

Rochester Academy of Science  
P.O. Box 92642  
Rochester, NY 14692-0642  
Change Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROCHESTER, N.Y.  
PERMIT NO. 220

Rochester Academy of Science  
**BULLETIN**



"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"  
November, 2008 - Vol. 62, #9

November, 2008 - Vol. 62, #9, Page 4

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>

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

		Phone		
		(585)	home	work
Stanley Spector	President	461-1272		
Charles Hiler	Vice President	924-7496		
Frank Bov	Secretary	385-1518	422-9910	
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628	389-2552	
Stephen Busschaert	Membership	288-5683		
Matthew P. Sinacola	Past President	426-0815	340-2315	
Karen Wolf	Anthropology	670-9709	273-4500	
Carol Latta	Astronomy	392-7241		
Karen Wolf	Life Sciences	670-9709	273-4500	
John Handley	Fossil	802-8567	265-8900	
Al Mura	Mineral	227-9931		
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977		
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368		
Frank Bov	Bulletin	385-1518	422-9910	
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628	389-2552	
Paul Dudley	Web Site Coordinator	385-2368		
Jutta Dudley	Director '11	385-2368		
Helen D. Haller	Director '11	387-9570		
Kym Pocius	Director '10	(cell) 802-8566		
Jeff Gutterman	Director '10	392-8299	359-6054	
Dan Krisher	Director '09	293-9033		
Frank Bov	Director '09	385-1518	422-9910	

The Academy Postal address is P.O. Box 92642, Rochester, NY 14692

**RAS FALL PAPER SESSION**

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session of the Rochester Academy of Science will be hosted by Nazareth College on Saturday, November 1, 2008  
This session provides a forum for Academy members, the collegiate community and others engaged in scientific research to present their results in an venue that promotes discussion and interaction.

Schedule  
Smyth Hall  
*East Wing, Second Floor*

- 8:30 Registration and Refreshments
- 9:00 Oral Presentations  
Rooms 225, 247 and 249
- 11:30 Poster Session  
Second and Third Floors

Shults Center  
*Forum Room*

- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Larry King Memorial Lecture

The Larry King Memorial Lecture will be given this year by William D. Middleton, PhD, Department of Material Culture Sciences, RIT. His lecture is titled "Satellite Archaeology: Exploring the Ecology of State Formation in Ancient Mexico from Space."

*"Over the past few decades,*

*satellites have become an increasingly important tool in archaeological research. An interdisciplinary team of scientists from RIT, the University of Colorado at Boulder, Cornell University, and others has been developing a novel application of hyper-spectral, satellite image analysis to explore the relationship between the ancient Zapotec state (ca. 250 BC-AD 750) and its environment in Oaxaca, Mexico. We are using hyper-spectral imagery, geomorphology, and paleobotany to model ancient landscape change in Oaxaca and gain a better understanding of how ancient human activity both has impacted, and been impacted by, a changing environment. Answers to these questions will help us to better understand the role of human activities in today's changing environment."*

Questions can be directed to Dr. William Hallahan at (585) 389-2552, <whallah3@naz.edu> or Fern Cardella at (585) 389-2667 <fcardel7@naz.edu>

***Attendance at the Paper Session is free and open to the public.***



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
NOVEMBER, 2009**

The Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session is Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and we hope you will consider attending for at least a part of it. While we would love if everyone showed up for the entire day, we realize that some of you may have busy schedules. Please consider coming for the Larry King Memorial Lecture for what sounds like a great presentation. An abstract is included here. We will also have some great posters which you can check out during the scheduled times. Remember that admittance is free so don't be afraid to drop by for just an hour to show your support for all of the people who are presenting. I hope to see you there.

**President's Report** (continued)  
*Community Outreach Fund*

All of our Sections have done an excellent job working at events to demonstrate science to new members, especially young scientists. Many of the Section members have used their own money to buy small give-a-ways and educational material to be used as prizes. This year we have established a new fund to support these community outreach expenses. You will see a new row on the membership form that will allow you to make a donation (probably a tax deductible gift) to this fund so members who tirelessly give their time won't also be the ones who dig into their pockets for the small funds needed to make these science events memorable to our youth. Please consider giving a small donation to this fund if you can.

Stan Spector  
President, RAS

\* \* \*

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
INSTITUTE OF AMERICA  
LECTURE**

Thursday, November 13, 2008 at  
7:30 PM at the Memorial Art  
Gallery Auditorium.

The Rochester Society of the  
Archaeological Institute of  
America and The Memorial Art  
Gallery present an archaeology  
lecture: "*How Did The Maya  
Feed The Multitudes?*"

Speaker: Professor Payson Sheets,  
Dept. Of Anthropology,  
University Of Colorado at  
Buffalo, CO.

Primary archaeologist for the  
University of Colorado's  
excavations at the El Salvador site  
of Ceren, known as the "Pompeii  
of the Americas," Dr. Sheets  
found exceptional preservation of  
the villages after eruption of the  
nearby Loma caldera volcanic  
vent. With hundreds of people per  
square kilometer, he needed to  
know what was intensively  
cultivated to maintain those early  
population centers. Remote  
sensing and applied archaeology  
found interesting answers.

The lecture is free and open to the  
public with a reduced \$6 MAG  
admission charge after 5:00 PM  
on Thursdays. Members of the  
sponsoring organizations and  
U of R students enter free.  
Wheelchair accessible. For further  
information, call 585-381-9034.

