



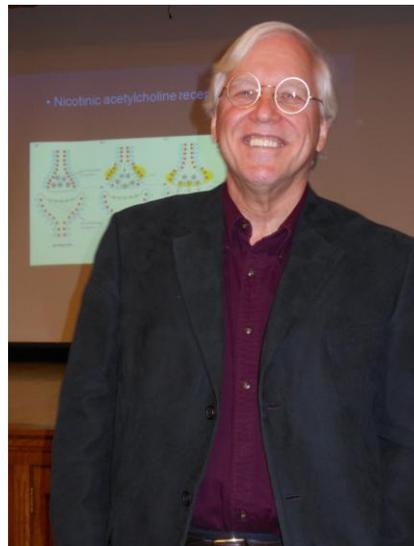
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Academy's 39th Fall Science Paper Session was a huge success. I hope you were there! You can be proud that our annual event makes it possible for the community to learn about the scientific research being done in western New York. The public lecture on honey bee health was very enlightening. Bees suffer from a variety of diseases and environmental stresses but the relations are complex. I was struck in particular by the "forced" migration of honey bees when we truck them across the country as the crops change with the seasons. Their labor on our behalf is not always rewarded with good nutrition from the flowers they must visit, such as on the vast acreage of blueberry and cranberry farms. Knowing this makes one consider giving up cranberries with turkey!

As promised in the October *Bulletin*, the *RAS Proceedings, Volume 20*, is now available. It was literally "hot off the press" when offered at the Fall Paper Session. If you could not pick up your copy at that event, you will have an opportunity to acquire one at future Section meetings. Let us know if you enjoy the local geology articles in this issue.

As the December Solstice and the New Year approach we look back with pride on the accomplishments of our Sections and peer ahead in anticipation of new and renewed adventures. Thank you for being engaged in the Academy by volunteering and sharing! Best wishes to you all in 2013.

*Jutta Siefert Dudley*



**Dr. Nicholas Calderone**

*Photo by J S Dudley*

## 2012 Fall Paper Session a Success

The annual RAS Fall Paper session was very well attended by over 300 people! The event, hosted by St. Fisher College on November 10, was organized by Dr. Maryann Herman and several

of her colleagues in the Biology Department.

The day was a great opportunity for students and others to showcase their research studies. Thirty four oral presentations were given during four concurrent sessions covering a host of topics in ecology, science education, paleontology, physics, chemistry, astronomy, genetics, climatology, cell biology, and others. When the short talk sessions were finished, attendees moved to another building to view the many posters. The rooms were filled with enthusiastic people enjoying their discussions with the nearly 100 presenters.

After lunch, the annual Larry King Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. Nicholas Calderone, Associate Professor and the Director of the Cornell University Dyce Laboratory for Honey Bee Studies. His talk, *The Health of Honey Bees—Why Should You Care*, showed us that the environmental problems influencing the health of bees and food production is complex and does not have easy answers.

*Jutta Siefert Dudley*



## Comments on the 2012 Fall Paper Session

“This was the first time I attended the session, and I was quite blown away! I asked questions of students, professors and other attendees, and learned that the number one reason for attending was to take advantage of the rare opportunity to present scientific investigation in a broadly – attended forum (or to support a peer or associate who was doing that). All regarded the session as the chance for both growth and recognition, as well as to have meaningful discussions on their topics with other highly educated people. I personally spoke to individuals representing at least 10 different institutions, and most of the 17 talks offered standing room only after 100 or more attendees were seated. I was particularly impressed by the proportion of undergraduates doing real scientific research, and especially enjoyed posters on the chemistry of marine reefs and play behavior in Orcas. Given the level of scientific terminology in the Life Sciences talks I attended, I found myself fairly clueless, and in awe of the many students nodding their heads in total understanding of the points being made. The RAS Paper/Poster Session is a real happening in the scientific and education community.”

*Carol Latta*

“I was very pleased to see a very large turnout of not only students and teachers but more RAS members than there have been in the past. During the Paper Session, we had a RAS table displaying past proceedings, and we were amazed at the hubbub of noise around us of young people talking about Science.”

*Karen Wolf*

**It's time to renew your membership!**

**Please take a moment to send in your renewal now.**

### 2013 Membership Form

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For your convenience, please pay your dues to the R.A.S. and its sections with a single check.

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Interested in serving on a Section committee? Select & check a box ⇒⇒⇒	⇒⇒⇒						

# Events for December, 2012

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

## NO RAS BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER

## NO MINERAL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER

## NO ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION MONTHLY MEETING IN DECEMBER

### Tues 04 FOSSIL SECTION

Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall- 7:30 pm. Annual Show and Tell event. Bring any interesting specimens or ones you wish to identify. There will be enough members on hand to come up with the name. Refreshments will be served. The Section does not meet in January so our first meeting of 2013 will be on February 5 assuming we all survive the end of the Maya's 13th baktun.

### Fri 07 ASTRONOMY SECTION

Strasburgh Planetarium- 7 pm. Annual holiday season ASRAS members meeting. 7 pm- Social time, bring an appetizer or dessert. 8 pm- Member images and star show. Contact Carol Latta - 230-9548

### Sat 08 MINERAL SECTION

St. Louis Church, 64 South Main St., Pittsford- 6:30pm.

Holiday Dinner Meeting. Dr. David Bailey of Hamilton College will be speaking on "Minerals Along the Erie Canal." Door prizes! This is a family event, bring a dish to pass. Meat, place settings and drinks are provided. The 5th PIP Prize will be awarded to the member who participated the most during the year. This is our last event of the year! Volunteers are needed - contact Nancy McCann, [mineralpres@rasny.org](mailto:mineralpres@rasny.org) 585-395-1713 for more information.

### Sat 15 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

RAS Herbarium- 10 am- 2 pm Workshop in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! Plan to come and help with this valuable collection – and see some interesting plants! Lunch is served in the RMSC Cafe until 2 pm, or bring your own lunch. At RMSC, go to the front desk and ask a staff person there to call ext. 368, the phone in the Herbarium. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, 334-0977 or [epixley@rochester.rr.com](mailto:epixley@rochester.rr.com).



## More Comments on the Fall Paper Session

A poster entitled "Impact of Soufriere Hills Volcano on the Coral Reef Ecosystem of Montserrat, W. I." was presented by Finger Lakes Community College student, Barb Dagata, a marine biology graduate. She and the other students involved in the project received a grant to scuba dive in the region to determine the impact of volcanic ash on the local coral population. She is currently taking courses that will transfer to the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau where she will continue her graduate studies in the fall.

"Notable Tree Ages in Natural Plant Communities of Upstate New York" was an interesting poster presented by Bruce A. Gilman, a professor in the Department of Environmental Conservation & Horticulture, FLCC. He displayed cores taken from living and dead trees in old growth forests, and gave data on trees in areas such as Zoar Valley, along Lake Ontario, and a number of other old growth forest sites in our region.

*NancyMcCann*

Interested in learning more about the 100 posters that were presented this year? The Program and Abstracts are available on the RAS website:

<http://www.rasny.org/FallPaper/FallPaperSession.htm>

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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>

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