



## RAS Spring Lecture

Monday, April 1,

7:30 PM

St John Fisher College

3690 East Ave

Wegmans School of  
Nursing, Room 100

Closest parking is in lots F & G  
at entrance off Fairport Rd,  
Route 31F.

Campus map available at  
[http://www.sjfc.edu/about/visit/  
index.dot](http://www.sjfc.edu/about/visit/index.dot)

### Notice: Academy Annual Meeting & Election

The election of the RAS Board of Directors takes place at the annual business meeting, April 1, beginning 7:30 PM at St. John Fisher College, Room 100, School of Nursing building. The business meeting will take a few minutes prior to the Spring Lecture. A ballot with the slate of candidates was posted in the March Bulletin and is repeated in this Bulletin.

### Academy Spring Lecture: Echoes from Gondwana Land

Enjoy an evening getting acquainted with some of the fascinating animals and plants that inhabit the faraway lands that lie closest to the South Pole.

Focusing on Southern Africa, Patagonia, and Madagascar, naturalist Peter Debes will illustrate the threads of similarities that reflect the ancient connection of these places in the ancient super-continent Gondwana, and show the amazing ways that various families of plants and animals have diversified since the breakup of that continent in the early Jurassic about 180 million years ago.



*Brown Lemur ( Eulemur fulvus) of Madagascar. Photo by P. Debes.*

### About Our Speaker

Peter Debes was a co-founder of Nature Discoveries, Inc. and led expeditions to parts of the Southern Hemisphere for many years. He has been a lifelong naturalist and earned a Master's degree in Environmental Education from SUNY, ESF in Syracuse. While having expertise in many areas of natural history,

Peter has specialized lately in tropical ecology and has studied more extensively in tropical botany. He is working to establish digital photo libraries of tropical plants to assist in identification and study of their distribution.



*Peter Debes at Half Moon Island, north of the Antarctic peninsula.*

### GLOBE at Night Campaign

An edited message from Constance E. Walker, Ph.D., associate scientist & senior science education specialist at National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO):

What would it be like without stars at night? What is it we lose? Starry night skies have given us poetry, art, music and the wonder to explore. A bright night sky (aka light pollution) affects energy consumption, health and wildlife too. Spend a few minutes to help scientists by measuring the brightness of your night sky. Join the GLOBE at Night citizen-

*Continued on page 2*

science campaign ([www.globeatnight.org](http://www.globeatnight.org)). GLOBE at Night is a worldwide, hands-on science and education program to encourage citizen-scientists to record the brightness of their night sky. During selected sets of dates children and adults match the appearance of a constellation (Orion or Leo in the northern hemisphere) with seven star charts of progressively fainter stars.

The remaining GLOBE at Night campaigns in 2013 are: March 31 to April 9, April 29 to May 8.



Pyrite

[www.rasny.org](http://www.rasny.org) click on Mineral Section

### [Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium](#)

This world-renowned event takes place each April at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport at 175 Jefferson Road, Rochester, NY 14623.

In 2013, we will celebrate the Symposium's 40th year on April 18-21. Go to the link above for the Program, Schedule, and Registration Form. Please remember that RAS members (which includes current Mineral Section members) can attend the Thursday evening program for free, including viewing the display rooms and dealers. Registration is required for the remainder of the Symposium.

**2013 is the year for you to get involved in RAS!**

**Attend a lecture or meeting this month!**

-----please copy or cut out the ballot-----

#### ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE BALLOT FOR JUNE 2013 – MAY 2014 OFFICERS

Please vote for each office and two directors.

OFFICE	NAME	√	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President:	Jutta Siefert Dudley, Ph.D.		
Vice President:	Jeff S. Gutterman, P.E.		
Membership:	open		
Treasurer:	William Hallahan, Ph.D.		
Secretary:	Eric Drum		
Member, Board of Directors	Reginald Smith		
Member, Board of Directors	open		

Completed ballots can be delivered in person at the RAS Spring Lecture on April 1, or can be mailed to the RAS post office box: Rochester Academy of Science, PO Box 92642, Rochester NY 14692-0642

# Events for April, 2013

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

## NO MINERAL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING

### Tues 02 FOSSIL SECTION

7:30 p.m. Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall. 2300 Elmwood Ave. Speaker and topic to be determined. Visitors welcome. Refreshments available. Contact Joanne Rinehart Ford at [ideasdreams1@gmail.com](mailto:ideasdreams1@gmail.com) for more information.

### Fri 05 ASTRONOMY SECTION

7:30 p.m. General Meeting. RIT, Gosnell Hall, Room A300. "Swift Observatory". Short talk: Mike Richmond: "Observing and analyzing comets". Contact Carol Latta (585) 230-9548.

### Sun 07 MINERAL SECTION FIELD TRIP

11 a.m. Spring Creek, Alden, NY for pyritized fossils & nodules - all ages welcome. Weather permitting. For more info & to sign up, contact John Diaz [scarpete2010@yahoo.com](mailto:scarpete2010@yahoo.com) or (585) 857-2034

### Wed 10 RAS BOD MEETING (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

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

### Sat 13 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Workshop at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! Plan to come and help with this valuable collection. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Elizabeth

Pixley. At RMSC, go to the front desk and ask staff person there to call ext. 368, the phone in the Herbarium. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley (585) 334-0977 or [epixley@rochester.rr.com](mailto:epixley@rochester.rr.com)

### Sun 14 ASTRONOMY SECTION

Noon on. Farash Center. Ionia. 3<sup>rd</sup> Open House of 2013. Come and see all that the Farash site has to offer. May cancel for inclement weather. Contact Bob McGovern (585) 315-1850

### Sun 14 MINERAL SECTION JR EVENT

2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Location TBA. "Mohs Scale of Hardness" and "Making a Collection" for children age 4-17. Contact Nancy McCann [mineralpres@rasny.org](mailto:mineralpres@rasny.org) or (585) 395-1713

### Mon 15 ASTRONOMY SECTION

7 p.m. Board Meeting. U of R, Bausch & Lomb, Chart Room. Contact Carol Latta (585) 230-9548.

### Thurs 18 ROCHESTER MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

8 p.m. Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport at 175 Jefferson Road Rochester, NY 14623. Symposium kick-off and lecture. The speaker will be Kevin Downey talking about "*Mineralization in Caves Part I.*" For more info go to Mineral Section web page or call Paul Dudley (585) 368-2368.

## Fri 19 - Sun 21 ROCHESTER MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

Opens at 9 a.m. Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport at 175 Jefferson Road Rochester, NY 14623. **Registration is required.** Please note: The popular Ward's Natural Science, Est. open house will *not* be held in conjunction with the Symposium this year. Hopefully it will resume next year. Contact Helen Chamberlain at [contactrms@hotmail.com](mailto:contactrms@hotmail.com).

### Thurs 25 ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION

7:30 p.m. Memorial Art Gallery. We will join the AIA for their Lecture "Agatha Christie, Archaeology and Alzheimer's" by Prof Amy Barron. This lecture will examine some of the archaeological sites that Agatha and her husband, Max, excavated, as well as how this work and the mystery novelist's life were revealed within the pages of her books. Contact Karen Wolf (585) 670-9709.

### ONGOING- ASTRONOMY

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

### NON-RAS EVENTS

**Thurs 25** - 5:15 p.m. at MCC.

**Fri 26** - 9 a.m. at RIT.

Sierra Club - 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum "Great Lakes Need Great Friends: Protecting the Great Lakes Forever". Keynote speaker Maude Barlow. <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/> or email [sierraclubforum@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubforum@gmail.com) or call (585) 234-1056

**Rochester Academy of Science**  
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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 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>

Or see us on Facebook at  
<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyOfScience>

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**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

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