



Dudley Observatory
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Details & updates at www.dudleyobservatory.org



Dudley Observations

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www.dudleyobservatory.org

Spring 2008



Photo by Terry Casillo

“An Evening with the Stars”

Thanks to all who made our 150th Anniversary gala such a tremendous success!

Photos of the **GALA** can be found on the “Events” page of our website. You can view a photo montage and download photos.

Dava Sobel, author of *Galileo’s Daughter*, *Longitude*, and *The Planets*, gave a lecture to a full house and standing room crowd. She will return for our first “Skywatch Lecture” on Oct. 9, when we plan to unveil the remake of Matteson’s “Dedication of the Dudley Observatory.”

★ **You are cordially invited**
 to an awards ceremony to recognize our 2008
 Rising Star Internship Winners
 Tuesday May 27th at 8:00pm
 Albany Pine Bush Discovery Center
 195 New Karner Road
 Albany, New York

We will present telescopes to the new interns and, weather permitting, will end the evening with some observing. ★

Rising Star Interns

Students

Sable Barnhart	Schalmont HS
Cheryl Bisson	Hoosick Falls CS
Michael Druker	Albany Academy
Ezra Greenstein	Troy HS
Caitlin McKinley	Duanesburg HS
Jon Poteralski	Schalmont HS
Julie Smicinski	Knox JHS
Sheila Smith	Tamarac HS
Angela Vincent	Schalmont HS

Teachers

Laura Gavlik	Gowana MS
Carol Ann Kelly	Farnsworth MS

Honorable Mention

Adam Frazier	Hoosick Falls CS
Steven Oliveira	Schalmont HS

★ **Congratulations to our graduates:**
 Lizzie Dawson Voorheesville HS
 Amanda Eckert Bethlehem HS
 Kaysha Haile Schalmont HS
 Keith Tygert Schalmont HS
 Claire Normile Troy HS

“The Planets Night”

Saratoga Performing Arts Center

August 22, 2008 at 8:00pm

The sky’s the limit as **SPAC** and the **Dudley Observatory** bring you an innovative cross-promotional night of science and the arts with telescopes, activity centers, and more. The evening's finale will be composer Gustav Holst's *The Planets* performed by the Philadelphia Orchestra under conductor Charles Dutoit.

SAVE THESE DATES!



Photo by Ron Barnell

Skywatch Lecture Series at Proctors Theater - Fall 2008

OCTOBER 9
 NOVEMBER 13
 DECEMBER 11

DAVA SOBEL
 DR. JOHN DELANO
 TBA

THANKS &
GOOD
LUCK
KEITH!

We were fortunate to have Archivist **Keith Swaney** on our staff for three months. Besides the awesome work he did with our research materials, he became part of the team organizing the Gala. His energy, enthusiasm, dedication and creativity were all most appreciated and added greatly to our success. We wish him luck in his new career with N.Y.S. Archives.

Clocks Come Home!

Many thanks to **Charley & Ann Marie Bowman**, who brought us two clocks that had graced the Dudley Observatory many years ago. These historic clocks were built by Charles Fasoldt of Albany in 1873 and Riefler of Munich in 1903. Charley's father, **Hugh Bowman**, worked at Dudley, and was known for the beautiful work he did restoring and building clocks. We were also joined by Fasoldt enthusiast **James Storrow** for this occasion.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRANT RECIPIENTS :

Dan Mancuso of Scotia-Glenville High School, winner of Dudley Observatory's Hessberg Award, will have all expenses paid to attend Advanced Astronomy Camp in Tucson, AZ. Dan will get a taste of the life of a professional astronomer, as he does research with the large telescopes on Mt. Lemmon and Mt. Bigelow. Clear Skies, Dan!

Scotia-Glenville Children's Museum...the traveling museum was the recipient of a grant from our Education Committee to improve and update two programs. Since then, Mission to Mars has been scheduled 22 times, and Journey through the Solar System 85 times!

The 2008 Pollock Award for research in the History of Astronomy goes to **Dr. Craig B. Waff**, who will be investigating the public lectures of Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel. It was one of these lectures that inspired the people of Albany to build the Dudley Observatory. Mitchel served as the director of the Dudley Observatory from 1859 until his death during the Civil War.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTORS!!!

- **The Bender Scientific Fund of the Community Foundation for the Capital Region** has approved a \$10,000 grant to expand the number of Rising Star Interns in the program.
- The **Capital District Library Council (CDLC)** awarded us \$2,500 to catalogue our collection of Observatory Publications.
- **Ronald McDonald house Charities** has granted \$5048 for updated library materials, imaging equipment and software.
- A grant obtained by **Sen. Hugh Farley** will be used to purchase educational materials and enhance community outreach through the Rising Star program.

Pruyn Telescope Restoration

Do you remember looking through the Pruy telescope when Dudley was located on South Lake Ave. in Albany?

Several generations of parents and grandparents brought children for their first look at Saturn, and future astronomers were inspired to search the heavens for answers. Its 12" lens, made by John Brashear, is one of the

very finest handmade lenses. That historic telescope has captured the interest of a number of people who would like to see it restored. Leading the charge is **Ron Barnell**, who speaks passionately about the virtues of the last un-restored Brashear telescope. Last fall, that magnificent lens traveled back to its birthplace to be cleaned courtesy of **Brashear L-3 Corporation** in Pittsburgh. Ron also gave a presentation to planetarium directors from around the world at the **Mid-Atlantic Convention of the International Planetarium Society**. This convention was hosted by **Steve Russo** at the Schenectady Museum & Suits-Bueche Planetarium. A much more detailed account of the restoration, written and illustrated by Ron Barnell, can be found on our website: www.dudleyobservatory.org

Dudley Observatory was featured in the "Observatory Makeover" session of the **Antique Telescope Society** conference on *The Vintage Observatory: Thriving in the 21st Century* hosted by the **Cincinnati Observatory Center** on May 2-4. Janie also spoke on the use of historic collections in spreading scientific literacy. A workshop on the topic will also be given for the **New York State Historical Association** in June.

