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Rochester Academy of Science  
**BULLETIN**

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



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ABOUT THE **ACADEMY** - The Rochester Academy Of Science, Inc. is an organization which 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. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings.



For applications and/or more information contact membership chairman Stephen Busschaert, 54 Keswick Rd., Rochester, NY 14609; by telephone 288-5683; or by e-mail <sbusschaert@msn.com>.

The *Academy* Internet web page is <http://www.rasny.org>

The *Astronomy Section* Information phone number is (585) 987-5330. The *Astronomy Section* Internet web page is <http://rochesterastronomy.org>

This "**BULLETIN**" is produced monthly, *except July and September*, by the *Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science*. The editor is Frank Bov, 16 Gladbrook Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone (585) 422-9910 (days) and (585) 385-1518 (evenings), e-mail <editor@rasny.org>

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**PRESIDENTS REPORT  
AUGUST 2008**

Should We Picnic?

The RAS has had a summer or fall family picnic several times in the past and the Board wishes to know your thoughts on having a picnic again this year. We suggest that it be held at Ionia early in October and that each of the sections have displays, games, or information about their section. This would allow members to become more acquainted with sections they do not belong to. Some popular activities in the past have included Sun/star gazing, nature walks, non-nature walks, fossil digs (of previously buried samples), sing-a-longs of nature related songs or folk songs, atlatl tossing, etc.

Please reply with your thoughts and ideas for activities and tell us if you would be interested in attending

If you haven't been to Ionia, it is about a 20-minute drive from

Monroe and Clover, 5 miles south of Mendon on Rt. 64. If you think you would come down with your family, let your section president or me know at <resident@rasny.org>. If we get enough interest, we will set the day up some weekend in early October. We'd love to have this picnic if the members would support it by attending.

If you have other ideas about activities that RAS or the sections should be having, let your group or me know so we can look into the ideas.

As for me, I've had an exciting summer of science. I even found time to do 2 hours of fossil hunting out near Yellowstone Park; I got some great fish specimens. I also learned a lot about volcano geology around the Old Faithful geyser basin. The wild life and the plants were wonderful at Yellowstone Park. If you have had some exciting science events that you attended this summer, write a short story about your event or send along some photographs and identify the event. They can be sent to the *Bulletin* editor, Frank Bov at <editor@rasny.org>.

Stan Spector  
President, RAS

**ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE NEW YORK STATE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

September 19-21  
Marriott Airport Inn

Join the Rochester Birding Association, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club and the New York State Ornithological Association for an exciting weekend: great fall birding, cutting-edge ornithological and conservation research presentations, an outstanding and world-renowned featured speaker...and good food and fellowship, too.

Along the shores of Lake Ontario, the Rochester area enjoys one of the longest and most pleasant fall seasons in the nation...and we can hope for good birds as well. The Rochester area is blessed with helpful geography and a broad diversity of bird habitats. A number of Global Important Bird Areas – including Hamlin Beach State Park and the Braddock Bay area, as well as Montezuma NWR – are close by. When conditions are right, we have a good shot at the fall migration of passerines and water and shore birds. For the non-birder there's plenty to do, too.

We've got a great weekend planned for you. For more information, see the link at: [www.nybirds.org](http://www.nybirds.org).

# EVENTS for AUGUST and SEPTEMBER 2008

(For updates to events, check the Academy web site, <http://www.rasny.org>, or appropriate Section web site.)

## ONGOING EVENTS

### LIFE SCIENCE

#### HERBARIUM WORKSHOPS

Workshops will be scheduled based on availability of those participating. If you are interested in helping with the Herbarium during June, July or August, please contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or <epixley@rochester.rr.com>. No experience is necessary, just an interest in knowing more about the collection.

### Sat ASTRONOMY PUBLIC OBSERVING

8:45:PM to 10:15:PM at the Strassenburgh Planetarium. Astronomy Section members will run the roof-top telescope every clear Saturday evening through the Summer. Contact the Planetarium Box Office at 697-1945 or 271-4552 x411 to see if the telescope is open. If you'd like to help, see the sign-up page on the AS web site.

## EVENTS IN AUGUST

### Sat 02 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM for Dragonflies, Butterflies, and Birds. We will attend a BANC field trip in the Odonata Sanctuary, 20 Parrish Road in Honeoye Falls. Meet at the Double Tree Inn (Jefferson Rd-390 Exit) at 9:15 to carpool. Bring binoculars and lunch. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.

