



## President's Message

The RAS "new year" begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and I look forward to serving you as President for one more term. Leaders of RAS, thank you for your willingness to serve the Academy as officers, directors, representatives of your sections, webmaster or editor. We welcome two new directors to the board, Tony Golumbeck and Tim Tatakis.

The summer season will be another busy one for us as we arrange for jaunts through field and stream, work on projects, attend a "starry" fest, and share our interests with the public at outreach events. A sample of a jaunt in the field you can take the whole family on is described on this page. Have fun exploring!

*Jutta Siefert Dudley*

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## 45th Annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session November 10

### Call for RAS Member Abstracts

You are invited to present a poster or short talk. Are you working on projects, made any discoveries or been active in a citizen science activity? We'd like to hear about it!

More information about the program and how you can sign up to present will be forthcoming on the RAS website and in the next Bulletin later this summer. In the meantime, think about what you might present!

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## *Save the Date!*

*Saturday, November 10, 2018*

*RAS Scientific Paper Session  
SUNY Geneseo*

\* \* \*

## Francis Rd Fossil Site

By Dan Krisher

New York State has been famous for its fossils for over 100 years and outside of the Adirondacks, there is no place in the state that fossils cannot be found. Fossils from older geological periods can be found in a circular band around the Adirondacks and just south of Lake Ontario but the state is best known for its Devonian fossils from 419 to 359 million years ago. Devonian fossils occur across the state from just south of the Thruway to the Pennsylvania border with the best collecting south of route 20 and north of the southern edge of the Finger Lakes. Within this band almost any outcrop will produce fossils but, with a bit of experience, it soon becomes obvious some sites are more productive than others. Aside from locating a productive site the collector must be aware of any applicable state and local laws as well as the rights of the property owner. Collecting in state parks is not allowed and collecting on interstate roads is not allowed

without written permission.

Generally, collecting on local roads is not an issue, but care must always be taken to avoid creating a traffic hazard, causing local law enforcement to stop by to see what's up. Before accessing private property, the owner must always be contacted even if you have obtained permission in the past. Failure to maintain good relations with landowners has resulted in many sites becoming unavailable.

One of the more accessible sites for both the novice and veteran collector is the Francis Road Railroad Cut, which *the Section is visiting on 7/28*. Now an ATV/snowmobile trail, the site consists of a slumped and overgrown railroad cut, which the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad once passed through. It is about a half hour southwest of Rochester, in the town of East Bethany. To get there follow this route: from the intersection of routes 63 and 20, travel 5 miles west on route 20. Turn right (north) on Francis Road. Continue 1.74 miles north on Francis Road. The railroad cut is on the right side of the road, down a small embankment. There is one sloped bank on the north side of the rail bed and two slumped banks to the south. The site exposes the Ledyard and Wanakah members of the Middle Devonian Ludlowville Formation.

The rocks are about 380 million years old and record a time when central and western New York was located about 25 degrees south of the equator and was covered by a shallow tropical sea.

Loose material exposed on the surface will yield many fossils, but an even greater quantity and variety can be found with a bit of digging in the banks. The most common fossils found are small horn corals, small disk-shaped honeycomb corals, brachiopods, and trilobite parts. Once you get your finds home and the mud washed off, Karl Wilson's



**New York Paleontology** website is a good first stop for identifying your find (<http://bingweb.binghamton.edu/~kwilson/home.htm>).

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**July 30 – Aug 3**



## ASRAS Summer Science Camp 2018

**What:** Sixth annual Science Camp offered by the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science; built around science lessons, demonstrations, and experiments. We will touch on physics, chemistry, optics, engineering, and information technology, with special emphasis on astronomy. Our camp is aimed at kids who love science and technology and are eager to learn more. Each camper will be asked to choose a science topic and come prepared with a brief (5 to 10 minute) presentation.

**Who:** Maximum of 20 campers, aged 10 to 12 (ask about exceptions). Teenagers (13+) can apply for selection as "Astronomers in Training"; their role will be to assist camp leaders with setting up and leading activities, ensure that the science is presented in an age-appropriate way, assist campers in completing activities, and be role models for camper behavior. They may also be asked to present science content.

**When:** Monday through Friday, July 30 through August 3; 9AM to 4PM daily.

**Where:** Farash Center in Ionia NY

**Cost:** \$150 per camper; \$50 for approved AITs. A limited number of full or partial scholarships are available. Family (\$37) or student (\$10) memberships in ASRAS are required for all campers.

**Registration deadlines:** Registration will close when 20 campers are registered (by July 15 at the latest). \$50 is due with registration, and full payment by July 15th. Email Stephanie Carlino, [stephaniecarlino@hotmail.com](mailto:stephaniecarlino@hotmail.com), for the registration information. Contact Camp Director Carol Latta, [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com), with other questions, requests, or concerns.

Rochester Starfest 2018 Main Speaker  
Saturday Evening July 14

**Daniel W. E. Green**

Harvard University, Dept of Earth and  
Planetary Sciences  
International Astronomical Union  
Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegraphs



**Main Topic:**  
The History of the CBAT and its  
Central Role in Astronomical  
Discoveries

See [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org) for  
more information.



# Events for June/July, 2018

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

## JUNE EVENTS

### **ASTRONOMY SECTION EVENTS**

#### **1 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Main Speaker: Frank Bov will present “Thoughts on Early Stars: A Review of Stellar Evolution.” \$1.00 hotdogs available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042.

#### **4 Mon: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. Farash Center at Ionia. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042.

#### **15 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION STAR PARTY**

9:30 p.m. - 11 p.m. Northampton Park, Brockport at the Ski Lodge parking lot off Hubbell Rd. On day of event check the ASRAS Reflector or contact Jim Seidewand at (585)703-9876 to confirm.

#### **16 Sat: ASTRONOMY SECTION MESSIER SPRINT**

10:00 p.m.-? Weather permitting. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257- 6042.

#### **17 Sun: ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE**

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or later. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. Events include observatory training, facilities improvement and star party in the evening – skies permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042 or go to: [www.rochesterastronomy.org/ calendar-of-events](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events)

### **FOSSIL SECTION EVENTS**

**2 Sat: Pompey Center, Coon Hill and Lords Corner Fieldtrip.** A few miles south of Syracuse. Middle Devonian fossils.

**5 Tues: Section Meeting.** Section Picnic at 6:00 p.m. **Joint with Mineral Section.** Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Rain or Shine.

**16 Sat: Little Beard’s Creek Fieldtrip.** Near Leicester, NY. Middle Devonian fossils.

**30 Sat: Moonshine Falls, Long Hill Roadcut and Cascade Roadcut Fieldtrip.** Sites near Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes. RSVP and for latest information, contact: Dan Krisher, ([DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com))

### **LIFE SCIENCES EVENTS**

#### **6 Wed: LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

1 pm -4 pm. Basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). At front desk ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. No experience needed! We will be continuing work on organizing the Herbarium specimens in alphabetical family order. If organizing things is your thing, join us! If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to: Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator 334-0977 or [eypixley@gmail.com](mailto:eypixley@gmail.com).

#### **9 Sat: Mendon Ponds ADK Fieldtrip.**

10:30 a.m. Bring lunch and plan on longer day of hikes, Wild Wings (new bobcat) and ADK Expo exhibits.

#### **15 Fri: Potluck Dinner/Lecture.**

**Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Sanctuary.** We join club members for a meal and talk by Peter Debes on “Travels in Botswana: The Okavango, Moremi, Savuti, and Chobe.” Bring a dish to pass and table settings.

**26 Tues: BANC Kent Park Arboretum, Webster Field Trip.** 10 a.m. Observe June flowers and trees.

For details, changes and directions call Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

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#### **20 Wed: RAS BOARD MEETING**

Picnic and facility tour at 6 p.m. Board meeting 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475.

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#### **21 Thurs: SUMMER SOLSTICE!**



## JULY EVENTS

*There is no RAS Board meeting during July.*

### **ASTRONOMY SECTION EVENTS**

#### **July: ASTRONOMY SECTION STAR PARTY**

Mendon Ponds Park. Hopkins Point Road, near the youth camping area. For date and time, check the ASRAS Reflector or contact Jim Seidewand at (585)703-9876.

#### **13 Fri - 15 Sun: 21<sup>st</sup> Annual RocheStar Fest.**

A weekend of astronomy activities. Main speaker: Daniel W. E. Green, IAU, Harvard University. See page 3 and [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org) for more information.

#### **30 Mon – 3 Fri Aug : ASTRONOMY SECTION SUMMER SCIENCE CAMP**

9 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Registration closes by July 15. A limited number of full or partial scholarships are available. See page 3. For registration info contact Stephanie Carlino: [stephaniecarlino@htmail.com](mailto:stephaniecarlino@htmail.com). For information contact camp director Carol Latta: [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com).

### **FOSSIL SECTION EVENTS**

**14 Sat: Jaycox Run Fieldtrip.** Jaycox Run between Avon and Geneseo. Tentative Date.

**28 Sat: Bethany Center Family Friendly Fieldtrip.** Time to be determined. We’ll return to the family friendly sites near Bethany Center which were visited in May.

RSVP and Latest Information - Contact: Dan Krisher, ([DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com))

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#### **11 Wed: LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. Meet with BANC and Rochester Butterfly Club for a butterfly and wildflower trip in Black Creek Park, Chili. For details and directions call Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

### **ONGOING EVENT**

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

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**CHANGING ADDRESS?**

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**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](mailto: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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