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Rochester Academy of Science
BULLETIN

"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"



October, 2007 - Vol. 61, #8

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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>

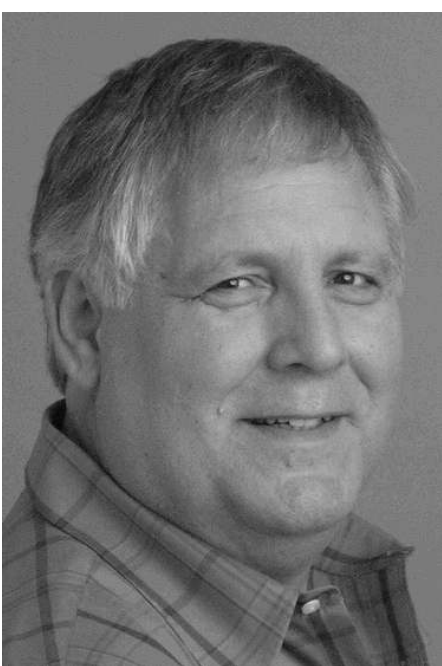
The *Astronomy Section* Information phone number is (585) 987-5330. The *Astronomy Section* Internet web page is <http://rochesterastronomy.org>

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 <editor@rasny.org>

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**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE
OCTOBER 2007**

Give Your Brain To Science
Well, you can keep it too!

I have heard many stories about students' lack of achievement and interest in the sciences. I see our political leaders avoiding scientific facts in their decisions. I see a lot of our national, state and local governing policies blind to the scientific facts.

RAS has a mission to provide science education for the world, starting with those in Rochester. Can we be doing more to bring science back to prominence? Many of us have joined RAS sections for our own scientific enjoyment. So let us immerse our minds in scientific activities. This

summer, you could have attended any of the following:

- Seven field trips with the Fossil Section to great collecting areas, most within an hour of Rochester. Even if you didn't find much, the walks up the creeks and glens in the area were spectacular. I had the best collecting summer of any year.
- Nine field trips with the Mineral Section, the highlight being a trip to the Gore Mountain area looking for garnets.
- Six star parties at some of the local parks. In addition to all of those great nights we have had this summer, there are 2 more to come this Fall. And don't forget about RocheStar Fest - everyone loved it.
- A tour around an Anthropology dig for Paleo-Indian artifacts down at Mills Mansion in Mount Morris and a little practice in flint knapping at Letchworth Park.
- Four trips with Life Sciences to see some of the great bog wild life in the area and one of the great Japanese gardens in the area. A lot of work that was done on the herbarium. You should go see it even if you don't know what a herbarium is.

**ATTENTION: MEMBERS
OF THE ACADEMY AND
SCIENCE COMMUNITY**

The thirty-fourth Annual Fall Scientific Paper Session of the Rochester Academy of Science will be hosted by SUNY Geneseo on Saturday, November 10, 2007

This session provides a forum for Academy members, the collegiate community and others engaged in scientific research to present the results of their investigations in an atmosphere that promotes discussion and interaction. Undergraduate students attending local colleges and universities are particularly encouraged to attend and to present papers. Faculty and graduate students are also asked to participate and share their research results and ideas on a diversity of subjects.

For information, see the *Call for Abstracts* on the RAS web site: <http://www.rasny.org/FallPaper/CallForAbstracts.PDF>

An abstract of each presentation should be received by Friday, October 26, 2007. Questions and concerns can be directed to Jani Lewis at <lewisj@geneseo.edu> or 585-245-5310

*Attendance at the Paper Session is **free** and open to the public.*

I hope you had the chance to experience some of these events. It certainly was an obliging summer weather-wise. If these activities are what excite you about science and the RAS, I hope you took the time to attend some of them and enjoyed sharing the time with others in your Section.

Now that fall is coming, we have the last few events for each of the Sections. Check out the calendar to see what is left. There are also a number of conferences in these fields, many sponsored by other organizations, but most well attended by RAS members. Try taking someone along and get them interested in science

And we come to the RAS Fall Paper Session on November 10 at SUNY Geneseo where we will hear a lot of presentations and poster sessions from students and hopefully a number from RAS members. The Fossil Section has had some contact with some of the Geology students down at Geneseo and the students have said that a number of them will be giving poster sessions or presentations at this event. Sign up to attend and sign up to present. We'd love to have more members there.

Some of the Sections will have "show and tell" meetings before the end of the year. This is a great time to see what others have done during the summer. Maybe that will motivate you to attend more events next year. It's also a great time to take along a student-aged friend to show them what can be found in Upstate New York.

If you don't know what a Mars opposition is, plan on attending

the event in late December or early January of the Astronomy section and see this magnificent event through some of the members' large-diameter telescopes.

Make RAS the place where you find your scientific stimulation. Share your enthusiasm with others. Consider writing an article about your view of one of the summer's events for your Section's newsletter.

Stan Spector
President, RAS

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LECTURE

Thursday, October 25, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the Memorial Art Gallery Auditorium.

