

# BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



August-September 2019 - Vol. 73, #7

### President's Message

One of my favorite events is the annual Science Exploration Days at St. John Fisher. This year's program was on May 17 and 18. The Central Western Section of the Science Teachers Association of New York State has hosted this event each year since 1971, and the RAS participates in outreach to students in the 7th through 12th grade. A host of students from Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates counties come in by the bus load for a day of presentations, lectures, and demonstrations in all realms of the sciences. The RAS was there in force as all five sections had table displays set up with volunteers staffing them to discuss fascinating topics in the natural sciences. Astronomy had telescopes and planet models and handed-out Hubble photographs. Anthropology had coloring pages and information on pre-historic cultures. Life sciences had a wide range of botanical displays and gave away cups of salads made with wild plants. The Mineral Section members exhibited mineral specimens and Fossil Section showed off local and exotic fossils. Both Mineral and Fossil sections gave away specimens. Thank you to all our volunteers who put in the time for this very worthwhile venture.

My favorite RAS event every year is, of course, the annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session. We are holding our 46th Session this coming November 9 hosted by Monroe Community College this year, as announced in the last issue. We remind you in this issue that this is not just for college youth, as any RAS member may exhibit a poster or give a presentation on research or

scientific work that you have been doing. I am happy to announce that our Larry King Memorial Speaker this year will be Dr. Warren Allmon of the Paleontological Research Institute and Cornell University. He has been studying the potential effects of present and future environmental change, including climate change, on Earth's biota. Where much of what you read in the news comes from computer model predictions, Dr. Allmon considers the record we have of the actual history of life on Earth, which is the only test case available. The past is not just past, it is a crucial source of data for predicting, and preparing for, the future.



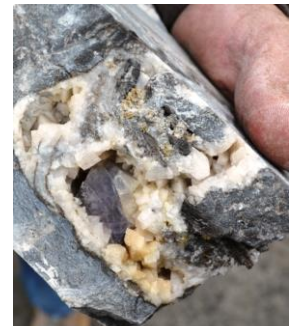
Michael Grenier, RAS President  
In Montana, 2018  
(photo credit: Kris Parsons)

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**46<sup>th</sup> Annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session November 9**

**Call for RAS Member Abstracts**

Fred Haynes, Ph.D. presented a review of some previous fossil and mineral field trips to the Fossil / Mineral meeting in June. Here's a sampling of his presentation.



*Penfield Quarry, May 4, 2019*



**The Astronomy Year in Review:** Synopsis of Presentation by David Bishop given Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> at the ASRAS Members Meeting. The full presentation can be had at [www.rochesterastronomy.org/slides2019/](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/slides2019/)



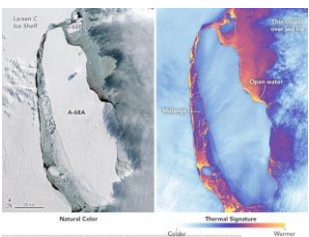
On February 1st, 2019 a daytime fireball over Cuba



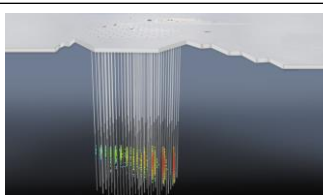
Cuba fireball, some pieces made it to the ground.



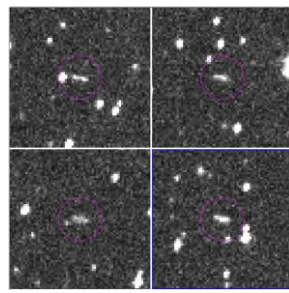
North magnetic pole headed for Siberia



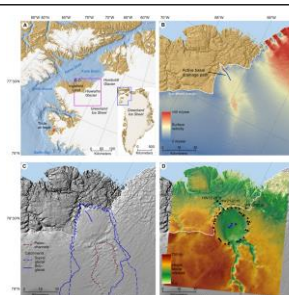
Iceberg A-68 broke off the Larson ice sheet



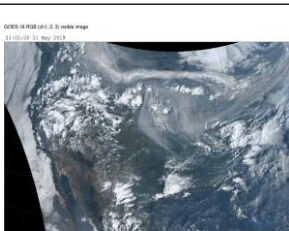
First extragalactic neutrino detected at south pole



Asteroid 2018LA found Saturday morning June 2nd (2 meters across), Catalena



Hiawatha Glacier 31km wide 300-meter-deep crater under the ice, Pleistocene, 1km+ asteroid



GEOS-16 satellite, May 31st. Smoke from fires in Alberta Canada



SunSpot Solar observatory reopens after criminal investigation.



The MeerKat Radio telescope, South Africa



Foundation for the Extremely large telescope 39.3 meters when complete.



