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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN



"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"

December, 2009 - Vol. 63, #10

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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>

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

**RAS FALL PAPER
SESSION A BIG SUCCESS**

This year the fall paper session, held Oct 31, had the largest attendance that we have had in a number of years. It was held on the campus of Roberts Wesleyan College and we all got to see their magnificent Cultural Life Center. Seventeen universities were represented there along with one museum and a few presenters from RAS. RIT and Niagara University were the big winners with over 20 posters each. There were 76 poster presentations along with 22 short presentations at the paper session. One professor who brought a number of students there with their presentations, stated that he liked the RAS sessions since it gave his students a practice run in front of a friendly audience before they presented at formal conferences where the audience is not so friendly. His presenters received a few questions they didn't have clear answers to and I'm sure he will work with these students to develop answers before their next presentation. Our session is a great dry run for students so tell all of the professors who you know about it so we can have an even larger session next year.

One thing of particular interest to this writer was the presentation on how much (or little) college

students know about geography. The test was to match names of countries in Africa to their location on a map. The average was 8.1 correct answers out of a possible 53. Don't laugh! How many can you get correct? One student correctly got all 53 correct answers and that student reported that s/he uses a web site called www.sporcle.com that makes a game of geography and history lessons. Try your knowledge at this web site. P.S. It was developed and is run by a Rochester person.

Next year we would love to have more RAS members participating. Start thinking about your presentation. We could probably make up a Gallery of star photos if the ASRAS wants to put together such a show as they have done for other places.

Stan Spector
President, RAS

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**2009 GEM, MINERAL,
JEWELRY AND FOSSIL
SHOW**
On October 24th and 25th, the Mineral Section co-sponsored the 37th Rochester Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show along with the Rochester Lapidary Society. This popular annual event consists of dealers of minerals, gems, fossils, jewelry,

and beads, along with demonstrations, displays, and activates for children. The children's activities included a mineral bingo game, during which real specimens of the minerals were shown, to the ever-popular soapstone carving. The section's binocular microscope was setup and a 'properties of minerals' demonstration was given to interested children and adults. A popular fossil reconstruction demonstration complemented the demonstrations of gemstone faceting and cabochon making. The Mineral Section's large display ultra-violet light was featured at the show for the first time this year to illuminate a collection of fluorescent minerals. There was also an informative display by the Hamburg Natural History Society promoting their Penn Dixie quarry fossil collecting site. The Academy of Mineralogy from the New York State Museum in Albany came again this year to sell off surplus minerals and a few fossils to raise money for the museum to add specimens to its fine collection of New York State minerals.

Many people view this show as an opportunity to purchase unusual holiday gifts for the nature lovers on their lists, and an opportunity to view items from the collections

of local mineral and fossil collectors. So even if you missed this year's show, mark your 2010 calendars for October 23rd and 24th for next year.

Paul Dudley
Webmaster, RAS

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**2009-2010 RMSC Shultz
Lecture Series**

The Rochester Museum and Science has again scheduled a series of public science lectures, each presented by a distinguished scholar in the field. The

preliminary dates and topics are listed here. There is an admission charge for each of these events. All lectures take place at Eisenhart Auditorium and begin at 7:30 PM.

Wednesday, **December 16, 2009:**
The Discovery of the *HMS Ontario*.

Wednesday, **January 20, 2010:**
Smart Bandages and Fast Diagnostics, New Tools for a Personalized Medical Future.

Wednesday, **February 17, 2010:**
Mammoths and Mastodons.

Wednesday, **March 17, 2010:**
Black Holes, Dark Matter and Dark Energy.

Wednesday, **April 14, 2010:**
Education, Inspiration, Research and Play.

Bob Crumrine
Editor, *RAS Bulletin*

2010 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

Membership Form
Mail to:
R.A.S. c/o
William L. Hallahan
6658 North Avon Rd.
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For your convenience, please pay your dues to the R.A.S. and its sections with a single check. **Make check payable to: Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.**
CIRCLE the amount you are paying for an R.A.S. category and for the section(s) in which you wish membership.

| Membership Categories <i>R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership</i> | | Rochester Academy of Science | Anthropology Section | Astronomy Section | Life Sciences Section | Fossil Section | Mineral Section | Total |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-------|
| Member | (Individual over age 18) | \$10.00 | \$2.00 | \$17.00 | \$2.00 | \$5.00 | \$5.00 | |
| Family | (Including students to age 18) | \$15.00 | \$3.00 | \$22.00 | \$3.00 | \$6.00 | \$6.00 | |
| Student | (K to full-time undergrad.) | \$5.00 | \$1.00 | \$5.00 | \$1.00 | \$2.00 | \$2.00 | |
| Supporting | (Individual or family) | \$20.00 | | \$30.00 | | | | |
| Patron | (Individual or family) | \$30.00 | | \$50.00 | | | | |
| Life | (Individual only) | \$200.00 | | \$300.00 | \$40.00 | | | |
| Donations (Thank you!) | | Gift | | | | | | |
| | | Community Outreach Fund | | | | | | |

☐ ⇐ Check here if you are interested in serving on the R.A.S. Board of Directors

EVENTS for December, 2009

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

**Tues 01 FOSSIL
GENERAL MEETING**

7:30 PM Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall. 2300 Elmwood Ave., Annual Show-and-Tell. Bring your finds from this year's field trips. Presentations by Terry Carter on Utah and Harry deLahunta on 2009 New York State Geological Society field trips. Refreshments. Visitors welcome. Please email John Handley at <fossil@rasny.org> or call John at 585-802-8567 for more information.

**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. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>, or visit www.rocheasterastronomy.org.

**Wed 09 LIFE SCIENCES
HERBARIUM**
1:00 to 4:00 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. 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).

**Sat 12 MINERAL
HOLIDAY DINNER
MEETING**
7:00 PM St. Louis Church, 64 South Main Street, Pittsford. NY. Set up and social hour is before dinner, starting 6:00 PM. Please bring a dish to pass. Speaker for the meeting will be collector and dealer, David Joyce, of Ontario, Canada. He will give a talk titled "Collecting Quartz Japan Law Twin Crystals in British Columbia. "The Rochester Lapidary Club is invited. For information, call Chuck Hiler at 924-7496 or check the Academy web site www.rasny.org/.

Tues 15 RAS BULLETIN
Deadline for events and articles for the January, 2010 issue. To submit articles, please contact the editor at editor@raasny.org.

**Wed 16 RMSC SHULTZ
LECTURE**
7:30 PM at Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jim Kennard and San Scoville
Legend of the Lake: The Discovery of the *HMS Ontario*

On the evening of October 31, 1780, the British sloop of war HMS Ontario sank in a sudden and violent gale on Lake Ontario. Hear a thrilling story of exploration and discovery from the team who developed innovative technology and used it to locate and explore one of the "Holy Grail" shipwrecks of the Great Lakes. For more information, call the Museum at 585-271-4320 or check the RMSC web site at www.rmssc.org.

**Sat/Sun 26-27 ASTRONOMY
RMSC HOLIDAY & SCIENCE
DAYS**
11:00 AM-4:00 PM Saturday, 12:00 -4:00 PM Sunday. Astronomy sections members will be in the lobby of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (not the planetarium itself) with a scope or two and materials of interest to beginning amateurs and astronomy in general. For more information, contact Jim Seidewand at 585-723-6225 or jims@frontiernet.net.

JANUARY EVENTS

**Fri 08 ASTRONOMY
GENERAL MEETING**
7:30 PM, RIT Gosnell Hall A-300 Lecture Hall. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>, or visit www.rocheasterastronomy.org.