



# Rice Creek Associates Newsletter 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Issue

## 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.

## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in pictures



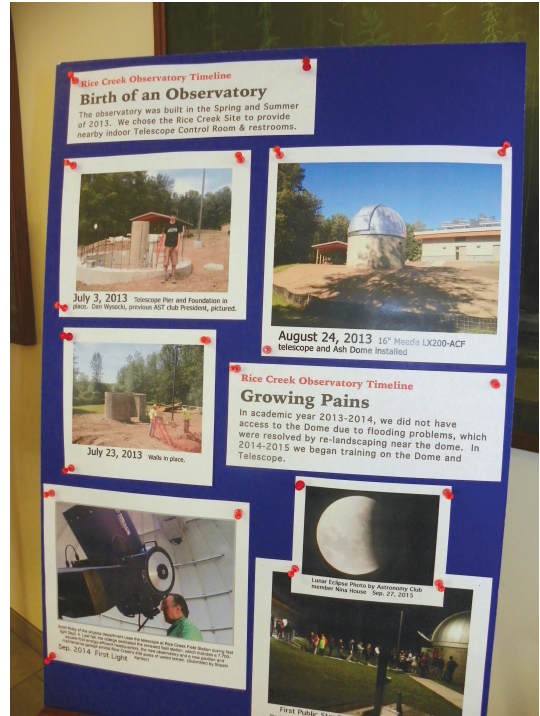
SUNY Oswego President Deborah Stanley gives introductory remarks  
(Photo courtesy of Robert Foster)



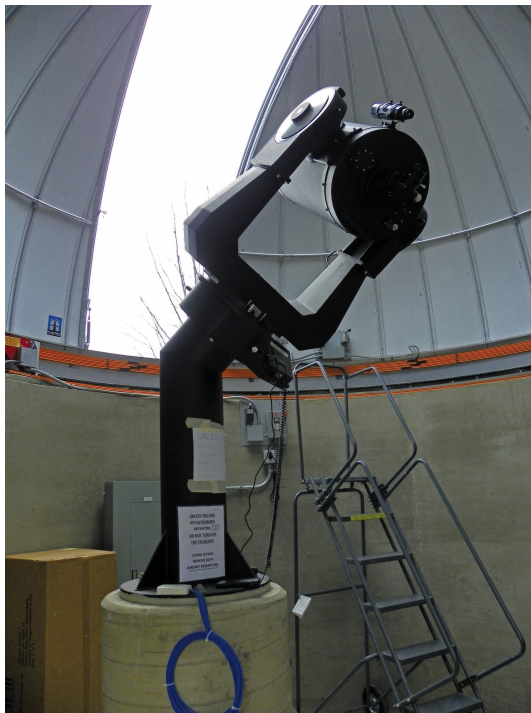
RCA Board President Mike Holy presents pictorial account of the flora and fauna at Rice Creek  
(Photo courtesy of Robert Foster)



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)





Children's nature room is full of activity  
(M. Holy)



L to R: BOD Don Artz, field station secretary  
Wendy Fragale, Director Kamal Mohamed, BOD  
Robert Foster, BOD Sheri Morey  
(M. Holy)



BOD Pat Jones welcomes visitors at the  
Rice Creek prints table  
(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

John D. Weeks

1987

Barbara Gerber  
Norman Gillette  
Charles Groat  
Muriel Harrison  
Joan Huff  
Blanch Judd  
Thomas McGough  
Dorothy Mott  
Patricia O'Neil  
Nancy Osborne  
Ernesting Pomeroy  
R.J. Scrudato  
Bernard Seeholzer  
Leon Wood  
Robert Webb  
Larry Woof

## **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**

## 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: