



BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"

February 2019 - Vol. 73, #2

President's Message

February greetings! I hope this will be a good observing month for those of you hiking across snowy fields or watching the sky. Enjoy too, the meetings and activities planned by our section leaders. As always, there will be interesting topics to learn about this month. So, be sure to look at the calendar page in this issue.

There are dates this month with scientific connections worthy of celebrations: the half-way mark to equinox (also known as "ground hog day"), the birthdays of amazing scientific thinkers Galileo and Copernicus, and the milestone orbit around the earth by John Glenn. For Valentine's Day, do something nice for Gaia (Mother Earth)!

Jutta Siefert Dudley

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Looking for a gift for that someone special? Buy through **Amazon Smile** and let Amazon donate to RAS. Find out at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-6043765>



Announcement of the 2018-2019 Undergraduate Student Research Grant Awards

The Undergraduate Student Grants Committee (Helen Haller, Karen Wolf, Michael Grenier, Bill Hallahan) completed its review of the 2018-2019 Student Research Grant proposals. We had 14 proposals, requesting a total of \$8,262. Our mission was to award only significant grants rather than small, partial awards.

Maya Prabhakar, University at Buffalo for *Using Foraminifera to Constrain Greenland Ice Sheet Melt During Marine Isotope Stage 11, an Ancient "Superinterglacial"*. Award: \$500. Sponsor: Elizabeth Thomas.

Joy O'Brien, Niagara University for *The Isolation and Analysis of Competition between Green Sulfur Bacteria and Purple Sulfur Bacteria of Fayetteville Green Lake*. Award: \$400. Sponsor: Cassandra Marnocha.

William Jasper White, Hobart & William Smith Colleges for *Remote Water Quality Assessment for Harmful Algal Blooms Prevalence*. Award: \$400. Sponsor: Ileana Dumitriu.

Gabriella Oliva, LeMoyne College for *Determining the Prevalence of Toxoplasma gondii in the Syracuse Urban Deer Population*. Award: \$149.75 (from the Life Sciences section) plus \$50 to the student for the best proposal. Sponsor: Emily D Ledgerwood.

Charmaine Chung, Hobart & William Smith Colleges for *Effects of Mixed Crowding on YADH enzyme kinetics*. Award: \$500. Sponsor: Kristin Slade.

Antonio Roman, Canisius College for *Mutations of Bacterial Cell Division Protein FtsZ Provide Insight into its Function*. Award: \$500. Sponsor: Daniel Haeusser.

Congratulations to all our RAS award winners!

RAS Outreach at the Mendon Ponds Winterfest

Sunny skies, below freezing temperatures, and some snow on the ground greeted the participants at the Monroe County sponsored Winterfest in mid-January. There were plenty of indoor and outdoor things to see and do. Visitors stopping at the Cobblestone House were greeted by our volunteers from the Astronomy, Fossil and Mineral Sections.

The Astronomy Section display featured a telescope, handouts of NASA images, and other interesting items for perusal. Vicky Rotolo and Don Chamberlain happily engaged with the people that stopped by.

Dan Krisher, Paul Dudley, and Fred Haynes displayed geological specimens, with many revealing the bounty of fossils and minerals in New York State. Families learned about life from the Devonian seas and what minerals they might find in nearby quarries or on trips to the Adirondacks. Take-away fossils and blue calcite were a hit with the youngsters. Helping greet visitors, from the Fossil and Mineral Sections, were John Handley, Sam Ciorca, Stephen Busschaert and Jutta Dudley.

It was a beautiful day at Mendon Ponds Park



Great Horned Owl “Gerhard” kept a watchful eye on the visitors at Wild Wings.



The fossil picking was fun!



White tailed deer peers out of the woods.

Photo credits: J. S. Dudley

Events for February 2019

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

1 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. RIT Carlson Center for Imaging Science, CAR-1125. Lot F. Main Speaker: Dr. Michael Richmond, RIT. Topic: Pluto. Short Talk: State of the Section + Summary of Farash report. Snacks available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042.

2 Sat: ASTRONOMY DARK SKIES NIGHT

Take advantage of the dark skies this night to view the winter night sky using Farash Observatory telescopes, weather and cloud cover permitting. Contact: Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042 or see <http://www.rochesterastronomy.com/Site>

4 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.

5 Tues: FOSSIL SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, downstairs meeting room. Training session for Science Olympiad participants. A wide variety of fossils will be displayed for students preparing for the contest as well as for section members perusal. Contact: Dan Krisher, DLKFossil@gmail.com.

10 Sun: ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND SLEDDING PARTY

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or later, if skies are clear). Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Sledding, weather permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042 or see www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

13 Wed: LIFE SCIENCE HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

1–4 pm. Basement Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! Bring a lunch or buy it at the RMSC Café. If you plan to attend, please send an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley. Meet by RMSC front desk. If you miss us, ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. Contact: Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, 334-0977 or eypixley@gmail.com.

19 Tues: MINERAL SECTION MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, downstairs meeting room. Dr. Denise Edwards, Dean of the Kate Gleason College of Engineering at RIT, will present “Transforming Mud, Rock and Sand – a look at the history, art and technology of glass and ceramics.” Door prizes and refreshments. Contact: Stephen Busschaert, (585) 351-7633.

20 Wed: RAS BOD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room

22 Fri: ASTRONOMY- THEMED MOVIE NIGHT

6:30 p.m. Bill Oyer’s house. Movie to be determined. Contact: Mark Minarich: (585) 257-6042 or see www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

ONGOING EVENTS

STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY

ASRAS will operate the telescope at Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact: Jim Seidewand (585) 703-9876.

ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

ASRAS hosts public outdoor star parties once a month on Fridays, either at Mendon Ponds Park or Northampton Park near Brockport. Notices are posted on the prior Wednesday at the ASRAS Facebook page, and www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events, or, contact Jim Seidewand, (585) 703-9876.

**Don't forget to
renew your RAS
Membership!**

*See the January Bulletin
for a membership form.*



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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>.

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