

# BULLETIN



*"An organization of people in the Natural Sciences"*

*Note to librarians: The volume numbering of issues dated Oct. 2012 through Nov. 2013 was incorrect. Correct numbering resumes with the Dec. 2013 issue.*

January, 2014 - Vol. 68, #1

## Great Lakes Thematic Collection Network NSF Grant Proposal – A Great Opportunity for RAS

By Elizabeth Pixley,  
RAS Herbarium Curator

The RAS Herbarium will become part of an ambitious NSF funded project beginning in 2014, if a recently submitted grant proposal is approved. The project, spearheaded by Dr. Christopher Dick, Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, proposes a Thematics Collection Network of collaborators to create a database with images of vascular plants in the Great Lakes region. Relevant collections from regional herbaria will become unified for browsing and mapping purposes while a web portal eases access for students, researchers, resource managers and naturalists.

The "Broader Impacts" section of the proposal suggests the web portal "will ultimately transform the way many people identify plants because date, location, and simple features like flower color will permit browsing of species information and images with mobile applications." Another positive impact is expected by the Network's plan "to identify and recruit talented students from

underrepresented groups to participate in herbarium internships, attend professional meetings, and develop independent projects." And, for organizations like the RAS, the Network's plan to "host workshops and social networking for small herbaria to address their specific infrastructure and educational needs" will be welcome.

Information about the RAS herbarium specimens from western New York will be entered in a computer database and the taxonomic name of the plant updated as necessary. Each specimen will be imaged with high-resolution digital photography. We will be sending our specimens to Cornell University for database entry and imaging. Researchers there, as well as at the University of Minnesota, University of Wisconsin, the NY Botanical Garden, among others, are collaborators on this proposed project.

Previous to the invitation to join in the NSF grant proposal, the RAS was already interested in digitizing information for our herbarium specimens. More than 2000 specimens of sedges in the genus *Carex* have been digitally databased by Steven Daniel. But digitizing on a larger scale, as

proposed by the grant, is too big a project for us to take on, hence the decision to rely on Cornell's facilities. We will be a subcontractor of Cornell University and Steve Daniel and I will serve as the principal personnel for the project.

Our work in Rochester on this project is still ambitious. We will need to separate out plant specimens collected in western New York and file them in separate folders. Since we have about 60,000 vascular plant specimens in the RAS Herbarium, this will not be a small job! We will be asking for a small army of volunteers (no specific plant knowledge required) to help us for the next four years should this grant proposal be accepted. We hope you will join the work parties!

Links: For an example of a data portal from the Pacific Northwest visit <http://www.pnwherbaria.org>.

\* \* \*



**to update  
your RAS membership.  
Renewal form on next page.**



## RAS BOD Nominations for 2014 Election Wanted

Each year the Academy elects officers and directors at the Spring Meeting to the Board of Directors to oversee the operations of the Academy. We are looking for members who will participate in the monthly Board meetings and help guide Section and Academy activities. The following positions have **no candidates**:

**Recording Secretary:** Responsible for taking minutes at meetings and distributing to the BOD. Elected for one year. **OPEN**

**Membership chair:** Provides information about the academy at public events we participate in. Develops strategies to find and keep members. Helps treasurer maintain an updated membership list. Elected for one year. **OPEN**

**Director:** Participates in BOD meetings and Academy events. Elected for a 3-year term. **OPEN.**

The Nominations committee will present a slate at the January 15, 2014 BOD meeting. The December 31 deadline has passed for anyone seeking to be considered by the nominations committee for a position listed above. However, all officer positions & expiring directorships not listed above are contestable. Our by-laws allow a member with a petition signed by ten other members, to be placed on the ballot. This petition, along with a brief sketch of the candidate's qualifications, must be received by the Secretary by **February 1, 2014**. Ballots are mailed to members in the RAS Bulletin a month prior to the election at the annual Spring Meeting.

