

# The FOSSILETTER

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## June Picnic Meeting

The Section will hold its final meeting before the summer break on Tuesday June 7. This will mark the return of our joint Fossil and Mineral picnic at the RAS Astronomy Section's Farash Center at Ionia, NY, and will feature the election of officers for the 2022 – 2023 term.

This meeting will be our annual "Show and Tell" event, postponed from last December. Please bring your recent fossil finds, including those from our recent field trips.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please notify Dan Krisher ([dlkfossil@gmail.com](mailto:dlkfossil@gmail.com)) via email if you plan to attend so enough food can be purchased and let him know whether you prefer hots or burgers.

The site has a large deck as well as indoor facilities (including flush toilets) so if there are showers, they will not be an issue. COVID is still with us and there is a chance the weather will force us inside. The Astronomy Section has a seating limit of 50 inside the building and all must be vaccinated and preferably masked.

We will also be treated to a tour of the site which includes numerous telescopes enclosed in domes and buildings as well as a radio observatory which is under construction. Although there are observatories in New York with larger telescopes (such as the 40-inch Newtonian at SUNY Oneonta),

the ASRAS Farash Center is the largest NY observatory in number and range of telescopes.

The site will be open at 5:30 PM and grilling will start at 6:00 PM. As always, the Section will provide meats, rolls, condiments, and plates, cups, and utensils. Each attendee or family attending is asked to bring a dish to pass as well as their preferred beverage.

You should visit the website for the observatory, so you can learn a bit about all the different types of telescopes and enclosures they have. To get to the observatory page, go to the RAS website: <http://www.rasny.org/> Then, click on "Astronomy" in the "What's happening" section. This gets you to the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS) background page. Then, on the right side, top, click on "Our Observing Site". The picture below of 7" "The Wolk Observatory Looking North" shows their facilities. The building all the way to the right has the deck where we will picnic, and the meeting room, kitchen, and bathroom.

You can get driving directions (your GPS, Google maps, etc.) to 8355 County Road 14, Ionia, NY 14475. This will work with most mapping tools. With GPS, you can also use the coordinates: 42.930976,-77.496872 or 42°55'46.7" N 77°30'01.7". If you need explicit directions, write me at [mgrenier@frontiernet.net](mailto:mgrenier@frontiernet.net).



The Astronomy Section holds a wide range of outreach events at the Ionia facility and they are always interested in broadening people's exposure to the sciences. To that end, they have asked if Section members have any interesting large rocks or Fossils they are willing to donate to please bring them to the picnic. They will be placed and used in strategic areas of the site to further the goal of science education.

### Next meeting after June is October 4

Speaker to be determined. Mark your calendars.

### Fossil Section Election

Your ballot is attached separately and should be returned by email or filled out at the June 7 Annual Fossil Section Picnic, where the votes will be tallied and the winners announced.

### RAS Fossil Section Slate for the 2022-2023 Term

For President: Dan Krisher

For Vice Pres. & Program Chair: Michael Grenier

For Secretary: Dan Krisher

For Treasurer: John Handley

For Director (three-year-term): Fred Haynes

For Director (two-year-term): **Open**

Director whose terms has not expired is  
Melanie Martin (2023).

### President's Report by Dan Krisher

On 4/23 the Section held its first field trip of the 2022 season. A group of 8 people visited two Middle Silurian sites just west of the town of Lockport. The first stop was the Gulf site which exposes the Lewiston member of the Rochester Shale Formation. After about 3 hours of fruitful collecting the group moved to the Hickory Corners site which exposes the Hickory Corners Member of the Reynales Formation.

The Section's April meeting was our second hybrid meeting and was held on 5/3. The meeting was led by Section Vice-President Michael Grenier as the President was unavailable. Michael was also the speaker for the evening and he provide attendees with an update on the research published over the past two years in dinosaur

paleontology, while tossing in a few other topics and creatures of interest. The talk was titled, *Dinosaur Research in 2020 & 2021: Eggs, Babies, Feathers, Other Amazing Finds, & the Really, Really Bad Day*.

Dan reminds you that Penn-Dixie will hold its "Dig with the Experts" event on June 4 & 5 – see <https://penndixie.org/> for more info.

### May Meeting – Dinosaur News

Good news for those who were not at the meeting – this talk and others are recorded and listed on our calendar page at the RAS website. Go to <https://rasny.org/fossil-section-calendar> and scroll down to the first past talk.

### Fossil Section Summer Field Trips

#### by Dan Krisher

Following are the Summer field trips for our 2022 field trip season for the Fossil Section. For additional information contact me, Dan Krisher, at [DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com).

**6/18 Swamp Road and Pompey Center:** These are family-friendly large roadcuts north of Morrisville and east of Syracuse in central New York. We will be visiting the Pompey Center long roadcut with cephalopod ribbed cones at one end



*Middle Devonian shale at roadcut outside Pompey Center.*

and black, button-like gastropods at the other end, and also famous for its Middle Devonian bivalves and brachiopods - found 'in the round' and easily removed from matrix. We will also spend time at the Swamp Road Marcellus Formation site in Morrisville where one can find corals, bryozoans, brachiopods (including the large *Spinocyrtia granulosa*) many bivalves, gastropods, crinoids, and cephalopods.