



President's Message



February greetings! I hope this will be a good month for your outdoor observations in the fields and across the sky. If it's not, and you choose to stay in your den (as might our neighborhood rodents *Marmota monax*), maybe the view from a window will compensate. The lively activities of squirrels and birds near feeder stations can be a great source of amusement and education. Even the moon can look good peering through pane glass and binoculars (at least it did to me when I was a kid).

Some remarkable scientists were born this month. Celebrate their contributions! Join Ithaca scientists for festivities at the annual Darwin Days, February 12-18. Raise a toast to Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus and treat yourself to another chocolate from the  box! On the 20th of February 1962, John Glenn's orbit around the earth was a space race milestone. Go see *Hidden Figures* at a theatre near you and celebrate the smart computer ladies and the success of his flight!

Stay warm!

Jutta Siefert Dudley

Students Receive Research Grants from RAS

The Undergraduate Student Grants Committee (Helen Haller, Karen Wolf, Michael Grenier, Bill Hallahan) has completed its review of the 2016-2017 Student Research Grant proposals. This year funding was awarded to twelve projects.

Eraklis Hristodoulou, SUNY Geneseo, for "Geologic evidence for significant postglacial drought conditions in western New York". Award: \$100.

Idan Lavian, SUNY Buffalo, for "How does the regulator Hcpicidin affect iron trafficking in a model cell system representing the kidney?" Award: \$200.

Imran Razik, SUNY Oswego, for "Effects of seasonality on the foraging patterns of the North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*." Award: \$100.

Zachary Falconer, SUNY Brockport, for "Nest box preference of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) on a college campus in western New York State." Award: \$100 Sponsor: Andie Graham.

Rikin Patel, SUNY Buffalo for "Lipid Metabolite Regulation Leading to Neutrophil Impairment by *Treponema denticola*." Award: \$100.

Kyle Samson, Canisius College, for "Relative Body Size Scaling in *Drosophila melanogaster*." Award: \$100.

Alaina Hickey, Syracuse University, for "Paleoecological implications of nitrogen stable isotope analysis on Devonian rugose coral organic matter." Award: \$100.

Christopher Demas, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, for "Remote Sensing of Harmful Algal Blooms via Spectral Imaging from Drones." Award: \$300.

Brooke D'Arcy, Rochester Institute of Technology for "Elucidating the role of dual orientation of in Peptidoglycan Associated Lipoprotein release from *Escherichia coli*." Award: \$300.

Kevin Spath, SUNY Oswego for "Investigation of *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*) as a Novel Pathogen in Amphibian Species in New York State Counties Using Histopathological Techniques." Award: \$400.

Daryn Loy, Nazareth College, for "Potential of a phytoengineering technique to reduce the trophic levels of New York State water using a native wetland plant." Award: \$100.

Tyler Hanzlik, Hobart & William Smith Colleges, for "Levitation with superconducting electromagnets." Award: \$200.

William Hallahan, Ph.D. Chair, Student Grants Committee

RAS Outreach at the Mendon Ponds Winterfest

Cloudy skies, below freezing temperatures, and no snow greeted the participants at the Monroe County sponsored Winterfest in mid-January. Despite the lack of snow, 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.

Joel Schmid, Vicky Rotolo, Don Chamberlain, Doug Kostyk and Lori Englund spent the day interacting with the visitors to the astronomy exhibits. Dave Thompson and Mike Naven stopped by to help out as well. We showed slides and provided pictures, charts, and other information that visitors could take home. Braving the cold outside was Don Chamberlain who provided telescopic views of the woodland and deer.



Fossils and minerals from New York were featured in our other displays. Working at those tables were John Handley, Dan Krisher, Paul Dudley, Fred Haynes, Bob Hiler, Vince Bocca and Sam Ciurca. Jutta Dudley dropped by to assist. 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, dolomite, blue calcite, and polished garnet pebbles were a hit with the youngsters.



Article and photo credits: J.S. Dudley

Events for February, 2017

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

There is no Astronomy Section public star party in February.

Life Science-Herbarium Notice:

Watch for email notices regarding work meetings to quickly sort and transport herbarium specimens to make way for RMSC construction. Many willing hands will be needed. Thanks in advance for your help.

Fri 3 ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. RIT, Gosnell Hall, Room A300. ASRAS General Members Meeting. Professor Richard O'Shaughnessy (RIT) will speak on the recent Gravity Wave discovery. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

Tues 7 FOSSIL SECTION MEETING

7:30 p.m. Brighton Town Hall Auditorium, 2300 Elmwood Avenue. The meeting will feature Michael Grenier presenting a slide-show talk on "Dinosaur Research in 2016: Dinosaur Blood & Brains, Evolution of Flight & Feathers, Endothermy, & Other Amazing Finds." Contact: Dan Krisher 293-9033.

Mon 9 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7 p.m. University of Rochester, Bausch & Lomb Hall, 4th floor, Chart Room. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

Wed 15 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall,

Stage Conference Room.

Sun 19 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (or later, if skies are clear). Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8555 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Events include: *Sledding party* for kids of *all* ages. Contact Carol Latta at 392-7241. *Observatory and Telescope Training*. Contact Ted Lechman at 490-1132. *Open House* for the public. For weather related cancellations or changes contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097 or see: www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events.

Tues 21 MINERAL SECTION MEETING

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, downstairs meeting room. Meteorite Show and Tell. Members are invited to bring in their meteorites, meteor "wrongs", and impactites. Join us for refreshments and discussion of rocks from outer space. For more information contact Stephen Buschaert at 351-7633 or mineralvp@rasny.org.

OTHER FEBRUARY EVENTS

ASRAS ASTRONOMY WINTER LECTURE SERIES

Stay tuned to www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendar-of-events about our Winter Education Series. Talks are scheduled over the winter months

when observing is a challenge. They are typically held on Friday evenings, other than the first Friday regular ASRAS meeting at RIT. Contact: Joel Schmid 533-2097.

ONGOING EVENT

ASRAS will operate the telescope, or one on the sidewalk, at Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact Jim Seidewand at 703-9876.

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>



**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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