



Dudley Observatory
 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 201
 Schenectady, NY 12308
 518-382-7583
 Janie Schwab, Executive Director



Details & updates at www.dudleyobservatory.org

**Dudley Observatory
 Donation Helps
 Planetarium
 Renovation.**

The Dudley Observatory has made a donation to support the purchase of a new star projector for the Suits-Bueche Planetarium at the Schenectady Museum. The GOTO Chronos Space Simulator will provide a very accurate and spectacular view of the night sky. The planetarium is an excellent community resource for informal science education, and the Dudley Observatory is proud to help them make their goal a reality!

MAY 6 is NATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY

9:30 – 11:30 AM Telescope Assembly Party

Dudley Observatory
 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 201,
 Schenectady
 RSVP 382-7583
 New Rising Star Interns and mentors are invited to assemble the new telescopes in preparation for the Awards Ceremony. You can find a map at http://www.dudleyobservatory.org/map_dudley.htm. (Don't be fooled - even though it's the only ten-story, pink building on the block, people often have trouble finding it!)

12:00 – 4:00 PM "Meet Your Local Astronomy Organizations"

Schenectady Museum and Suits-Bueche Planetarium.
 15 Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady
 Visitors will be able to chat with members of local Astronomy Organizations, get information about telescope buying and use, find out about area astronomy

clubs and events, pick up star charts, and observe the Sun safely through a telescope if the weather permits. The Schenectady Museum will be open from 10:00 AM through 5:00 PM, with planetarium shows at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00



Josh & Lynnette Assemble Telescope in 2004



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Awarding Our Brightest Stars

Please come meet and welcome the outstanding winners of our scholarships to summer astronomy institutes, and our new Rising Star Interns! The 2006 Rising Star Internship winners are **Jonathan Bruce** of St. Johnsville Middle School, **Daniel Bacchi** of Notre-Dame-Bishop Gibbons High School, **George Schoenfeld** of Scotia-Glenville Middle School, **Eric Turner** of Northville Central School and **Andrea Fortman, Rick Darling** and **Wilberte Mathurin** of Schalmont High School.

2006 Awards Ceremony, Reception and Stargazing
 Tuesday, May 23 at 8:00 PM
 Albany Heritage Area Visitors Center
 25 Quackenbush Square, Albany
 RSVP 382-7583

Each will receive a telescope and will be mentored by a member of the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers while learning how to locate celestial objects and how to provide astronomy education programs for their schools and communities.

The Albert Hessberg 2nd Astronomy Campership Award will go to **Rebekah Sokol** of Albany Academy for Girls. The award covers her tuition and travel expenses to attend the Advanced Astronomy Camp in Tucson Arizona, where she will conduct astronomical research with professional astronomers at Arizona University's mountaintop observatory.

Meanwhile, **Matthew Hosek** of Ballston Spa High School, **Thomas Nastvogel** of Guelderland High School and **Jen Skevington** of Emma Willard, will spend one unforgettable week at the Summer Institute in Astronomy at Alfred University. The Institute is conducted at the Stull Observatory, which is equipped with telescopes ranging from 8 to 32 inches in diameter, electronic detectors and support computers.

Please join us, eat cookies, and look through the new telescopes!

150 Years of Stargazing in Albany

August 28, 2006 marks the 150th anniversary of the Inauguration of the Dudley Observatory, which was built by the citizens of New York as the first independent astronomical research organization in the United States!

Thousands of prominent U.S. scientists, politicians and business figures gathered to celebrate the Inauguration, held in 1856 upon the completion of the first observatory, built on a hill in North Albany.

It was at the Inauguration that the Observatory's trustees established the Scientific Council and an alliance with the U.S. government's Coast Survey, aimed at making the Dudley Observatory a major

contributor to astronomical research.

A gala will be held in November at The Albany Institute of History and Art to celebrate a century and a half of successful programs ranging from research, to preservation and promotion of astronomy's rich history, to community education and outreach.



1st Dudley Observatory
 1856 Engraving by J.C. Buttre

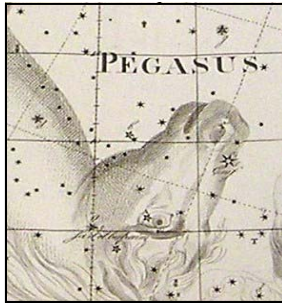
Watch for your invitation!

Thank You

We want to extend our gratitude to all who attended the astronomy demonstrations, open houses, and lectures last fall. Programs at the Union College and Hirsch Observatory, SUNY A. Earth Science building, the Henry Hudson Planetarium and Schenectady Museum and Planetarium, were a blast. We thank the diverse crowds of astronomy lovers who flocked to these events.

