



President's Message



Best Wishes for the New Year!

As the calendar turns to yet another year, we begin our outreach activities at the Mendon Ponds Winterfest on Sunday, January 14. If you've been to this event before you know it's a great family outing bringing together outdoor enthusiasts from a variety of community organizations. For our part, we'll showcase some activities like rock collecting and solar observing to the many curious visitors that stop by.

2018 will, no doubt, be another busy and interesting year for the Academy members. I hope during the year you find pleasure and satisfaction in learning, teaching, sharing, and volunteering in our community of natural history enthusiasts!

Jutta Siefert Dudley
President RAS

* * *

Nominations Wanted for RAS Board of Directors

Our organization thrives when there are members who willingly participate in Board meetings and help guide Section and Academy activities. Please consider taking a term on the board!

The Nominations Committee will present a slate at the January 17, 2018 BOD meeting. As stated in the previous *Bulletin*, December 31 was the deadline to be considered for an open position by the Nominations Committee. However, if a member is interested in a position listed below, Academy by-laws allow that person, with a petition signed by ten other members, to be placed on the ballot. Send a brief sketch of the candidate's qualifications and desire to serve, to RAS Secretary Helen Haller at wordbird@rochester.rr.com by **February 1**.

Positions with no candidates:
Membership chair- 1-year term.
Director- 1 year remaining of a three-year term.

Positions with candidates, but open to nominees:
President- 1 year
Vice President- 1 year
Secretary- 1 year
Treasurer- 1 year
Director- 3-year term

A ballot will be posted in the RAS Bulletin a month prior to the Annual Meeting when received ballots are tabulated and the results are announced.

RAS Proceedings Online

Volumes 1 through 20 of the Academy Proceedings were scanned earlier this year and placed in the NY Heritage digital collections at <http://www.nyheritage.org/> through the UR Library. The website, where an advanced search of our Proceedings was possible, was redesigned, and in the process our digital books were not transferred. Hopefully they will be there by the time you read this Bulletin.

You may download any volume from our own website www.rasny.org (publications & collections). A list of contents is provided.

Publications Chair, J.S. Dudley





*Snowy Owl (Bubo Scandiacus).
Carol Latta, Lake Ontario Shore*

More About Snowy Owls

Did You Know

- ...snowy owls are a U.S.-Canada Stewardship species?
- ...it's difficult to estimate their population?
- ...cave paintings in Europe show snowy owls?
- ...the whitest birds are always males and the darkest are females?
- ...Harry Potter's Hedwig is a snowy owl?
- ...snowy owls are the heaviest of owls in N America?

Go to

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Snowy_Owl/lifehistory#
to learn more about these fascinating birds from the far north.

These beautiful raptors breed in the arctic tundra. When there is exceptionally good feeding in the summer (lemmings are a favorite food) their population greatly increases, resulting in many birds heading south for the winter to find food. Habituated to wide open spaces, these birds, when visiting our region, will be found along lake shores and in fields. You may see them quietly perched on poles and other high spots. As global warming continues its relentless change in the arctic, the future of the snowy owl is unknown.

2018 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

Membership Form

Mail to:
R.A.S. c/o
William L. Hallahan
6658 North Avon Rd.
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

- [] 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, Inc.**

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	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$10.00	\$5.00	
Family (Including students to age 18)	\$15.00	\$3.00	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$10.00	\$6.00	
Student (age 18 to full-time undergrad.)	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$2.00	
Supporting (Individual or family)	\$20.00	*****	\$30.00	\$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 ⇒							

Events for January 2018

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

NO FOSSIL MEETING IN JANUARY

ASRAS YOUNG ASTRONOMERS

Contact Carol Latta (cosmos@rochester.rr.com) for information about upcoming YA events.

5 FRI: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7 p.m. - 10 p.m. RIT Gosnell Hall Room A 300. Speaker: Dr. Brian Koberlein, RIT. Topic: to be determined. Snacks available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042.

8 MON: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor Chart Room. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042.

10 WED: LIFE SCIENCE HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

1-4 pm. Basement Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! We will be organizing the Herbarium materials in our room, now that the basement construction at RMSC is completed. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to [Elizabeth Pixley](mailto:Elizabeth.Pixley). At RMSC go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. Contact: Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator 334-0977 or eypixley@gmail.com.

14 SUN: LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

11:00 a.m. Mendon Ponds Park, Winterfest Event. We will meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. From there we will attend the natural science activities in the park. For directions contact Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

14 SUN: ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or later, if skies are clear). Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8555 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Sledding, weather permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042 or see www.rocheasterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

16 TUES: MINERAL MEETING

7:00 p.m. Location to be determined. The Brighton Town Hall is not available for the next few months so stay tuned for an email notice concerning the upcoming meeting location(s). Dan Roberston will present a program on the mineralogy of silicates.

17 WED: RAS BOD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Karen Wolf's home. 1397 Five Mile Line Rd., Penfield.

ONGOING EVENT

ASRAS will operate telescopes on the sidewalk at Strassenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights.

Contact: Jim Seidewand, (585) 703-9876.

OTHER EVENTS

14 SUN: COUNTY WINTERFEST

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mendon Ponds Park. Snow or no snow, join in the fun at the Astronomy, Fossil, and Mineral section members at the Annual Winterfest at Mendon Ponds Park. Enjoy hiking, racing, geocaching, ride a wagon, watch sled dogs run, meet wild critters, a patrol dog and horse, plus much more! See: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov/parks-winterfest>. RAS will be in the Cobblestone House. To help at our tables contact your section's coordinator: ASRAS-Vicki Rotolo (vickirotolo@gmail.com), Fossil-Dan Krisher (dlkfossil@gmail.com), Mineral-Paul Dudley (pdudley@frontier.com).



The Orion Constellation dominates the January night sky.

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

January 2018 - Vol. 72, #1, 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 online. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.

For information, contact President Jutta Dudley at (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 10th of the month and may be emailed to: editor@rasny.org.

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

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONTACTS

		(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	
Alex Smith	Anthropology	750-3329 (c)
David Bishop	Astronomy	329-8831
Lawrence Hirsch	Life Sciences	429-6199
Dan Krisher	Fossil	698-3147 (c)
Stephen Busschaert	Mineral	351-7633 (c)
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368
Ted Lechman	<i>Bulletin</i> Editor	490-1132 (c)
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628
Paul Dudley	Website	385-2368
Frank Bov	Director '18	385-1518
Chris Collins	Director '18	(518)605-5614//385-8496
Jeff Gutterman	Director '19	392-8299//789-1364
Open	Director '19	
Douglas Kostyk	Director '20	943-3419
Karen Wolf	Director '20	670-9709//273-4500