



## President's Message

The RAS "new year" begins June 1<sup>st</sup> and I look forward to serving you and the board another term. Leaders of RAS, thank you for your willingness to serve the Academy as officers, directors, representatives of your sections, webmaster or editor. We welcome Alex Smith as anthropology section representative and say goodbye to Lee Tutt, who is stepping down as director. His help since 2011 is greatly appreciated.

The summer season will no doubt be another busy one for us as we arrange for jaunts through field and stream, work on projects, attend a "starry" fest, and share our interests with the public at outreach events!

Enjoy!

*Jutta Siefert Dudley*

\* \* \*

## 44th Annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session November 11

### Call for RAS Member Abstracts

You are invited to present a poster or short talk at the November 11 program. 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.

In the meantime, think about what you might present!

\* \* \*

### *Save the Date!*

*Saturday, November 11, 2017*

*RAS Scientific Paper Session  
St John Fisher College*

\* \* \*

### Completion of the "2017 Big Sort" at the RAS Herbarium

By Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator.

After notes in several Bulletins about work being done at the RAS Herbarium, I am happy to report that our "Big Sort" is finally completed.

For those unfamiliar with this collection, a plant herbarium consists of dried and pressed plant specimens which are mounted on heavy acid-free paper, with a label indicating the Latin name of the plant along with name of the

collector, the location and the date. Many of the plant specimens in our collection were collected before 1881 when the RAS was formed. Members of the Botany Section that collected these plants were some of the original members of the Academy. As the years passed, more people collected plants and added to the herbarium collection; many of them traveled widely, both in the U.S. and in other countries. We have amassed a reference collection valuable both for identifying plants and for documenting plant locations which may no longer exist. The former Botany Section has now been incorporated into the Life Science Section of the RAS.

In the fall of 2016 we were informed by the Rochester Museum and Science Center staff that the RMSC had received a grant to improve their basement storage areas. Because of the construction involved, the RAS Herbarium cabinets located in the basement hallway would need to be moved out of the area. Our cabinets in the room designated for the Herbarium would not be affected. Because we had no place to store plant specimens in the hallway cabinets, we decided to sort through our entire collection and separate plants collected in

New York State from those collected outside NYS or outside the US. The non-NYS plant specimens would be donated to another herbarium with sufficient resources to accommodate them. The herbarium collection would then (hopefully) fit in the cabinets in our herbarium room.

So the work began! In mid-January we began to schedule several workdays each week and invited volunteers to come and help go through plant folders. We worked out a pretty efficient system, with the wonderful help of many helpers. In the end, fifteen people participated in this enormous project, some for a day, others came many days! The staff at RMSC were wonderful and assisted us in many ways. In all, we spent about two months going through every plant folder and at the end of the sorting, our herbarium collection of NYS plant specimens does fit in our herbarium room. Oh yes, another detail we had to sort out – the heavy steel cabinets in the hallway had to go somewhere! Word was sent out that the cabinets were available to anyone interested (with a truck). Several Academy members took advantage of the offer and acquired storage cabinets. Those unclaimed were taken to a metal recycling facility.

The end of the story – on April 12, a rental truck from Cornell University arrived at RMSC to pick up all the non-NYS specimens, which we are donating to the Cornell Herbarium, to be added to their extensive collection. We loaded 124 boxes

on the truck, which contained 22,000+ vascular plant specimens and about 5,000 specimens of bryophytes and lichens.

Where do we go from here? We have a lot of reorganizing to do in the herbarium, along with the regular maintenance work on the plant specimens. As always, all willing hands are welcome to join us. No prior experience is necessary. Steve Daniel has agreed to work with me as Co-Curator of the RAS Herbarium and I welcome his help and expertise.



*Liz Pixley, herbarium curator, shows off a plant from the collection.*

*Photo credits: J. S. Dudley*

*Plants in the herbarium were collected from faraway places and locally. Milton Baxter, a respected botanist, collected the specimens shown in Riga (then Russia, now Latvia) in 1884 and 1890. Imagine his adventures! This sheet, like others with plants from foreign lands, was donated to the herbarium at Cornell University.*



# Events for June/July, 2017

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

## JUNE EVENTS

### **FOSSIL SECTION EVENTS**

#### **3 Sat: Rickard Hill Road Fieldtrip:**

Schoharie County, New York.  
Ordovician Fossils

**6 Tues: Section Meeting:** Section Picnic at 6:00pm at Buckland Pavilion, Buckland Park in Brighton

**10 Sat: ADK Day:** Mendon Ponds Park. 9:00 till 4:00

**17 Sat: Jaycox Run Fieldtrip:** Joint with the Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club. Middle Devonian fossils

**22 Thurs: Fieldtrip to Deep Run:** Middle Devonian Fossils

**28 Wed: Burroughs Audubon Family Nature Night:** Held at their site in Victor from 6:00 to 8:30.

Additional fieldtrips are being scheduled. Contact: Dan Krisher, ([DLKFossil@gmail.com](mailto:DLKFossil@gmail.com))

### **2 Fri: ASTRONOMY SECTION MEETING**

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Robert Egerman of Harris will present NASA's Widefield Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) Mission. \$1.00 hotdogs available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

### **5 Mon: ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. Farash Center at Ionia. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

### **11 Sun: 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, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. Skies permitting. For weather related cancellations or changes contact: Joel Schmid: 533- 2097 or see: [www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendard-of-events](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendard-of-events)

### **14 Wed: LIFE SCIENCES**

## **HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

1-4 p.m. 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 send an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley. At RMSC go to the front desk and ask staff person to call ext. 368 in the Herbarium. Contact: Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator, 334-0977 or [evpixley@gmail.com](mailto:evpixley@gmail.com).

### **16 Fri: ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY**

9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Mendon Ponds Park, at Hopkins Point Road near the youth camping area. For more information, contact Jim Seidewand, (585) 703-9876.

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

10:00 a.m. Wildflower and Tree Field Trip. Meet at 1525 Calkins Rd. parking lot of Tinker Nature Park in Henrietta. We will examine the plants on the trails and visit Tinker's Hansen Nature Center. Contact: Larry Hirsch, 429-6199.

### **21 Wed: RAS BOARD MEETING**

7 p.m. Farash Center/Wolk Observatory in Ionia. Tour begins at 6 p.m.

## JULY EVENTS

*There is no RAS Board meeting during July.*

## **LIFE SCIENCES SECTION HERBARIUM WORKSHOP**

TBD – watch for email notice of date and time.

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

7:30 p.m.–10:00 p.m. Marian and Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475 John Davis will present work done at the **Steward Observatory Mirror Lab of the University of Arizona**. \$1.00 hotdogs available at 7:00 p.m. prior to meeting. Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

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

## **MEETING**

7 p.m. Farash Center at Ionia. All ASRAS members are welcome. Contact: Joel Schmid, 533-2097.

### **13 Thurs: LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. Meet with Burroughs-Audubon and Rochester Butterfly Club for a butterfly and wildflower trip in Black Creek Park, Chili. For details and directions call Larry Hirsch 429-6199.

### **16 Sun: 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, 8355 County Road 14 Ionia, NY 14475. For cancellations or changes contact: Joel Schmid: 533- 2097 or see: [www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendard-of-events](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org/calendard-of-events)

### **14 Fri: ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY**

9:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Northampton Park, Brockport at the Ski Lodge parking lot off Hubbell Rd. For more information, Contact: Jim Seidewand, (585) 703-9876.

### **28 Fri - 29 Sat: ASTRONOMY SECTION**

**RocheStar Fest.** A weekend of astronomy activities. Check [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org) for more information.

## ONGOING EVENT

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

## OUTSIDE RAS EVENTS

### **Sat June 10: ADK EXPO**

9:00 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.

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**CHANGING ADDRESS?**

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**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.

For information, contact President Jutta Dudley at (585) 385-2368 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).

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