



## President's Message

Our annual meeting on April 4th was exciting, with a fascinating talk by Dr. Omer Gokcumen on the human genome and with a well-deserved recognition of Paul Dudley in making him a fellow of the RAS. It was also a milestone in being the last RAS annual membership meeting to be presided over by Dr. Jutta Siefert Dudley who has served our organization so well as president for nine years since 2010. Please extend your gratitude to her. I am grateful to you for honoring me with the opportunity to be her successor, and I promise you that I will work hard for you and serve ably.

For those that do not yet know me well, let me share a few relevant items. I have been a member of the RAS since 2010, a director of the Fossil Section since 2015 and their newsletter editor since 2011, and a member of the RAS Board of Directors since 2014, most recently as vice-president. Although my degrees are in Geology, my interests are wide-ranging, and I continue to be a member of all our sections. I bring experience with me, as I have been a director in several other not-for-profit organizations both local and national and have served in high office in several. I am also active in Scouting as a merit badge counselor for both Geology and Astronomy. I look forward to our myriad of activities this coming year, and we are already well underway in planning our Fall Scientific Paper Session to be on November 9th at Monroe Community College, of which more follows.



*Michael Grenier, RAS President in Montana, 2018.*

*(Photo credit Kris Parsons).*

\*\*\*

### **46th Annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session November 9 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!

## **PRI – The Paleontological Research Institution**

*By Dan Krisher*

Over the years I have traveled on route 96 down to Ithaca on many occasions and have never found the time to check out the Paleontological Research Institution just north of town.

I recently had the opportunity to participate in a behind the scenes tour of this institution and was amazed at what I had been missing by not visiting sooner. The Museum of the Earth, which is open to the public, is very impressive. In both size and wealth of specimens, it rivals and surpasses many other museums I have visited over the years.

Another facet which sets the PRI apart from many others is the strength of its public outreach program. If you or your family are looking for an earth science or just science-based activity to participate in over the summer, this is certainly one program you should investigate.

The PRI has come to occupy a unique role in the field of paleontology and earth Science and in no small measure this is due to its unusual history.

In 1932, Cornell geology professor Gilbert Harris was nearing the end of his 40-year career as a professor at the University. Over the years he had established a reputation as a petroleum geologist and mollusk researcher, amassed a significant paleontological collection and had even started and overseen the publication of a personally funded scientific journal. As he approached the time of his retirement however, he became increasingly concerned about the future of his research and collections.

*PRI – The Paleontological Research Institution – Continued:*

Professor Harris first approached the University about providing space and resources for the care of his life’s work but was not able to secure any backing from the University.

At this point Professor Harris made the decision to found an independent institution which would serve as a home for his life’s work as well as a facility where researchers without any other institutional home could come and conduct research. On June 28, 1932 Professor Harris and a small group of friends and supporters founded what he called the Paleontological Research Institution.

Professor Harris served as Director of the institution he founded for many years and, while funding was always an issue, the institution continued to

grow in both size and reputation. In 1968, under the leadership of its second Director, Katherine Palmer, the PRI moved to its present location on the west side of the lake just north of Ithaca.

Today, the Institution has continued to expand its role in the areas of paleontological and earth science research and public outreach. It now houses a large and world-renowned collection of Cenozoic mollusks and

is becoming increasingly involved in research which will lead to insights into the climatic issues which face our society and planet. Whether you are just passing through the area or have specifically made the PRI the destination of a trip, a visit to this facility is certainly worth your time.

If you wish to learn more about the Institution and what it has to offer, please visit their website at: <http://www.museumoftheearth.org/>



## Summer, Science & Stars!

Join us for  
Summer Science Club



**What:** 6 Friday evenings that include a science program + observing after dark  
**Where:** Farash Center Education Building, grounds and observatories, Ionia NY  
**When:** 7 -9 PM (science program); Solar System and Deep Sky observing after 9PM as conditions allow; see dates below  
**Who:** Science aficionados ages 10 – 14 and their parents  
**Cost:** Registration is free; \$10 donation per family requested per evening attended

Date	Topic
28-Jun	What's Up and How to Observe It: Telescopes and Targets
12-Jul	Mysteries of Black Holes and Gravitational Waves
19-Jul	Light from the Stars: Learn about Stars' Spectra, then apply your knowledge to classify observed stars
2-Aug	Scale of the Universe: How Big, and Small, Things Can Get!
9-Aug	Our Nearest Star: Understanding and Observing it
16-Aug	Astronomy Nomenclature: From the Greeks to the Avengers



- Adult supervision for each child required after 9PM.
- Bring your own snacks, and binoculars if you have them.
- Science programs will be held regardless of weather; observing requires clear skies.
- Meet highly recommended while on FC grounds.
- Contact: [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com)



Friday June 21  
Summer Solstice

### Rochester Starfest 2019

Saturday Evening July 27  
Main Speaker:

**David Kendrick**

Chair and Associate Professor of  
Geoscience,  
Hobart and William Smith  
Colleges



Main Topic:

*Habitability and the  
Search for Life in Our  
Solar System and Beyond*

for more information:

[www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org)

#### Registration for Summer Science Club

Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent phone number (cell preferred): \_\_\_\_\_

Dates you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Send by email to [cosmos@Rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@Rochester.rr.com) or USPS to ASRAS Official Address: Astronomy Section Rochester Academy of Science P.O. Box 20292, Rochester NY 14602

# Events for June-July 2019

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

## JUNE EVENTS

### **ASTRONOMY SECTION EVENTS**

#### **1 Sat: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEMBER OBSERVING**

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

#### **7 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Speakers: David Bishop, “Astronomy Year in Review” if available, else Mark Minarich will show a Mike Brown “Planet 9” video. \$1.00 hotdogs available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Mark Minarich; (585) 257-6042.

