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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

“An organization of people in the Natural Sciences”

June/July, 2010 - Vol. 64, #6

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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 Jutta Dudley, 140 Railroad Mills Road, Pittsford, NY 14534; by telephone 385-2358; or by e-mail <JuttaSD@aol.com>.

net 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>

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Greetings from your new President!

Several board members are “retiring” from their positions and I would like to thank Chuck Hiler, Harry deLahunta, and Kym Pocius for their services as VP, Membership Chair, and Director, respectively. In particular, I appreciate the dedication of outgoing President Stan Spector over the past 3 years. He will be staying on the board as Past President, so we will profit from his advice.

The board welcomes new directors Eric Drum, who is completing the last year of my former position, and Reggie Smith, elected for a 3-year term. Not a newcomer to the board, but new to the office of Vice President, is John Handley. We share a vision of a strong Academy and will work together with you, our colleagues, to make it so.

Missing from the board is a person to oversee membership. Growing our Academy is vital to

our success as an organization and we seek a leader who can help us energize our efforts in this regard. With or without a membership chair, your effort at the grass roots level to keep members stimulated and new members arriving is invaluable.

We hope you will be enticed by the many Section activities planned this summer. For example, you might collect fossils or minerals; observe the night sky, process plant archives, or help reach out at public events. Check the Bulletin and rasny.org for ideas. Fun and interesting things to do are awaiting you and your family!

In the meantime, the BOD will be organizing the Academy’s calendar for the rest of the year. First on the RAS agenda is setting up displays at the Central Library, preparing for the Fall Paper Session, and tackling the next publication of the RAS *Proceedings*. You will hear more about these in the late summer.

I look forward to sharing an interest in the natural world with you and the community. See you soon at a meeting or event!

Jutta Siefert Dudley
President, RAS

OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It has been my privilege to serve

you as president of the Academy for the past three years. While it was the science that first attracted me to the organization, it has been the friends with similar interests whom I met along the way, that made it interesting, exciting and kept me coming back to all of the events.

Thank you for allowing me to serve the science community as your president and I look forward to many more years of active involvement in the sections.

Stan Spector

REMEMBERING JUNE FEDER (deceased March 20, 2010)

The natural world was a strong and compelling lure to June Feder throughout her life. She graduated from Wayne University and University of Michigan where she earned a Master’s Degree in bacteriology. She worked as a microbiologist and medical mycologist at the UR Medical School and at Rochester General Hospital, eventually becoming a Specialist in Microbiology.

June’s talent as a photographer, especially of birds and flowers, reflected a deep interest in wildlife that she shared with others. She presented professional quality slide shows to garden clubs, Burroughs

Audubon Nature Club (BANC), and the Ornithology and Botany-Entomology Sections of the Rochester Academy of Science (now Life Sciences Section).

She was enthusiastic participant in Academy activities and served in many capacities, including exemplary service as editor of Ornithology's *The Goshawk* from 1990-1996. She was honored as a Fellow of RAS in 1992 for her scientific contributions and active participation in the Sections of which she was a member.

Karen Wolf
Section Lead Life Sciences and Anthropology

RAS DISPLAY AT CENTRAL LIBRARY

Our displays at the downtown Central Library (Third floor of the Bausch & Lomb Building, corner of South Ave. and E. Broad) were a hit last May so we are returning for an encore this summer at the invitation of the Librarian. Astronomy, Fossil, Mineral, and Herbarium displays will once again attract the attention of the library patrons. Stop by during the months of June and July and see for yourself how interesting we look!

Jutta Siefert Dudley
President, RAS

RAS AT SCIENCE EXPLORATION DAYS

For the last 39 years, school groups, scouts, and families have made an annual trek to Science Exploration Days at St John Fisher College. The two-day event, organized by the Central Western Section of the Science Teachers Association of New



York State, provides science enrichment for students in a six county area.

Over the years, RAS has had a significant presence in the program with members presenting seminars or manning Section tables in the exhibit area. Our hands on exhibits and informative displays teach and enlighten visitors of all ages. It's been an excellent opportunity for us to make the Academy known to the community.

During the evening program in particular, the RAS Section tables were hives of activity as over 500 people visited the exhibit hall during a two-hour period. Students looked through a telescope (at a tennis ball "Saturn") and discovered cool things about the universe talking to Astronomy Section members. At the Life Sciences table, edible wild plants were a hit with salad lovers and impressed those who thought "weeds" were not for eating. Mineral and fossil enthusiasts were challenged to figure out what specimens they

had selected from the freebie boxes and went happily away with special labels they had made.

The enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers, and families during the day and evening programs was our reward. Maybe we even gained some new members. The RAS members who shared their expertise and devoted much time to make this outreach event a success are:

Life Sciences table: Karen Wolf, Liz Pixley, Pat O'Neill

Fossil Section table: Steve Busschaert, Jutta Dudley

Mineral Section table: Paul Dudley, Stephen Busschaert, Douglass Kostyk, Chuck Hiler, Nancy McCann, Valerie Polachak

Astronomy Section table: Frank Bov, Dave Bishop, Bob Scott

Day Program Seminars: Jutta Dudley

Jutta Siefert Dudley
President, RAS

EVENTS for June/July, 2010

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

JUNE EVENTS

Fri 04 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:00 PM at IONIA (not RIT!). Dave Bishop will give his popular annual astronomy and space year in review. For more information, contact Lori Englund at 334-5744.

Sat 05 FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

Jaycox Run, Livingston County. This is a Middle Devonian locality. Rain date is Sunday June 06. Contact Dan Krisher dkrisher1@rochester.rr.com or call Dan at 585-293-9033 for more information.

Fri 11 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

10:00 PM – 11:00 PM at Northampton Park Ski Lodge parking lot on Hubbell Road. 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 12 ADK OUTDOOR EXPO

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park Beach Area. For information see section leaders or <http://www.gvc-adk.org/events/expo/expo2010.php>.

Sat 12 HERBARIUM

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM - 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! Plan to come and help with this valuable collection – and learn about plants in the process. Lunch is served in the RMSC Cafe until 2 pm. If you plan to attend the workshop, 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. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com).

Tues 15 RAS BULLETIN DEADLINE

Deadline for events and articles for the August/September, 2010 issue.

Wed 16 RAS BOARD MEETING

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

Sat 19 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM. Meet at Karen Wolf's home 1397 Five Mile Line Road to car pool to one or more of several newly discovered (to me) hiking trails around North Pond Park in Webster. There are several kinds of habitats for a wide range of flora and fauna. Join me for an adventure to see what we can discover. Karen Wolf 670-9709. Rain date June 20 at 2 pm.

Sat 26 FOSSIL FIELD TRIP

Lang's Quarry. This is a commercial Upper Silurian Eurypterid locality. Alternate field trip to Pompey Center road cut east of Syracuse. Contact tcarter1@rochester.rr.com or call Terry at 585-467-0135 for more information.

JULY EVENTS

Fri-Sat 9-10 ASTRONOMY ROCHESTAR FEST

8:00 PM on Friday, Noon on Saturday at the Wolk Observatory/Farrash Center for Observational Astronomy in Ionia, NY. For information, contact Lori Englund at 334-5744.

Fri 16 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

9:30 PM – 11:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park near the Scout Camping Area. For information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225.

Sat 24 HERBARIUM

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM Life Sciences Section will hold a teaching workshop on herbarium techniques. Participants will learn proper methods for pressing and mounting plant specimens, also techniques for repairing damaged specimens. No prior experience needed. See the June announcement for details.