Rochester Academy of Science™

BULLETIN

"An organization of people interested in the Natural Sciences"

July/August 2025; Vol. 79, #6

President's Message

We announced last issue that this Fall, on Saturday, November 1st, we will host the **51st Annual RAS Fall Scientific Papers Session** at SUNY Geneseo. They hosted the very first session in 1974, several since then, and now–50 sessions later–they will host the 51st.

Campus from air, courtesy SUNY Geneseo.

RAS members have several benefits in attending not available to others. You may do what our sections do and set up a ***table*** at NO charge to show off any interesting collections you might have made, such as fossils, minerals, stone tools, botanicals, telescopes, or whatever. You could show photographs you have taken, or you could show attendees how to do something, like pressing and preserving plants, dyeing with natural substances, using a microscope or telescope, or anything else from your science-based hobbies.

If you prefer to present a talk or poster, we now call for RAS Member Abstracts. As a member of the Academy with scientific interests, 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? Let us hear about it! Otherwise, plan to come to hear about the latest local research in fields of interest to you.

We will announce the keynote speaker for the event for our annual Larry King Memorial Lecture in our September issue.

Save the Date!
Saturday, November 1st, 2025
RAS Scientific Paper Session
SUNY Geneseo

For more information, visit https://rasny.org/paper-session.

RAS member Volunteers are needed.

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RAS at 26th ADK Outdoor Expo

We had several people from the RAS Astronomy Section, Fossil Section, and Mineral Section at the ADK Outdoor Expo in Mendon Ponds Park, Pittsford on June 14. Thank you to Howard Heitner, Dan Krisher, John Handley, Matt Boufford, David Bishop, Jutta Dudley, Bob Crumrine, Neil Hornik, and Tony Golumbeck for helping with this. We entertained well over 100 kids and families on a cool but otherwise pleasant day. Many of them signed up to get more information on our activities. This is where new members come from!

Dave Bishop at ASRAS table with visitors at Mars & Moon globes. Photo by Bob Crumrine.

Fossil & Mineral table with (l. to r.) Matthew Boufford, John Handley, Dan Krisher, Michael Grenier, & Howard Heitner.

Sarah Mastro, Expo Chair for the Adirondack Mountain Club wrote to us to thank us for putting on these three educational hands-on exhibits.

"On behalf of the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club and our Expo Committee, I'd like to thank you for participating in the Outdoor Expo this year! This event would not be possible without clubs and organizations promoting the event and giving their time to set up displays, host workshops, and share their love of the outdoors. Please save the date for next year - June 13th, 2026!
Thanks again!
Sarah Mastro - Expo Chair
ADK-GVC Outdoor Expo 2025

Michael Grenier, RAS President

Events for July/August 2025

JULY 2025 EVENTS

NOT MEETING IN JULY:
-Mineral
-Fossil
-RAS Board
-Herbarium

July 2 Wed: ASRAS Board of Directors Meeting

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Members welcome to attend. Contact Tony Golumbeck for details.

July 11 Fri: Astronomy Monthly Meeting

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
In-person at the Farash Center. Come early to socialize and set up telescopes, weather permitting. Marty Pepe will speak "Radio Astronomy in Western New York." Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

July 12 Sat: Fossil Section Field Trip

Fossil Section Field Trip to Jaycox Run. For further information or to sign up, email Dan Krisher DLKFossil@gmail.com.

July 13 Sun: Astronomy Open House

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Farash Center. Come and see our facility's layout when it's light out, and see some of the equipment we have for members' use. All are welcome to attend. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

July 23 Wed: Astronomy Equipment Instruction Night

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm.
Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

July 25 Fri: Astronomy Public Observing

7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Join us for Public Observing at the Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy. All welcome. Members come to help visitors look at deep sky objects through our telescopes. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

July 26 Sat: Fossil Field Trip

Fossil Section Field Trip to Penn Dixie Fossil Park. For further information or to sign up, email Dan Krisher DLKFossil@gmail.com.

July 26 Sat: Astronomy Member Observing

7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Farash Center. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

AUGUST 2025 EVENTS

NOT MEETING IN AUGUST:
-Mineral
-Fossil
-Herbarium

Aug 10 Sun: Astronomy Open House

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Farash Center. Come and see our facility's layout when it's light out, and see some of the equipment we have for members' use. All are welcome to attend. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Aug 15-17: Astronomy RocheStar Fest

ASRAS Premiere Annual Event. Registration form on next page. Check here for registration and more information: https://www.rochesterastronomy.org/event/rochestar-fest-2/

Aug 20 Wed: RAS Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center Room 206. Zoom option available. For details, contact Michael Grenier at mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

Aug 22 Fri: Astronomy Public Observing

7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Join us for Public Observing at the Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy. All welcome. Members come to help visitors look at deep sky objects through our telescopes. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Aug 23 Sat: Fossil Section Field Trip

Fossil Section Field Trip to Portland Point. For further information or to sign up, email Dan Krisher DLKFossil@gmail.com.

Aug 23 Sat: Astronomy Member Observing

7:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Farash Center. Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Aug 27 Wed: Astronomy Equipment Night Backup Date

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm.
Contact Tony Golumbeck at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY:
ASRAS will operate the telescope at the Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights, dusk until 10:30. For more information, contact: Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

Roche*Star* Fest 2025

August 15 – 17, 2025, Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, Ionia, NY

Featured Speaker – Larry McHenry: *"Planetary Nebula: From Messier to Abell (What are they, and How to Observe Them)".*

Planetary Nebula: Colorful ephemeral ghosts, luminescent wispy shells of dying stars. Little crystal ball gems in the night sky, delighting amateur astronomers using small or large telescopes. So today, we are going to bring these ethereal objects 'down to Earth' by discussing what they are, why we call them that, some of the people, both historical and modern, behind these objects, and how to go about observing them. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania resident Larry McHenry has been active in amateur astronomy for over 40 years, and is a member of the Kiski Astronomers, and the Oil Region Astronomical Society (ORAS), both in Western Pennsylvania. One of Larry's favorite astronomical activities is learning about the historical forefathers of today's amateur astronomers, and EAA observing their deep-sky objects. You can learn more about Larry's astronomical interests online at his web portal: http://www.stellar-journeys.org

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The Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS) will hold the 28th annual Roche*Star* Fest on August 15th to August 16th. This weekend-long event features astronomy, lectures, demonstrations, and camping at ASRAS's Ionia, NY observing grounds. This year's theme is the Perseid Meteor Shower. A picnic dinner will be held on Saturday. Door prizes and a silent auction add to the fun. Proceeds benefit ASRAS, a non-profit organization devoted to education and public outreach in the fields of astronomy and space sciences. Camping arrangements are available at no charge, tents and small campers permitted. These are primitive camping sites - no electric hookups, water hookups, or showers are available. No pets or ground fires are allowed.

Schedule of Events

Friday, August 15th	6:00 pm	Arrival for camping, Astro-Jeopardy and music trivia contest (rain or shine), observing (beginning at dark, weather permitting)
Saturday, August 16th	11:00 am	Registration begins – pick up Door Prize tickets at Registration table; hot dogs will be available for purchase or bring your own lunch, drinks available at modest cost
	1:00 – 4:30 pm	Talks, Demonstrations, & Experiments – Contact Lori Englund (lenglund175@gmail.com) to get your talk or demonstration on the schedule
	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Silent auction, door prizes
	4:30 pm	Members Reception (bring appetizers to share if you'd like)
	5:15 pm	Door Prizes followed by group photo
	6:00 pm	Barbeque Dinner at Ionia Volunteer Firehouse Beef brisket, pulled pork, smoked turkey, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans, pasta salad, and veggies. Bring your signature dish or dessert if you'd like.
	8:00 pm	**Featured speaker: Larry McHenry, "Planetary Nebula: From Messier to Abell (What are they, and How to Observe Them)"** Observing to follow, weather permitting
Sunday, August 17th	10:00 am - Noon	Cleanup (breakfast at 9:00 am)

For general information, program ideas, and offers to help, contact *Lori Englund* at (585) 820-5012. If you can donate a door prize, contact *Mark Minarich* at (585) 261-5666. For camping arrangements, contact *Roger McDonough* at (585) 519-9121

Check out all the other ASRAS summer activities, at www.rochesterastronomy.org!!

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Registration due by Friday, August 9, 2025

Day of registrations will be accepted: dinner purchases available but not guaranteed

Complete and mail this form with your payment (checks made out to ASRAS) to
Lori Englund, Attn: Roche*Star* Fest Registration, P.O. Box 20292 Rochester, NY 14602

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email address (optional): _____

Number of adults attending: _____

Number of children attending (under 12): ____

Total number attending: _____

Camping? Yes No (Tents and small campers allowed; no hookups are available.)

			Amount due
Early-Bird Event Fee:	$15 for individuals or $25 for families		$_____
Dinners:	Number of adult dinners:	_____ x $10	$_____
	Children 6 thru 12 (5 and under FREE)	_____ x $5	$_____
	Children 5 and under ___ free	**Registration Total**	$_____

Day of Registration Fees:
(August 16, 2025)

Individual: $20

Family: $30

RAS Member Images

Scarlet Tanager, Hopper Hill near Farash Center, Doug Kostyk

Scarlet Tanager female, Hopper Hill near Farash Center, Doug Kostyk

M51 Burney Baron

NGC 5363, NGC 5364 and companions in Virgo. Pat Cosgrove.

Rochester Research in Review.

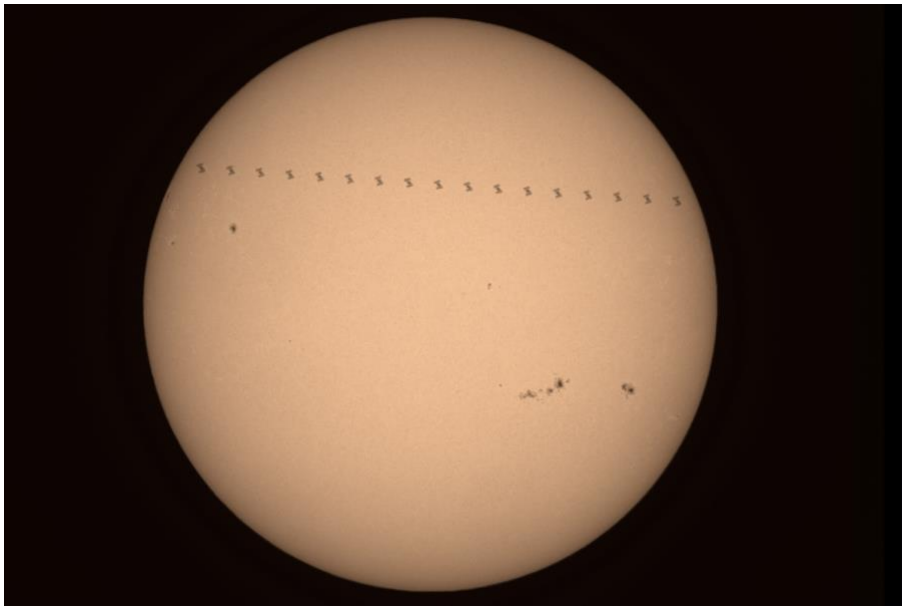
(These are Hot Links which when clicked lead to the press release on the Science Daily and other science websites.)

New laser smaller than a penny can measure objects at ultrafast rates. University of Rochester; June 2, 2025.

Eating an array of smaller fish could be nutrient-dense solution to overfishing. Cornell University; June 3, 2025.

Scientists reprogram ant behavior using brain molecules. University of Rochester co-author; June 25, 2025.

Largest-ever map of the universe reveals 10x more early galaxies than expected. Rochester Institute of Technology co-author; June 7, 2025.



ISS Transit; June 11, 2025, Kevin Lyons

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 email paleo@frontier.com.
The Academy Internet website is http://www.rasny.org or see us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Rochester-Academy-of-Science-792700687474549**.**

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