



RAS Spring Lecture

The Academy Spring Lecture features Dr. Michael Richmond, who will lead us through history to describe and explain "Who Measured the Solar System." With the upcoming June transit of Venus across the face of the Sun, this is a timely topic. Join us Wednesday, April 11 at the Rochester Institute of Technology. We will meet at 7:30 in Building 8 (Gosnell), Room A 300. This is the lecture hall used for Astronomy Section meetings, so many of you know how to get there. The nearest parking lot is U. You will find a map posted, along with the lecture notice, on the RAS Web site at www.rasny.org.

Who Measured the Solar System, by Michael Richmond

We know now that the solar system is a very large place, thanks to our robot explorers and space telescopes. But even back in the days of plumb lines and shadow sticks, a few people managed to figure out the distance to the Moon and Sun. How did they do it? After telescopes were invented, and measurements grew more precise, astronomers improved their estimates of the distances to the planets. However, they lacked one crucial bit of information. I'll explain what that was, and how it led to scientific expeditions around the world. You will learn how to repeat one of the crucial experiments this coming June.

About Our Speaker

Michael Richmond is a Professor of Physics at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Before coming to (cloudy) upstate New York in 1997, he spent time searching for supernovae and building robotic telescopes in Berkeley as well as helping create the Sloan Digital Sky Survey at Princeton University. He has enjoyed monitoring SN 2011fe this winter at the RIT Observatory.



Near this garden at Point Venus in Tahiti is where Captain James Cook recorded the transit of Venus in 1769 to help scientists determine the size of the solar system. *Photographer, Paul Dudley, 1980.*

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE BALLOT FOR JUNE 2012 – MAY 2013 OFFICERS

Please vote for each office. Note there are TWO Directors' slots to fill.

OFFICE	NAME	✓	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President:	Jutta Siefert Dudley, Ph.D.		
Vice President:	Jeff S. Gutterman, P.E.		
Membership:			
Treasurer:	William Hallahan, Ph.D.		
Secretary:	Eric Drum		
Member, Board of Directors	Helen Haller, Ph.D.		
Member, Board of Directors	Frank Bov		
<p>Bylaws amendment: Current wording: CHAPTER IV. The Board of Directors. 5. The President shall be empowered to appoint directors to fill vacancies occurring among the elected Directors. Such appointed directors shall serve until the next annual meeting, at which time the directors elected to the positions vacated shall take office.</p> <p>Shall the words "for the duration remaining of the uncompleted term" be added at the end of the current Chapter IV Section 5?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Yes _____ No</p>			

Completed ballots can be mailed to the RAS post office box, or delivered in person at the RAS Spring Lecture on April 11th.

Rochester Academy of Science, PO Box 92642, Rochester NY 14692-0642

HELEN DOWNS HALLER, CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Education:

Bachelor of Chemical Engineering and Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering, both from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.

Work Experience:

Laboratory research in biochemical engineering, in industry (American Oil Co., ~3 years) and as an academic post-doc (Cornell University, ~5 years).

Academic support, administrative support, and paper-pushing (Cornell University, ~10 years).

Teaching the senior-level lab research and report-writing course (Cornell University, 4 1/2 years).

Freelance editing of technical books and other materials (~13 years).

RAS-Related Experience:

Joined RAS in 1990s, when I moved to Rochester.

Secretary of the RAS Board of Directors, Fall 1999 to Spring 2008. Director from 2008 to 2012.

Prepared Jan. 26, 2012.

39th ROCHESTER MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

This year's Rochester Mineralogical Symposium will run from April 19 - 22 at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY 14623. All RAS members may attend the lecture Thursday evening at 8:00 pm for free when Alfredo Petrov will be speaking on "Minerals of Japan." The display room containing many fine mineral specimens will also be open to you that evening, as well as the mineral dealers on the fourth floor of the hotel. Before taking advantage of these opportunities, all members must

check in at the admission desk in the back lobby to obtain a name badge to gain entrance.

Mineral Section members, Drs. Steven and Helen Chamberlain, who run the Symposium, have put together a tentative program which may be viewed at <http://www.rasny.org/MinSymposium/MineralSymp.htm> The registration form may be printed and mailed in. Please note that early registration ends by March 15th. In addition to paying for the entire event, one-day passes are also available. Children under 18 are free. Stay tuned to the website for possible changes to the speaker lineup. If you do not have access to the internet, please call Nancy McCann at 585-395-1713 or Helen Chamberlain at 315-682-0387 to have the forms mailed to you. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to attend this fabulous local event!

EVENTS for March, 2012

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

MARCH RAS EVENTS

Friday 2 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Science Bldg, Room A300. The short talk will be presented by Bob McGovern on Stull Observatory at Alfred University. The main talk will be presented by Brian Oyer on Yerkes Observatory established by The University of Chicago and located in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. Social time before the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

Monday 5 ASTRONOMY BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM at University of Rochester, Bausch and Lomb Hall, Chart Room, 4th floor

Tuesday 6 FOSSIL MEETING

7:30 PM at the Brighton Recreation center or the old Brookside School. Easiest entry is off of Winton Road between the 590 exit and Westfall Road.

Dan Krisher will present on Middle Devonian Corals of NY State. This is a great chance to bring in your corals that you have been trying to identify or bring in some of your finer specimens to show all.

Contact Stan Spector at 585-461-1272 or StanSpec@aol.com for questions.

Wednesday 7 MINERAL SECTION JUNIOR EVENT

6:30 to 8:00 PM in the Downstairs Meeting Room at Brighton Town Hall, 2300

Elmwood Ave., Rochester 14618. Children ages 5-19 are welcome to attend if they would like to learn more about fluorescent minerals. Bring ultraviolet light if you have one and any specimens you would like to show or check. Refreshments and giveaways. Please sign-up by emailing Nancy McCann at mineralpres@rasny.org or calling 585-395-1713.

Tuesday 20 MINERAL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING

7:30 to 9:30 PM in the Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester, NY 14618. Dr. Ahmet Celenli from Brockport College will lecture on Minerals from Turkey. Door prizes & Refreshments. Visitors welcome! For update, www.rasny.org/mineral, or contact Stephen Busschaert at mineralvp@rasny.org or 585-288-5683.

Saturday 24 RMSC SCIENCE SATURDAYS

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Astronomy 101: Finding Your Way Around the Night Sky; Members of the Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science will show you how to make your own planisphere and use it to identify the constellations and find the planets visible to the naked eye. They will also be on hand to answer your questions about astronomy and telescopes.

Saturday 31 HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 2:00 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 see some interesting plants! Lunch is served in the RMSC Cafe until 2 pm. 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. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com).

APRIL EVENTS

Wednesday 11 RAS SPRING LECTURE

7:30 at Gosnell, Bldg 8, RIT

Lecture Hall A -300

See articles for details, page one.

Thursday 19 ROCHESTER MINERALOGICAL SYMPOSIUM

8:00 PM Free Lecture, Minerals of Japan. Radisson Hotel, 175 Jefferson Rd. (near RIT).

The Symposium continues through Sunday morning, April 22. For more information, see the article on page two.

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

Return Service Requested

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

March, 2012 - Vol. 66, #3, Page 4

ABOUT THE ACADEMY - The Rochester Academy Of Science, Inc. is an organization that 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 385-2368; or by e-mail <JuttaSD@aol.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 Benjamin Carlino, 23 Monroe Street, Fairport, NY 14450 Phone (585) 944-7748 (days) <editor@rasny.org>

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS

		Phone	
		(585) home	work
Jutta Dudley	President	385-2368	
Open	Vice President		
Eric Drum	Secretary	216-9313	
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628	389-2552
Open	Membership		
Stan Spector	Past President	461-1272	
Karen Wolf	Anthropology	670-9709	273-4500
Lori Englund	Astronomy	334-5744	242-3226
Karen Wolf	Life Sciences	670-9709	273-4500
Dan Krisher	Fossil	293-9033	
Nancy McCann	Mineral	395-1713	
Elizabeth Pixley	Herbarium	334-0977	
Jutta Dudley	Publications	385-2368	
Ben Carlino	Bulletin Editor	944-7748	
William Hallahan	Student Grants	624-1628	389-2552
Paul Dudley	Web Site Coordinator	385-2368	
Reginald Smith	Director '13	244-4979	
Jeff Gutterman	Director '13	392-8299	789-1364
Frank Bov	Director '12	385-1518	422-9910
Douglas Kostyk	Director '14	943-3419	
Lee Tutt	Director '14	872-3033	
Helen D. Haller	Director '12	387-9570	

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