



Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Autumn 2015



Science at Rice Creek through photos



**45 Monarchs were counted on the field station grounds Sept. 16 and 57 on Sept. 22.
Photo and counts provided by Mike Holy.**



**The New York Waterfowl & Wetlands Network met at Rice Creek this summer.
Photo by Diann Jackson**



Students and teachers exploring the creek from the green trail walkway during their spring visit to Rice Creek. Photo by Patricia Prosser



Students investigate the natural history and research displays during their spring visit to Rice Creek. Photo by Diann Jackson

Rice Creek Reflections

June 27: Unique habitat in Oswego

Andy Nelson shared a number of slides illustrating the variety of unique flora that inhabit St. Paul's Cemetery in Oswego, which is situated on a bluff. Twenty-six people attended.



Andy Nelson discusses unique plants on the face of a Lake Ontario Bluff at St. Paul's Cemetery in Oswego. Photo by Mike Holy.

Among the species described were Canadian Summer Bluet (*Houstonia canadensis*), Limber

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera dioica*), Pussy Toes (*Antennaria howellii*), Variegated Horsetail (*Equisetum variegatum*), Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*), Gray Goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*), and Northern Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron rydbergii*).

Andy explained that lakeshore bluffs owe their presence to drumlin formation. Drumlins are elongated streamlined hills arranged in groups in a landscape. Glaciers formed by them approximately 12-15 thousand years ago. The long axis of a drumlin is oriented with the flow of the glacier. Bluffs are actually truncated drumlins.

At St. Paul's Cemetery, the sandstone in that region protects the bluff, keeping it somewhat stable. It thus provides a suitable habitat for the species that Andy described.

Sept. 27: Emerald Ash Borer and Leaf ID

A rainy afternoon did not prevent a dozen attendees from a Rice Creek Reflection on the identification and life stages of the Emerald Ash Tree Borer and basic tree leaf determination.

Joe Chairvolotti, District Forester from the Oswego County Soil and Water District, gave the presentation.

The Emerald Ash Borer is a half-inch long metallic green beetle. It is an invasive species native to eastern Asia. Adults emerge from Ash trees through which they make a one eighth inch "D" shaped exit hole from the tree. Other species of tree are not attacked by this parasite.

Their life cycle is one or two years, dependent upon time of year of oviposition, the general health of the infected tree, and temperature.

The eggs are deposited between crevices in the bark. They hatch in about two weeks. While

inside the tree, the larvae make “S” shaped (serpentine) tunnels under the bark. They feed on the living cambium tissue within the stem (trunk). Joe stated that the Emerald Ash Borer is not confirmed yet in Oswego County.

Some websites are available to help educate the public on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB):

Ash Tree Identification:

<http://woodyplants.mannlib.cornell.edu>

Reporting sightings:

Cornell Cooperative Extension office:

<http://www.cce.cornell.edu>, or call the NYS DEC EAB Hotline at (886) 640-0652.

Educating yourself: EAB information and links at

<http://nyis.info/eab>



District Forester Joe Chairvolotti from the Oswego County Soil and Water District discusses Emerald Ash Borer identification. Photo by Mike Holy.

Joe spent the remainder of his presentation on the identification of trees. He began with conifers vs. deciduous trees. Continuing with deciduous, he differentiated between those having alternate vs. opposite branches, mentioning examples of each and showing sample specimens he brought with him. He then explained the difference between simple and compound leaves.

From there Joe went on to describe characteristics of ash, maple, cherry, and oak trees, finishing with the evergreens (spruce, fir, pine, cedar and juniper).

Annual RCA Social Planned at Rice Creek Field Station

Our 2015 RCA Small Grants winners will present brief descriptions of their research findings on Sat. Nov. 14 from 2 -5 p.m.

This event is open to the public. Rice Creek Associates members are particularly encouraged to attend to learn about current research activity on the field station grounds. The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

Rice Creek Associates (RCA) is now on Facebook.

To connect with RCA on Facebook, sign up for Facebook by visiting 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:





2015

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

Rice Creek Rambles 11 o'clock

September 19, 26 October 3, 17, 24, 31
November 7, 21, 28 December 5

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

September 12 October 10
November 14 December 12

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 2015

Rice Creek welcomes all to Family and Friends

Weekend 2015. Stop by the new Rice Creek from 9 to 4:30 October 23th and 9 to 3 October 24th.

Homecoming Weekend 2015

Rice Creek welcomes all to Homecoming Weekend 2015. Stop by from 9 to 4:30 on Friday November 13th and 9 to 3 on Saturday November 14th.

Bird Banding at Rice Creek will be resuming. Come and observe birds in hand during the capture, banding and release of resident and migrating songbirds.

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/ricecreek/programs 315-312-6677





Due to your generous support of the Exploring Nature scholarship, five children were able to participate during Exploring Nature this summer. Thank you.



Scenes from Exploring Nature 2015. Photos by Exploring Nature Staff

Here is a lovely note that I received regarding one of the Exploring Nature 2015 scholarship recipients:

Diann C. Jackson

*I would like to thank you and your staff for providing my **** a wonderful experience in The Exploring Nature program. Also, thank you very much for granting **** a scholarship. Otherwise, **** would not have been able to attend.*

*****was up and dressed every morning at 7:00 ready to go, **** came home every day excited and exhausted with all the details of what *****

*saw, touched, games **** played and friends **** made. It truly is a wonderful program for this community.*

I have joined as an associate of Rice Creek and plan in the future to take advantage of the wonderful programs you offer.

Again, thank you!

2016 Big Tree Search looking for volunteers

RCA is looking for help from someone or some persons to coordinate a Big Tree Search for 2016.

The Big Tree Search was first launched by RCA in the late 1990's and repeated by Oswego County Soil and Water in around 2007.

We would like to try to do this again in 2016.

We are searching for a volunteer coordinator.

This person would ideally know their trees and be able to conduct some simple measurements to verify data submitted by the public. Alternatively, this individual could find a person to do the field work and serve as data coordinator.

We have data on "winners" by species and overall from the 1990's survey. A copy of the old brochure is available upon request.

Interested parties should contact RCA VP Peter Rosenbaum @ peter.rosenbaum@oswego.edu asap--but no later than December 31, 2015.

Thank you in advance for your interest.

Some facts on trees

A study published recently in Nature has estimated that there are about 3.04 trillion trees on Earth. Fifteen billion trees are being cut yearly

and five billion are replanted. At this rate, all trees will be gone in approximately 300 years.

Tree diversity increases as one travels from the poles to the equator. In her book The Sixth Extinction, author Elizabeth Kolbert writes that within Canada's billion acres of forest, there are about twenty species of tree; Massachusetts: fifty-five; North Carolina: more than two hundred; and Belize (about the size of New Jersey): close to seven hundred.

In terms of global warming, studies on the effect of warming temperatures on tree migration in the tropics have shown, on average, that a tree genus now travels up a mountain at a rate of eight feet a year. One genus of tree in particular, *Schefflera*, was "racing up the (mountain) ridge at the astonishing rate of nearly a hundred feet a year" (The Sixth Extinction, c. 2014, p. 159).

The fall colors in leaves are present all year. Chlorophyll breaks down as a result of tissue formation at the base of the leaf (abscission layer). This cuts off the supply of water to the leaf. As air temperatures cool and the amount of sunlight continues to diminish, the pigments responsible for yellows and oranges (carotene), scarlets and purples (anthocyanin), and browns (tanins) are unmasked and displayed.

Let's face it- at this time of the year, it's not easy being green.

As an interesting aside, carotene is the pigment found in daffodils, carrots and corn; anthocyanin is the same pigment found in Concord grapes and cranberries.

- Mike

Thank you RCA Members

The Board of Directors would like to express a heartfelt thanks to all our members for their continued support, not only through your annual membership, but also for the many donations to fund scholarships to the Exploring Nature and Conservation Teen Programs as well as general fund donations.

It is through such generosity that we are able to support our Rice Creek Reflection series and the many projects on the station grounds that need our support!

This list of donors includes donations received May 2014 through August 2015:

**Don and Laurel Artz
Mary Bennett
Helen Breitbeck
Joseph Brown
Edward Currier
Lisa Drake
Eleanor Filburn
Robert Foster
Amy Heuber
Patricia Jones
James and Lynn Keefer
Herbert Lightner
Mary and Tom Loe
Robert and Joyce Leroy
Paulia Bates and Frank Meeks
Mark and Sharon Morey
Albert and Joy Oliver
Jane Partanen
Karen Rosenthal
G.S. Sachidanadan
Thomas and Anne Simmons
Mike Schummer
Jim and Marilyn Seago
Linda Shumaker
April Tuttle
Johanna Vangeet**

RCA Board Elections

Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors Ballot

Five positions are up for election. Two are one-year positions; one is for a three-year position; two are three-year positions. All five board members whose terms are ending this year are running for re-election. Please indicate your choices and return by November 17.

One year:

___ Sheri Morey _____ Write-in

___ Alan Harris _____ Write-in

Two years:

___ Dick Kaulfuss _____ Write-in

Three years:

___ Mike Schummer _____ Write-in

___ Robert Foster _____ Write-in

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

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.

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

Annual RCA Social Planned at Rice Creek Field Station

Our 2014 RCA Small Grants winners will present brief descriptions of their research findings on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 2 -5 p.m.

This event is open to the public. The Rice Creek Associates membership is particularly encouraged to attend to learn about current research activity on the field station grounds. The event is free and light refreshments will be served.

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

____ Conservation Field Studies for Teens

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

Reminder- Membership renewal

Memberships in Rice Creek Associates now run for a calendar year. Please use the form provided in this newsletter. Questions? Contact Mike Holy at 315-622-1774 or (preferably) fordlep@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Rice Creek Associates to celebrate 30 years

To some it may seem like only yesterday, but Rice Creek Associates is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary in March of 2016. Information concerning our history and special events will be passed along in postcards, emails and the winter newsletter. Plan to join us in the celebration!

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.

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.

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, or call him at 315-622-1774. We look forward to providing information that would inform and entertain our members.

Autumn images at Rice Creek

All photos by Mike Holy





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

TO: