



RAS Spring Lecture

Save the Date: Monday, April 1, 7:30 PM at St John Fisher College, Wegmans School of Nursing, Room 100

The Academy Spring Lecture features naturalist Peter Debes, who will take us on an exploration of the remnants of Gondwana. Originally the southern portion of the former super continent Pangaea, Gondwana has had a remarkable history revealed by the rocks and fossils and the living plants and animals of the southern continents we know today. Peter will describe how the breakup of this land mass led to the formation of the distinctive flora and fauna we see today in Africa and Madagascar.

The April Bulletin will have more information, but the newsletter may not arrive in your mail box before the event. So, please check the RAS web site for an update.

President's Message

By Jutta Siefert Dudley

Members of the Academy greeted folks who braved the bitter cold and wind to enjoy the Winterfest at Mendon Ponds Park on January 20th. Warmly tucked into the bustling East Lodge, representatives of the Mineral and Astronomy Sections described their activities to interested visitors.

Outside, a telescope and sun tracking instrument allowed us glimpses of a few sunspots whenever the clouds parted. The Fossil Section was headquartered in more spacious and quiet accommodations in the old Cobblestone House where they were accompanied by demonstrators spinning yarn and strumming dulcimers. Thank you Bob Crumrine, John Cottrell, Lori Englund, Valerie Rapsen, Vicki Rotolo, Don Chamberlain, Tom Kohler, Paul Dudley, Chuck Hiler, Stephen Busschaert, Kathy Henrie, Dan Krisher, and John Handley, for engaging with the public.

Outdoor activities were cut back by the lack of snow, but families enjoyed riding in a horse drawn wagon or exploring the nature center. At the center I heard stories from Wild Wings volunteers about the Great Horned Owl and the two little Screech Owls perched on their arms. What a hoot! The RAS looks forward to another Mendon Ponds outing at the ADK Outdoor Expo in June when we can expect shirt sleeve weather.

In this Bulletin you will find a list of the students who received research grants from the Academy. Board members Bill Hallahan, Helen Haller, and Karen Wolf deserve a thank you for their help selecting the recipients.

Academy publication goes overseas.....

In January, 137 of the RAS

Proceedings were prepared for mailing and sent to various institutions in the United States and to foreign countries. Our publication is part of the University of Rochester exchange program with libraries around the world. To give you an idea of the places where the book ends up, here's a sampling of libraries.

In the US: California Academy of Sciences, Field Museum, Iowa Geological Survey, Harvard University Botany Libraries, NYS Library, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Buffalo Museum of Science, Cornell University, American Museum of Natural History, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Institution.

Foreign libraries: Royal Ontario Museum, Royal Observatory of Belgium, Australian Museum, Natural Science Museum of Argentina, Academy of Science of Belarus, Czech Zoological Society, the British Library, Museum of Natural History in Paris, Vatican Observatory, University of Tokyo, Academy of Sciences in Leningrad, National Museum in South Africa. The European libraries receive most of our Proceedings with Germany accepting the most (19), followed by France (9) and Switzerland (8).

The publication of the Proceedings and the mailing process is the responsibility of the Academy. This is expensive and the tasks long and tedious, so publication is not frequent. The University partnership allows our publications to be seen throughout the world by interested

institutions and gives us a place to store our books and archive our papers. We have an assigned librarian in the Rush Rhees Library who handles inquiries about our publications. In addition, you, as an Academy member, may obtain a free University library card.

Announcement of the RAS2012-2013 Undergraduate Student Research Grant Awards:

To: ZuzuSalais, at the State University of New York at Oswego for The spatial distribution of the blacklegged tick, *Ixodesscapularis*, and the Lyme disease bacterium, *Borreliaburgdorferi* in Central New York.

Sponsor: Dr. Eric Hellquist, Biology Department. Amount: \$500.00 plus \$50 to the student for a superior proposal.

To: Michael McIntyre at Finger Lakes Community College for Determining the optimal storage media for scat collected at river otter latrine sites for downstream analysis.

Sponsor: Andrea Shelley Marino. Natural Sciences Department. Amount: \$300.

To: Grete Bader at Nazareth College for Bioremediation of imidacloprid using *Pseudomonasaeruginosa*, *Pseudomonasfluorescens* and *Pseudomonasputida*. Sponsor: Dr. Stephanie Zamule, Department of Biology. Amount: \$263.06plus \$50 to the student for a superior proposal.

To: Patrick Gunn at Hobart & William Smith Colleges for Calibrating stable isotope paleoclimate indicators through a high-resolution investigation of modern sedimentation in Seneca Lake, New York, USA.

Sponsor: Dr. Tara Curtin, Department of Geoscience. Amount: \$300.00.

Are you interested in getting involved in RAS? There are many ways to participate. Please contact an officer or section head.

-----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.

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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 March, 2013

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

Fri 01 ASTRONOMY SECTION

7:00 p.m. General Meeting. RIT, Gosnell Hall, Room A300-. Main talk: Dave Principe "Observing with SOFIA." Short talk: Bob McGovern, "Constellations/Solar Observatory." Snacks and conversation at 6:30 p.m. Contact Carol Latta (585) 230-9548.

Mon 04 ASTRONOMY SECTION

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

Tues 05 FOSSIL SECTION

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room, 2300 Elmwood Ave. Dan Bishuk will talk on "Diversity of Paleosols, Sedimentary Structures, Fossils, and Trace Fossils in Coastal Deposits of the Upper Devonian Sonyea Group." Visitors welcome. Refreshments. Contact Joanne Rinehart Ford at ideasdreams1@gmail.com for more information.

Thurs 07 ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION

7:30 p.m. Memorial Art Gallery. We will join the AIA for their Lecture "The Great Museum of the Sea" by Prof. James Delgado. Dr. Delgado will discuss some of history's most famous and significant shipwrecks from antiquity through the modern age,

with an emphasis on wrecks in and around North America. Contact Karen Wolf (585) 670-9709.



Sat 16 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

3 p.m. Gage Slade's home- 3535 Elm Rd. Geneseo. Winter Tree ID Field Trip. Ken Wolf will show us the beautiful and amazing characteristics of Tree ID. Please dress for a walk that will include hills. Light refreshments will be provided. Call Gage Slade (585) 245-9606 for more details.

Tues 19 MINERAL SECTION

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room, 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester. Monthly meeting. The tentative lecture / workshop will be on, "Photostacking of Mineral Specimens to Increase the Depth of Focus" by Van King. Door prizes and refreshments. To confirm this topic visit our Mineral Section website (www.rasny.org link to Mineral) before the meeting. Visitors welcome. For more info, contact

mineralvp@rasny.org or Stephen at (585) 288-5683.

Wed 20 RAS BOD MEETING

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

Wed 20 LIFE SCIENCES SECTION

1-4 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 Pixleyepixley@rochester.rr.com or (585) 334-0977.

Fri 22 ASTRONOMY SECTION

7:30 p.m. RIT, Building 76 (CAR)-1125. The Winter Member Education Series. Speakers: Valerie Rapson & Billy Vazquez "What can you do with a small aperture telescope and an LHIRES III spectrograph?" Contact Valerie Rapson rapsonv@gmail.com for more details.

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.

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>

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