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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



June, 2006 - Vol. 60, #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 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 Frank Bov, 16 Gladbrook Rd., Pittsford, NY 14534 Phone (585) 422-9910 (days) and (585) 385-1518 (evenings), e-mail <frank.bov@xerox.com>

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

NOTICE FROM THE LIFE SCIENCES SECTION.

Now that the Botany-Entomology Section has been renamed Life Sciences we want to invite all of you and particularly present and past members of GOS to attend any of our field trips this summer. These trips will be more diverse than usual (in the past mostly plant identification) and will focus on many aspects of Life Sciences. We will add more insect, bird, amphibian, butterfly, etc identification and how the forms of life we find interact with each other in the various habitats we visit around Rochester. We will also be attending several of the area nature related groups' field trips.

We hope especially that the GOS devotees will be interested in attending some of the events listed in the calendar. One of the topics of discussion over the past few months is the potential of the GOS merging with Life Sciences and further information about this exciting possibility will be in a GOS mailing to present members and any members in the recent past. Any of you can also call Karen Wolf at 670-9709 with your questions and comments.

Karen Wolf
Elizabeth Pixley

THE NINTH ANNUAL ROCHESTAR FEST

The Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science (ASRAS) will be holding its annual *RocheStar Fest* on July 21st to July 23rd. This weekend-long event features astronomy, lectures, demonstrations, and camping at ASRAS's Ionia, NY observing grounds.

Our featured speaker will be Dr. Adam Frank, Professor of Astrophysics at the University of Rochester. His talk is titled: "*A Universe of Stories: The Power of Physics and the Power of Myth*"

The program also includes speakers, demonstrations and talks, camping, and two nights under the stars. A picnic dinner will be held on Saturday. Door prizes will be awarded! Proceeds benefit ASRAS, a non-profit organization devoted to education and public outreach in the fields of astronomy and space sciences.

Camping is available at no charge; tents and modest campers or trailers permitted. These are primitive camping sites, so there are no electric or water hookups. Showers are not available. No pets or ground fires are allowed.

Schedule of Events

Friday July 21st
8:00 PM, Short talks by members, followed by observing, weather permitting

Saturday, July 22nd
Short talks, demonstrations, silent auction-style swap meet, Chinese-auction door prize raffle, bird watching, hiking, and general camaraderie all afternoon.

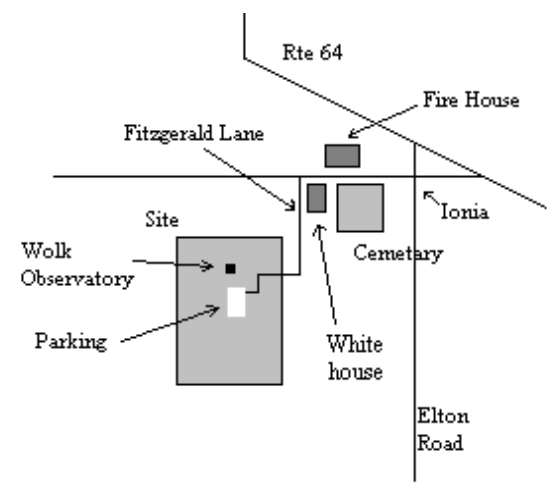
5:00 PM Members' Reception

6:30 PM Picnic Dinner

7:30 PM Awards, Door Prizes and Featured Speaker, followed by observing, weather permitting

Fees: \$12 for Individuals, \$16 for Families. Dinner \$5 for Adults, \$2 under 12 (Under 5 free)

For information, contact *Carol Latta* at (585)230-9548, cosmos@rochester.rr.com.



Map to Wolk Observatory

EVENTS for JUNE / JULY 2006

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

Fri 02 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

NOTE: Meeting Moved to Ionia!
7:30 PM at the Wolk Observatory in Ionia, NY. Frank Bov will present *Maximizing Night Vision*, a review of factors affecting dark adaptation and visual acuity, plus short talks by members. Visitors are always welcome. Come early for refreshments, stay afterward for some observing. For information, call Carol Latta at 230-9548.

Sat. 03 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

Zurich Bog Pilgrimage, 9:00 AM
We will join the Zurich Bog Group members in one of their 2 annual Pilgrimages where there are several events planned throughout the day. We will meet to car pool at 8:00 AM in the Wegmans parking lot Rt. 441 and 250, at the 21 marker in the north-east part of the lot. Please call Karen Wolf 670-9709 if you are planning to come.

Tue 06 - FOSSIL ANNUAL PICNIC AND ELECTIONS

6:30 to 9:30 PM, Stan Spector's house, 40 Coral Way in Brighton. Please bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs. The Section will supply grillables and soda. Please bring your completed ballot from the June Fossiletter. Guests welcome. Contact Stan at 461-1272 or stanspec@aol.com for more information.

Wed 14 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club Sanctuary - Summer Open House. We can explore the trails in these lovely approximately 30 acres of woods and wetlands or enjoy the Nature Library. Bring lunch to eat on the porch while enjoying the butterfly garden and many birds at several feeders. This trip is suited to all members whether you are hikers, slow walkers, or just want to sit and enjoy the Sanctuary setting in the woods. Call Karen wolf 670-9709 for directions.