The Rochester Society of the Archaeological Institute of America presents an archaeology lecture: "Engineering and Technology in Imperial Rome: An Interdisciplinary Study of Monumental Building and Systems"

Speaker, Dr. Renato Perucchio, Professor of Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Rochester.

A momentous revolution in design and building techniques followed the Roman invention of pozzolanic concrete. Dr. Perucchio, born and educated at U. of Pisa, Italy and at Cornell Univ., will show some of the most relevant domes and vaults using concrete and the newly possible design, and reveal their structural behavior.

EVENTS for OCTOBER 2007

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

Tue 02 FOSSIL MEETING

7:30 PM at the Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the downstairs Community Meeting Room. The program will be a "Show and Tell." Members who wish to share their favorite finds (fossils, other stones of interest, books, photos, articles, tools of the trade, stories, etc.) from the Spring and Summer collecting seasons will have an opportunity to display and talk about them. Also, members who attended the New York State Geological Association (NYSGA) conference in Cortland may want to share their field trip stories and finds. For more information, contact Anne Roth-Blizzard at 243 6561 or <annethefossil@aol.com>, or John Handley at 802 8567 or <jhandley@rochester.rr.com>

Fri 05 ASTRONOMY GENERAL MEETING

7:30 PM at RIT, Gosnell Hall, room A300. This month's main speaker is Jason Nordhaus, a graduate student at U of R, speaking on Planetary Nebulae. Plus short talks by members including RIT's Dr. Mike Richmond with his popular "News in Astronomy" series. Visitors are always welcome. For information, contact Carol Latta at 230-9548, or <cosmos@rochester.rr.com>

Sat 06 ASTRONOMY STAR PARTY

8:00 to 9:30 PM at Northampton

Park on Hubbell Road. Join us for views of deep sky objects in members telescopes. No need to bring equipment or a deep understanding; just come and enjoy the views. Dress warm as evenings may be cool and you may want to stay a while. For more information, contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225 or cell 703-9876

Tue 09 LIFE SCIENCES MEETING

7:00 PM at Henrietta United Church of Christ, 1400 Lehigh Station Road. We will attend the Living in Harmony group for their lecture. They will be showing a new DVD titled "Green is the New Red White and Blue," narrated by Tom Friedman (columnist for the New York Times). All interested persons are welcome. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley at <epixley@rochester.rr.com> or 334-0977.

Mon 15 RAS BULLETIN

Articles and event notices due for the November, 2007 newsletter.

Tue 16 MINERAL MEETING

7:30 PM Brighton Town Hall 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester NY Downstairs Community Room. David Bailey Associate Professor of geology Hamilton will talk about the Kimberlites of New York. Refreshments. Visitors welcome. For information, call Chuck Hiler at

924-7496 or check the Academy web site <http://www.rasny.org> for possible updates.

Wed 17 RAS BOARD MEETING

7:00 PM Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave., in the Stage Conference Room. Everyone welcomed.

Tue 23 LIFE SCIENCES HERBARIUM WORKSHOP

10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC, direction available by request). No experience needed! Possible activities include filing herbarium specimens returned from loans, repairing and re-mounting of specimens, and entering data on specimens into our computer. The herbarium contains an amazing variety of plant specimens, some collected in the 1800's. Plan to come and help with this valuable collection – and learn about plants in the process. For more information, contact Elizabeth Pixley, herbarium curator (334-0977 or epixley@rochester.rr.com). You can either bring a lunch or purchase food at the RMSC café.

Thu 25 ANTHROPOLOGY MEETING AND LECTURE

7:00 PM Memorial Art Gallery, Atrium just inside the Gallery entrance. We will meet before the AIA lecture (see lecture notice elsewhere in this issue). The gallery fee on Thursday is only \$2

after 5:00 so if anyone wishes to come at 6:00 we can tour any of the many Anthropology exhibits. I can set up a Gallery guide if there are 4-6 people interested in a tour. Call Karen Wolf 670-9709 by Oct 20.

Sat-Sun 27-28 MINERAL ROCHESTER MINERAL, FOSSIL, & GEM SHOW

(Co-sponsored by the Mineral Section and the Rochester Lapidary Society)

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM (5:00 PM on Sunday) at Minett Hall at the Monroe County Fair and Expo Center on the corner of Calkins and East Henrietta Roads (Rt. 15A) Henrietta, NY. Contact <mineral@rasny.org> for more information

SAVE THE DATE

Sat Nov10 ANNUAL RAS FALL SCIENTIFIC PAPER SESSION

Hosted by SUNY Geneseo. Look for more information elsewhere in this issue.

ONGOING EVENTS

Sat 06, 13, 20, 27 ASTRONOMY PUBLIC TELESCOPE VIEWING

Dusk to 10:30 PM every clear Saturday night at the Strassenburgh Planetarium. Call the planetarium box office 697-1945 after 7:30 if in doubt about the skies or contact Jim Seidewand at 723-6225 for general info.