

WHAT IS THE ACADEMY?

In 1879, the Rochester Microscopical Society was organized. The interests of its members broadened to include other natural sciences, such as geology, botany, ornithology, and astronomy. In 1881, the name was changed to the Rochester Academy of Science, and the Academy was incorporated.

The Academy is divided into several Sections that are the backbone of the Academy. These are currently the Anthropology, Astronomy, Fossil, Mineral, and Life Sciences Sections. Sections may hold scheduled meetings, workshops, and field trips throughout the year. Membership in the Academy entitles one to participate in Academy functions and to join any of the Sections for an additional, nominal fee. The only qualification for membership in the Academy is an interest in the natural sciences.

The Academy sponsors several events for its members and the community. At the spring annual meeting, members who have distinguished themselves in the scientific world and in the Academy are honored by being named Fellows of the Academy. The event is accompanied by a free public lecture. In the fall, a Scientific Paper Session is held at one of the colleges near Rochester. In addition, the Academy presents research grants annually to undergraduates from local colleges.

The *Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science* contain articles by Academy members and area scientists on topics related to the natural history of western New York State. Included are abstracts of the papers given at the annual Scientific Paper Session. The *Proceedings* is distributed to members, is sold to interested persons, and is exchanged with many learned societies of the world through the University of Rochester Rush Rhees Library. *Proceedings* published since the 1890s are housed in the Library, and other Academy materials beginning in 1879 are archived in the Rare Books and Special Collections department. Members of the Academy are entitled to a library card from the University.

ANTHROPOLOGY SECTION:

The Anthropology Section promotes interest and involvement in the discipline of general anthropology, which includes cultural and physical anthropology, archaeology, ethnology, and linguistics. The Section holds membership in the Archaeological Institute of America.

Meetings and events are held at various locations within the region. Topics, times, and sites of each meeting are announced in the *R.A.S. Bulletin*.

ASTRONOMY SECTION:

The Astronomy Section brings together individuals and families devoted to promoting and enjoying the hobby of amateur astronomy. Meetings are held the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Between September and May, the group meets on the campus of the Rochester Institute of Technology. From June through August, meetings frequently occur at the Wolk Observatory.

The Wolk Observatory at the Marian & Max Farash Center for Observational Astronomy is the Section's seventeen-acre site in Ionia, NY, where members can enjoy the dark skies with their own equipment or club telescopes. Club equipment includes a 16-inch Newtonian scope, a 12-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, and two large Dobson-mounted reflecting telescopes. They also own a state of the art solar observatory for viewing and imaging the sun in both HA, Calcium K, and white light spectrums.

Section members operate a 12.5" reflecting telescope on the roof of the Strassenburgh Planetarium in Rochester, from April through December. During warmer months, public star parties are held at public parks in the Rochester area.

For astronomy events and current activities, call the Astronomy Events Information Line at (585) 987-5330 or go to <http://www.rochesterastronomy.org>.

FOSSIL SECTION:

The Fossil Section encourages an interest in the paleontological history of western New York State through the collection, preparation, and study of fossilized materials. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, October to May at 7:30 p.m. in the Brighton Town Hall. Meetings feature presentations by paleontologists, or professionals in related fields, and provide opportunities for members to display, discuss, and identify their fossil finds.

Field trips to fossil collecting sites in New York State are held between May and October. The Section is pledged to work, in cooperation with scientific institutions, for the preservation of the fossil record.

LIFE SCIENCES SECTION:

Newly created in 2006, the Life Sciences Section has evolved from the Botany-Entomology Section, organized in 1972. The club history goes further back to 1881 when a Botany Section was first formed to encourage the interest and study of plants, especially those in western New York.

A fine herbarium grew from the interest and academic talent of the early members. Local species are a special strength of the collection, which is housed in the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Monthly curatorial workshops maintain the collection and efforts are underway to record over 60,000 specimens in a database.

Field trips and workshops are conducted throughout the year to acquaint members with the flora and fauna of our region.

Indoor meetings are occasionally held from September to May, at 7:30 p.m., in the homes of members, or as joint meetings with one of the other nature studies organizations in Rochester. Programs include illustrated talks on subjects on a wide variety of topics in the life sciences.

MINERAL SECTION:

The Mineral Section promotes interest in the study of mineralogy and related sciences. Founded in 1883, the Section is thought to be the oldest active mineralogical club in the U.S.A.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Brighton Town Hall, between September and May, except in December and April. Programs consist of presentations by professionals and amateurs, illustrated with images or specimens.

The Section participates in an annual four-day, internationally attended Mineralogical Symposium in April. Field trips are scheduled to local, northeastern, and Canadian mineral collecting sites.

PUBLIC LECTURES:

The Academy periodically presents free public lectures. The Larry J. King Memorial Lecture at the Fall Scientific Paper Session and the Spring Lecture feature professionals who share their expertise in topics related to natural history.

PUBLICATIONS:

RAS WEB SITE—(www.rasny.org)

The RAS Web site informs visitors about our organization and is used as a resource by members. It features Section news and cumulative calendars with updated events.

THE BULLETIN

The *R.A.S. Bulletin* informs members of programs and Section outings for each month. It may include a message from the RAS President and short articles by members.

THE PROCEEDINGS

Original papers relating to the natural history of western New York State are published in the *Proceedings of the Rochester Academy of Science*. The glacial history of the area, the water levels of Lake Ontario, the flora of Bergen Swamp, and the contributions of pioneer scientists in the R.A.S. are found in earlier issues of the journal. Some back issues are available. There is no fixed publication schedule for the *Proceedings*.

GUIDE BOOKLETS

Joint efforts by Academy members resulted in three "Getting Acquainted" guide booklets. The first, *Getting Acquainted with Mendon Ponds Park*, was followed by *Getting Acquainted with Birds in Genesee Country* and *Getting Acquainted with the Geological Story of the Rochester and Genesee Valley Areas*. The Guides inform the reader with maps, articles, illustrations, and reference lists.

SECTION NEWSLETTERS

Some RAS Sections publish newsletters with articles and expanded information about events briefly listed in the *R.A.S. Bulletin*. They are available in digital format via email and online.

LIBRARY EXCHANGE PROGRAM:

The Academy exchanges its *Proceedings* with several hundred scientific academies and organizations throughout the world. The exchange receipts constitute a valuable resource, and, along with the R.A.S. publications, are deposited on permanent loan with the University of Rochester Library. In return, the University extends library privileges to Academy members. Library cards are issued to members who apply for them and who show their R.A.S. membership cards as proof of eligibility.

HONORS:

The Academy takes notice of its outstanding members and friends, and periodically bestows appropriate honors.

FELLOWS are chosen from the active membership in recognition of scientific attainment and distinguished service to the Academy.

HONORARY MEMBERS are chosen from outside the Academy in recognition of their scientific attainment.

RESEARCH GRANTS:

The Academy awards small grants to undergraduate college students involved in science research. Letters requesting grant applications are sent in the fall to science departments of western New York colleges. Information on grants may be requested from the RAS Grant Committee Chairperson.

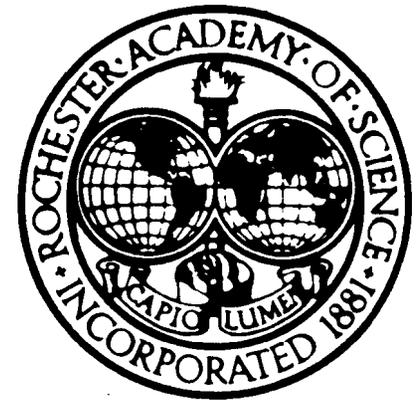
SCIENTIFIC PAPER SESSION:

The Academy sponsors a Fall Scientific Paper Session for members and non-members who present their research in natural history topics or other academic investigations of interest. The event features the L. J. King Memorial Lecture and is held on a college campus near Rochester each year.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION:

The Rochester Academy of Science is registered with the Internal Revenue Service of the U.S. Treasury Department as a tax-exempt, educational and scientific organization. It is classified in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions are deductible as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under the provisions of section 2055, 2106 and 2522 of the Code.

ROCHESTER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE



AN ORGANIZATION
OF PEOPLE
INTERESTED IN
THE NATURAL SCIENCES

<http://www.rasny.org>

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