Interstell Technologies Momo-2 rocket launch failure



Launch failure of ISS crew 10/11/2018, both survived



StratoLaunch taxi test



Falcon Heavy second launch

# Events for August-September 2019

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

## AUGUST EVENTS

*There is no ASRAS General Meeting in August.*

### **3 Sat: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEMBER OBSERVING**

**New Moon Weekend.** 10:00 p.m.-? Weather permitting. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257- 6042.

### **5 Mon: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. Farash Center at Ionia. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042.

### **11 Sun: ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or later. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. Events include observatory training, facilities improvement and star party in the evening – skies permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042 or go to: [www.rochasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.rochasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events)

### **12 Mon: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEMBER OBSERVING**

**Perseid Meteor Shower.** 10:00 p.m.-? Weather permitting. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257- 6042.

### **21 Wed: RAS BOARD MEETING**

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room.

### **24 Sat: FOSSIL SECTION FIELD TRIP**

A joint field trip with the Wayne County Club to the Green's Landing site on the east side of Canandaigua Lake. Collecting will primarily be in the Jaycox Member of the Ludlowville Formation. Information will be sent to Section members about one week before the scheduled date. Contact Dan Krisher [DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com) for additional information.

### **24 Sat: LIFE SCIENCES / ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. We will car-pool to Letchworth Park to explore the Stone-Tool/early American encampment displays/booths at their annual 2-day event. We will also drive over to Glen Iris Nature Center and Museum. Meet at Double Tree Inn parking Lot on Jefferson Road, next to 390. Bring lunch for this all-day event. Details and directions: contact Karen Wolf 670-9709 or Alex Smith 750-3329.

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### **AUGUST ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCIENCE CLUB**

#### **2 Friday. Topic: Scale of the Universe: How Big and Small Things Can Get!**

#### **9 Friday. Topic: Our Nearest Star: Understanding and Observing It.**

#### **16 Friday. Topic: Astronomy Nomenclature: From the Greeks to the Avengers.**

All summer science club meetings are held from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. See page 2 of the June-July RAS Bulletin for details. Contact: Carol Latta, [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com).

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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

*There are no official Astronomy member observing nights in September.*

### **6 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Speaker: Nan Crystal Arens, Professor of Geoscience, Hobart & William Smith Colleges. \$1.00 hotdogs available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042.

### **7 Sat: FOSSIL SECTION FIELDTRIP**

Field trip to the Pompey Road Cut east of Syracuse. Collecting is in the Delphi Member of the Skaneateles Formation. Information will be sent to Section members about one week before the scheduled date. Contact Dan Krisher ([DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com)) for additional information.

### **14 Sat -15 Sun: ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD TRIP**

Family Archaeology Weekend at the Cumming Nature Center. For details and directions contact Alex Smith: 750-3329

### **14 Sat: LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP**

10 a.m. Meet at the Mendon Ponds Park Visitors Center parking lot. Tour the Wild Wings complex and a park nature trail. For information: Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

### **17 Tues: MINERAL SECTION MEETING**

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room. Annual Show & Tell / Swap & Sell Event. Bring your specimens and collecting stories. Door prizes and refreshments. Contact: Stephen Busschaert at [mineralvp@rasny.org](mailto:mineralvp@rasny.org) or (585) 351-7633.

### **18 Wed: RAS BOARD MEETING**

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room.

### **21 Sat: LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

10 am - 2 pm. Life Sciences section will hold a workshop at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! If you plan to attend, Please RSVP Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, at 334-0977 or [eypixley@gmail.com](mailto:eypixley@gmail.com).

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## OUTSIDE RAS EVENTS

### **21 Sat: 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL IONIA FALL FESTIVAL**

ASRAS will do outreach at this event. For details see <https://www.ioniaumc.org/events.html>

## ONGOING EVENTS EVERY MONTH

### **STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY**

ASRAS will operate the telescope at Strassenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact: Jim Seidewand (585) 703-9876.

### **ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY**

ASRAS also hosts public outdoor star parties once a month on Fridays, either at Mendon Ponds Park or Northampton Park near Brockport. Check on prior Wednesday at ASRAS Facebook page, and [www.rochasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.rochasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events). Contact Jim Seidewand, 703-9876.

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**CHANGING ADDRESS?**

Temporary or Permanent?

Notify whallah3@naz.edu.

A returned newsletter costs us 59¢

Please help stop this waste.

**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 online. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings. We are recognized as a 501(c) 3 organization.

For information, contact President Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 or by e-mail: [pres@rasny.org](mailto:pres@rasny.org).

The Academy Internet website is

<http://www.rasny.org>

Or see us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyofScience>.

This “**BULLETIN**” is produced monthly, except July and September, by the Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science. Submissions are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month and may be emailed to: [editor@rasny.org](mailto:editor@rasny.org).

**The Academy postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester NY 14692-0642.**

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