**HELP WANTED**

The RAS is in need of a volunteer  
Website content coordinator. This  
volunteer would decide what  
should be published on the site,  
collect the information from the  
relevant parties and submit it to  
the Webmaster for publication.  
This information includes the  
Section calendar events and  
Academy announcements. Other  
ideas for content are articles from  
Section newsletters, articles  
submitted by RAS members, RAS  
photographs (e.g., depicting  
section activities or a photograph  
of the month taken of a scientific  
subject by an RAS member) or  
any other content the coordinator  
feels will help increase visits and  
usefulness of the Website. If  
interested, contact Stan Spector at  
<president@rasny.org>

*EVENTS for NOVEMBER 2008*

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

**Sat 01 LIFE SCIENCES  
MEETING**

Following the Larry King Lecture  
at the Fall Paper Session, we will  
discuss future strategies and  
directions. Please contact Karen  
Wolf at (585) 670-9709 or  
<karenwolf@frontiernet.net>  
with any suggestions and ideas  
even if you do not attend the  
paper session.

**Tue 04 FOSSIL  
WORKSHOP**

7:30 PM Community Meeting  
Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300  
Elmwood Ave. Gerry Kloc,  
Geological Technician in the  
Department of Earth and  
Environmental Sciences, U of R,  
will give a workshop on fossil  
preparation. This is a worthwhile  
opportunity for both new  
collectors and those with more  
experience to learn tips and  
techniques for preservation of  
their finds. Visitors are welcome.  
Dinner with the speaker for this  
meeting will be at 5:30 PM at the  
Distillery, 3010 Winton Rd.  
South. Please contact Anne-Roth  
Blizzard at  
<annethefossil@aol.com> or John  
Handley at (585) 802-8567 for  
more information.

**Fri 07 ASTRONOMY  
GENERAL MEETING**

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall,  
room A300. The main speaker is  
Paul Helfenstein of Cornell  
University. His topic will be  
Cassini's Enceladus Encounter,  
describing how the Cassini orbiter  
was maneuvered through a water  
jet from one of Saturn's moons.

We'll also have a short talk by  
Brad Timerson on his amateur  
seismograph station. Visitors are  
always welcome. For information,  
contact Carol Latta at 230-9548,  
or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

**Thu 13 ANTHROPOLOGY  
LECTURE**

7:30 PM at the Auditorium of the  
Memorial Art Gallery, 500  
University Ave. The speaker will  
be Professor Payson Sheets, Dept.  
Of Anthropology, University Of  
Colorado at Buffalo, CO.,  
speaking on "*How Did The Maya  
Feed The Multitudes?*" The  
lecture is free with museum  
admission. Call 585-381-9034 for  
more information.

**Sat 15 RAS  
BULLETIN**

Deadline for event notices and  
articles for the December issue.

**Sat 15 LIFE SCIENCE /  
ANTHROPOLOGY  
FIELD TRIP**

10:00 AM Letchworth State Park.  
Members from Rochester will  
meet at the Big Tree Inn on  
Jefferson Road at 9:00 (sharp) to  
car pool to Letchworth. We will  
join their Interpretive Programs  
for a hike in the Old Growth  
Forest in Trestle Woods. Meet at  
the visitor Center at Letchworth at  
10:00 to car pool to the Woods.  
Bring lunch-3 hours walk 1-2  
miles. After lunch we will visit  
Mills Mansion in Mt. Morris to  
observe progress on their dig site  
and recent findings.

**Tue 18, LIFE SCIENCES  
WORKSHOP**

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the RAS  
Herbarium, Rochester Museum  
and Science Center (RMSC). We  
will continue work on replacing  
torn and damaged genus folders,  
as well as repairing specimens as  
needed. With a collection of  
approximately 60,000 specimens,  
this is an on-going project. It is  
also a great way to get a look at  
very interesting plants from  
around the world! No experience  
needed! Plan to come and help  
with this valuable collection – and  
learn about plants in the process.  
If you plan to attend, please send  
an RSVP to Elizabeth Pixley.  
Then, at RMSC, go to the front  
desk and ask a person there to call  
ext. 368, the phone in the  
Herbarium. You can either bring a  
lunch or purchase food at the  
RMSC café. For more  
information, contact Elizabeth  
Pixley, herbarium curator (334-  
0977 or  
epixley@rochester.rr.com).

**Tue 18 MINERAL  
MEETING**

7:30 to 9:30 PM, Community  
Meeting Room, Brighton Town  
Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. This  
month's program will be a talk by  
Paul Merkel on Fluorescent  
Minerals. The club's new ultra-  
violet display light will be  
available for viewing your  
fluorescent minerals - or to see if  
you have any. Mineral of the  
Month will be fluorescents. For  
more information, call Bob Hiler

at (585) 787-1584 or check the  
RAS web page for any updates.

**Wed 19 RAS BOARD  
MEETING**

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall,  
2300 Elmwood Ave., in the Stage  
Conference Room. Everyone  
welcomed.

**Sat 21 ASTRONOMY  
STAR PARTY**

8:00 to 10:00 PM at Northampton  
Park, Hubbell Road, near the ski  
lodge parking lot. Join us for  
views of Venus, 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. Dress very  
warm as evenings may be very  
chilly! For information, contact  
Jim Seidewand at 723-6225.

**EVENTS IN EARLY  
DECEMBER**

**Tue 02 FOSSIL  
MEETING**

7:30 PM, Community Meeting  
Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300  
Elmwood Ave. Thomas Whitely,  
collaborator on the book  
"Trilobites of New York", and  
lifetime collector, will give a talk  
titled "Trilobite Evolution."  
Visitors welcome. Please contact  
Anne-Roth Blizzard at  
<annethefossil@aol.com> or John  
Handley at (585) 802-8567 for  
more information.