

2017 Twenty Second ANNUAL SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECTS

Rice Creek Associates (RCA) is a citizen support group that aims to further the mission of the of **Rice Creek Field Station (RCFS)**. The mission of RCFS is to deliver a coherent, field-oriented program of academic instruction, research, and service in support of the instructional and research needs of SUNY Oswego faculty and students, and in response to the needs of the regional scientific and educational community and the public at large.

The mission of RCA is to preserve the area, advance knowledge of ecological processes, and disseminate this information to the public. To meet these goals, RCA invites proposals from scholars, scientists, educators and students for the 2017 Rice Creek Associates Small Grants Program.

Located about 2.4 km south of Lake Ontario and the main campus, RCFS properties include approximately 121 ha of varied habitats in various stages of succession with open fields, mature forests, and wetlands. The property is bisected by Rice Creek and 10.5 ha Rice Pond. Facilities include a weather station, labs, classrooms, a library, collection storage, small boats and the property as a natural outdoor laboratory. Lodging is available on main campus.

Proposals oriented toward basic and applied research in field biology, the natural sciences, earth sciences, education, social sciences, and/or service projects will be considered.

ELIGIBILITY:

Applicants need not be affiliated with RCFS or SUNY Oswego. However, the work must be done at Rice Creek Field Station.

FUNDING:

Over \$10,000 is available for awards in 2017. Most awards will be between \$500 and \$3,000. Additional funds in support of living expenses for visiting scholars may be available at the discretion of the RCA Board of Directors. Grant funds may be used for supplies, equipment, publication costs or secretarial support, stipends, and travel. No indirect costs will be considered. RCA strongly encourages grant applicants to seek matching funds from appropriate sources. Proposals that further inter-departmental and external partnerships are preferred. Areas of special interest are proposals that help increase the past and current knowledge of the ecological processes at Rice Creek Field Station.

New for 2017: Annually, Rice Creek Associates may develop *Priority Areas*. These priorities will be given highest consideration during the annual grant review process.

Priority Areas for 2017 include:

- 1/ **Development of field guides for Trees & Shrubs or Common Birds of Rice Creek Field Station.** These field guides would complement the suite of guides already available at Rice Creek Field Station. The Butterfly, Mammal, and Invasive Plant Guides serve as examples of prior work.
- 2/ **Proposals that include one or more of the following also will continue to be given higher priority for funding: invasive species, understudied taxonomic groups, or species of special interest, and how these organisms affect the ecology of the region.**

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: Send a single pdf file to michael.schummer@oswego.edu with the subject line "RCA Small Grants Proposal"

Proposals are due by Friday 17 March 2017. Awards will be announced approx. Monday 17 April 2017.

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REQUIRED CONTENT OF PROPOSALS

Proposals should consist of a cover page, text, and résumé/CV of the applicant(s). Summary CVs should be used by faculty and not exceed 2-pages. The text should include the following sections:

- 1/ Abstract:** One paragraph summarizing the scope of the project in lay terminology,
- 2/ Justification:** Indicate the rationale for the project. Include a review of literature, if relevant, to show your clear understanding of the subject matter and understanding of related work,
- 3/ Goal and Objectives:** Clearly and succinctly state what will be accomplished, the goal should be singular with clear objectives detailing how the goal will be met
- 4/ Methods:** Indicate the steps and techniques that will be followed, the experimental research design or project management plans and expected data sources,
- 5/ Timeline:** Indicate by month the timeline to completion of the project,
- 6/ Personnel:** Describe the role of study participants,
- 7/ Deliverables:** Detail how the project will further the educational and scientific mission of Rice Creek Field Station,
- 8/ Literature Cited:** APA format preferred, and
- 9/ Itemized Budget:** The budget should include:
 - A. Amount requested from RCA.
 - B. Matching funds applied (if applicable).

Proposals may be of any length necessary to describe the proposed project but may not exceed 10 pages double-spaced, Time New Roman 12 front, excluding cover page and résumé/CV

PROPOSAL REVIEW:

All proposals will be reviewed by the Small Grant Review Committee of Rice Creek Associates. The Board of Directors of Rice Creek Associates will make the final determination of awards. The Small Grant Review Committee and/or the Board of Directors of RCA may solicit peer review. **Applicants may suggest internal and external reviewers.**

For more information about this program, contact:

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