



# Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Autumn 2018

## President's message

Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors' 3<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic & hike took place on July 23 with our sights on visiting El Dorado Beach Preserve (acquired by The Nature Conservancy" in 1969). We had visited there in July of 2016 during a drought and so much of the foilage was dried out and dead. Last year (2017) the area was flooded and closed to visitors. So we thought we would try again this year even though the few weeks leading up to our visit was also dry. We feared we might miss the dunes and unique vegetation that blankets them.

Well, we missed our turn. El Dorado isn't the easiest place to find and we made our left turn short and into "Black Pond Wildlife Management Area" run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We later learned that El Dorado is the northern side of Black Pond. Together they make up a wonderful large wildlife preserve. Black Pond is in the Town of Ellisburg in Jefferson County. Entrance is off of route 3.

The trails at Black Pond are crushed stone bordered by railroad ties. They were very clean and neat. The wooden bridges are well made and wheel chair friendly. The views are precious and the well-managed trail leads to the beach area.

This was a great discovery that we heartily recommend for the whole family. Be sure to bring your camera.



**Trail at Black Pond**

We were still determined to visit El Dorado so off we went. Rice Creek's Director, **Kamal Mohamed**, was our driver and got us there! Looking at google maps he had to take Stony Creek road [152] off of 3 and then left onto Grampian Road to almost the end. The parking lot is small and the trails are reasonably level and not well maintained. I believe this is by design to limit the number of visitors. On their website, I read that they have "five dune stewards patrol to remind people to stay out of the dunes, keep their dogs leashed and avoid areas set aside for birds and wildlife." I loved the canopy of trees at the beginning of the trail.



**El Dorado Shores**

Please google both “Black Pond Wildlife Management Area” and “El Dorado Beach Preserve in New York” for a wealth of information on both.

Rice Creek Associates is an all-volunteer group that awards research grants, provides guest speakers for the public, and does our best to help the director, **Prof. Kamal Mohamed**, with field station concerns. Each year the RCA Board sets aside one day to hike and picnic and enjoy the day together. I’d like to thank **Prof. Peter Rosenbaum**, Chair of our Small Grants Program, **Michael Holy**, who manages our membership and is editor-in-chief of our quarterly newsletter, **Pat Jones**, who helps us obtain guest speakers, **Shari Morey**, who helps us inform the public about our reflections, **Don Artz**, our Secretary/Treasurer, **Prof. Andrew McElwain** from SUNY Biological Sciences Dept, **Alan Harris**, Rice Creek Groundskeeper, and **Wendy Fragale**, whose assistance with secretarial and organizational skills without which RCA couldn’t possibly exist.

I hope you enjoy the pictures.

-Robert Foster

## **Monarch Status at Rice Creek**



**Monarch on New England Aster**

I am pleased to report that there has been a healthy Monarch population at the field station throughout the year as well as throughout central New York. At the field station, 111 were observed on August 24. In comparison, 4 were recorded last year on August 21. They peaked highest last year on Sept. 21 at 71. To be fair, no observations were made between August 21 and Sept. 11, so a greater amount could have been present between that time.

-Mike



**Blue-stem Goldenrod**

## Rice Creek Reflections

### Astronomy- Then and Now

On Sept. 8, Ron Chaldu, former professor of astronomy at SUNY Oswego, gave a presentation on the history of astronomy from the 1950s to the 80s.

Within that time frame, he spoke of developments in the following areas:

1950s: Radio astronomy was born.

1960s: Gravitational waves, pulsars, neutron stars

1970s: Telescopes capable of obtaining three to four terabytes of information per night (!);  
X-ray astronomy

1980s: gravitational waves differentiated from light waves due to better detection of gravitational waves; exoplanets

His segment on pulsars was particularly interesting to me. He described pulsars as heavenly bodies without an electric charge and being extremely dense. They are highly magnetic and shoot out rays of radiation. They can be used as accurate timepieces and their pulses can be used as a gps. They are miles in diameter with the mass of a star and are confined to a plane of the galaxy.

### Save the date!

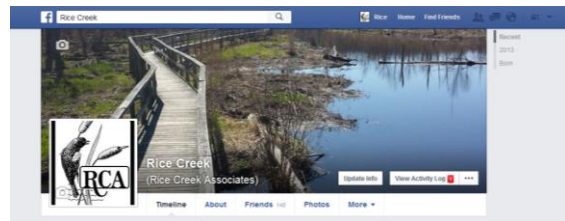
Our annual RCA Social will be held on Saturday, November 3. The 2018 Small Grant awardees will share their experiences and data collected over the past year. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 2 p.m. and the program will begin promptly at 3 p.m. The event is free and open to all.

At this event, you will see how students, faculty, and members of the community experience Rice Creek, you will experience the passion we have for training the next generation of scientists, and meet the Rice Creek Associates and SUNY

Oswego community that supports these opportunities. Come **Experience** Rice Creek!

## Rice Creek Associates (RCA) is on Facebook

To connect with RCA on Facebook, sign up for Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/) or sign in using your existing account. When linking to RCA as an added friend, search for Rice Creek like you would search for a new friend. You will know you have the right link to add RCA when you see this RCA logo as a profile picture along with a field station photo as its cover page, like so:



## Rice Creek Associates

(RCA) is a support group that was formed in 1986 for the purpose of furthering the goals of Rice Creek Field Station (RCFS). It is the intent of RCA to expand the scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities at the station through community involvement. Over the years, RCA has continued to increase its membership making it possible to fund improvement projects that benefit the station and the community at large.

Our Board of Directors thanks you for your support and looks forward to bringing you the best that Rice Creek has to offer.

## RCA Board Elections

### Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors Ballot

Four positions are up for election. Two are three-year positions two are two-year positions. Robert Foster and Peter Rosenbaum are running for re-election. Wendy Fragale and Laurel Artz are running for two-year positions. Please consider serving on our Board. Indicate your choices and return by November 15.

#### Three-year terms

Peter Rosenbaum

Robert Foster

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

#### Two-year terms

Wendy Fragale

Laurel Artz

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and send to Rice Creek Associates,  
Bldg #23 SUNY Oswego, Oswego, N.Y. 13126  
or forward to rcfs@oswego.edu.

**We consider all member information  
confidential and will not share it with any  
other groups or businesses.**

## Join/renew RCA membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### All memberships are now Mar. 1 – Feb. 28

New Membership

Membership renewal

Level:

Student 5.00

Individual 10.00

Family/Couple 15.00

Contributing 25.00

Sustaining 50.00

Life 250.00

Corporate 500.00

I/We would like to make a tax-deductible  
contribution to the

General Fund

Trail improvement

Exploring Nature Program for  
Children

in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Total enclosed (membership + contribution)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Oswego College Foundation/RCA**

Return to:

**Rice Creek Field Station #23**

**SUNY Oswego**

**Oswego, New York 13126**

### **Current RCA Board Members**

Robert Foster, President  
Peter Rosenbaum, Vice President  
Don Artz, Secretary/Treasurer  
Laurel Artz  
Wendy Fragale  
Alan Harris  
Michael Holy  
Pat Jones  
Andrew McElwain  
Sheri Morey

### **Rice Creek Field Station Staff**

Kamal Mohamed, Director  
Wendy Fragale, Secretary  
Alan Harris, Groundskeeper

## **Rice Creek Field Station**

Rice Creek Field Station is a part of the State University of New York at Oswego. While its primary function is to provide facilities for field-oriented research and courses in the natural sciences taught at the college, facilities are also available for public education and recreation.

The field station houses superb collections, field equipment, and laboratories. It is surrounded by several hundred acres of forest, fields, trails and wetlands, including Rice Pond. School children visit the field station and many individuals and groups use the area for hiking and cross-country skiing.

Rice Creek welcomes dogs. However, to protect sensitive natural features and as a courtesy to other visitors, dogs should be on a six foot leash. Also, please be kind and clean up after your pet. Thank you.

Directions: To get to Rice Creek Field Station take Route 104, turn south on Thompson Rd., located 100 yards west of the College's main

entrance. The field station is 1.4 miles on the right.

Hours:

Monday to Friday 9:00 am -- 4:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am -- 3:00 pm

Trails are open dawn to dusk daily.

When visiting Rice Creek, please sign in and out at one of the brown registration boxes.



28August 2015

## **Memorable moments at Rice Creek**

Please share with us a special experience you've had at Rice Creek. It will appear in a future newsletter. Send it to **Mike** at [fordlep@yahoo.com](mailto:fordlep@yahoo.com).



Rice Creek Associates  
RCFS #23  
SUNY Oswego  
Oswego, NY 13126

TO: