



## 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*

\* \* \*

### **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](http://www.rasny.org). More detailed information that includes registration, luncheon, and the Larry King Memorial Lecture will be posted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

\* \* \*

### **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.

\* \* \*

*Happy Summer Solstice!  
June 20*



\* \* \*

### **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](mailto: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](http://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).

**Rochester Academy of Science**  
**P.O. Box 92642**  
**Rochester, NY 14692-0642**  
 Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 ROCHESTER, N.Y.  
 PERMIT NO. 220

«RASCat» «Sections» «YearPaid»

«FirstName» «LastName»  
 «CO»  
 «Street»  
 «City», «State» «Zip»-«Zip4»

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

**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. 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> 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

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

		<b>Phone</b>	
		(585) home	work
Jutta Dudley	President	385-2368	
Michael Grenier	Vice President	671-8738	
Helen D. Haller	Secretary	387-9570	
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628	389-2552
Open	Membership		
Stan Spector	Past President	461-1272	
Karen Wolf	Anthropology	670-9709	273-4500
Joel Schmid	Astronomy	(cell) 533-2097	
Lawrence Hirsch	Life Sciences	429-6199	
Dan Krisher	Fossil	293-9033	
Stephen Busschaert	Mineral	732-5321	
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977	
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368	
Bob Crumrine	<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	(cell) 813-4157	
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628	389-2552
Paul Dudley	Website Coordinator	385-2368	
Jeff Gutterman	Director '19	392-8299	789-1364
Frank Bov	Director '18	385-1518	422-9910
Douglas Kostyk	Director '17	943-3419	
Lee Tutt	Director '17	872-3033	
Open	Director '19		
Chris Collins	Director '18		385-8496

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