*It's membership renewal time!*

# 2014 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 an R.A.S. category and for the section(s) in which you wish membership.**

### Membership Categories

*R.A.S. dues are a prerequisite for section membership*

	Rochester Academy of Science	Anthropology Section	Astronomy Section	Life Sciences Section	Fossil Section	Mineral Section	Total
<b>Member</b> (Individual over age 18)	<b>\$10.00</b>	\$2.00	\$17.00	\$2.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	
<b>Family</b> (Including students to age 18)	<b>\$15.00</b>	\$3.00	\$22.00	\$3.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	
<b>Student</b> (K to full-time undergrad.)	<b>\$5.00</b>	\$1.00	\$5.00	\$1.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	
<b>Supporting</b> (Individual or family)	<b>\$20.00</b>	*****	\$30.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	
<b>Patron</b> (Individual or family)	<b>\$30.00</b>	*****	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	
<b>Life</b> (Individual only)	<b>\$200.00</b>	*****	\$300.00	\$40.00	*****	*****	
<b>Gift (Thank you!)</b> Fill in amount ⇒							
Check box if you are interested in serving on a committee ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒ ⇒							

# Events for January, 2014

For updates to events, check the Academy website, <http://www.rasny.org>, and Section websites.

## NO FOSSIL SECTION MONTHLY MEETING IN JANUARY

### JANUARY EVENTS

#### **Fri 10 ASTRONOMY SECTION**

7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. RIT, Gosnell Hall, Room A300. ASRAS General Members Meeting. Brian Oyer will speak about his recent trip to Kitt Peak Observatory. For more information, contact Valerie Rapson at 301-3424.

#### **Sat 11 HERBARIUM**

10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. 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 see some interesting plants! 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](mailto:epixley@rochester.rr.com)).

#### **Sat 11 LIFE SCIENCES FIELD TRIP**

10:00 a.m. Winter Tree Identification with Ken Wolf. We will meet at the Penfield Road entrance to Ellison Park. This entrance is the southernmost of the Park. Dress warm enough for about a 2 hour walk in snow. Contact Karen Wolf 670-9709. Here is the website for a map.

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/File/EllisonPark.pdf>

#### **Mon 13 ASTRONOMY SECTION BOARD MEETING**

7:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. U of R, Bausch & Lomb, Chart Room. ASRAS Board meeting. Contact Valerie Rapson at 301-3424.

#### **Wed 15 RAS BOARD**

7:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room.

#### **Sat 18 ASTRONOMY OPEN HOUSE**

12:00-3:00 p.m. Open house at Ionia. For more information contact Bob McGovern (585) 381-7877.

#### **Sun 19 ASTRONOMY and MINERAL SECTIONS WINTERFEST**

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Mendon Ponds East Lodge. We will set up to greet the public, display some local specimens, discuss astronomy and telescopes, and tell what our club has to offer. The East Lodge is heated and a pizza vendor will be in the building. Your help is needed! Please volunteer for a couple of hours. To sign up, contact Stephen Busschaert at [mineralvp@rasny.org](mailto:mineralvp@rasny.org), 585-732-5321, or Vicki Rotolo at 586-1843 or [vickirotolo@gmail.com](mailto:vickirotolo@gmail.com). For more info on this event go to <http://www.mendonpondswinterfest.org/>

#### **Tues 21 MINERAL SECTION**

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Brighton Town Hall, Downstairs Meeting Room. Dr. Gary Solar from Buffalo

State College will speak on the topic “Granite: A Record of Northern Appalachian History.” Door prizes and refreshments. Visitors welcome. For more info, contact Stephen Busschaert, 1st VP, at [mineralvp@rasny.org](mailto:mineralvp@rasny.org) or 585-288-5683.

#### **Fri 31 ANTHROPOLOGY**

7:30 p.m. First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 S. Winton Road. We will join the AIA for their lecture by Dr. Marie-Henrietta Gates titled “Kinet Höyük (Turkey) and the Archaeology of Eastern Mediterranean Seaports.” There will be refreshments following the lecture. Contact Karen Wolf, 670-9709.

### ONGOING EVENT

ASRAS will operate the telescope, or one on the sidewalk, at Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights. Contact Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

**Rochester Academy of Science**  
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**ABOUT THE ACADEMY** - The Rochester Academy Of Science, Inc. is an organization that 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 (585) 385-2368; or by e-mail <pres@rasny.org>.

The **Academy** Internet website is <http://www.rasny.org>

Or see us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/RochesterAcademyOfScience>

This "**BULLETIN**" is produced monthly, *except July and September*, by the **Astronomy Section, Rochester Academy of Science**. Submissions are due by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, and may be emailed to editor@rasny.org

#### **ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE OFFICERS**

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