



# Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Spring 2019

## From the Director

### Rice Creek Spring and Summer 2019 Projects

I would like to inform you about two projects coming to Rice Creek this spring. The first is the installation of a webcam on the Field Station building that will be used for teaching and public viewing of wildlife and nature around the building and over Rice Pond. This project was in the making since we moved in the new building and **Diann Jackson** played an important role in its planning. The project should be completed by mid-May with the help of Campus Technology. Once it is installed, the camera will be preset on certain points of interest, including the bird feeders and various points in the pond to capture live images of wildlife. This can be viewed as live streaming from You Tube on any computer.

Related to this is the installation of microphones on the Southside to bring sound, especially of birds, inside the building. This will be independently channeled to the classroom, labs, break room, and the main lobby of the Field Station.

The second project is related to conservation and restoration of native trees. Some of our native

trees were threatened for various reasons, both natural ones and overexploitation in the last 400 years because of their commercial values. Rice Creek is establishing a shelter to raise these valuable. When attain a certain age and size they can be distributed for planting in natural forests or cities. Support for this program will come from donors and Rice Creek Field Station. The objective is to raise a large number of trees and transplant them by volunteers in various selected areas.

Two examples of these trees are a softwood white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and a hardwood white oak (*Quercus alba*). Both were overexploited for commercial uses. White pine is native to eastern North America. It was so important that [Native Americans](#) named it the "[Tree of Peace](#)." That being said, it is estimated that only 1% of the old-growth in natural forests remain after a large scale logging in past and recent history. Some of the old growth forests, or virgin stands, are now protected. It is still found throughout the Adirondack Mountains in New York. White pine is the tallest of our native evergreen trees, often reaching 130 feet in height and four feet in diameter. It is considered to be one of the most valuable trees in eastern North America and it is one of the signature trees of the Adirondacks. Commercially, it is widely used in home construction and for almost everything from masts and matches to boxes and crates. Its

soft, uniform texture and straight grain cuts easily in all directions, polishes well, and warps or swells little. The wood is light and durable, making it a good choice for framing.

White oak is native to eastern and central North America and is an excellent hardwood. The tree is long-lived, generally up to 500 years. It can grow up to 150 feet tall. In cities, white oak is an excellent ornamental tree because of its broad round crown, dense foliage, and purplish-red to violet purple fall color. Commercially, it is one of the most important timber species in the United States. Its wood is about twice as dense as white pine. It is used to make good barrels because the wood is resilient, durable, and impermeable to liquids. Other uses range from flooring to fine cabinet work.

**Kamal I. Mohamed**

## **President's Report**

Greetings to all RCA members and thank you for your continued support.

We have five reflections planned this year along with our annual Social where grant winners present their research and findings.

We hope giving you dates for the whole year allows you to put them on a calendar, making it easier for you to attend. We plan these events for you, our members and community, and nothing thrills our presenters more than a full house!

### **April 6**

Right in time for spring begins we present **Mary Beth Pfeiffer**, who has researched Lyme disease for many years and produced a book. Recently in several newspapers was a story about one of our most beloved baseball players, Tom Seaver. The NY Mets are planning to honor 50 years later their 1969 world champion team. But Tom cannot attend. In 1991 he was diagnosed with

Lyme disease. It reoccurred in 2012 and led to Bell's Palsy and ultimately Dementia.

How little I know about Lyme disease; it stays with you your whole life. I urge all of you to attend this important presentation April 6th at 2:00 P.M. As always, refreshments will be served.

### **May 4th**

I couldn't be more pleased that to present our own **Mr. John Weeks!**

Here at the Field Station we have 4 of his paintings and several sketches. John, 94 years young, will tell us what inspired him to create each. And we will be introduced to his book, "Nature's Quiet Conversations." And for the first time in several years, three of RCA's founding fathers: **Peter Rosenbaum, Michael Holy**, and of course, **John**, will be present.

### **June 8th**

We are pleased to present **Rob Niederhoff**, who will discuss the plight of the magnificent Monarch butterfly and help us launch our breeding and raising efforts. Our Rice Creek Director, **Kamal Mohamed**, will have already completed a dedicated butterfly garden. Rob will also provide information about how each one of us can do our part to help preserve Monarchs.

### **August 24**

**Mr. Jim D'Angelo**, director of Sterling Nature Center, will give a full presentation on Bats. I love the subject. These all-important mammals are so critical to our ecological system. I plan this year to put up a bat box at our Clay NY house. I now tell my famous bat story. I was in India at a "Daulatabad Fort." While on tour the guide took us through a tunnel and held in his hand a torch. I finally said to him "Gee your sneakers sure do squeak." He raised the torch and the tunnel ceiling was completely covered with bats. I will not miss this presentation for the world!