### Sat 02 FOSSIL

### FIELD TRIP

To Fall Brook near Geneseo, NY. for the Windom Shale Member of Hamilton Group. If you wish to attend or want more information, please contact Terry Carter at <tcarter1@rochester.rr.com> or John Handley at 585 802 8567, or <jhandley@rochester.rr.com>

### Fri 08 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at the Wolk Observatory in Ionia, NY. This month, Frank Bov will be our main speaker, on DTV, the Digital TV Transition, plus short talks by members. Plus, after the meeting, we'll be observing if clear. Visitors are always welcome. Come early (6:30) for hot dogs on the grill. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

### Sat/Sun 16/17 MINERAL FIELD TRIP

Pitcairn, St. Lawrence Co. for fluorapatite, diopside, titanite, etc. \$5/person/day to landowner. Other quick stops, also, for talc, wollastonite, blue calcite, possibly unakite, etc. Free camping (no showers) available in Potsdam. For more information, please contact Nancy McCann at mineraltrips@rasny.org .

### Sat 23 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

9:00 to 10:30 PM at Northampton Park, Hubbell Road, near the ski lodge parking lot. Join us for views of Jupiter and deep sky objects in members' telescopes.

Come early, before completely dark, to best appreciate the lineup of the planets. Stay a while for best telescopic views. Dress very warm as evenings may be very chilly! For information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225.

### Sat 23 MINERAL FIELD TRIP

9:00 AM, Bower Powers Field Trip for uvite, etc. sponsored by St. Lawrence Co. Mineral Club - this is the weekend of their Show. Free camping is available at their Show site. For more information, please contact Nancy McCann at mineraltrips@rasny.org .

### Sat 23 FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

Menteth Glen near Canandaigua, NY. Ludlowville and Moscow Formations. If you wish to attend or want more information, please contact Terry Carter at <tcarter1@rochester.rr.com> or John Handley at 585 802 8567, or <jhandley@rochester.rr.com>

### Sun. 24 ANTHROPOLOGY FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM. to Letchworth Park for the Flint Knapping-Civil War Re-enactment weekend. Meet at the Double Tree Inn (Jefferson Rd-390 Exit) at 9:15 am to car-pool. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.

## EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

### Fri 06 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall, room A300. This month's

meeting speaker is TBD Visitors are always welcome. Come early for snacks and socializing. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

### Sat 13 FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

Trip to the Ordovician of NY near Pulaski. Details forthcoming. If you wish to attend or want more information, please contact Terry Carter at <tcarter1@rochester.rr.com> or John Handley at 585 802 8567, or <jhandley@rochester.rr.com>

### Tue 16 MINERAL MEETING

7:30 to 9:30 PM. Downstairs at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. William Pinch will speak on the RRUFF project that he is working on in with the University of Arizona. RRUFF is a searchable database for minerals that contains pictures of minerals, plus Raman spectra searchable references. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call Al Mura at 227-9931 or check the RAS web site for updates.

### Sat 20 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

10:00 to 11:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park, Hopkins Point Road near the scout camping area. Join us for views of Jupiter and deep sky objects in members' telescopes. Come early, before completely dark, to chat with members as they set up their

scopes. Stay a while for best telescopic views as it's not really dark till 11pm. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and enjoy the views. Dress very warm as evenings may be very chilly! For information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225.

### Sat. 20, LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

9:30 am Webster Park September Mushroom Hunt. Laramie Brown, former director of Helmer Nature Center will lead us in our search for mushrooms and help in their identification. If you have any around your home the day or so before, bring them along too for identification. Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot on Lake Road just east of Webster Park campground. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.



(SED Report, continued)

fossils. This table also had some samples to give away to students.

All in all, our 10 tables of displays cover close to one whole side of the St. John Fishers Life Science Center and are an impressive part of SED. Thanks to all those who participate every year.

Karen Wolf

## SCIENCE EXPLORATION DAYS REPORT

This year's SED was attended by fewer students than previous year. However, RAS attendees were increased compared to previous years. Each section had one or more tables of displays manned by members of the section.

The 2 Anthropology tables were basically posters and handouts about the Mayan language and calendar and lacked a person to draw students in, but those that did stop seemed very interested in the language as the schools are teaching this subject.

The 2 Astronomy tables had telescopes and wonderful photos and displays per usual to engage the many students interested in their informative and fascinating topics. The interest in astronomy never seems to fade.

The 4 Life Science tables included the usual salad (lettuce-cabbage-herbs-spices-weeds) and samples of edible freshly picked garden weeds-mints-grape leaves-day lilies-etc. Approximately 600 salads were served to students along with many more samples tried. This year this table also had handouts from the Ornithology section and the regular Entomology identification game.

The 1 Mineral table had a wonderful display of fluorescent minerals that captivated many students. They also had samples of minerals to identify and give away to any students who wanted them. The table seemed always heavily attended.

The 1 Fossil table was also well attended and students were very interested in the displays of fossil fish, caprolites and many other