



President's Message



June 1st marks the beginning of another term for the Board of Directors. I look forward to serving for another year as President and working with the Board and other members as we oversee the affairs of the Academy. On your behalf, we gather ten times yearly to plan events, discuss Academy concerns, and hear summary reports from the section representatives, webmaster and Bulletin editor. Colleagues, thank you for volunteering your time and sharing your expertise!

The summer season promises to be another busy one for us as we substitute indoor meetings for jaunts through field and stream, science projects, a "starry" fest, summer camp, and sharing our interests with the public at outreach events! In a seemingly short time we'll be wondering where the summer went. So, enjoy!

See you in the field!

Jutta Siefert Dudley

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43d Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session First Call for Abstracts

Looking ahead into autumn, the RAS BOD is planning the Fall Scientific Paper Session to be held at Robert's Wesleyan College. The event occurs **Saturday, November 12, 2016**, from 9:30 AM to 2 PM.

The first call for presentations has gone out to academia and now we invite you, members of the Academy, to present a poster or short talk. We'd like to hear about your projects, discoveries, and citizen science activities.

Oral reports are limited to 12 minutes in length with a few additional minutes for questions. Posters provide an excellent opportunity for author-audience interaction, so that's another option.

The event provides a forum for Academy members, the collegiate community and others engaged in scientific research to present the results of their investigations in an atmosphere that promotes discussion and interaction.

An abstract of your presentation must be received by Friday, October 14, 2016.

Directions for abstract preparation and mailing are not included in this Bulletin article, but are posted online at www.rasny.org. More detailed information that includes registration, luncheon, and the Larry King Memorial Lecture will be posted in the 2nd and the Last Calls for Papers in the fall.

New this year is a very modest charge for each abstract (\$10 for non-members, \$5 for Academy members). The RAS BOD approved the fees to help offset rising costs.

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RAS at Science Exploration Days

The Academy plays an important part in Science Exploration Days, a program organized by the Central Western Section of Science Teachers Association of NYS which has for the past 45 years provided science enrichment for students and the community. On May 12 and 13, Academy members helped in this mission by sharing their expertise and passion for science by presenting seminars and interacting with visitors in the exhibit hall.

Lee Tutt, Michael Grenier, and Jutta Dudley spent class time with students in grades 7 through 12.

Lee described the journey of a pebble from mine to stonecutter's workshop (The Gemstone Journey), Jutta told the story about Ice Age proboscideans (Mastodons in the Muck), and Michael updated students about new finds from the time of the Dinosaurs (News from the Mesozoic).

In the exhibit hall, our hands-on and informative topic displays covering astronomy, minerals, fossils, botany, and anthropology, enlightened visitors of all ages. The RAS Section tables were hives of activity during the evening public event and the school program the next day. Students looked through a telescope and learned about cool things about the universe from Astronomy members David Bishop and Frank Bov. The edible wild plants at the Life Sciences exhibit impressed those who never thought they'd be eating "weeds." Sharing the delights of local plants and wildlife were Karen Wolf, Larry Hirsch, Liz Pixley, Sue Homsey, Angela Masters, Kathy Lu, plus the Pettengill family of Chris, Mary Jean and Mike.



*A curious boy learns from Paul Dudley that minerals have important uses.
Photo credit: Jutta Dudley*



*It may not be a galactic view, but Dave Bishop will ensure a kid's first look through a telescope is fun nevertheless.
Photo credit: Jutta Dudley*

Next door, bright fluorescent minerals awed viewers peering into a black box while young collectors were challenged to identify their selected free sample by Mineral members Carol Wonder, Jutta Dudley, Chuck Pollack. With Paul Dudley's help, visitors discovered that many useful items are made from minerals. At the Fossil table, Dan Krisher, Vince Bosso, Sam Ciorca and Fred Haynes showed off extinct critters from the Earth's past that captivated the attention of many.

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*Happy Summer Solstice!
June 20*



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Mercury Transits as ASRAS Watches

May 9th was a sunny day resulting in excellent observations of Mercury's transit across the Sun. About 20 members and guests gathered at our observatory

in Ionia to view the event over many hours. Members set up their scopes and both the Cave and solar scope buildings were in use. A live feed from the TMB refractor in the solar building allowed viewers from afar to watch the entire event! You can see some of these clips on YouTube via links on the ASRAS website.

Thanks to Bob McGovern for the information in this article.



*Mercury, late in transit.
Photo is from a video file of 200 frames, stacked in Autostakkert, sharpened in Registax 6, cropped, color added in Photoshop.*

Photo credit: Bob McGovern



*Composite image showing Mercury as it transits across the Sun.
Photo credit: Brad Timerson*

Events for June/July, 2016

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

JUNE EVENTS

Fri June 3 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Farash Center at Ionia. ASRAS General Members Meeting. Dave Bishop will present his annual year in review slide show. For more information, contact Joel Schmid at (585) 732-5321.

Tues June 7 FOSSIL MEETING

6:00 p.m. Ellison Park, Circle Shelter. Annual picnic and election of officers. The Section will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and soft drinks. Each person is asked to bring a dish to pass. For more information contact Dan Krisher at 293-9033.

Wed June 15 RAS BOARD MEETING

Ionia. Farash Center/Wolk Observatory. Time to be determined.

Sat June 18 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 a.m. We will be attending the Maplewood Rose Festival at the corner of Lake and Driving Park Aves. in Rochester. We will be able to see more than 3000 rose bushes and take a free tour of the Genesee River gorge. If you are interested, please contact Larry Hirsch at 429-6199.

Wed June 22 HERBARIUM

1:00-4:00 p.m. 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 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! If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley. At RMSC go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or eypixley@gmail.com).

Tues June 28 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 a.m. Gosnell Big Woods Preserve (Webster) “Butterflies and Wildflowers.” Joint BANC Field Trip. Meet at the parking lot for the preserve on the north side of the road where Vosburg Road turns into Drumm Road in Webster. Please call Karen Wolf at 670-9709 if you plan to attend.

Fri 24 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

10:00 p.m. Northampton Park. For more information, contact Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

JULY EVENTS

There will be no RAS Board meeting during July.

Thurs July 7 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. BANC

Sanctuary. “Annual John Burroughs Appreciation Day.” Joint BANC Field Trip; for directions to the Sanctuary, call Karen Wolf at 670-9709.

Sat July 9 HERBARIUM

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. See June 22 notice for more information. The Museum café is open until 2:00 if you wish to buy lunch.

Sat July 22 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

6:00 p.m. BANC Sanctuary, Pot Luck dinner. Please call Karen Wolf at 670-9709 if you plan to attend.

Fri July 29-Sat 31 ASTRONOMY SECTION

RocheStar Fest. A weekend of astronomy activities. Check www.rochesterastronomy.org for more information.

ONGOING EVENT

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

OUTSIDE RAS EVENT

Sat June 11: ADK EXPO

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mendon Ponds Beach Area. RAS will be represented by Astronomy, Fossil, & Mineral Sections. Volunteers needed at the RAS booth! Questions? Contact Jutta Dudley (385-2368).

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June/July, 2016 - Vol. 70, #6, Page 4

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This “**BULLETIN**” is produced monthly, *except July and September*, by the *Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science*. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month, and may be emailed to editor@rasny.org

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS

		Phone	
		(585) home	work
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The Academy Postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester, NY 14692