



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer fun with the Academy has begun!

The last formal meetings of Sections have taken place and outdoor activities now fill our schedules. Soon you'll be watching the transit of Venus, attending the RocheStar fest, digging for fossils and "gems," or admiring bugs and plants.

We had a busy evening and school day May 10 and 11 at Science Exploration Days. The event is sponsored by the Central Western Section of the STANYS, and is hosted by St John Fisher College. RAS made a good showing in the exhibit hall with Astronomy, Fossil, Mineral, and Life Sciences Sections' display tables lining one wall of the Student Life Center's gym. Families visited in the evening and the school program was packed with 1600 junior and senior high students and their teachers.

Visitors tasted wild plant salads picked and mixed by Karen Wolf

of Life Sciences. Budding botanists learned about plants with the help of her colleagues Larry Hirsch, Liz Pixley, and Pat O'Neill.

The sky was clear during the school day, so Frank Bov of the Astronomy Section, took advantage of the opportunity and awed the students with telescopic views of the sun's surface as seen through a hydrogen-alpha filter.



In the exhibit hall, Dave Bishop and Mike Oppenheimer showed off another telescope and offered NASA pictures. Dave Bishop also gave a presentation about the starry sky during the school program.

The Mineral Section table was a flurry of activity as students

examined attractive minerals and useful ores, peered into a fluorescent mineral display box, and chose a take-away mineral. Members who helped are Carol Wonder, Jim Synyard, Steven Polachak, Valerie Polachak, Nancy McCann, Brian McGrath, Chuck Hiler, Kathy Henrie, Paul Dudley, and Stephen Busschaert. In addition, Lee Tutt gave a presentation during the school program about transforming raw minerals into gems.

At the Fossil table, Dan Krisher, John Handley, and Jutta Dudley (who also presented a talk about mastodonts during the school program) showed interesting critters from the past and offered a pile of New York fossils from which kids selected a take-away specimen.

Thanks to all of you who helped make SED an exceptional educational experience!

Happy summer season!

Jutta Siefert Dudley
President, RAS

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Events for June/July, 2012

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

ONGOING EVENT

June/July Saturdays – ASTRONOMY, OBSERVING At The STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM

See the ASRAS website for time as they change with the seasons. A small Mars, a beautiful Saturn, and the brighter deep sky objects will be the main targets each night. Unless at least mostly clear, we may not be open for observing. If in doubt, call the planetarium box office at 585-697-1945. Contact Jim Seidewand 585-703-9876 for more info.

JUNE EVENTS

Fri 01 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM. Farash Center, Ionia, NY. General meetings move to the ASRAS observing site, Farash Center, for the spring/summer months. Bob McGovern will deliver a short talk on the plans for observing the upcoming transit of Venus, and the main speaker for the evening will be member, Brandon Doyle, presenting a talk on "George Ellery Hale." Social time before the meeting starts at 7:00 PM. After the meeting, stay for observing if conditions allow. For more info, contact Lori England at lenglund@frontiernet.net

Tues 06 FOSSIL SECTION ANNUAL PICNIC

6:00 PM. Meat, buns and soda provided. Each attendee is asked

to bring a dish to pass and any other beverage they may prefer.

For more info, contact Dan Krisher at 585-293-9033 or DLKFossil@gmail.com

Fri 08 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC STAR PARTY

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM. In June we are back to Northampton Park. ASRAS members will be available for conversations about equipment and astronomy while the skies darken. If it's clear, why not stop out and have a peek? The main targets of the party will be dimmer, deep sky objects like star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. We'll have views of Mars, a bit small for really good views, and Saturn rising in the east. Contact Jim Seidewand at 585-703-9876.

Sat 09 15th ADIRONDACK OUTDOOR EXPO

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Mendon Ponds Park Beach Area. Free and open to the public. Numerous activities on land and water are for family members of all ages. Come to enjoy yourself and help with our tables that promote the different sections of the RAS! To volunteer, contact your section leadership. For more information on activities at this even, visit <http://www.gvc-adk.org/expo>

Mon 11 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM. Farash Center, Ionia, NY. All ASRAS members welcome. Contact Lori England at lenglund@frontiernet.net

Tue 12 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM. We will join the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club to explore Penfield's newest park with Carol and David Southby. Sherwood Fields Park, in eastern Penfield, has 82 acres of meadows, forested and shrub wetlands, streams and wildlife. Meet in Penfield near light post #23 in the Wegmans' parking lot on Route 441, just west of Route 250. Post #23 is close to Route 441 and across from Wegmans' Pharmacy. Leaders: Carol and Dave Southby, contact Karen Wolf at 670-9709

Sat 16 FOSSIL SECTION FIELD TRIP

This will be our annual visit to Little Beard's. This site has excellent collecting in the Middle Devonian Windom Shale. In the past, we have visited this site in May but we often face high water levels. Hopefully, the levels will be down by mid-June. For more info, contact Dan Krisher at DLKFossil@gmail.com or 585-293-9033.

NO June MINERAL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING

Wed 20 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM. Stage Conference Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618. All members are welcome to join us.

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Wed 20 HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

1:00 – 4:00 PM. Basement of Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). Life Sciences Section invites you to help with the valuable RAS herbarium collection – no experience needed and you will see interesting plant specimens! Lunch is served in the RMSC Café until 2 pm for those interested. If you plan to attend, please send RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley. Then, at RMSC, go to front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368, the phone in the Herbarium. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, Herbarium Curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com).

NON-RAS EVENTS OF INTEREST

Sat 03 ROCHESTER LAPIDARY SOCIETY PICNIC

12:00 Noon – till. Every year Mineral Section members are invited to attend their annual picnic and silent auction at Roberts Cabin, Henrietta Town Park, Calkins Rd. near the Fair & Expo Center. They furnish meat, cold drinks, paper goods, bread & plastic-ware. Please bring a dish to pass. For more info, contact Nancy McCann at mineralpres@rasny.org or 585-395-1713.

JULY EVENTS

NO July FOSSIL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING

NO July ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

Sat 07 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION FIELD TRIP

9:30 AM. We will again join the Burroughs Audubon Nature Club on their field trip with Shirley Shaw. The meadows of Thousand Acre Swamp, a sanctuary of The Nature Conservancy, serve as home for many species of butterflies, including Baltimore Checkerspot and Giant Swallowtails. We will meet in the Thousand Acre Swamp parking lot at 9:30 AM, then carpool to the meadows to observe nectaring butterflies and learn about their host plants. Come prepared for poison ivy, mosquitoes, and possibly muddy trails. The long driveway to the parking lot off Jackson Rd. in Penfield, is north of Atlantic Ave. and south of Plank Rd. Leader: Shirley Shaw, contact Karen Wolf at 670-9709.

Tues 10 AUG/SEPT RAS BULLETIN DEADLINE

Send material to Jutta Dudley at juttasd@aol.com

Wed 13 – Fri 15 ASTRONOMY ROCHESTAR FEST

Farash Center, Ionia, NY. Please join us for the 15th Annual RocheStar Fest. A weekend gathering of astronomy enthusiasts of all knowledge and participation levels. Bring the family, bring a friend; however, please leave the pets at home. Camping is available at no charge, for small tents and small campers only, no electric or water hookups. For event details please

visit the ASRAS website, www.rocheasterastronomy.org. Contact Lori Englund at lenglund@frontiernet.net for more info.

Sat 14 FOSSIL SECTION FIELD TRIP

This will be our first visit to the Richard Hill Road site in Schoharie, Schoharie County, New York. The site features collecting in the Lower Devonian Helderberg Group. This will be a long day trip so we will be starting early in the morning. For more info and to sign up, contact Dan Krisher at DLKFossil@gmail.com or 585-293-9033.

NO July MINERAL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING

NO July RAS BOARD MEETING

NO July HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

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BULLETIN EDITOR WANTED

The *Bulletin* Editor has stepped down so we need a replacement. The Astronomy Section is under agreement with the Academy to do the job in return for funding. The Editor is responsible for gathering articles, layout, and the timely e-delivery of ten issues per year to the printer. Attendance at Board meetings is encouraged. It's a great opportunity to become acquainted with the entire Academy and contribute to the organization. Contact Lori Englund or Jutta Dudley for more information.

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The Academy Postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester, NY 14692

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 applications and/or more information, contact Jutta Dudley, 140 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford, NY 14534; by telephone (585) 385-2368; or by e-mail <pres@rasny.org>.

The **Academy** Internet website is <http://www.rasny.org>

This "BULLETIN" is produced monthly, *except July and September*, by the **Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science**. The **Astronomy Section** Information phone number is (585) 987-5330. The **Astronomy Section** Internet web page is <http://rochesterastronomy.org>

The Editor position is open. Contact the Astronomy President or Academy President to volunteer for this important position.