A Thousand Years of Sky Images

Lewis Pyenson, Professor at University of Louisiana, has won the Dudley Observatory 2006 Herbert C. Pollock Award for his proposal "A Thousand Years of Sky Images."



**Uranographia
1801 J.E Bode**

This study will evaluate the extent to which images foster new ideas or chain us to old ones. "Aristotle held

that mental images precede the formation of ideas, whereas Galileo rejected images in favor of exact, mathematical laws," writes Pyenson.

He will study the role of imagery in science over the past millennium, including how stars have commonly been depicted as asterisks and multi pointed objects on star maps and globes since the time of the ancient astronomers.

"Aristotle held that mental images precede the formation of ideas,..."

See Stars Like Ancient Egyptians

This spring, students traveled back in time to view the sky as the ancient Egyptians saw it. The sixth graders of the Albany City School District attended *Egyptian Astronomy: Ancient Horizons Alive Again!*, at the Henry Hudson Planetarium, with the support of a grant from The Dudley Observatory's Charles Bean Memorial Fund. The ancient Egyptians used the stars and planets as a guide in the construction of tombs and

temples and in the creation of the early zodiacs and calendars. **Carol Ann Margolis**, of the Henry Hudson Planetarium, gave a memorable presentation in which the stories behind the constellations unfold like a soap opera, and the Big Dipper is seen as a severed leg! Not only will this educational project teach youth about Egyptian history, but will encourage them to make stories of their own.

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST

What better way to learn about history than to hear it from the source? *Reflections: Stories of Astronomy, Earth and Space* is an oral history project that will give students a rare opportunity to appreciate the human side of historic careers in science.

In this pilot program, students from **Charles Reed's**, Advanced Placement Chemistry class at Bethlehem Central High School plan to interview three science and technology pioneers who have been associated with the Dud-

ley Observatory: **Ralph Alpher**, **Roy Anderson** and **Elizabeth Sonneborn**. Regional Archivist **Susan D'Entremont** will provide instruction in the purpose and techniques of conducting an oral history interview.

The transcribed interviews will be placed on the internet for the general public and other scientists to view. Students will also write essays on their experience and create posters to be displayed at BCHS.

COME ON IN & CHECK IT OUT

It's Here! *Sky & Telescope's Celestial Sampler*, by Sue French. In 1999 Sue French, a Dudley Observatory Trustee and Albany Area Amateur Astronomer, debuted her column, "Small-Scope Sampler," in *Sky & Telescope* magazine. *Celestial Sampler*, the highly anticipated compilation of her first 60 columns, is devoted to exploring the wonders of the deep sky with a small telescope. Call us to purchase your copy of *Celestial Sampler* at a reduced rate of \$20.00 and experience the excitement of stargazing through the written word.

The Dudley Observatory coffee mugs are here! *Two Spruce Pottery* in Schenectady, NY, has created unique, hand made mugs featuring star and moon designs. Each mug, made of stoneware clay, is individually hand thrown,

and painted to create a one-of-a-kind artwork. No two are alike. Call or write to Dudley Observatory to purchase your mugs! \$20.00 each, includes shipping.

The exhibition catalog, *A VERY LIQUID HEAVEN*, is now on display at the Dudley Observatory. This beautifully designed, 160 page book explores the human perception of stars, through observation, technical postulation, and artistic imagination. Historical photographs, atlases, videos, drawings and more are used to explore the problem of "permanence versus mutability and the perception of time." Photographs of two star atlases and The Farquhar Transparent Globe, from the Dudley Observatory collections are featured.

Around The Universe In One Night

Have you ever toured the entire universe in one night? A group of local girls did recently and can't wait to do it again.

Fifty Girl Scouts and their families went on a photographic tour of the universe before a star party, held at Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in Delmar NY.

The observers enjoyed viewing Saturn, the Pleiades and the Orion Nebula. Thanks to Rising Star Interns, Devin Fortman and Lizzie Dawson for sharing their telescopes. Stay tuned for our next trip.

Student Research Awards

Students in grades 4-12, have only one month to show off their research skills for a cash prize. June 1, 2006 is the deadline for the New York State Archives Student Research Awards, where students combine their interests in research, history, science and writing, to create award winning presentations.

Each year, the New York State Archives holds this event to encourage students to explore the amazing treasures that can be found in the region's historical records. The Dudley Observatory offers additional prizes for research done in the Dudley Observatory Archives.

Entries may be submitted by an individual or a group of students in the categories of Performance, Research Paper, Exhibit, Audio-visual production; Proposal for designation of a historical marker, Computer based project, Website, or Power point presentation.

Guidelines may be found at: <http://www.dudleyobservatory.org/Education/>



**Princess Beatrix, 1959
Ground breaking for Henry Hudson Planetarium**