

# Early History of Rice Creek Field Station



Rice Creek Field Station 2009



Semi-aquatic terrarium made from discarded display case  
1957-1959. Use for Biology 1 course.



Biology 1 field lab at Fair Haven property- class used seine and plankton net, and collected along the bay shoreline to study interrelationships in a freshwater environment 1961-1965.

Ecology and conservation elective for biology majors to explore biological applications in conservation work. Here soils scientist Bill Kick is discussing bog succession and mock farming.





**Conservation and ecology course- At Perch River Wildlife Management area near Watertown field trip was presented by John Weeks, former NYS Conservation Department Biologist.**



Zoology students assisted with the operation of Biology 1 field lab.

District forester (NYS Conservation Department) Frank Jadwin leads a field trip for conservation and ecology course. Discussion about blow sand ecology.





NYS Conservation Department Forester discusses biology of Forest Management- at State forest land near Adams, NY 1963.





Rice Creek property. Looking westward across flood zone toward Hilton Barn property of Oswego College Foundation.



Rice Creek property. Looking southwest from future building site across future flood zone. Rice Creek in foreground.



View of Rice Creek as it flows through pasture (to become flood zone) to show vegetation.



View of Hilton Pasture looking North northeast from corner of Cemetery and Brownell roads. Hilton silo left.  
Spring 1961 before construction of dam.



Most fields were surrounded by stone wall. This shows the wall which had to be breached to allow for route of what became the red trail 1964.



Jerry Prenette, Mark Chorlton, Bobby Powers, and Joe Demine scouts of Troop 6. Southwest Oswego (John Weeks Scoutmaster). Removing stones to clear way for the red trail 1963.



Saturday morning bird club outing. John Weeks, Mike Bookstein, Ed Parker (pointing) site is south of Brownell Road. Walkway was built by SUNY student volunteers.



Tree planting was done in 1961-1962 before it was decided to develop the field station on the property 1961.





One of microclimate sites set up in varying habitats on Hilton property by Biology and Zoology students. Recording (max-min) thermometers monitored through semester.



Floyd M. Carter headquarter trailer set up near intersection of Cemetery and Brownell Roads. John Weeks early-1960s.



Clearing dam site for Rice Pond, looking westward 1965.



**Dam in progress. Drop inlet box in pond side, water level will correspond to top of box when the pond is flooded, 1965.**



Digging canal to “fish ladder” backhoe sits on original ground level. Truck is close to canal level.



Looking southward across flood zone toward Oswego Town Cemetery and Brownell Road mid-1960s.



Looking eastward across fish ladder stonework. Anti-seep wall was eliminated by Albany that cause eventual undermining of fish ladder structures.



Fish ladder immediately after pond first filled in 1966.





Aerial views of Rice Pond and adjacent fields. Southward-lab center background 1972, dam site center foreground 1973.

North northeast from corner Cemetery Road and Brownell Road.  
Note lack of forest cover. Hilton Barn left. Canal inlet right.





Telephoto view-eastward toward building site 1966.



Ground breaking for building May 1966. Slide is labeled Bud Coward (may be Foster Brown) and Sam Costaldo.



Grading markers for lab building 1966.



Foundation construction for lab building 1966  
looking east or south east.



Foundation work 1966.  
Looking westward across pond to Cemetery Road.



Recently completed lab building 1967-1968? No landscaping.





Looking eastward building and landscaping 1997.



