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.

30th Anniversary Celebration in pictures

SUNY Oswego President Deborah Stanley gives introductory remarks
(Photo courtesy of Robert Foster)

RCA Board President Mike Holy presents pictorial account of the flora and fauna at Rice Creek
(Photo courtesy of Robert Foster)
John Week’s diorama of the original field station building and surrounding grounds  
(M. Holy)

How the observatory came to be  
(M. Holy)

A view of the observatory at Rice Creek  
(M. Holy)

Dick Drake and Denise Knight provide soothing music at the event  
(M. Holy)
RCA Charter Members

As the framework for the newly established support group for the field station was laid, many members of the community and college gave their support. Listed are the original charter members of Rice Creek Associates. Without their initial interest and support, RCA would have remained just an idea.

1986

Robert H. Allers
William D. Barlow
Joseph D. Brown
Julia Brush
Donald and Barbara Cox
Darlene and David Devendorf
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Doty
Mildred Faust
Eleanor Filburn
John and Sue Gannon
Theodore and Betty Gordon
Elizabeth Greenia
Mike Holy
M. Lois Jackim
Diann C. Jackson
Anne A. Kidney
J. Alden Lackey
Jeanne F. Lally
Julia Lizak
John and Jennifer Lyons
Eileen M. McCarthy
Shirley Peron
John and Madeline Peterson
Richard N. Roberts
Peter and Robin Rosenbaum
Carol and Ken Rosenberg
Ruth Sachidanadan
Gerald A. Smith
Lorraine Sorendo
Cathy Spaulding
J. Nathan and Patricia R. Swift
Anthony and Joanna
Van Geet
Peter and Suzanne Weber
Current RCA Board of Directors

Left to right: Paulia Bates, Mike Holy, Pat Jones, Rick Kaulfuss, Alan Harris, Don Artz, Robert Foster. Absent: Peter Rosenbaum, Sheri Morey, Mike Schummer

RCA Milestones

Throughout the existence of Rice Creek Associates, a number of changes and improvements took place. The list printed here highlights RCA’s major accomplishments.

1986
- Rice Creek Associates Board (RCA) founded
- Summer: RCA funding for two rock markers at entrance
- September: first newsletter published/mailed, continued annually
- November: First annual dinner event, continued annually

1987
- Planning and creation of Natural History Museum displays
- RCA begins weekly newspaper article “Nature of Things” in the Palladium Times
- Planning stages and beginning work of Herb Garden

1988
- April: Improvements of wildflower plantings

1989
- Summer: Herb Garden walkways completed

1990
- June 9: Ribbon cutting ceremony of Herb Garden completion
- August: Privacy fence constructed and installed
- Assisted with publications of field station brochures and handbooks

1991
- Water and electrical lines installed to Herb Garden area
- Sound system purchased and installed in the viewing gallery and classroom

1992
- Spring/Summer: Redirecting of trails and replacement of culverts done
1993
• May: Boardwalk work begins, completed in August; dedication Oct. 7

1994
• Summer: Pavilion work completed for class usage

1995
• Summer: Bike rack built and installed
• Summer: Benches made for rest area and pavilion

1996
• Spring: Small Grants Program begins, continued annually

2004
• RCA Reflection presentation talks initiated and continued annually

2009
• Registration boxes placed at main entrance and herb garden areas

2011
• RCA begins supporting Exploring Nature and Conservation Field Studies Scholarships by soliciting donations from members

2013
• Herb Garden dedication ceremony of new signage

2014
• Funding provided for weather station’s desktop computer, used for data collection

Rice Creek Reflections
At a Board meeting in 2004, a determination was made to create a series of talks, lectures, and presentations on all things nature. The title of this series was to be “Rice Creek Reflections.” Over the succeeding twelve years 28 programs would be offered to the membership and public, free of charge. Our speakers ranged from local experts to those visiting from other areas in the nation. Our first speaker was a logical one- our own naturalist John Weeks, one of the founders of the Rice Creek Field Station.

Here is a look at those offerings:

2016
• 4/16, Joe McMullen, Spring Wildflower Identification

2015
• 11/21, Jim Farfaglia, Recounts of the Blizzard of ’66 “Voices in the Storm
• 9/12, Joe Chairvolotti, Tree identification and the Emerald Ash Borer
• 6/27, Andy Nelson, An Unusual Bluff-Face Plant Community in Oswego
• 5/02, Janet Allen, Habitat Gardening for Life

2014
• 10/11, Andrew McElwain, Anatomy and Physiology of Fishes with regard to their Ecology and Evolution
• 09/27, John Weeks, Early Days of the Field Station
• 05/11, Lyman Musselman, Wild Edibles
• 04/27, Andy Nelson, Flora of Oswego
• 03/30, Richard Furnas, Adventures in Ecology and Environmentalism
• 03/08, Bill Reilly, River’s End Book Sale

2012
• 03/31, John Laundre, Landscape of Fear: Large Carnivores and Ecosystem Integrity
• 06/28, Andy Nelson, Invasive Plants Field Guide Presentation

2011
• 06/18, Mike Holy, RCFS Butterfly Guide Presentation
• 03/21, Michael Spada, Onondaga Lake-Its History and Efforts to Improve its Water Quality

2010
• 10/23, Andy Nelson, Invasive Plant Species at Rice Creek

2009
• 09/27, James Seago, Trees, Shrubs and Vines of the Oswego Area
• 04/26, Mike Holy/Neil Gosling, Celebrating Darwin: Evolution of Butterflies

2008
• 09/13, Joe LeFevre, Photographing Nature at Rice Creek
• 04/20, Al Stamm, Global Warming: Causes of Climate Change

2007
• 09/23, Don Leopold, Trees
• 04/22, Peter Rosenbaum, Earth Day

2006
• 09/17, Peter Black, The Importance of Water
• 03/26, Andy Nelson, Pollination Biology: The Birds and the Bees

2005
• 10/23, Gerry Smith, Factors Affecting Bird Population Stability in CNY
• 05/21, Bob Gormon, Exotic Species in Lake Ontario

2004
• 10/14, John Weeks, reflecting on Aldo Leopold’s (1887-1948) “A Sand County Almanac”

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
Join Rice Creek Associates

Name ____________________________
Address___________________________
City______________________________
State ________________ Zip _________
Email ____________________________
Phone ____________________________

___ New Calendar-year 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**

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**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
RCFS #23
SUNY Oswego
Oswego, NY 13126

TO: