

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"
October, 2008 - Vol. 62, #8

October, 2008 - Vol. 62, #8, 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

**THE RAS HERBARIUM
COLLECTION
A Polish Connection**

In March 2008 I received an e-mail request (forwarded to me by Carol Southby, previous Herbarium curator) from a person named Wojciech Adamowski. He was looking for label information from our collection of an orchid species that has been introduced to North America from Europe. This plant is commonly referred to as Helleborine – its Latin name is *Epipactis helleborine* (also referred to over the years as *Amesia latifolia*, *Epipactis latifolia*, *Epipactis viridiflora*, *Helleborine latifolia*, or *Serapias helleborine*).

I located 26 specimens in our herbarium that were collected in the United States, took digital photographs of each and sent them as attachments by e-mail. One of the specimens collected in the late 1890's has a note indicating that it is the first record of this plant in the Rochester area. Another of the specimens is shown in the photo at right.

It turns out that this gentleman is working in Bialowieza Geobotanical Station of Warsaw University, Poland. The history of helleborine is his long-term research interest, "as a rare example of an expansive orchid." He is reconstructing spread of the



Specimen of *Epipactis helleborine* collected in 1939
(from the RAS Herbarium Collection)

species on a county/district level. After Wojciech Adamowski received my information, he sent back his thanks, along with a number of questions about locations of some of the specimens (i.e., is Greece in Monroe County?) He said the most important information for him was that the oldest record for Monroe County of Helleborine was 1894.

I was impressed by three things during this interesting exchange of information:

- 1) that information can be sent almost instantly via e-mail in today's world;
- 2) that the Rochester Academy of Science Herbarium could be located by a researcher in Poland, as well as detailed maps of states and counties; and
- 3) that the RAS Herbarium continues to be an important repository of information.

Elizabeth Pixley
Herbarium Curator

* * *

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LECTURE

Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the Memorial Art Gallery Auditorium.

The Rochester Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, The Memorial Art Gallery and The Hellenic Cultural Society of Rochester present an archaeology lecture: "The Archimedes Palimpsest, Texts and Technology"

Speaker: Dr. Roger Easton, Professor of Imaging at the

Center for Imaging Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Dr. Easton will be describing new technologies needed to read medieval Greek manuscripts on parchment despite another layer of later writing on top. This is his research interest, and the successes have inspired a world-wide team to recover the earliest treatises.

A reception will follow in the VanDen Brul pavilion. 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>

ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY AND SCIENCE COMMUNITY

The thirty-fifth 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 the results of their investigations in an atmosphere that promotes discussion and interaction. Undergraduate students attending local colleges and universities are particularly encouraged to attend and to present papers. Faculty and graduate students are also asked to participate and share their research results and ideas on a diversity of subjects.

For information, see the *Call for Abstracts* on the RAS web site: <http://rasny.org/FallPaper/Second-Call-9-2-08.pdf>

An abstract of each presentation should be received by Friday, October 24, 2008. Questions and concerns 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.



EVENTS for OCTOBER 2008

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

Thu 02 ANTHROPOLOGY LECTURE

7:30 PM at the Auditorium of the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Ave.. The speaker will be Dr. Roger Easton, of RIT, speaking on "*The Archimedes Palimpsest, Texts And Technology*" A reception will follow in the VanDen Brul pavilion. The lecture is free with museum admission. Call 585-381-9034 for more information.

Fri 03 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall, room A300. The speakers for October are RIT Professor Mike Richmond and ASRAS members Henry Baronsky and Carl Tinch. Mike's talk is titled "LHC – Why Aren't We All Dead Yet?" reviewing the recent controversy surrounding the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland. Henry will recap this year's Black Forest Star Party, and Carl will present "From Orion, Which Way Is Left?", which helps newer members learn how to find things to view in their telescope, regardless of the type and size telescope they have. Visitors are always welcome. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

Mon 06 PUBLIC FORUM

7:00 to 9:00 PM, Brighton Town Hall Auditorium, 2300 Elmwood Ave. Bill LaBine of Renewable Energy Works will present "Our Energy Future: We Can't Pump

Our Way Out of This Crisis" Americans spend \$2 billion per day on foreign oil. Why? This free public forum is sponsored by the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists. For information contact Carol at <info@fmce.org> or call 663-2981.

Tue 07 FOSSIL MEETING

7:30 PM at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the downstairs Community Meeting Room.

Wed 15 RAS BOARD MEETING

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

Wed 15 RAS BULLETIN

Deadline for event notices and articles for the November issue.

Tue 21 MINERAL MEETING

7:30 PM Brighton Town Hall 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester NY Downstairs Conference Room. Chuck Hiler will present one of his favorite subjects, "The Minerals of the Lockport Dolostone." Refreshments. Visitors welcome. Members please bring specimens of dolomite to show. For information, call Al Mura at 227-9931 or check the Academy web site <http://www.rasny.org> for

possible updates.

Thu 23 LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the 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. 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 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>).

Sat/Sun 25/26 MINERAL SHOW

36th Annual Rochester Mineral, Fossil, & Gem Show (Co-sponsored by the Mineral Section and the Rochester Lapidary Society) at Minett Hall at the Monroe County Fair and Expo Center on the corner of Calkins and East Henrietta Roads (Rt. 15A) Henrietta, NY. Hours: Saturday – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See <www.rasny.org/show> for more information.