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Rochester Academy of Science  
**BULLETIN**

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



November, 2009 - Vol. 63, #9

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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 Bob Crumrine, 3 Timway Court, Fairport, NY 14450 Phone (585) 265-5292 (days) and (585) 425-7448 (evenings), e-mail <editor@rasny.org>

**ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

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

**RAS FALL PAPER SESSION**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session of the Rochester Academy of Science will be hosted by Roberts Wesleyan College on Saturday, October 31, 2009.

This session provides a forum for Academy members, the collegiate community and others engaged in scientific research to present their results in a venue that promotes discussion and interaction.

Schedule:

Cultural Life Center,  
*1<sup>st</sup> floor atrium*

8:30 Registration, Coffee and Refreshments

9:00 Oral Presentations  
CLC 219, SCC 210, 208

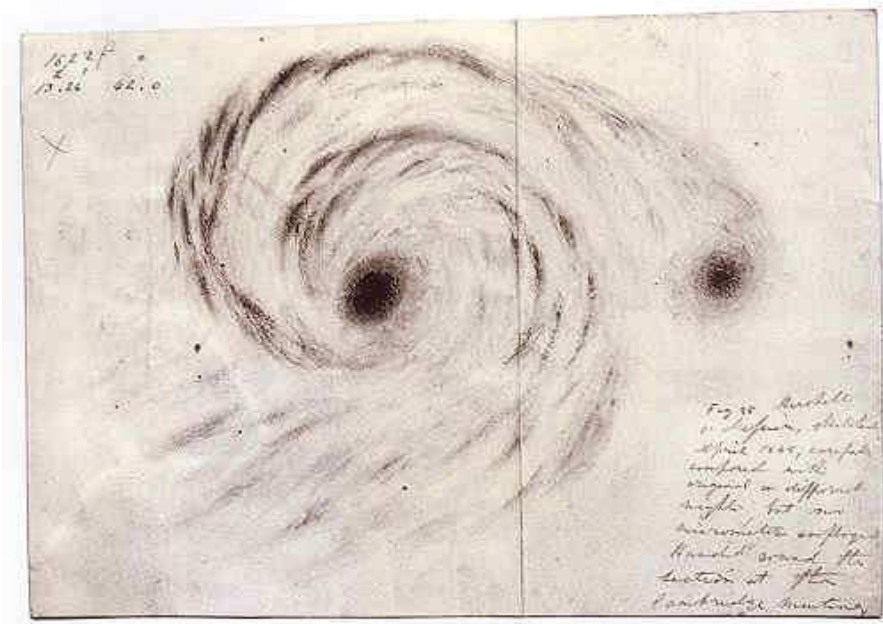
11:30 Poster Session  
CLC Shewan Recital Hall

Smith Science Center  
*Room 318*

12:30 Deli Buffet Lunch  
(Reservations required, see form below)

1:30 Larry King Memorial Lecture

The Larry King Memorial Lecture will be given this year by Sue French. The subject of her lecture will be "The Astronomy of Lord Rosse's Nebula."



**M51 sketch by Lord Rosse c. 1845**

*Lord Rosse and the staff of Birr Castle's observatory sketched many of the "nebulae" they observed and pondered their structure. How do these compare with modern images and our current knowledge? How much of what Lord Rosse saw can backyard astronomers detect? Join us to see how today's amateurs can repeat Lord Rosse's groundbreaking work.*

*The 36-inch and 72-inch speculum-metal reflector telescopes of William Parsons, the 3rd Earl of Rosse, plied the heavens from Ireland revealing wonders never witnessed before. The 72-inch "Leviathan*

*of Parsonstown" was the world's largest telescope from 1845 until the 100-inch Hooker Telescope was built on Mount Wilson in 1917.*

Sue French is a contributing editor for *Sky and Telescope*, former columnist for *Night Sky* and author of the book *Celestial Sampler*.

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

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

## 2009 ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCES LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

### IMPORTANT:

A ticket is necessary for each person attending lunch. Tickets can be picked up at the Meeting Registration table on Oct. 31.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Tickets: # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### ***Deli Buffet Menu***

Variety of Meats and Cheeses  
Assorted Rolls  
Potato Salad and Potato Chips  
Green Salad  
Assorted Beverages

Cookies

**\$9.99 Per Person**

Make check payable to: **Roberts Wesleyan College**

Mail to: **Cynthia R. Davis, Biology Department, Roberts Wesleyan College**

**2301 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY, 14624**

**Deadline: October 26, 2009**

### **FACILITIES ENDOWMENT FUND**

Every member of ASRAS knows about the wonderful observational site we have in Ionia, NY. At each general meeting we hear great news about how members are using the site, or new site improvements which make it easy for members to utilize the vast array of telescopes. We are fortunate to have great site management and volunteers to perform the day-to-day maintenance tasks necessary for upkeep of the property.

