

GE LETTER

Volume 74

Number 8

April 2023

April 7, MEETING

“Year of the Devonian”

Our speaker for this month's meeting will be Dr. Jonathan Hendricks.

Dr. Jonathan Hendricks is Associate Director of Science Communication at the Paleontological Research Institution, where he oversees PRI's publications program and online outreach initiatives, including [Earth@Home](#) and the [Digital Atlas of Ancient Life](#). Prior to coming to PRI, Jon was an Associate Professor of Geology at San Jose State University. He currently serves as the Chief Financial Officer of the Paleontological Society. His research is focused on the systematics and evolution of Neogene mollusks from the western Atlantic.

Few places on Earth reveal the ancient life and environments of the Devonian Period (419 to 359 Ma) better than New York State. American paleontology has its roots in the Devonian of New York and modern research in the state continues to teach us more about life on Earth during this period of geologic time.

The Paleontological Research Institution (located in Ithaca, New York) is celebrating 2023 as the “Year of the Devonian” with several major new outreach projects and research initiatives. This presentation will highlight these endeavors, which include: 1) a new temporary exhibit at the Museum of the Earth, opening March 13, called “NY Rocks! Ancient Life of the Empire State” (<https://www.museumoftheearth.org/nyrocks>); 2) publication of a massive revision of the Devonian stratigraphy of New York in the *Bulletins of American Paleontology*;

3) development of the Devonian Atlas of Ancient Life online fossil identification guide; and 4) curation and digitization of the Carl Brett and Gordon Baird stratigraphic collection at PRI.

Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show

Thank you to all for your exhibiting, demonstrating, providing interactive displays, lectures, and introducing the public to geology. The attendance was 3,119 adults and children on Saturday, March 18 and 2,468 adults and children on Sunday, March 19 for a **SHOW TOTAL ATTENDANCE - 5,587**.

This is the highest attended show that we have ever had. We thank Glenn LaPlaca and his team from Past and Present and Loren Babcock for bringing his dinosaurs from the Orten Museum at Ohio State that brought everyone to the show. We especially thank all those that helped put this show on. The 2nd major success was that we had **1,144 children attend**, which was the largest number of kids we have ever had.

Congratulations to everyone on the great team work that made this show a great success!

We are working on the 54th Annual Gem-Mineral-Fossil Show on March 16-17, 2024 at the Erie County Agricultural Fairgrounds featuring **BIRTHSTONES!** Put on your thinking caps, and come up with some ideas for next year's show.

We hope you all enjoyed this year's show and welcome you returning next year. If you are interested in participating next year, please email me so we can reserve a place for you at jcbastedo@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support. Jerry Bastedo

One additional note: We had 594 kids go through the mini mine; a few of whom purchased 2 bags. Nearly 1 ton of rock left the mine, all in small paper bags.

Jon Nickerson

Life Member to be Honored

On Saturday, June 3, 2023, Maryann Saccomando-Freedman will be the guest of honor at BUFFALO STORIES.

Maryann is the first woman attorney to serve as President of the Bar Association of Erie County (1981-1982) and the New York State Bar Association (1987-1988). A true trailblazer, when Freedman graduated from law school in 1958, she was 1 of only 3 women in a class of 100.

Dedicated to her community, Freedman was a founding member and President of Women Lawyers' Association of Western New York, President of Erie County's Aid to Indigent Prisoner's Society (Assigned Counsel), Zonta, Buffalo Geological Association, Western New York Heritage Magazine and the Committee to Form a Buffalo Presidential Center. For a decade, she sat on the Governor's State-Wide Judicial Screening Committee. She served on the boards of Legal Services for the Elderly, Erie County Bar Foundation, was a delegate for 15 years to the American Bar Association, and led task forces for the United Way Delivery of Legal Service to the Poor, Erie County's on Rape and Sexual Assault and the YMCA's on Affirmative Action, among a host of others. She has been awarded honors

including the Women Lawyers' "Lawyer of the Century", UB's "Distinguished Alumni", Buffalo Historical Society's "Red Jacket", Interclub Counsel's "Susan B. Anthony" and was named one of ten "Women Trailblazers" by the NYS Bar Association, to name a few.

Maryann also served as the President of the Buffalo Geological Club for many years, as well being an active member for many more.

BUFFALO STORIES offers a glimpse into the lives of Buffalo's most intriguing personalities while toasting our vibrant community and supporting Road Less Traveled Productions. The event celebrates the life of a local Buffalo icon by presenting a one-night only musical written about the guest of honor's life. The address for BUFFALO STORIES is 456 Main St., Buffalo, NY 14202. 716-629-3069.

Our heartiest congratulations to Maryann on this honor.



BANQUET RESERVATIONS

Enclosed with this newsletter is the reservation form for the Banquet and the membership renewal form. Please send your checks to Laretta Parmalee, 31 Ellen Dr. Buffalo, NY 14225 for both items. Banquet reservations must be received by **April 25, 2023.**

We hope you all enjoyed this year's show and welcome you returning next year. If you are interested in participating next year, please email me so we can reserve a place for you at jcbastedo@gmail.com

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Buffalo Geological Society Spring Coming Events

March 29 - Continuing Education Group – meeting at 8:35 am at the Masonic Hall on Sweet Home Rd.

April 7 – 7:30 pm Dr. Jonathan Hendricks will present “Year of the Devonian”

April 13 BGS Board Meeting 7:00pm

April 27-30, 2023, 7th Annual BGS trip to Cincinnati to collect Ordovician and Silurian fossils. Contact Jerry Bastedo, at jcbastedo@gmail.com for details and information.

April 26 - Continuing Education Group – meeting at 8:35 am at the Masonic Hall on Sweet Home Rd.

May 5 – Annual Banquet and Installation of New Officers Classics Five Restaurant – Terrace Room – Menu and reservation is enclosed. Please return by April 25, 2023

May 11- BGS Board Meeting 7:00pm

May 31 - Continuing Education Group – meeting at 8:35 am at the Masonic Hall on Sweet Home Rd.

June 8-11, 2023, BGS trip to the Calvert Cliffs to collect sharks teeth and other fossils. Contact Jerry Bastedo, at jcbastedo@gmail.com for details and information.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION WILL BE SENT VIA E-MAIL. MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT/CORRECT ADDRESS

