



Rice Creek Associates Newsletter

Fall 2019

**Rice Creek Associates welcomes
Kristen Haynes, new field station
Assistant Director!**

President's message



I have two beautiful White Pines growing nicely in front of my house in Clay NY. They are a gift

from Prof. **Kamal Mohamed**, our director of Rice Creek. Shown is a picture of one of my babies that's now just under 3' tall!

How **Kamal** came to grow these two and over than a hundred more was covered a bit in our summer Rice Creek Associates newsletter.

The front-page article from that newsletter explains how **Kamal** partnered with Dr. George Pauk & his wife and their organization "Canal Forest Restoration Project."

White Pine and White Oak were in great abundance years ago but due to their excellent wood, were cut almost to extinction.

Kamal's last paragraph in the article states: "This will be a wonderful opportunity to give free trees and talk about the importance of restoring these trees and the value of conservation in general."

With over 100 trees ready, **Kamal** made five attempts to secure a table at the Oswego Farmers Market on West 1st street but no one ever returned his call. I also failed to secure a place for us at the Oswego Harbor Fest. George Pauk was successful in getting us into the "2019 Empire Farm Days" a 3-day event. It is so large it's held on The Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls.

The event ran from August 6th to August 8th. Our table was located in a new building, The Hemp Center. It's a new world, laws have changed, and for my first time, I got to see and touch marijuana plants. I manned our table in the Hemp building on Thursday August 8th.

Ten long avenues [with names like Pencil Pusher Ave. and Potato Digger Ave.] and three cross boulevards made this show at least half the size of the Great New York State Fair, truly a sight to see. Farming is not dead in New York, but rather alive and well. People did come up to our table, and did ask questions about our trees, and adopted around 100. I enjoyed listening to our new "parents" discussing where they were going to plant their white oak or pine.

I told **Kamal** about the White Oak in my back yard in Oswego. There's a plaque that states this tree is the last living anything from the war of 1812. So my White Oak is well over 200 years old and is massive in size. In kidding, I told him squirrels from as far as California come to dine on our acorns!

As soon as acorns start falling I'll gather up some so **Kamal** can plant for next year. For those of you reading this article, by all means you're welcome to our White Oaks and White Pines as soon as they are large enough to be transplanted.

I look forward to working with **Kamal** and George next year telling our friends and neighbors about these magnificent trees and how they can obtain one FREE from us. We have asked George to be a guest speaker at Rice Creek and a tentative date for him is June 20, 2020. I hope you will attend and support us restoring these great trees.

Robert Foster

Annual RCA Social announcement

Our 2019 RCA Social will take place at the field station on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2:00 PM for a social hour. Then following the tradition of recent years, students receiving grants from our Small Grants program will present their 2019 research findings to the audience at 3:00 PM.

This is always a great opportunity for members to observe first-hand the products that come in part from their yearly dues. There have been remarkable topics this year and we are excited to hear about the results.

As we will be offering some light food during the event, we kindly ask that you call the field station at 315-312-6677 to make a reservation by RSVP deadline Tuesday, Oct. 29th. This will help us with having adequate refreshments. Thank you.

Rice Creek Reflections

Bats

On Saturday, August 24, Sterling Nature Center naturalist Jim D'Angelo gave a presentation about bats at the field station.

Because Jim spoke on a variety of aspects regarding bats, I will highlight just a few.

Bats ...

- are not flying mice
- are the only mammals that truly fly
- are not dirty and usually do not have rabies
- catch approximately 600 mosquitoes per hour
- do not get caught in hair
- are blind.

In addition, bats ...

- Contain an enzyme that is now genetically engineered to thin blood for stroke patients
- Locates flying insects by echolocation
- Are found worldwide except polar regions
- Comprise 1300 species worldwide
- Range in size from dime weight (Bumblebee bat) to 2.5 pounds (Golden Mantel Flying Fox, an Asian bat having a six foot wingspan!)
- New York state bats are insect eaters; U.S. bats feed on insects, nectar and pollen; worldwide bats: the above sources plus fruit, fish and animal blood
- Are threatened by vandals, progress, e.g., windmills, loss of habitat and white nose syndrome (causing up to 95% of bat populations in caves)
- Eat approximately one-half their weight in one night; 25 bats can eat up to 18 million insects in one year

Bats have a significant economic value. They save \$1 billion in crop insect control, are helpful in pollination and seed dispersal. Their primary predators are owls, hawks, snakes, raccoons, foxes and humans.