Keeping this observational site in safe and good working order requires a continuous flow of funds to pay utilities, expensive insurance, equipment repair, snow plowing, road grading, and

building repair, as well as gas and parts for lawn maintenance. To ensure that we maintain the site for future young astronomers and their families, we have established a "Facilities Endowment Fund".

Donations received that are directed to the endowment fund help to keep the long term vision of an operational Observatory site. The interest earned from the endowment fund deposits are used to help pay the bills. Today, the size of our current endowment fund does not come close to covering the existing bills or insurance, much less future rate increases. We need to build the current facilities endowment fund up to support level during our good years and while our

membership is capable of paying the bills. Please remember to keep the Astronomy Section Facilities Endowment on your donation list for this year.

As a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization, donations are deductible.

Thank you for your time,  
Bob Easterly - Treasurer ASRAS

## *EVENTS for November, 2009*

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

### **LATE OCTOBER EVENTS**

#### **Sat-Sun 24-25 MINERAL, FOSSIL**

Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show. Minett Hall, Monroe County Fair & Expo Center, 2695 E. Henrietta Rd. Adults \$5 donation, Children under 12 free w/ adult.

#### **Sat 31 RAS**

RAS Fall Paper Session at Roberts Wesleyan College. See announcement on page 1.

#### **Sat 31 MINERAL FIELD TRIP**

Trip to Ace of Diamonds, Herkimer, NY for Herkimer "diamonds." Contact Valerie Polachak at [valp@rochester.rr.com](mailto:valp@rochester.rr.com) for more information.

### **NOVEMBER EVENTS**

#### **Mon 02 FOSSIL MEETING**

7:30 PM Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall. 2300 Elmwood Ave., Professor Diana Boyer/Earth Sciences Department/SUNY Oswego, "Devonian Black Shales: the deep, dark story of dysaerobic fossil communities. Visitors are welcome. Please e-mail John Handley at [fossil@rasny.org](mailto:fossil@rasny.org) or call John at 585-802-8567 for more information. -- NOTE DATE CHANGE.

#### **Fri 06 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING**

7:30 PM, RIT Gosnell Hall A-300 Lecture Hall. Three speakers will be featured: Michael Richmond will report on the recent LCROSS mission, Bryan Oyer will report on his recent trip to Palomar, and Bob McGovern will give a constellation talk. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or [<cosmos@rochester.rr.com>](mailto:cosmos@rochester.rr.com), or visit [www.rochesterastronomy.org](http://www.rochesterastronomy.org)

#### **Sat 14 ASTRONOMY TELESCOPE DEMONSTRATION**

12:00 Noon – 4:00 PM at the Planetarium.

#### **Tues 15 RAS BULLETIN**

Deadline for event notices and articles for the December issue.

#### **Wed 16 RAS BOARD MEETING**

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall 2300 Elmwood Ave. in the downstairs conference room. Everyone is welcome.

#### **Tues 17 MINERAL MEETING**

7:30 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall at 2300 Elmwood Avenue, in the main floor Auditorium. Dr. Dori Farthing from Geneseo will speak about "The Mineralogy of Slag". Door prizes and refreshments; visitors welcome. For information, call Chuck Hiler at 924-7496 or check the Academy web site

<http://www.rasny.org> for updates.

#### **Tues 17 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY**

8:00-9:30PM Northampton Park We'll cancel if not at least partially clear. Call us at 723-6225 starting a half hour before the start time if you're in doubt. Tuesday is not our regular day, but it's the peak Leonid night this year.

#### **Sat 21 LIFE SCIENCES WORKSHOP**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM RAS Herbarium at Rochester Museum and Science Center. 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 staff 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](mailto:epixley@rochester.rr.com)).

### **EARLY DECEMBER EVENTS**

#### **Fri 04 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING**

7:00 PM at the PLANETARIUM. Please join us for snacks, a show of member images and star show, concluding with Chris Carosa's Top 100 Astronomy project.