminates in rigorous small group research projects where students develop and implement research projects from hypothesis to final paper. This program aims to provide a significant academic experience that will help students prepare for courses and research experiences at the college level.

Session I: July 6-27

Session II: August 3-24

\$3800

Scholarships Available!



2015 Calendar of Events

Spend your Summer with Us

Nature Walks...

Wildflower Walk Series

with Chris Schiralli

Sunday, April 19

Sunday, July 12

Sunday, September 13

10:00 am - Noon

Native Medicinal Plants of Spring

with Justin Wexler

Saturday, May 16

9:00 am - 11:00 am

*All walks to meet at
Eldridge Research Station*

Dates and times subject to change based on guide availability and weather. New hikes may also be added. Please check our website for any changes.

...and Science Talks

Thursday Night Lecture Series and Potluck

June 18-August 20

6:30 pm coffee and dessert; 7:00 - 8:00 pm lecture

Eldridge Research Center

Join us Thursday evenings for dinner and our very popular lectures featuring researchers working in a variety of scientific fields. This year our topic will be *Plants and Wildlife in the Hudson Valley under Past, Present, and Future Climates*. Our 2015 Summer Research Fellow, Seth Bigelow, will be coordinating guest speakers which we will announce in upcoming email blasts along with our online events calendar. You won't want to miss these interesting and informative talks! Stay tuned and we hope to see you there!



As we continue to add to our calendar, be sure to check our website for details and updates. Get notifications straight to your inbox by signing up for our weekly email newsletter at www.huyckpreserve.org!

Annual Events

Bird Festival

Saturday, May 2nd

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road

Open House

Saturday, May 30th

Come get a mini sampling of our Summer education programs, check out our Visitor Center, meet our staff, and even take a brief guided walk to explore the history of the Huyck!

1:00 - 4:00 pm

Visitor Center

*Annual Membership Meeting and Special Members-Only Hike

Saturday, June 20th

2:00-3:30 pm — 83rd Annual

Membership Meeting

3:30-5:00 pm — Member Only Hike

Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road

*Members-Only Sunset Hike and Bonfire

Friday, July 10th

8:00 pm

Lake Myosotis

Science Symposium

Saturday, July 25th

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road

Annual Benefit

Saturday, August 22nd

Mark your calendars for another fantastic event!

5:30 pm - Cocktail Hour and Dinner

8:00 pm - Entertainment and Dancing

More details to follow

Eldridge Research Station Lawn

*Thank-You Dinner and Guided Hike

Saturday, October 17th

4:00 - Member Only Hike

5:00 - Dinner at Eldridge Research Center

Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Road

Christmas Bird Count

Details TBA

** Represents Member-Only Events.*

Check the back cover for all of your exclusive membership benefits!

Thank you for supporting the Huyck Preserve in the past. As a way of expressing our gratitude, all of our members are entitled to these exclusive benefits:

- ♦ **Huyck Preserve Membership Card**
- ♦ **Limited-Edition Huyck Preserve Decal**
- ♦ **Discounts on Visitor Center Merchandise**
- ♦ **Receive Biannual print newsletter *Myosotis Messenger* straight to your doorstep**
- ♦ **Voting privileges at the Annual Meeting, June 20**
- ♦ **Eligibility to participate in our Lake Program, including beach passes and boat rack rentals**
- ♦ **Discounts on education programs**
- ♦ **Personal invites to special events and access to Member-Only events**

We hope you consider renewing your commitment to the Huyck Preserve with a 2015-2016 membership. Through your help, we are able to create positive change for science, nature and the community through our four-part mission.

Conservation

Education

Recreation

Research

Photo and COM. EN. ART Illustration credit: (Photograph Credit to Christina McLaughlin unless otherwise indicated) Cover: Trail Map and Asters Sketch Collage, Cris Winters, 2010; Page 3: Staff Photograph of Christina, Adam & Dennis, Emileigh Tanner, 2015; Photograph of Emileigh, Adam Caprio, 2015; Page 7: Lincoln Pond Watercolor, Paul Mirocha, 2002; Page 8: Male Chestnut Warbler, Melissa Mance, 2009; Chipmunk detail sketch, Jenny Parks, 2011; Page 9: Wildflower sketch, Tim Angell, 1999; Star-nosed Mole Watercolor, Diana Marques, 2014; Page 10: Photograph of WER Students, Dawn O'Neal, 2013; Page 11: Wildflowers, Maria da Penha Passos Sant'Anna, 2011; Aster Sketch, Cris Winters, 2010; Back Cover: Photograph unknown; Myosotis Messenger Design, Emileigh Tanner