



President's Message



Rochester Academy of Science Annual Meeting & Spring Lecture

**Thursday, April 6, 7:15 p.m.
Brighton Town Hall,
Auditorium**

The results of the election for the Board of Directors will be announced at the business meeting at 7:15 p.m.. A ballot is included in this Bulletin on page 2. Please show us your support by returning the completed ballot at the annual meeting.

The Spring Lecture will follow the business meeting. We are delighted to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Douglas Bassett. Come and bring a friend to this free public lecture about Letchworth Park.

*Jutta Siefert Dudley, Ph. D.
President RAS*

***RAS 2017 Election
Ballot is on next page.***



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Spring Lecture, Thursday April 6, 2017

The Nature of Letchworth by Douglas Bassett

Letchworth State Park, the Grand Canyon of the East is a jewel in the crown of the state park system. It is famous for its rich history, scenic waterfalls, cliffs, forests and 66 miles of hiking trails. Douglas Bassett will explore with us the many wonders of natural history in the park, and include information about *The Genesee Naturalist* and The Humphrey Nature Center. In 2015, Letchworth won the USA TODAY Readers' Choice Award for Best State Park in the United States. This 14,427-acre park has open water drawing thousands of waterfowl, forests of hardwoods and conifers sheltering high concentrations of migratory songbirds, and several great blue heron rookeries. It is no surprise that Letchworth is both a state Bird Conservation Area, and an Audubon Important Bird Area. Many species of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles can also be found in the park's diverse habitats including white-tailed deer, red fox, wild turkey, timber rattlesnake, coyote and eastern black bear. The amazingly diverse variety of trees includes

oak, maple, hickory, pine, beech, birch and even a smattering of hemlock, catalpa and honey locust, with hundreds of shrubs, wildflowers, and ferns. Many of these are threatened.

* * *

About Our Speaker



Douglas Bassett has been the naturalist at Letchworth State Park for forty-four years and knows the park intimately. He is the US Open Atlatl Champion of 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015, having begun the annual national championship match at Letchworth in 2010. He is also the World Atlatl Association international champion for 2016. (An atlatl is a tool that uses leverage to achieve greater velocity in spear-throwing.)

* * *

An Astronomical Celebration of the Chinese Year of the Gallus, the Celestial Rooster!

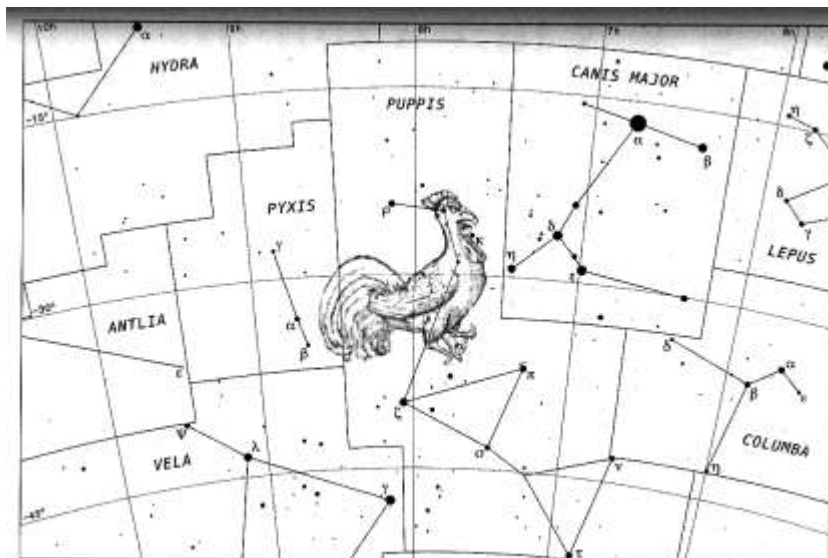
Gallus (the Rooster) was introduced on a star globe made by Petrus Pancius in 1612 to incorporate the new constellations of the southern sky observed by sailors. The Rooster was picked up by Jacob Bartsch, who

included it on charts in his *Usus Astronomicus Planisphaerii Aellati*, published in 1624. In later years, astronomers would make the stars of Gallus fly atop the mast of the mythical ship Argo Navis.

The International Astronomical Union in the 1930s decided not to

recognize Gallus, so sadly it is lost to future star atlases.

Gallus lies to the lower left of Canis Major, and today its stars form part of Puppis (the ship's stern, or "poop deck"). It does not appear to be a large star group and the shape of the Rooster is left to the imagination. Check it out next time you're under more southern skies!



