Rochester Academy of Science™

BULLETIN

"An organization of people interested in the Natural Sciences"

November 2026; Vol. 80, #9

President's Message

Fall Paper Session

Coming up this month—our **52nd Annual RAS Fall Scientific Paper Session** on Saturday, November 7th at St. John Fisher University. Come for our lecture and to see the fascinating research being done at local colleges and universities. Register at https://rasny.org/paper-session. It is **free** to attend. Bring a friend! Meet at **Kearney Building** for check in and refreshments 8 to 9 AM. If you stay for lunch, buy tickets through our website ahead of time. https://rasny.org/paper-session

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We have a change in keynote speaker

Aurora Kuczek who was to be our Larry King Memorial lecturer at the Paper session was finishing up on the Falkland Islands. Instead of coming back to Rochester, she has been redeployed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service to Antarctica for the next six months. It is early spring there now, not that that means much in the Antarctic. So, she is not available as she will be living with penguins.

Dr. Gregory Cunningham has accepted our invitation to make our Larry King Memorial Lecture. He is a noted wildlife biologist who has worked with birds in the sub-Antarctic, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Hawaii, South Africa, and elsewhere, so we have kept the topic similar. Please join us to hear him speak on ***Life as a Field Biologist: Remote Places and Questions Worth Chasing***.



Dr. Gregory Cunningham with a group of King penguins (Aptenodytes patagonicus) on Crozet island (Ile de Possession). The King is the second-largest species of penguin and breeds on subantarctic islands surrounding the northern reaches of Antarctica. Photo provided.

Finding Your Way to the Paper Session

It's easy. Make your way to the entrance to St. John Fisher at the intersection of East Avenue Route 96 and Fairport Road Route 31F and go to Parking Lot A.

Follow signs on the path to the Kearney Building (in green) for registration, coffee and snacks, and the Larry King Memorial Lecture in Cleary Auditorium. Afterwards, the orals and posters will be in the Integrated Science Building (in yellow) with entrance facing Parking Lot A. The cafeteria for purchased lunches is in Ward Hall (in blue).



on site at our annual Scientific Paper Session.

Please volunteer to help on the 7th. We particularly need several people who can take photos with phones or cameras of all the posters and lectures. You can also help with registration, guide attendees, or monitor morning refreshments. Let me know if you can come - mgrenier@frontiernet.net.

RAS Paper Session Schedule.

Saturday, 11/7

Starts at Kearney Building

8:00 - 9:00 am: Registration open. Beverages & pastries for all.

9:00 - 10:00 am: Welcome and Larry King Memorial Lecture

10:10 - 12:10 pm: Oral sessions

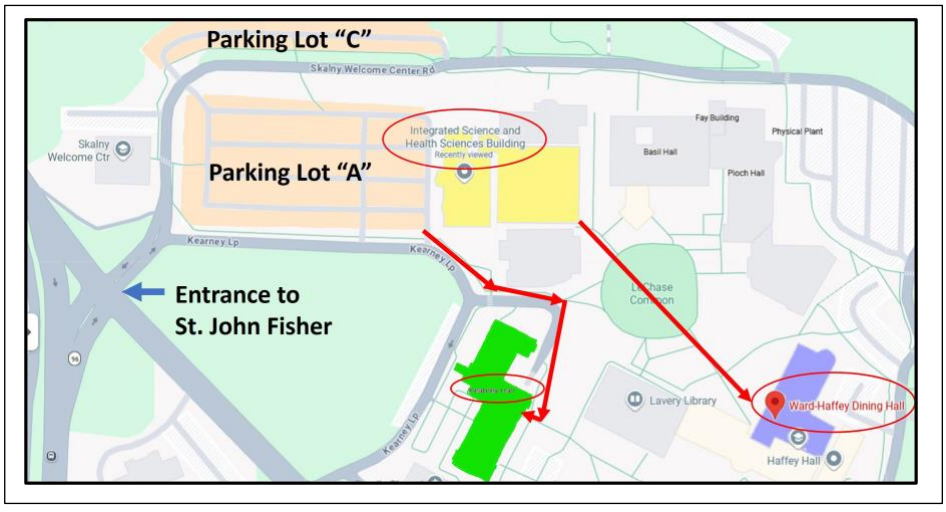
12:15 - 1:30 pm: Lunch Break

1:35pm - 2:35pm: Poster Session

2:40pm - 3:00pm: Special events

3:00pm - 3:25 pm: Concluding remarks + awards

3:30pm: Conclude



Events for November, 2026

Nov. 4 Wed: Astronomy Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Zoom only. Members welcome to attend. Contact Craig Kaplan at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Nov. 6 Fri: Astronomy Member Meeting
7:30 RIT, Carlson Building, Room 1125. The speaker will be Nicholas Werner from Geneseo State. Contact Craig Kaplan at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Nov. 10 Tues: Fossil Members Meeting
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center, room 019, 35 Lincoln Avenue Pittsford, NY 14534. Open to all RAS members and guests. It will also be broadcast on Zoom. Speaker: Dr. Judy Massare on Marine Reptiles of the Sundance Formation. For meeting details and Zoom login info, see the *FossiLetter* or contact Michael Grenier at paleo@frontier.com or (585) 671-8738.

