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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



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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>

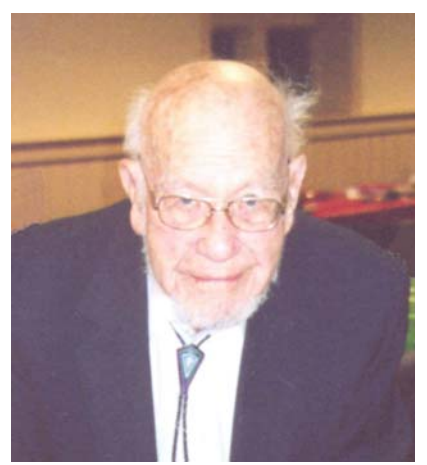
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**THE 33RD ROCHESTER
MINERALOGICAL
SYMPOSIUM
and
REMEMBERING DR.
FREDERICK H. POUGH**

Every April for the last 33 years the Mineralogical Symposium (RMS) has been held in Rochester. The 33rd symposium was held at the Radisson Hotel on Jefferson Rd from April 6th - 9th, 2006. This worldwide event has become a special gathering for mineralogists, geologists, museum curators, students studying mineralogy, mineral dealers, mineral collectors and gemologists. The symposium is four days of talks by speakers who are well known mineral personalities, a Technical Session of Contributed Papers in Specimen Mineralogy, shopping for mineral specimens with the dealers, the Micromounters' Playroom, a silent and voice auction, good food and socializing, a hospitality suite and mineral displays. Some examples of talks at this year's symposium are the following: *Great Finds at Mt. St Hilaire, The Mineralogy of Mars, Chondroditic Meteorites, What's New in Minerals, Travels of a Collector in China* and more. This year, the RMS was prepared to celebrate the 100th birthday of



Dr. Frederick H. Pough, pictured on Dec. 4, 2004 at the RAS Mineral Section dinner where we celebrated his 98th birthday by presenting him with a plaque as an honorary member of the Mineral Section.

our friend Dr. Frederick H. Pough. Dr. Pough was a museum curator, mineralogist and author who wrote Peterson's "A Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals" in 1953. This book has had multiple editions, selling more than a million copies, and is still in print. Dr. Pough was curator of minerals at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. In addition he was instrumental in the specimen acquisition program for what would become the Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. The Hillman Foundation acquired the Pough gem collection of nearly 800

specimens, which includes many rare and highly unusual gem species. Dr. Pough received the Carnegie Mineralogical Award in 1989. He also has a mineral named after him called Poughite. Pough received his doctorate in 1935 and was a long time resident of Reno, Nev., until two years ago when he moved to Pittsford.

Dr. Frederick H. Pough collapsed and died after suffering a heart attack while attending the 33rd Rochester Mineralogical Symposium on April 7. He was 99. We will miss him and his stories both told and untold. It was a real pleasure to get to know Dr. Pough and have him attend some of our Mineral Section meetings.

Chuck Hiler
President, Mineral Section

* * *

RAS SPRING LECTURE

The RAS held its annual Spring Lecture on April 13th in the Brighton Town Hall Library. Our guest speaker was Zoë Learner from Cornell University, a member of the Mars Rover Project Team. After a fine dinner provided by Lorraine's Catering, and remarks by RAS President Matt Sinacola regarding the Academy's 125th birthday, Zoë entertained us with stories about

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE
BALLOT FOR JULY 2006 – JUNE 2007 OFFICERS

Please vote for each office. Note there are (as always) TWO Directors' slots to fill.

OFFICE	NAME	√	WRITE-IN CANDIDATE
President:	Matthew P. Sinacola		
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Member, Board of Directors, 3-year term:	Frank Bov		

Completed ballots can be returned to the RAS post office box, or delivered in person at any RAS or Section meeting.

her experiences with Spirit and Opportunity and their exploration of Mars.

One memorable story highlighted the limits of the rovers' "eyes." Two cameras are mounted on a tall, rotating stalk to provide stereoscopic views of the rovers' surroundings. 3-D glasses are a popular fashion accessory on the team. A mountain range near the landing site of Opportunity was initially nicknamed "The Great Wall of China", but was later renamed "The Great Curb of China" after the scientists figured out the true size of the "hills" utilizing a Mars-orbiting satellite's imaging capabilities.

Many of us are aware of the limited atmosphere on Mars. But when Zoë answered a question about the temperature on Mars, we were amazed to hear that due to the low atmospheric pressure, your head would be -100° C, your waist would be -50° C and your feet would be a warm 0° C. Facts are stranger than fiction!

Her first-person stories and her interesting photographs captured the attention of the attendees. Among her selections of the best photos she had seen from the mission, were those showing a meteor streaking through the Martian atmosphere, and identifying the Earth in the Martian night sky.

The lecture concluded with a birthday cake celebrating the Academy's 125 years. Later, as we chatted out of doors and looked at the stars, a meteor raced across the terrestrial sky; a fitting end to a fine evening.

Stan Spector,
Vice President, RAS

* * *

**SCIENCE EXPLORATION
DAYS AT ST. JOHN
FISHER COLLEGE**

This year, Science Exploration Days are May 10 and 11, at St. John Fishers College in the gymnasium. All RAS Sections

will have display tables and we are looking for your help to staff them. This is your chance to converse with many of the approximately 1,500 Middle/Junior and Senior High School students attending this 30+ year old, annual event. If you have never attended SED you are missing two very interesting and exciting days. This is one of the RAS's most important outreach programs. Help us get our young people interested in the Natural Sciences!

Set-up is Tuesday, May 9 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM and Wednesday, 8:00 PM until students arrive. Students are there from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM Wednesday and Thursday, and the event is open to the public Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. All exhibitors are treated to a wonderful free luncheon at the end of each day's afternoon session. Call Karen Wolf (670-9709) for more information on how you can support this event.

EVENTS for MAY 2006

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

**Fri 05 ASTRONOMY
GENERAL MEETING**

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Science Bldg; room A-300. David Bishop will present his annual *Astronomy Year in Review*, plus short talks by members. Visitors are always welcome. Come early for refreshments. For information, call Carol Latta at 230-9548.

**Fri 05 FOSSIL
MEETING**

7:30 PM Arts and Crafts Room, Brookside Recreation Center in Brighton, off South Winton. Dr. Gordon Baird, SUNY Fredonia, will speak on *New Perspectives on the New York Ordovician: Discoveries in the Great Cache of Drill Cores Stored at the New York State Museum*. For more information, contact John Handley at 802-8567 or jhandley@rochester.rr.com

**Tue 09 LIFE SCIENCES
MEETING/WORK PARTY**

* Formerly Botany Entomology
6:00 PM at Karen Wolf's home, 1397 Five Mile Line Road in Penfield. We will have a dish to pass dinner and then prepare the picked edible weeds, herbs, mints, etc. for the SED salad to be served May 10th and 11th at St. John Fisher's Science Fair. Call Karen for information on any edibles you might have to bring to add to those Karen picks around her home and any violets of course you may have. Karen Wolf, 670-9709.

**Wed & Thu 10 & 11 SCIENCE
EXPLORATION DAYS.**

See notice on facing page.

**Sat 13 ASTRONOMY
ASTRONOMY DAY**

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM at Eastview Mall in front of the Bon-Ton. Bring a telescope, some astrophotographs or whatever you think the general public might find interesting. Visitors welcomed. For information and if you'd like to participate, call Carol Latta at 230-9548

Mon 15 RAS BULLETIN

Deadline for June/July issue notices to reach the editor.

**Tue 16 MINERAL
MEETING**

7:30 PM Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave. in the downstairs Community Room. Speaker will be Dan Krisher, a member of the Fossil Section, speaking on: *The History of the Stratigraphy of the Lockport Formation of New York State*. Refreshments will be served. Visitors are welcome. For information, contact Charles Hiler at 924-7496 or check the Academy web site for possible updates.

**Wed 17 RAS BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING**

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

**Fri 19 ASTRONOMY
PUBLIC STAR PARTY**

9:00 PM to 11:00 PM at Mendon Ponds Park, near Hopkins Point off Rt. 65 Clover St. Join us for views of Saturn and deep sky objects in members' telescopes. Cloud date Sat., May 20. For information, contact Jim Seidewand 723-6225

**Sat 20 ASTRONOMY
PLANET OBSERVING**

8:00 PM to 11:00 PM at St. Anne Church, 1600 Mount Hope Ave. Joint event with Madrigalia, Rochester's chamber singers, for the premier performance of a work based on Dava Sobel's book, *Galileo's Daughter*. For ticket information, see the Madrigalia web site: <http://madrigalia.org>. For information on observing, call Frank Bov at 385-1518

**Sat 20 LIFE SCIENCES
FIELD TRIP**

9:30 am. Zurich Bog Hike. Mona Rynerson will lead us through the Bog to discover orchids, pitcher plants, sundew, etc in this wonderful place we have not visited in a very long time. We will meet in the parking lot of Wegmans on 441 (north-east end of lot) and car-pool. Bring a lunch, insect spray, and wear hiking boots for possible wet trails. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709.