They are also be a nuisance by entering homes through chimneys, joints between windows, siding, building corners, pipes, porches, and gaps in shingles.

In conclusion, bats can be helpful as well as a nuisance.

-Mike

Rice Creek Associates Board takes field trip to Montezuma Wildlife Refuge

For about four years now, the RCA Board of Directors participated in a yearly summer field trip to a natural area. It not only gives them perspective of the natural beauty that surrounds us in central New York,



but also provides some bonding among them. This is especially important for newer Board members. Overall, it gives us an appreciation of the individual talents everyone brings to the Board as well as strengthening our working relationships.



Board members observe birds at a high vantage point

This year we chose Montezuma Wildlife Management Area for our trip.

Led by RCA member **Mary Magistro**, our trip was enhanced by her experience in identifying birds. Among the species seen were Great Blue Herons, Ospreys Great Egrets, Canada Geese, Kildeer, and Lesser Yellowlegs.



A particular moment of excitement occurred when **Mary** spotted an Osprey sitting on shore with a newly caught fish. She remarked that it must be a juvenile Osprey, as an adult would have taken the fish to a tree before feeding on it. The fear is that a Bald Eagle might come by and steal the fish. Seconds later, a Bald Eagle flew by and did just that! **Mary** was able to take a picture of the eagle travelling away with the fish.



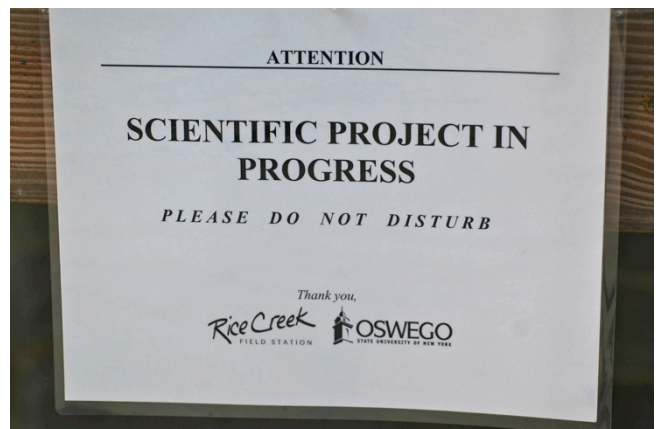
RCA members please take note: RCA funds are never used for Board trips. Your donations and

memberships are used solely for educational and field station purposes.

Monarch rearing at field station completes its first year



Under the direction of **RCA President Robert Foster** and care by **Alexandra Corsini**, our efforts to rear and release Monarch butterflies onto the field station grounds proved successful. Over 60 Monarch larvae were raised from egg collecting at the field station and the generous donation of eggs/larvae from Robert Neiderhoff, who gave a reflection talk on raising Monarchs at the field station this summer.



Most of the emerging Monarchs were tagged to provide finders with their location and field station contact information.



For information on raising and tagging Monarchs, please contact the field station.

Three butterfly migrations observed at Rice Creek

Typically, I am able to observe butterfly migrations on the field station grounds. This late summer and early fall I have had the privilege of seeing three species migrating simultaneously. Monarchs, Painted Ladies and Red Admirals are all in sufficient numbers to show this movement. Depending on the day of observation either Monarchs or Painted Ladies lead in the number of individuals traveling. Red Admirals have taken a respectable third place.

A number of wildflowers are chosen for their feeding breaks. Among them are Joe-Pye Weed, Canadian and Flat Top Goldenrod, Purple Loosestrife, Mint, New England Aster and White

Aster. Interestingly, no matter which of these species, individuals tend to move from flower to flower of the same species. For instance, some Painted Lady individuals tend to favor only Joe-Pye while others take nectar from Canadian Goldenrod only. I find this quite fascinating.

According to Assistant Director **Kristen Haynes**, nectars vary in their ingredients by plant species. This would be similar to one favoring chocolate ice cream over vanilla. It certainly would make an interesting research project for a future Small Grants student!

- Mike

Volunteers needed

Rice Creek Associates is looking for members or other volunteers to play an active role in maintaining the Ruth Sachidanadan Herb Garden at the field station. At minimum, we are requesting volunteers to commit next year May through October, at least one day per month to weed and stake plants to keep them in place. Anyone interested should contact the field station at 315-312-6677. Thank you!