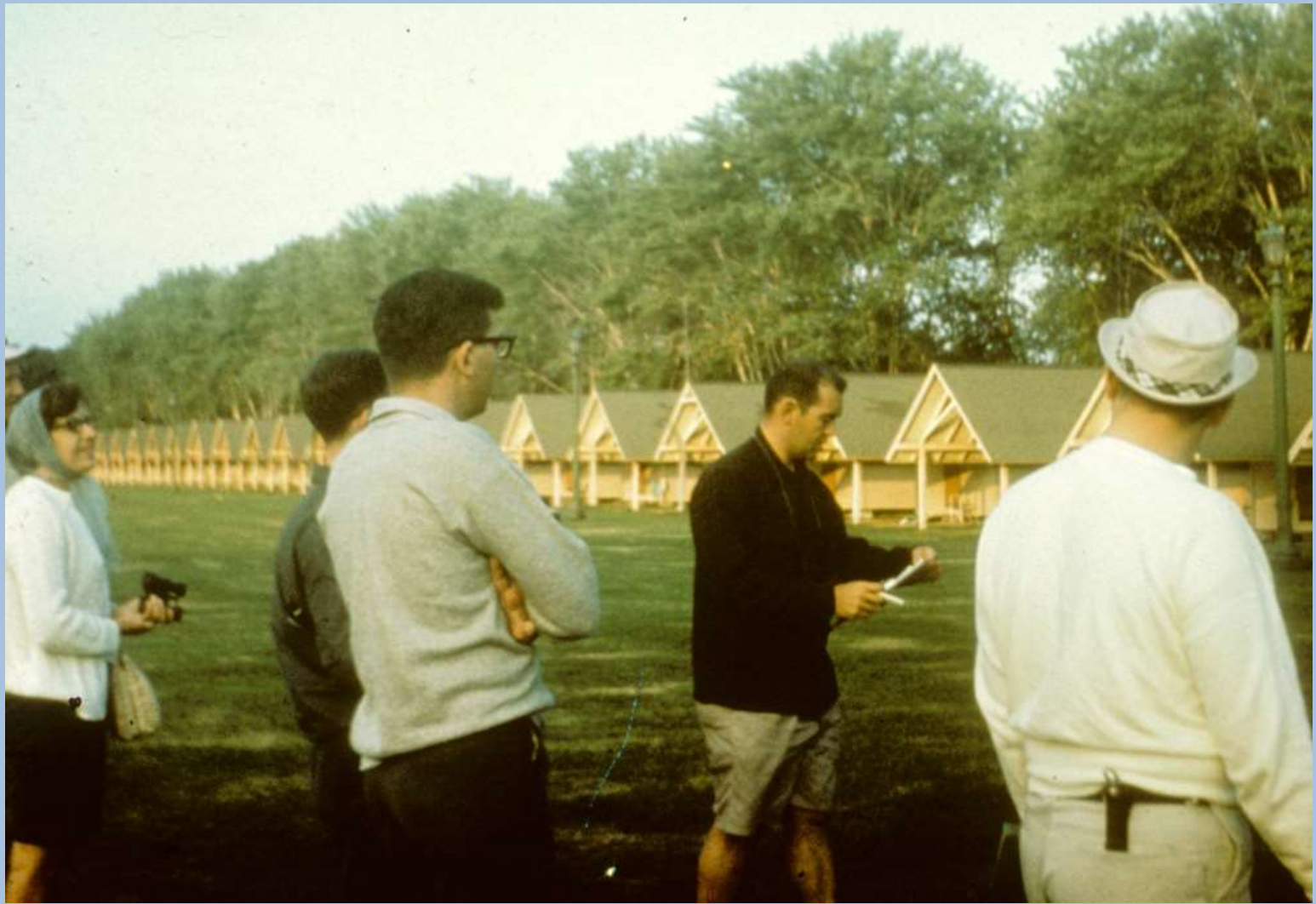
Looking east across pond to building site and beyond.  
Note shrubs invading pasture early 1970's.



Same view as 34 mid to late 1970's taken from field about 200 east of Cemetery Road.



First Rice Creek Station program .



Workshop for Biology teachers and school administrators.



At Association Island on east end of Lake Ontario because labs at Rice Creek were not ready for use.



Through an agreement with the NYS Conservation Department and SUNY Oswego, John Weeks was allowed to return to the college to lead the workshop.



The purpose of the workshop was to show the potential of small plot and microclimate studies for teaching ecological relationships on school campuses.





Studies undertaken included projects: Aquatic life in a high water lagoon; Micros population of open space at Island- included trap and release in housing area; microclimate, soils and biota of 102 meter plots in untended areas.