The Figure of Gallus from Domenico di Rossi's 1695 celestial globe overlaid on a modern chart.

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
BALLOT FOR JUNE 2017 – MAY 2018 OFFICERS**

OFFICE	NAME	✓	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President:	Jutta Siefert Dudley, Ph.D.		
Vice President:	Michael Grenier		
Membership:	open		
Treasurer:	William Hallahan, Ph.D.		
Secretary:	Helen Downs Haller, Ph.D.		
Member, Board of Directors (remaining 2 years of 2016-2019 term)	open		
Member, Board of Directors (2017-2020)	Karen Wolf		
Member, Board of Directors (2017-2020)	Doug Kostyk		
Completed ballots delivered in person at the RAS Annual Meeting & Spring Lecture on April 6 or can be mailed to the RAS post office box: Rochester Academy of Science, PO Box 92642, Rochester NY 14692-0642			

Events for March, 2017

For updates to events, check the Academy website, <http://www.rasny.org>, and Section websites.

Life Science-Herbarium Notice:

Watch for email notices regarding work meetings to quickly sort and transport herbarium specimens to make way for RMSC construction. Many willing hands will be needed. Thanks in advance for your help.

Fri 3 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. RIT, Gosnell Hall, Room A300. ASRAS General Members Meeting. Professor Mike Richmond and Jennifer Connelly (RIT) will speak on their Kitts Peak Observing experience. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

Mon 6 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7 p.m. University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor, Chart Room. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

Tues 7 FOSSIL SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Auditorium, 2300 Elmwood Avenue. Carlie Pietch, Post-Doc at the Paleontological Research Institute, will talk on the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum and its implications on the ecology and evolution of mollusks. Contact: Dan Krisher 698-3147.

Wed 15 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room.

Sat 18 ASTRONOMY TELESCOPE TUNE-UP DAY

11:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Strasenburgh Planetarium of the Rochester Museum of Science. Bring your telescope for a tune-up and repair by Astronomy Section volunteers. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

Sun 19 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or later, if skies are clear). Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8555 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. *Young Astronomers*: Contact Carol Latta at 392-7241. *Observatory and Telescope Training*. Contact Ted Lechman at 490-1132. For more information contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097 or see: www.rocheasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

Tues 21 MINERAL SECTION MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, downstairs meeting room. Retired geologist and member Fred Haynes will present "Adventures in Mineral Collecting in New York State". The talk will include a bit on the rich and varied bedrock geology of New York State, a bit about the history of many of the locations, some stories about collecting at them, and a lot of pictures of minerals. Fred will also bring specimens from a number of the interesting locations he has visited in the past five years. For more information contact Stephen Buschaert at 351-7633 or mineralvp@rasny.org.

Thurs 30 ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Memorial Art Gallery. We will join the AIA for their Lecture with Lothar von Falkenhausen (University of California, Los Angeles) presents "Trying to Do the Right Thing to Protect the World's Cultural Heritage: One Committee Member's Tale." This is a personal account of the author's service as a member of President Obama's Cultural Property Advisory

Committee. It reflects upon the purpose of the committee, its composition and the nature of its work, as well as the wider impact of the United States government's efforts to contribute to cultural-heritage preservation worldwide. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.

ONGOING EVENT

ASRAS will operate the telescope, or one on the sidewalk, at Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

OUTSIDE RAS EVENTS

2-4 JUNE ALLEGANY NATURE PILGRIMAGE

Enjoy a weekend in Allegany State Park with nature enthusiasts of all ages. Walks, workshops, and presentations offer activities and topics that will engage you in star gazing, owl prowls, sketching, bird banding, plant and animal observations, wilderness survival, geologic history, and so much more. In its 58th year, the program is sponsored by several nature clubs in western NY and our local Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. For information go to www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.com. Act now to register a cabin or tent site.



*Welcome the Vernal Equinox!
March 20 6:29 a.m. EDT*

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CHANGING ADDRESS?

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ABOUT THE ACADEMY - The Rochester Academy of Science, Inc. is an organization that has been promoting interest in the natural sciences since 1881, with special focus on the western New York state region. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in science. Dues are minimal for the Academy and are listed in the membership application. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.

For information, contact President Jutta Dudley at (585) 385-2368 or by e-mail: pres@rasny.org.

The Academy Internet website is <http://www.rasny.org>
 Or see us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyofScience>.

This "BULLETIN" is produced monthly, except July and September, by the Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month and may be emailed to: editor@rasny.org.

The Academy postal address is P.O. Box 92642,

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONTACTS

		(585) Home/	Work
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