**September 28**

**Andrew Nelson**, a former Rice Creek Field Station Director, will tell us about the trees at Rice Creek. Our Grounds Keeper, **Alan Harris**, told me he has added up all the parcels of land at Rice Creek and says there are 350 acres: 350 acres of natural hard wood and evergreen forests. Weather permitting perhaps we can all go for a short walk with our expert.

**November 2**

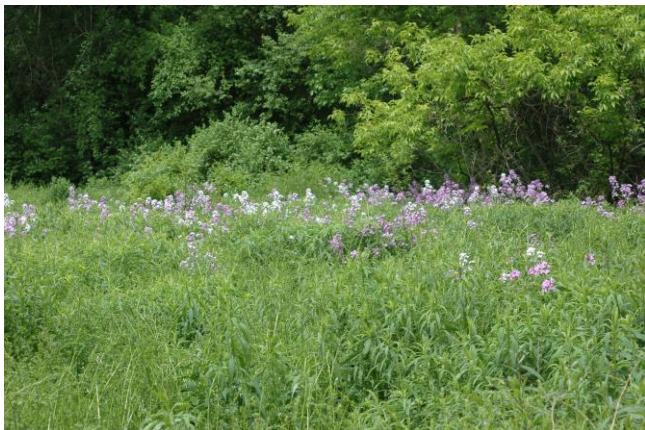
The RCA Social. This is our premier event a not to miss program where our research grant winners present their research and findings. We were so proud of **Manna Job**, a 2018 grant winner, for her Sigma Xi award in the Division of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

This year’s event will be presented our new Small Grant Chair, **Prof. Maria Sagot**, the first of what will be many more to come for her.

There you have our 2018 events. All are on Saturdays, all at 2:00 PM. And yes, all with refreshments. Please plan on attending. We are blessed with these wonderful presenters and award winners. We will all be enriched by their topics and knowledge.

**-Robert Foster**

**Memorable moments at  
Rice Creek**



Dame’s Rocket, also known as Dame’s Violet, is typically considered a spring wildflower. Shown here in a June 4, 2014 photo is a patch of it in the lower field. It is an introduced species from central Asia that was originally used in gardens. It escaped and was successful among native species (Cox, 1985). Although it blooms from May to August, it usually “disappears” on the field station grounds by the start of July.



Imagine my surprise when I located one plant still in bloom that Sept. 29 (above)! It was located at the left corner where the upper Red Trail intersects with the Orange Trail as one leaves the mature woods. Intrigued by its flowering longevity, I checked for it regularly while traveling my butterfly transects through the autumn season.





The last photo I took of the plant was on Oct. 13 (last illustration).

That year, 2014, was the last time I have personally witnessed a late blooming Dame's Rocket.

Please share with us a special experience you've had at Rice Creek. A picture is not required. It will appear in a future newsletter. Send it to me at [fordlep@yahoo.com](mailto:fordlep@yahoo.com).

- Mike

## Registration for Exploring Nature for Children to begin

Enrollment for the Exploring Nature at Rice Creek for 2019 is now underway and will close on June 20. One week or two week registrations are now being accepted. A discounted rate is available for current RCA members. New enrollees into this year's program will be given a complimentary one-year family membership in Rice Creek Associates. Complimentary family memberships must be renewed for 2020 to be eligible for an RCA discount in EN for 2020. Details about EN for 2019 are available at [www.oswego.edu/exploring](http://www.oswego.edu/exploring) nature.

# Exploring Nature 2019

Summer Program for Children at Rice Creek Field Station



**WEEK 1: July 8 to 12 and/or WEEK 2: July 15 to 19**  
Registration scheduled to close June 20\*

\* may close sooner if program reaches maximum participants allowed

Information and registration materials are available at [www.oswego.edu/exploringnature](http://www.oswego.edu/exploringnature)



Scholarship Program available by RCA Donors. See web for details or Call 315-312-6677

## In memorium

We have received word of the passing of two RCA members.

**Robert Maurer** has been a member together with his wife **Joan** since 2008.



**Joe LeFevre giving a photography presentation at the original Rice Creek Field Station, Sept. 2008**

**Joe LeFevre** was a member, beginning in 2010. **Joe** was an accomplished photographer, a former SUNY chemistry professor, and a former RCA Board member.

We give our deepest condolences to both families and thank them for supporting RCA.

## **RCA Lifetime Members**

Michael J. Bookstein  
Richard Burke  
Holly Eden  
Robert Gillette  
Eric Hellguist  
Mary Anne Hogan  
Richard and Mary Horan  
Kenneth Hyde  
Barbara Karge  
Rev. Jeffrey Knox  
J. Alden Lackey  
Joan K. Leonard  
George Maxwell  
Patricia and Earnest Mears  
Andrew Nelson  
Albert and Joy Oliver  
Jennifer Olori  
Jeffrey and Wendy Purdy  
George and Paula Ranous  
Kent Roseberry  
Kamala Sachidanadan  
Molly Schneider  
Ronald and Hilda Sorensen  
William and Bernice Strother

(Lifetime members have given a one-time donation of \$250.)

## **RCA Honorary Members**

Donald Cox  
Wendy Fragale  
Mildred Faust  
Michael Holy  
Diann Jackson  
Andrew Nelson  
Shirley Peron  
Peter Rosenbaum  
Nancy Townsend  
John Weeks

(Honorary members have been recognized by the RCA Board of Directors as having given significant service to RCA and Rice Creek Field Station.)

## **RCA membership renewals for 2019**

(These members have renewed their memberships for Feb. 2019 through Feb. 2020.)

Susan Ansara  
Don and Laurel Artz  
Paulia Bates  
Ceil Bell  
Mary Bennett  
Helen Breitbeck  
Joseph Brown  
Ronald Brown  
Marian Chermack  
Philip and Sandy Clift  
Kenneth and Rosalie Costello  
Francis Culkin  
Colleen Curran  
Edward Currier  
Lisa Drake  
David Evans  
Patrick Fasulo  
Eleanor Filburn  
John and Sallye Glennen  
Matthew Gorman  
Sharon and John Gramlich  
Alan Harris  
Amy Hueber  
Patrick and Patricia Jones  
George and Heike Koenig  
Andrew McElwain  
Betsy McTiernan and Hal Sussman  
The Mengshol Family  
John and Sandra Mincher  
Kamal Mohamed  
Ann and Robert Morgan  
Jerome and Betsy Oberst  
Barbara Robinson  
Joseph Rocco IV  
Steve Sheffield  
Selma Sheridan  
Steven Skubis  
Andrew Sommer  
Frank Sorrano  
Al and Ginny Stamm

Membership renewal is due by March 1 of the calendar year. If you haven't yet renewed your membership this year, and don't see your name listed (There are many of you.), please use the form on the back for your convenience. As always, we appreciate your support of RCA.

## Field Guides available at Rice Creek

As the spring season approaches, it is the perfect time to purchase our field guides. Although specifically centered on the flora and fauna at Rice Creek, the guides contain useful information on many species that are found outside the field station boundaries.

Guides on Butterflies, Invasive Plants, and Mammals are available. RCA members receive a discount on their purchases. Stop at the field station or call 315-312-6677 for more information.

## Rice Creek Associates (RCA) is on Facebook

To connect with RCA on Facebook, sign up for Facebook by visiting [www.facebook.com/](http://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 a field station photo as its cover page, like so:



## 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. RCA makes it possible to fund improvement projects that benefit the station and the community at large.

We strive to serve our membership as best as possible. Please address all newsletter and RCA membership concerns directly by contacting Mike Holy at 315-622-1774 or email Mike at [fordlep@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

**Current RCA Board Members**

Robert Foster, President  
Pat Jones, Co-Vice President  
Sheri Morey, Co-Vice President  
Wendy Fragale, Treasurer  
Michael Holy, Secretary, Newsletter Editor  
Maria Sagot, Small Grants Chair  
Laurel Artz  
Andrew McElwain  
Peter Rosenbaum  
Matt Gorman, student representative

**Rice Creek Field Station Staff**

Kamal Mohamed, Director  
Wendy Fragale, Secretary  
Alan Harris, Groundskeeper

**Membership Renewal Reminder**

Our yearly membership runs from March 1 to February 28. Last year the RCA Board approved a measure to move renewal from Jan. 1 to prevent renewals from coinciding with the Christmas season. Our renewal category rates have not changed, despite our ever-increasing costs. If you have any questions concerning your current RCA membership, contact **Mike** at the phone/email address listed under **Rice Creek Associates** on the previous page.

Our Board of Directors thanks you for your support and looks forward to bringing you the best that Rice Creek has to offer.

**We consider all member information confidential and will not share it with any other groups or businesses.**

**Join/renew RCA membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**All memberships are Mar. 1 – Feb. 28**

\_\_\_\_ New 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 in addition to membership fees** 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 Associates  
RCFS #23  
SUNY Oswego  
Oswego, New York 13126

To: