



## President's Message

There's still time to pen in the RAS annual paper session on your calendar! I know you will be amazed and pleased to hear the interesting research being conducted by students, faculty and others across western NYS. See you there!

Jutta Siefert Dudley

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## Don't Miss the RAS Sponsored Larry King Memorial Lecture Presented by Jacob Berv at 1:15 p.m. at Roberts Wesleyan College

*Surviving the Mass Extinction: The Amazing Story of Bird Recovery and Radiation after the End-Cretaceous Catastrophe*



Artist :Danielle Dufault. From: <http://www.iflscience.com>

The end-Cretaceous mass extinction eliminated most birds, with only a few species of the Neornithes--today's birds--surviving. All evidence indicates that an extra-terrestrial impact event caused an environmental catastrophe, with darkness, acid rain, and a lengthy "nuclear winter" afterwards.

Jacob Berv, Ph. D candidate at Cornell University, will review with us the birds of the Mesozoic and the mass extinction, and will then focus on those that survived, prospered, and subsequently radiated to become an extremely distinctive and successful clade, with an estimated 9000 species worldwide. Birds had to be small specialized feeders to survive, and Jacob's measurements and analyses demonstrate that they had an accelerated evolution following the extinctions.

## RAS Paper Session Schedule Saturday, November 12 Roberts Wesleyan College

Map:

<https://www.roberts.edu/media/6378/campus-map-july2015.pdf>.

Free parking. Parking Lot C.

**8:30 a.m.** Presenters sign-in.  
Refreshments for all attendees.  
Area between Crothers Science & Nursing Center and Smith Hall.

**9:30 a.m. through 12:15 p.m.**  
Oral presentations followed by a poster session. Crothers Science & Nursing Center and Smith Hall.

**12:30 p.m.** Lunch. Garlock Dining Hall. Reservation checks were due October 31. A few lunches may be available to latecomers.

**1:15 p.m. Lecture** by J, Berv on bird evolution. Garlock Dining Hall. Seating available for those opting out of lunch.

## **A Brief History of RAS Proceedings at the UR Library and a Look Ahead**

The library system of the University of Rochester is the official home of the Academy's publications, meeting minutes and other items. You can find our *Proceedings* at both the Rush Rhees and Carlson libraries starting with Volume 1 in 1890. Another set resides in the archives of Rare Books and Special Collections along with other RAS items to be saved for posterity (or as long as paper lasts).

In the past, the *Proceedings* were printed and mailed around the world to libraries, academies and other institutions. In exchange, these sister institutions sent the UR one of their publications. Today you can recognize these gifts in the library stacks with "RAS" stamped inside the cover.

Extra *Proceedings* that were not exchanged or sold were stashed away in a library basement closet until a water pipe broke and the books were moved to shelves in an office. Over the decades we had accumulated 6000+ issues!

You may recall reading in an earlier Bulletin that the library administration no longer wished to store those books and were preparing to renovate the office. Saving all these items was neither practical nor sensible, so Jutta Dudley and Karen Wolf spent many hours spread over a few months purging the collection and packing the 2000 copies that remained.

Two other RAS Board members,

Jeff Gutterman and Michael Grenier generously offered to house the many boxes and we carted them out of the Library in mid-October.

We hope to give away or sell (cheaply) as many of the issues as possible before we are forced to dispose of more books. Some of these issues are of historical significance and others have useful information and so, are worthy of adding to personal or academic libraries.

A list of volumes and their contents will be available soon. Issues will be (as in the past) offered at the Fall Paper Session and hopefully at section meetings.

We have good news regarding access to old published *Proceedings* (and those yet to be published). The contents will no longer be difficult to find or access by researchers because we accepted an offer from the UR Library to scan all the volumes and submit the electronic copies to the New York Heritage digital collection. We all agreed that online access to the information will be unrestricted.

More information about this site will be forthcoming in a future Bulletin. We look forward to sharing the research done over the years in western New York State with the world!

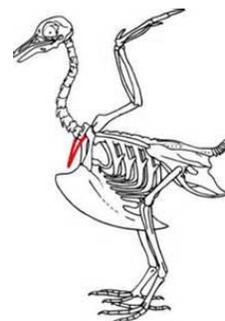
*Jutta Dudley*

## **A Thanksgiving Phylogeny**

Eating a bird for Thanksgiving dinner? Be thankful the catastrophic events at the end of the Cretaceous resulted in the descendants of saurischian dinosaurs to inherit the earth (along with our mammal ancestors).



Look carefully at the bones of your turkey and compare them to those in the bird family tree. You can have fun doing this and learn about bird phylogeny at <http://www.hhmi.org/biointeractive/comparative-anatomy-domestic-chicken>.



Millions of years of evolution, the breeding talent of humans, and a good cook led to the tasty treat displayed at your table. Enjoy!

**Happy  
Thanksgiving!**

# Events for November, 2016

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

## **Tues 1 FOSSIL SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Auditorium, not the usual downstairs meeting room. The program will feature a 20 minute talk on the chemistry of pyritization followed by a fossil themed quiz show.  
Contact: Dan Krisher, 698-3147.

## **Fri 4 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. RIT Gosnell Hall Room A 300.  
Speaker – To be Determined.  
General membership will vote for new 2017 Board of Directors. For mail-in vote please see the ASRAS Nov Newsletter.  
Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

## **Mon 7 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor, Chart Room. All ASRAS members are welcome.  
Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097

## **Sat 12 RAS FALL SCIENTIFIC PAPER SESSION & LECTURE**

8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Robert Wesleyan College. See page 1 for schedule.  
Contact: Jutta Dudley, 385-2368.

## **Sat 12 ASTRONOMY EQUIPMENT COACHING SESSION**

4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Farash Center, Ionia NY. Hands on training of observatory equipment. Contact: Ted Lechman, 490-1132.

## **Sat 12 ASTRONOMY HOLIDAY TELESCOPE BUYING SEMINAR**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Strassenburgh Planetarium at the Rochester Museum of Science. An opportunity for the public to get expert advice on buying a telescope for the holidays.  
Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

## **Sun 13 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. (and later, if skies are clear). Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8555 County Road 14, Ionia.14475.  
Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

## **Tues 15 MINERAL SECTION MEETING**

7 p.m. Brighton Town Hall. 2300 Elmwood Ave. Auditorium. Dr. Carmela Garzione of the University of Rochester will discuss “The Rise of Mountain Belts and the Fall in Global Temperatures: Why We Live in a Glacial World”. She’ll explore the geological and atmospheric mechanisms influencing the global carbon budget and those that cause global cooling when the Antarctic ice sheet grew ~30 million years ago as well as ice sheets in the northern hemisphere during the past 3 million years.  
Contact: Stephen Busschaert, 351-7633 or mineralvp@rasny.org

## **Wed 16 LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). At RMSC go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. We will continue work on replacing torn and damaged genus folders. It is a great way to see interesting plants from the Rochester region and around the world! No experience needed! Please RSVP the Herbarium curator, Elizabeth Pixley at 334-0977 or eypixley@gmail.com.

## **Wed 16 RAS BOD MEETING**

7 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room.  
Contact: Jutta Dudley, 385-2368.

## **Fri 25 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC STAR PARTY**

8 p.m. - 9 p.m. Northampton Park. Weather Permitting. Contact: Jim Seidewand, 703-9876.

## **ONGOING EVENT**

### **STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM TELESCOPE OPERATION**

Clear Saturday nights at the observatory at the Rochester Museum of Science. See [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org) for current times. Contact: Jim Seidewand, 703-9876.

## **DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENT**

### **Fri 2 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING AND HOLIDAY PARTY**

6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. Strassenburgh Planetarium. Setup at 6:00 p.m. Do not go to RIT! Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

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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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The Academy Postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester, NY 14692

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