Amendment to RCA By-Laws

To keep in step with recent practices, it has become necessary to amend our by-laws. Presently, Section 3 (Election of Board Members) under Article V (Board of Directors) states:

Section 3. Election of Board Members. The President of the Board shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three RCA members to compile a slate of candidates. Voting will take place in the fall meeting or by mail. Individuals receiving the most votes will become members of the Board. There are no restrictions concerning the number of times a person may be elected t

serve on the Board. In addition, any interested person may nominate oneself for a Board position. In the event that positions on the Board become vacant after a fall election, the Board may appoint by majority vote interested persons to serve temporarily until the next election.

In recent years, it has been advantageous to permit a student representative from SUNY Oswego to attend Board meetings. The advantages to this are:

1. Soliciting student members from campus.
2. Promoting Rice Creek Associate events
3. Dispersing information about RCA and Rice Creek Field Station
4. Bringing student membership concerns to the Board's attention
5. Receiving student input during Board decision-making

A student rep would be an appointed position. The student rep will have no voting privileges on Board actions and will not be a factor in determining a quorum for a Board meeting. Their opinions, though, will be considered before voting.

In doing so, Section 3 would now read (proposed section in red):

Section 3. Election of Board Members.

The President of the Board shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three RCA members to compile a slate of candidates. Voting will take place in the Fall meeting or by mail. Individuals receiving the most votes will become members of the Board. There are no restrictions concerning the number of times a person may be elected to serve on the Board. In addition, any interested person may nominate oneself for a Board position. In the event that positions on the Board become vacant after a fall election, the Board may appoint by majority vote interested persons to serve temporarily until the next

election.

The Board may appoint a non-voting SUNY Oswego student(s) to a Board position of Student Representative, whose purpose would be to solicit student membership on campus, promote RCA events, disperse information about RCA and Rice Creek Field Station, present student membership concerns to the Board, and offer opinions on Board actions.

At the end of the newsletter the RCA Bylaws as they currently stand (i.e., without the proposed amendment above) are printed.

Please send your vote on this matter to:

Rice Creek Associates
Rice Creek Field Station
State University of New York at Oswego
Oswego, New York 13126

_____ I approve of the amendment to the RCA By-Laws as stated in the Fall 2019 newsletter.

_____ I do not approve of the amendment to the RCA By-Laws as stated in the Fall 2019 newsletter.

Member signature:

Memorable moments at Rice Creek

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:me@fordlep@yahoo.com).

- Mike

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

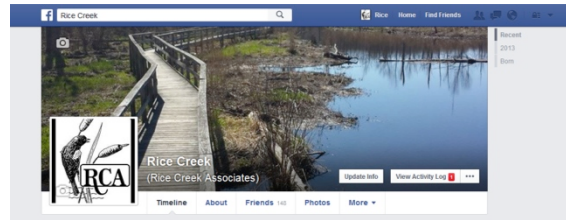
Trails are open dawn to dusk daily.

When visiting Rice Creek, please sign in and out at one of the brown registration boxes.

Rice Creek Associates (RCA) is 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 a field station photo as its cover page, like so:



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
Alexandra Corsini, student representative
Matt Gorman, student representative

Rice Creek Field Station Staff

Kamal Mohamed, Director
Kristen Haynes, Assistant 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.

RCA Board Elections

Rice Creek Associates Board of Directors Ballot

Three positions are up for election. They are three-year positions. Pat Jones, Sheri Morey and Maria Sagot are running for re-election. Please consider serving on our Board. Indicate your choices and return by November 15.

Three-year terms

Pat Jones

Sheri Morey

Maria Sagot

Write-in _____

Write-in _____

Write-in _____

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

Join/renew RCA membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Date _____

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

By-Laws of Rice Creek Associates

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be known as Rice Creek Associates, hereafter as The Associates.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall include but not necessarily restricted to:

- A. Support the public educational operations of the Field Station in terms of accessing public interests, suggesting programs and assisting Field Station personnel in searching for individuals who are qualified to conduct these courses.
- B. Encourage the public to support the Field Station financially as well as through input as members of the Rice Creek Associates.
- C. Solicit funding for projects at the Field Station, which are not eligible for state funding, or which will supplement state funding.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. Membership in The Rice Creek Associates shall be granted to individuals who make monetary donations to the Field Station. Duration of membership shall be twelve months from the month in which the donation is received (except for single donations of \$250.00, which will entitle those contributors to lifetime membership). The level of membership recognized by this organization shall be directly related to the amount of donation received.

Section 2. All members will be granted equal voting rights, regardless of membership level, as follows:

Student Member	\$ 5.00
Individual Member	\$10.00
Couple/Family Members	\$15.00
Contributing Member	\$25.00
Sustaining Member	\$50.00
Lifetime Member	\$250.00
Corporate Member	\$500.00

Section 3. All members are entitled to vote for members of the Board of Directors, attend Board meetings, general membership meetings, and any organization-sponsored events, and vote on amendments to these articles.

Section 4. The title of Honorary Life Member shall be granted to those individuals who have contributed significantly their time and effort to improve the operations of the Field Station and/or to involve the community in public education programs which emphasize the values of nature study. Such membership will entitle the designee to all privileges as other members of this support group. Honorary life members need not make yearly contributions to retain their status within the organization.

An individual shall become an Honorary Life Member upon recommendation of the Director of the Rice Creek Field Station and at least two thirds of the Board of Directors. The general membership may submit names to the Board for consideration.

Article IV - Organization

Rice Creek Associates shall consist of members, with an elected Board of Directors derived from the membership. The Director of the Field Station will be an ex-officio member at Board meetings.

Article V - Board of Directors

Section 1. Purpose. The Board of Directors, hereafter called the Board, shall determine the operational policies of The Associates. It shall actively solicit input from within the membership

and report activities, accomplishments, actions, etc. at general membership meetings or via correspondence.

Section 2. Membership. The Board shall consist of a minimum of nine and a maximum of fifteen members. The term of membership shall be three years. Expired terms shall be filled in by vote of the membership.

Section 3. Election of Board Members. The President of the Board shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three RCA members to compile a slate of candidates. Voting will take place in the Fall meeting or by mail. Individuals receiving the most votes will become members of the Board. There are no restrictions concerning the number of times a person may be elected to serve on the Board. In addition, any interested person may nominate oneself for a Board position. In the event that positions on the Board become vacant after a fall election, the Board may appoint by majority vote interested persons to serve temporarily until the next election.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of Board members must be present for Board business to be conducted. A majority vote shall be required during Board meetings to conduct official business. In the event of a tie vote, the Field Station Director will have the opportunity to cast the deciding vote.

Article VI - Officers

Section 1. Titles. The officers on the Board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. Duties. The duties of the officers of the Board shall be as follows:

President

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board. The President will call meetings as

necessary, appoint committee members, and implement the decisions made by the Board. He/she shall also appoint individuals to fill the remaining terms of vacant Board and committee seats. The President shall have the power to assign additional duties to Board members as the need arises.

Vice President

The Vice President shall execute all the duties of the President at such times as the President is unable to do so.

Secretary

The Secretary shall record the minutes of Board meetings, distribute the minutes from previous meetings and manage correspondence directly related to the normal operation of The Associates.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep the financial records of the Associates, enter funds into Rice Creek Associates accounts, and disburse funds as needed to facilitate the aims and purposes of The Associates. The Treasurer shall also make reports at Board meetings and submit a year-end report/unofficial audit of The Associates' finances.

Section 3. Election of Officers. Officers of the Board shall be elected by majority vote at a meeting when Board members are present, or represented. Each officer will serve for a period of one year and may be re-elected to office. Election of officers will take place prior to the Fall meeting for the fiscal year.

Article VII - Committees

Section 1. Membership. The members are appointed by the President after the committee has been authorized by the Board.

Section 2. Chairperson. The members of the committee shall elect a chairperson, who shall preside over the committee meetings and report to the Board regarding the Committee's activities.

Section 3. Committee Quorum. A committee quorum shall consist of a majority of those members serving on the committee.

Article VIII - Ex-officio Membership

The Director of the Field Station or his/her designees, shall act in an ex-officio capacity on the Board or any committee.

Article IX - Fiscal Year

The Fiscal Year for The Associates shall be designated by the Board of Directors.

Article X - General Membership Meetings

There shall be two general membership meetings per year: one in the Spring, the other in the Fall.

Article XI - Amendments

These articles may be amended on the recommendation of the Board and ratified by a majority vote of the responding general membership.

Rice Creek Associates
RCFS #23
SUNY Oswego
Oswego, New York 13126

To: