



# Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Fall 2016

## Director's comments

Our summer projects went great and reached a successful conclusion. All the trails were maintained and blazed/marked with their appropriate colors. Wood chips were used to cover low spots on the trails and all signs were checked and those needing replacement were redone. Sturdy sign posts were placed in areas where metal posts were vandalized. Landscaping was completed in six beds around the Field Station building. The lawn was aerated and reseeded. The reseeded and aeration went so well that the recommended second treatment was no longer necessary. Work at the entrance of the Field Station is about done. The main reason for this work was to prevent cars from driving around the gate and to improve the look of the Field Station entrance. Our weather station is broadcasting live weather data; please visit the Rice Creek Field Station WEB site.

On the academic side, this fall we have six lab/field courses being taught at the Field Station in addition to two labs that meet here irregularly. With great excitement, we are awaiting the replacement of our 24 student laptops, two instructor's permanent mini teaching podiums in our two teaching labs, and a laptop and two chrome books for field work/research. The podiums will provide permanent computer setups similar to those in lecture halls instead of the laptops our instructors now use in teaching. This will save instructors' time wasted in set up before each use. Also, at the request of professors, this is the first time we have incorporated chrome books



## Science at Rice Creek:

### Mammal Guide now for sale at Rice Creek

We are pleased to announce that a field guide to the mammal of Rice Creek has been published and ready for immediate sale. It was both written and illustrated by Dianna Sweatt, a recently graduated SUNY Oswego student. Sale price is \$6.00 for the general public, \$4.80 for RCA members. Guides for butterflies and invasive plant species at Rice Creek are also available.

for fieldwork. For teaching and public display, we will use part of our grant funds to buy new mounted animals (taxidermy/skeletons) and replace the old ones from the 1960s/70s. There are a couple of options to go about obtaining specimens which are not available for sale due to government regulation. We have permits that will allow us to collect certain reptiles and small mammals and accept salvaged animals, including migratory birds. This will make it possible for us to use our local area taxidermists or our own trained taxidermists in cases where we cannot directly buy animal specimens. We encourage our members and the general public to contact us in the event they come across animals that we may salvage for use in teaching and public display, either for taxidermy or skeletons. The Field Station does not accept endangered and threaten species or animals known to carry rabies. For threatened and endangered animals please see the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS) at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered> or give us a call at the Field Station (315-312-6677).

I would like to thank all our volunteers who helped us this past spring and summer for their valuable work. The Field Station is better because of their efforts. Special thanks to our High School volunteers who experienced the importance of their roles in public service this early in their lives.

**Kamal Mohamed**  
Field Station Director

## Exploring Nature Scholarships

Once again scholarships were awarded to enable children to participate in this summer's Exploring Nature program. I am not at all surprised by the generosity of Rice Creek Associates members in your

continuing financial support, both large and small, of the Exploring Nature Scholarships.

Exploring Nature, each summer, connects children and the outdoors by engaging them in hands-on nature experiences. As one donor commented, "**Getting our youth involved is an important function and at times a difficult one.**"

On behalf of myself and those families, thank you.

Diann C. Jackson  
Assistant Director  
August 2016

## Member benefit announced

At a recent Board of Directors meeting, it was decided that all current members of Rice Creek Associates be offered a 20% discount on all items for sale at the field station. This includes any items purchased by the field station for sale as well as RCA items for sale. The Board felt that this is one small way we can thank you, our RCA members, for your financial support.

## Save the dates!

We have two programs to announce for this fall:

Saturday, Oct. 29: Gabe Whitman, a federal and state licensed wildlife biologist, from Second Chance Wildlife, will give a presentation on Saturday, Oct. 29, at 2:00 p.m. at the field station. Refreshments will be served as usual.

The annual RCA Social will be held on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 1 p.m. The findings of student research projects for 2016 will be presented. These projects are supported through the RCA Small Grants Program. Refreshments will be available.

## RCA Board takes Field Trip



Photo by Kamal Mohamed. Pictured from left to right: Sharon and Mark Morey, Mike Holy, Pat Jones, Robert and Myrna Foster, Frank Meeks and Paulia Bates

On Wednesday, August 24, the RCA Board traveled to El Dorado Nature Preserve in Jefferson County. Spouses were also invited to participate.

The purpose of the trip was to compare the flora and fauna of habitat dissimilar to that at Rice Creek. Unfortunately, due to the summer drought conditions that the area experienced, most plants were dried out, and birds and insects were minimally present. This seemed particularly odd since the area is not all that distant from Rice Creek.

All was not lost, though. The Board was able to bond closer, and it had a pleasant lunch under the shade of a few trees. We hope to try again next year to gain some perspective between the two localities.

## Nature Nuggets

1. The monarch migration this fall has not been as large as it was last year. Whereas over 40 individuals were observed during each visit in mid to late September, fewer than a handful have been observed during visits the same time period this year.
2. The leaves on trees seem to be staying green for a longer period this season. Abnormally high temperatures are most likely in part responsible.
3. Fall is a great time to observe fungi. Temperatures in the 60s provide an ideal climate for growth. Look for them along the field station trails before a majority of leaves have fallen.



Opening milkweed pods

## 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).

## Nature Education Programs at SUNY Oswego's Rice Creek Field Station



### Fall 2016

**Rice Creek Rambles** 11 o'clock  
October 8, 15, 22, 29  
November 12, 19, 26  
December 10

Explore the trails and wetlands at Rice Creek to see fall changes. Join us for these family-friendly naturalist-led fall walks. Those planning to attend are asked to call 315-312-6677 on the morning of the hike to check trail conditions. Since program size is limited, we are not able to accommodate groups to these free Saturday programs. An adult needs to accompany children.

**Story Hour** 11 o'clock  
October 1 November 5  
December 3

Join us as we share tales of nature, animals' wild ways, and how we relate to our world around us. These programs are designed for elementary aged children though all are welcome. Since program size is limited, we are not able to accommodate groups to these free Saturday programs. An adult needs to accompany children. SUNY Oswego's Rice Creek Field Station offers Story Hour in support of SUNY's partnership with the Read Aloud 15 Minutes national initiative.

## Celebrate Family and Friends Weekend 2016

Rice Creek welcomes all to Family and Friends Weekend 2016. Stop by Rice Creek from 9 to 4:30 October 21st and 9 to 3 October 22th.

## Homecoming Weekend 2016

Rice Creek welcomes all to Homecoming Weekend 2016. Plan to visit Rice Creek from 9 to 4:30 on Friday November 4th and 9 to 3 on Saturday November 5th.

**Tour Rice Creek Field Station** and learn about the sustainability features of our 7640 square-foot energy-efficient main building and facility. Visit the Ruth Sachidanandan Herb Garden. The garden is getting ready for winter but will not be put to bed until after the first hard frost.

- ◆ The building hours are:  
Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm  
Most Saturdays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- ◆ FREE programs most Saturdays
- ◆ Trails are open during daylight hours.
- ◆ Parking is available by the main building and near the gate.

Programs administered by Dr. Diann C. Jackson.



[www.oswego.edu/rice-creek](http://www.oswego.edu/rice-creek)

315-312-6677



## 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 the Green Trail's boardwalk as its' cover page; like so:



## Help us improve our newsletter!

There are many things that you as members can do to assist us in improving the quality of our newsletter.

- **Share** your experiences of Rice Creek with us.
- **Write** a short review on a nature book that you enjoyed.
- **Send** a digital picture you took at Rice Creek that you think we may enjoy.
- **Suggest** ideas that we may include, or programs that you would like to see offered to our members and public.

Send these and any other ideas to Mike Holy at [fordlep@yahoo.com](mailto:fordlep@yahoo.com), or call him at 315-622-1774. We look forward to providing information that would inform and entertain our members.

## RCA Board Elections

### Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors Ballot

Four positions are up for election. All are three-year positions; all four board members whose terms are ending this year are running for re-election. Please indicate your choices and return by November 15.

\_\_\_\_ Don Artz \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in

\_\_\_\_ Alan Harris \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in

\_\_\_\_ Pat Jones \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in

\_\_\_\_ Sheri Morey \_\_\_\_\_ Write-in

Please complete and send to Rice Creek Associates, Bldg #23 SUNY Oswego, Oswego, N.Y. 13126 or forward to [rcfs@oswego.edu](mailto:rcfs@oswego.edu).

### Current RCA board members

Michael Holy, President  
Peter Rosenbaum, Vice President  
Don Artz, Secretary/Treasurer  
Paulia Bates  
Robert Foster  
Alan Harris  
Pat Jones  
Dick Kaulfuss  
Sheri Morey  
Michael Schummer

### Rice Creek Field Station Staff

Kamal Mohamed, Director  
Diann Jackson, Assistant 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.

## 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.

## Join Rice Creek Associates

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ New Membership (Calendar year)

\_\_\_\_\_ 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**

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

TO: