



Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Winter 2015/2016



Science at Rice Creek:

2015 Small Grant Recipients present findings at Annual RCA Social

Our annual RCA Social took place on Saturday, November 14. Researchers from all five projects were on hand to present their findings. Pictured from left to right in the photograph below are: Heather Eldridge (Effects of Population Density on Individual Behavioral Responses), Brian Springall and Jaelyn Lovell (Host-Parasite Coevolution and the Parasite Spillover and Spillback Hypotheses), Sarah Korcz (Altered Cell Proliferation- a Mechanism Responsible for

Unique Body Form in Turtles), and Poongodi Geetha-Loganathan (Early Embryonic Vascular Development in Turtles). Also presenting, but not pictured, was Sofia Winstam (Survey of Rice Creek Amphibians for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Correlated Environmental Parameters).



Rice Creek Reflections

Local author Jim Farfaglia gave a presentation on Saturday, Nov. 21 about the infamous blizzard of 1966 as well as a short biography on Robert Sykes, the SUNY Oswego meteorologist who actively reported on the storm.

Jim began by displaying a blank white slide on the screen, jesting that such a slide would have

represented a picture of the storm at its height in Fulton. He then explained that the blizzard was actually a three-part storm: lake effect snow, a nor'easter, and blizzard winds. The winds gave the lake effect snowflakes a 1/50" diameter, contrasting with the much larger diameter and fluffier snow more characteristic of lake effect.

Included in his presentation were anecdotal accounts, including stories of two teenagers out in the middle of the storm, one with a happy ending, the other ending in tragedy.



Jim shows a slide of the storm's aftermath.

Jim also spoke about local SUNY Oswego meteorologist Robert Sykes, who took measurements in the storm every six hours. Sykes's background, major careers and work ethic, especially during the storm, were highlighted.

A number of remembrances of the storm are included in Jim's book, *Voices in the Storm: Stories from the Blizzard of '66*. His biography of Bob Sykes, *In Pursuit of Clouds: The Journey of Oswego's Weatherman Bob Sykes* (With the Foreword by Al Roker), is a fascinating read of this unique meteorologist's life. Copies of both volumes are available in Oswego at river's end bookstore.



2016

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

Since program size is limited, we are not able to accommodate groups to these family friendly free Saturday programs. An adult needs to accompany children.

Rice Creek Rambles

Saturdays 11:00 am

January 23 & 30

February 20 & 27

March 19 & 26

Snow and ice or winter thaw? We will have to wait and see what the winter winds bring us. Join us for these family friendly free, naturalist-led winter walks at Rice Creek. Come dressed for the weather. 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. An adult needs to accompany children.

Story Hour

Saturdays 11:00 am

January 16

February 13

March 5

As the seasons change, it is time to gather

'round the warmth of a good story. Join us at 11 o'clock as we share tales of nature, animals' wild ways, and how we relate to our world around us. Since program size is limited, we are not able to accommodate groups. These programs are designed for elementary aged children though all are welcome. An adult must accompany children. There is no fee for these programs. SUNY Oswego's Rice Creek Field Station offers Story Hour in support of SUNY's partnership with the *Read Aloud 15 Minutes* national initiative.

Winter Bird Study **most Saturdays**

Drop by most Saturdays and spend a few minutes with our feathered friends. Be a citizen scientist as you count the birds at the Rice Creek feeders from our indoor viewing area. This is a great project for all ages and the entire family.

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.

For more information go to

www.oswego.edu/rice-creek under
Programs or call **315-312-6677**

Programs administered by Dr. Diann C Jackson

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 on Saturday, March 13, 2016, from 1- 4 p.m. We will have ...

- Exhibits on our history and milestones
- The diorama of the original field station, produced by John Weeks, on public display
- Mike Holy will give a Reflections talk on his experiences walking and studying the grounds, sharing a number of photographs of the plant and animal life he has observed.
- Refreshments!

Plan to join us in the celebration!

Book Review:

The Life of Birds

By David Attenborough

This fascinating and well-illustrated book will bring out the bird-lover in just about anyone. Written before the PBS program by the same title, it will undoubtedly bring back memories of that wonderful series you may have seen years ago. Like the video series it complements, *The Life of Birds* showcases both exotic and familiar birds from around the world in beautiful photographs of astonishing colors, plumages, habitats, and actions. Just viewing these photos alone will make any and all of us appreciate birds in a new way that encourages us to marvel, and even puzzle, over these seemingly ordinary creatures.

Arranged in ten chapters including such titles as "To Fly or Not to Fly," "The Insatiable Appetite", "Signals and Songs," and "The Limits of Endurance", this book covers birds in widely divergent habitats from every continent on earth. Attenborough skillfully narrates each of these chapters with detailed descriptions of specific birds exhibiting very specific behavior. His resulting observations and conclusions, supported by his considerable knowledge of current evolutionary and ornithological theory, are both highly informative and highly entertaining.

After reading *The Life of Birds*, chances are good that you will take a closer look at the birds you encounter everywhere and anywhere around you. Easily accessible places like your backyard, your neighborhood block, Oswego Harbor, and, yes, even right here at Rice Creek Field Station, will provide plenty of birds and bird habitats to view and study. This book will remind you of what truly amazing natural treasures birds really are and how available they are to every one of us. Best of all, you will likely be inspired to enter the natural world again, to notice, appreciate, and learn from such commonplace, and yet extraordinary, creatures as birds.

Reviewed by Paulia Bates

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.

RCA Board Elections

Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors Ballot Correction

In the Autumn 2015 newsletter, the name of Peter Rosenbaum was inadvertently omitted from the list of candidates for re-election for a three-year term. Please take the time to vote for a candidate for this position.

___ Peter Rosenbaum

_____ Write-in candidate

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

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 Membership (Calendar year)

____ 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

All yearly memberships are now due for the 2016 calendar year. Because memberships in Rice Creek Associates now run for a calendar year, we do not send renewal notices by mail. Please use the form provided in this newsletter. Questions? Contact Mike Holy at 315-622-1774 or (preferably) fordlep@yahoo.com. As always, we are grateful and thank you for your support. Without you, we simply could not function at our present level, if at all.

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.

Winter at Rice Creek



Photo by Alan Harris

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

TO: