

Rochester Academy of Science
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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

“An organization of people in the Natural Sciences”

December, 2010 - Vol. 64, #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 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 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

		Phone	
		(585)	home work
Jutta Dudley	President	385-2368	
John Handley	Vice President	802-8567	265-8900
Open	Secretary		
William Hallahan	Treasurer	624-1628	389-2552
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Lori Englund	Astronomy	334-5744	242-3226
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John Handley	Fossil	802-8567	265-8900
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Helen D. Haller	Director '11	387-9570	

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



President’s Message

The December Solstice is almost here! It’s time to celebrate! What should we celebrate? Our Section accomplishments of course!

Let’s celebrate the outreach events the Academy and the Sections organized or participated in, and the many people that benefited from those events (ex. Science Exploration Days, ADK Outdoor Expo, Central Library Display, Star Parties, Mineral Show).

Let’s be proud of the informative meetings we learned from at our Section monthly gatherings, the RAS Spring Lecture and the Fall Paper Session.

Let’s be joyful we went on field trips that enriched our understanding of nature as we collected minerals and fossils, or observed plants and animals.

Let’s applaud the huge number of plants in the Herbarium collected by the dedicated botanists of the past.

Let’s be delighted by our patch of dark sky in Ionia and the

opportunity to study the universe from our own observatory.

Let’s cheer the people in the Academy who volunteer to take on tasks big or small, and can be relied on to get things done.

So, hold your glasses high and toast your accomplishments!

* * *

2010 Fall Paper Session

The annual RAS Fall Paper session on Saturday November 6 was hosted by the College of Science at Rochester Institute of Technology, and held at the Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies building at the RIT campus. Dr. Harvey Pough, of the Department of Biological Sciences, assisted by RIT students, orchestrated a highly successful event attended by well over 200 people.

The eighty-six posters, presented in two sessions, provided students and others an opportunity to showcase their research studies. The forty oral papers consisted of two rounds of three concurrent sessions. The student monitors did an excellent job of introducing and keeping each speaker on time. The topics of the talks were diverse, including such broad areas as ecology, science education, sociology, political science, geography, physics, chemistry, astronomy,

genetics, climatology, cell biology, and others. Some talks covered traditional areas of study while others were about cutting edge topics such as thin film deposition and photovoltaics.

A luncheon and the annual Larry King Memorial Lecture followed the morning of posters and talks. Dr. Paula M. Mikkelsen, Associate Director for Science at the Paleontological Research Institution in Ithaca, gave everyone something to think about with her talk, *Under Siege - Marine Life versus the Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico*. She explained how the surfactants used to disperse the petroleum from the leaking well, and their having been deployed at depth for the first time, are having unknown effects on the marine ecology of the Gulf.

Paul Dudley
Web Site Coordinator, RAS

* * *

RAS Election Update

Each year the Academy elects new officers and directors to the Board of Directors to oversee the operations of the Academy. We are always looking for members who will participate in the monthly Board meetings and help guide the section’s and Academy’s activities. Some of the positions are for Directors for a 3-

year term and only require monthly meeting attendance along with e-mails to discuss items between the meetings. The officers of the Academy run for a one-year term. There are always openings for the membership chairman who helps develop strategies for keeping members involved and finding new members. The Secretary position takes notes at the meetings and distributes them after the meeting, requiring less than 30 hours a year of your time. The vice president and president have more active jobs requiring more time commitments and are usually

filled by members who have the experience of serving on the board in the past.

If you are interested in filling any of these positions, contact me at (585) 461-1272 or StanSpec@aol.com so the nominating committee can consider you for the position you prefer. We need to have the final ballot ready to go out in mid-January so if you would like to help out let me know before the end of December. If you have a petition signed by other members to get your name on the ballot, also try to get them to me by mid-January.

Stan Spector
Nominating Committee Chair

Bulletin Submission Deadline Change

In an effort to facilitate a more timely delivery of the Bulletin each month we have decided to move the submission deadline back to the 10th of each month beginning immediately. For the January, 2011 issue please send your submissions to the editor at editor@rasny.org by December 10th.

2011 Rochester Academy of Science, Inc.

Membership Form

Mail to:

R.A.S. c/o

William L. Hallahan

6658 North Avon Rd.

Honeoye Falls, NY 14472

☐ New

☐ Renewal

Name _____ E-mail _____

Street _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

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 RAS membership in the RAS column and again for the section(s) in which you wish membership.

Membership Categories		Rochester Academy of Science	Anthropology Section	Astronomy Section	Life Sciences Section	Fossil Section	Mineral Section	Total
<i>R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership</i>								
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	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
Patron	(Individual or family)	\$30.00	*****	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	
Life	(Individual only)	\$200.00	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
Gift (thank you!)	Fill in amount ⇒							
Interested in serving on a Section committee? Select & check a box ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒								

EVENTS for December, 2010

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

Fri 03 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:00 PM at the PLANETARIUM. For more information contact Lori Englund at 334-5744 or visit www.rochesterastronomy.org.

Sat 04 MINERAL SECTION HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING

6:30 PM St. Louis Church, 64 S. Main St., Pittsford 14534. Annual event for members and their guests. Set-up at 6:00 PM. Speaker will be internationally renowned mineralogist Alfredo Petrov who will speak on "Anorthite and Native Brass." which he has collected on a volcanic island in Japan. For more information or to volunteer to help please contact Nancy McCann at mineralvp@rasny.org or 585-395-1713.

Tues 07 FOSSIL MEETING

7:30 PM Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. Annual Show and Tell. Bring your finds from this season's field trips. Refreshments. Visitors welcome. Contact John Handley at fossil@rasny.org or 585-802-8567 for more information.

Fri 10 RAS BULLETIN DEADLINE

Deadline for January, 2011 issue. Please mail input to editor@rasny.org.

Mon 20- Tues 21 ASTRONOMY ECLIPSE PARTY

12:00AM-4:00 AM at the observing site in Ionia. For more information contact Lori Englund at 334-5744.

DECEMBER NON-RAS EVENTS

Wed 15 RMSC SHULTZ LECTURE

7:30 PM Eisenhart Auditorium. White Nose Syndrome: The Darkest of Days for New York Bats. For more information please visit <http://www.rmssc.org/Experiences/FamilyPrograms/ScienceOnTheEdge/>.

JANUARY EVENTS

Fri 07 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM, RIT Gosnell Hall A-300 Lecture Hall. For more information contact Lori Englund at 334-5744 or visit www.rochesterastronomy.org.

Mon 10 RAS BULLETIN DEADLINE

Deadline for February, 2011 issue. Please mail input to editor@rasny.org

Sat 15 LIFE SCIENCE & ANTHROPOLOGY OPEN HOUSE

See www.rasny.org or contact Karen Wolf at 670-9709 for more information.

Tues 18 MINERAL MEETING

7:30 PM Downstairs Meeting Room, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. For more information please contact Stephen Busschaert at mineralvp@rasny.org or 585-288-5683, or check www.rasny.org/mineral for updates. Visitors welcome.

Wed 19 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Meeting Room.

JANUARY NON-RAS EVENTS

Mon 31 RMSC SHULTZ LECTURE

7:30 PM Eisenhart Auditorium. When Will We Discover ET? For more information please visit <http://www.rmssc.org/Experiences/FamilyPrograms/ScienceOnTheEdge/>.