#### **9 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)

#### **10 Mon: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

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

#### **28 Fri: ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCIENCE CLUB: *What's Up and How to Observe it***

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. Topic: Telescope types, setup, choosing targets and eyepieces. Use actual observatory telescopes. See page 2 for details. Contact: Carol Latta, [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com).

### **FOSSIL AND MINERAL SECTION EVENTS**

#### **4 Tues: SECTION MEETING**

Section Picnic at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Joint with Mineral Section. Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. The Sections will provide meat, rolls, condiments, some beverages and plates and such. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. Please contact the Fossil and Mineral Section presidents with any questions and to let them know you plan on attending. Rain or Shine.

#### **6 Thurs: MINERAL SECTION FIELD TRIP**

7:30 p.m. The Gem Lab. 4098 West

Henrietta Rd. Members may bring 1-2 jewelry heirloom items for evaluation. Contact: Stephen Busschaert, 351-7633

**15 Sat: Little Beard's Creek Fieldtrip.** Near Leicester, NY. Collect Horn Corals as well as Brachiopods and Trilobites in Windom Member of the Moscow Formation.

**29 Sat: Long Hill Roadcut and Moonshine Falls Fieldtrip.** Sites near Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes. First stop - Geneseo, Tully Formations and Windom Member of the Moscow Formation. Last stop - Centerfield and Ledyard Members of the Ludlowville Formation.

Information will be sent to Section members about two weeks before the scheduled date. Contact Dan Krisher [DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com) for additional information.

### **LIFE SCIENCES EVENTS**

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

1 pm -4 pm. Life Sciences section will hold a workshop at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). No experience needed! If you plan to attend, Please RSVP Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, at 334-0977 or [eypixley@gmail.com](mailto:eypixley@gmail.com).

#### **22 Sat: LIFE SCIENCES MENDON PONDS FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. Meet at Mendon Ponds Visitor center. Tour adjoining Wild Wings raptor compound. For details, changes and directions call Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

\*\*\*

#### **19 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.

\*\*\*

### **OUTSIDE RAS EVENTS**

#### **Sat June 8: ADK EXPO**

8:30 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 your section leaders.

### **JULY EVENTS**

***There is no RAS Board or ASRAS General Meeting in July.***

### **ASTRONOMY SECTION EVENTS**

**6 Sat: ASTONOMY MEMBER OBSERVING**  
Dusk. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy.

**12 Fri: ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCIENCE CLUB: *Mysteries of Black Holes and Gravitational Waves***

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational

Astronomy, See page 2 for details. Contact Carol Latta: [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com).

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

12:00pm – 4:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy,

**19 Fri: ASTRONOMY SUMMER SCIENCE CLUB: *Light from the Stars***  
6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Farash Center for Observational Astronomy. Topic: learn about stars' spectra, then apply your knowledge to classify observed stars. Contact: Carol Latta, [cosmos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com).

**26 Fri - 28 Sun: 22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL ASTRONOMY RocheSTAR FEST.** A weekend of astronomy activities. Main speaker: David Kendrick, HWS. See page 2.

All ASRAS Summer activities happen at the Farash Center for Observational Astronomy 8355 County Road 14, Ionia NY 14475. For further information or last minute changes see [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org)

### **FOSSIL SECTION EVENTS**

**13 Sat: Jaycox Run Fieldtrip.** Site between Avon and Geneseo. Collect in Middle Devonian Ludlowville and Moscow Formations.

**27 Sat: Rickard Hill Fieldtrip.** Site in quarry at Schoharie, New York southwest of Albany. Collect brachiopods, corals, snails, sponges and trilobites from the Lower Devonian Helderberg Group. Tentative date.

Information will be sent to Section members about two weeks before the scheduled date. Contact Dan Krisher [DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com) for additional information.

\*\*\*

#### **20 Sat: LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. Meet at Tinker Nature Park on 1525 Calkins Rd. in Henrietta, Tour the Hansen Nature Center and walk one of the nature trails. For details and directions call Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

### **ONGOING EVENTS EVERY MONTH**

#### **STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY**

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

#### **ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY**

ASRAS also hosts public outdoor star parties once a month on Fridays, either at Mendon Ponds Park or Northampton Park near Brockport. Check on prior Wednesday at ASRAS Facebook page, and [www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events). Contact Jim Seidewand, 703-9876.

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

---

**June-July 2019 - Vol. 73, #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 online. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings. We are recognized as a 501(c) 3 organization.

For information, contact President Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 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>.

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](mailto:editor@rasny.org).

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

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONTACTS**

		(585) home //work
Michael Grenier	President	671-8738
Dan Krisher	VP & Fossil	698-3147 (c)
Jutta Dudley	Past President	385-2368
Helen D. Haller	Secretary	387-9570
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628
Open	Membership	
Alex Smith	Anthropology	750-3329 (c)
David Bishop	Astronomy	329-8831
Lawrence Hirsch	Life Sciences	429-6199
Stephen Busschaert	Mineral	351-7633 (c)
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368
Ted Lechman	Bulletin Editor	490-1132 (c)
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628
Paul Dudley	Website	385-2368
Tony Golumbeck	Director '22	(315)789-4374
Jeff Gutterman	Director '22	392-8299//748-2272
Douglas Kostyk	Director '20	943-3419
Karen Wolf	Director '20	670-9709//273-4500
Chris Collins	Director '21(518)	605-5614//385-8496
Tim Tatakis	Director '21	292-2332 (w)