Nov. 11 Wed: Herbarium
12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. The Life Sciences section will hold a workshop at the RAS Herbarium, located in the basement of the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). We will be continuing to organize plant specimens in preparation for digitizing the collection. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to rasherbarium@gmail.com. At RMSC go to the front desk to meet other participants. For more information, contact herbarium curators, Tim Tatakis and Steven Daniel, by emailing rasherbarium@gmail.com.

Nov. 17 Tues: Astronomy on Tap
7:30 – 9:00 p.m. MicGinny's on the River, 2246 East River Road, Rochester. For more information, see https://astronomyontap.org/locations/rochester-ny/.

Nov. 18 Wed: RAS Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center, room TBD, 35 Lincoln Ave, Pittsford. Zoom option available. For details, contact Michael Grenier at paleo@frontier.com.

Nov. 22 Sun: Astronomy Open House
12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Farash Center. Contact Craig Kaplan at President@rochesterastronomy.org for details.

Nov. 24 Tues: Mineral Members Meeting
7:00 p.m. Pittsford Community Center, Room 19. SUNY Geneseo student Simon Skowron will discuss his research about slag waste from past steel production along Lake Erie. Data collected will help determine the potential hazard level along the shorelines. This work involved field surveys, microscopy, XRD, EDS, and XRF. Guests welcome. Contact: Jutta Dudley juttasd@aol.com.

STRASENBURGH OBSERVATORY:
ASRAS will operate the telescope at the Strasenburgh Planetarium on mostly clear Saturday nights, dusk until 10:30. For more information, contact: Jim Seidewand at (585) 703-9876.

RAS Member Images



Milky Way from Yosemite Park. Nick Lamendola; July, 2026.



”Phantom of the Opera” nebula, SH2-173 from the catalog of UR professor Stewart Sharpless. Pat Cosgrove; October, 2026.



North American Nebula NGC 7000. Don Kubisa; summer, 2026.



Venus at inferior conjunction. Doug Kostyk; October 24, 2026.

Rochester Research in Review.

(These are Hot Links which when clicked lead to the press release on the Science Daily and other science websites.)

Cornell scientists identify rare human genetic disorder in two unusually long-legged cats. Cornell University; October 14, 2026.

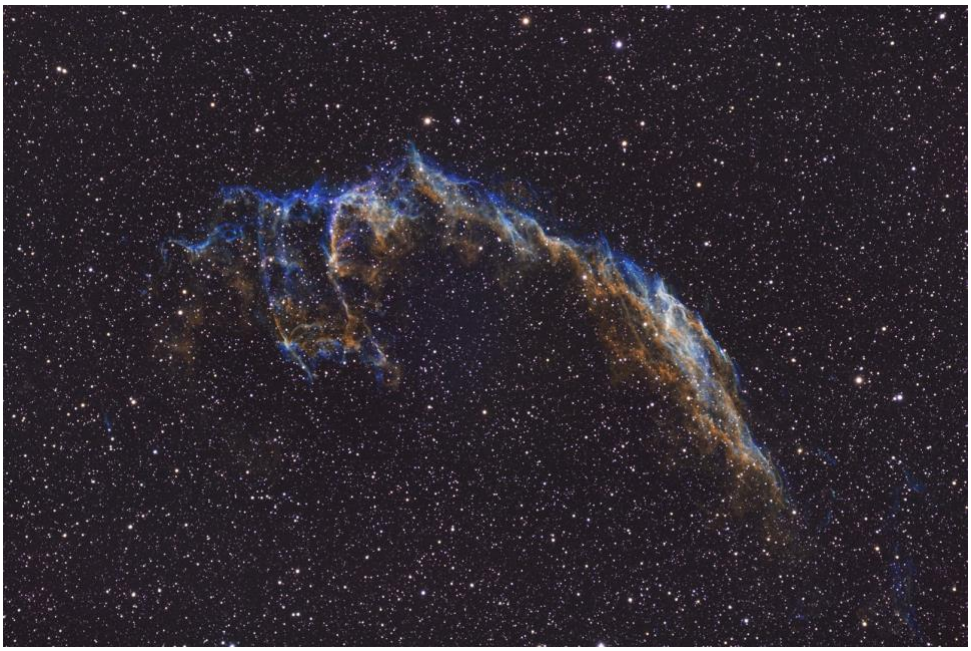
Scientists discover a human brain gene that can jump through DNA. Cornell University; October 5, 2026.

Hidden genetic diversity helped inbred brown tree snakes conquer Guam. University at Buffalo; July 26, 2026.

One injection could keep osteoarthritis drugs working for weeks. University at Buffalo; August 31, 2026.

What tiny fossils tell us about Earth's changing oceans. University of Rochester; October, 13, 2026.

How IceCube opened a new window on the universe—and earned a Nobel Prize. University of Rochester; October 6, 2026.



Eastern Vail nebula. Michael Druzynski; October, 2026.

A&S Biologists Discover 'Fire Amoeba' that Pushes the Limits of Complex Life. Syracuse University; October 1, 2026.

Light-activated opioid painkiller may work without dangerous side effects. Cornell University; October 15, 2026.

Migratory birds spread avian influenza to Greenland's polar bears. Cornell University; October 21, 2026.

Birds are among Earth's most important nutrient-movers. Cornell University; October 19, 2026.

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 online. Each Section also sets dues to cover Section-related publications and mailings. We are recognized as a 501(c)3 organization.

For information, contact President Michael Grenier at (585) 671-8738 or by email paleo@frontier.com.
The Academy Internet website is http://www.rasny.org or see us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/Rochester-Academy-of-Science-792700687474549**.**

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