



President's Message

Thank you for your active participation during 2014! Whether you are an elected leader or a behind-the-scenes worker, your contributions to the Section(s) and Academy are significant and appreciated. Your input helps create learning opportunities at meetings, workshops, and field trips. These occasions fulfill our quest for knowledge, allow us to share our interests, and make friends. Your zest for teaching the public and engaging them in scientific activities is also noteworthy. This includes your participation in special outdoor events at Mendon Ponds Park, STANYS-CWS Science Exploration Days, Strassenburgh Planetarium telescope observations, and star parties in public parks. In addition, your involvement with the Academy's Spring Lecture and the Fall Scientific Paper Session helped promote science to the public.

Thanks for chipping in! Best wishes for a productive and happy 2015!

Jutta Dudley,
President RAS

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RAS Board Of Director Nominations Wanted

Each year the Academy elects officers and directors at the Spring Meeting to the Board of Directors to oversee the operations of the Academy. We are looking for members who will participate in the monthly Board meetings and help guide Section and Academy activities. The following positions have **no candidates** at this time:

Membership chair: Provides information about the academy at public events that we participate in. Develops strategies to find and keep members. Helps the Treasurer maintain an updated membership list. Participates in BOD meetings and Academy events. Elected for one year.

Director: Participates in BOD meetings and Academy events. Elected for a 3-year term.

The Nominations Committee will present a slate at the January 21, 2015 BOD meeting. If you are interested in filling an open position indicated above, contact Nominations Chair Michael Grenier (mgrenier@frontiernet.net) **before December ends** and the nominations committee will consider your request.

All officer positions and expiring directorships not listed above are contestable. For elections in

2015, the incumbent held positions are, Director, 3 year term (Frank Bov), plus the one year officer terms of President (Jutta Dudley), Vice President (Jeff Gutterman), Treasurer (Bill Hallahan), and Secretary (Helen Haller).

If you are interested in one of these positions, Academy by-laws allow a member with a petition signed by ten other members, to be placed on the ballot. The Secretary, Helen Haller, (wordbird@rochester.rr.com) must receive this petition, along with a brief sketch of the candidate's qualifications, by **February 1, 2015**.

Members will receive ballots in the RAS Bulletin a month prior to the annual Spring Meeting election.

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to keep your RAS membership updated. Renewal form is on next page.



PAPER SESSION SYNOPSIS

The 41st Scientific Paper Session on November 15 had a good turnout of students, faculty, Academy members and others from across western NYS. The School of Science and Mathematics at The College at Brockport hosted the event.

Special thanks go to our program liaison at the college, Dr. Judy Massare from the Earth Sciences Department. She did a great job accomplishing the many tasks needed to pull off a successful program.

Attendees were actively engaged

in discussions over a myriad of research projects happily shared by the presenters. This productive interaction is the goal of the Scientific Paper Session! We can be proud we are continuing a program first envisioned many years ago by professors Melvin Wentland (St John Fisher College) and Larry King (SUNY College at Geneseo).

The Larry King Memorial Lecture (*A Reply to the Man Who Made Toilet Paper: On the Value of 'Basic' Scientific Research*) by Dr. Christopher Norment was

well received and made an impression on the students, to whom it was directed. His message is that *all* research has value, whether it has direct application to society or not. Nature is worthy of study and we should not be dissuaded from learning about and reveling in the wonders of the natural environment.

The Paper Session program with abstracts is posted on www.rasny.org for your perusal.

2015 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

Membership Form

Mail to:
R.A.S. c/o
William L. Hallahan
6658 North Avon Rd.
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

New
 Renewal

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

For your convenience, please pay your dues to the R.A.S. and its sections with a single check. **Make check payable to: Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.**
 CIRCLE the amount you are paying for an Academy category (shaded column) and for the Section(s) in which you wish membership.

Membership Categories <i>R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership</i>	Rochester Academy of Science	Anthropology Section	Astronomy Section	Life Sciences Section	Fossil Section	Mineral Section	Total
Member (Individual over age 18)	\$10.00	\$2.00	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	
Family (Including students to age 18)	\$15.00	\$3.00	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	
Student (age 18 to full-time undergrad.)	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	
Supporting (Individual or family)	\$20.00	*****	\$30.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
Patron (Individual or family)	\$30.00	*****	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Life (Individual only)	\$200.00	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
Gift (Thank you!) Fill in amount ⇨							
Check box if you are interested in serving on a committee ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨							

Events for December, 2014

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

Tues 2 FOSSIL SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Auditorium, 2300 Elmwood Ave. Visitors welcome. Our speaker will be David Moss, a PhD candidate from the Department of Earth Sciences at Syracuse University. For more information contact Dan Krisher at 293-9033.

Fri 5 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. at the PLANETARIUM, 657 East Ave, Rochester. Do NOT go to RIT. Annual holiday party, planetarium show and Outstanding Astronomer award. Please bring a dish to pass. For more information, contact Valerie Rapson at (585) 301-3424.

Sat 6 MINERAL SECTION DINNER MEETING

5:00 – 9:00 p.m. Penfield Methodist Church, 1795 Baird Road, Penfield, NY 14526. Members and guests only. Bring a dish to pass with a serving spoon. The program talk will be by Fred Haynes. RSVPs appreciated to Stephen Busschaert at mineralvp@rasny.org or 585-288-5683.

Sat 13 LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 a.m – 2:00 p.m. Life Sciences section will hold a workshop at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). We will continue

work on replacing torn and damaged genus folders, as well as repairing specimens as needed. It is a great way to see interesting plants from the Rochester region and around the world! No experience needed! The Museum café is open until 2 pm, if you wish to buy lunch. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley. Then, at RMSC, go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368, phone in the Herbarium. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com).

RAS BOARD MEETING

There is no RAS board meeting for the month of December.

ONGOING EVENT

ASRAS will operate the telescope, or one on the sidewalk, at Strassenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876. Note: We have a new Celestron 11 inch SCT permanently mounted on the deck outside the Cave observatory. Come and check it out!

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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