Fri 16 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC STAR PARTY

10:00 to 11:00 PM, Northampton Park, ski lodge parking lot, Hubbell Road, Ogden, NY. Join us for views of Jupiter and deep sky objects in members' telescopes. We'll be showing star clusters, galaxies, double stars, and gaseous nebulae. Jupiter will be best later in the party. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and enjoy the views. Members will be on hand to answer questions and show how to navigate in the sky. Dress warm as evenings may be chilly. If cloudy, we'll try again on Saturday night at the same time. For information, call Jim Seidewand at 723-6225

Sun 18 MINERAL PICNIC

Members are invited as guests of Rochester Lapidary Society to their picnic at Roberts Cabin, Henrietta Town Park, off Calkins Rd., from Noon till 5:00 PM. Rain or shine. Bring a "dish to pass," hots and hamburgers will be provided. There will be a silent \auction. For more details, call Bill Freundlich, 359-3175, or see the Lapidary club's Web site <http://www.rochesterlapidary.org>.

Sat. 24 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Wolk Observatory in Ionia, NY. We will join the astronomy section during their work party and walk their new trails to help them determine where there are interesting plants that might be labeled or marked by numbers in the future. Bring a lunch or plan to join the work party cookout as the trail hike will probably last into the afternoon. For information, contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.

Sat. 24 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

3:00 PM, We will car pool to Letchworth Park for their 7:30 PM Crepuscular Walk-Summer Sunset Walk. We will stop for a leisurely dinner before meeting (place to be decided) and meet at River Road Junction on Route 408 out of Mt. Morris towards Nunda. Bring a flashlight (3 hours, 2 miles).

Sat-Sun 24-25 MINERAL FIELD TRIP

We will join the Lapidary Club for mineral collecting in the Pierrpont/Canton area of St. Lawrence County. Caravan up Saturday morning with collecting both days. For details contact Cindi or Keith Newmen at 249-4923, [<kcnewman@frontiernet.net>](mailto:kcnewman@frontiernet.net)

Fri 30 ASTRONOMY OPEN HOUSE

8:00 to 11:00 PM at the Wolk Observatory in Ionia, NY. If you've never been to the Wolk Observatory, here's your chance to learn a little about our astronomy site, find out what astronomers are looking at these days and, weather permitting, get a chance to see for yourself what the fuss is all about. For information, call Frank Bov at 385-1518

JULY EVENTS

Sat. 8 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

8:00am, Sapsucker Woods and Cornell Plantations, We will carpool to Cornel with members of Burroughs Audubon Nature Club. Please contact Karen Wolf as we need to know how many will be attending this very special trip to the newly expanded facilities at Sapsucker Woods. Plan on lunch and return to Rochester late afternoon. 670-9709

Sat 15 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC STAR PARTY

10:00 to 11:00 PM, Mendon Ponds Park, Hopkins Point Road (off Clover via Canfield), Mendon, NY. Join us for views of Jupiter and deep sky objects in members' telescopes. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and enjoy the views. Members will be on hand to answer questions and show how to navigate in the sky. Dress warm as evenings may be chilly. No cloud date. For information, call Jim Seidewand at 723-6225

Fri-Sun 21-23 ASTRONOMY ROCHESTAR FEST

Our own star party, this is the Section's annual major event with speakers, workshops, a dinner, silent auction, camping, and observing all at our Observatory grounds in Ionia, NY, about 20 miles South of Rochester. Plan to attend Friday night talks and observing, events Saturday afternoon and evening, followed by observing if clear. Main speaker at Saturday night's dinner will be Dr. Adam Frank of the University of Rochester, well known not only as an astrophysicist, but as a contributor to Discover and Astronomy magazines. See the ASRAS web site for more information www.rocheasterastronomy.org. There is a charge to attend this event.

Sat. 22 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP

Zurich Bog Pilgrimage, 9:00 AM, We will join the Zurich Bog Group members in one of their 2 annual Pilgrimages where there are several events planned throughout the day. We will meet to car pool at 8:00 in the Wegmans parking lot Rt. 441 and 250, at the 21 marker in the north-east part of the lot. Please call Karen Wolf 670-9709 if you are planning to come.

Sat-Sun 29-30 MINERAL FIELD TRIP

We will be mineral collecting, with the Lapidary Club of Bancroft, Ontario, Canada. Collecting Saturday morning, mineral sale from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, followed by collecting fluorescent minerals at night. More mineral collecting Sunday. For details contact Cindi or Keith Newmen at 249-4923, [<kcnewman@frontiernet.net>](mailto:kcnewman@frontiernet.net)

TBD LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORK PARTY

We will be getting together to spend the morning of 1-3 days in July and August in the Herbarium. We need to clean cabinets and prepare the room for the computer data entry which will commence this fall. Please contact Elizabeth Pixley at 334-0977 for dates and times.