

BULLETIN

"An organization of people interested in the Natural Sciences"



November 2025; Vol. 79, #9

President's Message

Fall Paper Session

Coming up this month—our *51st Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session*. RAS members may still register at <https://rasny.org/paper-session>. It is **free** to attend. Meet us on November 1st at **Integrated Science Center** for registration and refreshments 8 AM to 8:45 AM. There will be scores of fascinating research projects shown and discussed. Come hear our **Larry King Memorial Lecture** speaker Dr. Marc David Abrams on "**Native Americans, Smokey the Bear and the rise and fall of eastern oak forests**"

* * *

More on Dr. Marc David Abrams:

Dr. Abrams is one of the more prestigious speakers we have honored with our invitation to be our keynote speaker, delivering the annual Dr. Lawrence King Memorial Lecture. We

have the following from the Penn State press release when Dr. Abrams retired.

Over his 35-year career in the College of Agricultural Sciences, he published 175 refereed journal articles, and the journal **PLOS One** ranked him as the fifth most cited forest ecologist worldwide.

His most cited research papers include "Fire and the Development of Oak Forests," published in *BioScience* in 1992, and "The Demise of Fire and 'Mesophication' of Forests in the Eastern United States," published in *BioScience* in 2008.

These papers are considered fundamental to the understanding to how oak forests dominated for thousands of years and what factors, including prescribed fire, are needed to sustain these keystone species well into the future.

"Marc has been a powerful voice in recognizing the profound role that Indigenous peoples played in fire and vegetation dynamics, not only in the eastern U.S. but worldwide," said Rick Roush, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. "Over his long career, Marc has been responsible for helping to shape the conversation in his discipline."

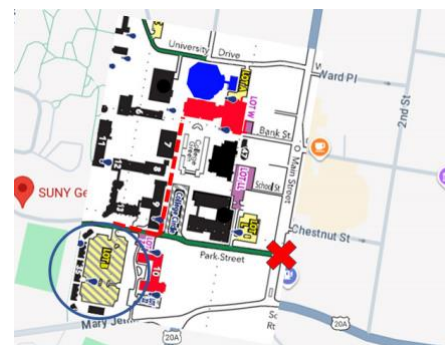
Abrams has served on the editorial boards for five top scientific journals, including *Ecology and Ecological Monographs*, *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*, *Tree Physiology*, *Trees*, and *Tree Structure and Function*. He also has been a member of many National Science Foundation grant panels, participating in NSF-sponsored workshops and the foundation's Vegetation Classification Committee,

which produced a standards manual for best practices in that field.

Dr. Abrams will be attending the conference with his wife, Sylvie.

Finding Your Way to Paper Session

It's easy. Make your way to Main Street and Park Street (red "X") in Geneseo, turn west & look for parking Lot B (blue circle), follow signs on path (red dashed line) to ISC Building (in red) for registration and morning snacks, then to Newton Hall (in blue).



**Volunteers
Needed!**

**on site at our annual
Scientific Paper
Session.**

Please come on November 1 to help with greeting and registration tables, guide attendees to session locations, photograph presenters, monitor morning refreshments, and/or take down signs at end of day. Let me know if you can come - mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

RAS Paper Session Schedule.

Saturday, 11/1

Starts at Integrated Science Center,
SUNY Geneseo,

1 College Circle, Geneseo, NY 14454

8:00-8:45AM Check-in/Registration,
Coffee & Pastries.

8:45-9:00AM (Newton Hall)
Welcoming Remarks.

9:00-10:00AM (Newton Hall) Dr.
Lawrence King Memorial Lecture, Dr.
Marc Abrams.

10:15-12:30: (Bailey Hall) Concurrent
Oral Presentation sessions.

12:30-1:15: Lunch (Bailey Hall or Main
Street).

1:30-2:30: (MacVittie College Union
Ballroom) Poster Session.

Events for November 2025

Nov. 1 Sat: Fall Paper Session and Larry King Memorial Lecture

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. SUNY Geneseo Bailey Hall. See article on page 1.

Nov 4 Tues: Fossil Members Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center, room 019, 35 Lincoln Avenue Pittsford, NY 14534. Open to all RAS members and guests. It will also be broadcast on Zoom. Speaker: Dr. Linda Ivany of Syracuse University discussing a spectacular heteromorph ammonite specimen from Antarctica collected by her team and the various lines of research being conducted with it. For meeting details and Zoom login info see the FossilLetter or contact Michael Grenier at paleo@frontier.com or (585) 671-8738.

Nov 5 Wed: Astronomy Board Meeting

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Farash Center. Members welcome to attend. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Nov 7 Fri: Astronomy Members Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. RIT, Carlson Building, Room 1125. Election of officers. Speaker: Nicholas Warner of Geneseo State who will speak about Crater Morphology on Mars. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Nov 12 Wed: Herbarium

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The 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 be continuing to organize plant specimens in preparation for digitizing the collection. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to rasherbarium@gmail.com. At RMSC go to the front desk to meet other participants. For more information, contact herbarium curators, Tim Tatakis and Steven Daniel, by emailing rasherbarium@gmail.com.

Nov 19 Wed: RAS Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center Room 207. Zoom option available. For details, contact Michael Grenier at mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

Nov 25 Tues: Mineral Section Meeting

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center and via Zoom, Room 19. Our industrial economy is based for a large part on three metals – iron, copper and aluminum. Howard Heitner will discuss their history, mineralogy, production, and environmental impact. Members will receive more information in November. Guests welcome. Contact: Jutta Dudley, juttasd@aol.com.

STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY:

ASRAS will operate the telescope at the Strassenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights, dusk until 10:30. For more information, contact: Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

OUTSIDE RAS EVENTS:



Carol Latta, 2023. Photo by Peter Blackwood.

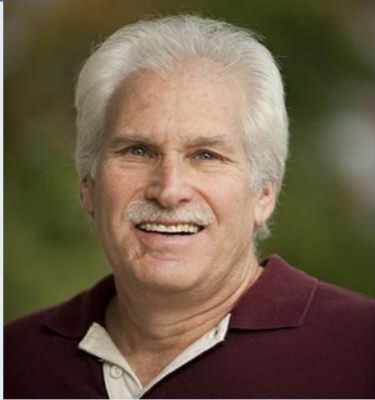
In Memoriam RAS Fellow

Carol Latta: 1946 – 2025, Fellow 2024

We remember Carol Latta for her long and distinguished service to the Academy and the community. She made extraordinary contributions within the Astronomy Section and was a gifted communicator of scientific information.

Carol served in leadership roles on the ASRAS BOD in various capacities: as director, secretary, vice president, president, and past president. Some of the programs she created and led for many years include the ASRAS Historical Information Project to collect and preserve important documents, a Winter Education Lecture series, the Astronomy 101 Forum, and the Young Astronomers' Program. She ably contributed as well to the RocheStar Fest, observatory work parties, the Annual Farash Report, and speaker programs.

Communicating scientific information to the public was a gift Carol exhibited while leading Saturday night observations at the Strassenburgh Planetarium, serving as the U of R Outreach Program Director responsible for Mees Observatory Tours, and co-authoring a text book on astronomy.



**Rochester Academy of Science
Lawrence J. King Memorial Lecture**

Dr. Marc David Abrams

Keynote Speaker at Scientific Paper Session
Nancy & John Steimer Professor of Agricultural Sciences
Professor Emeritus of Forest Ecology and Physiology
Pennsylvania State University



***Native Americans, Smokey the Bear and
the rise and fall of eastern oak forests***

Native Americans extensively used fire to manage their environment. Credit: Penn State.



GENESEO
THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Public Lecture

▣ **Saturday, November 1, 2025** ▣

SUNY GENESEO

Newton Lecture Hall, 25 University Drive,
Geneseo, NY 14454

9:00 a.m. ▣ Free

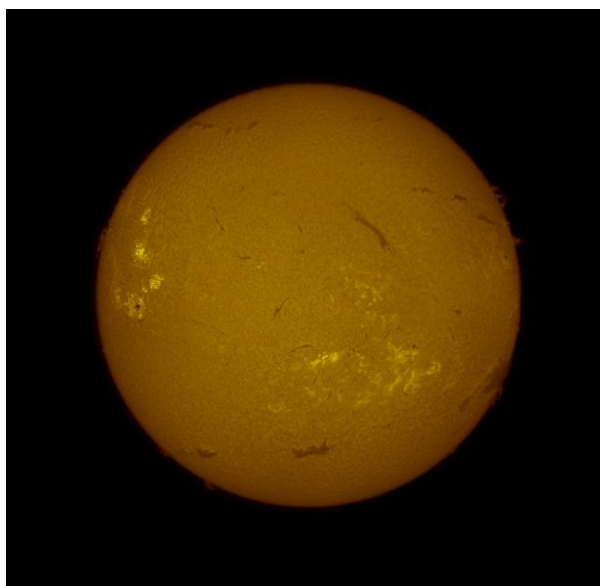
Renew Your Membership

Unless you are a Life Member, note that your membership will expire on December 31, 2025. Please renew your membership at your earliest convenience. Use the enclosed membership form or this link to renew. <https://rasny.org/how-to-join>

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Membership Form Mail to: Rochester Academy of Science Attn: Treasurer P O Box 92642 Rochester, NY 14692-0642 ☐ 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 or pay at https://rasny.org/how-to-join (bottom of page) with PayPal, Credit or Debit Card. 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	\$25.00	\$2.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	
Family (Including students to age 18)	\$15.00	\$3.00	\$30.00	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	
Student (Through full-time undergrad.)	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	
Supporting (Individual or family)	\$20.00	*****	\$40.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$10.00	
Patron (Individual or family)	\$30.00	*****	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$20.00	
Life (Individual only)	\$200.00	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
Gift (Thank you!) Fill in amount →							
If you are away part of the year, please indicate the months:							

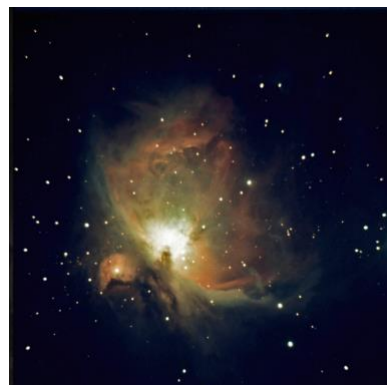
RAS Member Images



Sun image, Hydrogen Alpha. Doug Kostyk, Sept 28, 2025.



Jupiter with shadows from Io and Europa. Oct 4, 2025. John Osborn.



M42 Orion Nebula. Oct 4, 2025, Mark Hehir.

Rochester Research in Review.

(These are Hot Links which when clicked lead to the press release on the Science Daily and other science websites.)

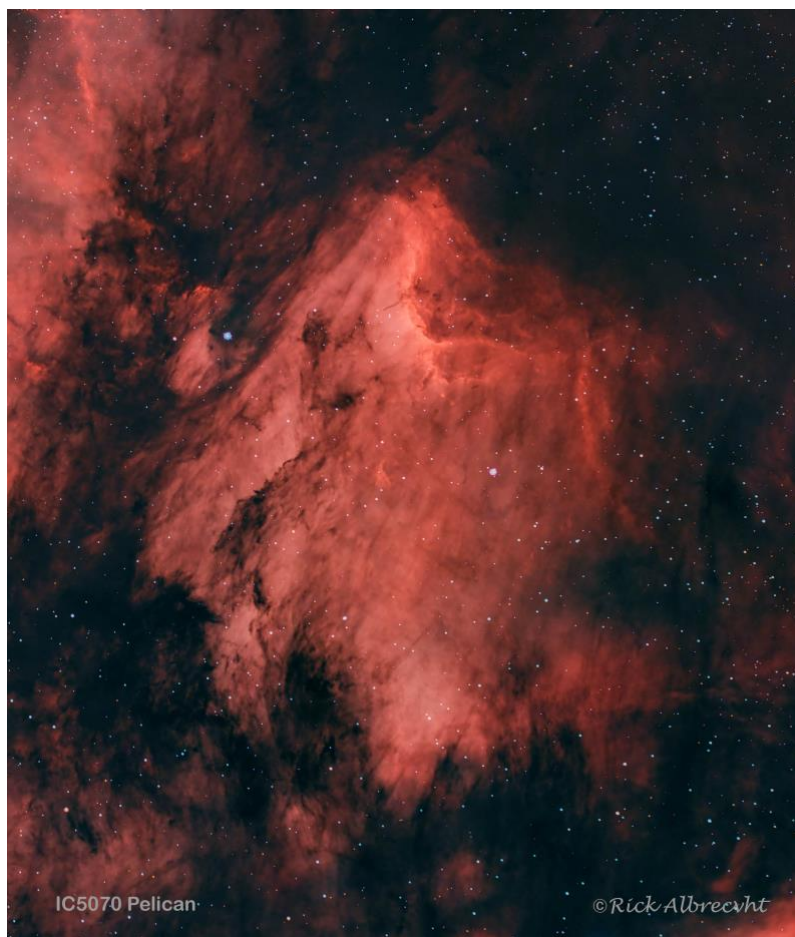
[Cornell researchers build first 'microwave brain' on a chip. Cornell University; Aug 14, 2025](#)

[Strong friendships may literally slow aging at the cellular level. Cornell University; Oct 5, 2025](#)

[Bird flu hiding in cheese? The surprising new discovery. Cornell University; Oct 21, 2025](#)

[Scientists supercharge solar power 15x with black metal tech. University of Rochester; Aug 24, 2025](#)

[Quantum simulations that once needed supercomputers now run on laptops. University at Buffalo; Oct 12, 2025](#)



IC 5070 Pelican Nebula. Oct 6, 2025; Rick Albrecht.

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 email paleo@frontier.com.

The Academy Internet website is <http://www.rasny.org> or see us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Rochester-Academy-of-Science-792700687474549>.

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